



2013 First Responder Award Recipients

HOMELAND SECURITY DISTRICT 1

Terry Johnson, Bristol Police Department

Lieutenant Johnson oversaw the Bristol Police Department's Emergency Response Team during the events at the Bristol Motor Speedway in March and August of 2012 and 2013. He coordinated with more than 15 different agencies from departments within District 1, along with state and federal agencies. With his direction, they addressed more than 50 calls for service and countless hours of K-9 sweeps and vehicle checks. Lieutenant Johnson's leadership helped ensure the safety of more than 350,000 people during the Bristol Motor Speedway events.

Bryan Horton, Washington County Sheriff's Office

Captain Horton was instrumental in developing and implementing the "Armed Intruder" program in the Washington County School system. To date, he has trained 60 teachers and administrators in the program. Current plans also call for the program to be offered to day care centers and in the private sector. The program is the first of its kind in District 1 and is consistent with Captain Horton's commitment to responding to law enforcement challenges with innovative solutions.

HOMELAND SECURITY DISTRICT 2

Jeff Burchfield, Blount County Sheriff's Office

Jeff Burchfield started his career with the Blount County Sheriff's office in 1996 and was promoted to Captain in 2006. Additionally, he is one of only a handful of instructors certified to instruct National Incident Management System training courses. Since being promoted to Captain, Mr. Burchfield has been involved in challenging law enforcement incidents. Most notably in 2011, he was instrumental in the rescue of two individuals from a boat at the low head dam on Little River in Rockford. He has served as an incident commander of several large incidents and participated in situations, such as searches for missing persons and standoffs over the years.

Michelle Matson, Jefferson City Fire Department

Ms. Matson has served as the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Jefferson City Fire Department since 2010. During her tenure, she has led the Jefferson County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and nearly 200 students have been trained. She has also recently conducted and completed the department's first "CERT Summer Camp", where children and parents completed an intensive three-day course. Under Ms. Matson's direction, the department is set to complete its second annual Emergency Preparedness Expo this September. The expo consists of vendors, educators, and speakers to teach community members how to prepare for a potential disaster situation. Ms. Matson conducts various other fire department community outreach projects, including a Summer Fire Camp for ages 7-14, blood pressure check-up stations at local markets and fire prevention classes for the community. She has increased the amount of community outreach, fire prevention and disaster prevention services the Jefferson City Fire Department offers in the community.

HOMELAND SECURITY DISTRICT 3

Myron Schroepfer, Paramedic, and Kelly Tornow, Emergency Medical Technician, Hamilton County Emergency Services

Both Myron and Kelly responded to an emergency situation at Ooltewah High School. They performed cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on a 17-year old student, saving the life of the juvenile.

HOMELAND SECURITY DISTRICT 4

Terry Lindsay, Algood Police Department

Officer Lindsay has served the Algood community since the mid-1990s. He is an exemplary officer and has even become a trainer to improve his effectiveness and that of his fellow officers. He teaches courses to the Algood Police Department and abroad regularly.

Keith Smith, Livingston Police Department

Officer Smith serves as a trainer for the Livingston Police Department. He is an effective and valuable instructor for the police staff and command. Officer Smith also teaches across the state and abroad.

HOMELAND SECURITY DISTRICT 5

Scott Harris, Davidson County, Office of Emergency Management Agency

Mr. Harris serves as the Field Response Coordinator with the Davidson County Office of Emergency Management Agency. He remains abreast of any possible concerns that could affect events in the area and routinely updates key decision makers. Mr. Harris was the point of contact for the Country Music Award festival, the Country Music Marathon, the Fourth of July and NFL Tennessee Titans home games. He recently responded to assist two neighboring cities during weather-related events. He helped a Goodlettsville citizen exit their home safely during a flooding incident and assisted multiple citizens in Madison when an area quickly became flooded. Mr. Harris is reliable and always available to assist in a time of need.

HOMELAND SECURITY DISTRICT 6

Mark Yother, Manchester Police Department

Yother became the department's Chief of Police last fall after 31 years with the Manchester Police Department. Captain Yother's wisdom and experience has led to department restructure, a morale boost amongst officers and enhanced agency standards. His tireless work ethic and dedication to the department, his community and public safety make him deserving of this honor.

Kathy Hovis, Lincoln County Emergency Management Agency

Kathy Hovis is the Deputy Director of Lincoln County Emergency Management Agency. She has been known as the "anchor" of Homeland Security District 6. Ms. Hovis is responsible for grants for the district and many other administrative tasks for both the county EMA and district. She once even served as secretary for District 6. Ms. Hovis has played an integral role in the cohesiveness of District 6. She is called upon day and night and never hesitates to answer the call to serve her community.

