
Lexington Police Department

111 Maiden Lane
Lexington, SC 29072
803-359-6260
803-951-4643 (Fax)



Terrence Green
Chief of Police

"Building Partnerships with the Community We Serve"

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Officers Recognized for Life Saving Actions

Lexington, SC (March 05, 2013, 1:00 pm) – The Lexington Police Department presented awards to four officers during the monthly Town Council Meeting held last night at the Lexington Town Hall. Corporal Sturges, Officer Alewine, Officer Besenyi and Officer Currier were formally recognized for their actions during an apartment fire on Valentine's Day.

On February 14, 2013 at approximately 12:41am officers from the Lexington Police Department were dispatched to an apartment fire at 300 Palmetto Park Blvd., Chimney Ridge Apartments. Officer Alewine, who was close to the area, arrived within seconds of being dispatched and advised of heavy black smoke coming from building 400. Officer Alewine located the source of the heavy smoke as a first floor apartment. From outside the apartment through a window, Officer Alewine observed a woman sitting on a bed in the bedroom which was on fire. Without hesitation or concern for his own safety, Officer Alewine entered the burning smoke filled apartment and found the victim in a state of shock and suffering from smoke inhalation. Despite suffering from smoke inhalation himself Officer Alewine was able to remove the victim to safety. The victim was transported to a local hospital by Lexington County EMS with minor burns and smoke inhalation. According to Chief Terrence Green, "the actions of Officer Alewine went above and beyond the call of duty". For his actions Officer Alewine was awarded the "Medal of Valor" whose criteria requires that an officer "during the performance of their duties, risks their life, sustaining no injury, to save that of another". This was the first Medal of Valor award in Department history.

Officer Alewine then returned to the involved apartment building and assisted Corporal Sturges, Officer Besenyi and Officer Currier to evacuate the entire apartment building despite the deteriorating conditions. For their actions Corporal Sturges, Officer Besenyi and Officer Currier were awarded a "Chief's Letter of Commendation". Chief Terrence Green believes that "because of the time of night, quick spreading fire and smoke conditions and the fact that no residents of the building had evacuated prior to their arrival, the actions of these officers undoubtedly saved lives."

– END –

Photo # 1: Photo from Apartment Fire
Photo # 2: (L-R) Officer Alewine with Award, Mayor Randy Halfacre, Chief Terrence Green
Photo # 3: (L-R) Officer Currier, Officer Besenyi, Corporal Sturges, Officer Alewine, Mayor Halfacre, Chief Green.

Contact: Lt. Carroll W. Bledsoe Jr.
803-518-4988
cbledsoe@lexsc.com



An Internationally and State Accredited Agency

