



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Emergency Medical Services

Ohio Emergency Medical Services • Richard N. Rucker, Executive Director  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**October 7, 2010**

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### **Division of EMS Hosts Fire Awards Ceremony** *Ceremony highlights dedication and service of Firefighters during National Fire Prevention Week*

**COLUMBUS** – The Ohio Department of Public Safety’s Division of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the Office of Fire Services held its first Ohio Fire Awards ceremony today in conjunction with the Fire-EMS Program Directors Conference which is sponsored every other year by the Division of EMS and is attended by program directors and lead instructors from the Fire Charters and Accredited EMS Institutions.

“Each day in Ohio, firefighters save lives and perform countless noteworthy acts of caring, kindness and service to their community,” said Ohio Department of Public Safety Director, Thomas J. Stickrath. “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 the fire service.”

Currently, Ohio has the commitment and dedication of 50,000 firefighters and more than 40,000 EMTs in Ohio who provide a fundamental community service every day.

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

The Ohio Fire Awards recognize outstanding achievements in Ohio’s fire community and honor those whose accomplishments rise above the day-to-day excellence in fire training, education and safety.

2010 recipients are:

- Ohio Volunteer Fire Department of the Year: Fredericktown F. D., (Fredericktown)
- Ohio Fire Service Instructor of the Year: Brian Gulat, Instructor (Milford)
- Ohio Fire Prevention Educator of the Year: Robert Smith, Instructor (Cincinnati)
- Ohio Fire Officer of the Year: Robert Reinholz, Fire Captain (Cleveland Heights)
- Ohio Fire Educator Lifetime Achievement: Jerome Barhorst, Fire Chief (Fort Loramie)

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**Division of EMS Fire Awards Ceremony**  
**Page Two**  
**October 7, 2010**

National Fire Prevention Week (October 3-9) emphasizes the importance of fire safety to inspire individuals to take action to prevent fires and avoid the deaths, injuries, and destruction they cause.

The theme, *Smoke Alarms: A sound you can live with ...* aims to educate the public on how smoke alarms save lives and why they should be installed and maintained in every home. Having working smoke alarms can cut the chances of dying in a fire in half. The theme will focus on how to choose, install, and maintain smoke alarms.

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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.*