INTRODUCTION

Celebrating 24 years of honoring medical providers, first responders and citizens, we have been privileged to recognize many of you who have helped shaped this passion to serve and care during critical times into a career.

This year is not any different than others in the outstanding calls, advancements in care and concepts and the many providers that have influenced the EMS system. The nominations that were submitted showed the dedication that we know each of you have in this profession.

The Book of Recognition outlines a brief description of each person or group that was chosen for 2018. Some come from years of contributing expertise wisdom while others outline the dedication and training that is instilled into each of you continually.

Thank you

This simple phrase does not emphasize the gratitude that someone may feel when each of you take part in their care. It is not said often enough, or with much thought at times, but you all make a difference daily.

Congratulations to this years recipients.

Dana Selover, MD  
EMS Director

David Lehrfeld, MD  
EMS Medical Director

Candace Hamilton, P  
EMS Deputy Director

Oregon EMS & Trauma Systems Program
Award Recipients

Last Call ................................................................. 6
Community Service Award .............................................. 8
Commitment to Quality .................................................. 12
Impact Award ............................................................. 14
EMS Educator of the Year—Gail Marsh Madsen Award ........ 15
Administrator of the Year .................................................. 16
Medical Director of the Year ........................................... 17
Provider of the Year ....................................................... 18
EMR
EMT
Advanced EMT
EMT-Intermediate
Paramedic
Meritorious Service ....................................................... 23
Medal of Valor ............................................................ 24
Lifesaving ................................................................. 25
EMS Unit Citation ......................................................... 26
EMS Cross ............................................................... 30
Director’s Medal ......................................................... 32
LAST CALL

Andrew Pents – Jefferson County EMS
Drew Solomon – Millington Fire
Frank Wallender – Metro West Ambulance
John Brazil – Harbor Rural Fire Protection District
Kelli Monroe – American Medical Response
Malcus Williams – Ashland Police Officer
Rene Ray Carillo - Wolf Creek Rural Fire Protection District
Rhett Larsen – Bend Fire and Rescue
Ryan Foulks – Colton Fire
Ryan Grimaldi - Hillsboro Fire and Rescue
Terry Lindauer – Hillsboro Fire and Rescue
The Community Service Award recognizes an EMT who has made an outstanding commitment to non-patient care aspects of a community’s EMS system.

This year’s recipient:

Lucie Drum, Paramedic
American Medical Response Northwest

Lucie Drum has served many years as AMR’s Community Education and Public Information Manager. She started as a Paramedic in Multnomah County and worked in the field for many years. In addition to her many roles at AMR, she also serves as the Coordinator for the Portland Chapter of SAFE KIDS. Last year Lucie was honored with the SAFE KIDS Oregon Safety Hero Award. The award reads in part, “Lucie is recognized as a hero for her inspirational dedication to injury prevention, her tireless outreach efforts, and for her positive attitude.” Whether it’s through her involvement with SAFE KIDS, ACTS Oregon, Oregon Impact, AMR’s River Safety Program, AMR’s Reach & Treat Program or the numerous other groups Lucie participates with, and often leads, her efforts have undoubtedly saved many lives. In particular, her work has prevented incalculable injuries and fatalities. Last year alone, Lucie coordinated nearly 800 car seat clinics and distributed over 200 car seats to low income families. She also coordinated safety messaging for AMR’s River Safety Technicians to use during their frequent contacts with over 60,000 people who visited the beaches guarded by AMR, including loaning nearly 4,000 lifejackets. Lucie also managed a CPR Challenge during EMS Week, training over 2,300 citizens in hands-only CPR during the week.

Lucie shuns credit for herself, but rather deflects accolades to the many agencies she partners with in the region, including being an active member of the Regional Public Information Officer (PIO) work group, Clackamas County Safe Communities, as well as the Drive to Zero and Stop the Bleed campaigns. Lucie Drum’s dedication to injury prevention in Oregon is deeply rooted and long-standing, and she is well deserving of the Community Service Award.
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The Community Service Award recognizes a provider or agency who has made an outstanding commitment to non-patient care aspects of a community’s EMS system.

This year’s recipient:
Sherry Bensema, Paramedic
Lyons Rural Fire District

EMS and Fire Service Providers throughout the Santiam Canyon have benefitted from the dedication and motivation of Paramedic, Sherry Bensema. Sherry has dedicated 25 years in the EMS field and with these years of dedication and experience comes and understanding to the needs for her peers and the collaboration of the limited training in the area for other providers and agencies. As the EMS Chief she was able to improve the training available in her area by creating a system that allows to prepare and maintain an online interagency training calendar.

This valuable service allows volunteers from any of communities to attend and receive essential hands-on skills training. Her forethought to the training needs of fellow volunteers has already made a positive influence in the morale and performance between each district and among those volunteers who serve within the Citizen Corps programs of Marion County. Thank you Sherry for your dedication to your community, neighbors and your peers.
The EMS Commitment to Quality Award Honors an EMS system, EMS agency or EMS provider who has demonstrated commitment to the principles of quality improvement, customer service and excellence in EMS.

