



State EMS Awards Book of Recognition



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The Meritorious Service Medal recognizes an individual for a particular act of meritorious service in EMS.

EMT of the Year – Basic

Deborah A. Hull, EMT-Basic Union Volunteer Ambulance Service

Deborah Hull works part-time and is a full time mother. Like many small town rural providers, her calls may be personally difficult because she knows almost all the people she comes into contact. She has never quit responding and has never given up on a patient. Her relationship with the paramedics seems to be a good one. She is not afraid to work with them nor do they intimidate her. To her, they are a source to learn from.

Deborah coordinates the prevention education for both fire and ambulance in Union. She has kids visit the fire hall, goes to classrooms, helps with county activities, and teaches as part of a team. She has dedicated numerous weekends and evenings to this service, all without pay . . . except the smiles of the people she meets. Her reward is the “possibility” of saving a life.

The committee that nominated her (which looked like it consisted of the entire staff of the organization) made the following remark, “please . . . consider her dedication, spirit, energy, and sacrifices as a member of our service. Recognize her, she deserves it!” We agree.



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EMT of the Year – Intermediate

Rose Howe, EMT-Intermediate Blue Mountain Hospital Volunteer Ambulance

Rose Howe serves in a rural service that is 65 miles from John Day, over a hour-and-a-half from Blue Mountain Hospital.

Those making the nomination describe Rose by saying, “there is no better example of what an Intermediate should aspire to be in any service . . . (she) excels in every aspect of EMS and in her personal life.” Like many rural providers, the only reward is the satisfaction of knowing that they are doing the right thing for their community in a remote part of Oregon. But, she extends herself to accomplish even more . . . ”this EMT-I has gone out of her way to help her community” . . . by applying for grants “to better a service in a part of the state in which ALS is at least an hour away in trauma or medical situations.”

Like many rural EMT-Intermediates, Rose has become an excellent teacher. Those who nominated her noted “This EMT has also been teaching continuing education to the basic EMTs, helping out those who cannot make it to John Day for their education. She has gone out of her way for this area . . . she has brought back the meaning of working together as a team . . . she has done nothing but inspire and encourage everyone.”

Rose Howe’s nomination states that “she could have just been a regular volunteer EMT and show up only when there is a call but she has gone beyond the call of duty by being a leader, a teacher, inspiration,” and by “putting together an EMS force in the Monument community to show that people care.”



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EMT of the Year – Paramedic

Brian Murdock, EMT-Paramedic Mercy Flights, Inc.

Brian Murdock's career in the pre-hospital field extends over 20 years, and in many ways is typical of the heart of the EMS experience. He started in EMS at a small rural ambulance company in 1980. He then worked for a period of time as a full-time firefighter-paramedic before returning to full-time ambulance service. He has also worked as a flight paramedic and volunteered in a small city as a firefighter-EMT for over 15 years.

Brian is currently a Field Training Officer and acting supervisor with Mercy Flights Inc., Medford.

When out of uniform, he is a licensed contractor and builder. He has donated time and expertise to help rebuild a medical clinic for a Boy Scout camp in the rural mountains of Southern Oregon. He also helps repair the homes of those in need. He donates his "spare" time, to help transport elderly residents of nursing homes to and from family gatherings during the holiday season.

We recognize him as paramedic but also as someone whose life actually makes a difference to his community.



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EMS Educator of the Year

TR Hilton, EMT-Paramedic Blue Mountain Hospital Volunteer Ambulance

Like any experienced Oregon paramedic who also teaches as an EMS instructor in a rural setting, TR Hilton measures the success of his students against a high standard. He knows that they will not have the luxury of immediate, readily available, ALS backup. And like other rural paramedics who have been nominated for this award, he teaches or has taught almost every kind of course related to EMS. His nomination stated, “[he] has an incredible way of teaching a person the knowledge and skills required to pass the State exams but tempers such knowledge with common sense in order to do exemplary work in the field. His skill at bringing into focus the seriousness of the work we have chosen to do as volunteer EMT’s and his ability to guide us through rough times makes him a friend to us all as well as our teacher.” He “has the uncanny ability to motivate people to the extent that they willingly drive miles and miles through all kinds of weather to attend his classes. EMTs from other counties drive to John Day because they know they will gain knowledge from attending a class with him.”

