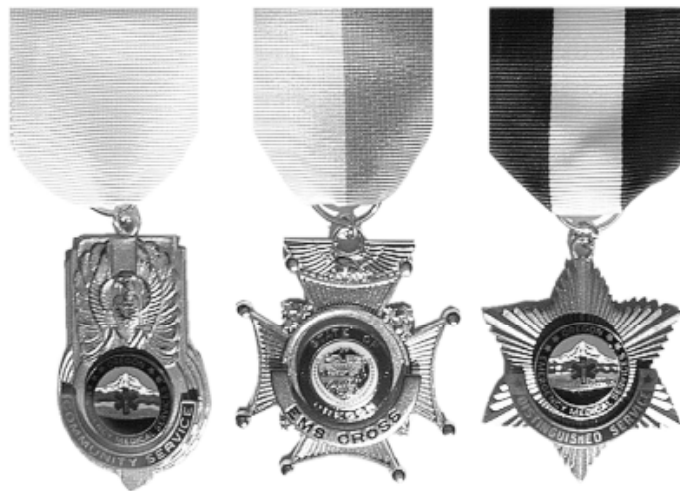




# State EMS Awards Book of Recognition



**Department of Human Services  
Emergency Medical Services & Trauma Systems  
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**<http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ems>**



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

## **Oregon Disaster Medical Assistance Team National Disaster Medical System**

*Nominated by Alvin J Lee, Regional Emergency Coordinator, National Disaster Medical Systems*

In response to the needs of the nation, members of the Oregon Disaster Medical Team (ODMT), responding as Oregon-2 DMAT, were exemplary representatives of Oregon EMS. Through their team and personal efforts, countless of lives were positively affected. Heroism and heroic events are dependent upon opportunity; however, the opportunities only provide the scenario for the heroic efforts and performance by individuals and organizations that are depended upon in that instance. Such is the case of Oregon's Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT), of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS).

OR-2 DMAT (ODMT) responds to many events under adverse conditions brought on by weather and other threats to the health of our nation's citizens. This team of over 120 professionals from Oregon maintains a state of readiness to respond in austere conditions to provide care. Through rigorous training and active participation, this team quarterly stands as the primary Western response team for medical response. The team is also the primary Pacific Rim "first out" full DMAT throughout the year.

In 2005, the opportunity for the OR-2 DMAT to demonstrate its commitment to the needs of the country surfaced by the names of Katrina and Rita. From pre-deployment on August 27, 2005, through 2006, OR-2 team members responded with over 100 individual deployments to the Gulf Coast including full team deployments in Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

The team was one of five extraordinary teams that performed heroically at the New Orleans Airport to manage the evacuation of close to 3000 medical patients and 20,000 individuals. Within a span of days, the team on location off-loaded, triaged, treated and dispatched further transport for patients who arrived from helicopters, ground vehicles and airplanes. This work occurred 24 hours a day and team members often went without rest for up to 36 hours at a time. The operation resulted in the largest civilian medical evacuation in the history of this country.

For the remainder of the response phase to these hurricanes, OR-2 DMAT continued to provide members in various response configurations (including Otis, their therapy canine) to the region. They provided mental health support and hospital augmentation in Lafayette in response to Hurricane Rita, and most recently provided members to augment the surge capacity mission in February 2006 in New Orleans because of the Mardi Gras.

**Thank you, Oregon Disaster Medical Team for your exemplary representation of EMS in Oregon.**