This year’s recipient:
Critical Incident Stress Management Program
American Medical Response Northwest

Aaron Botterson  Pavel Aubuchon-Mendoza  Lori Moorson
Gary Laurent  Jessica De Jesus  Julie Bolt
Shaen Moore  Kim Sayles  Justin Earls
Eric Gillmore  Derek Stekhuizen  Bethany Blum
Jason Hodges  Jodey Caprino  Jeff Beck
Wayne Kim  Lewis Coleman  Michelle Phillips
Marcus Stanton  Keith Butler
Mackenzie Gerber  Allice Hall

More and more, EMS as an industry recognized the negative effects that sentinel event stress and cumulative stress are having on providers. In 2014 AMR NW established the Critical Incident Stress Management Program. A team made up of peer counselors are available 24/7 to provide crisis intervention, peer support, access to culturally competent professional mental health services, and critical incident and cumulative stress education to EMS field, communications, and management personnel. The team, led by Aaron Botteron under the professional guidance of Drew Prochniak, LPC and supported by AMR management, has grown from 8 people in 2014 to 22 as of August 2018.

The CISM team has provided support, not only to EMS workers at AMR, but other healthcare partners in the area who are often subjected to the various mental burdens that come from working in emergency services. Their commitment to quality is evident in their robust training, and their effectiveness in meeting, monitoring and facilitating support options for those in crisis. We applaud the AMR CISM Program for their contributions to sustained employee mental health and wellbeing.
EMS IMPACT AWARD

This award recognizes an individual who has made a substantial contribution to the Oregon Health Authority’s effort to develop a statewide EMS system.

This year’s recipient:
Mohamud Daya, MD
Banks Fire District 13, Cornelius Fire & Rescue, Forest Grove Fire & Rescue, Gaston Fire Department, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Washington County Consolidation Communication Agency, Oregon Health & Science University

Dr. Daya’s calling is quality emergency medicine and it shows in all aspects of his life. He serves as the OHSU EMS Section Director and Fellowship Director, for which he received numerous awards and recognition. Despite these tremendous responsibilities, he takes on additional roles to improve emergency medical services in his area by serving as Medical Director for seven agencies in Washington County.

Since 2016, Dr Daya serves as the Banks Fire District’s Medical Director, but they are only the most recent agency benefiting from his expertise. He began serving as Medical Director for TVF&R in 1994, WCCCA in 2004, and Forest Grove Fire in 2008 followed by Cornelius Fire and Gaston Fire.

Dr. Daya demands the best of himself to provide the best advice to Districts he serves. By staying up to date on all emergency services studies, equipment improvements, and medications, he ensures first responders in Washington County deliver the best service possible.

Dr. Daya takes pride in each of his agencies. He has taken a personal stake in each District and gone out of his way to become a part of the team. Despite multiple demands on his time, Dr. Daya is always available to help. He participates in training at the District, provides crucial QI/QA oversight, answers questions on all aspects of care, and comes to social events to build that sense of team. From dispatch, to the first responder, to transport, to hospital intake and care—this team is crucial to emergency service. Dr. Daya recognizes this and works diligently to make our team the best. He represents the best of medical services in general and emergency medicine in particular.
The EMS Educator of the Year Award honors an EMS educator, either pre-service or in-service, who excels as a teacher or who has made a significant contribution to the EMS education program in Oregon.

This year’s recipient:
Jonathan Mang, Paramedic
Albany Fire Department

Jon has been passionate about teaching skills and concepts to improve EMS since becoming a paramedic in 2008. Jon is a career member of the Albany Fire Department since 2008 and has been a volunteer member/educator for Tangent Fire District since 2003 and a Life support educator with Samaritan health services since 2010. Jon has been instrumental in teaching medical students and resident physicians bridging the gap between hospital and prehospital medicine. Jon’s level of professionalism and commitment was responsible for his appointment as a research associate in the Medical Anatomy Center (MAC) at Western University of Health Sciences Medical School in Lebanon, Oregon (COMP-Northwest). Jon conducts research on innovative technologies, cadaveric tissue and educational modalities. Jon has taught throughout the state to prehospital providers, law enforcement and hospital staff. This includes assisting with the Cadaver lab at the state EMS conference, teaching courses on ECG, ACLS, Trauma, Ultrasound, Advanced and difficult airway and educational techniques.

As a research associate Jon has been able to conduct research and create abstracts defended at international conferences. He supports healthcare futurist Dr. Brion Benninger as a valuable part of multiple national accredited CME courses for physicians and prehospital providers challenging their clinical skills and improving their basic science knowledge levels.
The EMS Administrator of the Year award recognizes an EMS system administrator who has distinguished themselves through noteworthy contribution to a local, regional or the statewide EMS system.

