



# 2018 EMSA Awards

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11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CEREMONY



DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> • SAN FRANCISCO, CA



**Brave. Dedicated. Willing. Reliable.**

These words describe the 80,000 licensed or certified EMS providers in California. They demonstrate these qualities every day by coming to the aid of others when they are most in need and working to ensure that the EMS system operates well. However, each year, due to circumstance or extraordinary effort, certain individuals among us shine brightest. The EMS Authority seeks to recognize those individuals through the California Emergency Medical Services Awards Program.

**Award Selection Committee Members**

The following committee members spent many hours reviewing the nearly 100 nominations received this year.

**Eric Lane**  
*California Police Chiefs Association*

**Ross Elliot**  
*California Ambulance Association*

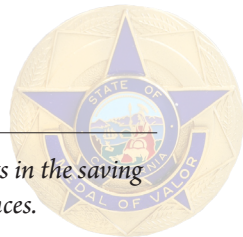
**Tammi McConnell**  
*Emergency Medical Services Administrators' Association of California*

**Art Hsieh**  
*EMS at large*

**Dustin Hall**  
*Cal Fire Chiefs Association*

**MEDAL OF VALOR**

*Recognizes an EMT for acts of personal valor or heroism which results in the saving of a life under extreme conditions and/or in extraordinary circumstances.*



**Jack Garden**  
*West Hills, LA  
County Sheriff's  
Department*



**David Katz**  
*Tarzana, LA  
County Sheriff's  
Department*



**Thad Woodward,**  
**MD**  
*Agoura Hills,  
LA County Sheriff's  
Department*



**Patrick O'Neill**  
*Los Angeles,  
LA County Fire  
Department*

For their acts of bravery confronting dangerous weather conditions to reach four hikers stranded inside the Malibu Creek State Park during the peak of a record-breaking torrential rainstorm.

Malibu Search and Rescue Team members David Katz, Jack Garden, Thad Woodward, and Patrick O'Neill displayed the utmost courage when they fearlessly tracked down four hikers stranded inside the Malibu Creek State Park. The park's trails were completely washed away after having been hit with heavy wind and rainfall, and more so resembled a series of untamed waterways so powerful it was nearly unsafe to cross by boat. These conditions did not slow nor discourage the men from taking any step necessary to locate and rescue the four hikers stranded deep inside the park, surrounded by water rising quickly and without any chance of escape. David, Jack, Thad, and Patrick merit the highest commemoration for the dedication and selflessness displayed by the actions they took in the line of duty.

Special thanks to Z-Medica (QuikClot) for funding this publication.





## EMS CROSS

*Recognizes a uniformed EMT who by act and deed represents the most outstanding achievement or accomplishment in EMS over an extended period of time.*



**Christina Gossner**

*Santa Rosa, American Medical Response (AMR)  
Sonoma Life Support*

For over 25 years of advancing EMS in her local area in training, coordination of services, quality improvement, and direct patient care.

With 25 years of work in EMS service, Christina has received Senate recognition at the 2017 Sonoma County annual Survivor's Reunion, where she was a keynote speaker; the American Ambulance Association's 2003 Star of Life; and the California State Star of Life Medal of Merit. Christina started her EMS career by attending Santa Rosa Junior College Fire Academy in 1992 and became the first female class leader for her fire academy. She then attended Santa Rosa Junior College Paramedic Academy and upgraded from EMT to paramedic in 1995 with AMR Sonoma Life Support.

During her tenure with AMR, she became Adjunct Faculty for Santa Rosa Public Training Center helping others further their EMS careers. Christina's passion for teaching led her to become a paramedic preceptor, teaching countless paramedic interns her knowledge and experience. Her work ethic and drive then brought her a position as a paramedic field training offer (FTO) and the former AMR Sonoma Quality Improvement committee member for Santa Rosa Fire and AMR Sonoma. As an FTO, Christina ensures the quality of our clinicians through meetings, PCR audits, training, remedial training, and support. Christina was promoted to relief supervisor where she oversees management of the field crews, scheduling, dispatch, and the system as a whole.

