

Desert Cove Homeowners Association

Director at Large Report General meeting, April 30th, 2024

Good evening, everyone. My name is Monica McDonald.

My duties this term mainly involved the first aid emergency response team. I put a notice out for more members, as our current group was dwindling. We now have 8 members on the team, including 3 new recruits. I now act as the coordinator of the team.

Did you know that approximately 68% of all cardiac arrests happen in the home? On average, EMS teams take 10 minutes or more to arrive on scene. After 10 minutes very few cardiac arrest victims survive, if not treated immediately. Over the last year, our emergency response team has attended 4 cardiac issues, 2 falls as well as 2 other emergencies.

This is one of the reasons why we maintain an Emergency Response Team and an automated external defibrillator (AED) unit, at the Recreation Centre.

Our team responds within minutes, and have been trained in basic first aid to treat patients, until the professionals arrive. So, if you have a medical emergency, contact our Emergency Response Team first. Then call 911.

Our emergency contact list is always kept up-to-date. Keep your list handy, by posting it on the fridge, cupboard door or near the phone. Emergency Contacts and medication forms are available at the recreation centre as well as on the DCHA website. Include a list of your medications, as this will be a question the first responders will ask for.

Training is always kept current. (Certification is valid for 3 years after passing the course). Individual kits held by our responders are maintained and contain the basics needed for most emergencies.

Emergency simulations are held twice a year, spring and fall. These practice sessions help the members work as a team, and also experience what various "emergencies" would look like in a real situation. Debriefing and sharing strengths and weaknesses also assists the members in staying current with first aid knowledge. We learn a lot from practice.

Your membership pays for this critical service.

I have taken over the maintenance and monitoring of the emergency equipment and supplies from Jim Horsford.

A final duty involves assisting with the distribution of various notices to residents who don't have emails.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica McDonald
DCHA Director at Large