This year’s recipient:
Matt House, Paramedic
Western Lane Ambulance District

Over the course of 20+ years, Matt has gone from volunteer firefighter, to full-time paramedic, to Supervisor, to everything he is today. Two years ago, it became apparent that the current EMS manager was reaching the end of his career, and eventually life. With open arms, Mr. House accepted a greater role in the management of the district and was briefly mentored before assuming an interim role after his predecessor’s tragic death. He forged ahead in his new role with tremendous ambition and optimism, all while continuing as a shift supervisor working 48-hour rotations. Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD) along with the help of Special Districts Association of Oregon conducted a nation-wide search for a replacement manager and came up empty handed. WLAD was forced to seek administrative relief from neighboring Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue. Despite some justified hesitations, Mr. House accepted the newly created role of EMS Operations Chief. He was instrumental in the functional survival. House insisted that he was available to discuss concerns by inviting all WLAD Medics to communicate possible issues regarding the agreement and day to day operations. Matt launched an upgraded, extremely efficient electronic charting program, vastly improved the patient billing process, introduced a new online scheduling system, and continues to push a rebuild of the local PSAP system. Apparatus, equipment, and capital are top of the line, communication and cooperation with the local hospital, police and dispatch center, and outlying fire departments are better than ever. Perhaps his greatest achievement in his relatively short tenure, is creating a work environment that is conducive to team building, where open communication, ideas, and positive values instill a high level of morale amongst the professional men and women of WLAD. We proudly follow Matt House in serving the community.
MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

The EMS Medical Director of the Year Award honors a physician who serves or has served the EMS system by providing medical direction, on-line or off-line, and who has served with distinction.

This year’s recipient:
Jim Bryan, MD
Life Flight Network

Dr. Jim Bryan, MD, PhD has made incredible contributions to the State EMS system for over 25 years. His dedication to EMS education and emergency medicine are truly remarkable. As Life Flight Network’s (LFN) Medical Director Dr. Bryan has been an integral part in maintaining the quality of LFN’s clinical care and outreach education for the past 10 years.

Dr. Bryan has dedicated himself to improving emergency medicine in Oregon. Beginning in 1993, Dr. Bryan began working as a physician for the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Portland, while also serving as an assistant professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at OHSU. He expanded his influence in 1994 by becoming the Medical Director for OHSU’s Paramedic Education Program before becoming the Medical Director for the OHSU/OIT Paramedic Program in 2002. In 2001 Dr. Bryan became the Assistant Chief of Emergency Medicine Service at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. In 2008, Dr. Bryan stepped down from his position as the Medical Director for the OHSU/OIT Paramedic Program and became LFN’s Medical Director. Throughout his career Dr. Bryan has continually promoted education in emergency services throughout the state, teaching innumerable classes to EMS providers.

As LFN’s full time Medical Director, and the only full time EMS Medical Director in the State, Dr. Bryan has demonstrated his passion for EMS and clinical quality. Dr. Bryan serves as the Chair of LFN Clinical Quality Management Committee, is actively involved in training and testing of current and new employees, and continually assists with evaluating new equipment, treatment protocols, and policies. Dr. Bryan serves as a mentor for LFN employees by maintaining an approachable demeanor and always making himself available to discuss protocols and specific cases. One LFN employee says of Dr. Bryan: “He gives us the confidence to perform at the highest level.”
The EMS Provider of the Year Award honors an individual EMR, EMT, AEMT, EMT-I and/or Paramedic of whom displays exemplary dedication in his or her quality of patient care and service to their community.

This year’s recipient:
Rodney Jacobs, EMR
Banks Fire District 13

Rodney has dedicated himself to training and service to others. Rodney quickly obtained his Firefighter I and Emergency Medical Responder license upon joining Banks Fire District in 2013. He quickly added Engine Boss, Driver, Pumper Operator, and Vehicle/Technical Rescuer. His accomplishments were fueled by his sense of community and desire to help his neighbors. In today’s world, it is difficult to find volunteers who are willing to dedicate the amount of time required to train and respond on a frequent basis. Rodney has excelled at this challenge in spite of a demanding full-time job. In 2017, he made nearly 1 out of every 5 calls and over 95% of evening drills.

This year, the District began a Lieutenant’s promotion process. A demanding process was initiated by an independent panel, selecting Rodney as the lead candidate. With a great deal of pride, the Fire Chief and Board presented Rodney with his Lieutenant’s helmet this December, formally recognizing Rodney’s leadership on and off scene. As a District leader, service delivery is Rodney’s top priority and he makes sure patients receive the best care possible. He is that calm quiet force that steps up in demanding/chaotic scenes. There is not a more deserving member of the District for what he has given to his community to date and the promise of what he will continue to give in the future. Rodney is also an active participant in all the District’s community projects. Rodney can be found flipping pancakes at the Volunteer Association Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser, giving engine rides to children during open houses, running the Volunteer Association Scholarship Program, and helping at the local blood drive. Simply put, Rodney has shown himself to be one the District counts on. He shows up for the right reason, serving his community with dedication and skill.
The EMS Provider of the Year Award honors an individual EMR, EMT, AEMT, EMT-I and/or Paramedic of whom displays exemplary dedication in his or her quality of patient care and service to their community.

