

# Peekskill mayor to award city proclamation to Wheelabrator Westchester employees

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**PEEKSKILL, N.Y. - June 9, 2008** - Wheelabrator Westchester today announces that Peekskill Mayor Mary Foster will present a city proclamation to commend the employees of Wheelabrator Westchester for their immediate response to an emergency situation that resulted in saving a man's life last month.

"We wanted to take this opportunity to recognize the actions of private citizens who often contribute and assist in emergency situations. In this case, the due diligence of Wheelabrator employees, along with the City's EMTs, saved a man's life," said Mayor Foster.

On Thursday, May 15, a contractor from International Valve and Instrument Corp. suffered a heart attack within the waste-to-energy facility. While working on a boiler on the ninth floor, the contractor started to feel ill and called for help on the plant telephone. His call was heard throughout the plant and soon it became clear he was experiencing a heart attack. Immediately, Wheelabrator employees reacted to the emergency.

By using an automated external defibrillator (AED), employees were able to stabilize him and monitor and administer treatment as required, while waiting for the paramedics. Once help arrived, several employees assisted the paramedics in moving the gentleman down from the ninth to the fifth floor where the elevator is located; CPR and shock treatment were administered several times throughout the process. The contractor was transported by the EMTs to a local hospital for further treatment.

"I am extremely proud of the way all of our employees reacted. Everybody pitched in, did what we've all practiced and trained for," Westchester Plant Manager Peter Kendrigan said. "Whether they held a door, helped bring the EMT equipment to the area, assisted in bringing the contractor down five floors, it all added up to a positive result: life."

Kendrigan also added he was equally impressed that, even while under the pressures of the situation, employees had hard hats and safety glasses for the paramedics to put on before entering the facility. "We enforce these safety measures everyday, but to see the policy maintained during an emergency situation, gave all of us a higher understanding of the level of importance safety is to our facility."

Wheelabrator Westchester is a certified Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Star worksite under OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP), the government's highest safety award. VPP Star certification recognizes the outstanding efforts of its managers and employees who have achieved exemplary occupational health and safety compliance. Safety is a core value throughout the Wheelabrator organization and is practiced each and every day at all facilities.

"Becoming a VPP Star worksite was not just an exercise to develop and practice exceptional safety and health programs but it has also strengthened our employees commitment to safety," said Mark A. Weidman, president of Wheelabrator Technologies Inc. "It is this level of commitment that resulted in the calm and swift reaction to a life and death situation from all our employees. They saved a man's life, the best safety award given."

## About Wheelabrator Technologies

A wholly owned subsidiary of Waste Management of Houston, Texas, Wheelabrator Technologies Inc. is a world leader in the safe and environmentally sound conversion of municipal solid waste and other renewable waste fuels into clean energy. Wheelabrator's 17 waste-to-energy facilities

provide safe waste disposal for towns and cities across the U.S. Wheelabrator also operates five independent power plants designed to generate electricity using an assortment of fuels, including waste wood, tires, waste coal, and natural gas. In addition to producing electricity, some of these facilities also produce steam sold to nearby government and commercial establishments. Wheelabrator's 22 facilities have a combined electric generating capacity of 896 megawatts, enough energy to power more than 985,000 homes. To learn more, visit [www.wheelabratortechnologies.com](http://www.wheelabratortechnologies.com).

### **About Waste Management**

Waste Management, based in Houston, Texas, is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management services in North America. Through its subsidiaries, the company provides collection, transfer, recycling and resource recovery, and disposal services. It is also a leading developer, operator and owner of waste-to-energy and landfill gas-to-energy facilities in the United States. The company's customers include residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal customers throughout North America. To learn more, visit [www.wm.com](http://www.wm.com) or [www.thinkgreen.com](http://www.thinkgreen.com).

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