



For Immediate Release:

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Flight For Life-McHenry Base to Honor Town of Salem Fire/Rescue With 15th Annual Scene Call of the Year Award

Salem, WI—June 5, 2009 -- On Monday, June 8th, Flight For Life-McHenry Base will present the Town of Salem Fire/Rescue with its 15th Annual Scene Call of the Year Award for 2008. The event will be held at the Town of Salem Village Hall located at 9814 Antioch Road in Salem, at 6:45 p.m. Representatives from the thirteen fire and rescue agencies who assisted Town of Salem Fire/Rescue along with the Kenosha County Sheriff, Wisconsin State Patrol, Kenosha County Joint Services, Kenosha Highway Department and Flight For Life personnel who participated in this call will be in attendance. A reception will immediately follow at the Rescue Squad Building located at 9920 Antioch Road in Salem.

At approximately 3:30 p.m. on May 23, 2008 Town of Salem Fire/Rescue was dispatched to a semi versus school bus accident on Hwy 50. The semi was reported to be on fire and the bus was carrying school children. Employees of a nearby trucking company were able to assist children who were ambulatory away from the accident as well as use fire extinguishers on the fire in the semi prior to the arrival of Town of Salem Fire/Rescue.

Upon arrival Salem Fire/Rescue found sixteen patients, some of them were critical and most were minors. Based upon this information two Flight For Life helicopters, one from the McHenry and the other from the Waukesha/Milwaukee Base, were immediately requested and

the Kenosha County Mass Casualty Plan was initiated. Once patient assessment was completed by EMS personnel, the Incident Commander contacted Kenosha County Joint Services regarding the need for additional resources that included two more medical helicopters. This was in addition to the two medical helicopters and thirteen mutual aid fire departments and rescue squads all ready en route.

In all sixteen patients were transported from this accident. Fourteen patients went by ground to local hospitals. Flight For Life helicopters transported two patients to Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, a Pediatric Level 1 Trauma Center. One additional patient was transported from St. Catherine's Hospital in Kenosha to Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee. This was accomplished with the assistance of the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department, Wisconsin State Patrol, Kenosha County Highway Department, Kenosha County Joint Services (dispatch), thirteen fire/EMS agencies from throughout Kenosha County and northern Illinois, and two Flight For Life helicopters.

The award applications were evaluated by a panel of judges based on the guidelines developed by the American College of Surgeons for using air medical transport. The submissions were also examined for the following: scene safety, triage decisions, complex planning and accident scene management, integration of the helicopter into the call, and use of skills that went beyond the "call of duty" to treat the patient.

The Town of Salem Fire/Rescue call highlights the extraordinary teamwork that exists among EMS, fire departments, law enforcement agencies, dispatchers, and air medical services as they work together to provide the best possible patient outcome. The personnel from Town of Salem Fire/Rescue displayed the teamwork, professionalism and decision-making skills that were necessary to make a difference in the patients' outcome and survival. All of the ingredients required to complete the "chain of survival" for these patients were present that day.

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