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The way in which one dispatcher and four officers responded to multiple incidents - a vehicle stranded in high water, a woman who had slit her wrists, another woman who was threatening suicide, and a Good Samaritan who had been struck by a vehicle – earned each of them the Burleson Police Department’s Lifesaving Award.

The 2015 honorees include Dispatcher Verla Myers, Officer Jason Tauch (2015 Rookie Officer of the Year), Officer Tracey Fowler, Sgt. Jody Trumble (2015 Supervisor of the Year), and School Resource Officer Johnny Schumacher.

During the torrential rains in the spring of 2015, Verla Myers took a call about a vehicle that was stranded in high water. According to the nomination, “Panic stricken, the occupants wanted out of the vehicle but Verla knew that danger lurked in the fast current flood water. She was able to calm the occupants, reassure them that help was coming, and gain their cooperation to remain in the vehicle until she was able to guide first responders to the scene.”

Tauch not only provided lifesaving first aid, but he also secured the scene for incoming emergency medical service providers in an incident that garnered him a Lifesaving Award. According to his nomination, “Officer Tauch was able to provide lifesaving first aid by applying pressure to the laceration while securing the scene for responding Emergency Medical Services. Had Officer Tauch not intervened with the first aid techniques the victim would have succumbed to her injuries.”

Officer Fowler and Sgt. Trumble worked together on a call to a home where a woman was holding a knife to her throat and threatening to kill herself. According to the nomination, “Officer Fowler and Sgt. Trumble used their communication skills to build rapport with the subject, ultimately gaining trust and understanding which led to the subject putting the knife down. The person was transported to a medical facility where she received treatment.”

Officer Schumacher was driving home from Fort Worth when he drove up on the scene of a crash on I-35W. As he was approaching the scene he saw a Good Samaritan, who was not involved in the crash, get out of his vehicle to check on those who were injured. According to the nomination “the Good Samaritan was struck by a third vehicle and thrown over the guardrail onto the service road. Officer Schumacher stopped his vehicle and immediately responded to care for the Good Samaritan, providing first aid, until Emergency Medical Services arrived on scene.”