

2009 NATIONAL HIGGINS & LANGLEY MEMORIAL AWARDS IN SWIFTWATER RESCUE ANNOUNCED

ASHEVILLE, NC. MAY 18, 2009—The Higgins & Langley Memorial and Education Awards Committee is proud to announce the 2009 Higgins & Langley Memorial Awards in Swiftwater Rescue, which recognize excellence in the dangerous technical rescue discipline of swiftwater and flood rescue.

The Higgins & Langley Swiftwater Rescue Incident Award is being presented to the Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service, in recognition of the December 23, 2008 rescue of ten motorists stranded by the sudden rupture of a 66-inch water main on River Road during Washington, DC, morning rush hour traffic under record cold and Class II & III swiftwater conditions. Helicopter pilots from the Maryland State Police Aviation Command, and the United States Park Police, Aviation Unit, will share in this commendation.

Personnel being honored:

Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service
Battalion Chief James Resnick
MC Engine 710 Lt. William Phelps
MC Engine 710 Firefighter III Anthony Bell
MC Engine 710 Firefighter I Ryan Bailey
MC Strike Team 710 Lt Patrick Mitchell
MC Strike Team 710 Master Firefighter Henry Kumm
MC Strike Team 730 Capt. Frank Doyle
MC Strike Team 730 Firefighter III John Dunlavey

Maryland State Police Aviation Command
Maryland State Trooper 2 Helo Jim MacKay
Maryland State Trooper 2 Helo Sergeant Nathan Wheelock

United States Park Police, Aviation Unit
US Park Police Helo Eagle 1st Sergeant Kevin Chittack
US Park Police Helo Eagle 1st Sergeant Jeff Herte

The awards will be presented on Friday, May 29, 2009, at 7:30 p.m., at the annual National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR) conference at the DoubleTree Little Rock (424 West Markham St., Little Rock, AR 72201, 501-372-4371, www.nasar.org)

The Awards have increased awareness about the need for specialized swiftwater and flood rescue training and preparedness. Today, worldwide training certifications have increased and agencies have been inspired to develop viable water rescue programs to protect the public and rescuers alike.

The Higgins & Langley Memorial Awards were established in 1993 by the National Association for Search and Rescue in honor of Earl Higgins, a writer and filmmaker, who lost his life in 1980 while rescuing a child who was swept down the Los Angeles River, and Los Angeles County Firefighter Paramedic Jeffrey Langley, a pioneer in swiftwater rescue who lost his life in helicopter incident in 1993.

The Higgins & Langley Memorial Awards are sponsored by CFS Press, CMC Rescue, Inc., K38 Water Safety, Rescue 3 International, Rescue Source, Rescue ONE Connector Boats, Rig Systems, San Marcos, Texas Fire Rescue, SkyHook Rescue Systems, Inc., and Zodiac Maritime Training Academy. Additional support for the Awards is provided by the family of Adam Bischoff, the Rudi Schulte Family Foundation, Jon Stephen and Karen Langley Stephen, and Shirley A. Rigg, as well as contributions from other generous individuals.

For more information: www.higginsandlangley.org
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