



State EMS Awards Book of Recognition



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Emergency Medical Services & Trauma Systems
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The Department of Human Services, Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System Section may present certificates of recognition, appreciation, or other awards as dictated by particular circumstances, with the concurrence of the State EMS Committee.

**Cal-Ore Life Flight
Gold Beach Fire Department
Dennis Johnson, civilian**

Nominated by Joe Gregorio, EMT-Basic, General Manager, Cal-Ore Life Flight

On Friday, May 26, 2006, two men were traveling north of Gold Beach when the driver lost control of the vehicle after he hit the brakes while taking a corner too fast. The vehicle traveled up an embankment and crashed head on into a tree where it came to rest at a 45-degree angle, driver's side down and passenger side up. Dennis Johnson, a nearby resident, heard the accident and called 911.

Cal-Ore Life Flight Medic 1 and Gold Beach Fire Department were dispatched to the scene. When Cal-Ore Life Flight personnel arrived, Mr. Johnson was holding direct pressure on the passenger's neck with a blood soaked t-shirt yelling, "Hurry, his throat is cut and I think I'm losing him!" After an initial scene size-up and early trauma activation, the crew went to work.

The vehicle had sustained major front-end damage and intrusion into the passenger compartment. The passenger's side windshield had a 7" diameter hole in it with blood on the edges. The patient was still conscious and alert. Due to the position of the vehicle and the need for rapid extrication, the crew placed the patient in modified c-spine and transported him to Curry General Hospital. The same crew then transported the patient to the airport another 26 miles away by ground where a Cal-Ore Life Flight aircraft, staffed with critical care nurses and an EMT-I, were waiting to airlift the patient to Bay Area Hospital where the patient underwent immediate surgery.

Cal-Ore Life Flight and Gold Beach Fire worked together to affect this rescue of a critically injured patient. Due to the early intervention by Mr. Johnson, and teamwork, this patient survived.

Thank you, Dennis Johnson, Cal-Ore Life Flight, and Gold Beach Fire Department for your ingenuity, and dedication to EMS in Oregon.



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**Greg Flynn, EMT-Paramedic
American Medical Response, NW
Portland, Oregon**

Nominated by American Medical Response, NW

On September 5, 2005, AMR Paramedic Gregg Flynn deployed to the city of New Orleans, devastated by Hurricane Katrina. His mission: to serve as the lead paramedic at the medical staging/evacuation site with a backlog of over 500, 9-1-1 calls. Greg reports, "Most of the streets were flooded and we often drove in water as high as the grill of the ambulance."

After completing the 911 calls, they were directed to 'patrol' areas of New Orleans to 'help as needed'; while patrolling, Greg's crew spotted an unattended raft in the middle of a park. Thinking a three-person raft would be a valuable asset, they retrieved it and lashed it to the ambulance.

Immediately after acquiring the raft, Greg's crew was approached by a bystander who was concerned about an elderly neighbor trapped in her flooded residence. She and her son had been without water or food for days. They used the raft to move the resident and her son through the floodwaters to the back of the ambulance. "The water was up to the back doors," said Greg. With two patients on board, they proceeded to medical staging. Along the way, fire fighters attempting to extricate three elderly patients from a flooded care facility, flagged them down. The raft was used again to assist in the extrication of the care center residents into the ambulance. Now with five patients on board, all were safely transported to medical triage for evaluation and evacuation.

Greg Flynn's leadership and ingenuity allowed the rescue of five New Orleans residents from hazardous environments saving them from further illness and injury.

Thank you, Greg for your quick thinking, compassion and excellent representation of Oregon EMS.