



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **MEMBERS OF JOHNSTON-GRIMES FIRE RECEIVE RECOGNITION AWARDS**

**JOHNSTON, Iowa** – The Johnston-Grimes Metropolitan Fire Department (JGMFD) recognized a few of their own during the third annual Johnston-Grimes Firefighter Ball on Friday, Nov. 15 at the Hyperion Field Club.

### **Life-saving Award presented to Lieutenant Ty Wheeler and Firefighter Ryan Wheeler**

This award is for members who provide critical life-saving care to a patient who is in either cardiac or respiratory arrest, while on-or off-duty, in which this care delivers an outcome that allows the patient to leave the hospital in normal state.

On July 25, 2019, Ty and Ryan, while participating in RAGBRAI and off-duty, noticed a fellow rider, a 62-year-old man from the State of Missouri, unresponsive and in need of assistance. Both firefighters were quick to react and initiate Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation. Due to their swift actions and high-quality CPR skills, the victim was able to recover and was awake and talking before being transported to a local hospital.

### **Award of Commendation presented to Firefighter Simon Carl, Firefighter Riley Romick and Firefighter James Cook**

This award is presented for commendable services rendered over an extended period resulting in raising the standards of the department or fire service profession or for excellent services provided during an emergency operation above and beyond the normally expected, resulting in the protection of life or property.

On one particular call for service, a JGMFD crew exemplified that high-quality customer service is more than just taking care of the initial problem. Three fire station 38 members arrived at a residential home in Johnston to help install new smoke detectors. The crew quickly determined the resident had purchased the wrong smoke detectors. Instead of just advising the resident they could not install the new detectors,

this crew went out of their way to return the detectors to the home improvement store. In addition, the crew then purchased new detectors with their own money and returned to her home to install the detectors.

### **Company Citation**

This award is presented to a unit whose performance was an equaled team effort in overcoming unusual difficulties or obstacles in the completion of a difficult task that has resulted in the protection of life and property.

### **First Company Citation Award presented to Captain Sean McAndrew, Firefighter Alex Headley, and Firefighter Nic Hutchinson**

One year ago, crews were called to the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy on Camp Dodge for a suspicious odor. Initial arriving personnel found levels of carbon monoxide to be 400 PPM. For reference, the fire service threshold for wearing breathing protection is 35 PPM. At this time, students of the law enforcement academy started complaining of symptoms associated with carbon monoxide exposure: headaches and nausea. Additional units were then requested to support the incident. The incident command system was established, and a mass casualty incident declared. In total, 96 patients were treated.

### **Second Company Citation Award presented to Captain Tristan Johnson, Lieutenant Joel Decker, and Firefighter Andy Odell**

On March 13, 2019, the Johnston-Grimes Metropolitan Fire Department was requested for mutual aid response to Urbandale for a water rescue. As crews were responding, they were notified that two teenage males had decided to go kayaking in Walnut Creek in northwestern Urbandale. One of the teens had fallen out of the Kayak and was now clinging to a tree in the middle of the swift water. Johnston-Grimes Metropolitan Fire Department firefighters quickly deployed the boat in a dangerous channel that had swift water and active ice flow in order to rescue the teen. Thanks to their swift actions, this crew made a positive impact on a young life.

### **Rookie of the Year presented to Firefighter Joel Hoium**

This award was presented to Joe, who has been with the department for less than two years. He is described as the type of person you can call upon to get the job done completely, competently, and correctly. Joe works well with everyone and is always willing to learn as well as to teach his peers. He strives for job excellence and is willing to put in extra hours to ensure the department reaches its goals.

### **Firefighter of the Year presented to Ryan Wheeler**

This award was presented to Ryan because he is the type of person you call upon to get the job done completely, competently, and correctly. He strives for job excellence and will do whatever it takes to help the department reach its goals. Ryan not only is willing to learn but takes on the role of teacher with the goal of keeping the other firefighters safe and better prepared.

### **EMS Provider of the Year presented to Firefighter Tyler Hardenbrook**

This award was presented to Tyler because he is described as the type of person everyone wants working on their shift if you have a medical emergency call for service. He not only has the knowledge, skills, and abilities of a great EMT/Paramedic but also demonstrates great care and compassion for patients. Tyler is an individual who strives for job excellence and will put in extra time and effort to assure that not only great patient care is provided, but those around them will be elevated to providing better care through training, demonstration, and a great example.

### **Officer of the Year presented to Captain Tristan Johnson**

This award was presented to Tristan, who has one year in the rank of Lieutenant. He embodies the core values of the department and is described as the type of person you call upon to get the job done completely, competently, and correctly. He strives for job excellence and works tirelessly to ensure the

department will reach its goals. Specifically, his commitment to the department is exemplified in his selflessness by dedicating great amounts of time to the department off shift. He also has a high level of integrity, and fiercely supports the unity of the organization.

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