



Board of Chosen Freeholders

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Hunterdon County Tower Rescue Training Credited With Saving A Life

Emergency personnel in Hunterdon County are trained throughout the year for various skills, scenarios and situations. One of those classes, 'Rescue From Tower Heights' taught by Gary Breuer, has recently been credited with assisting a Vermont Firefighter with saving a young man.

Freeholder John E. Lanza, Liaison to the Department of Public Safety said, "Proper instruction and training are critical in any emergency situation. In a moment of crisis, when saving lives and seconds matter, being able to act immediately reduces delays, keeps risk at a minimum and keeps rescue workers safe.

Gary Breuer not only instructs Hunterdon County rescue team members, but several other counties across the state have come to him for rescue classes. Each life saved is a credit to his thorough training and this County is lucky to have him."

Gary Breuer, Deputy OEM Coordinator and Hunterdon County Emergency Services Chief Instructor, regularly teaches Firefighters and EMT's safety classes, and a letter from a former student, David Cohen, who now attends school in Vermont, captured the importance of this instruction.

Mr. Cohen, now a Technical Rescue Team member in Vermont, wrote in his letter, "Being the only one on the department with experience in tower rescue, they had me be the primary technician during a recent technical rescue situation. The rescue could not have gone more smoothly. I attribute my comfort and know-how to the course you taught – I would not have wanted my first time on a tower to have been during a call.

Thank you for teaching a great course. I hope to take more technical rescue courses with you and your team and will recommend to my department back home in NJ how great of a class Tower Rescue was."

Gary Breuer has been with the County's OEM offices since 2001 and has been teaching rescue workers for Hunterdon County since 1995.

Freeholder John E. Lanza said, "Last year our 9-1-1 Center helped out a Texas couple during Hurricane Harvey, and now the Emergency Training program has come to the rescue in Vermont. Hunterdon County's Emergency Response Team is making its mark around the nation."