

Code 99: Practice at saving lives

by Pat Leno-Baker

When "standby for a tone-out" is heard, many people in the Warm Springs area who own police scanners perk up and listen to the transmission that will follow on their scanners. A tone-out is a signal that is used by emergency personnel over the police and emergency radio channels. It is a special signal alerting personnel of an important message or call that will follow.

On Thursday, July 30, at 10 a.m. the tone-out on the Warm Springs emergency channel was a call for police and Fire and Safety personnel to respond to a vehicle accident in the area of the new rodeo grounds with reported injuries.

A police car responded to the area with lights and sirens. Arriving at the scene, officer Bill Howland found a Chevrolet Blazer that had run into a tree, the driver had staggered out and fallen to the ground. The driver related to Howland that his wife was in the car.

Just seconds behind the police came the Warm Springs Fire and Safety ambulances and rescue units. In seconds, police and fire and safety personnel were working to take care of the driver. They moved quickly to remove the woman from the car but only after evaluating her condition. Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Tom Wright, a volunteer of Fire and Safety, checked the woman for possible injuries. It was apparent that she was unconscious with possible head injuries. Wright and EMT Keith Baker quickly prepared to immobilize her on a long spine board, a board that helps prevent any further injuries to a patient. After getting her pulled on to the board they are able to move her safely. With the help of police officers she was loaded into the ambulances to be transported to the IHS clinic in Warm Springs.

The driver had been immobilized and also loaded into the ambulance by EMTs Sara Scott and Danny Martinez. Both patients were then transported to the clinic.

With the assistance of police in blocking the intersection of highway 26 and highway 3, the ambulance was able to make a quick and safe transport to the clinic.

At the clinic the patients were unloaded and taken into emergency rooms for evaluation of injuries and further medical aid. The medical staff at the clinic worked with the police and EMTs in a fast and efficient manner. Patients were further stabilized and prepared for transport to Mt. View Hospital in Madras.

Just who were the man and his wife? They were EMT 2Ds Harvey Yordy and Reneva Hammond, also Fire and Safety personnel. The accident was actually staged and was a practical Code 99 trauma call for the emergency personnel of Warm Springs.

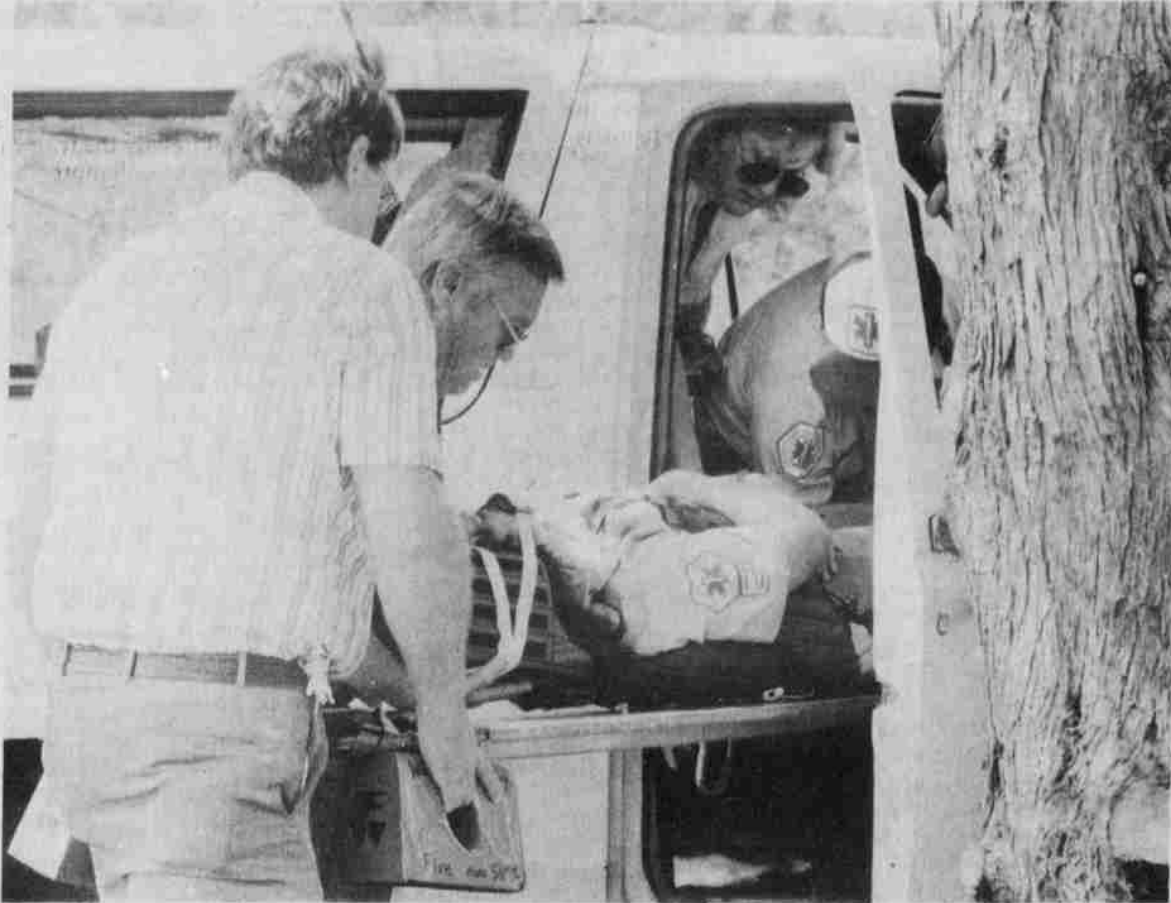
It was a scenario that had been planned by Yordy and Hammond to give emergency personnel a time to practice. During the entire call, Dean Seyler, assistant Fire Chief, was video taping. The video tape will show personnel how they worked during the accident. Each month, the training officer plans a scenario to be used during a Code 99 call.

A Code 99 call deals with a life threatening situation. During most Code 99 training, EMTs deal with cardiac arrests and other situations in which CPR is needed. During these sessions other emergency responders such as police and doctors are used in the same manner as they actually work with Fire and Safety.

Seyler said that in the near future a Code 99 training will utilize police, clinic staff, Jefferson County emergency personnel and the emergency room staff at Mt. View Hospital.



Emergency medical technicians (EMT) and police responded to scene of staged accident July 30 to find one victim (Reneva Hammond) located in vehicle. Hammond used makeup to simulate injuries.



Police and F&S personnel work together to remove victim from vehicle. Patient is immobilized on back board to ensure no further injuries are sustained. Personnel pictured from left to right are tribal investigator Steve Caddy; WSPD officer Bill Howland; victim on board (Hammond); Brenda Yordy; volunteer for F&S and Tom Wright, volunteer.



Warm Springs Fire and Safety EMTs Sara Scott and Danny Martinez applied neck braces to victim (Harvey Yordy) to stabilize neck area.



Arriving at the Indian Health Service clinic, teamwork continues with the patient's safety a prime concern. Left to right Tom Wright, F&S parttimer Bruce Yeo, F&S parttimer, Tribal investigator Oliver Kirk, F&S parttime Keith Baker and investigator Caddy move victim from ambulance to be taken in IHS clinic.



Teamwork within the emergency room between F&S personnel and IHS staff, (left to right) Bruce Yeo, F&S; Shelly Bear, IHS registered nurse, victim, Assistant Fire Chief Dean Seyler with video camera, IHS Dr. Roy Nakamera and Tom Wright. Team consults on condition and then stabilizes patient for transport to hospital.

Spilyay Tymoo photos by
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