



## FANWOOD RESCUE SQUAD Public Safety

Rescue squads, police departments, and fire departments are known for their service to the community and their ability to save lives. In December 2000, the Fanwood Rescue Squad (FRS), Fanwood Police Department (FPD), and Fanwood Fire Department (FFD) came together to save *"one of their own"* emergency service volunteers.

It was a windy and unusually warm Sunday morning. Thunder and lightening storms were in the area. The Fanwood Fire Department members had responded to back-to-back calls a little after 6:00 a.m. A high turnout of volunteer firefighters were on hand to respond to calls.

On that morning, senior firefighter Jack Ruh was discovered collapsed in the kitchen and was unresponsive. The other members of the company were notified. Members immediately administered CPR. A "911" call was sent for a rescue squad, the police, and the squad's automatic external defibrillator (AED) was retrieved from the adjacent squad building. The AED was applied and two shocks were administered as CPR continued.

As these events were unfolding, the police, the rescue squad's night crew, and other squad members responded to the firehouse answering the call for a "man down." According to AED tapes, Mr. Ruh "flatlined" (which means there was no pulse or breathing) twice during the episode. In each case, these functions were restored through the efforts of the squad members and later by the paramedics of Muhlenberg Hospital's "Mercy 6" enroute to the Medical Center.

That morning, Jack Ruh was in the right place at the right time. His doctor noted that if he was anywhere else that day he would not have survived. Fireman Jack Ruh was released from the hospital the day after Christmas and is doing fine. Most mornings, he can be found enjoying a cup of coffee with his FFD Coffee Club friends.

In Fanwood, a number of firemen also serve as members on the Fanwood Rescue Squad. They work together to save lives. This day they saved the life of someone most of them knew. The end result made this past holiday season a special one.