



# State EMS Awards Book of Recognition



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*The Director's Medal recognizes an individual for particularly noteworthy and substantial contribution to the EMS system of the State of Oregon*

**Denise A. Giard**  
**Albany Fire Department**

The ability to effectively influence EMS in the State of Oregon, yet retain a low profile in the EMS community is quite an accomplishment. While many in the EMS community may not know her, Denise Giard has been involved with EMS since the late 70's and has been a contributor and promoter of EMS since 1980.

As the President of the Oregon Fire Medical Administrator Association, Denise took a struggling professional organization and revitalized it. Under her leadership there have been substantial accomplishments. Through professionalism and credibility within the EMS community, she has established a dynamic and ongoing working relationship between Oregon's three (3) primary professional associations and the State EMS Office. Meeting regularly and collaborating has allowed the OFMAA, OSAA, OVFA, and the State EMS Office to manage and address a number of issues. Earlier in the year the State EMS Director acknowledged issues with the administrative rules and need to review them. Denise mobilized the collective resources to develop a joint list of changes needed. Having a standing forum at this level of leadership has and will continue to benefit EMS in Oregon.

Denise understands the importance of education in the development of leaders. While working full-time Denise completed her MBA and MPA, and is currently a candidate for Executive Fire Officer certification. To promote this type of professional development for others, the OFMAA has established its annual Leadership Conference, bringing nationally known names in EMS to Oregon. As well, she has been the driving force within the professional associations to work with the State EMS Office to establish a lending library of textbooks and educational resources for specialty classes.



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Her involvement in leadership extends beyond her role as EMS Chief at the Albany Fire Department. Denise serves on a number of boards, and committees ranging from local advisory boards to the State EMS Committee.

Thank you, Denise for your history of commitment to your peers, patients, and EMS in Oregon.