

THE WORK OF HEROES:  FIRST RESPONDERS IN ACTION

# PARAMEDICS

*to the* **RESCUE**



by Nancy White

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# Life in Danger!

In 2002, on a chilly February afternoon in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a third-grader named Katlynn got off the school bus as usual and began her walk home. Almost immediately, she was hit by a school minivan. Her small body was tossed 100 feet (30 m) before landing. She was left on the ground **unconscious** and struggling to breathe. Her skin began to take on a grayish color.



If a person's skin color looks gray and he or she is not breathing, immediate medical treatment is necessary. Without it, a person could die in the time it takes to get him or her to the hospital.

Ted Zeigler, a paramedic, happened to be driving along the same street where Katlynn had been hit. When he saw the accident, he stopped his car, jumped out, and rushed to the scene. That's when he noticed Katlynn lying in the street not breathing. Fortunately, Ted, who was off duty at the time, had his **paramedic bag** with him. He immediately took out a tube called an **oral airway** and inserted it into her mouth so the girl could breathe. Would Ted be able to save Katlynn's life and get her to a hospital? Or was it already too late?

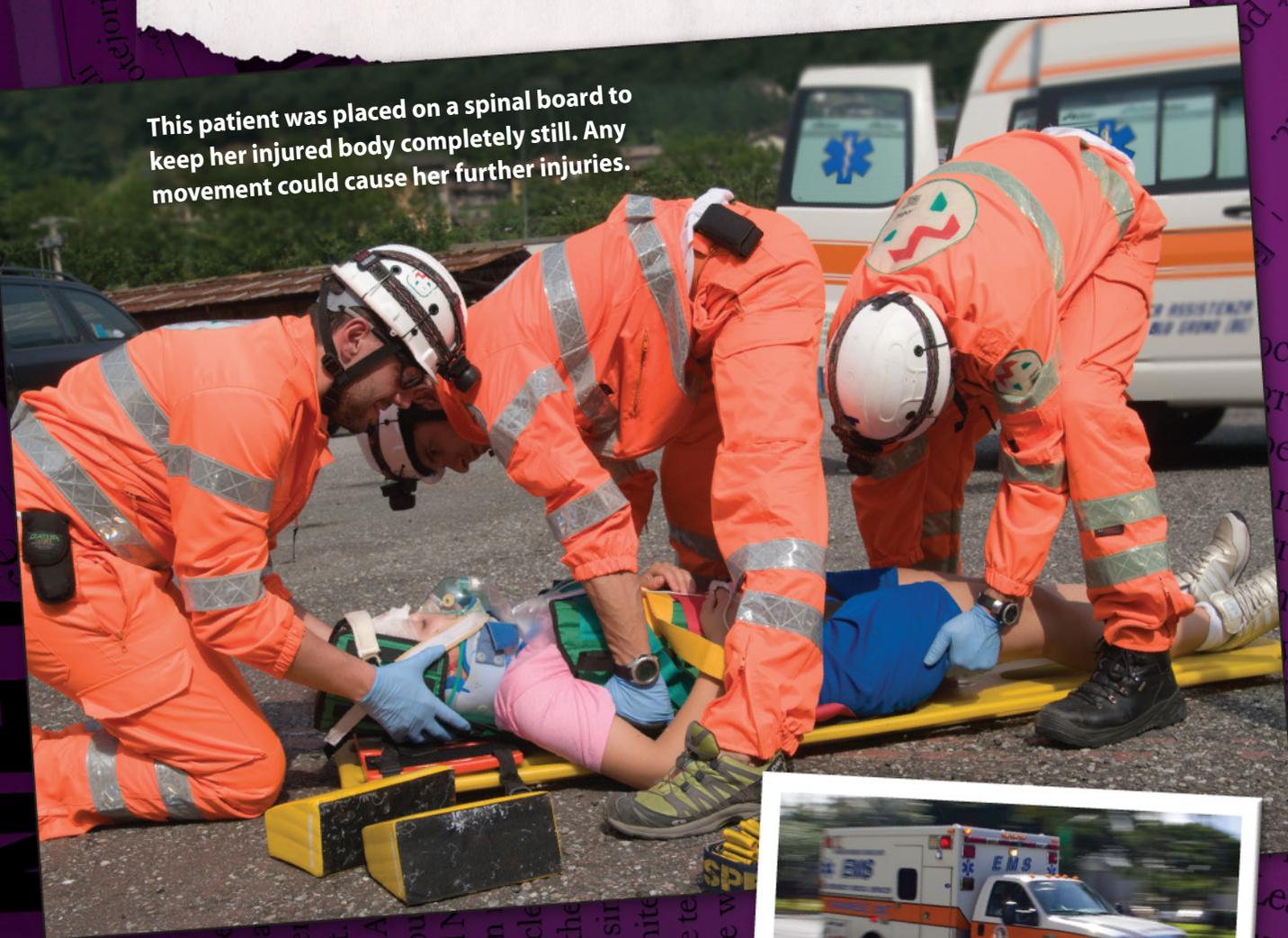


When people are hurt in accidents, paramedics help them before they get to the hospital.

# *Saving a Life*

A few minutes later, Ted's paramedic partner, Mike Rogers, arrived by ambulance. By that time, thanks to Ted's quick use of the oral airway, Katlynn's color was back to normal. Ted and Mike carefully placed her onto a special device called a **spinal board**. Then the paramedics lifted Katlynn into the ambulance and rushed her to the hospital.

This patient was placed on a spinal board to keep her injured body completely still. Any movement could cause her further injuries.



An ambulance with paramedics inside racing down a street

At the emergency room, or ER, the doctors took over. They found that Katlynn's injuries included a broken leg, skull **fractures**, bruises to her brain and lungs, and liver damage. She was in **critical** condition, but she would survive. However, without the treatment she had received from Ted and Mike, she might not have even made it to the hospital alive!



In 2002, Tom Murphy, then mayor of Pittsburgh, honored Ted Zeigler and Mike Rogers in a ceremony for their outstanding service in helping to save Katlynn's life.

Once an ambulance arrives at a hospital, the doctors take over after the paramedics give them a full report on the patient.

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## About the Author

Nancy White has written many nonfiction books for children. She lives just north of New York City, in the Hudson River Valley.



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THE WORK OF HEROES:  FIRST RESPONDERS IN ACTION

# PARAMEDICS

to the **RESCUE**

One chilly February afternoon, a third-grader named Katlynn got off her school bus and began her walk home. Almost immediately, she was hit by a minivan. Her small body was tossed 100 feet (30 m) before landing. The accident left her unconscious. She was unable to breathe, and her skin began to take on a grayish color. Just then, Ted Ziegler, a paramedic, happened to drive by. Would he be able to save her life?

Look inside to find out more about how paramedics help people like Katlynn. As you do, you'll go behind the scenes to learn how these emergency workers prepare and train for their job. You'll also discover how paramedics use their special skills to help many different kinds of people—including those who have had heart attacks, been burned in a fire, bitten by an animal, or accidentally poisoned.

**DOCTORS**  
*to the Rescue*

**FIREFIGHTERS**  
*to the Rescue*

**PARAMEDICS**  
*to the Rescue*

**POLICE OFFICERS**  
*to the Rescue*

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