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Burleson Fire has first save with LUCAS® device

One month ago on March 17, 31-year-old Burleson resident, Philip Trammell, was getting ready to go to his job as an EMT at American Medical Response not knowing that in a few minutes Burleson Fire Department and MedStar emergency personnel would be working to save his life.

Philip doesn't remember much of that morning but his wife, Vanessa, was with him that morning.

"He sat on the bed to put on his socks and then he just fell on the floor," recounted Vanessa. "At first, I thought he was joking – just being dramatic about going to work – but then I went over to him and realized he was out. So I called 911."

When Burleson Fire Department A-shift crew from Station 1 and medics from MedStar, the ambulance service the City of Burleson utilizes, arrived on scene Philip was in cardiac arrest, which means he did not have a pulse.

Firefighters Matthew Jefferson and Brandon Jacobs began CPR. Acting Battalion Chief Matt Moseley arrived shortly after with the LUCAS chest compression system and the crew applied the device to Philip. "Within four-to-five minutes Philip had a pulse," Acting Lieutenant Hallmark stated. "We do not doubt that the LUCAS® device helped us get the outcome that we have today."

MedStar paramedics then transferred the patient to Texas Harris Methodist Fort Worth and within three days Philip was awake. He was discharged from the hospital a short six days after experiencing cardiac arrest. The doctors are still trying to determine what caused his heart to stop but on Mon. April 16, Philip was able to meet with and thank the team that arrived on the scene that morning.

Burleson Fire Department purchased the city's first LUCAS® chest compression system in October 2017, five months before Philip's incident. "When CPR is administered outside of a hospital setting the save percentage is about 11 percent," said Battalion Chief Casey Davis. "Having trained medics arrive on scene quickly to administer CPR along with using the department's LUCAS® device helped us add a number to the save percentage."

When Philip was asked if he felt the LUCAS® device helped save his life he said, "I'd gladly give my tax money to that any day."

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