San Luis Obispo County EMS Agency

National EMS Week Award Recipients

As as part of EMS Week (May 15-21, 2011), the San Luis Obispo County EMS Agency is recognizing unique individuals who have gone above and beyond what is expected as part of their job. Nominations were received from fellow EMS personnel noting the candidate could be a partner, a nurse or doctor at the hospital, or a private citizen that has taken on a special interest relating to EMS. From the nominations received this year the EMS Agency would like to announce the following EMS Week award recipients:

“Outstanding EMS Contributor Award” recognizes an individual who by their participation and innovative thinking have contributed to the enhancement and development of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in San Luis Obispo County, and whose contributions to the prehospital care programs has been significant, representing outstanding service to the profession and the public.

Recipient:

Joe Piedalue – Joe has participated in countless EMS related meetings and committees. In addition to his commitment to program development at the County level he also provides operational oversight with San Luis Ambulance. His awareness of EMS systems and contributions to the prehospital care programs have assisted in guiding the San Luis Obispo County EMS system in achieving a high level of excellence.

“Beyond the Call of Duty” recognizes an individual, or a team of individuals from one or multiple agencies, who performed exceptional or heroic actions and/or exemplary teamwork in saving or attempting to save the life of another.

Recipients:

- Atascadero Firefighter, Tom Little, Colene Little, and Darlene Merrill, R.N, Coastal Wellness Center, performed CPR for over 20 minutes while off duty contributing to the successful outcome of the patient.

On January 21, 2011 while traveling east bound on Hwy 46 near the County line Firefighter Little observed a vehicle on the side of the road, noted CPR was being administered and stopped to assist. He took over compression and Darlene Merrill, R.N. who was doing rescue breathing continued CPR for 20-25 minutes until Kern County Station 26 Rescue arrive. Colene Little maintained communications with dispatch during the
event. Kern County rescue took over CPR, implemented an advanced airway and shocked the patient twice.

Several days later the citizen, James Harris, walked out of the hospital in full recovery.

- Templeton Fire Department (Chief Jim Langborg and Templeton Fire Department Firefighters)

  On September 30 2010 the Templeton Fire Department performed CPR and applied the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on one of their own, Firefighter Tony Broom, who collapsed after training drills. Their efforts resulted in a successful resuscitation fully utilizing their education training and equipment. The Department went on to locate his family and assist in getting them to the hospital.

  Firefighter Broom has since been released back to full duty.