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Sunstar Employees Win 2013 Florida Dispatcher and EMT of the Year!



Congratulations to Robert Lanoue, SSC, and Roy Coosey, EMT, for winning State Dispatcher and State EMT of the Year, respectively. Bob and Roy were nominated by their supervisors for their professionalism, dedication to quality care and community involvement.

Bob joined the Sunstar Communications team in 1994 to 2000. From 2000 to 2006, Bob went back in operations as a field Paramedic, and then returned to the Communication Center in 2006, where he now holds the position of a Communications Training Officer. Roy Coosey joined the Sunstar Paramedics team as an EMT in 2011, becoming a preceptor and member of the Honor Guard. Both gentlemen received their awards at the 2013 Clin-Con Conference in Orlando on July 18th.

Bob joined the Sunstar

Paramedics Plus Earns Accreditations For All Five Locations

National ambulance/EMS service provider Paramedics Plus announces that the Commission of Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) has individually accredited all five of the company's divisions.

CAAS is an independent commission that established a comprehensive series of standards for the ambulance service industry. CAAS accreditation signifies that an EMS service has met the "gold standard" determined by the ambulance industry. These standards often exceed those established by state or local regulation. The CAAS standards are designed to increase operational efficiency and clinical quality, while decreasing risk and liability to the organization.

In addition to the CAAS accreditation, Sunstar's operations dispatch center is ACE accredited by the National Academies of Emergency Dispatch, and the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport System (CAMTS) accredits Sunstar for its critical care transport services. Sunstar is one of only two operations in the country and one of only three in the world to hold all three of these accreditations.



Emotional Tributes For Two Sunstar Employees

July, 2013, will likely be remembered as one of the saddest months in Sunstar history. Newly certified Paramedic Thomas Oliver passed away unexpectedly from a brain aneurysm on June 29th. Ten days later, Christopher "CJ" Jennings was involved in a deadly motorcycle accident shortly after leaving Headquarters on July 8th. The grief of losing a Sunstar co-worker is never easy to handle. However, losing two brothers in 10 days creates a sadness few can comprehend. Both gentlemen were valuable assets to Sunstar and left individual legacies thanks to their love for EMS and passion for making people happy.

On July 14th, co-workers, friends and family gathered at sunset on Indian Rocks Beach to release lanterns and share memories of Tom. The following Sunday, Sunstar colleagues, Pinellas County first responders and out of town family came together to celebrate Chris Jennings and the happiness he brought to everyone he met. Both services paid an emotional tribute to two men who enjoyed their EMS careers and lived life to the fullest.



SUNSTAR BABY FOOD DRIVE

Sunstar is partnering with RCS to collect needed items for the food bank and family homeless shelters. Our Largo location (12490 Ulmerton Rd. Largo 33774) is an official public receiving center through the month of August.

For more information, please call Charlene Cobb @ 224-1067

Needed Items:

- * *Baby food Stages 1,2 and 3*
- * *Baby Formula*
- * *Diapers*
- * *Baby Wipes*
- * *Unused hotel toiletries*
- * *Travel size soap and shampoos*

During the
summer
donations drop.

Help stock the shelves
for struggling families.

[Help Now](#)



About RCS: Our mission is to feed the hungry, help homeless families return to self-sufficiency, and empower victims of domestic violence. We are a nonprofit agency serving the people of Pinellas County with basic needs through four distinct, yet interwoven programs since 1967. We believe working together to help families and individuals meet their basic needs, along with providing appropriate guidance and education, makes our community a better place for everyone.

SHAWN TATHAM WINS PINELLAS COUNTY'S PARAMEDIC OF THE YEAR AWARD

Shawn Tatham began his career in Hillsborough County as an EMT in 1990. A year later, he moved to Pinellas County and became a nationally registered paramedic in 1996. Shawn has been a member of the Sunstar CCT team since 1992 and, in 1997, he joined Sunstar's Tactical EMS Team. Shawn became an EMS adjunct instructor and lab coordinator for St. Petersburg College in 2002 and, in 2010, he moved into a supervision role with Sunstar Paramedics. Most recently, Shawn returned to the field full-time in order to complete graduate school.



Earlier this year, Shawn was called out for an infant who was having continuous coughing, almost like gagging. The parents denied any recent illness or concerns and agreed to have the child transported for evaluation. During transport, the baby continued to cough and Shawn noticed something in the back of the baby's throat. Using caution to look inside, he found a small, piece of plastic lodged in the very

back of the child's throat. He carefully retrieved the object and found it to be a clothing size-identification sticker. As soon as it was removed, the baby stopped coughing. Shawn felt public awareness should be spread regarding this type of hazard and is currently in the process of sharing his story with Consumer Product Safety groups.

INTUBATION RODEO WINNERS!

Congratulations to our SWAT team members: Josh Schuster, Chris Jennings & Joe Herzhauser. They placed 2nd, 3rd and 4th place at the First Annual Intubation Rodeo held at Nature Coast EMS in Inverness, FL.

Of the more than 30 emergency responders who participated in the inaugural Intubation Rodeo at Whispering Pines Park in Inverness on Monday, each person was met with 25 harrowing emergency scenarios — a helicopter crash, SWAT officer shot, someone trapped upside down in a tight space, a baby stuck in a well, and an icy water rescue.



Each person had three minutes or less to assess the situation and then intubate the accident victim — establish an airway — at each challenge site. The event was sponsored by Nature Coast EMS and drew participants from as far away as Miami and the Florida Panhandle.

Sunstar PARAMEDICS

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On the web at www.sunstarems.com

Our Mission is "to provide compassionate quality care and service to our community."

Community Newsletter



TO:

Know someone who would enjoy this quarterly newsletter? E-mail Ksterling@sunstarems.com

WANT TO VISIT SUNSTAR?
Stop by for a tour!
Mon.- Fri. 0800am - 4:00pm

From the C.O.O.



Mark Postma,
Chief Operating Officer

Unfortunately, this summer our organization experienced two employee deaths within a one week period. The deaths of Paramedics Tom Oliver and Chris Jennings have shaken our Sunstar family. Usually we are the caregivers helping people in very difficult times, unfortunately the tables turned when our own became the victims. Our own employees had to treat both of their co-workers in their times of ultimate needs. Our hearts and prayers continue to go out to the families and to our employees over these tragic losses. We would also like to express our appreciation for all the support we received from hospital, fire department, and law enforcement personnel.

On a different note-the final FITCH report on EMS was presented to the Pinellas County Board of County

Commission this past month on ways to improve the EMS system without degrading the high quality provided today. The report identified possible cost savings in first response services which the County Commission agreed upon. In the report, Sunstar Paramedics was given high marks for quality and efficiencies. We look forward to looking into ways to improve and make our system one of the best.

Also to note, a new protocol regarding patient wait time/ bed delay procedures went into effect on August 7th. The intent of this protocol is to ensure patients are transferred to hospital personnel in a timely manner and assist in maintaining the availability of ambulance resources to respond to the next patient. We are committed to working with hospital personnel to assure we are all successful.