

2016

Patrolman Jesse Cudnik
Community Service Officer Elvert Jordan

Painesville Police Department

If only our first responders could know what they are getting into when dispatched on a call, they might be better prepared to handle the situation. However, maybe its better to not have any preconceived notions as you are responding. You need to be ready for anything.

On November 9, 2016, at 5:19 pm, Patrolman Cudnik and CSO Jordan were dispatched to Riverside Cemetery in Painesville, where a car had reportedly been driven into a wooded area. Given the time of day, and location, an assumption could have been made that a couple of amorous teenagers were looking for some privacy. However, when Cudnik arrived, any of those ideas went out the window, and a new course of action was required.

Cudnik located the vehicle and heavy smoke was coming from the engine compartment. Approaching the vehicle, which was occupied by one male, Cudnik found the door locked, and the windows up. The male was unconscious, and appeared to be bleeding from the right shoulder. At this point, the car burst into flames under the hood. Cudnik used his expandable baton to break out the door window, unlock the door, and begin trying to extricate the victim..

Officer Jordan arrived on scene and immediately began assisting in the removal of the victim which was accomplished just as the vehicle became fully engulfed. They were able to drag the victim to a safe location as the vehicle burned.

Neither officer was badly injured although Cudnik was taken to Tri-Point Emergency for treatment of smoke inhalation.

Chief Anthony Powalie cited the fact that without the officers quick and selfless actions the operator may have been seriously injured or burned, and possibly lost his life. Based on Powalie's nomination, these officers were awarded the Jorge Medina Award for 2016.