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

*Recognizes an individual for distinguished service or achievement affecting statewide EMS over an extended period of time. A maximum of ten Distinguished Service Medals will be awarded in any one year.*



**Michael Petrie**

*Salinas, Monterey County EMS Agency*

For over 30 years advancing the field of EMS in the areas of emergency services, homeland security, fusion center operations, strategic planning, capability and threat assessment, mass casualty incident response planning on local and state levels, EMS financing, economics, and EMS system design.

Michael has worked as an executive leader in EMS, emergency services, and homeland security for well over 30 years. He has been a licensed paramedic for over 35 years, is a certified emergency manager, held a faculty appointment at the University of California, Berkeley, while serving as the director of the Emergency Management Sciences Program in the Center for Infectious Diseases and Emergency Readiness (CIDER).

Michael has considerable experience on boards; committees, and councils, including serving two terms as an elected city council member and mayor pro tem for the City of Patterson. He recently completed his second term as president of the EMS Administrators' Association of California (EMSAAC). Michael frequently authors articles for peer-reviewed and professional journals and speaks at national conferences. Michael was a featured speaker for the statewide California Ambulance Association conference and provided presentations for EMSAAC, Emergency Medical Directors of California, California Fire Chiefs Association and the California Hospital Association events. He was also a subject matter expert working with EMSA to develop the Statewide Patient Movement Plan. He served on the faculty at the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security, where he continues to serve as a thesis adviser and member of the editorial review board of Homeland Security Affairs. He holds an MBA, a master's degree in Homeland Security and Defense from the Naval Postgraduate School, and a graduate certificate in Terrorism Studies from the University of Saint Andrews in Fife, Scotland. Additionally, he created and maintains the Monterey County EMS Agency's social media presence.





## MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Recognizes an individual for a meritorious act or service within EMS. This award also recognizes an EMT for an act that is above and beyond the call of duty in the course of a particular EMS emergency or event.



**Nicole Androski**  
*San Diego, American Medical Response*

For jumping into immediate action and halting a moving vehicle in order to resuscitate an incapacitated driver displaying signs of a seizure. While waiting at a stop light during a routine shift, EMT Nicole Androski took a moment to admire the Corvette sitting next to her ambulance. Little did she know that moments later she would be throttled into action with as much speed and strength as could be found under the car's hood. After the light turned green and the Corvette stopped moving, Nicole and her partner stopped the car and pulled out the driver, who had succumbed to cardiovascular failure. Nicole began resuscitating the driver in the car's cabin until her partner came with an AED to provide two shocks that ultimately got the driver to start breathing again. She saved the driver, his Corvette, and other drivers and bystanders from harm, and didn't think twice.



*Left to Right: Henry Nguyen, John Pita*  
*Not Pictured: Carlos Hawkins*

*San Leandro,*  
*Paramedics Plus Alameda*

For valiantly springing into action at the scene of a fiery wreck and risking their lives to pull the driver to safety from inside the vehicle engulfed in flames. After a long shift, EMT Carlos Hawkins and his fellow paramedic crew members John Pita and Henry Nguyen headed back to their deployment center after responding to a call in Oakland. On their way back, they came upon a fiery vehicle collision with the driver still inside of the vehicle. The car had hit a concrete wall after travelling at a high rate of speed, and was crushed from the front end through the cabin of the vehicle. Without hesitation, the three advanced towards the fiery wreckage, risking their lives to ensure that no one would see their last day being trapped and burned inside of that car.



**Steve Carroll**  
*Oxnard,*  
*Ventura County*  
*EMS Agency*

For more than 30 years of dedication, leadership, and excellence in providing care while serving as the EMS administrator, an EMT and paramedic in the County of Ventura.

