

# Responder

*in the*  
**line of**

# FIRE

**Sometimes even the bravest, well-trained professionals need to be rescued.**

**J**anette Morgan is a firefighter with Grayback Forestry of Merlin, Oregon. On July 28, 2002 she was working with her team to fight the Timbered Rock fire near the remote Elk Creek area in Jackson County. The team was working a slope, when higher up the hill, a burning 100-foot snag, approximately 22 inches in diameter fell over. The flaming tree began crashing down the steep terrain, heading directly for the firefighting crew. The crew attempted to outrun the falling snag, but it was rolling too fast.

While most of the group made it to safety, the tree struck Janette in the back, knocking her down, rolling over her, and branches hit her head. She was pinned underneath the still-burning branches. The crew of Grayback assisted their fellow firefighter along

with the American Medical Response Reach-and-Treat (AMR RAT) team. The group was able to rapidly pull her out from beneath the tree branches that pinned her. They removed Janette from the extremely dangerous fire area before anyone else was injured.

Janette was carried from the hill and an ambulance transported her to a rendezvous location for air transport. The Mercy Flights helicopter flew in to pick up Janette. The team transported the injured firefighter to Rogue Valley Medical Center where she was treated for a compression spinal fracture. She also had

to have surgery on her injured knee.

“Everybody that treated me was great,” Janette said. “The experience was as good as it could have been, considering the circumstances.”

*Fire Continued Inside*



**Trapped under a burning tree...** Firefighter Janette Morgan recounts the story of her incredible rescue.



Answers About  
Mercy Flights

**Q** What are the capabilities of Mercy Flights' emergency aircrafts?

**A** Mercy Flights' pressurized, twin-engine airplane has state-of-the-art equipment to handle any kind of condition including heart attacks, auto accidents, premature babies, critical illness, and more. The plane flies about 208 m.p.h. within a 900-mile radius from Medford. Our helicopter provides quick emergency response and direct delivery to the appropriate medical facility. The helicopter provides quick access to people in life-threatening situations and remote areas. The helicopter flies about 137 m.p.h. within a 150-mile radius of Medford.

**Q** I'm not married, but my significant other lives with me. Can he/she be covered by a family membership?

**A** Yes. A Mercy Flights family membership covers any two adults and all immediate family members and dependents living within the same household.



**MERCY FLIGHTS**

3650 Biddle Rd. #14  
Medford, OR 97504

541-779-1019  
1-800-903-9000

[www.mercyflights.com](http://www.mercyflights.com)

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Fire Continued From Front Page

Mercy Flights, Grayback Forestry, and the American Medical Response Reach-and-Treat Team worked together to rescue, treat, evacuate, and transport Janette from an extremely hostile and

dangerous scene. For their performance and professionalism in very challenging situation, the State of Oregon recognized these three agencies with a Unit Citation Award. ■

# Fast Facts

## School Sports and PE Related Injuries

- ① Children ages 10 to 14 account for 46 percent of school-related injuries.
- ② Boys are three times more likely to sustain a school-related injury than girls.
- ③ Eighty percent of elementary school students will see a school nurse for an injury-related complaint over a two-year period.
- ④ All children need our protection. If you don't have kids of your own, consider buying a gift membership for a friend or loved one. It's a great way to show how much you care.

## Introducing the Lifepak

### Mercy Flights Purchases New Life-Saving Defibrillators

A 52-year-old man calls 911. He is short of breath and has pain in his chest that moved down his arms. Within minutes of his call, the paramedics arrive.

Heart attack. It strikes more than 1.5 million Americans every year. The heart is a muscle – like any other living tissue, it needs oxygen to survive. If plaque or a clot blocks a coronary artery, the result is an acute myocardial infarction (AMI) or heart attack.

Mercy Flights has recently installed new LIFEPAK 12 defibrillators/monitors in all its emergency vehicles. Paramedics use defibrillators to restore blood circulation to a heart attack victim and to keep the heart beating evenly. The LIFEPAKs help the paramedics make a rapid diagnosis and route the patient to the most appropriate hospital for care.



technology that  
can save  
your life

Irreversible damage to the heart begins within 30 minutes of the heart attack as muscle tissue downstream from the blockage dies. As the heart weakens, it is less able to pump oxygen-rich blood to other vital organs, including the brain. The longer the blood flow is interrupted, the more extensive the damage done.

