



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE News Release

CONTACT: Alicia Whitehead, HFD 713-495-7906

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: January 13, 2010

Firefighter honored by IAH during annual luncheon

Today, The Independent Insurance Agents of Houston (IAH) announced their Captain Jeremy Martinson as the 2009 Firefighter of the Year from 4 (four) Houston firefighter finalists during a luncheon at the Crowne Plaza Brookhollow.

This is the 32nd year IAH has worked in conjunction with HFD to recognize the commitment of firefighters and paramedics who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in emergency situations. Captain Martinson was honored with a plaque and a \$500.00 cash award. Assistant Chief Adrian Trevino and other department dignitaries were on hand to assist with the presentation.

Captain Martinson was honored for his actions on February 11, 2009, when firefighters were dispatched to a house fire in the 2200 block of Dan Street. Crews arrived on scene to find heavy smoke coming from a one-story wood frame house and to make matters worse, they were told citizens, possibly children, were trapped inside the home.

Engine 19's Captain Jeremy Martinson found an adult victim. As he started to pull her out, the smoke lifted and he saw two small feet... a child. He told his crew to remove the adult while he carried the young girl out of the home to waiting EMS crews. The woman's size hindered the rescue, so the firefighters placed her on a roof ladder and carried her out to the command post where triage and treatment were in progress on the child Captain Martinson had rescued. Shortly after this save; Engine 27's crew located a second child and removed them to safety as well. All three victims were viable and transported to Hermann and Texas Children's Hospital. Due to the training and leadership of these firefighters, three citizens are alive today and were able to meet the firefighters who rescued them several months following this incident.

The other finalist included:

Captain Manuel Chavez, Ambulance Supervisor – For his on-scene decisions to administer the cyanide kit to both civilians and our brother firefighters. Captain Chavez has stated that these saves were a direct result of HFD teamwork but there is no doubt that some of these victims, including our own brothers, would not be here today without his decision to administer this drug.

Firefighter Jermain Wiggins – For his actions during a house fire in which he found and rescued an unconscious female victim. Unfortunately, the woman succumbed to her injuries at the hospital and passed away, however if not for the efforts of Firefighter Wiggins and the crew with him, she would not have had even a chance for survival.

Retired Senior Captain Delbert Burleson – For his actions during a house fire in which the entire room flashed over and became fully involved. Captain Burleson searched for the door, while all of the firefighters were now on fire themselves. He finally found the door and helped all exit the structure. He and his crew suffered minor burns and their gear was totally destroyed. Because of his actions he was able to save three lives, his two firefighters and himself.

