

Press Release

5/18/2007

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Okaloosa County EMS and Local Photographer Capture State Award

It started with an emergency in Crestview, as Photo Journalist Ken Nielsen arrived on the scene of a patient being rushed by helicopter to a nearby hospital. Okaloosa County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is treating the patient from the moment they arrive until the patient can safely be turned over to the helicopter medical crew.

The Florida Department of Health Bureau of Emergency Medical Services selected this color photo by Nielsen as the picture that “clearly depicts the 2007 National EMS Week theme: EMS: Extraordinary People, Extraordinary Service.” A formal presentation will be made to Nielsen at the EMS Awards Ceremony in Orlando on July 18, 2007.

Not only will this photo be displayed at the Bureau of EMS in Tallahassee, but also used in trade journals nationally and on the national web page for EMS Week. “This is very exciting for our community, not only to have the talented Photojournalist Ken Nielsen, but also the depiction of Okaloosa County EMS honored in this way while doing what they do best – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week,” stated EMS Division Chief Al Herndon.

Emergency Medical Service (EMS) teams consist of emergency physicians, emergency nurses, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, administrators and others. EMS Week is May 20 through 26, 2007. Okaloosa County EMS is having the first ever EMS Week Food Drive on May 24, at the Publix at Paradise Point in Ft. Walton Beach from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Please feel free to stop by the ambulance, donate non-perishable food items and recognize these dedicated health providers. All food will go to local food banks through United Way. For more information, contact 850.651.7150.

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