

# Rescue teams honored by safety device maker

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PITTSBURGH—Members of the Winter Park and the Maitland fire and rescue departments have been recognized by Vetter Systems Inc. for their “speed, decisiveness and professionalism in an extraordinary rescue operation.”

On the afternoon of Nov. 28, 1984, Vetter Lifting Bags helped rescue teams from both departments save the life of an 11-year-old girl, trapped under a large transit bus.

The Winter Park Fire Department, responding to a rescue call, discovered

that the girl had run out into the street, hit the side of the bus and fallen face down. By the time the bus driver heard her cries, she had been dragged several feet and was pinned under the rear wheels of the bus. In addition to severe leg injuries and burns, she was suffering from trauma. The Winter Park paramedic team immediately set to work to stabilize her. But, her safe removal was impossible without lifting the heavy bus.

Fire Chief Mike Molthrop quickly

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Part 2

## Rescue

part 2

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Rescue teams ... cont.

issued a mutual-aid assistance call to the Maitland Fire Department. The two departments share specialized equipment and Molthop knew that Maitland's set of Vetter air bags would be needed to safely perform the life. Rescuers placed the bags under the transaxle of the bus, inflated them in seconds, and the victim was extricated and on her way to a hospital.

Chief Molthop summed up the rescue operation, "From the time the Maitland team arrived and set up the bags, it took only two minutes to lift the bus and remove the girl."

According to Harry Metcalfe, manager of Vetter Systems U.S. operations, "Selection of recipients for the Certificate of Recognition is an extremely difficult task. Every day, fire and rescue personnel throughout the country perform outstanding lifesaving operations and each deserves commendation. We considered the Winter Park and Maitland departments' rescue to be exceptionally fine work and an excellent coordinated operation."

Chief Molthop of Winter Park and Chief Sidney Ballou of Maitland, accepted the awards on behalf of their departments. Chief Molthop commented, "The operation was smooth, efficient and quick. Without the bags, we would have had a difficult time and further extended injuries to the victim. the bags did the job and did it right. Onlookers in the crowd were amazed!"