



*For immediate release: 11/9/07*

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*The attached photo (L to R) Captain Stuart Blasingame, Chief Ronnie Tucker, CareFlite CEO James C. Swartz, Firefighter/Paramedic Heath Harris*

## **FRIEND OF CAREFLITE AWARD PRESENTED TO PROSPER FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT**

CareFlite CEO James C. Swartz presented the 2007 Friend of CareFlite award to Prosper Fire-Rescue Chief Ronnie Tucker on November 8, 2007. This award is presented annually to a fire department/EMS and to a hospital that supports CareFlite's mission to provide safe, quality, cost effective medical transports to patients in North Texas. Prosper Fire-Rescue was chosen for its support of CareFlite during its 911/EMS ground operations in the Celina Fire District for the past year.

Prosper Fire-Rescue protects about 2500 people living in an area of 19 square miles that is primarily residential and growing rapidly. Prosper Fire-Rescue is a public department whose members are on a combination of paid and volunteer status. The department provides the following services to the citizens of Prosper: Firefighting, Hazardous Material Response, ALS Emergency Medical Service (ground ambulance), Vehicle Rescue (Extrication) and Search & Rescue.

CareFlite, a 501(c)3 non-profit company based in Grand Prairie, is the oldest joint use air medical program in the United States and has been serving Collin County since 1979. It has transported a total of over 375,000 patients by air and ground since then. One of the few IFR helicopter flight programs in the United States, CareFlite has an instrument approach to 17 area hospitals including the major trauma centers in the DFW metroplex, allowing CareFlite to operate in weather conditions that keeps other services grounded. All CareFlite aircraft have two engines for added safety. CareFlite is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Services (CAMTS). CareFlite operates the 911/EMS system in Johnson County, Texas and provides standby medical services to the Dallas Cowboys, Texas Rangers, TCU, SMU, Mesquite Rodeo, Texas Motor Speedway and other community organizations and events.

CareFlite offers a membership program to protect families against the high cost of air medical transport. Costing just \$49 per family, per year, the program can save hundreds to thousands of dollars if a family member is transported by helicopter EMS within 150 miles of DFW, by fixed wing air ambulance with 500 miles of DFW (Mexico excluded) or by CareFlite's 911/ground ambulance services where offered. It is the only comprehensive air and ground membership program offered across the entire DFW Metroplex. For more information, call CareFlite's members services office (877) 339-2273.

More information on CareFlite and its programs are available at [www.careflite.org](http://www.careflite.org) .

