

## WILTSHIRE COMPANY MAKES FIRST AID AWARD SHORTLIST

A Wiltshire business has been shortlisted for the coveted Workplace of the Year Award for the construction industry at the **inaugural St John Ambulance First Aid Awards**. Wessex Drainage Solutions, based in Salisbury, will find out if it has been successful at a glittering awards event in London on Wednesday 30 November, hosted by BBC newsreader **Sophie Raworth**, who has herself benefitted from first aid. It is set to be **an inspirational occasion**, showcasing first aid success stories across the UK.

The awards were launched in July to celebrate individuals, businesses and communities that are leading the way in first aid. Trophies will go to those who champion first aid – in the workplace or in public - and heroes who have been the difference between a life lost and a life saved. Wessex Drainage Solutions is up against four other construction firms from across the country on the night.

The firm was shortlisted for its commitment to first aid and health and safety. All field engineers are trained in first aid and in addition, team leaders take the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health's working safely course. There are regular employee safety meetings and all staff are trained in risk assessment, thereby contributing to the company's safety record.

Ian Porter, Joint Managing Director, from Wessex Drainage Solutions, said: 'To be short listed is a great honour. We recognise that the training we receive from St John Ambulance is second to none and although prevention is better than cure, when the cards are down, the St John's training is the ace up our sleeve.'

Awards at the celebratory black-tie awards dinner will be presented by **high-profile supporters including presenter Matthew Wright** who would have choked to death without first aid, and wilderness survival expert **Ray Mears**, who gave first aid to a fellow crew member when he was involved in a helicopter accident during filming.

### Why the awards are needed

Each year up to 150,000\* people die in situations where first aid could have given them the chance to live.

St John Ambulance wants to put an end to these needless deaths and encourage everyone to have the skills to save a life. **These awards aim to raise awareness of the importance of first aid and celebrate organisations with exemplary first aid standards in their workplaces and those who have put their knowledge to use.**

Sue Killen, CEO of St John Ambulance, said: 'Organisations like Wessex Drainage Solutions are the reason we set up the St John Ambulance First Aid Awards. We were searching for companies that had gone the extra mile or achieved something special through first aid. Their application showed they took first aid provision extremely seriously and I look forward to meeting them on the evening and toasting their commitment.'

Full details on the awards can be found at [www.sja.org.uk/firstaidawards](http://www.sja.org.uk/firstaidawards)

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For more information or to arrange an interview with a St John Ambulance spokesperson, please contact South West Regional PR and Fundraising Officer Janet Kipling on 07766 203891 or [janet.kipling@nhq.sja.org.uk](mailto:janet.kipling@nhq.sja.org.uk)

#### **Notes to editors**

- For information about St John Ambulance please call 08700 10 49 50 or visit our website [www.sja.org.uk](http://www.sja.org.uk)
- As the nation's leading first aid charity, St John Ambulance believes that nobody should die because they needed first aid and didn't get it. Yet every year, up to 150,000\* people die in situations where first aid could have given them a chance to live. St John Ambulance teaches people first aid so that they can be the difference. \*Using death registration data from the Office of National Statistics, 2008 (for England and Wales), April 2010.