



MEDIA RELEASE

Emergency Medical Services

Ohio Emergency Medical Services • Richard N. Rucker, Executive Director
www.ems.ohio.gov



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Division of EMS and Ohio ACEP Host EMS Awards Ceremony *Ceremony highlights dedication and service of EMS providers during National EMS Week*

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Department of Public Safety’s Division of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) held its first Ohio EMS Awards ceremony today in conjunction with the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (Ohio ACEP) EMS Star of Life Awards ceremony.

“Each day in Ohio, EMS providers save lives and perform countless noteworthy acts of caring, kindness and service to their community,” said Ohio EMS Executive Director Richard Rucker. “These awards are a tribute to those individuals and organizations whose overall contributions go beyond their basic duties and responsibilities and who represent the finest traditions of our profession.”

Ceremonies were held this morning in the ODOT Auditorium located at 1980 W. Broad St., in Columbus.

The first segment of the award ceremony was dedicated to the Ohio EMS Awards which recognize outstanding career achievements and honor those in Ohio’s EMS system whose accomplishments rise above the day-to-day excellence of the system.

2010 recipients are:

- EMT-Basic of the Year: Debra Wine, EMT-B (Mineral City)
- EMT-Intermediate of the Year: Richard Skilliter, EMT-I (Bluffton)
- EMT-Paramedic of the Year: David Gerstner, EMT-P (Dayton)
- EMS Medical Director of the Year: Tracy Schermer, MD (Gambier)
- Emergency Medical Service of the Year: Highland Heights Fire Department

The second segment of the program included the Ohio ACEP’s EMS Star of Life Awards which are designed to honor Ohio’s exceptional EMS personnel; recognize Ohio’s emergency medical services system and organizations; reunite the EMS provider with the person treated; generate positive media stories regarding pre hospital care; and to magnify the profile of National EMS Week in the State of Ohio.

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The EMS Star of Life Awards committee evaluated the nominations based upon model patient care, protocols and proper treatment, and extraordinary documentation.

The 2010 recipients are:

- BMRT Ambulance District (Belle Center)
- City of Ashland Fire/EMS (Ashland)
- Franklin Township Fire Department (Columbus)
- Indian Lake EMS (Lakeview)
- KLG Mobile Intensive (Salem)
- Medina Life Support Team (Medina)
- Springfield Township Fire and Rescue (Holland)

Ohio ACEP also awards the Frank Giampetro Distinguished EMS Educator Award. This award, sponsored by Premier Health Care Services, was established to recognize a dynamic educator who has made notable contributions to the Emergency Medical Services system thus improving the quality of care delivered to the citizens of Ohio. This year's recipient is: Jennie Riedy, RN, NREMT-P.

National Emergency Medical Services Week (May 16-22) brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's "front line."

The theme *Anytime. Anywhere. We'll be There...* exemplifies the commitment that emergency medical personnel make on behalf of the communities they serve. Currently, Ohio has the commitment and dedication of 40,000 EMTs and more than 50,000 firefighters in Ohio who provide a fundamental community service every day.

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The Ohio Department of Public Safety, through the Division of EMS, oversees the certification of emergency medical technicians and firefighters and ensures that the professionals in these lifesaving roles are properly trained, educated and prepared for emergency situations.