

PRESS

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Avalon goes beyond the call of duty with the 35W Bridge Collapse.

Avalon Security employees respond to the 35W Bridge collapse – and make a difference

Minneapolis, MN – August 1st, 2007 – The 35W Bridge collapse gave new meaning to “disaster” for many Minnesotans. While many stories have been told about the extraordinary response by people on the street, employees of Avalon Fortress Security Corporation also rose to the occasion with calm leadership and effective action during this tragic time.

Dillon Seman (shown here) works for Avalon as a part-time usher at special events. His usual tasks involve taking tickets and directing people to their seats, but after hearing of the bridge collapse, he immediately went to the American Red Cross and volunteered. Instead of standing in an air-conditioned entryway and punching tickets, Dillon chose to spend a 12-hour day in the blistering heat, loading water for the recovery effort.



Leadora Bennett was finishing her second week on the job as an Avalon Security Guard for the Red Cross facility, located a few blocks away from the 35W Bridge. She was set for an evening shift of fielding routine calls and handing incoming visitors. However, after seeing a number of emergency vehicles rushing past the building after the collapse, she quickly grasped the urgency and scope of the developing disaster situation.

Bennett headed directly to a CPR class being taught in the building, knowing it was filled with registered nurses from local hospitals. After she calmly explained the situation to them, the entire class of medical professionals (including the instructor) was able to use the information to mobilize and prepare to assist the injured. A number of victims were escorted back to the Red Cross property, and it quickly became a triage center for the wounded. Both Avalon Fortress Security Corporation and the American Red Cross are pleased and proud of Bennett's work. During all of this chaos, Bennett didn't panic or overreact – she kept a level head to perform above and beyond the duties of her job. Certainly her common sense and coordination of the emergency efforts made a difference in getting help exactly where it was needed.



Besides these two notable Avalon employees, many other Avalon Security staff members did a stellar job in securing the area. Numerous guards quickly worked to coordinate an organized, safe perimeter around the American Red Cross which allowed emergency crews to work without hindrance. High-level security was also quickly prepared for visits from the Mayor of Minneapolis and the Minnesota Governor as they looked over the site to assess the situation and began to address the media. Avalon Security professionals also worked hand-in-hand with the U.S. Secret Service to prepare protection and security for visits from the First Lady and the President of the United States.



It was not a typical day, but keeping people safe is what the security industry is all about. By instinctively jumping into action and offering help when needed, all these Avalon employees made a difference when it mattered most.