This year’s recipient:
Matthew Verely, EMT
Hamlet Fire Department

Chief Matthew Verely has been with the Hamlet Fire Department since 2003. Through years of dedication and hard work, he earned a position as the assistant fire chief and in 2016 was appointed as chief when the late Chief Boone retired. Chief Verley has been a dedicated EMT and responded to hundreds of calls every year in Hamlet. He works tirelessly to provide quality training and maintain equipment readiness, ensuring Hamlet’s volunteers are ready to respond when the pager sounds. In addition to volunteering as Hamlet’s chief he manages to fill the duties of a father and a husband, operate two businesses, and volunteer his time to help local community members. His skills and leadership motivate and guide Hamlet's volunteers. Chief Verley’s talents don't stop at the fire department; he is a licensed and instrument rated pilot and volunteers the use of his airplane for local fire, rescue, and EMS efforts. He is also a licensed commercial drone pilot, and early on recognized the potential benefits that drones could provide to fire and EMS services. He developed a system that uses inexpensive components to modify production drones to carry life preservers to victims in need of a water rescue. With additional floatation and a water activated strobe light, victims have a better chance of surviving until a water rescue team arrives. His drones have assisted local fire departments with fire investigations, Clatsop County search and rescue with SAR missions, and high angle rope rescue teams with locating victims.

On Dec 26 2017, Chief Verley paused his Christmas vacation to respond to a plea on social media to help locate a woman’s lost dog, Felix. She and her friends had searched for almost 24 hours and could not locate him. Chief Verley agreed to search a remote cliff in Ecola State park, and after just 10 minutes located Felix perched on a small rocky outcropping, hundreds of feet above the ocean. The HART team and volunteers from Cannon Beach, Seaside, and Hamlet fire responded to the call and conducted a technical rope rescue. Despite his 80ft fall and a night stuck on a cliff, Felix was none the worse for wear and was handed over to his tearful owner. Demonstrating the unflappable canine spirit, Felix went on to win several agility competitions earlier this year.

Chief Verley, thank you for going above and beyond, for looking forward toward the future of rescue, and for volunteering your time and efforts to serve the members of your community. You are greatly appreciated.
Victor serves as an AEMT with Jefferson County EMS District. He has proven himself to be a great asset to the department, staff and volunteers. He came to us seeking education in EMS and took EMT and AEMT training from COCC. He worked full time and took care of his family while studying and still excelled in his performance. He now works on a crew at Jefferson County EMS and handles all fleet and building maintenance besides doing patient care. With that he trains all new staff and volunteers in CEVO courses and helps to orient them to the services provided.

What's more is Victor is a "Dreamer". Victor moved to the US from Mexico when he was 2 years old. With the support of his family and friends he recently completed his paperwork to remain in the US legally. He has been an inspiration to the large Hispanic population in our community. He has played a part in building relationships with this community which has benefitted our department, improving the way we deliver patient care.

Victor is confident, compassionate and a patient advocate. He is never down and often uplifting. He is reliable and accountable. He comforts his patients, supports his partners and does so without reward. I am proud to present him as the 2018 Advanced EMT of the Year.
This year's recipient:
Shawn Payne, EMT-I
Sherman County EMS

Shawn has been a dedicated EMT for 35 years, all of which have been serving Sherman County. In her role as Emergency Services Director, she has been very active in recruiting, training and supporting EMTs in her community. She has taught multiple First Responder, CPR, EMT, and EMT-I classes. Currently, she is working with students who are taking their Advanced EMT class by helping with their practical skills, and also has taught phlebotomy classes at Columbia Gorge Community College. Shawn was instrumental in the development and implementation of a Post-Traumatic Stress Debriefing Team. As a leader of this team, Shawn would travel around to local communities debriefing EMS teams after traumatic events. Sherman County is home to several wind farms and Shawn has actively worked with all the wind farms to ensure the local EMS coordinates with the High Angle Rescue Teams to ensure the safety of all wind tower workers. Shawn is also an active and respected member of the Sherman County School's Safety Board, and has been tirelessly working on implementing a safety plan for the school, organizing and attending many active shooter trainings, working with the local school and health district to ensure they have radio communication available in case of an emergency and assisting other local agencies with their emergency preparedness plans. She is active on multiple local committees including the Sherman County Safety Committee, CGCC EMS advisory committee and regional ATAB-6 committee. Shawn has been an asset to Sherman County and is a well-respected member of the community. Over her 35 years as an EMT, Shawn has taken more ambulance calls than any other EMS provider in our area, and continues to take a volunteer call week every month. It is not uncommon when Shawn is out of area for her to continue to monitor EMS calls, then turn around and drive back to Sherman County to rendezvous with the ambulance to provide life-saving care to critically ill patients. Sherman County is very lucky to have Shawn Payne as the leader of our EMS team.
Shannon Roesler has been a familiar face in the southern Oregon EMS community for 18 years. Throughout her career with Mercy Flights, Shannon has consistently been a positive force among her peers. She has consistently sought to spread her love for EMS by volunteering to act as a preceptor for new paramedics from our Community College partners. In this capacity Shannon regularly received praise for her patience and expertise at guiding young clinicians through the always challenging and often overwhelming process of becoming a paramedic. Over the past year Shannon has been a peer leader at Mercy Flights. Her colleagues recognize Shannon as having excellent clinical skills and knowledge, as well as providing exceptional customer service. Since summer of 2017, Shannon has been mentor to two new paramedic students from area community colleges. Both of those students were successful in completing their programs due in large part to guidance Shannon provided during their internships. Shannon was able to work with both students to develop successful career habits that included seeking clinical improvement and striving for healthy work and home balance. Aside from being an excellent preceptor, Shannon also excels as a senior paramedic on staff at Mercy Flights. She is often paired with new EMTs and is able to use her experiences and time in the industry to provide leadership to her partners regardless of their experience levels or background. Shannon continues to learn and grow her abilities within the pre-hospital emergency services. Given her career of service and her recent ability to take on new challenges and mentor young paramedics, Shannon is a worthy recipient of this year’s Paramedic Provider of the Year award.
INCIDENT BASED AWARDS
The EMS Unit Citation recognizes the department’s organization, specialized teams and expert first responders in providing emergency pre-hospital care under extreme circumstances.