Steve Carroll's career began as a paramedic where he gained experience and developed skills, climbing the ranks as he exemplified determination and leadership in the field. To this day, Steve has risen all the way to the level of EMS Administrator, where he continues to lead by example, working tirelessly to support his peers in the line of duty and consistently uphold the values of prehospital care. Steve takes great pride in representing the EMS community and aiding those in need in Ventura County, during recent California disasters, and anywhere he can help.



**Jeff Beigh**  
*Roseville,*  
*Roseville Police*  
*Department*

For his dedication to public safety through more than ten years of service as a first responder and

passionate commitment to advancement in the areas of teamwork, training, and tactical response.

Throughout his career, Sargeant Jeff Beigh has exemplified what it means to be dedicated to serving the public. Employed as Sargeant within the Roseville Police Department, Jeff oversees the Social Services Unit responsible for officers assigned to schools or problem-oriented policing, such as homeless outreach. He has gained valuable experience through many years in the field and is always ready to share what he has learned with fellow officers, firefighters and other responders. Jeff serves as the Medic Team Leader for Roseville's SWAT Team. He continues to maintain his paramedic certification, and utilizes his experience in the field to provide first aid instruction for his fellow officers. Jeff's is known for his efforts coordinating with others to further the ways first responders serve and protect the public's health and welfare. Ever the dedicated educator, Jeff takes a dynamic approach to sharing what he continues to learn, developing training to help police officers and firefighters do their jobs better, such as active shooter incident response tactics and opioid overdose protocols. The work Jeff does highlights the importance of cooperation and teamwork, and his career accomplishments are a true testament to his leadership.

**Nathan DuVardo**  
 Santa Rosa,  
 American Medical Response  
 Sonoma County Division

For his selfless leadership and dedication to perserving the lives of nearly 200 elderly care facility resident located in Sonoma County near the heart of the 2017 Tubbs Fire.

As a longtime resident in area, Paramedic Nathan DuVardo was deeply moved to reach the needs of his community during the 2017 Tubbs Fire. He and his peers urgently responded to hundreds of calls across the area, working nonstop throughout the night as the initial blaze grew beyond what most could have

imagined even in a worst-case scenario. Nathan utilized his training to assess the urgency of response throughout the fire, certain he would leave no person behind. Following the fire's path lead him to a senior residential care facility that was filled with almost 200 people and few resources to help them escape on their own. Nathan recognized this and took it upon himself to ensure that every person in that facility made it to safety regardless of the constraints faced during the situation. Through his actions he displayed great courage and leadership; in the process keeping many, many people in his community safe and healthy.



*Left to right:*  
**Kristina Douglas,**  
**Mason Kinnard,**  
**Heidi Nishimoto**  
 Livermore,  
 Paramedics Plus  
 Alameda

For fearlessly rising to the aid of a fellow public servant trying to wrestle control of an extremely violent assailant they had just rescued from an Oakland neighborhood vehicle collision.

When paramedics Kristina Douglas, Mason Kinnard and Heidi Nishimito were called on to the scene of a violent car crash in a residential Oakland neighborhood, they could not have guessed the events that would follow. They searched through the wreckage to locate and treat a patient that eventually turned violent. They instinctively responded and in the process saved a police officer and fellow public servant from imminent danger.

## LIFESAVING MEDAL

*Recognizes an EMS provider who, while in an off-duty or volunteer capacity, makes an extremely noteworthy contribution to efforts which result in the saving of a life.*



**Laurie Leonhardt**  
 West Hills,  
 Community  
 Hospital of the  
 Peninsula

For the bravery and valor that she exhibited while stopping to pull a man from a burning vehicle, saving his life following an accident along Highway 101.

