

2019 Cedar Knolls Fire Department - Award Recipients

Call Volume Award - 1000 Calls since 2000:

This award is presented to a member(s) who have reached 1000 & 2000 total calls/responses. This award began in 2000.

This year's awards are presented to the following:

Captain Scott Thompson - 2095
Captain Vin Barisciano - 2028
Lt. Jamie Bergen - 2010

Firefighter Black Helmets:

Hanover Township Fire District No. 3 and The Cedar Knolls Fire Department have a long standing tradition commonly referred to as "**The Black Helmet Test**". A traditional "New Yorker" style "*Black Helmet*" is presented to a member of the Fire Division who has completed their one-year probationary period, concluded his/her annual training requirements, satisfied all of the quarterly state regulated training and achieved interior structural firefighting status. The "Black Helmet" has been considered as a symbol of achievement and pride, not only in our department but within the fire service in general.

A Probationary Fire Fighter in the Cedar Knolls Fire Department is considered to be an Active Member who has completed his/her training as a Fire Fighter and has not reached the one-year anniversary of their fire Fighter Certification date. A Probationary Fire Fighter is expected to respond to all emergency incidents and is expected to operate as a Fire Fighter while being under the direct supervision of a Fire Officer or Crew Chief. At the conclusion of a firefighter's probationary period the firefighter skills are tested by performing an assessment.

I am proud to announce that three members of the fire division have been recommended after successfully passing their Probationary Firefighter Evaluation.

Two of these firefighters joined the department as junior firefighters at the age of 16 and attended junior firefighter training at the Morris County Safety Academy.

This year's Black Helmets are presented to FF Ryan Wilson, FF Michael Dugan, Jr. and FF Jerry Ilaria

Who Me Award:

The 'who me' award was started a number of years ago by the EMS Officers to recognize an individual who has put forth a great effort in the previous year. The Officers look not only at the persons response record but on the members overall commitment to the Department. This award is presented by the EMS Officers but all members are eligible for this award.

This year's award is presented to First Lieutenant John Miksch

James A. Crotty Jr. Memorial Award:

The James A. Crotty, Jr. memorial award honors a firefighter who, in the opinion of the Fire Division Officers, has best fulfilled the characteristics of former Chief of Department James A. Crotty, Jr., in exemplifying the ideals of the department through active participation in; department drills, call volume, leadership and community service in organizations outside the department.

The Fire Division officers are tasked to recommend a candidate that is a community leader; an individual who has given selfishly of him or herself to the Cedar Knolls Fire Department, the fire service and other outside organizations. The nominee also proves his or her DEDICATION, LOYALTY, PRODUCTIVITY, PROFESSIONALISM, and COMMITMENT

This year's award is presented to First Lieutenant John Sheridan

CPR Save:

These next awards are presented to the members and staff who have successfully administered Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation to a patient regaining pulses upon arrival to a hospital. The Assistant Chief of the EMS Division is tasked to review the patient care reports and determine if CPR was successfully administered. **This year's awards are presented to:**

January 22, 2019 - EMT Tim Fawcett
May 22, 2019 - FF/EMT TJ Ujfalussy
June 7, 2019 - FF/EMT Steve Gilson, Lt. Mike Belott
August 30, 2019 - EMT Ryan Houser
October 2, 2019 - EMT Dave Sulpy, EMT Ryan Houser

Fire Division - Responder of the Year:

AWARD GUIDELINES: This award honors the outstanding Fire Division volunteer member as the Responder of the Year. Each year, this award emphasizes the commitment of a fire division member who responded to highest number of fire responses. This award recognizes exemplary fire division personnel with this prestigious honor designed for those who best express what dedication to the fire service is all about.

