



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 – First Responder

Mark Wilson, First Responder Crooked River Ranch Fire Department

Some people regardless of their tenure with an organization make a significant impression on their peers. Five (5) years ago the Crooked River Ranch Rural Fire Protection District had such an individual join their organization. Serving as a volunteer and now at the rank of Captain, Mark Wilson has been selected as Oregon's First Responder of the Year.

A natural leader and one who leads by example, Captain Wilson avails himself to training opportunities and encourages others to do the same. Mark has learned from training and learned by doing. Unafraid to get involved and willing to do the small task or the large project, he has quickly gained experience and the respect of those within the district regardless of rank or position. Whether a minor incident or a complex ALS call, Mark is a team player and possesses the skills and experience necessary to be an asset to his crew.

What makes Captain Mark Wilson stand out is his willingness to learn and to share that knowledge with others, his availability to respond or provide coverage to the District, his ability to lead as well as to follow, the respect and position he has within his agency and the fact that he does all this in a volunteer capacity.

Thank you, Mark, for your service and commitment to EMS as a First Responder.



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EMT of the Year – Basic

Shelley Cota, EMT - Basic Metro West Ambulance Company

Having been named the Outstanding Employee of the Year and Washington County EMT-Basic of the Year in the past, it should not come as a surprise that Shelley Cota has been selected as Oregon's EMT-Basic of the Year.

As the Field Training Officer (FTO) for the Wheelchair Division at Metro West Ambulance, Shelly sets the standards and expectations for EMT-Basics in her Division. Her standard is outstanding customer service, not only for her patients, but all of her customers B family, facility staff and anyone else involved in the call. Shelly understands customer service and Shelly knows who her customers are. As an FTO she has the opportunity to influence, train and advocate a large number of EMT-Basics who are just beginning their EMS careers.

Shelly's commitment and involvement doesn't end with the Wheelchair Division. Shelly also volunteers as a 911 responder in Columbia County and fills in with the Special Events Division at Metro West Ambulance. These involvements give her an appreciation for the scope and opportunities that her career in EMS can offer her.

Thank you, Shelly, for your service and commitment to Oregon EMS as an EMT-Basic.



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EMT of the Year – Intermediate

Carrie Driskell, EMT - Intermediate Mercy Flights / Butte Falls Volunteer Ambulance Service

The intent in establishing the EMT- Intermediate designation in Oregon was to address the need for ALS level care in rural communities. By providing experienced EMT-Basics the appropriate training and education, they would be able to increase the level of care available within their community. The City of Butte Falls, with a population of approximately 450, has benefited from this program through the commitment and efforts of this years EMT- Intermediate of the Year, Carrie Driskell.

Carrie has provided almost 20 years of volunteer EMS service to the Butte Falls community. Beginning as a Driver in 1983, she acquired her EMT-Basic in 1990 and since 1996, she and others, brought ALS care to their community as EMT-Intermediates. Carrie's commitment to EMS and her community goes beyond the patient care she provides. Carrie supports and promotes EMS through her teaching and speaking within the community as well as through her recruiting and fund raising for the Butte Falls Volunteer Ambulance Service - now a part of Mercy Flights.

In 1997 Carrie decided to make EMS a full time career and joined the Mercy Flights organization. This decision has not diminished her commitment to serve her home community, but has made her a greater asset to the citizens of Butte Falls by bringing her professional experience to her volunteer service.

Thank you, Carrie, for your commitment and service to Oregon EMS as an EMT-Intermediate.



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EMT of the Year – Paramedic

Rex Strickler, EMT-Paramedic Mercy Flights, Inc

Oregon's EMS System benefits from the experience its EMS providers bring with them to the profession. Many Oregonians leave, work for a while in other states and bring back those experiences and knowledge. Others come to Oregon from other states and bring their experiences and knowledge with them. Not many of us can say we have left Oregon, gone to Saudi Arabia, developed a hospital based EMS System, then returned with those professional and life experiences. For the benefits the southern Oregon EMS community and Mercy Flights receive from that experience and knowledge, Rex Strickler has been selected as the EMT-Paramedic of the Year.

As a past Explorer Advisor/Trainer, participant on the Jackson County Critical Incident Response Team, an active ACLS instructor and currently a Field Training Officer for Mercy Flights, both the organization and the employees of Mercy Flights have gained from Rex's knowledge and experience in EMS Systems, flight medicine and ambulance operations. As an active member of the EMS community in Southern Oregon, others have also benefited from his expertise and life experiences.