TR Hilton has brought continuing education classes to both EMT-Basics and EMT-Intermediates in the outlying areas. He has found time to recruit and educate new First Responders, EMT Basics, CPR instructors and is starting an Intermediate class. He also serves on the State EMS Committee. Above all TR Hilton “is described as a great paramedic.”

This award recognizes TR Hilton’s contribution to the skills of countless Emergency Medical Services students from all over Central Oregon.



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EMS Medical Director of the Year

Richard Lindquist , MD

Dr. Richard Lindquist has served for many years as a Medical Director without reimbursement.

Departments around him rearranged themselves into a loose consortium just so they can avail themselves of his frequent case reviews. This single act speaks volumes about the quality of the support he provides. Dr. Lindquist supervises about 30 paramedics, each of whom he knows personally. With each, he takes the time to personally oversee skills testing so he can observe their strengths and identify where they can work to better their patient care skills.

The Tri City Volunteer Fire Department, Myrtle Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Milo Volunteer Fire Department, Tiller Volunteer Fire Department, Riddle Volunteer Fire Department, Glendale Volunteer Fire Department, Canyonville Volunteer Fire Department, Days Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Seven Feathers Gaming, and the Bureau of Land Management all utilize him as a Medical Director to their personnel.

Dr. Lindquist also works with the local community college to prepare the EMT and paramedic students for practice. This summer, he participated as evaluator and Medical Director for the first paramedic exam held outside Portland in the last 8 years. This allowed students at the local community colleges to test nearer to their homes and reduced their testing costs.

A system often reflects the core values of an individual. The system that he supervises is “small,” personal, and driven by a vision of excellent patient care. We are proud to recognize those qualities that make an exceptional Medical Director.



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EMS Administrator of the Year

Shawn Payne, EMT-Intermediate Sherman County Ambulance

Like many administrators of small dedicated services across rural Oregon, Shawn Payne may have to leave her desk or home and “run with the crews” to provide patient care.

Sherman County Ambulance does not receive county funds or taxes. Shawn has taken the innovative step of offering rural ambulance association “memberships” in her small community. With one of these memberships, a “ride” in the ambulance is virtually free. This association is now 250 members strong and growing. In an era when a ride in an ambulance can cost between \$500 and \$700, \$25 is a small price to pay for the peace of mind that if you need an ambulance it will be paid for.

Two years ago, their main rig was struck by a semi-truck while parked rendering care to a patient after an accident on black ice. There was \$40,000 worth of damage but bumps, bruises, and a broken pair of sunglasses were the extent of the injuries to the occupants of the ambulance, crew and patient. Although they had their new rig taken out of service for several months for repairs, “the crash served to mold the ambulance crew into an even tighter-knit unit.”

All Payne would say was “I think it brought the crew together after that day, it really did.” Out of this trial they have molded a strong rural volunteer ethic.



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MERITORIOUS SERVICE

Brett Halderman, EMT-Paramedic Redmond Fire Department

Brett Halderman is described as “the quintessential paramedic, dedicated, honest, hardworking, striving for perfection, a patient advocate . . . a visionary, [who] never ceases to learn, and most importantly, he genuinely cares for those whose care is entrusted to him.”

During the last 2 years, Brett has taken on the monumental project of the organization and funding a regional multiple patient incident response vehicle based in Redmond. He has written and obtained grant funding, secured a vehicle, and began updating inventories. The vehicle is being extensively upgraded for a total cost of over \$50,000.

This project has been supported by the region’s EMS agencies including the East Cascade EMS Council. Individual agencies in the region, St. Charles Hospital, and ECEMS have all contributed to funding the project. The vehicle is now fully functional and ready when needed. This award recognizes Brett’s efforts to prepare for multi-patient situations that could overwhelm a single agency or unit.