
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
June 12, 2008

BC Ambulance Service

LIFEGUARDS PERFORM LIFESAVING CPR

VICTORIA - The British Columbia Ambulance Service (BCAS) presented three Crystal Pool lifeguards with Vital Link Awards to recognize their life saving actions. The presentation took place at City Hall in Victoria, on June 12 by BCAS Superintendent Grant Brilz and District Supervisor Rick Atkinson. Mayor Lowe was in attendance.

On March 2, Abbey Joschko, Sara Gilmer and Tanille Johnston were working at the Crystal Pool in Victoria as lifeguards. As Joschko scanned the pool she noticed an individual face down in the water. She immediately blew her whistle for assistance, dived into the water and pulled the person to the pool side, where the lifeguards determined the patient was not breathing and had no pulse. Gilmer initiated Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) until Joschko and Johnston could take over. Gilmer, having just recertified her Automated Electronic Defibrillator (AED) ticket two days earlier, ran and got the AED machine. They successfully shocked her once before BCAS paramedics arrived.

“These lifeguards are trained in CPR and rescue techniques, which no doubt helped save this person’s life,” said Shawn Carby, BCAS Executive Director for Vancouver Island Region. “Had this incident occurred somewhere else, the patient’s outcome would have been much worse.”

The BCAS Vital Link Award is presented to individuals who are involved in successful CPR efforts. Aside from providing some much deserved recognition, the Vital Link Award represents an important opportunity to further community awareness about the benefits of learning and using CPR.

“I’ve been a lifeguard for 10 years but have never had to do CPR or use the AED machine before this,” said Gilmer. “It really was a team effort and I’m so thankful that I had the skills to help this person.”

The BCAS attends nearly 200 drowning calls per year. Learn CPR. In the time it might take paramedics to arrive, your CPR skills could make a difference in someone’s life. CPR performed by bystanders has been shown to improve outcomes in drowning victims.

For more information or for an interview, please contact:

-30-

Contact: Sarah Taylor
Communications Officer
250-953-4310 or
250- 213-7555