Upon arriving at work one morning this summer, Laurie Leonhardt trusted her gut. She was not feeling well and knew that she needed to leave her post early at the Community Hospital of the Peninsula, where she serves as a nurse. As she made her way back home, Laurie came upon an multi-car accident while driving on Highway 101. Taking notice of the incident, Laurie saw that one of the vehicles appeared to have a person trapped inside with its door crushed shut. She got out of her car at the scene looking to help the man and as she approached the car it began to catch fire. Laurie reacted with great urgency as she helped free the man from his now-burning vehicle. Luckily no one involved in the crash suffered major injuries. Without Laurie's help, that may not have been the case.



**Mark Evan Stevenson**  
 Calabasas, Los  
 Angeles County  
 Sheriff's  
 Department

For his prudent leadership and swift response while coming to the aid of an unresponsive car accident victim.

While driving off duty one evening in Los Angeles, Mark Evan Stevenson found himself at the face a terrifying scene. Lying motionless was a woman that had been struck by a vehicle at the intersection in a hit-and-run incident that took place mere moments before his arrival. Mark immediately took action, blocking the intersection with his vehicle, directing bystanders to call 9-1-1, and creating a barrier around the patient to prevent any further danger. Mark could see that the woman was having trouble breathing and immediately grabbed his medical pack to get equipment in hopes of improving ventilation. After administering a bag valve mask, the woman's vital signs quickly began to improve; luckily Mark did not see any other external life-threatening injuries. Once a Los Angeles Fire Department ambulance arrived, Mark continued to assist with

ventilation and treating the patient. Given the time of their arrival, the woman may not have received lifesaving care for another twenty minutes had Mark not found himself driving through that intersection. The medical care he provided was not impacted by the stressful circumstances of the situation and was tantamount to her ability to recover from the incident.



**Steve Sullivan**  
*Calabasas, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department*

For his steadfast focus and firm commitment to lifesaving care both in the line of duty and as a civilian regardless of the circumstances.

Years of experience, service and training for a litany of emergency situations ensured that Deputy Steve Sullivan was not only in the right place at the right time, but also the right person. On this particular evening, Steve happened to be at an event for a non-profit organization that he volunteers with during his free time. The event was full of families, both adults and children, seated all around Steve. Without notice, a friend of Steve sensed distress at a nearby table. The woman appeared to be choking and her husband quickly got up to administer the Heimlich maneuver. Steve responded immediately, stepping over the table to take over. As he assessed the woman's condition – a mother of two – he noticed signs of a neurological emergency. As the patient became limp and unresponsive Steven immediately began performing CPR, instructing her husband to provide chest compressions. Steve continued to provide lifesaving care until paramedics arrived and were able to restore the woman's cardiac activity. She was immediately transported to the hospital where she was treated and recovered. Without Steve's quick response and leadership during the distressful situation, she may not have made it that far.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

*Recognizes an EMT who has made an outstanding commitment to non-patient care aspects of a community's EMS system. Special emphasis is on EMS Public Information, Education, and Relations.*



*Left to right:*  
**Ken Sexton, Donnie Self**  
*Bakersfield, Hall Ambulance Service*

For developing a close relationship with the senior citizens of the remote desert community of Boron and initiating an annual BBQ luncheon fundraiser to benefit their senior center for the past ten years.

The Hall Ambulance Post 17 paramedics and EMTs stationed in the remote desert community of Boron have developed a close relationship with its senior citizens, which include hosting an annual BBQ luncheon fundraiser to benefit their senior center for the past 10 years. The relationship between the residents of a rural community and its ambulance provider is without question certainly unique as compared to a busy metropolitan system. Located at the southeast end of Kern County on the western edge of the Mojave Desert, Boron enjoys a rich history as a mining town. Recreational amenities in this community are limited, particularly during the summer where the high temperature surpasses 110 degrees; however, there is a gathering place that draws the golden agers together—that being, the Boron Senior Citizens Center. The non-profit organization provides seniors with the opportunity for social interaction and to remain current and aware of issues that directly affect them. Hall Ambulance began providing service to Boron when it became the 9-1-1 paramedic provider for a large portion of eastern Kern County in May 1994. Almost immediately, the paramedics and EMTs assigned to Post 17 in Boron began developing a relationship with the community's residents. In appreciation, the senior center encourages the paramedics and EMTs to stop by and enjoy lunch for the services they provide to the community. In return, the ambulance personnel provides complimentary blood pressure checks during the center's hot lunch meals served on Thursdays. In 2008, Paramedic Ken Sexton and EMT Donnie Self hosted an annual BBQ with proceeds going to the senior center. Their grassroots efforts were completely organized by the Hall Paramedics and EMTs assigned to Boron. This annual event is looked forward to by the seniors each year and has continued to grow.



