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NEWS RELEASE

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Utah Heroes Honored During Emergency Medical Services Week

(Ogden, UT) – The swimming pool in West Kaysville was usually a place for fun and relaxation, but not on a Monday last June. The beauty of this day was interrupted when a nine-year-old girl was found floating in the water. She was pulled from the pool and given CPR. As emergency medical responders arrived, it was very difficult to maintain an airway because her jaw was clinched shut and she continued to vomit. She was still unconscious when someone realized that her five-year-old brother was also missing. A quick search found him lying on the bottom of the pool. He was removed from the pool and in full cardiac arrest when CPR was started. Medical helicopters transported the little girl and her brother to Primary Children's Medical Center. Both children made a full recovery.

The agencies and individuals who helped save these children will be among many local heroes attending the State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) awards ceremony at the Ogden Marriott Hotel, May 21 at 10 a.m. The awards ceremony will honor and commemorate Emergency Technicians (EMT) and medical professionals who deliver lifesaving emergency care and will kick off National Emergency Medical Services Week, May 20-26, 2001.

Awards will be given for:

- Emergency Medical Technician of the Year – Carol Davis, Spanish Fork Ambulance
- Paramedic of the Year – Sgt. Lane Gleave, Davis County Sheriff's Office
- Emergency Medical Technician Instructor of the Year – Ivan Christensen, Delta
- Emergency Medical Dispatcher of the Year – Kim Hicken, Orem City
- Emergency Physician of the Year – G. Kim Rowland, M.D., Iron County

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- Emergency Nurse of the Year – Sondra Heaston, R.N., Davis County
- Outstanding Performance in a Specific Incident by a Paramedic – Lon J. Myers, Orem Fire Department
- Outstanding Injury Prevention Efforts by an Agency – Cedar City Fire Department, Police Department, Utah Highway Patrol and Iron County Ambulance
- Awards will also be presented to a group of individuals for outstanding performance in a specific incident by dispatchers, EMTs, paramedics and for Emergency Team Incident.

“Being an Emergency Medical Services responder is different than any other job you can have,” says Jan Buttrey, EMS Bureau Director, Utah Department of Health. “You are under tremendous pressure, you have to react quickly, and you have to make flawless decisions,” she added.

This year’s national EMS week theme, “EMS: Answering the Call,” emphasizes the responsiveness of emergency medical services around the country, while underscoring the importance of the national 9-1-1 emergency number system. It also addresses the passion and commitment of the 750,000 EMS providers nationwide who serve their communities. EMS providers also save lives by educating the public about injury prevention, safety awareness, and medical emergencies. EMS Week honors the lifesaving care that EMS providers offer 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For more information about injury prevention, safety awareness, and emergency preparedness, or for a free EMS Week kit, please call 801-538-6283.

The Emergency Medical Services Awards are presented by the Utah Department of Health’s Bureau of Emergency Medical Services in cooperation with Ogden Regional Medical Center.

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