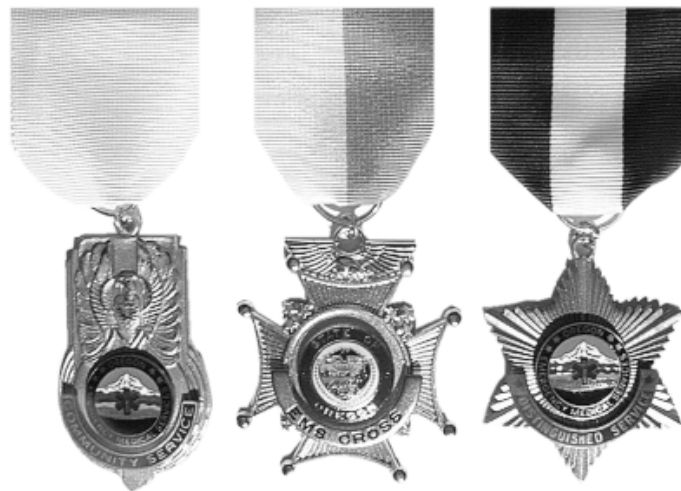




State EMS Awards Book of Recognition



**Department of Human Services
Emergency Medical Services & Trauma Systems
800 NE Oregon Street, Ste. 607
Portland, OR 97232
Telephone: (503) 731-4011**

<http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ems/recognition/index.shtml>



Agency: AMR and Rural Metro in Grants Pass – Mike Anderberg, EMT-B (RMFD); Jamie Beech, EMT-P (AMR), Lt. Lloyd Lawless, EMT-B (RMFD); Ryan Small, EMT-B (RMFD); and Ben Stevenson, EMT-I (AMR)



Mike Anderberg
Fire Fighter, EMT-B



Jamie Beech
EMT-P



Lt. Lloyd Lawless
EMT-B



Ryan Small
Fire Fighter, EMT-B



Ben Stevenson
EMT-P

On January 9, 2008, a call was placed for a 59 year old male who was working at an industrial location. Some steel framework had fallen from a fork lift and struck him



from behind. Rural Metro firefighters were in the area conducting training and responded quickly. They found a male with some steel still on top of him, utilized workers on scene to help remove it, and found a patient with a severely deformed leg, pale and cyanotic. Respiratory rate was 10 and patient was moaning. Small told Anderberg to stay on the radio while he conducted a rapid trauma assessment. They called for the Lieutenant to come to the scene as well. Small tried to establish a better airway, but the patient's jaw was clenched. He managed to open it (using a bite stick) enough to get an OPA in to assist ventilations with a BVM. The patient had a peripheral pulse of 40. Lt. Lawless arrived and began setting up a LZ for Mercy Flights. When AMR arrived Stevenson went to work immediately, utilizing all of his EMT-I skills. He established an IV and an IO. Beech attempted intubation and found a very difficult airway, He and Stevenson used a combitube instead of wasting time with multiple attempts. The patient was packaged on a LSB and moved to the LZ, with a GSC of 3. The patient had a lacerated liver, spleen, multiple spinal fx., tib/fib fx, closed head injury, pneumothorax, and possible other injuries.

Although the call is not so unusual, the way it was handled was seamless and smooth, that many have commented on how well it went. Everyone on this call, from the newest in EMT class firefighter to the 20+ year veteran Paramedic, all worked well together to provide the patient with the best care and ensure he had the best chance for a positive outcome. Everyone was especially impressed with Small and his level head and quick thinking, and Stevenson's ability to flawlessly use all of his new EMT-I skills while keeping a level head and setting up for the Paramedic. These guys run into each other from time to time on calls, but do not work together regularly, yet anyone watching would think they did.





Agency: Winston-Dillard Fire and Rescue – Shawn Pattee and Audrey Pollinger



Shawn Pattee, EMT-P



Audrey Pollinger, EMT-P

On February 15, 2008, Paramedics Audrey Pollinger and Shawn Pattee responded 4 miles up a Mt Kenyan logging road, 3500 feet above the valley floor covered with 2 1/2 feet of snow. They responded to a female with a history of multiple CVAs and numerous medical conditions, complaining of a headache - similar to her previous CVAs.

