



## THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



On July 1, 2014 the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department began a one-year pilot program in Encanto with a Fast Response Squad (FRS).

Unlike a fire engine, which has a four person crew, the Fast Response Squad is a two person crew, one of whom is a paramedic. They travel in a modified pickup truck with a complement of tools, equipment and medical supplies.

Known by the call sign Squad 55, it is capable of assessing and treating a patient prior to the arrival of an ambulance and/or fire engine. The crew is able to provide a quick “size-up” at serious emergencies to advise dispatchers and the other responding fire units what they are facing as they arrive.

It carries a small amount of water or foam to begin firefighting but does not have the capability to attach hose to a hydrant.

The FRS is staffed seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 6135 Imperial Avenue. The Encanto neighborhood was identified as an area that is underserved by the existing fire station distribution.

The FRS will not be sent instead of a fire engine or ambulance but if it arrives on scene first may be able to advise other units they are not needed at a comparatively minor incident. It is anticipated this will not only provide faster emergency service in the footprint of the FRS but will also free up the next closest fire apparatus for other emergencies.

The pilot program will be evaluated regularly and if successful may be expanded to other areas of the city.