



For Immediate Release
Feb. 28, 2006

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E9-1-1 Institute Honors Shelburne Falls Dispatcher for Emergency Service

The E-911 Institute in Washington, D.C., has named Jason Connell, a dispatcher with the Massachusetts State Police in Shelburne Falls, with the "9-1-1 Call Taker" Award for 2006.

On June 14, 2005, Connell received a call from a man who said his son might commit suicide. The caller didn't know where his son was, and could only provide a vehicle description. Over the next three hours, in the middle of the night, Connell and his colleagues worked with numerous police agencies in two states and two wireless phone companies monitoring the son's whereabouts, to track down the caller's son halfway across the state, in coastal Marshfield, Mass. Working at Connell's direction, the Marshfield Police Department and the U.S. Coast Guard were able to find the son on a floatation device in the water, and he was rescued from drowning.

Connell's supervisor, Charles Garrity, credited Connell with "persistence, dedication and tenacity" in helping to bring the incident to a successful conclusion

Gregory L. Rohde, executive director of the E9-1-1- Institute, said, "Jason Connell's story is impressive not only for his persistence and dedication but it also demonstrates how critically important location technologies are for E9-1-1. A life was saved in this case not only because Mr. Connell overcame daunting bureaucratic hurdles but also because the wireless provider and local PSAP had implemented the technology necessary to locate the phone in an emergency."

The award will be presented at a March 8 ceremony in Washington, D.C.

About the E9-1-1 Institute. The E9-1-1 Institute (www.e911institute.org) is a not-for-profit organization, which provides administrative and policy support to the Congressional E9-1-1 Caucus. The purpose of the E9-1-1 Institute is to promote public education and awareness of E9-1-1 and emergency communications issues and serve the Congressional E9-1-1 Caucus as a clearinghouse of information on E9-1-1 and emergency communications issues. Gregory L. Rohde, former Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, serves as the E9-1-1 Institute's Executive Director.

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