With 196 total responses between December 1, 2018 and December 1, 2019. This year's award is presented to Assistant Chief Joseph Martin

EMS Division Responder of the Year:

AWARD GUIDELINES: This award honors the outstanding EMS Division volunteer member as the EMS Responder of the Year. Each year, this award emphasizes the commitment of an EMS division member who responded to highest number of EMS responses. This award recognizes exemplary EMS division personnel with this prestigious honor designed for those who best express what dedication is all about. **With 109 total responses between December 1, 2018 and December 1, 2019. This year's award is presented to EMT Stefan Schuele**

Unit Citation:

This next award was submitted by Assistant Chief Martin of the Fire Division:

On October 27, 2019 Fire & EMS Units were dispatched in the area of 235 Ridgedale Ave on a report of an MVA with injuries. County Communications updated responding units of one victim reported entrapped. Ambulance 39 under the direction of EMT/ Crew Chief Caitlin Williams confirmed one patient entrapped in the vehicle. The initial assignment was upgraded by AC Martin along with a request for additional ambulance and Morris Township Fire.

Command was established by AC Martin and confirmed one patient heavily entrapped in a vehicle. Whippany Fire Department, Morris Township Engine 2 and Cedar Knolls Firefighters worked seamlessly for approximately 16 minutes to remove the patient from the vehicle and turn over to EMS for transport to the hospital.

Due to the quick actions of the responding crews a UNIT CITATION is being awarded to the following members:

EMS Assistant Chief DeSimone
EMT/Crew Chief Caitlin Williams
EMT Timothy Fawcett
EMT Timothy Kelly
Jr. EMS Member Mrinaal Gogineni
FF Jerry Ilaria

Special Thanks also to the Whippany & Morris Township for their mutual aid assistance.

Exceptional Duty - Life Saving Award:

On the warm and sunny spring afternoon of Saturday May 19 a Cedar Knolls resident was performing spring cleanup and routine maintenance on at his personal residence. The resident was working by himself on a ladder approximately 16-footup.

A member of the Fire Division, new to the neighborhood, was working in his front yard and heard a loud crashing noise. He looked over to see if the ladder, which he observed earlier against the house, was being put back up or if his neighbor was just moving the ladder, but the ladder did not go back up. The member then walked to the house and heard the patient's wife yell out to her husband after she had come outside and found him on the ground. A large cry for help by the patient and his family members was let out. Identifying the serious trauma that had occurred and the large pool of blood underneath the patient's head the Fire Division member identified the need to hold cervical spine stabilization and direct pressure to the patient's head. EMS was notified via 9-1-1 by a family member. Upon arrival of the ambulance, the two-person crew found the patient was semi-responsive however he did not know what day it was, but knew it was May. The patient did not remember the fall or how it happened. The patient was reassured that he fell and that pressure was needed to control bleeding.

The EMT's identified the need to control the bleeding and quickly moved the patient to the ambulance for immediate transport. A rapid trauma assessment also revealed multiple abrasions on the patient. The patient was transported as a full trauma to Morristown Medical Center. Following an extensive hospital and rehabilitation the patient returned home to his family.

Due to the quick actions and recognition of the life threatening injuries this exceptional duty award is being presented to Firefighter Craig Vagell and EMT Ryan Houser:

Length of service awards (5/10/25/35/45/50):

AWARD GUIDELINES: The awards are presented to the members who have reached their milestones of active service in the department. **This year's award is presented to:**

FF/EMT Mohammad Abdeljabbar, 5-Years of service
FF Joseph N. Martin 10-years of service
Captain Vin Barisciano 15-Years of service
EMT Vince Donofrio 30-years of service
Captain Scott Thompson 35-years of service
Former Chief Thomas Harrington 50-years of service
Former EMS Captain Gary Keyser 50-years

George Hild Award:

AWARD GUIDELINES: Established to recognize dedicated members who have made significant contributions to the company over a long period of time. This award links them to the first Fire Chief of the Cedar Knolls Fire Department, George Hild. Chief Hild demonstrated initiative, courage, leadership and concern for his community starting in 1919. As Chief of the Department it is my honor and privilege to present this year's awards recipients:

**This year's awards are presented to:
Former Chief of Department Thomas Harrington & Former First Aid Captain and Firefighter Gary Keyser.**