



For Immediate Release:

Contact:

McHENRY BASE

4201 Medical Center Drive
McHenry, IL 60050
Administration: (815) 759-1620
Fax: (815) 759-1624

WAUKESHA/MILWAUKEE BASE

2661 Aviation Road
Waukesha, WI 53188
Administration: (414) 778-5427
Fax: (414) 778-5431

FOND DU LAC BASE

176 S Rolling Meadows Drive
Fond du Lac, WI 54937
Administration: (920) 924-0062
Fax: (920) 924-0089

EMERGENCY: 800-344-1000

Tammy Chatman
Flight For Life-McHenry Base
Cell: 414-791-6655
www.flightforlife.org
www.facebook.com/flightforlifetransportsystem

Chief Pete Parker
Bristol Fire Department
Station: 262-857-2711

Flight For Life-McHenry Base to Honor Bristol Fire Department With 17th Annual Scene Call of the Year Award

Bristol, WI—May 9, 2011 – On Monday, May 16th, Flight For Life-McHenry Base will present the Bristol Fire Department with its 16th Annual Scene Call of the Year Award for 2010. The event will be held at the Village of Bristol Municipal Center located at 19801 83rd Street in Bristol, at 7:00 p.m. The patient, Kelly Hinze and her family, along with the fire department, Kenosha County Sheriff's Deputies, the dispatchers from Kenosha County Joint Services, and Flight For Life personnel who participated in her care will be in attendance.

Just before 2:00 p.m. on August 26, 2010, Kelly Hinze was involved in a car vs. dump truck crash in the town of Bristol. Kenosha County Sheriff and Bristol Fire Department were immediately dispatched to the scene. The Kenosha Sheriff's deputies reported to dispatch that the patient was unconscious but breathing and would require extrication from the vehicle. Battalion Chief Niederer, based upon this report, requested that Kenosha County Joint Services put Flight For Life-McHenry on stand-by.

Extrication took over 20 minutes and Kelly was then transported to the pre-determined landing zone at Hwys. 45 and 50 at the Kenosha County Center. The Flight For Life team was already at the landing zone, awaiting her arrival. Flight Nurse Patty Mitchell and Flight Paramedic Tom Bradtke got into the Bristol Fire ambulance, working as a team to assess Kelly's condition and prepare her for the flight to Froedtert Hospital. The flight crew inserted a tube to help her breathe and then she was loaded into the aircraft for the 15 minutes flight to Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee, a Level 1 Trauma Center. These life-saving measures were accomplished within less than an hour from the

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The **FLIGHT FOR LIFE** Transport System is provided by the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center and headquartered in Waukesha, Wisconsin, with bases in Waukesha/Milwaukee and Fond du Lac - Wisconsin, and McHenry - Illinois

PROGRAM SPONSORS: Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital, Centegra Hospital - McHenry

Air transportation provided by Air Methods

time Kelly was extricated by the Bristol Fire Department until her arrival at Froedtert. Though Kelly's condition was extremely critical that day; the fact that Bristol Fire was able to initiate her transport direct to a Level 1 Trauma Center via Flight For Life increased her chances for survival and recovery.

The award applications were evaluated by a panel of judges based on the guidelines developed by the American College of Surgeons for using air medical transport. The submissions were also examined for the following: scene safety, triage decisions, complex planning and accident scene management, integration of the helicopter into the call, and use of skills that went beyond the "call of duty" to treat the patient.

The Bristol call highlights the teamwork that exists among EMS, fire departments, law enforcement agencies, dispatchers, and air medical services as they work together to provide the best possible patient outcome. The personnel from the Bristol Fire Department displayed the teamwork, professionalism and decision-making skills that were necessary to make a difference in this patient's outcome. All of the ingredients required to complete the "chain of survival" for Kelly were present that day.

Kelly suffered a fractured pelvis, punctured lung, multiple fractures to her face and ribs as well as a tear to her aorta. The amazing thing was that she survived and was discharged home on September 24th! She has made a miraculous recovery and is back at work as well. It is the training and expertise of the Bristol Fire Department that enabled them to recognize that Kelly's injuries required the skills of a Level 1 Trauma Center and to immediately request air medical transport. The role of EMS, air medicine, and Level 1 Trauma Center personnel is to provide the opportunity for survival; the rest is up to the patient and their support system. The Bristol Fire Department did their part in making Kelly's survival a reality.

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