## INTER-SERVICE EMS RECOGNITION MEDAL

*Recognizes outstanding heroism, extraordinary service, or achievement of non-EMTs (police officers, firefighters, lifeguards, dispatchers, and other public or private safety officers) for outstanding or exceptional support of a particular EMS emergency, event or operation.*



*Left to right:*  
**Mark Aldridge,**  
**Jason Little, Erick**  
**Gelhaus**  
*Not Pictured:*  
**David Edney**  
*Santa Rosa, Sonoma*  
*County Sheriff's Office*

For quickly responding to a cardiac arrest victim and performing lifesaving CPR for a prolonged amount of time.

A panicked wife called 9-1-1 when she found her husband unresponsive in bed late at night. She immediately moved him to the floor and started CPR. Sheriff deputies in the area responded and took over CPR. Graton firefighters arrived, administered two shocks with an AED without any conversion to a normal rhythm (early AED). AMR ambulance paramedics and EMTs arrived and started Advanced Life Support while deputies and firefighters continued CPR. After more than 50 minutes and multiple shocks, medications, and CPR, the paramedics decided to transport to Sutter Hospital. Two Graton firefighters continued CPR in the ambulance while the paramedic kept trying different treatments. Before reaching the hospital, the husband's heart finally started beating normally and began breathing on his own. Sutter nurses and doctors received him, continuing his resuscitation and treatment.

After five days, he was discharged from the hospital with no long-term effects. This is an excellent example of all agencies working together to achieve a common goal. What makes this CPR save exceptional is the length of resuscitation and sheriff deputy first response. Between the time of the heart attack and return of spontaneous circulation in the ambulance, it was estimated at an hour. Local protocols would have allowed the paramedic to discontinue resuscitation after 20 minutes, however the promising end-tidal CO2 readings and continued heart activity convinced the paramedic to continue care.

Sonoma County Sheriff deputies do not traditionally respond to cardiac arrest events, however, the 911 dispatcher alerted deputies when she had trouble getting all of the incident details from the wife. Fortunately, they were completing a call within a couple of miles of the scene and responded quickly.

### **Matthew Floresca** *Fremont, Fremont Police Department*

For saving the lives of two individuals at different times on the same day by administering CPR and using an AED.

During the late afternoon of July 24, 2018, Fremont police officers were dispatched to a person down; it was unknown if the person was breathing and conscious. Fremont Fire Department personnel responded, but Officer Floresca was first on scene. Officer Floresca located a male down in the driveway to the residence. Officer Floresca immediately checked vital signs and found there was no pulse or breathing. Officer Floresca began CPR by giving chest compressions as he was trained. The Fremont Fire Department arrived shortly after, and their paramedics took over the patient's care. A pulse was established, and the male was transported via ambulance to Kaiser Hospital for further care. Later that same evening, Fremont Police Officers were dispatched to Kaiser Hospital for a possible dead body in the parking lot. Kaiser staff was made aware that there was someone in the parking lot who

