



South Metro Fire Rescue Contact:

Kristin Eckmann

720.989.2207

Kristin.eckmann@southmetro.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Metro Fire Rescue Has Entered into a Settlement Agreement for 2019 Case Involving Ketamine

Centennial, Colo. – (Nov. 09, 2021) – South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) has entered into a settlement agreement to resolve the federal lawsuit from a 2019 incident regarding the administration of ketamine to a patient. The decision to settle was driven and paid out by South Metro Fire Rescue’s insurance company – Arch Insurance. Under the terms of the settlement, South Metro’s insurance company has negotiated to pay the plaintiff \$115,000. The individual SMFR paramedics were dismissed from this case and South Metro was the sole party of the stipulated settlement.

As previously disclosed by South Metro, there was a thorough review of this incident – including an external case review conducted by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). The review determined that the SMFR paramedic’s administration of ketamine complied with the applicable department and Denver Metro protocols, followed accepted standards of care, and was consistent with medical direction at that time.

While South Metro disputes the allegations made in the lawsuit, the District believes the proposed settlement agreement is an important step toward achieving a resolution. Taking care of citizens is the top priority for South Metro, and the District will continue to remain steadfast in ensuring the safety and well-being of its community and emergency care providers in pre-hospital patient care environments.

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About South Metro Fire Rescue

South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) is committed to helping the community it serves, including approximately 300 square miles in Douglas, Arapahoe and Jefferson counties. With 29 stations in the south metro area, SMFR provides emergency and prevention services to approximately 540,000 residents and thousands more who come into our communities to work. Specifically, SMFR serves the cities of Bow Mar, Castle Pines, Centennial, Cherry Hills Village, Columbine Valley, Foxfield, Greenwood Village, Littleton, Lone Tree, and Parker, as well as Castle Pines Village, Highlands Ranch, Louviers, Centennial Airport, the Denver Tech Center, Inverness, and the Meridian Office Park as well as unincorporated portions of Arapahoe and Douglas counties. South Metro is also an “internationally accredited agency,” a distinction given to fire and rescue services that meet rigorous standards for service and management best practices. For more information, please visit <http://www.southmetro.org>.