



Recipients of the 2023 Wildland Fire Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Awards Announced

NWCG announces the recipients of the 2023 Wildland Fire EMS Awards. The NWCG Emergency Medical Committee (EMC) annually recognizes individuals and groups who have demonstrated outstanding actions or accomplishments that are above and beyond the expectation of one's normal mission or job duties.

Jeremy Schuler, Teton Interagency Helitack Crew *Outstanding Wildland Fire EMS Individual of the Year*

Jeremy Schuler goes above and beyond supporting Teton Interagency Helitack as a subject matter expert and dedicated team member. From creating EMS training materials and simulations, to mentoring new EMTs on patient care and best practices. Jeremy can juggle multiple complex skillsets while maintaining his fitness. He is a Paramedic, Skilled HECM, and firefighter supporting a complex mix of mission types. He is the go-to medical provider on a crew full of EMTs. In addition to all this, he supports the forest as an AHA CPR/First aid instructor and assists with multiple classes for FS employees. Jeremy has single handedly and without a doubt improved the care given from all Teton Interagency Helitack members, he is an example of what leading UP looks like.

Operational Medical Support Program (OMSP), Bureau of Land Management *Outstanding Wildland Fire EMS Crew of the Year*

The OMSP was developed "to care of our own" when working in remote environments where traditional EMS may be significantly delayed or unavailable. The OMSP coordinators and providers helped develop the standardized policies, procedures, and protocols that ensure compliance and integrity of the program. Most of the positions are collateral duty and require a considerable amount of time and energy. OMSP coordinators assist in the technical training of OMSP providers, purchasing and managing medical equipment, ensuring providers are evaluated in compliance with all policies and regulations, and authorized to provide care. The OMSP is now in each BLM state, and providers work under the same protocols, equipment, and medical supervision. Currently, the OMSP has over 300 credentialed providers and have overseen the care of more than 60 of their own employees in the line of duty. They are providing a necessary service to the wildland fire community and helping to improve the care and lives of all wildland firefighters.

Logan Interagency Hotshot Crew, Wasatch-Cache National Forest **Wesley Lathen, Michael Schnur, Kendell White** *Award of Excellence in Wildland Fire EMS/Rescue*

While on assignment, individuals from Logan IHC responded and acted above and beyond during a serious medical incident involving a nearby crew on the division. Lathen assumed patient care and quickly and recognized a serious medical condition and communicated that to his squad boss who was the IWI IC. While patient care was taking place, White ran to the crew's UTV, parked it in a

better location and began cutting a trail out for access. Schnur managed the squad and organized the transport of the patient who was transported by UTV initially, then by helicopter due to the arduous terrain the crew was working in. This medical happened early in the shift and the crew responded quickly and decisively and transported the patient in a timely manner given the seriousness of the illness and the hard-to-reach location. These three acted upon their training and took amazing initiative in response to the incident and were great examples to the rest of the crew.

**Crew 2 & Engine 424, Umpqua National Forest
Tiller Ranger District**

Award of Excellence in Wildland Fire EMS/Rescue

While assisting on a project, members of Crew 2 and Engine 424 responded to an individual that fell two stories off the roof of a house and landed on a fence. The individual sustained significant injuries from their fall. The responders initially stabilized the individual until a local volunteer fire department arrived with specialized tools needed to extricate the patient. The volunteer fire department, upon their arrival, described the scene as “professional, a sense of calm prevailed in a difficult situation.” The patient was transported to a nearby trauma center for emergency life-saving care. According to the doctors involved in his care, the patient would not have survived the transport nor the operations that followed without the initial quality of care provided.

Congratulations to all the awardees and nominees. Through leadership and initiative, they have made significant contributions to the safety of the wildland fire community. These awards are well deserved. More information about the awards program and how to nominate an individual or crew can be found on the NWCG EMC webpage, <https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/emergency-medical-committee>.