



National Wildfire Coordinating Group

# News Release

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## Wildfire Coordinating Group Announces 2017 Recipients of the “Emergency Medical Service Awards”

**Boise, Idaho** – The National Wildfire Coordinating Group recently announced the recipients for the “2017 Wildfire Emergency Medical Service Awards.” The annual awards program, sponsored by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group’s Incident Emergency Medical Subcommittee (IEMS), recognizes and honors individuals and/or organizations who have demonstrated outstanding work, actions or programs in emergency medical service for our Nation’s wildland firefighters.

“The IEMS Awards Selection Committee was excited with the exceptional nominations that were submitted this year,” said Kaili McCray, Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards Program Manager and current Chair of the IEMS Awards Selection Committee. “There were a number of extraordinary efforts that occurred across the country in 2017. The efforts of the awardees stood out to the selection committee as particularly significant contributions including advancing the field of wildland fire emergency medical service (EMS) forward. They join an elite group who have received these prestigious National Wildfire EMS Awards and we're proud of them,” McCray added.

The Wildfire Emergency Medical Service Awards program was originated to recognize the unselfish acts and actions of individuals and/or organizations for “going above and beyond” their normal duties in rendering emergency medical service care and training for member agency incidents and programs.

The five Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Award categories nominations were selected from include:

- Outstanding Wildfire EMS Individual of the Year
- Outstanding Wildfire EMS Squad/Crew/Team of the Year
- Outstanding Wildfire EMS Distinguished Service of the Year
- Excellence in Wildfire Emergency Medical Service/Rescue
- Lifetime Achievement in Wildfire Emergency Medical Service

Each of the awardees will be recognized with an award plaque and certificate. The 2017 Wildfire Emergency Medical Service Award recipients include:

**Camila (Cammy) Roy**, Helicopter Manager with the Bureau of Land Management in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, is awarded the ***Outstanding Wildfire EMS Individual of the Year Award***. Outside of her normal duties as a Helicopter Manager, Cammy took it upon herself to bolster and improve the Alaska Fire Service EMT program. She coordinated and instructed Wilderness/First Aid training and First Aid/CPR for the entire organization, and each year ensures Fire Specialist and Hotshot EMT's have the necessary medical equipment and supplies. In 2016 Cammy led the charge in ensuring all of Alaska Fire Service's (AFS) exclusive use helicopters were outfitted with tri-fold backboards. In 2017, Cammy coordinated with California BLM/EI Centro Field Office (ECFO) Paramedic Program to provide a Lead EMT instructor to AFS. This connection was soon fostered into a mutually beneficial partnership, whereby AFS EMT's

were offered valuable real-world experience through detail opportunities to the ECFO, which was short on medical personnel due to a hiring freeze.

**Patricia (Patti) Hiram and Emergency Medical Services Working Group**, Acting Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry with the USDA Forest Service in Washington, DC, is awarded the **Outstanding Wildfire EMS Team of the Year Award**. In 2016 The USDA Forest Service chartered an EMS Implementation Working Group chaired by Patti Hiram with membership from several elements including policy makers and field providers. During 2016-2017, under Patti's leadership, the working group developed a framework to standardize the Forest Service's EMS program by leveraging best practices across the federal government with the ultimate goal to deliver risk-based implementation of Basic Life Support (BLS) EMS to Forest Service employees. The group developed recommended standards for training, protocols and medical direction. Their efforts have a direct impact on all Forest Service employees by increasing the chances of survival and rapid recovery of employees who become seriously ill or injured during the performance of work.

**Maurice Cruz**, with the Bureau of Land Management in Twin Falls, Idaho, is awarded the **Excellence in Wildfire EMS/Rescue Award**. In 2017 Maurice was assigned to the Missouri Fire that was burning on the Payette National Forest as an EMT. While at the Incident Command Post, Maurice responded to an accident that involved an individual suffering from a potentially life-threatening arterial bleed. Maurice was working close-by and was the highest trained medical person on-scene. The wound required more than direct pressure and a tourniquet and specialty bandage, per quick judgment of EMT Cruz, was quickly applied. Maurice selflessly sprang into action and utilized his EMS training and knowledge to not only secure and bring command and control to the scene, but also provided critical, life-saving care to his patient.

The IEMS Awards Selection Committee would like to remind the Interagency Wildland Fire Community that they are now accepting nominations for the "2018 Wildfire Emergency Medical Service Awards." Nominations are annually accepted from January 1 through December 31 and awardees will be announced by June 30 the following year. Nomination forms and additional information about the NWCG's Incident Medical Emergency Subcommittee and the Wildfire Emergency Medical Service Award Program are available at: <https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/incident-emergency-medical-subcommittee>

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group's Incident Emergency Medical Subcommittees' mission is to establish a methodology that meets the emergency medical and occupational health care needs of managed incidents, providing information, updates and guidance in order to enhance the health and safety of wildland firefighters and other personnel during wildland fire incidents.

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