



State Troopers



by Meish Goldish

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BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

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Publisher: Kenn Goin

Editor: Jessica Rudolph

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Photo Researcher: We Research Pictures, LLC.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Goldish, Meish, author.

Title: State troopers / by Meish Goldish.

Description: New York, NY : Bearport Publishing, [2016] | Series: Police: search & rescue! | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2015040035 | ISBN 9781943553150 (library binding) | ISBN 1943553157 (library binding)

Subjects: LCSH: Police, State—Juvenile literature. | Rescue work—Juvenile literature.

Classification: LCC HV7965 .G65 2016 | DDC 363.2/332—dc23

LC record available at <http://lccn.loc.gov/2015040035>

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For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010. Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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A Sudden Stop

One day in May 2015, Iowa State Trooper Tracy Bohlen was on **patrol** on a busy highway when a pickup truck ahead of him suddenly stopped in the middle lane. The officer saw someone in the truck climb into the driver's seat. Then the vehicle took off briefly before stopping again. What was happening?

The truck stopped in the middle of a three-lane highway near Des Moines, Iowa.



Trooper Bohlen was driving on **Interstate** 35. This highway runs from Texas all the way to Minnesota.

Trooper Bohlen feared that the people in the truck were fighting. He stopped his patrol car behind the truck and cautiously walked up to the driver's door. Seeing a scared 15-year-old boy behind the wheel, Trooper Bohlen opened the door. The boy, Eli Roark, yelled, "Dad is having a heart attack!" Trooper Bohlen saw Eli's father, Patrick Roark, in the truck. Patrick's body shook and then went limp. The trooper knew he had to act fast!



This picture, taken from a video camera inside Trooper Bohlen's police car, shows the officer approaching the truck.

A Dangerous Rescue

Trooper Bohlen felt Patrick's body for a **pulse** but couldn't detect one. With no time to waste, the officer called an ambulance and then pulled the **victim** out of the truck. The trooper immediately began to perform **CPR** on Patrick in the middle of the highway. At first, he feared the two of them might be hit by a passing car. However, when the officer looked up, he saw that all traffic had come to a stop.



After doing CPR for one minute, the trooper felt a pulse on the victim. Soon after, an ambulance arrived to take Patrick to a hospital. Thanks to Trooper Bohlen's quick actions, Patrick's life was saved.



Trooper Bohlen



Rescuers perform CPR when a person's heart stops beating or the victim has stopped breathing. They may press on the victim's chest and blow air into his or her mouth.