



NEWS RELEASE

LINCOLN FIRE & RESCUE

1801 "Q" STREET, 402-441-8350, Fax-441-7098

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FOR MORE INFORMATION: Chief Spadt, 441-8350

National EMS Week & Phoenix Award Recognition Ceremony

The week of May 19 -25 is National EMS week to honor those Emergency Medical Services workers who daily devote their efforts to provide emergency responses to those with medical emergencies. This year's theme is *EMS: Help is a Heartbeat Away*. While nationwide communities are honoring the 750,000 EMS providers with various activities, Lincoln Fire & Rescue and the 911 center will recognize those responsible for saving the lives of 20 local citizens in 2001 with the awarding of "Phoenix Award" certificates.

The awards ceremony will be held at fire station one at 1801 "Q" Street on Thursday, May 23 at 8:00 a.m. Over 100 certificates will be awarded to the 911 dispatchers who took the calls and the firefighters and paramedics who responded to those EMS calls that resulted in a cardiac arrest "save". A "save" in Lincoln is defined as reviving a patient who is found by EMS without a pulse and not breathing "clinically dead", who is subsequently resuscitated AND who later is released from the hospital. Several of these survivors have been invited to the event to publically thank those who cared for them. The Lincoln EMS system boasted 20 "saves" in 2001. There were 13 "saves" in 2000, and 17 in 1999.

The mayor, Council members and the City's Medical Director have been invited to participate in the event. Coffee and doughnuts will be available for those attending.

Contact: Deputy Chief Bill Madison, 441-8371 for more information.