Utah Department of Health and Human Services Honors Grand County Emergency Responders for Heroic Efforts in Airplane Crash Rescue

MOAB, UTAH | June 20, 2024 — Last month, the Utah Department of Health and Human Services celebrated the remarkable teamwork and dedication of several Grand County emergency agencies in response to an airplane crash on October 1st, 2023. Honorees include Grand County EMS, Moab Valley Fire Department, Moab City Police Department, Grand County Sheriff's Office, Classic Air Medical, Canyonlands Airport Fire Department, and Moab Regional Hospital.

The incident showcased the outstanding coordination and life-saving services provided by Grand County's emergency teams. Utilizing night vision, responders quickly located the downed aircraft, guiding Classic Air Medical to the site. Classic Air Medical's flight nurse and paramedic were among the first to arrive, initiating critical care. The Moab Valley Fire Department swiftly began extrication efforts upon finding a trapped passenger.

Grand County EMS assessed the passenger and found a pulse, leading to immediate resuscitative actions. Meanwhile, Moab Regional Hospital prepared to receive the incoming patients. Investigators identified additional passengers, prompting a continued aerial and ground search by Classic Air Medical and Moab Police.

Despite the tragic outcome, the extensive resuscitation efforts by EMS and hospital staff were commendable. The coordinated response and bravery displayed, especially by newer responders, were exemplary. These efforts earned the emergency teams the Outstanding Performance in a Rural Emergency Medical Incident Award, honoring their extraordinary commitment to the community and their exceptional teamwork.

Moab Regional Hospital, an independent nonprofit located in Moab, Utah, is a Critical Access Hospital and Level IV Trauma Center. With 17 beds, the hospital focuses on prioritizing patients, providing high-quality and affordable healthcare, and promoting community wellness.