



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – November 30, 2011  
Contact: Laura Oxley, ADHS Public Information: (602) 542-1094

## **The Arizona SHARE Program to launch annual CPR Dispatch Academy**

*Latest CPR science to help improve survival of victims*

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) will conduct its first CPR Dispatch Academy this Friday, December 2. This training is the latest addition to increase the odds of survival for people who have sudden cardiac arrest outside of a hospital.

This training will hone dispatchers' skills in delivering CPR instructions to individuals who call 9-1-1. It is estimated that improving 9-1-1 dispatcher assistance to perform CPR on victims of sudden cardiac arrest could double the chance of survival. There are about 15 sudden cardiac arrests each day in Arizona and more than 250,000 people die each year in the U.S. from sudden cardiac arrest.

9-1-1 dispatchers play a critical role in a victim surviving sudden cardiac arrest. The chance of survival decreases 10 percent per minute when sudden cardiac arrest occurs. Yet dispatcher-assisted CPR is delivered in fewer than half of all cases.

The first annual academy will focus on the latest CPR science and techniques dispatchers can use to save lives. It will include presentations from leaders in the state's emergency medical community and small-group workshops where dispatchers learn to identify cardiac arrest and initiate CPR instructions as quickly as possible.

For more information, please visit: [www.azshare.gov](http://www.azshare.gov)

###

### **About the Arizona SHARE Program**

The SHARE Program promotes a comprehensive, standardized system of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest care throughout Arizona encompassing all “links” in the “chain of survival”—bystander response, emergency medical dispatcher CPR instruction, Emergency Medical Services provider resuscitation, and standardized care at hospitals. SHARE also seeks to support survivors of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest by providing them with helpful resources.