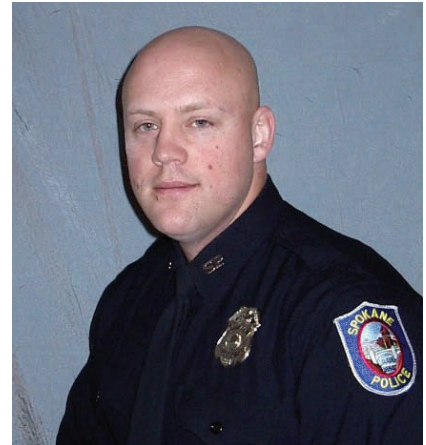


OFFICER ZACHARY DAHLE



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 March 13, 2006, at about 0210 hours, Officer Zachary Dahle was on routine patrol in the area of West Central. Ofc. Dahle was nearing the end of his shift when he observed smoke coming from the apartment building at 1923 W. Broadway. Ofc. Dahle immediately notified dispatch and requested that the Spokane Fire Department respond.

Ofc. Dahle entered into the building and began to alert the residents of the fire. The house, which had been converted into separate apartments, was occupied by several people. Ofc. Dahle began pounding on doors and yelling that there was a fire in the residence.

Officers Paul Gorman, Derek Bishop, Scott Haney, and Frank Erhart responded to assist Ofc. Dahle with the evacuation effort. Officers managed to get all of the occupants out of the building safely before SFD had arrived on scene.

Ofc. Erhart advised that when he arrived the upper apartments were filled with smoke. It was Ofc. Erhart's opinion that if Ofc. Dahle had not discovered the fire and awakened the occupants when he did, it would have been a matter of minutes before there would have been casualties from the heavy smoke. Ofc. Gorman also made the observation of heavy smoke in the upper apartments. Ofc. Gorman noted that the paint was melting on the walls in several locations within the building.

A resident, who lives in an apartment in the building, stated that she and her daughter had been asleep when they were awakened by the officers knocking on her door. She said that when she awoke, her apartment was filled with smoke and her smoke detectors were not sounding off. She was thankful that the officers had discovered the fire and got her and her daughter out of the house safely.

It is apparent that Ofc. Dahle's actions prevented the loss of life from the smoke and fire at 1923 W. Broadway.

Along with this document, Officer Dahle was issued the Lifesaving bar, to be worn on his uniform. He was also awarded the Lifesaving Medal at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony, in February 2007.

