

**FANWOOD RESCUE SQUAD
NOMINEE FOR CALL OF THE YEAR
MAN ON THE TRACKS**

On the evening of January 1st, 2014, Fanwood Police were alerted that a passenger on a NJ Transit train traveling through Fanwood had spotted what appeared to be a body on the side of the tracks. Fanwood police and NJ Transit police responded by stopping all train traffic and launching a search on foot of the track bed starting at the Fanwood train station and traveling east. After walking about a quarter of a mile, Fanwood Sgt. Marc Gottlick announced over the radio, "It's founded. Dispatch the squad and medics to stand by at the train station."

The Rescue Squad responded with Capt. Patty Buckridee, First Lt. Nancy Mustachio, Sgt. Rob Villegas, EMTs Karolyn Buckridee, Elizabeth Buckridee and Tom Kranz. The paramedics of Mercy 7 also responded. Per the police's instructions, we waited at the train station with our equipment ready to stabilize the patient.

Police carried the victim, who was still breathing but whose arm had been severed, the quarter mile along the train tracks to the EMS team which quickly immobilized him with a spinal board and cervical collar. After a check of his airway, he was quickly transferred into the ambulance for transport to the helicopter landing zone at Forest Road Park. The patient was semi-conscious and, in addition to a severed arm, had multiple injuries, possibly caused by a fall or by the impact of a train.

The squad and medics worked quickly in the ambulance to stabilize the seriously injured man by supporting his airway and breathing and controlling major bleeding. In his state of semi-responsiveness, he was unable to identify himself, say that happened or how long he had been lying next to the tracks.

The squad quickly transported the patient the short distance to Forest Road Park where Northstar landed a short time later. Members of the Squad provided more airway and breathing support while the patient was being wheeled across the grass field to the helicopter, where he was transferred into the patient compartment for the flight nurse to take over patient care.

It later turned out the patient was a local man who was known to a number of squad members. Yet, they maintained his privacy and confidentiality during his hospitalization.

The Rescue Squad responded quickly and professionally to a multi-system trauma case and was instrumental in providing life-prolonging care. The squad was sad to learn the patient died at the hospital several days later.

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