



Voice: (540) 434-4436

101 North Main Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Fax: (540) 434-2512

---

---

## Media Release

### HRECC Names 2017 Communicator of the Year

Harrisonburg, VA – The Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center (HRECC) held its annual awards ceremony on Wednesday, April 11. This ceremony coincides with National Public Safety Telecommunicator’s Week, which honors those working in the field of emergency communications.

The HRECC recognized a number of employees, including three communicators who were honored for their work in administering life-saving, pre-arrival instructions through the use of emergency medical dispatching (EMD). One communicator was honored for his work in assisting with the delivery of a healthy baby during 2017. Several team awards were given including team acknowledgement for the HRECC’s role in locating a child from an Amber Alert and a team was recognized for their work during a mass casualty event.

At the ceremony, the HRECC announced Senior Communicator Carenda Strawderman as the 2017 Communicator of the Year. This award is given annually to an employee who has exhibited exemplary service. Strawderman was nominated by her peers and is well-respected for her professionalism, teamwork and pride for her career.

“Carenda is a true team player,” said Jim Junkins, director of emergency communications. “She has a positive attitude and is always willing to help a co-worker.”

Strawderman graduated from Virginia Tech and worked several jobs prior to applying for a communicator position in the HRECC. “I have found my career,” said Strawderman. “To me it’s not a job. I look forward to coming to work each day knowing I will help many people and make a difference in someone’s moment of tragedy.”

“Communicator Strawderman is the type of employee you love to have,” said Dee Dee Sencindiver, operations manager. “She is professional and sets a great example for others to follow.”

In addition to Carenda’s normal duties she is also a communications trainer and plays a vital role in the development of new employees of the ECC.

**Note to media:** Senior Communicator Strawderman is available for interviews. Please contact Dee Dee Sencindiver at 540-830-9113 or [ddsencindiver@hrecc.org](mailto:ddsencindiver@hrecc.org) to set up an interview time.

###