Patients with AMIs have the best results if treated with a balloon stent at the hospital. The balloon opens the blocked artery, which is then stabilized by the stent.

“Time is muscle,” says Dr. Brian Gross, a local cardiologist at the Heart Clinic. Delivering effective medical treatment to someone suffering a heart attack is literally a race against time. “If an emergency medical technician (EMT) can get a heart attack patient to the hospital quickly for a stent, the patient will do better.”

Mercy Flights is excited about this new lifesaving equipment and the benefits it can provide to the patients we transport! ■





# Back to School

**Each year millions of children sustain school-related injuries. Learn how you can better protect your children and why a Mercy Flights membership makes such good sense.**

Summer's over and the kids are back in school. Unfortunately, an estimated 2.2 million children ages 14 and under sustain school-related injuries each year. Playgrounds are associated with the majority of injuries among elementary students.

Athletics, including both physical education classes and organized sports, account for the majority of injuries among secondary school students. Among organized school sports, football has the highest injury rate, followed by basketball, baseball, wrestling, and gymnastics. Sixty percent of organized sports-related injuries occur during practice rather than during games. The majority of organized sports injuries are from falls, collisions, being struck by an object, or overexertion.

Medford high school student Reece Peden tore the tendons in his shoulder last year during a football game. The Mercy Flights ambulance was called – the paramedics transported Reece from the high school field to the hospital. He received surgery to repair the

damage to his shoulder and is doing well today.

“Reece is very athletic and involved in lots of sports,” says Viola Peden, Reece’s mother. “He’s a sophomore this year and he also wrestles and is on the baseball team. His younger brother plays football at the middle school.”

The Pedens purchased a family membership with Mercy Flights to cover the entire household. For just \$70 annually, the Pedens are covered by Mercy Flights’ ground and air transportation service. This will save them significant money if any of them require emergency transportation, whether it’s at home, school, or work.

Mercy Flights wants to ensure your kids stay free from injuries. Here are some safety tips:

✔ **Before your kids take to the playing fields, remind them to wear their helmets, mouth guards, and face shields.** Make sure they drink plenty of cold water, especially in hot and humid weather.

✔ **Talk to your school to ensure the following are included in your children’s sports programs:** proper physical and psychological conditioning, use of appropriate safety equipment, a safe playing environment, adequate adult supervision, and enforcement of safety rules.

✔ **Make sure your kids’ school always has proper supervision for the playground equipment.** Ensure teachers forbid unsafe behaviors like pushing, shoving, crowding, and inappropriate use of equipment. Children should play on age-appropriate equipment.

✔ **Check the surface under the playground equipment.** Acceptable loose-fill materials include hardwood fiber mulch or chips, pea gravel, fine sand and shredded rubber. Rubber mats, synthetic turf, and other artificial materials are safe surfaces and require less maintenance. Asphalt, concrete, grass, and soil surfaces are less desirable and should be avoided.

## Did You Know?

If you don’t require Mercy Flights’ ground or air emergency services during the year, then your annual membership fee is tax deductible as a donation to a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Please call our Membership Coordinator at 779-1019 for more information.



# Training for the Future



**M**ercy Flights brought in an internationally recognized trainer to teach a 12-lead ECG instructor course. Now, more than 10 Mercy Flights Managers and Field Training Officers are certified to train paramedics, nurses, and other healthcare professionals. "All of the Mercy Flights paramedics have now been trained on using the 12-lead," said Dave Cook, Director of Medical Operations. "We're going out and training other healthcare professionals at the hospitals and other emergency services and fire departments." To learn more about this lifesaving technology, see "Introducing the Lifepak" inside this issue



Lifepak 12-lead ECG



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www.mercyflights.com • (800) 903-9000  
3650 Biddle Road #14 • Medford, Oregon 97504

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