



SPECIAL EDITION



Heroes of Waterbury Hospital

Pictured from left: Security supervisor **Joe Jacovino**; security supervisor **Alan Copeland** and security officer **James Tello**.

Security Officers Go Above and Beyond in Recent Fire Rescue

Three Waterbury Hospital security officers helped rescue 14 people from a smoke-filled apartment building on nearby Robbins Street on December 27. Security supervisors **Alan Copeland** and **Joe Jacovino** and security officer **James Tello** were among the first to respond to the fire after spotting smoke billowing from the building at 113 Robbins St. When they arrived, they found Waterbury police officer Adam April heading toward the building, and the four men rushed in.

They quickly spread out to knock on doors throughout the building and alert residents about the fire, but the going was not easy. "You could hardly see in front of your hands" because of the thick smoke, Copeland said. Yet they all continued, alerting and rescuing all 14 people inside. At one point, Tello said, he encountered a man who was sleeping in a bed and when he woke the man up, the man resisted his efforts to get him to leave. Tello then pointed to the roof the apartment, where thin layers of smoke were beginning to accumulate, and the man quickly realized the gravity of the situation and ran out with Tello, he said.

Due in large part to the heroics of the security staff members, no one was seriously injured in the blaze, which was later determined to have started in an apartment kitchen. Some of the residents suffered from minor smoke inhalation and breathing difficulty, and were examined in the hospital Emergency Department, located across the street. Responding Waterbury fire crews were able to bring the fire under control within 20 minutes.

Copeland, who was involved in a similar fire rescue at a burning building on Robbins Street in 2008, said he and Tello first noticed the fire while making routine rounds outside the Emergency Department. They notified Jacovino on their radios, and Jacovino came and picked them up in a security vehicle, and the three officers then drove to the scene of the fire.

The actions of the security officers, which received significant statewide attention, brought pride and honor to the entire hospital community, said **Steven Schneider, MD**, Vice President of Medical Affairs.

"When you see someone you work with perform so admirably and bravely in a situation like this, it gives everyone a morale boost," Dr. Schneider said. "Their actions have contributed greatly to the sense of family that our employees share with each other."

For Alan Copeland, Two Rescues are Enough

Hospital Hero Was Part of a Similar Rescue Effort in 2008

Alan Copeland said he hopes he never has to rush into a burning building again – but he will if he has to.

The Waterbury Hospital security supervisor received widespread state attention and accolades when he and fellow supervisor Joe Jacovino and officer James Tello helped rescue 14 people from a burning apartment building December 27.

For Copeland, who joined the security staff 16 years ago, it was the second time he has been involved in such a rescue in the last three years. In February 2008, he was one of four hospital employees who rushed into a burning house on Robbins Street to rescue seven people. In that instance, Copeland was making routine rounds when he saw smoke coming from a three-family house on Robbins Street across from the hospital. He notified the hospital's switchboard operator to call the fire department, while three other employees heard his radio calls and joined him in the effort to rescue people from the home. As the fire spread, Copeland managed to help a woman and her two young children escape unharmed.

Copeland and his fellow rescuers ended up receiving significant attention and praise throughout the hospital community and the state, but he hoped it would never happen to him again. But when he saw smoke billowing from another apartment building on December 27, he did not hesitate to spring into action. And once again, his actions have drawn high praise from the community.

"It's not a fun thing to be in a situation like that, but you do what you have to do because you would want someone to do that for you or your family," he said. "But having said that, that's enough for me. No more burning buildings if I can help it."



MEET THE HEROES



Alan Copeland

Security Supervisor

Age: 45

Hometown: Waterbury

Working at Waterbury Hospital: Alan has been a member of the security staff at Waterbury Hospital for 16 years.

Future: Alan, who is the proud father of seven children, enjoys his work at Waterbury Hospital and intends to continue his career here.



Joe Jacovino

Security Supervisor

Age: 25

Hometown: Waterbury

Working at Waterbury Hospital: Joe has been a member of the security staff at Waterbury Hospital since 2005. He was promoted to supervisor in 2006 and was named full-time supervisor of first shift in 2010.

Future: Joe hopes to one day enroll in the police academy and pursue a career in law enforcement



James Tello

Security Officer

Age: 21

Hometown: Waterbury

Working at Waterbury Hospital: James joined the security staff at Waterbury Hospital two months ago.

Previous work experience: Security, Target Department Stores and St. Francis/Mount Sinai Hospital in Hartford

Future: James hopes to eventually enroll in the police academy and pursue a career in law enforcement