

EMSCNJ's Compton honored for helping Texas flood victims



Members of the EMS Council of New Jersey's (EMSCNJ) 10th District recently honored one of their own who helped rescue Hurricane Harvey flood victims in Texas during the late-summer storm - all while sitting at her computer in Hunterdon County.

Carol Compton, retired chief of the Kingwood Township First Aid & Rescue Squad, was checking her e-mail when she saw one that read: "Please, rescue needed, two people in attic, water rising." Although Compton initially thought the e-mail was a prank, she soon realized the plea for help came from Kingwood, Texas. An Internet search apparently had directed the victims to the Kingwood, New Jersey, squad's Web site. Compton contacted Hunterdon County EMS officials, who then contacted rescuers covering Kingwood, Texas. The victims later sent word that they'd been rescued.

Compton's efforts garnered network TV attention. Her fellow volunteers were so impressed that they crafted a special award for her. U.S. Rep. Leonard Lance (R-NJ, 7th District), presented the award to Compton.

"It just goes to show what we can all do if we try to help one another," Compton said.

The 88-year-old nonprofit New Jersey State First Aid Council, doing business as the EMSCNJ, represents 20,000 EMS volunteers affiliated with nearly 300 EMS agencies throughout the state.