

MANY HONORED AT EMS WEEK LUNCHEON



A Division of the
Public Health
Department

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The Ben Mathews Career Lifetime Achievement Award

Recognizes an individual whose contributions to prehospital care have been consistent and long lasting, representing, in effect, a lifetime of outstanding service to the profession and the public.

Deputy Chief Bob O'Brien has been a fixture in Alameda County since 1975 as a Fremont firefighter, paramedic, captain, battalion chief, and deputy chief. His contributions to EMS in Alameda County and across the state have truly been the bricks that form the foundation of today's 911 system. Bob has been instrumental in improving processes and creating policies that have resulted in a higher level of patient care.



EMS Director, Michael King and Medical Director Dr. Jim Pointer congratulate Bob O'Brien on his 34 years of service.

Star of Life Award

For exemplary medical skills, outstanding actions, and contributions to the delivery of emergency care to the residents of Alameda County, representing the ideal paramedic.

Damien Burnett, EMT-P from AMR has dedicated his life to EMS as a paramedic, precep-

tor, field training officer, critical incident stress management peer counselor, and an alternate field supervisor. He has always made himself available to help, guide and advise co-workers and trainees, and is always at the head of the line when volunteers are needed.

Heart of EMS

For exceptional compassion in the performance of her job, an advocate for patients' rights, volunteers to enhance the EMS community, and a role model for co-workers and others in EMS in Alameda County.

Leslie Simmons, EMT-P

from AMR has been an icon in Alameda County EMS since 1979. She has had many roles as an EMT, paramedic, preceptor, field training officer, critical incident stress management peer counselor and most recently, administrative paramedic field supervisor. Her compassion, strength and vigor for patient care and maintaining its standards is respected and appreciated by all who know her.

Rising Star Award

For the outstanding individual who is new to the field of prehospital care, showing rapid improvement, exemplary skills, and taking on added responsibility.

Michelle Simpson, EMT-P

has been with Alameda County Fire since 2005. Initially she was hired as an EMT but completed her paramedic training while maintaining fulltime status as a firefighter and currently works as a firefighter paramedic. She has shown great initiative and personal sacrifice to raise the bar and set an example for others to aspire to, dedicating much of her personal time assisting those less fortunate than she.

Peer Commendation

Presented to any EMS personnel receiving three or more nominations from members of the EMS, healthcare or first responder communities citing courteous or outstanding performance of duty.

Will Nichols, EMT-P

from AMR extends a helping hand, regardless of how it may impact him. He's not about the recognition or praise – but rather about doing the right thing. Will is respected, well-liked and appreciated for what he brings to his patients and peers every day.

Siren Award

Recognizes an individual, or a team of individuals from one or multiple agencies, who performed exemplary team work in saving or attempting to save the life of another.

Alameda County Fire Department & American Medical Response

ACFD and AMR units responded to a local park for a 4 year old female hanging victim who accidentally become entangled in a jump rope on a swing set and had been hanging for 5-10 minutes. The teams began resuscitation efforts and the child regained spontaneous circulation and breathing while enroute to San Leandro Hospital.

Bear Hug Award

For addressing the unique emergency medical needs and reducing death and disability of children, and making a difference in the lives of children in Alameda County.

Officer James Martin

from the Union City Police Department and his partner Officer Eric Wittmer saved the life of a non-breathing baby by delivering repeated back blows to dislodge food in the baby's airway.

DEPARTMENTAL RECOGNITION AWARDS



Each year during National EMS Week, we ask our provider agencies to participate by selecting outstanding members of their organizations for recognition.

The selection criteria include:

- * Volunteers in his/her community or the EMS community by mentoring or working with groups/individuals.
- * Improves an existing department/agency program.
- * Implements a new program or service, or takes on a difficult project to improve patient care.
- * Excels as a first responder/EMT or paramedic/RN.

American Medical Response

Luis Abaunza (Paramedic) * Toni Kilburger (EMT)

ProTransport - I

Jennifer Davey (EMT)

Royal Ambulance

Gregory Likhachev (EMT)

Alameda Fire Department

Lorenzo Irinco (Paramedic) * Todd Johnson (EMT)

Alameda County Fire Department

Mick Roark (Paramedic) * Paige Bowie (EMT)

Albany Fire Department

Gavin Aubert (Paramedic) * Jim DeRoque (EMT)

Berkeley Fire Department

Brian Alexander (Paramedic) * Jim Geissinger (EMT)

Emeryville Fire Department

Steve Hickey (Paramedic) * Gilbert Jackson (EMT)

Fremont Fire Department

Marc Durchfort (Paramedic) * Diane Hendry (EMT)

Hayward Fire Department

Bob Negri (Registered Nurse)

Livermore/Pleasanton Fire Department

John A. Vargas (Paramedic) * Erik Anderson (EMT)

Newark Fire Department

Alex Moyer (Paramedic) * Dan Bauer (EMT)

Oakland Fire Department

Emmanuel Watson (Paramedic) * Ed Guerrero (EMT)

Piedmont Fire Department

Brian Gidney (Paramedic) * Sandor Lengyel (EMT)

Union City Fire Department

Justin Merrick (Paramedic) * Steve Rogge (EMT)

In Memory of . . .

