2009 Florida EMS Award Winners Announced

The Bureau of EMS is honored to recognize the outstanding efforts of Florida's men and women who serve their community, saving lives, with excellence in emergency medical services. Congratulations to these recipients for their significant contributions to EMS in Florida. The department thanks everyone for their participation in this program and encourages you to recognize all of the outstanding individuals and organizations in your area during next years EMS Week as well.

The 2009 Award winners are:

**EMS Provider of the Year:**
This award honors an EMS service which assumed a leadership role in EMS by achievement in areas of quality assurance/improvement, patient care, public access, medical control, disaster preparedness, public education and/or training in Florida. The winner must successfully implement a program or initiative that supports the fulfillment of the Florida EMS Strategic Plan.

Winner: Miami-Dade Fire Rescue

**Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) of the Year:**
This award honors an EMT whose job responsibility is direct patient care and who has demonstrated independent initiative in the areas of quality assurance/improvement, patient care, public access, medical control, disaster preparedness, public education and/or training, and support, involvement and dedication to their EMS community and profession.

Winner: Gabriel Trujillo, Nature Coast EMS

**Paramedic of the Year:**
This award honors a paramedic whose job responsibility is direct patient care and who has demonstrated independent initiative in the areas of quality assurance/improvement, patient care, public access, medical control, disaster preparedness, public education and/or training, and support involvement and dedication to their EMS community and profession.

Winner: Henrique “Rick” Chipelo, Jr., St. Petersburg Fire Rescue

**EMS Nurse of the Year:**
This award honors a nurse who has assumed a leadership role in EMS and has demonstrated independent initiative in one or more of the following areas: education, clinical care, community service or disaster management.

Winner: Heather Collins, R.N., B.S.N., REMT/P, Tampa General Hospital

**Florida EMS Disaster Preparedness and Response Award**
This award honors an individual who has demonstrated exceptional proficiency in developing response plans, made significant contributions to help prepare Florida for health and medical responses to significant emergencies or disasters, and has demonstrated leadership and initiative in the areas of emergency medical preparedness, education and response. This is the first year the award will be given.

Winner: Julie Downey, Assistant Fire Chief, Town of Davie Fire Rescue
**Larry S. Jordan EMS Hall of Fame:**
This award honors an individual for lifetime achievement in the field of emergency medical services.
**Winner:** Beth P. Brunner, Emergency Medicine & Learning Resource Center

**Marilyn Crook EMS Pioneer:**
This award honors an individual for their efforts to advance the EMS profession through their visionary leadership, innovation, promotion of best practices by building internal and external partnerships, and successful implementation of a program or initiative that supports the fulfillment of the Florida EMS Strategic Plan.
**Winner:** Frances Councill, Paramedic, Director of Wakulla County EMS

**EMS Injury Prevention:**
This award honors an EMS professional who has demonstrated outstanding initiative and promoted best practices to prevent injuries, in at least one area of injury prevention, such as motor vehicle safety, drowning, falls, burn prevention and others.
**Winner:** Cory Richter, BA, NREMT-P, Battalion Chief, Indian River County Fire Rescue

**Raymond H. Alexander, MD, EMS Medical Director of the Year:**
This award honors a physician who serves as a medical director for a Basic Life Support, Advanced Life Support or Air Service. The winner must demonstrate excellence in the areas of quality assurance/improvement and medical control, in addition to the promotion and utilization of new medical trends and technologies.
**Winner:** Robert Tober, M.D., Collier County EMS

**EMS Dispatcher of the Year:**
This award honors a dispatcher for outstanding effort in processing a Florida medical emergency call.
**Winner:** Paul Button, Indian River County Sheriff’s Office

**EMS Educator of the Year:**
This award honors an EMS instructor or course coordinator who has made a positive contribution to EMS education in Florida and has successfully implemented a program or initiative that supports the fulfillment of the Florida EMS Strategic Plan.
**Winner:** Chad Brocato, EMT-P, DHSc, Assistant Chief of Operations, Deerfield Beach Fire Rescue

**Florida State Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Heroes Award:**
Honors a health care professional or organization for outstanding achievement in the care of ill or injured children (18 years of age or younger) in at least one of these areas: education, clinical care, community service or disaster management. The winner must successfully implement a program or initiative that supports the fulfillment of the Florida EMS Strategic Plan.
**Winner:** All Children’s Hospital Neonatal & Pediatric Transport Team

**Video of the Year**
Honors a video by an individual or organization that best depicts this year’s EMS Week Theme, “EMS: A Proud Partner In Your Community.”
Winner: Miami-Dade Fire Rescue

Photo of the Year:
Honors a photograph by an individual or organization that best depicts this year’s EMS Week Theme, “EMS: A Proud Partner In Your Community.”

Winner: Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue

EMS Memorial:
Dedicated to those in Florida EMS who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

2009 Inductees:

Lieutenant Robert Strang, Paramedic
Melbourne Fire Department
March 9, 1949-March 26, 2009

Captain Richard L. Rhea, EMT
Crawfordville Volunteer Fire Department
October 12, 1948-January 24, 2009

For additional information about Florida’s EMS Program, visit the DOH website at [www.fl-ems.com](http://www.fl-ems.com). To partner in the awards event, contact Wesley Houtz at the Emergency Medicine Learning & Resource Center at 1-800-766-6335, ext. 12 or [whoutz@emlrc.org](mailto:whoutz@emlrc.org).