



Paulding County Fire & Rescue Contact:

Steve Mapes
Public Information Officer
678-383-3416
steve.mapes@paulding.gov

Paulding County Firefighters Receive Honors

State Recognizes PCFD Personnel for Contributions in Emergency Medical Services

Hiram, Georgia – March 17, 2016 – Today PCFD announced that two Department officers were honored by the State of Georgia Department of EMS - Region One.

Division Chief Kevin New was named “Person of the Year” which is the highest award given each year by the state’s EMS region. Chief New was cited for his work on a multi-agency plan known as the Disaster Assistance Response Taskforce (DART) program. DART is made up Fire and EMS agencies in 16 counties across Northwest Georgia. Under the DART program, participating agencies have committed to a unified group-response to large incidents or mass casualty situations which could overwhelm local resources.

Not only did Chief New design the communications plan, he was also tasked with training DART team participants across the region. Each agency and personnel now have specialized training in triage, disaster medical techniques, incident management, and communications. More information about the DART program can be found at: <http://www.nwgaems.org/DART%20Guidelines%202016.pdf>

Sergeant Mike Lewis was also honored by Georgia’s EMS Region One as a nominee for the Virginia D. Hamilton Special Achievement Award. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to the development and enhancement of pre-hospital emergency medical care. Sergeant Lewis, a Paramedic and 18-year PCFD veteran, was nominated for this award for his efforts educating hundreds of Fire and EMS personnel in basic life support, as well as advanced cardiac, pediatrics, and trauma disciplines.

Chief Joey Pelfrey commented, “I’m excited for Chief New and Sergeant Lewis for being recognized at the state level. Our department is proud to have such a great group of dedicated and highly skilled personnel.”

Pelfrey added, “In the case of the DART program, we were very happy to help the regional EMS leadership establish a disaster response plan. As we all know, large scale emergency incidents in today’s world are becoming more common. We recognize how important it is to support our neighbors and vice versa. Hopefully the kinds of incidents we see on the national news won’t ever affect us locally. But, thanks to initiatives such as DART, we are very well prepared if they do.”

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