



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 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.

**Benton County Sheriff's Office
Blodgett-Summit RFPD
City of Corvallis, Benton County 911
Corvallis Fire Department
Life Flight
US Coast Guard-North Bend Station**

Nominated by David Feinberg, EMT-Basic, EMS Coordinator Blodgett-Summit RFPD

On February 7, 2006, a tree struck a logger who was working in Blodgett, Oregon. A co-worker stayed with the patient while aid was summoned. The Blodgett-Summit Quick Response Team and Corvallis Fire Department (CFD) Ambulance 123 responded. The patient was down a steep hill through freshly felled timbers. The distance to the staging area was reported to be 800 feet, which was later found to be twice as far.

The patient, bleeding from a severe head wound, was stabilized and administered oxygen. CFD 123 arrived and the patient was back-boarded and placed in a Stokes basket.

The patient was moved to an open area for hoisting by the Coast Guard. However, the helicopter had to abort after the basket tangled in the landing gear. Helicopter rescue was also ruled out after rotor wash toppled a tree close to the patient.

The CFD Special Rescue Team negotiated the basket past downed trees by threading over and under the trunks. A pickup was able to bring the patient the last quarter mile to the ambulance. Despite numerous unforeseen obstacles, the patient was transferred to Life Flight.

The patient suffered complications from his head injuries and developed respiratory problems. He is now at home and hopes to resume logging by the end of the year.

Thank you, to each of the above agencies, your teamwork in a difficult situation exemplifies the professionalism, and dedication of EMS personnel in Oregon.



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**Jackson County Fire District #3
Jackson County Sheriff, Search and Rescue
Mercy Flights
Southern Oregon Regional Communications**

Nominated by Barry Hoffman, EMT-Basic, Division Chief of Operations, Jackson County Fire District #3

On May 21, 2006, a group was climbing off-trail when one member elected to begin free climbing a vertical wall of the crevasse. After climbing approximately 50 feet, loose rock gave way beneath him and he fell straight down. Upon impact, he tumbled and slid another 30 to 40 feet down the slope into a crevasse. Companions reached 911 by cell phone.

Fire District 3 "Special Operations Group" and Mercy Flights responded to a staging area nearby. The helicopter was used to transport personnel and equipment up to the rim and established a rescue scene.

The victim was quickly located. The rescue operation required lowering three personnel, medical equipment, and a Stokes basket to the victim's location from the rim. The rescuers utilized an ATV lodged against a rock shelf and secured with its own winch as the main anchor point

Falling and rolling rocks were a constant threat. Prolific poison oak growth added to the complications. The victim was treated and packaged, then moved via a low-angle haul system to the vertical lift point. The victim's injuries required horizontally hoisting as long as possible. A difficult transition with the Stokes basket from a horizontal to a vertical position was required near the top in order to complete the rescue.

Members of Jackson County's Search and Rescue provided additional ATV, rope system hauling, and transporting rescue equipment. Although a few rescuers suffered the ill effects of poison oak contact, no rescuers were injured.

Thank you, to each of the agencies above for your teamwork and dedication to EMS in Oregon.



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**Medix Ambulance Service
Cannon Beach Fire & Rescue
Cannon Beach Police
Columbia Memorial Hospital**

Nominated by Duane Mullins, EMT-Paramedic, Chief of Operations, Medix Ambulance

On the evening of April 8, 2006, Medix Ambulance and Cannon Fire and Rescue were dispatched to a young female in the Arch Cape area on the Oregon coast. She had been playing on a rope swing.

At one point, she slipped from the board, causing her to flip and fall feet first, down the cliff. A 20-foot tree that was about 15 inches across stopped her fall.

When she landed on the tree, a limb went through her left thigh pinning her flush against the tree, preventing the removal of the limb, and patient.

Medix Ambulance Paramedic Don Thomas and EMT Rob Kennedy were on scene with rescue personnel from Cannon Beach Fire and Rescue. The crew, from 50 feet down the cliff worked to free the patient by using a chain saw to cut from the bottom up, once 16 inches in front of the limb and again 16 inches behind the limb.

They were then able to roll both the patient and attached tree limb into a rescue litter; the litter was slowly pulled to the top of the cliff while being supported by rescue personnel.

The Paramedic was in contact throughout the event with Dr. Brenda Smith, Trauma Physician at Columbia Memorial Hospital who provided invaluable advice and support for the crews on scene. The crew turned the patient over for transport to Emanuel, tree and all; two and a half hours after the incident began.

One cannot anticipate nor plan for this type of call, yet this group of EMS providers achieved its successful completion, as if they did it every day.

Thank you, to each of the agencies above for your teamwork and dedication to EMS in Oregon.