



Department  
of Commerce

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **PIQUA FIREFIGHTER RECEIVES HEROISM AWARD FROM STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

The Division of State Fire Marshal presented their Award for Heroism to Piqua Firefighter Eric A. Wood for his brave actions in saving the life of a fellow firefighter during a structure fire on January 23, 2011. State Fire Marshal Larry Flowers presented the award during a ceremony held today at the Piqua Fire Department.

“Firefighter Wood’s extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the fire service,” Marshal Flowers said. “His valiant actions bring great credit to himself, his department and Ohio’s fire service.”

On January 23, 2011, Piqua Fire Department responded to a structure fire call. Firefighters Eric Wood and Jim Drieling were sent inside the structure on the lead attack. Inside, with visibility near zero, Firefighters Wood and Drieling located the fire. As they began to proceed toward it, Drieling fell through an open basement trapdoor, finding himself dangling and holding on with outstretched arms. Wood extricated the injured Drieling from the trapdoor and began to call for help. Due to communications problems, the calls for help went unanswered and Wood found himself alone with an injured Drieling and deteriorating conditions. Wood singlehandedly took up the attack line to beat back the fire before removing Drieling from the building to safety. Had it not been for the calm, skillful determination displayed by Wood that day, the outcome may have left Drieling more seriously injured or worse.

The Award for Heroism was unveiled in 2001. This award augments the State Fire Council’s annual Hall of Fame Awards. Nominations for the Award for Heroism are made by a member of the fire service, state legislature or local government based on a set of specific criteria.

Nominations can be submitted at any time of the year for immediate consideration and recognition. Fire chiefs, firefighters, legislators, mayors and other officials may nominate individuals from their station or community who might be eligible for this award. For more information about this award, contact Karen Bowman in the Ohio Department of Commerce at (614) 995-5791 or log on to our Website at [www.com.ohio.gov/fire](http://www.com.ohio.gov/fire).

Follow the State Fire Marshal on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/OhioFire](http://www.twitter.com/OhioFire)

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