



# State EMS Awards Book of Recognition



**Department of Human Services  
Emergency Medical Services & Trauma Systems  
800 NE Oregon Street, Ste. 607  
Portland, OR 97232  
Telephone: (503) 731-4011**

**[www.dhs.state.or.us/publichealth/ems](http://www.dhs.state.or.us/publichealth/ems)**



*The Civilian Service Medal recognizes a civilian who provides extraordinary service during the course of an EMS emergency.*

## **Darren Berg**

On July 23, 2000, at about 8:00 p.m. Darren Berg was driving a heavily loaded hay carrier across the Vesper Bridge on Highway 202 near Vernonia when it was hit from behind by a pickup truck. The truck immediately burst into flames with the two stunned, half conscious occupants trapped inside.

Although suffering burns himself during the rescue, Darren was able to free the passenger. The young man he pulled from the wreckage that day was being raised by his grandparents because his dad and brother had both died in accidents in recent years.

The nomination simply stated “Darren’s” rescue of this young man is noteworthy, not only because he saved a young life, but also because he spared a family and his community great grief”.



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**Chris Knight**  
**Crystal Lefler**  
**Roberto Perez**

On March 28, 2001, in Central Point, Oregon, as fire crews responded to the scene, neighbors fought to get to the family trapped inside a burning mobile home.

These three individuals risked their lives and actually suffered injuries in a heroic effort to save them. They succeeded in saving a 23 year old mother of two. Efforts to save one of her children who was also trapped in the burning home failed.

Had it not been for these brave and unselfish individuals, no one would have survived the fire.



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### **Chaplain Larry Blight**

Paramedics, EMTs, and firefighters are often too busy during an emergency to deal with the emotional and spiritual needs of bystanders or family members who witness their friends and loved ones injured, sick or dying.

This recipient has responded to many emergency scenes including structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, homicides, domestic assaults and suicides. While EMTs attempt resuscitation, Chaplain Blight explains to the family members what is being done or what is about to be done. He has routinely been asked to handle death notifications or sit with families. He has counseled police officers, EMTs, paramedics, firefighters, dispatchers, corrections officers and inmates.

Chaplain Blight trains others in stress management, suicide prevention, and hostage negotiation and volunteers with the Southern Oregon Critical Incident Response Team.

For him, there may be no higher calling than to act in service to others. On any fire or accident scene, his service might be to a family, a victim, a patient, a child, a friend, or a fire fighter. Chaplain Blight is a constant reminder to us that there are many ways to volunteer.



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### **Charles McNeilly**

On February 22, 2001, a teacher at a highschool collapsed in his classroom. Charles McNeilly initiated CPR, and activated 911. Portland Fire Bureau responded to Rosemary Anderson High School.

His efforts saved the life of his fellow teacher that day.

The fallen teacher was released from the hospital days later with no deficits. It was the opinion of all the responders on scene that this successful outcome was the direct result of efforts by this year's nominee. None of the Advanced Life Support interventions would have made any difference if good CPR had not been performed.



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## **Rachel Jacky**

To a large extent, because of Rachel Jacky's enthusiasm and "tenacity", the Neighborhood Emergency Team program in the Community Services Office of the Portland Fire Bureau has grown to include 98 teams.

These Teams are trained to deal with major crisis such as an earthquake, flood, volcanic eruption, and other events that have the potential for crippling the area's EMS systems. To date, 500 citizens have undergone rigorous training and testing in topics such as triage, treatment, extrication, and hazard recognition.

The program has received national attention and by the end of this year, the Portland NET Instructors will have traveled to Alaska, Colorado, and Maryland to provide Train-the-Trainer courses.

In the event of a major catastrophe this approach to emergency preparedness - teaching simple approaches to emergency medicine - combined with up to date technology and teaching methods has the potential for saving hundreds or thousands of lives.