was not breathing, and someone was attempting CPR. Officer Floresca again was the first to arrive at the scene. Officer Floresca saw there was a Kaiser employee who was providing CPR to the male. Officer Floresca checked for vital signs and found the male did not have a pulse. Officer Floresca allowed the Kaiser employee to maintain CPR on the male while he retrieved the AED from his patrol vehicle. Officer Floresca activated the AED and applied the device to the male's torso. The AED advised for a shock to be applied. A shock was given, and CPR continued. Fremont Fire Department paramedics arrived on scene and took over the patient's care. A pulse was located on the male, and he was immediately taken into the Kaiser Emergency Department for further care. The quick actions of Officer Matthew Floresca, the proper administration of CPR, and the proper administration of the AED for both incidents established life for the patients to have a chance for further care in the hospital.



## CIVILIAN AWARD FOR EMS

*Recognizes a civilian (non-certified, non-health care provider) who provides extraordinary service during the course of an EMS emergency. Awards are relatively based upon the degree of patient outcome, extreme conditions, or extraordinary circumstances.*



**Chad and Chelsea Moore**  
*Morro Bay, California*

At about noon on Friday, July 6, Angela Hernandez, a 23-year-old Oregon woman was driving her white Jeep Patriot from Portland to Southern California when she mysteriously disappeared and fell out of communication with her family. Angela was in the final half of her drive to

Southern California heading down Highway 1 when she swerved to avoid hitting a small animal. Her car plunged off the highway down a cliff near the Kirk Creek Campground, north of Nacimiento-Ferguson Road at the south end of Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. Angela Hernandez spent seven days bruised and battered at the base of a Big Sur cliff, drinking from a trickle of water, yelling for help and watching cars drive by on Highway 1 above before she was finally found by Chad and Chelsea Moore.

The Moores traveled to Big Sur on their usual every other month camping trip to Plaskett Creek Campground on Highway 1. On this trip, however, they decided to try Kirk Creek Campground for the first time instead. The couple walked onto a cordoned off section of the beach and discovered a badly battered Jeep. They gathered some things from the car to take back and report to authorities. The Moores began to walk back the way they had come when suddenly Chelsea heard something over the sound of the surf. Angela saw them walking on the desolate beach and cried for help. “We looked, and she was getting to her feet, standing in the rocks,” stated Chelsea. “She was crying out for help with whatever voice she had left,” Chad said. “She was standing in the rocks and trying to wave to us, and we could barely hear her over the waves breaking.”

“We need to save this person and get her off the beach,” Chad said, adding that her clothes were in “threads,” and she was sunburned and injured. He said that she was very dehydrated and told them her ribs and shoulder hurt. The couple decided that Chelsea would run back up to the campground to call for help while Chad stayed on the beach with Angela.

Back up at the campground, Chelsea said a woman heard her on the phone with responders and showed her the missing persons flier for Hernandez. Chelsea said that until then, they hadn’t known anyone was missing. Chelsea also said that dispatchers told her to stay there and wait for responders to arrive, but she couldn’t. “As soon as I knew how long she was down there, I realized she was probably hungry and probably cold. It just made it a lot more serious; she’s been surviving with nothing for a whole week. There’s no way I’m going to sit there for 45 minutes.”

A bystander said they’d wait for authorities to arrive, so Chelsea hopped into action, gathering supplies like blankets and snacks before running back to Angela and Chad. The couple stayed with Hernandez until first responders arrived and took her to the hospital, where doctors diagnosed her with a brain hemorrhage, four fractured ribs, break and fracture both collar bones and a collapsed lung, ruptured blood vessels in both eyes, and intense sunburns on her hands, feet, and face. “It’s an absolute miracle she survived the carnage,” Chad said. “It was a terrible accident.”

**Jeff Perez**  
*Long Beach, California*

what we’re all here for, to be here for one another and for support.”

For rescuing two people and a dog in sinking truck.

Security video from Seacoast Yachts shows the pickup barreling through the barricades and tumbling into the water. There were no injuries to the people in the vehicle or their rescuers. Everyone made it out safely, including the dog.