Michael O'Rourke

American Medical Response

December 20, 2007

Michael was a part of the AMR family for 10 years. He was an EMT, deployment coordinator and most recently an instrumental part of AMR's transition to electronic PCR's. He will be remembered for his never-ending supply of energy and although his hours were 9-5, Michael made himself available to field crews 24 hours a day.

He was dependable, a man of his word, and had a tremendous heart. Michael was dedicated to his only son, Griffin. His gentle spirit and willingness to serve will not be forgotten.



Jay Randall Walter

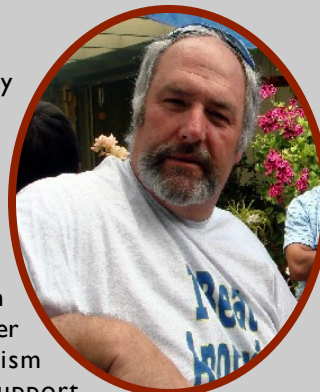
Berkeley Fire Department

April 6, 2008

Jay joined the Berkeley Fire Department in 1993 as a firefighter/paramedic, and promoted to Apparatus Operator in 2001. He served as a SWAT paramedic for the Berkeley Police Department and an instructor for the Counter Narcotics and Terrorism Operational Medical Support Program. He was a member of the National Tactical Officers Association and the Urban Search & Rescue Team.

Jay was known for his practical jokes, his stories, and ability to keep his partners and friends laughing. Jay spent his time listening and playing music, riding his Harley RoadKing, and training his search and rescue dogs Caliente, Sizzle and Flash-Over.

Jay leaves behind his wife Gerri, daughter Roslyn, granddaughter Addison, and all his family at the Berkeley Fire Department.



Circle of Life Award

Recognizes an individual that worked to reduce preventable injuries to the older population, raising awareness regarding the need for injury prevention programs for older adults, worked with seniors for better healthcare access, and/or made a difference in the lives of seniors in Alameda County.

Lauri McFadden

has been an advocate for the elderly by assisting in developing a resource packet for patients being transferred from the hospital to home that includes information on fall prevention, home medication organization, and transport options available within Alameda County. She has trained over 200 field personnel in its use.

Civilian Hero Award

For taking on an EMS related cause or safety concern within the community that benefited the residents of Alameda County.

Pixar Animation Studios

employees responded to a fellow employee in full cardiac arrest. Two employees, Ramon Hannon and Kent Barnes, were instrumental in providing EMS with an accurate account of the events that led up to the call, including some medical history. They started CPR and applied their AED on the patient. The staff assisted in many ways, holding IV bags and waiting at doorways to keep them clear.

AED Life Saver Award

Club Sport - Pleasanton

is committed to CPR/AED training for member health and safety. All 300 employees are trained in CPR. Forty one of these are managers, personal trainers, and fitness assistants who have complete the full CPR/AED training. All employees renew their certificates annually. Five employees used their AEDs in three cardiac events at the club in the past year.

Hospital Award for Excellence

Presented for participation in a pre-hospital event, or situation of exceptional nature, that made a significant contribution to EMS service.

Gene Hern, MD & Highland Hospital

has committed his medical career to Alameda County Medical Center

EMS & Alameda Fire host Children's Day Event



EMS Week Children's Day was held on Tuesday June 20th at Alameda Fire Station 4, coordinated by Richard Murray, Fire Captain/Paramedic, Dale Vogelsang, EMS Chief, and Alameda Fire and Alameda County EMS staffs. This was the first effort to hold Children's Day at a fire station. Over 100 students from Bay Farm Elementary School with their teachers and parents came to learn about emergency response and injury prevention.

Along with Alameda Fire and Alameda County EMS, agencies represented included Alameda Police, California Highway Patrol, and Alameda County Sheriff's Search & Rescue. The elementary school children learned about fire engines, ambulances, police, fire safety, water safety, bike and skateboard safety, car and seatbelt safety, earthquake preparedness, and poison awareness. They met a police dog with his handler and learned how they find suspects. They also met search and rescue volunteers and their dogs, and saw a demonstration of how the

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(Highland Hospital). His understanding of prehospital medicine and his care for field personnel makes him a phenomenal mentor to all who enter Highland emergency department.



Dr. Gene Hern and his colleagues, Dr. Jocelyn Garrick and Dr. Jim Pointer.

His special attention to the elderly and the underserved makes his impact immeasurable.



