

Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness

2017 EMS Award Recipients



On July 12, 2017, the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness honored the extraordinary service of those who provide day-to-day lifesaving services at the annual EMS Awards Ceremony. This year's team is "EMS STRONG Always in Service". This was an excellent opportunity for the Department to recognize our state's extraordinary EMS professionals and to express our support as an Emergency Medical Community. The following recipients were honored at the EMS Awards Ceremony held at the Loveland Living Planet Aquarium.

Emergency Medical Incident Outstanding Performance

Life Flight

Silvio Favero, R.N Troy Harris, Flight Medic John Campbell, Pilot

Wasatch County EMS

Rick Mecham, AEMT	Brady Draper, AEMT	Jes Olsen, AEMT
Charles (Chaz) Ray, AEMT	Dennis Gunn, AEMT	Jake Provost, AEMT
Ernie Giles, Fire Chief	Quint Neerings, AEMT	Mark Luke, AEMT
Blake Allen, AEMT	Ben Fitzgerald, AEMT	Mike Duke, AEMT
Jed Olsen, AEMT	Gary Sessions, AEMT	Jeff Winterton, EMT

Wasatch County Sheriff's Office & Dispatch Center

Zack Hendrickson, Deputy Teresa Broadhead, Dispatcher

Utah Highway Patrol

Trooper Call Trooper Ashby

Division of Wildlife Resources

Steve Bullock

On January 22, 2017 several law enforcement and EMS agencies were called to assist on a three vehicle high speed car accident along Highway 40 near Strawberry Reservoir. Complicating the already unsettling accident was the fact that two of those involved in the car accident were on-duty Life Flight team members, Tyson Mason and Brian Maynard. In a nearly head-on collision, Tyson Mason, a new father who had just returned to work for Life Flight following a paternity leave, was killed instantly. Brian Maynard was knocked unconscious in the passenger side of the vehicle. All involved in the rescue knew immediately that Tyson and Brian were Life Flight team members. Many lives were changed that morning. The appreciation for a job well done in difficult circumstances is extended from those involved in the accident and from the Life Flight family for tending to and taking care of two of their family members that January morning.

Individual Outstanding Performance Recipients

Emergency Physician of the Year

Dr. Travis Engar

Dr. Travis Engar, a board certified emergency physician who is committed to emergency and pre-hospital care works at Castlevue Hospital in Price and has done exemplary work as the off-line medical control physician for Emery County EMS since 2004. Working in rural Utah, he understands both the difficulties and the urgencies involved with a long transport. And because of his passion for the rural EMS system, he knows how vital the service is to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Emery County. Dr. Engar is the Medical Director for the Castlevue Hospital Emergency Department and also sits on the Board of Trustees for the Utah Medical Association.

Emergency Nurse of the Year

Geri Jean Lundquist

This year, our award for outstanding emergency nurse goes to Gary Jean Lundquist. Jean is the Trauma Program Manager at Utah Valley Hospital in Provo and is responsible for managing the Trauma Program which includes patient care, performance improvement, and the trauma registry.

EMS Distinguished Service Awards

Dr. Mark Oraskovich

Dr. Oraskovich began his EMS "career" nearly 20 years ago when he became the Medical Director for the Layton City Fire Department. Under his direction, the fire department has grown from a "new" basic life support ambulance to a paramedic ambulance service. It is because of his influence that Layton Fire, along with Davis County Sheriff's paramedics, were entrusted to develop and implement the very successful prehospital rapid sequence intubation (RSI) pilot project that is now regarded as the model program in Utah.

Distinguished Emergency Medical Services for Children

Coordinator of the Year

Von Johnson, Paramedic

Von Johnson, a paramedic with Uintah Basin Medical Center, has been an EMS for Children Coordinator for many years. Von has been an instrumental leader to the Pediatric Education for Pre-hospital Professionals (PEPP) education for Duchesne County and beyond the boundaries of that county. He has continued to provide pediatric education wherever he his career has taken him.

Individual Outstanding Performance Recipients

Paramedic of the Year Jason Cook

Jason Cook works for the Layton City Fire Department as a Battalion Chief as well as the University of Utah - AirMed where he is a flight paramedic. Jason is also an adjunct instructor for the Difficult Airway Course. Jason's claim to fame is a lecture known as "Sexy Bagging," where he talks about how patient's lives are saved through proper ventilation with a bag valve mask rather than intubation.

Emergency Dispatcher of the Year Lori Poulsen

Emergency medical dispatch plays a vital role in emergency medical services. Dispatchers have unique knowledge and must be able to quickly gather critical scene information. On March 17, 2017, Lead Dispatcher Lori Poulsen took a call from a woman who said her infant son was turning blue. The five-month-old baby was not alert and barely gasping for air. Lori quickly verified the location and callback number, coded the call using the International Academy of Emergency Dispatchers medical protocol, started giving CPR instructions, and paged out the appropriate medical units in only 48 seconds. Lori remained calm and professional as she encouraged the mother to perform CPR on her baby. Lori followed the infant CPR protocol verbatim while she guided the mother through the process. After four very long minutes the mother told Lori that the baby was trying to wake up and breathe. As Lori attempted to verify breathing, she heard a strong, healthy cry. Shortly after, paramedics arrived and transported the baby to the hospital. One of the first responders later called the Dispatch supervisor to recognize Lori's efforts. He wanted Lori to know that when they cleared the hospital the baby was alert, looking around, showing no signs of trauma.

Emergency Instructor of the Year Rachel Kirksey

Rachel Kerksiek excels in the classroom environment and is an inspiration to every student who has the privilege of enrolling in her courses. Even more impressive is her ability to inspire her students to push themselves to succeed. Rachel has served as the State and National Registry of EMT Representative for the past year and her level of knowledge and experience that Rachel brings to her students is unmatched. Throughout her years in EMS Rachel has proven herself as a dedicated professional always striving to improve her own knowledge through constant continuing education and personal/professional development.