A pickup truck crashed through the railing into the water. Marina Drive in Long Beach and witness said the truck began to take on water quickly. The occupants of the car — a woman, her son who was driving, and their dog. Several people jumped in to help the family. Jeff Perez was one of those Good Samaritans. “And no sooner did I hop in the water,” he said, “the lifeguard captain was handing over the older lady to me.” And he says if given the chance he would do it again. “I would just hope people would do the right thing,” he said, “and that’s



## EMT OF THE YEAR

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**James Pierson**  
*Vallejo, Medic  
Ambulance Service*

For demonstrating exemplary dedication to improving the

EMS field by his leadership in his family's private ambulance business, local community paramedicine project and trauma system, local and statewide professional organizations, and with direct patient care.

Characterized as the hardest working EMT-P in California, James Pierson consistently demonstrates his dedication to his community and continually strives to improve his local EMS system. He is a working paramedic at Medic Ambulance Service as well as the Chief Operating Officer and Vice President. He is trained and serves a community paramedic and manages and oversees a post-discharge pilot program. Pierson is one of a seven-member Board of Directors that oversees and manages the California Ambulance Association (CAA). He is actively involved in the Association and continually contributes his time, energy, resources, and ideas to improve ambulance operations across California. Pierson also serves as the Chairman of the CAA Conference Committee, responsible for designing and arranging the annual statewide ambulance conference. In addition to these

commitments, he serves on the EMS/Trauma Committee for the California Hospital Association and is a member of the Suisun Rotary Club. As of October 2018, he has been nominated to serve on the California EMS Commission. Pierson is a licensed paramedic and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Healthcare Management and Business Administration. He is simultaneously pursuing two post-graduate degrees: a Masters of Business Administration and working towards a Juris Doctorate.

## EMS EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

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**Aaron Miranda**  
*Poway Fire  
Department and  
Airlink USMX*

For his meticulous and comprehensive training efforts in the fire service, for national disaster response units and abroad.

Since 1994, Aaron Miranda has obtained extensive experience in different areas of EMS as a provider and as an educator. He is an instructor for various continuing education programs such as PHTLS, ACLS, EMPACT, AMLS, PEPP, and GEMS. In addition to his knowledge and skills in prehospital medicine, he has ample

knowledge in various areas of technical rescue allowing him to be a member of the specialized disaster response team FEMA/USAR CA-TF8. After honing and executing these specialties, he is frequently a guest speaker at international EMS conferences and requested to be a technical reviser for translated EMS education textbooks. One of his esteemed achievements is the implementation of an EMT training

program in Mexico where previously there was none. In addition, in 2005, he introduced and conducted the first Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP) course in Mexico. Other achievements have been reviewing the PHTLS Spanish 8th edition, GEMS Spanish 2nd edition, and most recently the Emergency Care and Transportation of the Sick and Injured Spanish 11th edition.

## EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

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**David Duncan, MD, FAAEM**  
*McClellan, CAL FIRE/Reach/CALSTAR*

For expertly supporting air and ground emergency medical personnel with medical direction and leading statewide and national efforts in research, education, and medical device advancements.

David Duncan is an accomplished emergency medicine physician with very diverse and extensive experience. He has contributed significantly to the field of EMS in 2018. This year REACH Medical Holdings appointed him as the executive medical director, serving over 50 bases. As the medical director for CAL FIRE, he helped develop a proposal to California Department of Finance for support of CAL FIRE EMS electronic patient care record hardware, software, and 8 eight positions worth \$3.3 million, which will modernize EMS at CAL FIRE.

