

2007

Chief R. Mike Warner
Captain John Kloski
Lieutenant Michael Fearing
Firefighter/Paramedic Troy Yoder

Concord Township Fire Department

On May 17, 2007, four members of the Concord Township Fire Department, including Chief Warner, were enroute to a fire service trade show in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. You would think that responding to emergencies would be the furthest thing from their minds. However, in a second, things change. Suddenly while traveling east on Interstate 76, the Pennsylvania Turnpike, they witnessed a serious motor vehicle collision. Involved were several cars and a tractor trailer. The truck struck and then continued overtop one of the vehicles. It then flipped onto its side on an embankment. Traffic came to an immediate halt, and these off-duty firefighter/paramedics found themselves to be the first, and only, emergency personnel on scene.

Out of their element, and without the benefit of their normal equipment, these men sprang into action. Chief Warner went to the truck and attended to the injured driver. He also assessed the cargo, an unknown powder which had spilled from the damaged trailer.

Captain Kloski, Lieutenant Fearing, and Firefighter Yoder went to one of the heavily damaged vehicles. The injured person was not breathing. Improvising, they used a hammer, wire cutters, and a small pry bar to gain access to the vehicle. They were quickly able to open the patient's airway, allowing breathing to resume. They then used the same tools to safely extricate the patient through the only accessible door, prior to the arrival of the responding local fire department.

In Chief Warner's letter nominating his firefighters for the Jorge Medina award, he noted that this incident was a textbook response for a fire department. However being off - duty these men "never once hesitated; never thought twice about stepping in to help with professional expertise and with resourceful solutions to a life threatening situation."

In an interesting twist, the awards committee accepted Chief Warner's nominations, but then also honored him with the award also, in that he had played an integral part in the rescue operation.

The awards were presented at the annual banquet at La Malfa Party Center.