



OFFICER TIM MOSES



OFFICER BARRY O'CONNELL

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 March 27, 2010 at 10:15, Michael Mears called 911 to report that a woman was threatening to jump into the Spokane River from the Post Street Bridge. Mr. Mears and his eight year old daughter, Hannah, were walking to Riverpark Square when they encountered the deeply distraught woman.

Mr. Mears was deeply concerned for the woman's welfare but equally worried about leaving his daughter alone in order to try and stop the woman from jumping. He made several attempts to engage the woman in conversation. However, the woman didn't respond and within a couple of minutes had straddled the bridge railing and put one leg over the side. Mr. Mears called 911 again to update the situation.

Officers Tim Moses and Barry O'Connell arrived very shortly after the second call and saw the woman on the railing, preparing to jump. Officer Moses described her as being clearly distraught and delusional. Officer Moses engaged the woman in conversation from one side, while Officer O'Connell approached from the opposite side. When the woman would look toward Officer O'Connell, he would act like he was directing traffic. This action made the woman lose concern for his presence and Officer O'Connell was able to continually move closer, finally sprinting the last few yards and pulling the woman to safety.

Mr. Mears told Sgt. Lee that "They couldn't get more text book than that, they were awesome". Mr. Mears advised that Officer O'Connell was firm in getting the woman off the railing, yet he was gentle as he guided her to the sidewalk. Mr. Mears personally thanked each officer before leaving the scene and advised that the woman certainly would not have survived such a fall. Later, the woman advised an officer that she did not remember being on the bridge, but was thankful that she was alive.

It is clear that because of the efforts of Officer Moses and Officer O'Connell, this citizen's life was saved. Officer Moses and Officer O'Connell were issued the Lifesaving bar, to be worn on their uniforms, and were presented with the Lifesaving Medal at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony on February 16th, 2011.