



State EMS Awards Book of Recognition



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The EMS Impact Award honors an individual who has made a substantial contribution to the Department of Human Services efforts to develop a statewide EMS System.

Lieutenant Terry Griffith, EMT-Intermediate Oregon State Police

Nearly 30 years ago, an Oregon State Police Trooper began thinking about the training that Troopers were receiving in caring for sick and injured people until an ambulance arrived. It quickly became clear to this Trooper that the men and women of the Oregon State Police needed a higher level of EMS training – and his vision was to prepare them to save the lives of those who travel the highways in Oregon.

After much planning, this Trooper had the daunting task of convincing the bureaucracy within the State Police that Troopers could and should provide medical care. Soon they were convinced and gave the go-ahead to begin a training program.

It has been many years since this Trooper and his colleagues began traveling to all the corners of the state to provide First Responder training to all of Oregon's Troopers. Trooper Terry Griffith is now Lieutenant Terry "Griff" Griffith, the EMS Coordinator for the Oregon State Police.

Lieutenant Griffith's commitment to EMS has dramatically improved efforts of EMS throughout the State of Oregon and undoubtedly decreased morbidity and mortality of those injured on Oregon's highways.

Lieutenant Griffith also played a vital role in addressing another need in Oregon's EMS system. His background made him the clear choice as Chair of the committee charged with the developing EMS-SMART (Emergency Medical Services System Management And Response Training). EMS-SMART is a comprehensive program dealing with risk assessment, preplanned response training, and providing prehospital care while keeping personal safety in mind.

Thank you, Lieutenant Griffith, for your commitment to Oregon's EMS system by improving the provision of EMS throughout the State, and for providing prehospital personnel with the tools necessary to return safely home to their families after caring for the citizens of and visitors to the State of Oregon.