When they encountered snow and ice, they placed tire chains and continued. The local fire district was driving ahead of them with a brush truck. About 1 1/2 miles from the residence, snow became impassible and the brush truck and the ambulance became stuck. The dispatcher also reported their patient was complaining of chest pain. They continued by hiking (with equipment) through knee-deep snow. Upon arrival, they assessed and treated their patient. Dispatch attempted to send a helicopter. However, due to a lack of a landing zone and patient's weight beyond safe winch limits, neither the US Coast Guard nor the Oregon National Guard could assist.

Meanwhile, a volunteer firefighter arrived on a 4 wheel all terrain vehicle. With only one option left, they transported their patient to the ambulance on the 4-wheeler, and hiked back down through the snow. Once in the ambulance, Pattee continued patient care while Pollinger borrowed a shovel and removed accumulated snow and ice in order to move the ambulance (dug it out of the snow). Upon removal of the snow, freeing the ambulance, Pollinger notice an inside dual tire was flat. Pollinger



requested another ambulance meet them. They transported their patient to the other ambulance, exchanged vehicles, and continued transporting to the hospital. The patient was admitted for medication imbalances.

This crew demonstrated determination and commitment to providing emergency medical care under extreme circumstances. Their perseverance demonstrates their high level of professionalism and is worthy of recognition.





Agency: Vernonia Volunteer Ambulance Association – Tara Bamburg, EMT-B; Teresa Bernardi, EMT-I; Caressa Brooks; Norman Brown; Randy Carlton, EMT-B; Raymond Cota; Shelly Cota, EMT-B; Christie Davis; Matt Davis; Torie Ellis; Michelle Kay, EMT-P; Charlotte Koch, EMT-B; Scott Laird, EMT-B; Kristina McCord, EMT-B; Tom Moss, EMT-B; Daniel Owens, EMT-B; Lisa Ragsdale, EMT-B; Holly Vaughn, EMT-B; Wayne Vaughn; and Darrell Wolfe, EMT-B.



On December 3, 2007, the lives of those who live and work in the city and surrounding areas of Vernonia were changed forever. It was a devastating event that started with expected winter rains and escalated to a dangerous flood situation that challenged the EMS system in this remote region of our state.

In Vernonia, the EMS system is comprised of the Vernonia Volunteer Ambulance Association in conjunction with paid personnel from Metro West Ambulance, the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District and the Vernonia Police Department. As the majority of personnel in all three branches are volunteers, these groups were not only responding to an overwhelming need but to their own family and friends.

As soon as the Vernonia Volunteer Ambulance Association volunteers knew it was going to flood, they all started responding to the station-no tap outs were needed for



these dedicated EMT's and drivers – they all knew what was coming as many had already lived through a similar flood in 1996. This time, they had no idea of knowing the devastation the waters would bring.

The volunteers split up – some started the preparations for ambulance response and transport while others headed out on rescue boats bringing in stranded citizens while other volunteers headed to the medical clinic in town to bring medical supplies, equipment and Dr. Gilmore, the clinic's physician to the fire station to set up a make shift clinic. Little did they know that this marked the beginning of two weeks of putting their lives aside to help others survive the immediate destruction.

During the initial response – the two ambulances were split, one on each side of the river so no one would be completely cut off from emergency care. Quickly Vernonia was cut off from the rest of Columbia County as roads washed out, debris from the winds blocked access and the waters covered normal access routes. Then the phones went down – only a few cell phones provided access to outside help. In a small town, people know if help can't get to you – you best get to it ...and they did. In a short time the Vernonia Fire Station which houses both fire and ambulance were overwhelmed with patients. Patients walked in or were driven in. Others were found by our ambulances and rescue that were patrolling accessible neighborhoods or picking up patients being brought in by the rescue boats. The ambulance bay was turned into a makeshift clinic directed by Dr. Phyllis Gilmore and Robert Giusti, Family Nurse Practitioner with the assistance of volunteers and paid staff. The clinic was the mainstay of all medical care for the first four days. The volunteers acted as triage, care providers, hand holders, tear wipers, and big time huggers in addition to their normal EMS responsibilities. All of their lives changed forever.

There are hundreds of small stories of heroism, rescues, integrity, and outstanding service that occurred during those days. All would be worthy of an award. The most important thing to share is the dedication to Emergency Medical Services that the volunteers have. No matter how bad, or how hard it is, they'll be there because EMS is who they are and we are thankful for them all.