



# Georgetown County, South Carolina

---

## NEWS RELEASE

Jan. 29, 2015

Contact:  
Jackie Broach, public information officer  
Phone: (843) 545-3164  
E-mail: [jbroach@gtcounty.org](mailto:jbroach@gtcounty.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Midway firefighter receives Medal of Valor

GEORGETOWN COUNTY — Shane Kingsford, a firefighter with Midway Fire Rescue, was presented with a Medal of Valor this month and recognized by Georgetown County Council for his accomplishment on Jan. 27.

Kingsford was first notified of the award during Midway's annual awards banquet at Pawleys Plantation. The Medal of Valor is not an award given every year, but only when someone "goes above and beyond, and places their life in extreme danger to make a rescue," Chief Doug Eggiman told County Council members.

Kingsford received the medal for actions last year, when he rescued two people from drowning in the ocean while off duty on Sept. 17. He was having lunch in Litchfield with his girlfriend when he heard roofers working at the Litchfield Inn call out to people around the pool. They yelled for someone to dial 911, because they had spotted two people struggling in the ocean below.

Though off duty and without equipment to aid in the rescue, Kingsford responded immediately, running toward the two victims, an elderly couple who were some 250 feet off shore. The wife had gotten caught in a rip current and when the husband went to her aid, he became a victim as well.

If not for Kingsford's rapid response, the victims may not have survived.

"Although I'm sure Firefighter Kingsford doesn't see his actions as anything more than the line of duty, his actions that day saved two people and it was clear to the other firefighters who were called to the scene that the outcome would have been very different if not for his act of bravery," Eggiman said. "That there was no official duty to act only adds to the significance."

Kingsford got a standing ovation from council and the audience when he was presented. Asked to say a few words, he offered recognition to three bystanders who went into the water with him and on-duty responders from Midway, who arrived within minutes of a 911 call being placed.

In addition to the Medal of Valor, the following awards were presented this month at Midway's annual banquet:

- Career Firefighter of the Year — Justin Lenker
- Special Projects Award — Will Tayloe
- Tom Boyd Firefighter/Paramedic of the Year Award — Adam Maag
- Officer of the Year — Jeff Pifer

— More —

- Support Services Division Member of the Year — Steve Kelsey
- Fire and Life Safety Educator Award — Frank Seitz
- Community Service Award — Niki Crippen
- Meritorious Service Award — Ed Mills
- Excellence in Training Award — Mark Mercer and Gerald Liberatore
- Excellence in Fitness Award — Joseph Anderson
- Meritorious Action Award — Daniel Weihert, Scott McGuire, Matt Smittle, Erik Noel,
- 20-Year Service Award — Peggy Green-Jessup
- 15-Year Service Award — Mark Mercer and Michael Hessler
- 10-Year Service Award — Gerald Liberatore, Gary Cracknell, Shane Kingsford, and Justin Wackerly
- 5-Year Service Award — Will Tayloe and Niki Crippen
- South Strand Optimist Public Safety Officer Award — Frank Seitz
- Unit Citation Award for Public Assistance and Welfare — Gerald Liberatore, Niki Crippen, Ryan Mathews, Michael Mounts and Todd McClellan
- Unit Citation Award for Kayak Rescue — Brent McClellan, Jesse Morgan, Scott McGuire, Daniel Weihert and Adam Maag
- Unit Citation Award for Firefighter Rescue — Brent McClellan, Jesse Morgan, Scott McGuire, Daniel Weihert, Matt Smittle, Henry Hult, Will Tayloe, Joe Palombi, Erik Noel, Travis Motsinger, Ryan Mathews and Niki Crippen
- Unit Citation Award for MVA/Fire/Extrication — Jim Crawford, Carr Gilmore, Gary Cracknell, Josh Herncane, Justin Wackerly, Ryan Crowley, Shane Kingsford, Josh Carney, Ric Matyas and Justin Lenker
- Unit Citation Award for MVA with Extrication — Doug Eggiman, Jim Crawford, Jeff Pifer, Joe Anderson, Scott McGuire, Joe Ruffennach, Paul McNabb, Steven Morales, Adam Maag, Niki Crippen, Will Tayloe, Joe Palombi and Eve Eggiman
- Unit Citation Award for MVA with Lost Dog — Jeff Pifer and Paul McNabb,
- Unit Citation Award -- Officer-Involved Shooting — Joe Ruffennach, Ryan Crowley, Paul McNabb, Gary Cracknell and Joe Anderson
- Unit Citation Award -- Seaview Inn Deck Collapse — Doug Eggiman, Jeff Pifer, Joe Anderson, Joe Ruffennach, Paul McNabb, Steven Morales, Will Tayloe, Eve Eggiman, Mark Mercer, Ryan Crowley, Ryan Gougeon, Ronald Montgomery, Mike Hessler, Howard Lutz, Brian Uhl, Bill Dougan, Adam Bender, Ryan Curtis, Jesse Morgan, Matt Smittle, Michael Morris, Joseph Williamson, Eve Eggiman, Joan Noble, Rick Myers and Frank Seitz

###