Dr. Duncan was instrumental in capturing industry-leading airway management metrics, and achieved a 97% intubation success at California Shock Trauma Air Rescue (CALSTAR). He also led efforts at CALSTAR to gain recognition as the "2016 Air Ambulance Program of the Year" (out of more than 300 air ambulance services). On a statewide platform in California, Dr. Duncan proposed a Universal Scope of Practice for Air Ambulance and Critical Care Paramedics across California and worked collaboratively with medical directors and administrators for its adoption. Dr. Duncan is a member of the Emergency Medical Directors Association of California (EMDAC) and

their Air Ambulance Physician Representative and is a member of the EMSA Director's Advisory Group. In addition, Dr. Duncan finds time to do research, publish, lecture, teach medics, and develop and patent medical devices. As of 2017, he holds 15 patents.

## EMS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

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**Bryan Cleaver**

*Santa Rosa, Coastal Valley EMS Agency*

For his leadership on initiatives shaping EMS in California in developing model scope of practice guidelines for air ambulance paramedics and critical care transport paramedics, standardizing the process and practice of pre-hospital discipline, encouraging the use of a statewide CARES registry for cardiac arrest patient data.

Bryan has been engaged in a politically-challenging situation within his counties to assure that the delivery of oversight retains independent and physician-based planning, regulation, and clinical direction. Bryan has demonstrated tenacity, character, and commitment to do the right thing, as he has worked to protect the public of the Coastal Valleys EMS Agency and to comply with California's statutes and regulations relating to EMS system leadership and competitive procurements. Bryan's effort and initiatives shaped EMS in California during the past year. Bryan advocated for a common scope of practice for air ambulance providers throughout California, or if that was not possible, a common scope of practice throughout large geographic regions. Bryan's focus on this issue resulted in EMSAAC and EMDAC working collaboratively with the California EMS Authority to develop model scope of practice guidelines for air ambulance paramedics and critical care transport-paramedics. While this initiative is not yet complete, we expect completion before the end of this calendar year. Bryan was also pivotal in encouraging LEMSAs to move toward a standardized process and practice of pre-hospital discipline. Finally, Bryan has been instrumental in developing a statewide CARES registry. Following the precipitous withdrawal of previous EMSAAC leadership on the CARES program, Bryan volunteered his EMS agency to takeover and lead the CARES initiative for local EMS agencies. In California, Bryan's leadership in this area will result in all or nearly-all LEMSAs submitting cardiac arrest data into the CARES registry. This will have positive effects on cardiac arrest and EMS system research and development.

## CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

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*Recognizes an EMT who provides noteworthy patient care and treatment during the course of their duties.*

**Bill Bullard**

*Graton Fire Protection District*

**Zach Morrow**

*Graton Fire Protection District*

**Ben Hedlund**

*Graton Fire Protection District*

**Leslie Mitsuoka**

*AMR Sonoma Life Support*

**Alexander Fair**

*AMR Sonoma Life Support*

**Mike Gabbert**

*AMR*

**Andrew Long**

*AMR*

**Saul Gaytan**

*AMR*

**Matthew Ramirez**

*AMR*

**Thomas Mayberry**

*Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department*

**Charles Miranda**

*Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department*

**Brice Stella**

*Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department*

**Thomas Bogdan**

*Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department*

**Clint Hughes**

*Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department*

## CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

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**Barry Hurd**

*Oak Valley Hospital District Ambulance*

**James Metzger**

*Hall Ambulance Service*

**Manuel Martinez**

*Hall Ambulance Service*

**Steve Prater**

*Hall Ambulance Service*

**Mike Zapiain**

*Hall Ambulance Service*

**Scott Morgan**

*Hall Ambulance Service*

**Chuck Pode**

*Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department*

**Michael Rogers**

*Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department*

**Tui O. Wright**

*Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department*

**Mark Hollinger**

*Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department*

**Rocky Morton**

*Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department*

**Scott Sand**

*Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department*

**David Stephens**

*Los Angeles County Fire Department*

**Dustin LeBrun**

*CA Department of Parks and Recreation*

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Your Partner In EMS



Helping Heroes Save Lives



**CALIFORNIA  
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**Z-MEDICA**



### Contributing



**CALIFORNIA FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION**



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