### Highway 26 MCI

* Banks Fire District 13, Hillsboro Fire & Rescue, Forest Grove Fire & Rescue, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Metro West Ambulance, Life Flight Network, Oregon State Patrol, Washington County Sheriff’s Office, North Plains Police Department*

March 16, 2018, on an isolated portion of Highway 26 west of Timber, three vehicles were involved in a high-speed collision. One vehicle became airborne crashing into a metal barrier stopping traffic in both directions. At 1641 hours Banks Fire District was dispatched to this MVA outside their service area. Initial information was limited due to poor cell reception in the area.

Banks Fire Duty Officer Lanter, was first on scene 13 minutes after being tapped out and quickly began scene size up and triage. Banks Fire Chief, Rodney Linz, arrived next and took command as DO Lanter continued triage while good Samaritans assisted and more first responders arrived. The scene included multiple vehicles, patients and on scene fatalities. In all, 23 apparatus and 54 responders (9 fire apparatus with 31 fire personnel, 7 transport vehicles and air ambulances with 16 transport personnel, and 7 law enforcement vehicles and 7 law enforcement officers and deputies arrived on scene to assist.

The scene involved multiple entrapments with seven patients and 2 deceased. Of the seven patients, two were pediatric patients and two were geriatric patients. The first vehicle sustained significant front-end damage with a total of 5 patients, three of which needed extrication. One was transported via Life Flight and the other three by Metro West Ambulance. The second vehicle had two patients. One patient needed extrication and was transport by Life Flight.

Due to travel distance, the first arriving crew arrived at 1704. but with all of the participating agencies all patients were extricated at 1717, four extrications in 13 minutes. All patients were transported from the scene by 1732, five transports within 28 minutes. These results were only possible due to the skill and training of multiple agencies and the training that has proved itself as personnel worked together seamlessly and reflected the best of service delivery.
EMS UNIT CITATION

The EMS Unit Citation recognizes the department’s organization, specialized teams and expert first responders in providing emergency pre-hospital care under extreme circumstances.

Highway 26 MCI
Banks Fire District 13, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Hillsboro Fire Department, Forest Grove Fire & Rescue, Metro West Ambulance, Life Flight Network, Oregon State Patrol, Washington County Sheriff’s Office, North Plains Police Department

Banks Fire District 13
Scott Adams, Engineer/PIO
Scott Arlin, Lieutenant
Rodney Douglas *, Engineer
Chelsea Ewing, Firefighter
Keith Gienty, Firefighter
Blake Heller, Firefighter
Rodney Jacobs, Lieutenant
Chris Lanter *, Duty Officer
Rodney Linz, Chief
Samantha Linz, Firefighter
Sean McConigal, Captain
Brennan Nannenga, Duty Officer
Holden Partain, Firefighter
Jonah Sigler, Firefighter
Dusty Weaver, Firefighter
Jacob Wren, Engineer
JoJo Wren, Firefighter
Josh Wren, Engineer

LifeFlight Network
Trevor Liston, CFRN
Michael Sines, FP-C
Val Beedell, FP-C
Duane Sherrill, CFRN

Metro West Ambulance
Bryan McDowell, Paramedic
Thomas Moore, Paramedic
Jason Goodman, Paramedic
Daniel Grimes, EMT

North Plains Police
Steven Shutz, Officer

Oregon State Patrol
Billy Bush
Andrew Merila, Lt
Bryan Kolacz

Forest Grove Fire & Rescue
Joel Peterson, Chaplain
Ivan Bratchuk, Firefighter
Peter Smith, Firefighter
Robert Webb, Firefighter
Mike Lanter, Captain
Matt Johnston, PIO

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue
Scott Hertzog, Engineer
Aaron Zahrowski, Engineer
Jason Johnson, Firefighter
Ahren Dykman, Firefighter

Washington County Sheriff’s Office
Bryan McKelvey, Chaplain
Jacob McNeilly, Deputy

Hillsboro Fire & Rescue
Steve Brodehl, Chaplain
EMS UNIT CITATION

The EMS Unit Citation recognizes the department’s organization, specialized teams and expert first responders in providing emergency pre-hospital care under extreme circumstances.

