



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.

Jeremi Ruda, EMT-Paramedic
Robert Berdan, EMT-Paramedic
Metro West Ambulance

Nominated by Jason Rogers, EMT-Paramedic, Metro West Ambulance

On March 12 2006, Metro West Ambulance unit 61 was moving to a posting location in Tigard.

Robert Berdan, Senior Paramedic and Jeremi Ruda, Junior Paramedic witnessed a major motor vehicle collision that occurred in front of them on Highway 99 near Highway 217. A vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed rear-ended a second vehicle, causing massive damage and throwing the second vehicle into the front end of a third vehicle.

Vehicle #2 burst into flames upon the initial impact and by the time it came to rest it was becoming engulfed with fire. Robert and Jeremi called for more fire and EMS resources, grabbed fire extinguishers from their ambulance and quickly sprang into action. Jeremi knocked down the fire long enough for Bob to extricate the driver from the burning vehicle. The crew attempted to rescue the unconscious passenger but was unable to do so because of the heavy flames. In all, four patients were transported from this scene to local trauma centers.

Because of their courageous acts, risking their lives to extricate patients from a burning vehicle, Robert and Jeremi are awarded the EMS Medal of Valor. This award recognizes acts of personal valor and heroism in the delivery of emergency medical care. Risking their lives while using only a fire extinguisher to fight a large car fire, both Bob and Jeremi worked together to save a life.

Thank you, Robert and Jeremi for your dedication, compassion, ability to remain calm in the face of uncertainty, and awesome representation of EMS in Oregon.

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