

Seneca EMS Staff Members Recognized

(KMZA)--The Seneca EMS has recognized several staff members for their efforts in saving a life.

Centralia Fire Chief Jerry Feldkamp and Firefighter Bobby Meade, EMT's Nate Engelken, Jason Deters, Paul Strathman, Debbie Rethman, RN/AEMT and Service Director Dave Rethman, Paramedic were awarded the EMS Phoenix Award.

On June 19, 2014, Mike Piazza was at home when he began having problems breathing and became unresponsive. His wife, Wilma, immediately dialed 9-1-1 thinking he was having problems with his diabetes.

Shortly after the EMT's from Seneca EMS and Firefighters from Centralia Fire Department arrived he experienced a sudden cardiac arrest event. They immediately began providing CPR. Advanced Life Support help arrived from Seneca EMS' paramedic and registered nurse responders.

Ultimately, they were able to restart Mike's heart and stabilize him with IV's, medications and perform EKG's to monitor his heart during transport to Nemaha Valley Community Hospital. Mike was then transferred by ambulance to Stormont Vail for surgery. He would spend several weeks completing his rehab. He is now at back at home and is doing well. Mike continues his cardiac rehab to regain his strength.

According to the American Heart Association only 8% of victims that experience sudden cardiac arrest survive. CPR is a lifesaving tool that everyone should know. For more information on taking a CPR class contact 785-336-0056.

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