



Media Advisory

Clark County Fire Department ■ 575 E. Flamingo Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89119

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For Immediate Release

March 21, 2006

Meet FF/Paramedic Who Survived Bus Crash

What: Interview with Colby Rupert

When: Wednesday, March 22, 2006 (call me ASAP to schedule a time btwn. 10:00 – 11:00 AM)

Where: Fire Station 18, 575 E. Flamingo Rd.

Firefighter-Paramedic Colby Rupert and his partner were responding in R-87 to an emergency when a bus heading southbound on I-15 struck their vehicle. This occurred early Saturday morning, March 18, 2006 just north of Primm. The force of the impact caused the rescue unit to ram an ambulance unit, which, in turn, struck a small pickup truck that was the object of the original call. The bus came to rest about 30 feet off the highway.

Rupert and his partner were still in their vehicle at the time of the collision and received painful injuries as a result. Nonetheless, Paramedic Rupert administered aid to a number of passengers on the bus. According to a report by NHP Trooper Tom Bostelman, at the scene, “FF Colby carried a generator and *Jaws of Life* from the crashed rescue truck to the Greyhound bus while dragging his injured leg at times. His hands were in great pain from being injured and the cold...Despite his serious injuries he ignored his wounds and aided injured persons in a desperate and critical accident scene. Only after assistance arrived sometime later did FF Rupert receive medical treatment. He had to be literally forced to stop assisting others so he could receive medical attention.”

Rupert and his partner were released from the hospital later that morning and will be off duty while recovering for one to two weeks. Rupert was hired on the department in January 2003 and had attended Army Rangers School prior.

At the scene of the crash, 15 passengers and the four emergency responders were transported by ambulance to LV area hospitals. The bus driver was air lifted. Miraculously, no one was killed and there were few, if any, serious injuries.

News release also available on the Internet at www.accessclarkcounty.com

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