

Informational Bulletin

Chamber Valor Awards

Date: April 19, 2019

Number: 19.016

Effective Date: April 19, 2019

Expiration Date: N/A

Approved By: Mark S. Ciarrocca, Acting Fire Rescue Chief



On April 19, 2019, the Fauquier Chamber of Commerce held the 8th annual Valor Awards Ceremony. Receiving a **Meritorious Service Award** was DFREM's Lieutenant Brendan Miller. Lt. Miller was recognized for his actions on the afternoon of March 10, 2018.

Lt. Miller was part of a crew on Medic 10 dispatched for a motor vehicle accident on Broad Run Church Road in New Baltimore. As more reports of the accident were flooding communications, the incident was upgraded. There were multiple vehicles and multiple patients and one caller stated one of the vehicles was on fire. Lt. Miller identified the proximity of the accident, and devised a plan to affect as much of the incident as he could. He requested next due fire company for fire suppression, and as Medic 10 arrived on the scene, confirmed the incident reports.

Two vehicles had collided, one person was still trapped in the car, and the other vehicle, a SUV, was fully involved. The driver of the SUV narrowly escaped the burning wreckage. Lieutenant Miller found the patient on the hot asphalt still trying to crawl away from the smoke and heat. He and his medic partner rapidly assessed the patient for life threatening injuries and decided to move to safer location. Once in the clear it was apparent that the patient was significantly injured and needed a trauma center for definitive care, a helicopter was requested. Meanwhile the patient in the second vehicle was still trapped and in need of attention; as the fire close by was growing in size and intensity.

At this time, Lieutenant Miller notified his partner of his plan of action, and began to run back on foot to the fire station about a half of a mile away to retrieve the closest fire engine. About a quarter mile into his journey, he flagged down a responding law enforcement unit who transported him the rest of the way back to the fire station. Once in the station, Lieutenant Miller met an additional firefighter and drove the engine to the scene to extinguish the fire and provide a safe working area while blocking traffic. After the fire was extinguished Lieutenant Miller was able to return to providing care for the injured patient, and packaged the patient for helicopter transport to a trauma center with significant injuries. The occupant that was trapped in the vehicle was later extricated from the car and also packaged for transport to a trauma center with significant injuries.

Because of Lieutenant Miller's adaptive split second decision making abilities, and his dedication to personal physical fitness, several emergency objectives were met in a proficient manner.

Lieutenant Miller was on hand to receive the award.

Questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Assistant Chief Ciarrocca.