

## **Mesquite Fire Department 2019 Firefighter of the Year**

The Firefighter of the Year is given to an outstanding firefighter who consistently demonstrates professional excellence, moral integrity, and an abiding commitment to provide quality service to the citizens of Mesquite. The 2019 Mesquite Fire Department Firefighter of the Year is Driver-Engineer/Paramedic Elliot Howard.

Elliot started his career with the Mesquite Fire Department on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005, received his paramedic patch in 2007 and promoted to Driver-Engineer on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016. He has received 5 Life Saving Awards, 2 which were presented tonight, a Fire Service Commendation and the PAT Fitness Award in 2018.

Elliot has gone above and beyond his duties as a Driver-Engineer and his peers have taken notice. He received multiple nominations for Firefighter of the Year based on his numerous accomplishments over the past year. Elliot has taken lead in our swift water rescue program by helping to write SOPs, finding grants and assisting with training for a week in San Marcos. He has shown great leadership in our ropes program as well. He has taken the time to learn everything the he can so that when called upon, he is ready. He has also done a great job in his duties as an SCBA tech, even going above and beyond to keep firefighter's exposure to cancer as low as possible by cleaning all the SCBAs after each fire.

While on modified duty after foot surgery, Elliot did not slow down. He took the time to teach a continuing education class on seizures to the entire Department that received a lot of positive feedback. Most of the material had not been taught in paramedic school, so it was great information that was soon used on scenes where there were suspected seizures. After teaching our Department, word spread to surrounding Departments and Elliot donated his time and effort to teach paramedics at Garland and Highland Park Fire Departments.

Elliot also brought attention to a pediatric patient in the community with a rare genetic disorder. He researched this disorder and shared findings for further education for the EMS Department. He also noted that this family had what appeared to be very limited resources and expressed his concern. This led to the involvement of our BioTel social worker. The family was grateful for the compassion and concern.

Elliot Howard is the epitome of what we look for in the Firefighter of the Year. His actions have improved not only the well-being of other members of the Mesquite Fire Department, but have improved the quality of service the Mesquite Fire Department provides for our residents.

It is a pleasure to recognize Elliot Howard as the 2019 Mesquite Fire Department Firefighter of the Year.