



Paulding County Fire & Rescue Contact:

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12 Year-Old Performs CPR - Saves Her Choking Mother's Life
911 Operator Calmly Provides Instructions to Frantic Daughter

Hiram, Georgia – On Tuesday, March 22, 2016, Paulding County 911 received a call from a 12 year-old girl whose mother was unconscious and not breathing.

The 12 year-old was at home when her 31 year-old mom choked, completely blocking her airway, resulting in respiratory arrest. The child was aware that this was a life or death situation but was unsure of what to do. She placed calls for help to her father and to her grandmother, but within minutes remembered the importance of calling 911.

At 5:37 p.m., Paulding County's Communications Center received the first of several 911 calls. This initial call was from the child's grandmother. Although she was approximately 20 miles away she was able to provide some details as well as the address of the choking patient. Paulding's E911 operator determined this to be a real life-threatening emergency, pinpointed the correct location of the patient, and began the process of dispatching Fire and EMS. All of that occurred less than 45 seconds from receiving the first 911 call.

Three minutes later, at 5:40pm, Paulding E911 received a second call. This time it was the 12 year-old girl and daughter of the patient. While this call was answered by a different operator she was able to immediately confirm this to be the same incident, which had already been dispatched. Nevertheless, she remained on the line with the child. Once respiratory arrest was verified the 12 year-old was given CPR instructions.

CPR was started at 5:41p.m. and continued for approximately 4 minutes until the arrival of Paulding County Fire & Rescue units. PCFD's first personnel to arrive on the scene determined that patients the airway obstruction had been cleared thanks to high-quality CPR. And, the patient was breathing and beginning to regain consciousness. Following a brief period of on-scene emergency care the mother was fully alert with normal vital signs.

According to David Mumford, Paulding County's E911 Director, "Often 911 personnel are referred to as the 'First-First Responders', they train continuously and are dedicated to serving the community. This call is an excellent example of a situation where the emergency skills of our Communications Officers being 'first on the scene', along with the brave young lady caller, saved a life. Everyone involved with this call should be proud of the outcome."



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Chief Joey Pelfrey added, “The fast thinking and calm demeanor by our County’s 911 center on this particular day clearly helped save a life. I’ve listened to the 911 call recording. I am amazed how effectively they triaged the situation with a very upset child and initiated emergency treatment. 911 Communication Officers, Firefighters, Sheriff Deputies, Police and other emergency responders work closely on a daily basis providing emergency services to our citizens. Thankfully this young girl, with the help of our 911 personnel, unquestionably teamed up to save her mother’s life. The outcome could not have been better and I am proud of everyone who played a role in making it so.”

E911 Personnel

Rachel Naylor (first call from grandmother), Communications Training Officer
Barbara Morris (took call from child & provided CPR instructions), Communications Officer
Brandy Macko (dispatched incident), Communications Officer

PCFD Rescue 7 Personnel (first arriving unit)

John Croker, Firefighter/EMT
Joe Sarber, Firefighter/First Responder

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