



SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Public Information Office

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Press Release

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For Immediate Release PST
Jonathan Baxter - 415 – 558-3404(o)
415 – 660-0545(c)

**SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT BICYCLE
PARAMEDIC PROGRAM**

In anticipation of Super Bowl 50 and an increase in overall travelers using SFO, the San Francisco Fire Department's International Airport Division has been working closely with the San Francisco Police Department, TSA, SFO airport administration, ZOLL Medical, and other local agencies to improve the delivery of emergency medical care at the Airport. The concept of using bike Medics, as our partners at SFPD do for Police Officers, became the answer.

As of 12-17-2015, the San Francisco Fire Department has completed the first training session for Paramedics to deploy in the terminals on bicycles. Bicycle instructors from the San Francisco Police Department provided a class to SFFD Paramedics on the unique challenges of operating a bicycle in a crowded area.

The team is scheduled to deploy when the Airport anticipates heavier than normal traffic (80,000 Departures). Typically, during these increased incidents, responding ambulances and fire engines have a challenging time navigating the crowds and heavy traffic. The Bicycle Paramedics are equipped to handle initial phases of emergency calls. The single bicycle Paramedic will be able to arrive to the scene of an emergency and begin treating an injury, and in some circumstances, cancel responding units if they are not needed.

The bicycles are on loan from the SFPD and staffed on a volunteer basis by trained on-duty SFFD/SFO paramedics. Zoll Medical will be assisting the SFO bicycle team by equipping them with Zoll X-Series 12-lead defibrillators allowing for a higher level of service when needed.

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