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Ernest Maier, Inc.

Employee Saves Co-Worker with CPR!

By Kenny Cassidy, Vice President, Early, Cassidy & Schilling, Inc.

Ernest Maier, Inc. (EMCO) is a block manufacturer and building material dealer based in Bladensburg, MD and with locations in Gaithersburg, MD; Charlottesville, VA and Delaware.

On March 26, 2015 EMCO employee Avery Garber was following his manager, Brian Manuel, in a company pickup truck. Brian Manuel was also driving a company truck. They were both traveling southbound on I 270 just past the Old Georgetown Road exit.

Suddenly Mr. Manuel looked in his rear view mirror and noticed Mr. Gerber shaking with his arms locked on the steering wheel in an unusual position. Mr. Manuel knew immediately something was wrong and that Mr. Avery appeared to be having a seizure. Then Mr. Avery's truck pulled from center lane to the side of the road and collided with a Jersey wall. The truck bounced for about 400 ft. off the wall then suddenly stopped.

Mr. Manuel immediately jumped out of his truck, ran to Mr. Avery's truck and opened the door and attempted to pull him out. Mr. Avery weighs about 180 pounds and his foot was stuck behind the brake pedal making it impossible to remove him. Mr. Manuel lifted him back in and maneuvered his foot free. Around this time, Mr. Manuel not only recognized Mr. Avery had a seizure but that his face had gone from red to blue and that he had stopped breathing. Also at this time some Good Samaritan drivers had called 911 and blocked traffic in far right lane.

Mr. Manuel lifted Mr. Avery onto the ground and instantly started performing CPR that he learned while working at the Salvation Army in North Carolina a few years back. After Mr. Manuel performed vigorous CPR on Mr. Avery for several minutes, he started breathing again.

Montgomery County paramedics arrived within 15 minutes and stabilized Mr. Avery who as drifting in and out of consciousness.

Amazingly, Mr. Avery is recuperating smoothly without any permanent health issues. This was the first time that the 21 year old employee had a seizure event in his life. Mr. Avery had a Guardian Angel (who was trained in CPR) with him that day. Fortunately, Mr. Manuel, who played linebacker for the Philadelphia Eagles, was strong enough to lift a 180 pound man from the truck with ease according to a witness.

Most accidents are preventable. This event would bend those rules. Mr. Manuel's CPR Training and his being alert and responsible quite probably saved his co-worker's life.



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