HOMELAND SECURITY DISTRICT 7

Stephen C. Warren, Clarksville Police Department

Lieutenant Warren is the Homeland Security Coordinator for the Clarksville Police Department, as well as the off-duty job coordinator, the New Providence Precinct Project Manager and the Chief's representative on the Animal Control Board. He was instrumental in coordinating with Fort Campbell on an active shooter/VED/mass casualty exercise that involved 19 emergency services agencies across the state and Kentucky this past year. Lt. Warren is a faithful participant at the district's Homeland Security meetings and helps the other members remain prepared to protect all the citizens in District 7. He has served the Clarksville Police Department since 1997.

Robby Street, City of Dickson Fire Department

Mr. Street has been a member of the Dickson Fire Department since April of 2001. He currently holds the position of Fire Marshal and is a member of the Dickson Special Response Team and team leader for the Dickson USAR Team. He has also been instrumental in the development of the USAR Team and has played a major administrative role as well. Over the past 12 months, Mr. Street has responded to many emergency calls, both in the city of Dickson and Dickson County. Fire Marshal Street has demonstrated the core values of an Emergency Services Leader.

HOMELAND SECURITY DISTRICT 8

Brian Green, Lawrenceburg Fire Department

Lawrenceburg Fireman Brian Green was one of several first responders to rescue a family of four that crashed upside down in Shoal Creek last December. The family's seven-year old son was the last one trapped in the vehicle, when Fireman Green and two others worked to extricate the child. Green went under the water and into the vehicle with the child, comforting and reassuring him while the seat belt was cut. The youngster was then freed and pulled to the surface, along with Fireman Green. Everyone involved played a part in the life-saving efforts of the family.

Terry Beecham, Lawrenceburg Police Department

Officer Beecham was the first responder on the scene that helped save a family of four that crashed into the Shoal Creek last December. The parents, along with first responders, helped to extricate the four-year old trapped inside the vehicle. Police and fire personnel were able to pull the child from the water. They determined he was unresponsive and Officer Beecham immediately initiated CPR until Lawrenceburg EMS arrived on the scene. A short time later, the child began breathing on his own. Officer Beecham's quick actions helped save the life of the young child.

HOMELAND SECURITY DISTRICT 9

David Williams, Dyersburg Fire Department

Williams serves as a firefighter and emergency medical technician for the Dyersburg Fire Department. On April 17, 2013, he and firefighter Jacob Sullivan entered a burning home through a rear window in an effort to save three trapped children. Williams located two children near the entry point and found the third child at the end of the bed. He passed all three children, one-by-one, to

Firefighter Sullivan, who received them and delivered them to emergency responders outside. Firefighter Williams showed his dedication to saving lives under extreme conditions.

Jacob Sullivan, Dyersburg Fire Department

Firefighter Sullivan helped rescue three children in a house fire on April 17, 2013. He, along with Firefighter David Williams entered the home under heavy smoke and fire conditions through a rear window. Williams located two children near the entry point and found the third child at the end of the bed. He passed all three children, one-by-one, to Firefighter Sullivan, who received them and delivered them to emergency responders outside. Emergency Medical Services immediately assumed patient care on the children. Firefighter Sullivan should be credited for his exemplary service under extreme conditions.

HOMELAND SECURITY DISTRICT 10

Eric Turner, Madison County Fire Department

Chief Turner is one of four Madison County Firemen who responded to a fire in an assisted living facility in Jackson, Tenn. Upon arrival, the firefighters discovered heavy smoke conditions within the building and learned several residents had not been accounted for. They entered the burning structure and through their quick actions, successfully rescued two persons from the developing fire. Chief Turner and his partners rescued a third person; however, the individual succumbed to the injuries sustained in the fire. Their selfless and heroic actions prevented additional loss of life.

Matt Gay, Madison County Fire Department

Captain Gay is one of four Madison County Firemen who responded to a fire in an assisted living facility in Jackson, Tenn. Upon arrival, the firefighters discovered heavy smoke conditions within the building and learned several residents had not been accounted for. They entered the burning structure and through their quick actions, successfully rescued two persons from the developing fire. Captain Gay and his partners rescued a third person; however, the individual succumbed to the injuries sustained in the fire. Their selfless and heroic actions prevented additional loss of life.

Hoyt Huckabee, Madison County Fire Department

Fireman Huckabee is one of four Madison County Firemen who responded to a fire in an assisted living facility in Jackson, Tenn. Upon arrival, the firefighters discovered heavy smoke conditions within the building and learned several residents had not been accounted for. They entered the burning structure and through their quick actions, successfully rescued two persons from the developing fire. Fireman Huckabee and his partners rescued a third person; however, the individual succumbed to the injuries sustained in the fire. Their selfless and heroic actions prevented additional loss of life.

