

OFFICER DUSTIN HOWE



The Lifesaving Award is given to department personnel who, by their immediate actions, have saved a human life under unusual and/or extraordinary circumstances.

On 030607, Officer Tramell Taylor, Officer Barry O'Connell, Officer Dustin Howe, Officer Stephanie Kennedy, and Officer Tracie Meidl, responded to a shooting at 2811 E. 30th. Officer Taylor was the first on scene to assess the situation. Reportedly, the armed suspect was still on scene and his whereabouts on scene were unknown.

Officer Taylor, utilizing his tactical/SWAT background and experience, quickly evaluated the layout, and determined the objectives in the situation. There was an expired gun shot victim as well as a victim with what appeared to be a fatal gun shot wound to the chest. The armed shooting suspect was still on scene and still presented life threatening situation for responding officers as well as officers on scene.

Officer Taylor determined that the first objective was to rescue a gunshot victim lying on a driveway a few feet from the front door of the location where the shooting suspect was still present. He could see that the shooting victim was shot in the chest and appeared to be bleeding out. According to Officer Taylor, the shooting victim was unable to remove himself from the driveway or away from the door where the shooting suspect was still located. Officer Taylor, with the belief that the shooting victim was going to bleed out and die, organized a downed victim rescue maneuver. SWAT and TAC Team members practice this maneuver and patrol was recently introduced to something similar at a recent in-service.

The officers determined areas of responsibility. They then moved as a unit to carry out the rescue. Officer Howe, Officer Taylor and Officer S. Kennedy provided cover as Officer O'Connell and Officer T. Meidl recovered the victim. The team completed the maneuver and tactically moved to a safe zone where medics were able to begin life saving measures and preparation for transport to the hospital.

Dr. Michael Jemmet stated that 30 seconds after arriving in the emergency room the shooting victim had no blood pressure and was "on his way out." Dr. Jemmet advised that 10 minutes either way could have made the difference between the shooting victim being brain dead or dead.

It is clear that the actions of Officer Howe, along with his team members, saved the life of the victim. Along with this document, Officer Howe was issued the Lifesaving Bar, to be worn on his uniform. He was also awarded the Lifesaving Medal at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony, in February 2008.



Ofc. Stephanie Kennedy, Ofc. Dustin Howe,
Cpl. Tracie Meidl, Ofc. Mel Taylor and Ofc.
Barry O'Connell