

THE WORK OF HEROES:



FIRST RESPONDERS IN ACTION

POLICE OFFICERS

to the **RESCUE**



by Nancy White

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To Shoot or Not to Shoot

On the afternoon of February 19, 2009, Police **Sergeant Greg Martin** was in his car waiting at a traffic light in Ocala, Florida. Even though he was off duty, he listened carefully to a call coming in on his **two-way radio**. The **dispatcher** said that a robbery was in progress at a drugstore. Sergeant Martin realized that the store was across the street from where he was stopped. He quickly drove into the parking lot.

Sergeant
Greg Martin



Meanwhile, inside the drugstore, a masked man held the store's employees at gunpoint. He threatened to shoot them if they did not follow his orders. Suddenly, one of the employees grabbed the robber and pulled off his mask. **Panicked**, the robber ran out into the parking lot, unaware that Sergeant Martin was waiting with his gun drawn. The police officer had to quickly make an important decision—to shoot or not to shoot!



Police officers generally have the right to **enforce** the law at any time, even when they are not officially on duty. However, they must **identify** themselves as police officers before taking action.

The Right Choice

Sergeant Martin didn't want to shoot. He was worried that **innocent** people in the parking lot might get hurt in a shoot-out. So, with his gun aimed at the robber, he shouted, "Police! Drop your weapon!" The robber, however, didn't listen. He turned and started to run. Sergeant Martin ran after him and yelled, "Drop your weapon, or I'll shoot!"

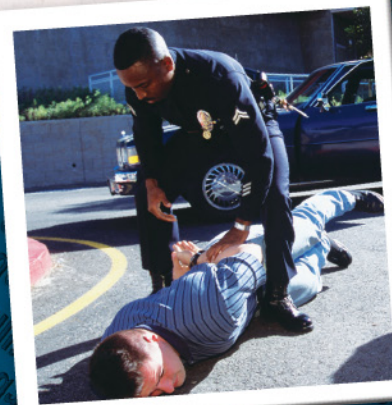
In certain situations, police officers have to chase after the people they are trying to arrest.



In most cities, police officers are allowed to shoot at a suspect only if they have good reason to believe that they or other people are in danger of death or serious injury.

This time the robber dropped his gun, but he kept on running. Sergeant Martin continued chasing the robber. Finally, he was able to catch up with the man, wrestle him to the ground, and handcuff him. As a police officer, Sergeant Martin risks his life every day to stop dangerous criminals and save innocent people. For him, this arrest was just another day at the office.

A police officer handcuffing a person



The store's employees talk with other police officers about what happened inside the store.



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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

PARAMEDICS
to the Rescue

FIREFIGHTERS
to the Rescue

POLICE OFFICERS
to the Rescue

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