The Lifesaving Award is given to department personnel who, by their immediate actions, have saved a human life under unusual and/or extraordinary circumstances.

On July 9th, 2001, at 0259 hours, Officer Tyler Cordis was dispatched to a car fire at Crestline and Pacific. The vehicle had been involved in a collision with a tree, and the driver could not be seen because the interior of the car was full of smoke. Without regard for his own safety, Cordis opened the car door and heard a person coughing inside the vehicle. Even though the vehicle was filled with smoke and on fire, Cordis risked his own life to pull the lone male occupant out of the car.

Cordis had recently become an emergency medical technician; and that training already paid dividends for our citizens and the department.

Additionally, Captain Ken Snider of the Spokane Fire Department stated that Officer Cordis intervened at great personal risk when he discovered a life was at stake. In Captain Snider’s professional opinion, Officer Cordis’ actions were directly responsible for the survival of the driver.

Officer Cordis should be commended for his dedication to the Law Enforcement profession and for putting aside his personal safety to save the life of a citizen, who would surely have perished without assistance.

Officer Cordis was issued the Lifesaving bar, to be worn on his uniform. He was also be awarded the Lifesaving medal at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony in February 2002.