

March 5, 2010

Fire and Rescue Administration
City of Lincoln
1801 Q Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

On a terribly cold, windy Christmas Day, 2009, EMT personnel responded to our frantic call for help.

At about 12:30 P.M., my husband, Elton M. Hill, collapsed which was later identified to us as sudden death syndrome. Our son, Nate, performed CPR and his wife, Lisa, called 911. But, Elton did not respond.

Through the street, filled with snowdrifts from curb to curb, the medical help came. They entered the house, at 1210 Talon Road. There were many wonderful EMT personnel that arrived and came in with their special equipment. At this time, our son willingly gave over the responsibility to these fine people. They directed questions to him and proceeded to get the scene ready to do their life-saving work. I cannot tell you all the details of their activity. I was in an anxious mindset...watching our little granddaughters who were bewildered at what their grandfather was experiencing. Three Lincoln City Police Officers arrived, as well, and provided assistance.

The EMTs performed, at least, two shock therapies on my husband to get his heart to beat. Our son did a wonderful job in performing CPR. His efforts took about fifteen minutes and were guided by the direction of our daughter-in-law who was instructed by the 911 dispatcher. What our son's efforts did, although not understood by him at that time, was to keep the flow of blood continuing to Elton's brain.

The EMTs worked on my husband and transferred him to the waiting ambulance. But, because of the drifting snow, it got stuck and could not be budged. Rescue Workers and the Police Officers worked very hard to get the vehicle to move. Inside the ambulance they had to continue to maintain the stability of Elton. This had to go on for many more minutes until a second ambulance arrived and even further during the trip to the hospital.

After efforts in trying to clear the streets and transferring the gurney with Elton on it he was driven off to St. Elizabeth's Hospital through more snow-filled, icy streets.

We are so thankful for all that these wonderful technicians did in saving our loved one's life.

I would like you to know that Elton is continuing to get stronger and we have every hope, if it is in God's plan, to see him soon be able to live a full life. Without all the personnel, including neighbors who helped in moving the snow as best they could, Elton would not be with us now. We are thankful to all.

I would, also, like the EMTs to know that they are welcome to visit Elton at any time and see how well he is doing. Please tell them to feel welcome to visit at our home at 3514 North 69 Street. There are many days that he is wanting to have visitors. He would, also, like to have more information from another view of what happened that day.

My sincerest thanks,

Rita Hill

