

GEORGETOWN FIRE DISTRICT



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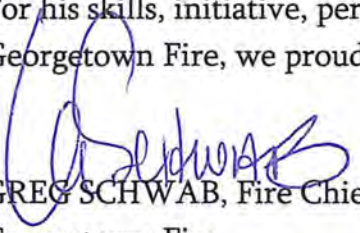
Georgetown, California 95634-0420

The firefighters of Georgetown respond to myriad of challenging emergency situations, day in and day out. As members of an 'all-hazards' agency, they must be ready to spring into action, no matter the circumstances. Such was the case on a beautiful and sunny spring Sunday when Squad 62, other Georgetown Fire units and neighboring public safety agencies were dispatched to a Medical-Water Rescue on the Middle Fork of the American River at Cherokee Bar. Off duty on June 13, 2014; however, responding on the Squad was Engineer-Paramedic Levi Sample.

As the companies, arrived at scene they interviewed bystanders and tried to locate the victim by triangulating last known location from witnesses and factoring in the river's current. There was only one area in the river bottom the responders could not see from the water's edge. After creating and communicating the rescue plan, establishing down-river safety teams, and donning mask, fins and personal flotation device, ENG Sample entered the cold 40-degree water. He swam 30 feet to the deepest, roughest water, spotted the victim, than dove 12 feet to retrieve the teenaged victim. He then swam the unresponsive patient back to shore, immediately other responders helped them out of the water and began CPR. Levi hastily removed his swiftwater PPE and began ALS care. ENG Sample was the only El Dorado County accredited paramedic on scene, so he led the resuscitation efforts.

As the incident unfolded, it is worthy to note that ENG Sample recognized the severity of the situation and took decisive action, knowing that a young life was at stake. Working with his team and within the established plan, without regard for his personal safety, Levi risked his own wellbeing for that of another person. His quick action in swimming to, searching, diving deep, and recovering the victim from the cold moving water gave his patient the best chance for resuscitation. His actions were the product of good training and a strong dedication to duty.

For his skills, initiative, perseverance, tenacity, strength, and acting in the finest traditions of Georgetown Fire, we proudly present the EMS Medal of Meritorious Service.


GREG SCHWAB, Fire Chief
Georgetown Fire

"Neighbors helping Neighbors - Since 1854"