



FIRE DEPARTMENT

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*At the Heart of Community*

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## **Lake Zurich Fire Rescue Department Receives Excellence in Pediatric Care Award**

The Lake Zurich Fire Rescue Department was selected as the recipient of a special pediatric care Community Service Award for its contributions to childhood care. The Ron W. Lee, M.D. – Excellence in Pediatric Care Award was granted due to the above and beyond duties and critical decision making of the Department during a call involving an accident between a personal vehicle and a critical pediatric transport ambulance.

“I am proud of the personnel and how they handled this call,” said Lake Zurich Fire Chief John Malcolm. “We always strive to put patient care first and this was a prime example of how our personnel go above and beyond each and every day,” Malcolm said.

Captain David Pilgard, Lieutenant Daren Garcia and Firefighter/Paramedics Eric Ryan and Steve Norman were dispatched to the accident on February 4, 2016. Inside the pediatric ambulance was a ventilator-dependent 6 year-old child on her way to an appointment at a hospital in Chicago. Due to the accident, the ambulance could not finish its transport.

According to Elizabeth Keane, EMS Coordinator for Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital, “the crew had two options, to call for a replacement ambulance or transport the child to the nearest hospital.” However, they did not feel either one was the right choice since she would miss her necessary appointment either way. With the backing of Department’s leadership, the crew “felt it was in the best interest of the patient to continue the transport to Chicago themselves,” Keane said. “This is a highly unusual situation that the Lake Zurich ambulance would be making a trip to the city of Chicago, which is eighty miles round trip.”

Paramedics in the Northwest Community Emergency Medical Service System are trained in a variety of areas, including pediatrics. Keane attributes the crew’s actions to critical thinking skills in which they practice and train on every day. “This Lake Zurich crew, as well as the whole Department, is committed to the right decision for every patient,” she said.

The Lake Zurich Fire Rescue Department is comprised of 51 cross-trained firefighter/paramedics and serves citizens of Lake Zurich, Deer Park, Hawthorn Woods, Kildeer and North Barrington.