



**SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION**  
**CHIEF OF POLICE**  
**CRAIG N. MEIDL**

**LETTER OF AWARD**

To: Ofc. Tim Schwering  
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police  
Date: May 19, 2017  
Re: Lifesaving Award

Corporal Teresa Fuller recently nominated you for the Spokane Police Department's Lifesaving Award. The Lifesaving Award is given to department personnel who, by their immediate actions, have saved a human life under unusual and/or extraordinary circumstances. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed your nomination, it was clear that you are most deserving of this recognition.

On January 20, 2017, just before 10:00pm, a female called 911 from the 6100 block of north Cannon reporting she was trapped in her burning vehicle. She advised she was trying to kick the windows out but couldn't. Although a fire call, the call was also broadcast on police channels and multiple officers from both City and County responded.

Ofc. Schwering was the first to arrive on scene, just before fire crews. He managed to break a hole in the window with his baton, but was unable to unlock the door. He was forced to reach in and pull the entire driver's side window out, then assist the victim by having her climb out that window. A neighbor from a nearby house also assisted in the rescue efforts.

Once fire crews arrived on scene, they found the engine compartment fully involved with fire, fire venting to both wheel wells. The grille shell and bumper had melted away and were effectively burning puddles beneath the vehicle. Station 13 Firefighter Eric Staggs, stated, "Ofc Schwering acted selflessly and beyond his call of duty to make every effort to remove the occupant from harm's way. He should be commended for his actions at both the SPD, and SFD, levels."

When Corporal Fuller arrived on scene, the fire was still very much active and the fire fighters warned her to be careful as she approached because of the toxic smoke still billowing from the engine. The victim, Kim Novak, repeatedly referred to Ofc. Schwering as "her angel" and expressed how grateful she was he came to her rescue. She was genuinely in fear for her life, unable to get out of her vehicle with the fire moving up the engine compartment and the passenger compartment filled with toxic smoke.

Officer Schwering, the Lifesaving Medal is being awarded to you for your heroic actions in the incident outlined above. You will be awarded the Lifesaving Medal during the 21st Annual Employee Awards Ceremony in March 2018. A copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig N. Meidl".

Craig N. Meidl  
Chief of Police

