

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**

10901 GOLD CENTER DRIVE STE. 400  
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670-6073  
(916) 431-3700 FAX (916) 324-8765



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CONTACT: Jennifer Lim (916) 431-3700

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES  
2015 CALIFORNIA EMS AWARDS**

*Thirty-five (35) Californians will be honored for their heroic acts and extraordinary contributions to EMS on December 2<sup>nd</sup> in San Francisco.*

SACRAMENTO - Dr. Howard Backer, Director of the California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA), has announced the recipients of California Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Awards for 2015. Launched in 2007, the annual awards honor and recognize exceptional acts and service by individuals working or volunteering in California's emergency medical system.

EMS personnel are trained to provide stabilizing and lifesaving care. These EMS awards are intended to honor and recognize noteworthy or exceptional acts and service while working as EMS certified or licensed personnel, administrators, educators, volunteers or civilians within the EMS system.

"I am pleased to announce a select group of EMS professionals who are being honored for their exhibited professional excellence and exceptional service," said Director Backer. "These men and women epitomize the spirit and commitment to quality that embody these awards and deserve official recognition for their contributions in making California's EMS system one of the best in the world."

Most of the awards will be presented during a luncheon ceremony following the regular meeting of the Commission on Emergency Medical Services on December 2<sup>nd</sup> in San Francisco at the Marines' Memorial Club & Hotel. Clinical Excellence Awards will be presented at the recipients' home stations and are not part of the formal ceremony in San Francisco.

The award ceremony is sponsored by Hospital Council of Northern & Central California, American Medical Response, Bound Tree Medical, California Professional Firefighters, Life-Assist, Philips, Physio-Control, Zoll, California Ambulance Association, California Fire Chiefs Association and Z-MEDICA. The event is held at no cost to the State of California. For information about the awards and the ceremony, visit [www.emsa.ca.gov/awards](http://www.emsa.ca.gov/awards). List of recipients below.

**ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD:**

Larry Karsteadt – Eureka, North Coast EMS Agency

For more than 40 years of exceptional service as an EMS administrator and demonstrated statewide EMS leadership in EMS systems formation, committee work, regulation development, and advocacy for rural EMS systems.

**EMS EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD:**

Barbara Penland – Mission Viejo, Saddleback Community College Paramedic Program

For over 40 years of exceptional educational leadership and tireless advocacy for professional EMS training throughout California.

**MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD:**

Dr. David Shatz – Sacramento, San Joaquin County EMS Agency and Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

For sustained leadership in improving the quality of trauma care, for advocating for the highest case review policy standards, and for fostering agreement on common spinal stabilization protocols in many regions of California.

**EMT OF THE YEAR AWARD:**

Steve Concialdi – Irvine, Orange County Fire Authority

For 26 years of enthusiastic dedication to the EMS profession as a PIO and paramedic and proactive statewide advocacy against drunk driving, founding 'Friends Against Drinking & Driving' at age 18 in Orange County.

**CIVILIAN AWARD:**

Larry Roberts – Pine Grove

For heroically pulling a young boy and girl to safety from inside fiery automobile moments before it exploded.

Corey Walker – Pine Grove

For heroically pulling a young boy and girl to safety from inside fiery automobile moments before it exploded.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD:**

Virginia Jones – Modesto, American Medical Response

For sustained, dedicated efforts promoting the Every 15 Minutes program and related distracted driving campaigns in high schools throughout California.

Ailyn Risch – Santa Rosa, American Medical Response

For sustained, dedicated efforts to advance regional EMS quality improvement and promote volunteerism focused on training thousands of students in CPR.

William “Steve” Tolen – Quincy, Plumas District Hospital

For 40 years of dedicated and sustained EMS service demonstrating unique insight and knowledge of California’s rural EMS issues, providing statewide leadership and promoting community volunteerism.

Ted Williams – Santa Rosa, Rescue Ready

For sustained, dedicated service to educating and mentoring individuals in Sonoma County in disaster preparedness and compression-only CPR.

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD:**

Megan Corry – San Francisco, San Francisco City College Paramedic Program  
For more than 30 years of dedicated and sustained EMS service demonstrating a strong passion for educating, mentoring and training prehospital students.

Steve Drewniansy – Sunnyvale, Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety  
For 35 years of dedicated and sustained service, demonstrating unique insight and knowledge of California's EMS issues, and effectively addressing EMS-related issues with California's law enforcement community.

Michael Metro – Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County Fire Department  
For 30 years of dedicated and sustained service demonstrating unique insight and knowledge of California's fire service, EMS education, and exceptional contributions to the development of national and statewide EMS policies.

**INNOVATION IN EMS AWARD:**

Neal Cline – Chico, Enloe Medical Center  
For playing an integral role in the initial development and implementation of community paramedicine programs in California.

Michael Corbin – Modesto, American Medical Response  
For playing an integral role in the initial development and implementation of community paramedicine programs in California.

James Goldsworthy – Los Angeles, UCLA Center for Prehospital Care  
For playing an integral role in the initial development and implementation of community paramedicine programs in California.

Anne Jensen – San Diego, Rural Metro  
For playing an integral role in the initial development and implementation of community paramedicine programs in California.

Dr. Baxter Larmon – Los Angeles, UCLA Center for Prehospital Care, David Geffen School of Medicine  
For playing an integral role in the initial development and implementation of community paramedicine programs in California.

