



State EMS Awards Book of Recognition



**Department of Human Services
Emergency Medical Services & Trauma Systems
800 NE Oregon Street, Ste. 607
Portland, OR 97232
Telephone: (503) 731-4011**

www.dhs.state.or.us/publichealth/ems



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.

**Bay City Fire Department
Garibaldi Fire Department
Oregon State Police – Tillamook Worksite
Rockaway Beach Fire Department
Tillamook County Emergency Communications District (9-1-1)
Tillamook County General Hospital Ambulance
Tillamook County Sheriff's Office
United States Coast Guard Station Tillamook Bay
United States Coast Guard Air Station Astoria**

On Saturday morning, June 14, 2003, at approximately 0715 local time, the Motor Vessel Taki-Too proceeded across the bar at Tillamook Bay, Oregon carrying 17 passengers and two crew. During the bar crossing, a large wave struck the port side of the Taki-Too, capsizing the vessel. Nine people, including the master, are known dead and two are missing. The preliminary findings indicated that none of the nine dead wore life jackets. Six of the eight survivors had worn or held onto a life jacket.

Those rescuers who responded on that fateful morning in June will never forget the horrific images of the bodies of the dead being pushed ashore by the surf.

The actions of those involved ensured that everyone who arrived on the beach alive received appropriate medical intervention and ultimately survived this disaster. They also secured the recovery of the bodies of nine of the dead and allowed their families a measure of closure in the aftermath of this tragedy.

Moreover, for the families of the missing, the days of searching did not go unnoticed. The rescuers' efforts to bring peace and closure to these families in the face of insurmountable odds epitomize the compassion and caring that is the gold standard for emergency responders throughout the entire EMS community.

Thank you, to each of the above agencies for your actions during what would become Oregon's largest maritime loss of life in recent history. You exemplify the performance, professionalism, and dedication of EMS personnel in Oregon.



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Air Life – Bend, Oregon

Douglas County Fire District 2 – Rescue Team (DCFDRT)

Douglas County Sheriff's office – Mountain Rescue (DCSOMR)

Glide Rural Fire Protection District (GRFPD)

WEST Ambulance

On March 29, 2003, two friends followed a tributary of Wolf Creek to climb one of the waterfalls in this remote area. While climbing the waterfall the patient slipped and fell approximately 15-20 feet, knocking him unconscious. His friend was unable to move him out of the water, which would add hypothermia to his medical problems. The friend had to walk back out to call for help.

Glide Rural Fire Protection District, WEST Ambulance, and Douglas County Sheriff's unit responded. Once GRFPD and WEST personnel arrived at the trailhead they gathered gear to make their way to the patient. When the Glide Fire personnel saw the rugged terrain, they called for Douglas County Fire District No 2's Rescue Team and Douglas County Sheriff's Mountain Rescue.

When GRFPD and WEST personnel reached the scene they found the patient in critical condition. Air Life was requested to respond to the scene. DCFDRT and DCSOMR met the patient being carried down the hill. They assisted in carrying the patient and setting up rope systems to lower the patient down the slippery steep terrain. Air Life provided patient care as he was being carried out including IVs, intubation, and medication for a head injury.

Once the patient arrived at the trailhead, DCSO Search and Rescue assisted in bringing the patient down the trail to the road. From the time of the call until the patient arrived at the ambulance to be transported to Air Life was 5 hours and 48 minutes.

Thank you, Glide Rural Fire Protection District, WEST Ambulance, Douglas County Fire District 2 – Rescue Team, Douglas County Sheriff's Office – Mountain Rescue, and Air Life for your compassion and dedication to EMS in Oregon.



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**Gates Rural Fire Protection District
Idanha-Detroit Fire Department
Oregon Air National Guard – 1042nd Medical Company**

On October 31, 2003, Gates Fire/EMS and Idanha-Detroit Fire/EMS personnel were dispatched to a reported logging accident north/northwest of Detroit, Oregon. Through interviewing private timber fallers, the team determined that a companion was down on a hillside, trapped under a log with what appeared to be a badly broken leg. The fallers had been unable to free him or provide any rescue; the victim had been trapped for six hours.

The group assembled their gear and started up the hill. The area was dark and nearly freezing, and the hillside the rescuers ascended was covered with fallen “blown down” trees from previous storms and Forest Service timber thinning. The team reached the victim and was able to free him; it appeared his leg was broken in three places. The rescuers provided initial EMS service and stabilized the patient.

Rescuers determined it would be impossible to affect a rescue down the hill due to terrain and conditions. The team decided to activate the 1042nd Med Co (Air Ambulance) of the Oregon Air National Guard in Salem. The helicopter arrived, and had to hover over a small opening in the timber where trees towered over 150 feet high. It was unable to hover for prolonged periods as its rotor blades moved debris on the ground and knocked over large trees near the victim.

The 1042nd lowered personnel to facilitate the rescue. Working only with flashlights, rescue personnel packaged the victim. Progress was slow due to the hilly terrain, weather conditions, and downed trees. Four hours after arriving on the scene, the diverse team of rescuers saw the victim lifted from the treacherous ground and transported to Salem Hospital.

Thank you, Gates Rural Fire Protection District, Idanha-Detroit Fire Department, and Oregon Air National Guard – 1042nd Medical Company for your teamwork, compassion, and dedication to Oregon EMS.