Fossil Oregon MCI
AirLink, Asher Clinic, Fossil Volunteer Ambulance, Frontier Regional 911 Dispatch, Gilliam County Sheriff’s Office, North Gilliam County Medical, Life Flight Network, Oregon State Police, South Gilliam County Ambulance, South Gilliam County Rural Fire Protection District, Spray Volunteer Ambulance, Wheeler County Sheriff’s Office

Memorial Weekend 2017, at about 10:30 p.m., a group of about 50 motorcycle riders were riding in “tight formation” traveling near the small town of Fossil in Wheeler County. Members of Gypsy Joker Motorcycle Club, a group that has a documented history of anti-establishment activities, were traveling together when a vehicle traveling westbound crossed the center line and drove through five rows of riders, injuring at least eleven riders, causing major trauma to at least six. Sheriff Chris Humphreys was directly behind the group when the accident happened and responded immediately. Deputy Roy Nelson, EMT (Wasco County SO), was nearby when the accident occurred, and arrived mere minutes post incident. The area was dark and in a rural setting with no ambient light. The driver of the car was pinned in her vehicle and her window had been broken out by several uninjured motorcycle riders who had tried to assault her prior to Sheriff Humphreys reaching her.

Several local EMS volunteers were monitoring their home radios after hearing Sheriff Humphreys’ initial broadcast to dispatch that he was assisting this large group of motorcycle riders through town. Carol MacInnes (EMT-I), Director of the City of Fossil Volunteer Ambulance Association and Rick Shaffer, a driver for FVAA and a member of the Fossil Volunteer Fire Department, heard the initial report to dispatch after the MCI occurred and immediately mobilized Fossil Ambulance and Fossil Fire units. As Sheriff Humphreys quickly notified Frontier Regional 911 Dispatch of the magnitude of the MCI, dispatch rapidly mobilized North Gilliam (Arlington) and South Gilliam County (Condon) Ambulances, Spray Volunteer Ambulance, Gilliam County Sheriff’s Office, Oregon State Police, & ODOT. Numerous volunteers from around the county also came to the scene to help.

Fossil Volunteer Ambulance was the first to arrive and immediately checked in with Deputy Nelson and then provided medical care with the limited crew. Fossil Fire Fighters Rick Shaffer and Mick Wright self-dispatched to the scene even before a callout was made. Their arrival was timely as they were able to use their extraction tools (jaws of life) to remove the driver from her vehicle. Sheriff Humphreys noted that “due to the
The EMS Unit Citation recognizes the department’s organization, specialized teams and expert first responders in providing emergency pre-hospital care under extreme circumstances.

Fossil Oregon MCI
AirLink, Asher Clinic, Fossil Volunteer Ambulance, Frontier Regional 911 Dispatch, Gilliam County Sheriff’s Office, North Gilliam County Medical, Life Flight Network, Oregon State Police, South Gilliam County Ambulance, South Gilliam County Rural Fire Protection District, Spray Volunteer Ambulance, Wheeler County Sheriff’s Office

nature of the accident and the affiliation of the victims to a designated “Outlaw” motorcycle group, having the driver on scene and trapped in a car made the situation extremely tense. Numerous weapons were found on scene while care was being given by first responders. Spray Volunteer Ambulance was the next to arrive. They drove a distance of almost 30 miles to assist and immediately provided aid to subjects that had been pinned underneath the vehicle. Spray Ambulance coordinated and helped identify the first subjects to be air evacuated. Gilliam County EMS arrived with three ambulances, some driving a distance of almost 45 minutes; and yet they arrived at crucial times, providing aid to trauma victims. Gilliam ambulances transported subjects to both the Asher Clinic and the airport in Condon. It should be noted that Gilliam County EMS had recently completed a school shooting/mass casualty drill and the skills acquired in that exercise were readily apparent to Sheriff Humphreys who reported that “their operational level was very high”.

Asher Clinic, a small local clinic, located in Fossil, that is operated by two Physician Assistants (PA) and a complement of nursing and support staff responding to the clinic in order to support the crews and patients at the scene. Amanda Roy heard the inordinate number of sirens and immediately responded to the clinic and opened the facility along with Susan Moore, Chief Operations Office at the clinic who is an EMT-I with Fossil Ambulance. This was invaluable as the location was used to triage and treat the wounded and move the deceased.

Lifeflight and Airlink used four helicopters and one fixed wing unit to transport patients from multiple landing zones including a site at Hwy 19 MP 61, the Asher Clinic, and the Condon Airport. In a little over two hours all major trauma injuries had been evacuated by air or ground transport to a major medical center. This represents a huge effort by all EMS personnel involved when you consider that the average flight time for an air ambulance to Wheeler County is about 30 to 40 minutes in good flight conditions.

Two fatalities occurred on scene. Both of these subjects were alive at the outset of the incident but expired. A third subject ultimately died almost 20
The EMS Unit Citation recognizes the department’s organization, specialized teams and expert first responders in providing emergency pre-hospital care under extreme circumstances.

Fossil Oregon MCI
AirLink, Asher Clinic, Fossil Volunteer Ambulance, Frontier Regional 911 Dispatch, Gilliam County Sheriff’s Office, North Gilliam County Medical, Life Flight Network, Oregon State Police, South Gilliam County Ambulance, South Gilliam County Rural Fire Protection District, Spray Volunteer Ambulance, Wheeler County Sheriff’s Office
days later as a result of his injuries. Several subjects lost their legs. Others suffered broken bones and internal injuries. Several patients were presumed to have been transported by POV and their destinations and outcomes are unknown.

