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Contact: Jessica Peterson  
Public Relations Director  
(970) 244-1640

[Jessica.peterson@mesacounty.us](mailto:Jessica.peterson@mesacounty.us)

## **Bringing Patients Back to Life**

**Local emergency workers to receive “shocking” awards for their heroic actions.**

Last year, six patients whose hearts stopped beating in Mesa County were rescued by the quick actions of local Emergency Medical Technicians, paramedics and dispatchers. Now those patients get a chance to say “thank you.”

As part of national Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week, Mesa County is hosting an awards ceremony to give out “Phoenix Awards.” The awards go to emergency medical workers who have been involved in calls wherein the patient suffered cardiac arrest, was resuscitated, and not only survived, but was able to return home from the hospital without significant brain damage. At least four of the patients will be there to help recognize the people who saved their lives.

### **MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA ARE INVITED TO JOIN US:**

**What:** Emergency Medical Services Award Ceremony and Barbecue

**When:** Wednesday, May 20th  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**\*\*\*Awards will be given out at 12:30 p.m.\*\*\***

**Where:** Community Hospital Lawn (On the south side of the hospital)

“Most people who suffer cardiac arrest like this don’t make it,” according to Mike Hill, Mesa County’s Emergency Medical Services Coordinator. “Of those who do survive, few make it out of the hospital without severe neurological damage. However, thanks to the quick reactions of local emergency workers, these six patients beat the odds and have recovered.”

Phoenix Awards are named after the mythological bird that consumed itself in fire and rose renewed from the ashes. This symbol has been adopted by Mesa County EMS to recognize those individuals who, through their skills and knowledge, have successfully revived an individual known to have been in cardiac arrest. Because of the vital public service that EMS workers provide, the Mesa County Commissioners have proclaimed May 17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> as EMS Week in Mesa County.

During Wednesday’s ceremony, Dr. William Hall, who has been Mesa County’s **EMS Medical Director** for the last six years, will also be honored for his service. The county Medical Director writes the protocols for the paramedics to use when treating patients, and is responsible for quality assurance and oversight. The Medical Director extends his or her medical license to the paramedics so that they may practice medicine. Every EMT and Paramedic must have a Medical Director to be able to work in Colorado.

***“Mesa County—Creating a community of opportunities for all residents with a focus on the future.”***