

# Memorandum



TO: Alpena County Courts and Public Safety Committee

CC: Alpena County Administrator Mary Catherine Hannah  
City Manager Rachel Smolinski

FROM: Chief Rob Edmonds

SUBJECT: Lifesaving Citations

DATE: November 20, 2023

It is my honor and privilege to recognize three Alpena County 911 Central Dispatch personnel for their roles in a successful CPR save. Without calm direction and quick dispatching actions, Keith Becker may not be here with us today.

There are six components to the “Chain of Survival” as identified by the American Heart Association. Early recognition/activation of the EMS system, high quality CPR, defibrillation, advanced resuscitation, post cardiac arrest care, and recovery. These components each were put into place to result in a positive outcome this September day.

Mr. Keith Becker is an employee of the Omni Metalcraft Corp and was at work midday of September 1<sup>st</sup> when one of his co-workers discovered he was slumped over at his desk. Immediately three co-workers, Jason Banny, Peter Gilbertson, and Thomas Krist went into action to initiate hands only CPR and activate the EMS system through a call to Alpena County Central 911 Dispatch. They were prompted to provide lifesaving assistance by dispatcher Alysse Susan, who took the initial call for help.

Alpena City Fire Department crews were dispatched for the emergency at 12:50 pm and arrived on scene within two minutes where they witnessed effective CPR being performed by the lay rescuers. Paramedic Doug Keogh placed Mr. Becker on a cardiac monitor while CPR was continued by his other crew members EMT Abby Smith and EMT Chris Kinsey. Advanced life support interventions were initiated with defibrillation required due to his initial rhythm of ventricular fibrillation and CPR continued. Through these interventions, Mr. Becker resumed a sinus tachycardia rhythm and had regained a pulse with slow patient respirations. Other advanced procedures were initiated on scene in preparation for transport to the emergency department at MyMichigan Medical Center.



*Provider of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services for the City of Alpena  
and Advanced Life Support Ambulance for Alpena County*

By the time he was loaded into the ambulance, Mr. Becker regained consciousness enough that he was able to talk and answer simple questions with the EMS crew. He was transported to MyMichigan Medical Center emergency department, where he was later transferred to McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital-Petoskey where he underwent a triple heart bypass surgery. We later learned that Mr. Becker had went into cardiac arrest at least two more times in the emergency department.

This is one example of how our system of pre-hospital response and care is making a difference in saving lives and minimizing long term effects of injuries and illness within Alpena County. Through education efforts of proper lay rescuer training, emergency medical dispatch call intake, basic EMS skills, advanced life support treatments on scene, and MyMichigan Medical Center advancing their abilities to provide more definitive care locally we can expect more of these successful outcomes in the future.

It is my belief that without the quick actions by Jason, Peter, and Thomas, Mr. Becker's outcome would not have been as favorable. A huge role that played into their success was through the actions of the Alpena County Central Dispatchers that day as well. They were "cool as a cucumber" as one of the lay rescuers has so well explained it. Alysse Susan was the dispatcher that took the call on this day and displayed a professionalism that was calming and reassuring to theses rescuers in providing medical direction until EMS arrived. Rory Sherwood and Adam Lumsden were supporting dispatchers that aided in the routing of the call and getting EMS enroute. Without dispatchers having the training, experience, and knowledge to handle the call calmly and professionally, Mr. Becker may not have survived the events of this day.

At this time, on behalf of the Alpena City Fire Department/EMS, I would like to present each of these individuals a Lifesaving Citation for their efforts that day.