Star of Life Award
Damien Burnett



Heart of EMS Award
Leslie Simmons with Michelle Voos from EMS



Bear Hug Award
Officers Martin & Wittmer with the child they saved



AED Life Saver Award
ClubSport employees with John Vonhof from EMS

Special Recognition Awards

Alameda County Regional Emergency Communication Center

for achieving international accreditation as a "Center of Excellence" by the National Academy of Emergency Dispatch

SF Bay Area DMAT CA-6

for a decade of exemplary disaster medical response.

Presented to:
Commander David Lipin

Hart Middle School, Mandela High School, and Castro Valley High School

for their outstanding participation in the CPR Anytime™ project.

ALAMEDA COUNTY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- Scott Haggerty *District 1*
- Gail Steele *District 2*
- Alice Lai-Bitker *District 3*
- Nate Miley *District 4*
- Keith Carson *District 5*

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- David J. Kears, *Director*

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Anthony Iton, MD, JD, MPH, *Director/Health Officer*

WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEB

- Slideshow of pictures from EMS Week
- Memorial Presentation



EMS WEBSITE: acgov.org/ems

News & Announcements

EMS Week this year included **Senior Service Provider Recognition Day**, a day set aside to recognize the work that senior service providers do to help Alameda County older adults stay safe and healthy. The EMS Senior Injury Prevention Program (SIPP) staff set up displays showcasing the programs that SIPP offers to educate older adults and service providers about their role in falls prevention, driving safety, and emergency preparedness.

More than 40 senior service providers attended the event to get better acquainted with the SIPP team, share information, and schedule trainings for their staff. The SIPP team is pleased that providers took this opportunity to visit the EMS office and we hope to continue this event during EMS week every year.

The 11th Annual EMS for Children Conference takes place October 8 in Sacramento. This year's theme is "Little Patients Big Concerns." Seven hours of CE are offered for RNs, EMTs and paramedics. Additional information can be found on the EMSA website, emsa.ca.gov.

AMR's Hot Topics in EMS is held the third Monday of each month at their San Leandro deployment facility, 640 143rd Ave. Three hours of free CE are offered. Upcoming topics include crush injuries on June 16, medical legal issues on July 21, and behavioral psych issues on August 18.



Former EMS Director
Diane Akers with
Colleen Campbell

Keynote speaker Rick Keller
from Fitch & Associates with
EMS Director Michael King

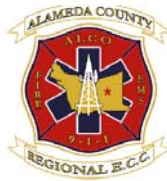
Alameda County Fire
Department Honor Guard
post the colors

EMS Staff - Take a bow!

ACRECC - DISPATCH CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

On April 8, 2008 the Alameda County Regional Emergency Communications Center (ACRECC) received accreditation as a Center of Excellence from the National Academy of Emergency Medical Dispatch. The Academy unanimously approved ACRECC for accreditation. They now join 84 other dispatch centers currently accredited worldwide and are one of only eight in the state of California. ACRECC provides 9-1-1 services for Alameda County Fire, Alameda Fire, Fremont Fire, and Union City Fire. In addition to providing emergency medical instructions to residents in these communities, ACRECC also provides EMD to residents in Livermore/Pleasanton, Newark and Hayward. ACRECC is located in Livermore and employs 20 dispatchers, four shift supervisors, one manager, and four support personnel.

Accreditation is the culmination of a process that requires compliance with 20 criteria established by the Academy. In order to become an Accredited Center, commitment is required at all levels, from the dispatcher on the consoles, to the chief of the department, and everyone in between. The evaluation criteria include dispatcher and reviewer certification, a committee oversight structure, standardized quality improvement processes, routine call review with timely feedback, and compliance with minimum scoring standards on a random selection of calls.



In 2002, ACRECC implemented Medical Priority Dispatch using a card set designed by Dr. Jeff Clawson. In 2003 they began using ProQA, a computerized version of the card sets that improves caller interrogation and instructions. In 2007, the ProQA integration into CAD made it possible for ACRECC to apply for accreditation. Once all systems were in place, dispatchers met the minimum overall review standards of 90% compliance in less than eight months with the help of the consistent review and performance feedback from the certified reviewers.

This high level of accreditation means citizens will consistently receive quality instructions and excellent customer service when they call for help in any of the areas in which ACRECC provides emergency medical dispatch (EMD). Their customer service standards are so high during EMD calls that the same care "spills over" into other phone calls, such as fires and citizen assistance calls.

Achieving accreditation was a group effort. Chuck Berdan was the project leader. Mike Denton oversaw the accreditation process. ACFD paramedics Eddie Dwyer and Jim Holderman reviewed hundreds of calls. Dispatchers met training requirements and accepted feedback in order to meet the strict call processing standards. Everyone working at ACRECC can be proud of this important accomplishment.