

2010
NORTH DAKOTA SAFETY COUNCIL
Occupational Safety & Health Awards

LIFESAVER AWARD

This award is given to individuals who have acted above and beyond the call of duty to assist and/or rescue another individual. The act may have occurred in the workplace or elsewhere.

RECIPIENT JEFF HAWN

Jeff was nominated by Casper Beck.

This is what Casper had to say:

On May 22, 2009, Mr. Hawn came across a vehicle upside down in water just west of Devils Lake, ND, along Highway 19. There were people already at the scene. Mr. Hawn stopped at the scene and inquired if there was anyone in the vehicle. He was told that they were not sure as several others had checked, but could not find anyone in the murky water. They stated that no one was seen exiting the vehicle. The bystanders said they had called 911. Mr. Hawn immediately dived into the water and entered the vehicle through the rear window, which was broken out. Not being able to see, he reached around and found the girl's arm and pulled the driver out and headed back to shore with her. Another bystander then jumped into the water and helped bring her to shore.

Mr. Hawn was not on duty at the time with the ND National Guard or the Lake Region Search and Rescue Team. His quick reaction to the situation, rather than waiting for authorities to arrive after others made the 911 call, may well have save this girl's life.

RECIPIENT SHERIFF GARY SANDERS

Gary was nominated by Terry Wagner.

This is what Terry had to say:

On January 5, 2010, I called the Emmons County Sheriff's office at 11 pm to alert them that my husband, Dr. Ronald Wagner, had left Bismarck and was over due to be in Linton. I was very concerned because the weather and road conditions were quite dangerous.

Sheriff Sanders took my information and left Linton to drive Highway 1804 to search for him. After driving in very dangerous conditions and arriving at the Burleigh County line about 1 am, he didn't give up, but turned around and stopped at each ravine, got out, and shined his light down into the ditch. About 1:30 am, Sheriff Sanders found Dr. Wagner at the bottom of a very steep ditch about 200 feet off the highway.

I believe, had my husband been knocked out and/or thrown from the car, he could have been seriously injured and easily incurred frost bite or death, if Sheriff Sanders had not been so persistant in searching for him...