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**!! FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE !!**

## SFMD Names 2015 Firefighter of the Year

The Superstition Fire & Medical District is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2015 Firefighter of the Year Award. This year we recognize **Captain/Paramedic David Pohlmann** with this important honor.

Growing up in the East Valley, Dave attended Tempe High School where he was a member of the National Honor Society and four year varsity letterman. He was awarded Most Valuable Person for the swim team during his junior and senior years, setting a City of Tempe record in the 500 freestyle. In 1989 he was a member of a National Junior Olympic Championship gold medalist relay team. The same year, Dave headed to California on scholarship to University of California Irvine where he was “Rookie of the Year”, setting a school record in the 1000 yard freestyle and achieving Top 10 All Time Honors in three other events. In 1992 he attended Arizona State University on scholarship where he completed his formal swimming career. Dave was involved in martial arts where he learned and taught for more than a decade, achieving the rank of third degree black belt. Dave’s passion for swimming brought him back to the pool, where in 2011 he became the Arizona State champion in three events in the 40-45 age groups, narrowly missing a top 10 national ranking in the 100 freestyle.

Dave began working in the Emergency Medical Service as an EMT for Southwest Ambulance in 1996 and attained his paramedic in 1998. Continually searching for something new and exciting, he began a new chapter in his life, and achieved a long time goal of becoming a firefighter/paramedic. Dave was hired with the Superstition Fire & Medical District in 1999 (then the Apache Junction Fire District) as a firefighter paramedic. Since that time, Dave has continually grown and developed into an extremely valuable asset and resource for the organization and entire EMS community.

Dave was lead instructor and program coordinator for a private paramedic training company from 2006-2008. Wanting to further his education, Dave went back to school for a nursing degree and in 2011 he became a registered nurse (RN) later working part-time at Chandler Regional Hospital in the Emergency Department. In 2013 he received a Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing where he was inducted as a member of The National Honor Society of Nursing and was part of the trauma services team at Chandler Regional Hospital.

With a background in emergency medical services, ambulance transportation and paramedic instruction, Dave was provided the opportunity for an administrative assignment to research and develop a few exciting initiatives for the SFMD.

Starting in 2014, Dave was instrumental in helping SFMD obtain a Certificate of Necessity (CoN) from the Arizona Department of Health Services which is required for the SFMD to provide ambulance service to our community. Dave spent months working on the application process, which was ultimately approved in April 2015 in record time (only four months) and at minimal expense to the taxpayers of the community.

That same year, a grant from the Center for Medicare Services was awarded to both the Mesa Fire and Medical Department and the Superstition Fire and Medical District to implement a Community Medicine program. Dave continued to play an integral role in setting up this program designed to reduce health care costs, keeping citizens out of the hospital, while providing evaluation and treatment in-home.

Dave's latest accomplishment was helping to develop our new ambulance program for the SFMD. This included hiring 40 new full-time and part-time employees, extensive training, and continued program evaluation. Dave was part of a historic initiative that will continue to provide quality ambulance services to this community.

Dave currently lives in Chandler with his wife of 17 years, Maria, and their two teenage sons Tyler and Jonah. He enjoys attending his kids sporting events, snowboarding and swimming with the Mesa Aquatics Masters team.

Please join the Superstition Fire & Medical District in congratulating David Pohlmann as our 2015 Firefighter of the Year!

For more information about SFMD's 2015 Firefighter of the Year and the Superstition Fire & Medical District, visit our web site at [www.sfmd.az.gov](http://www.sfmd.az.gov), or contact us at (480) 982-4440.

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