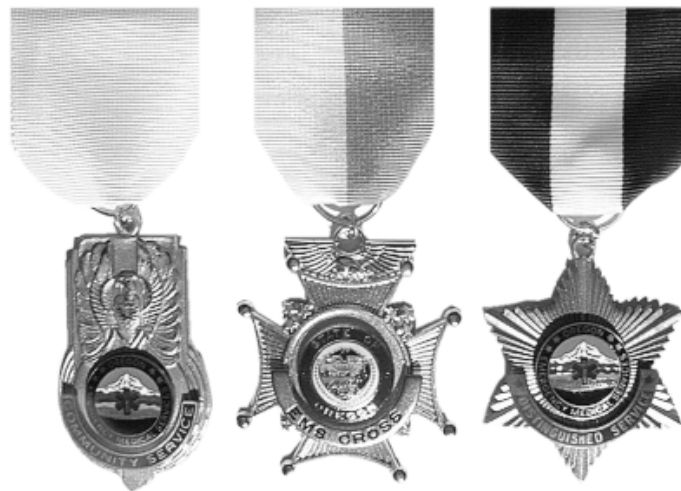




State EMS Awards Book of Recognition



**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>



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.

Name: Senior Trooper Michael Holloran

Agency: Oregon State Police

Senior Trooper Michael Holloran, with Oregon State Police in The Dalles, was the first person to reach the site of a serious crash on New Year's Eve. The crash occurred on Highway 35, north of Mount Hood Meadows ski resort. Just after 11:00 a.m., the driver of a 2005 Honda sedan with 5 passengers was attempting to pass in the left lane when the car lost control on an icy, shady spot. The Honda spun 180 degrees into the northbound lane where it rear-end collided with the front-end of a northbound Chevy Blazer.

The driver of both vehicles, ages 21 and 25, were wearing safety belts and uninjured. However, sitting in the Honda's backseat were the driver's mother, his 8-year-old sister, and his 24-year-old girlfriend. None were wearing safety restraints.

Trooper Holloran arrived at the crash scene within a minute of the call and began lifesaving efforts to the three critically injured females. The 8-year-old was unconscious and unresponsive. She was resuscitated and transferred to Emanuel Pediatric ICU where she met the criteria for brain death. The mother was apneic and in cardiac arrest. She was flown to OHSU where she died 13 hours post crash from blunt head and chest trauma. The girlfriend was transported to Emanuel Hospital with massive head trauma. According to news reports, she was in a coma for more than 3 months. She is now relearning how to walk and talk.

Trooper Holloran is a nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technician. He is well known in his community as a tireless child safety seat advocate. In addition to ticketing drivers who are not wearing seat belts, he has been known to turn negative experiences into positive opportunities by providing child safety seats to some families he has stopped.





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Name: Jeremy Houston, EMT-P; Bob Johnson, EMT-P; Wayne Wilson, EMT-B, of Medix Ambulance and Gary Dick of Pacific Power and Light



Jeremy Houston, EMT-B Wayne Wilson, EMT-B
(Not pictured: Robert Johnson, EMT-P or Gary Dick from PPL)

Monday morning December 3, 2007 at approximately 0100 hours Medix Ambulance, with a crew of Paramedic Jeremy Houston, Paramedic Robert (Bob) Johnson, EMT-B Wayne Wilson, were dispatched for male that had been struck by a tree and thrown against his pickup. The patient had been clearing trees from Highway 202 just east of Astoria, Oregon. The wind was blowing more than 100 mph over the last 6 hours, and would blow consistently this hard or more for the next 24 hours, making this one of the worst windstorms ever to strike the North Coast area of Oregon.

As Jeremy, Wayne and Bob, along with Olney Walluski, and Astoria Fire Department and Gary Dick of Pacific Power and Light worked their way to the patient by cutting trees that had blown across Highway 202 and continued to fall as they advanced to the location of the patient. The other obstacle was downed power



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lines and the poles that support them, which also means this was all being done without electricity, as it had been out for the last 8 hours.

It took 47 minutes to access the patient who was then entered into the Trauma System at Columbia Memorial Hospital (CMH) for Impact/Significant Intrusion and Paramedic Discretion. The patient was conscious, but complained of significant pain in the lower back and right ankle. Patient had a c-collar placed EMS provider in the residence. He was placed in full spinal immobilization and placed him on a gurney for transport to CMH in Astoria.

As hard as all this sounds, this was the easy part. Scene time was about 30 minutes and more trees and power poles had fallen behind the ambulance and fire vehicles on scene and Jeremy and Wayne were unable to transport to the hospital. As PP&L and Astoria Fire cleared a path the width of a fire truck from the west, Olney Walluski crew cleared from the east. Jeremy, Wayne, and Bob continued patient care at the Olney Walluski Fire Station in the back of their ambulance while keeping the trauma hospital CMH advised of patient condition and the effort being put forth to clear a path so that the patient could be brought to their facility.

Safe evacuation of the patient would not have been possible, except for the assistance from Gary Dick, a lineman from PP&L who was working on downed power lines in the area. At great personal risk Gary led the safe removal of trees by working with Astoria Fire Department personnel and single handedly safely removed the power lines that were obstructing the ambulance with their patient.

After 3 hours of very hard work under the most extreme circumstances one can imagine, a path approximately ½ mile in length was cleared and the patient was able to be transported to CMH. As the ambulance snaked its way through the cleared sections of the highway for more than 5 minutes, everyone nervously waited for more trees to block the route.

Through the cooperation, hard work, and dedication of all the agencies involved, Jeremy, Wayne, and Bob were able to provide the necessary care the patient



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needed and keep him stabilized under the absolute worst conditions anyone can imagine. There is no way to ever prepare for the provision of patient care under these conditions, but Jeramy, Wayne, and Bob did an amazing job of taking care of their patient.

