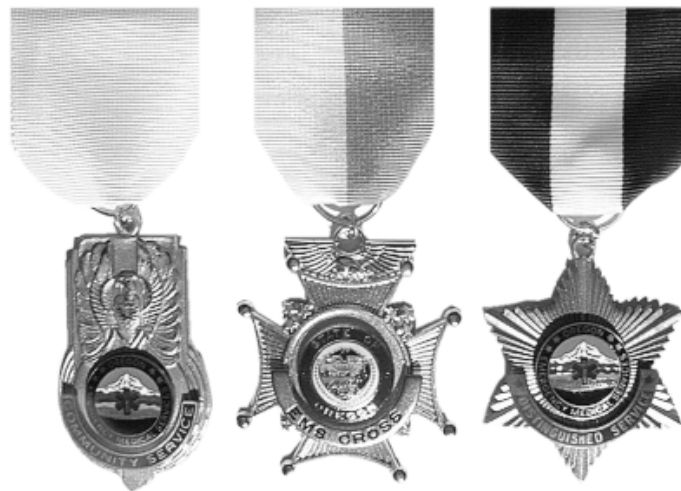




State EMS Awards Book of Recognition



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



The EMS Impact Award honors an individual who has made a substantial contribution to the Department of Human Services efforts to develop a statewide EMS System.

Name: Mike Verkest, AAS, EMT-P

Agency: American Medical Response



October 15-19, 2007, during TOPOFF4 (the largest full-scale disaster exercise involving local, state and federal incident response) AMR Operations Supervisor, Mike Verkest, developed and utilized an innovative patient tracking system used by the Medical Branch of the incident. Mike was assigned to the Transport Sector and knew the difficulties that accompanied this role, even with small numbers of patients. TOPOFF4 planned for hundreds of casualties.

To enhance patient tracking, Mike customized an Excel spreadsheet that utilized bar codes off triage tags. He programmed it to show the patient's triage status by written number and color bar and developed bar codes for local hospitals using a handheld scanner to enter data. Patient gender was the only additional input needed. Chris Koppenhafer, AMR's Clinical Data Analyst, collaborated on the project, making refinements based on feedback from Mike.

The completed system included a spreadsheet designed to track patients triaged and transported in a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) and an 'on-line' version that



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updated simultaneously for hospitals and other locations. Mike uploaded the program to a dedicated 'Google' users group; allowing local hospitals to log on and watch as information about incoming patients were updated (status on scene, transport, etc.). Conversely, the data entry computer identified hospitals that were currently accessing the site. Other entities, like the Emergency Operations Center, were also able to monitor the site.

The tracking system debuted at TOPOFF and was an overwhelming success. Not only did it keep receiving hospitals informed, it assisted in the “wrench” thrown into the system by drill coordinators: "missing and injured Canadian citizens" were located using the scanned data and a simple “roll call” to the hospitals. Mike Verkest has shared its success with fellow EMS providers and continues to have ideas on how to enhance the system.

