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Columbia Correctional Institution Sergeant Saves Inmates Life

Portage, Wis. – A Sergeant at Columbia Correctional Institution is being credited with potentially saving an inmate's life last week by quickly delivering life-saving care to him. Sgt. Douglas Teska's actions are being commended by corrections leadership.

On Saturday, May 19, Sgt. Teska observed an inmate in distress and apparently choking while eating his lunch. The inmate's airway had become completely blocked leaving him unable to breathe. Recognizing what was happening; Sgt. Teska immediately rushed to the inmate and began administering the lifesaving Heimlich maneuver. After several tense moments, the obstruction was dislodged and the inmate was able to breathe again.

"Thanks to Sgt. Teska's actions, the inmate received life-saving treatment and Sgt. Teska performed his duties admirably," said Department of Corrections Secretary Gary Hamblin. "Our staff is trained in life-saving techniques but the hope is that it will never have to be used. The actions of Sgt. Teska were critical to the inmate's survival and demonstrate the tremendous care shown by our staff to inmates."

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