



Falmouth Police Department

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The Maine Chiefs of Police Association recently awarded its *Life Saving by a Citizen Award* to a Falmouth resident. On the night of October 22, 2015, at approximately 0018 Hours, Falmouth Police units were dispatched to a motor vehicle crash at 47 Winn Road. It was reported to be a single vehicle into a tree and that the vehicle was on fire.

When the officers arrived on scene they found that the vehicle was on fire. The first officer located a male, later identified as the operator of the vehicle, lying on his back approximately fifteen feet from the vehicle. Once the fire had been knocked down by the Falmouth Fire Department, the officers spoke to the original caller, identified as Bruce Rusk of 49 Winn Road.

Mr. Rusk told the officers that he had heard a crash outside of his house. He looked out the window and did not see anything. A short time later, he looked again and saw flames coming from across the street. He called 911 and went to see if there was anyone inside the car. Mr. Rusk found a man lying across the seat. He told the man to get out of the car as the smoke and flames were too heavy to approach, but he did not respond.

Mr. Rusk then grabbed the man by the arms and dragged him out of the burning car, at great risk to his own personal safety. He was able to drag the man far enough away from the vehicle to a safe location. Within minutes the vehicle became fully involved in flames.

It was apparent to the officers that the operator of the car would have quickly succumbed to the fire and died without the immediate intervention and life saving action of Mr. Rusk.