



State EMS Awards Book of Recognition



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The Medal of Valor recognizes acts of personal valor or heroism in the delivery of emergency medical care, which results in the saving of a life under extreme conditions and in extraordinary circumstances.

**Benjamin Bruegeman, EMT-Basic
Marion County Fire District No. 1**

Ben Bruegeman has experienced some critical events occur during his initial years of EMS training. One such incident occurred when he was completing his internship at Salem Fire Department. On the morning of Monday, May 10, 2004, Medic 1 hit a tree and flipped over during an emergency response.

After impact, Ben did not realize the vehicle was on its side. One of his arms was hurting badly. He focused for a little bit, then exited the ambulance to see if he could help the medics. He was certain the passenger would be dead – there was no seating area left on that side. However, he soon heard the passenger calling out. The passenger, in his injurious state, unlatched his seat belt and fell on top of the driver, then proceeded to self extricate. He collapsed on the ground and remained there. This made some access available to Ben, so he walked through a gap between the cab and box, then assessed the driver, who was unconscious. He became conscious with a sternal rub, looked up at Ben, and smiled. Diesel was all over them and the smell was pungent. Ben exited that area and went back to the passenger, reassuring him while establishing manual C-spine immobilization.

Ben emphasizes that, had they been transporting a patient and providing care, typically without seatbelts on, the outcome would, in his opinion, have been even worse. He further advises all emergency responders to remember that seatbelts can save their lives, not just the public we respond to.

A news release about the incident said “Fire officials say an intern riding in the back of an ambulance played a key role following a sudden crash... before rescuers arrived... helped stabilize the two injured paramedics. ‘He really kept cool. He provided C-Spine to one of our paramedics who was injured and did an awesome job in helping pass information to 911 so they knew what type of equipment to send out,’ said Bill Holmstrom with the Salem Fire Department. “

Thank you, Ben for your efforts May 10, 2004, demonstrating your compassion to fellow responders, professionalism, and awesome dedication to Oregon EMS.



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**Jason Sharp, Firefighter/EMT-Basic
Portland Fire and Rescue**

**Nicole Fuge, Firefighter/EMT-Basic
Portland Fire and Rescue
Canby RFPD**

On July 5, 2003, at approximately 0207, Jason Sharp and Nicole Fuge were sitting on the front steps of Station 26 reflecting over a busy shift. Suddenly, they heard gunfire across Lombard Street and witnessed multiple muzzle blasts at close range. They immediately assumed a flattened position on the front porch and moved towards the door. Jason, from a prone position punched the door code, opened it, and they both crawled to safety inside the station. As they were crawling, Nicole noticed a large male running for shelter fall on the station steps following a barrage of gunfire. Once inside, she radioed dispatch stating, "shots fired at Station 26- send police".

After reaching the safety of the station, Jason decided without hesitation to abandon its refuge and rescue the victim lying on the front steps. The victim had suffered a single-gunshot wound to his side. It was later theorized the gunshot wound was sustained while climbing Station 26's front steps.

The police arrived within a minute after the distress call was received. A police officer entered the station and told Nicole another victim was laying across the street on the curb-line. After waiting for a police "all clear" she reached the downed civilian, who was lying in a prone position and bleeding profusely. Logrolling the patient, it was clear the victim had multiple entry wounds in the torso. Police recovered forty-two 9mm and .38 caliber shell-casings at the scene. Later, doctors credited the actions of both Jason and Nicole with no doubt improving the patients' probability of survival.

Thank you, Jason and Nicole for your heroic actions July 5, 2003, which demonstrated your continued outstanding commitment to your community and EMS in Oregon.