



2024 Letter of Award Lifesaving



To: Officer William Dowsing
From: Kevin Hall, Chief of Police
Date: November 7, 2024
Re: Lifesaving Award

Sergeant Ryan Jamieson nominated Officer Dowsing and Officer Wilson for the Spokane Police Department's Lifesaving Medal. 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 his nomination, it was clear that you are most deserving of this recognition. Sgt. Jamieson's nomination included:

"On 07-28-2024 at approx. 0216 hours, Officer Dowsing and Officer Wilson responded to a suspicious circumstances call at Main/Monroe. The victim's electronic device was tracked to the steep area behind the Spokane Club on the South side of the Spokane River. Family and friends were unable to locate the victim. When officers arrived on scene, they heard yelling from below. When they could no longer hear her, Officer Dowsing and Ofc. Wilson climbed down the steep grade, approximately 35 degrees, covered in dry leaves and trees to find her. When they found her, she was non-responsive but breathing. She was in a precarious position on the steep slope, approximately 20-30 feet from the Spokane River. Ofc. Dowsing and Ofc. Wilson immediately began to provide first aid for her apparent injuries as well as hypothermia, all while coordinating with the Spokane Fire Department's technical rescue capabilities.

By their willingness to climb down a hazardous cliffside and locating the victim, they saved her life. The victim was dressed in lightweight clothing, near the river, with outside temperatures in the mid-60's. With her injuries she was unable to sustain calls for help. Without their efforts in locating her, she would not have been located in a timely manner.

Tony Shipp, the AMR supervisor on scene that night provided the following excerpt:

'Given the extenuating circumstances surrounding the fall, the dropping ambient air temperatures coupled with the unknown extent of the individual's injuries, the direct actions taken by the first arriving officers were paramount in the survival of and the subsequent rescue of the injured individual.'

Matthew Schroder, Spokane Fire Department medic, who was on scene that night provided the following:

'Locating an intoxicated patient in the dark with minimal information in the steep terrain she was found is truly a feat by itself. The unwalkable hillside was approximately a foot and a half deep of duff and dander along with various trash, large rocks, trees, and bushes making access to the patient very difficult. 25 feet further down from their location was a 50-foot drop to rock and the river's edge. Your officers kept the patient from an almost certain life-ending fall if she slid further down the hill.'

For the above reasons, I believe that Ofc. Dowsing and Ofc. Wilson deserve to be awarded the Life Saving Medal for going above and beyond what is expected by our officers in order to save the life of this woman."

Officer Dowsing, you will be awarded the Lifesaving Medal during the annual Employee Awards Ceremony in March 2025. A copy of this document will be placed in your personnel file.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Hall".

Kevin Hall
Chief of Police