



# NEWS RELEASE

Orange County Fire Authority  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Subject:** Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Curtis Presented a "Life Saving Award"

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**Irvine, CA –** At Station 9 in Mission Viejo on September 2, Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Curtis was presented a "Life Saving Award" by Captain Brian Schmutz of the OC Sheriff's Department. On May 31 at 10:37 AM, Engine 9 from Mission Viejo was flagged down by a passing motorist stating that a man who appeared to be under the influence was running in and out of traffic lanes on Crown Valley Parkway. Engine 9 made contact with the 43 yr. old male who admitted to be under the influence, but continued to act irrational. The man ran toward the I-5 overpass and started climbing on it toward the freeway below. As OCSD deputies and OCFA firefighters were pleading for him to come down, he jumped off the overpass, landed on the ice plant below and started running full speed toward traffic driving at freeway speeds on the I-5. Just before the man reached traffic lanes, FF/PM Curtis tackled him on the freeway's edge, preventing him from being hit by oncoming cars. He was then sedated and subdued by OCFA firefighter/paramedics and OCSD deputies and transported to Mission Hospital. Both onscene deputies and firefighters stated that if FF/PM Curtis did not tackle him, the man would have been killed by oncoming cars and it could have possibly caused a horrific traffic accident on the freeway.

Below is the link that aired on KABC Channel 7 on Tuesday evening.

<http://abc7.com/news/oc-firefighter-honored-for-saving-suicidal-mans-life/292163/>

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