Michael Turner, Madison County Fire Department

Fireman Turner is one of four Madison County Firemen who responded to a fire in an assisted living facility in Jackson, Tenn. Upon arrival, the firefighters discovered heavy smoke conditions within the building and learned several residents had not been accounted for. They entered the burning structure and through their quick actions, successfully rescued two persons from the developing fire. Fireman Turner and his partners rescued a third person; however, the individual succumbed to the injuries sustained in the fire. Their selfless and heroic actions prevented additional loss of life.

HOMELAND SECURITY DISTRICT 11

James Gary Graves, Millington Fire Department

Chief Graves' diligence in researching, developing and equipping Millington's Fire Department to better protect the citizens of Millington is unmatched. He has secured funding to develop a Swiftwater/Flood Incident Team, who will be available for area-wide response; he has established the city's Situation Room with VOIP phone system and video conferencing with the county's Emergency Operation Center; and he has secured grant funds to purchase a FEMA Type 1 fire pumper. Chief Graves has also been appointed to a four-year term for the west Tennessee Seismic Safety Commission. His behind the scenes efforts exemplifies the dedication and diligence of a consummate professional.

Tyler Zerwekh, Shelby County Health Department

Dr. Zerwekh is the Administrator for the Environmental Health Services Bureau at the Shelby County Health Department in Memphis. For the past six years, he has been the lead liaison between the Shelby County Office of Preparedness and the health department pursuant to the homeland security initiatives and in staffing the county's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during activations. Dr. Zerwekh was instrumental in guiding the first responders and citizens away from environment hazards during the floods of 2010 and 2011. He worked tirelessly with building code inspectors to determine if housing was habitable. He wore Level B and C personal protective equipment and spent long, hot hours performing tests and inspection missions on behalf of first responders and Shelby County citizens. He also assisted in the evacuation and shelter of over 600 displaced citizens. Dr. Zerwekh is instrumental in providing specialized knowledge to the first response community regarding biosafety and threats relative to epidemics and pandemics.

CITIZENS CORPS

Colin Ickes, Knoxville Emergency Management Agency

Colin Ickes serves as the Operations Officer for the Knoxville Emergency Management Agency, where he has been instrumental in teaching the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Train-the-Trainer class over the past nine years. CERT training teaches citizens how to prepare for and respond to disaster situations before the arrival of first responders. Mr. Ickes is an invaluable partner in preparing the citizens of Tennessee.

TENNESSEE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Kenneth Fritts, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA)

Mr. Fritts currently serves as a TEMA Area Coordinator, after a 30-year career as a captain for the Oak Ridge Fire Department. Following his retirement, he was charged with the task of establishing the Anderson County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), which he did, and served as director. Mr. Fritts has spent many hours working with various counties to enhance their capability and improve their ability to train, plan, exercise or respond. His experience as a responder and local emergency management director brought a wealth of knowledge to TEMA as an instructor, advisor and motivator for all levels of government and many private organizations.

TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL

Trooper Scott Lewis, Tennessee Highway Patrol Chattanooga District

Trooper Lewis was on patrol duties in Marion County when severe rainfall had caused sudden flooding in South Pittsburg on July 10, 2013. While setting up a perimeter, Trooper Lewis observed several citizens trapped in their vehicles in rushing waters. He crossed into the flood waters at his own peril to help bring those individuals to safety. According to witness accounts, Trooper Lewis also carried small children out of harm's way. Trooper Lewis made several trips into the water even as the water level continued to rise around him. During the rescue efforts, he was assisted by Trooper Terrance Gann. Both troopers assuredly saved the lives of several citizens.

Trooper Terrance Gann, Tennessee Highway Patrol Chattanooga District

Trooper Gann was on patrol duties in Marion County when severe rainfall caused sudden flooding in South Pittsburg on July 10, 2013. While setting up a perimeter, Trooper Gann observed several citizens trapped in their vehicles in rushing waters. He crossed into the flood waters to help bring those individuals to safety. According to witness accounts, Trooper Gann also carried small children out of harm's way. Trooper Gann made several trips into the water even as the water level continued to rise around him. During the rescue efforts, he was assisted by Trooper Scott Lewis. Both troopers assuredly saved the lives of several citizens.

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Marion Kainer, Tennessee Department of Health

Dr. Marion Kainer serves as the Director of Health Care Associated Infections for the Tennessee Department of Health. She was instrumental in tracing the source of a local and national outbreak of fungal meningitis. She and her team worked tirelessly to identify the source of the outbreak and were the first to alert federal officials of the imminent crisis. Dr. Kainer's expertise and persistence helped contain the outbreak and reduce the loss of life in Tennessee and nationwide. Dr Kainer has completed fellowships in infectious diseases, microbiology and clinical epidemiology, and previously worked with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.