For a rural community, the support of local EMS and Fire Fighter volunteers and the collaboration of other agencies outside of the area displays how vital all of these factors are in our rural and frontier communities. This MCI could have gone bad at any point but critical training and quick decision making saved multiple lives this night.
EMS UNIT CITATION

The EMS Unit Citation recognizes the department’s organization, specialized teams and expert first responders in providing emergency pre-hospital care under extreme circumstances.

Fossil Oregon MCI

Asher Clinic, Fossil Volunteer Ambulance, Frontier Regional 911 Dispatch, Gilliam County Sheriff’s Office, North Gilliam County Medical, Oregon State Police, South Gilliam County Ambulance, South Gilliam County Rural Fire Protection District, Spray Volunteer Ambulance, Wheeler County Sheriff’s Office

Asher Clinic, Fossil
Amanda Roy - PA
Susan Moore - EMT-I

Fossil Volunteer Ambulance
Carol Maclnnes - EMT-I
Rick Shaffer
Mike Craig - EMT
Bill Maclnnes Jr - Driver
Mick Wright

Frontier Regional 911 Dispatch
Juli Lantis
Randy Chambers
Mariah Camargo
Matthew Stanyan

Gilliam County Sheriff Office
Sheriff Gary Bettencourt
Lt. Jon Terland
Cpl. Wes Garth

North Gilliam County Medical
David K. Anderson, Paramedic
Susie Crosby, EMT-I
Tena Ferguson, EMT
Missi Weiser, EMT
Tiffany Wilkins, EMR
Kathy Covey, EMR
David Gossitt, EMR

Oregon State Police
Trooper Matt Zistel
Tpr. Richard Gay
Sr. Tpr. Zack Mickle
Sr. Tpr. Brian Glasser

Sr. Tpr. Scott Show
Sr. Tpr. Jed Rzegocki
Sr. Tpr. April Ratliff
Sgt. John Russo

South Gilliam County Ambulance
Shannon Copcock - EMT-I
Cindy Hinton - EMT-I
M’Lis Jamieson - EMT
Amy Weddle - EMT
Roger Weddle - EMT

South Gilliam County RFPD
Chief Jim Hinton
Bill Ashmead - FF
Dustan Hall - FF
Jim Hassing - FF
Emmet Seeley - FF
Trevor Waugh - FF

Spray Volunteer Ambulance
Scott Field - EMT
Penny Moon, EMT
Marissa Humphreys, EMT
Tara Holmes, EMR

Wheeler County Sheriff’s Office
Sheriff Chris Humphreys
Deputy Roy Nelson - EMT
Deputy Russell Mathiasen
Deputy Michael Boyd
Deputy Dave Dobler
Reserve Deputy Tyrell Humphreys
Sheriff Chris Humphreys was directly behind a group of motorcyclists when a car hit multiple vehicles and responded immediately. Realizing the magnitude of the accident that had taken place Sheriff Humphreys declared an MCI and requested more help and resources from neighboring agencies.

He noted that despite 21 years in the law enforcement and emergency operations he had never seen a motor vehicle accident with this extensive damage. “Several subjects were in the process of dying. Multiple subjects had amputations of their legs or feet. The driver of the car was pinned in her vehicle; the driver’s side window having been broken out when several uninjured motorcycle riders had tried to assault her prior to my arrival”.

Sheriff Humphreys maintained control of the chaotic scene, saving the driver of the vehicle from further assault by member’s of the motorcycle club and directing law enforcement, fire and EMS crews as they arrived.
Meritorious Service

This award recognizes an individual for a particular act of meritorious service in EMS.

