

# Okaloosa County News Release

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## **2 Okaloosa Co. Employees Rewarded with HERO Award 11 HERO Awards Since 2008 Recognition Program Was Started**

Okaloosa County Board of Commissioners awarded HERO awards (Humanitarian Efforts Recognized by Okaloosa County), at the June and July county commission meetings. Lt. April McQueen, Corrections Dept., was recognized with the HERO Award in June and Adam Odom, Water and Sewer Dept., in July. The HERO Award recognizes a deed, act or event in which an employee not only goes beyond the scope of what his or her job entails, but has done something of a humanitarian or heroic nature. This can include acts occurring outside work hours and submissions by people outside Okaloosa County staff.

“The amount of paperwork and trouble I was spared by such a kind and honest act well outweighs any thank you I can express on paper,” is what Captain B. Anthony Brady of the Fort Walton Beach Fire Department (FWB-FD) said in a letter about Adam Odom. On a recent Saturday, the FWB-FD lost a 400 ft. hose off the back of the fire truck onto Lewis Turner Boulevard, creating a traffic hazard and potential damage to the hose. Mr. and Mrs. Odom reacted – redirecting traffic, securing the hose in their vehicle and returning it to a relieved crew at the FWB-FD.

Earlier this year, Corrections officer, Lt. April McQueen, stopped at the scene of a traffic accident at State Road 90 and Antioch Road on her way to work. A garbage truck had flipped on its side and was leaking fuel. Thinking quickly, Lt. McQueen got the driver off his cell phone and escorted him out of the overturned truck. She then instructed someone to call 911 and waited at the scene until emergency personnel arrived.

Eleven HERO Awards have been presented since the program’s inception in 2008. Additionally, 40 PRIDE recognitions have been awarded. The PRIDE Award, Public Recognition Involving Dedicated Employees, recognizes employees for performance “above and beyond,” their job description for exceptional work. Employees also receive leave hours if awarded (8 hours for HERO award and 4 hours for PRIDE award). Above and Beyond forms are available online at [www.okaloosaf.com](http://www.okaloosaf.com) or you may contact 311 Citizen Information Line for more information or to recognize an Okaloosa County employee.

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