Brian Meader – Vallejo, Medic Ambulance  
For playing an integral role in the initial development and implementation of community paramedicine programs in California.

Leslie Parham – Yucaipa, San Bernardino County Fire Department  
For playing an integral role in the initial development and implementation of community paramedicine programs in California.

Gail Porto – Orinda, Alameda Fire Department  
For playing an integral role in the initial development and implementation of community paramedicine programs in California.

Adriane Stefansen – Long Beach, American Medical Response  
For playing an integral role in the initial development and implementation of community paramedicine programs in California.

**INTER-SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARD:**

Domenic Ancona – Fontana, Fontana Police Department

For quick thinking and rapid administration of CPR that saved the life of a two-year old boy found lying unresponsive in a swimming pool.

Steve Huck – Martinez, Contra Costa County EMS Agency

For aggressively recruiting qualified individuals for Contra Costa County's Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and for providing leadership and mutual aid by deploying MRC members to support shelter and medical operations for evacuees affected by the Valley Fire.

Lisa Vajgrt-Smith – Martinez, Contra Costa County EMS Agency

For aggressively recruiting qualified individuals for Contra Costa County's Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and for providing leadership and mutual aid by deploying MRC members to support shelter and medical operations for evacuees affected by the Valley Fire.

Pejman Zarrin – Stockton, Stockton Police Department

For quick thinking and rapid administration of a series of back blows to a four-week old baby that successfully dislodged aspirated milk in the airway, saving the newborn's life.

**LIFESAVING MEDAL AWARD:**

Brandon Chastain – Orange, Orange County EMS Agency

For quick thinking and rapid administration of CPR while off-duty to an unresponsive four-year old boy who was playing in a pool, saving the child's life.

Paul Holaday – Irvine, Orange County Fire Authority

For quick thinking and rapid administration of CPR while off-duty to an unresponsive four-year old boy who was playing in a pool, saving the child's life.

Debra Miller – Camarillo, Ventura County EMS Agency

For quick thinking and rapid administration of CPR while off-duty to an unresponsive elderly man, saving his life.

**MEDAL OF VALOR AWARD:**

Jeff Duran – Pacoima, Los Angeles County Fire Department

For courageously repelling from a rescue helicopter into a burning canyon successfully extricating the driver from a burning vehicle and pulling him to safety moments before the vehicle became completely engulfed in flames.

**MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD:**

Thomas Giandomenico – Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

For heroically and without regard for his own safety, entering an unsecured active shooter scene to locate and render care to an officer who had been shot.

Armando Lazaro – Bakersfield, Hall Ambulance Service, Inc.

For heroically self-extricating himself from his vehicle that had been hit head-on by a drunk driver, then providing medical care to the impaired driver despite the compound fracture he suffered to his elbow in the collision.

James Moss – Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

For heroically and without regard for his own safety, entering an unsecured active shooter scene to locate and render care to an officer who had been shot.

Robert Odom – San Diego, American Medical Response  
For providing excellent patient care to a cardiac arrest victim.

Wes Womack – San Diego, American Medical Response  
For providing excellent patient care to a cardiac arrest victim.

**CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD:**

Clinical Excellence Awards will be presented at the recipients' home stations, not at the EMS Awards Ceremony in San Francisco:

Craig Auzenne – Brentwood, East Contra Costa Fire Protection District  
For providing excellent patient care to a cardiac arrest victim on September 6, 2015.

Justin Bautista – Roseville, ProTransport-1  
For providing excellent patient care to a hospital patient who had stopped breathing directly after completing a separate patient transport in June 2015.

Jennifer Burnham – San Jose, San Jose Fire Department  
For providing excellent pediatric CPR dispatch guidance to a mother whose son suffered a cardiac arrest in February 2014.

Dave Ennes – San Jose, San Jose Fire Department  
For providing excellent patient care to a pediatric cardiac arrest victim in February 2014.

Richard Gonzales – Manteca, San Joaquin County EMS Agency  
For providing excellent patient care to a pediatric cardiac arrest victim in December 2014.

David Hamric – Stockton, American Medical Response  
For providing excellent patient care to a multiple stab wound victim in May 2015.

Tom Mayberry – Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
For providing excellent patient care to a multi-system trauma victim on August 1, 2015.

Robert Reynoso – Auburn, ProTransport-1  
For providing excellent patient care to a hospital patient who had stopped breathing directly after completing a separate patient transport in June 2015.

Tracy River – Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
For providing excellent patient care to a multi-system trauma victim on August 1, 2015.

Scott Rosingana – San Jose, San Jose Fire Department  
For providing excellent patient care to a pediatric cardiac arrest victim in February 2014.

Robert Ruddick – Brentwood, East Contra Costa Fire Protection District  
For providing excellent patient care to a cardiac arrest victim on September 6, 2015.

Jeff Seaton – San Jose, San Jose Fire Department  
For providing excellent patient care to a pediatric cardiac arrest victim in February 2014.

Sami Somerhalder – Brentwood, East Contra Costa Fire Protection District  
For providing excellent patient care to a cardiac arrest victim on September 6, 2015.

Brice Stella – Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
For providing excellent patient care to a multi-system trauma victim on August 1, 2015.

Glen Thompson – San Jose, San Jose Fire Department  
For providing excellent patient care to a pediatric cardiac arrest victim in February 2014.

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