This year’s recipient:
Amanda Roy, PA
Asher Community Health Center

Living in a small community opportunities are ample to support our neighbors. Amanda Roy has a small medical clinic, the Asher Clinic, located in Fossil, OR that is operated by two Physician Assistants. After Amanda heard the inordinate number of sirens, she immediately responded to the clinic and opened its small emergency room along with Susan Moore, Chief Operations Office at the clinic. This was an invaluable as the location to triage and treat the wounded and move the deceased. Amanda went above and beyond to help her community while a major incident took place. She was able to provide resources and a secure location to support the first responders and law enforcement during this MCI.
Roy Nelson, Wheeler County Sheriff Deputy, and Oregon EMT was working in Fossil, OR on the night a car drove into a large group of motorcyclists. He was the first medically trained person on scene, just a few minutes after the incident, and quickly assessed the patients while the sheriff was attempting to control the chaotic, hostile scene. Deputy Nelson quickly triaged multiple patients, applied tourniquets to patients who had amputated limbs and assigned civilians to help with patient wound care, and took care of the scene until other first responders and EMS providers arrived on scene. Because of Deputy Nelson’s quick decisions and training multiple lives were saved that night.
On October 1, 2017, Kevin Anderson and his wife, Elaine, were enjoying the music at the Route 91 Harvest Festival concert in Las Vegas. Shortly after the headliner took the stage at 10 PM, an up swell of commotion began as people were running and falling as volleys of gunshots were heard from a distance. None of the 22,000 concert attendees knew what was happening at first, until the lights were turned on. Kevin saw the blood around those who had fallen and realized people all around him had been, or were being shot by a gunman from an elevated position. Kevin and Elaine immediately rescued an off duty Orange County policemen Michael Gracia and his fiancée Summer who were both shot. Kevin’s quick actions helped save Michael’s life. Kevin could see bullets hitting the ground and objects around them during the eleven minutes of active shooting. While most ran or hid for cover, despite placing themselves in the line of fire, Kevin and a small group of other off-duty first responders started picking up victims and carrying them to the nearest vehicle that could get them out of the hot zone. EMS had not yet arrived, but dozens of victims were moved to nearby vehicles that were mobilized to evacuate them. 58 people lost their lives that night, and 527 others were wounded. The loss of life would have certainly been higher without the actions of people like Kevin and Elaine Anderson who put their own lives at risk to help others. Kevin Anderson, AMR’s Director of Communications, has been an Oregon EMS provider for thirty years. For his actions on October 1, 2017 at the Route 91 concert in Las Vegas, Kevin is most deserving of the Oregon EMS Medal of Valor.
On July 13, 2017, Division Chief Kamron Ismaili, IVFD, was on vacation in CA when he came upon a rollover accident. With no PPE or rescue gear he quickly assessed that two of the three occupants were partially ejected and pinned under the vehicle. The driver’s head was pinned under the roof. The patient was still alive but in severe respiratory distress. One of the passenger’s legs was pinned on the opposite side. Kamron quickly determined the driver needed rapid extrication and could not wait for local fire and EMS to respond due to the rural location of the accident.

Without PPE and rescue tools, he quickly devised a plan using field workers and spare tires to lift and brace the vehicle. The driver was removed then the passengers. The driver was critical but respirations were restored. Kamron continued to provide emergency medical care until arrival of local EMS. The driver was airlifted to a trauma center and the passengers were transported by ground ambulance.

Division Chief Kamron Ismaili’s quick assessment and innovative thinking saved the driver’s life. He was credited by on-scene EMS for his leadership and skills as an EMT.
The EMS Cross honors an EMT who by act or deed represents the most outstanding achievement in EMS over an extended period of time. This is the highest award that can be bestowed in the absence of extreme conditions and extraordinary circumstances.

This year’s recipient:
Mark Stevens, Paramedic
Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue

Chief Mark Stevens began his EMS career in 1980 as a Paramedic and EMS Training Officer for Buck Ambulance in Portland. He concurrently shared his gift for educating EMS personnel as the EMT Program Director for Mt. Hood Community College and Adjunct Faculty for the OHSU Advanced Paramedic Education Program. Chief Stevens became a familiar face lecturing at conferences around the country. He tirelessly dedicated his career to the initial and continued education of literally thousands of Oregon’s EMS Providers. Chief Stevens’ role in EMS education led him to the NAEMT, where he served as Oregon’s PHTLS Coordinator for 26 years. He also became a member of the National PHTLS Executive Committee, promoting and refining trauma education to improve patient safety and outcomes.

Chief Stevens accepted a position at TVF&R in 1991 where he continued his mission as an EMS Training Officer. His work was recognized by the Fire District and he promoted to EMS Chief/Division Chief in 2000. During his tenure, Chief Stevens’ vision for Oregon’s EMS system continued to grow. With a mission to improve the delivery of EMS, he was active on numerous committee’s and EMS Councils, all focused to improve the delivery of EMS. He became the EMS Section President for the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association and advocated for many statewide and legislative initiatives.

Chief Stevens’ forward thinking led him to explore the concept of Community Paramedicine and he worked to create the Pacific Northwest Mobile Integrated Health/Community Paramedic Coalition, a group that has grown to include over 100 healthcare providers, all promoting and providing this unique delivery of EMS care.

As Chief Stevens enters retirement, he leaves behind a legacy dedicated to the enrichment of EMS in our state. His contributions have touched numerous EMS providers and communities, all in the quest to save as many lives as possible.
DIRECTOR’S MEDAL

The Director’s Medal recognizes an individual who is particularly noteworthy and who has substantially contributed to the EMS system in the State of Oregon.

This year’s recipient:
Elizabeth Heckathorn, Paramedic

Elizabeth Heckathorn has had an astounding career in EMS. Holding many roles and effecting many, Liz has truly embraced what it means to live with a passion.

Liz started her career in EMS in June 1989 she has been worked in rural areas as a Firefighter/Paramedic, EMS Captain and Chief of Jefferson County EMS. She also has been an EMS College Professor and Director; at the State office she has worked in the Mobile Training Unit, as a Professional Standards Investigator, and Program manager.

She has helped shaped the lives and careers of many in EMS through personal leadership and interaction but also a larger influence by surveying college EMS programs, volunteering her time on the State EMS Committee, Oregon EMS Conference committee, Area Trauma Advisory Boards, Oregon Medical Board, Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training and the National Registry of EMTs representative, just to name a few.

Liz’s knowledge and understanding of this career and her passion for helping others has helped many directly and indirectly to be better EMS providers and to bring a high standard of care to those we take care of. Because of your passion and for so many more reasons, we are pleased to announce Elizabeth Heckathorn as the 2018 Director’s Award recipient.