

OFFICER ALEXIS KESTER



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 the evening of June 7th, 2009 Officer Ben Green and Officer Alexis Kester responded to a domestic dispute in the 2900 block of E Central. Before they arrived together on scene, a man exited the house and locked himself into the garage. The man's wife told a 911 operator that she could hear an engine running inside the garage. The man's daughter came on the line and told 911 that her father was trying to kill himself.

Upon arrival, Officer Green and Kester found the man's daughter crying outside the garage her father was locked inside. Officer Green attempted to use the digital keypad to open the garage door, but the code provided did not work. He and Kester were able to get a key to the garage and unlocked the door. The man inside had several gasoline powered engines running inside the small garage and the room was full of exhaust. Two motorcycles, a generator, and a lawn mower were all running inside. The man inside the garage braced his legs against the generator and pushed against the garage door to prevent Officers Kester and Green from entering. He told the officers that he wanted to be left alone and wanted to die.

Officers Green and Kester were able to overcome his resistance and force open the door. They pulled the man from danger and away from the garage. The man was so determined to take his own life that he aggressively struggled with the officers as they tried to take him to safety. Officer King arrived on scene just as the man had been removed from the garage and he commented that from where he was outside the garage the strength of the exhaust fumes caused him to cough and gag. Officer King also noted that the scene was chaotic. He relayed that one family member was walking away from the house crying. The family seemed helpless in their own efforts to save their loved one.

The man was taken to an area hospital for treatment of carbon monoxide poisoning and psychological help. It is without a doubt that had Officers Green and Kester not removed the man from the garage he would have died from carbon monoxide poisoning. It is also commendable that the officers placed themselves in a toxic environment to help someone who at that time did not place any value upon their own life. The actions of Officer Ben Green and Officer Alexis Kester are the epitome of Service, Pride, and Dedication and most deserving of being recognized with the Department's Lifesaving Award.

