

## WESTLAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT



Chief James Hughes  
Paramedic/FF



Asst. Chief Michael Freeman  
Paramedic/FF



Captain Clayton Kovats  
Paramedic/FF



Lt. Tim Zack  
Paramedic/FF



Lt. Matt Moran  
Paramedic/FF



Lt. Steve Schneid  
Paramedic/FF



Rick Reddish  
Paramedic/FF



Craig Goodwin  
Paramedic/FF



Steven Reuter  
Paramedic/FF



Christopher Fielding  
Paramedic/FF



Nick Tummino  
Paramedic/FF



Brian Allan  
Paramedic/FF/Patient

On April 5, 2017, paramedic/firefighter Brian Allan, a twenty-five year veteran of the Westlake Fire Department was doing routine maintenance on a dryer vent at Fire Station #2 when he fell from a ladder approximately twenty feet above the ground, landing on a concrete floor and striking his head.

Two firefighters heard the noise of the crash and investigated. They found Mr. Allan on the ground pulseless, not breathing with blood coming from his right ear. They began CPR and alerted the remaining crew that was on duty. CPR was continued for 2-3 minutes when the patient regained spontaneous circulation. Additional treatment by his co-workers included vital signs, c-collar and backboard, EKG monitor, and oxygen. Mr. Allen responded to the painful stimulus of the IO insertion. This was the first response since the incident occurred.

The patient arrived at St. John Medical Center, a Level 3 Trauma Center within eleven minutes after the incident. He was given a paralytic and additional IVs as well as an intubation. Metro Life Flight arrived and the patient was flown to the Metro Health Medical Center in Cleveland, the closest Level 1 Trauma Center.

Mr. Allan was kept in a medically-induced coma for almost three weeks. He received treatment for a closed head injury. Mr. Allan was transferred to Metro Health Inpatient Rehabilitation where he remained for an additional month. He has since completed several months of outpatient therapy and work simulation. Paramedic/firefighter Brian Allan returned to full duty in September 2017.

Many factors came together that day to help produce a positive outcome for Mr. Allan. Station #2 staff manning that day was higher than usual, allowing for additional hands in the initial treatment and quick transport. Early notification of Metro Life Flight meant the patient was able to arrive at the appropriate facility in a timely manner. Finally and most importantly, the skill and teamwork shown by all fire and emergency medical personnel involved with his treatment and transport made the life-saving difference.