



# State EMS Awards Book of Recognition



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*The EMS Unit Citation recognizes acts of organizations, units, or specially constituted teams in providing emergency prehospital care or EMS system support activities under extreme circumstances.*

**Jackson County Fire District #3  
Jackson County Fire District #4,  
Jackson County Search and Rescue  
Jackson County Sheriffs' Department  
Mercy Flights, Inc.  
Medford Fire Department**

Just before 7:00 p.m. on May 27, 2000 as dark started to fall, nine college students from an overturned raft dressed in t-shirts and shorts were stranded on a coffee table sized rock. The rock is located in the Rogue River 30 feet above Powerhouse Rapid. They were surrounded by white water and just below was a series of 10-15 foot waterfalls. The students were cold, wet, nearing hypothermia and on the edge of panic.

Attempts to get a boat or raft to them from any direction had been unsuccessful.

Rescuers knew that a pendulum across the current above the falls was the most likely rescue route. If a mistake is made, a cold, tired, scared victim and rescuer may end up in the water above the falls.

This operation took almost four and a half hours to complete, ending at 10:36 p.m., long past sundown. A total of 54 personnel from six different agencies were involved on scene. All the trapped students were rescued. No victims or rescuers were injured in the operation.



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## **Mount Ashland Ski Patrol**

Ski Patrol Units are a recognized and valuable part of the Oregon's EMS system.

On December 17, 2000, the Mt. Ashland Ski Patrol was sent to rescue a snow boarder who lost his balance while attempting a twisting jump and landed on the ground upside down. As he fell some 25 feet, he twisted his board hitting his head with it, finally stopping 375 feet below the resort parking lot.

When patrollers from the Mt. Ashland Ski Patrol arrived, they found a patient without sensation or movement below his waist. He was carefully packaged on a backboard and in a sled. The lift back to the parking lot required technical rescue skills, 300 feet of rope and a mechanical advantage system, multiple stops to let everyone rest, and numerous resets of the system for safety. By the time the patient was back in the parking lot, the helicopter was several minutes out.

This award recognizes their efforts and dedication on that winter day.



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**Bridge Volunteer Rural Fire Department  
Camas Valley Fire Department  
Mercy Flights, Inc.  
Myrtle Point EMS  
Winston-Dillard Fire District**

On February 6, 2001 EMS and Fire Units responded to a logging accident on Bone Mountain Road in Coos County. Because of snow and ice conditions, response time to the frontier logging area was 48 minutes. The patient assessment revealed a fracture/dislocation of the femur, pelvic fracture and penetrating flank trauma. Because of the patient's injuries and the remote location, it was agreed by all that air transport was a priority for this patient.

No helicopter-landing zone could be secured nearby, one was set up by another department 18 minutes away.

The remote nature of the incident, the extreme weather, and the coordination of services across county lines make this call noteworthy.

Sometimes we recognize the ability to thinking outside the box. This effort transcended the formal boundaries set by ASA rules. We are recognizing this cross boundary cooperation with the unit citation.