Rex's heart for service extends outside of the EMS community. His volunteer efforts have touched the lives of disadvantaged citizens. He has tutored and served students in the Medford School District as well as those living in homes he has helped build through Habitat for Humanity. Serving his community is a life style for Rex Strickler.

Thank you, Rex, for your commitment and service to Oregon EMS as an EMT-Paramedic.



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EMS Educator of the Year

Mary Ann Vaughan, RN, EMT-P Umpqua Community College

Rarely does one individual receive three (3) nominations from three (3) separate organizations. Noting the involvements and noting the accomplishments of this individual, the 2002 Oregon EMS Awards Committee concurs that Mary Ann Vaughan is the EMS Educator of the Year.

Mary Ann has invested almost twenty (20) selfless years at Umpqua Community College (UCC) providing EMS education and training. As an educator and as a program coordinator she has set a standard of excellence and then provided her students the means to achieve it. Her involvement and commitment to her students doesn't end when they finish their formal education. As an American Heart Association Regional Faculty and her donation of countless hours of continuing education to rural volunteer agencies, she continues to teach and invest in her "students."

Mary Ann's high standards, creative mind, and seemingly endless energy have benefited her students, her program, and the EMS community in southern Oregon. Examples of this are: the fact that her students have internship opportunities literally across the country, her college, UCC, hosted the first Paramedic Practical Exam outside the Portland area in quite some time, and she was instrumental in establishing the South Douglas County EMS Consortium which facilitates training and medical direction to eight (8) volunteer departments. Mary Ann Vaughan is committed to quality EMS education.

Thank you Mary Ann for your service and commitment to EMS education in Oregon.



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EMS Medical Director of the Year

Martin P. Hill, M.D.

American Medical Response B Josephine County Operation

Being an EMS Medical Director is often a thankless task. However, when the task has coursed over 20 years one gets to watch careers develop, prehospital treatment evolve, the State EMS System mature, the foibles of healthcare reform, the implementation of the Trauma System, private and public turf wars and the establishment of local Ambulance Service Areas. And when you step back and take a look, you can see that it is good **B** then they call you GOD, Grumpy Old Doctor. For this and other reasons, the Grumpy Old Doctor from Josephine County, Dr. Martin P. Hill has been named the Medical Director of the Year.

Over the years Dr. Hill has been a strong advocate for EMS and prehospital care within the medical community and within the public health system. In his early years he was able to bring embattled organizations to the table. He went on to author the first set of standing orders for the Grants Pass area. Later, while being one of the original ATAB representatives, he was the impartial voice for what would provide the best trauma care for all the citizens of Josephine County. Today his focus continues to be on the quality of patient care. Dr. Hill can be found presenting case review, assisting with training, teaching the core specialty courses or hopping onto an ambulance. Dr. Marty Hill's commitment to EMS is not only to the patients in Josephine County but to those who provide the care as well.

Thank you, Dr. Hill, for your service and commitment to EMS in Oregon.



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EMS Administrator of the Year

Bruce R. Womack, EMT-P Wallowa County Ambulance

Most people who work in EMS are intrigued with the unknown and enjoy meeting challenges. It is part of the profession. To be an EMS Administrator, you have to be willing to take these attributes a step further. Consider walking away from a successful twelve (12) year career with the National Forest Service to assume responsibility for a struggling rural ambulance service with a dysfunctional organizational structure, old equipment, limited funds, fractious attitudes, and low morale. It can be done and it has been done **B** successfully. The successful turn around of Wallowa County Ambulance was accomplished under the leadership of this year's EMS Administrator of the Year, Bruce R. Womack.

Bruce looked at the unknowns and took the challenge. In three (3) short years, with the support of Wallowa County Health Care District, Bruce has established a healthy and effective EMS operation. Under his leadership they acquired two (2) new ambulances, new quarters, upgraded medical equipment, consistent and funded training and a positive work environment.

Understanding that EMS involves more than operations, Bruce has been active in prevention, community education, disaster preparedness, and emergency planning. A few of the out comes of his involvements in these areas include: strategic placement of twelve (12) Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) throughout the County, development of the Trauma Team Talks Tough education program for traffic offenders, an active and effective interrelationship between the EMS and medical community with Safe Harbors which provides domestic violence and sexual assault services to the community and significant improvement in both the Health Care Districts and the Counties operational disaster emergency plans.

Thank you, Bruce, for your commitment and service to Oregon EMS.