



NEWS RELEASE

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2003 Emergency Medical Services Week – When It Matters Most

(Salt Lake City, UT) – On January 10, 2003, in the midst of a foggy inversion, an IHC Life Flight helicopter and crew from LDS Hospital responding to a motor vehicle crash near Wendover, crashed in the dense fog. Life Flight crew members, pilot Craig Bingham and paramedic Mario Guerrero who lost their lives in that tragic crash and nurse Stein Rosqvist who survived, were remembered today at the annual Emergency Medical Services Week (EMS) awards ceremony.

Kicking off national EMS Week in Utah, EMS professionals throughout the state met to recognize their colleague's outstanding and courageous efforts. A video tribute was shown titled, "Never to Forget," dedicated to the Life Flight Crew involved in the tragic January 10 accident.

"All people involved in EMS know that their jobs have a certain degree of risk, but it is always a system-wide shock when that risk becomes a reality, said Jan Buttrey, EMS program manager for the Utah Department of Health. "This year's EMS Week theme, "When It Matters Most," emphasizes the fact that our every day EMS heroes have always been, and will continue to be there when we need them – when it matters most."

Another example of these heroes includes the many individuals from seventeen agencies who responded to a bus accident on the Mount Nebo Loop in Juab County, October 2, 2002. The tour bus crashed after its brakes failed on a steep country road. Six elderly women died after being ejected and trapped under the bus, and 20 others were injured, eight critically. Ten ambulances and five helicopters were used in the recovery and transport of patients. The agencies, most of which from Juab County, were recognized for their outstanding performance in an incident by an emergency medical team.

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Awards were also presented to other individuals and EMS teams who distinguished themselves through their dedicated service and heroic efforts. These following 2003 award recipients were nominated and selected by their EMS peers:

Emergency Physician of the Year

Mark Oraskovich M.D.

Layton Fire Department, Cottonwood and Alta View Hospitals

Emergency Nurse of the Year

Heather Campbell, R.N.

Jordan Valley Hospital

Paramedic of the Year

Randy Bertola

Uintah Basin Medical Center

EMT of the Year

Bryan Jacobson

Hurricane Fire and Rescue

EMD-Dispatcher

Lisa Burnette

Salt Lake City Fire Dispatch

EMS Training Officer and Instructor

Tammy Jo Barton

Garfield County Ambulance Administrator

Emergency Medical Volunteer

Sandrea Francisco

Garfield County

Emergency Medical Dispatch Team Incident of the Year

Julie Higdon and Ginny Walker

Layton City

EMS Week is presented by the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, Utah Department of Health, in cooperation with the Sandy City Fire Department. For more information about injury prevention, safety awareness, and emergency preparedness, please call 1-800-284-1131.

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