



# State EMS Awards Book of Recognition



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*The Medal of Valor recognizes acts of personal valor or heroism in the delivery of emergency medical care, which results in the saving of a life under extreme conditions and in extraordinary circumstances.*

**Salena Maestas, Paramedic, Metro West Ambulance**  
**Dennis Butler, Firefighter/Paramedic, Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue**  
**Jeff Pierce, Engineer/EMT-Basic, Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue**  
**Cleve Joiner Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue**  
**Chad Hashbarger, Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue**  
**Steve Boyer, MD, St Vincent's Hospital - Emergency Department**

On September 11, 2001, we as a nation saw how quickly rescuers can become victims of an incident. On May 30, 2002, we as the state of Oregon, experienced first hand how quickly rescuers can become victims. While climbing Mt. Hood that day, off-duty fire and EMS coworkers became victims of two sets of climbers above them who had fallen. In total, nine (9) climbers were drawn into a crevasse - three (3) died in the fall.

Although injured, the above off-duty climbers were able to provide care to their fellow climbers. Some who witnessed the incident, summoned a formal rescue response, and began rescue efforts. These efforts included: triage, extrication, treatment, and packaging victims for transport. All injured climbers were removed from the mountain for transport to area hospitals. There were a total of 12 victims, six climbers, and three military personnel survived.

The group continued working by improvising, adapting and overcoming elements of the rescue until all injured had been transported. They persevered in extreme conditions including; environment, injured peers, family, and an on-scene crash of a rescue helicopter.

Thank you, to all, for your individual and collective acts of heroism and dedication to the provision of EMS in Oregon.