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Around Montana

Hebgen Basin Fire Chief Scott Waldron to Retire

Come celebrate Chief Waldron’s retirement Saturday February 28th at the Branch Holiday Inn 315 Yellowstone Ave., West Yellowstone starting at 18:30.

Please RSVP with number attending to sgrube@hbrfd.com or dfleming@hbrfd.com.

Rooms available at the Days Inn, 301 Madison Ave., 406-646-7656 or 800-548-9551. Mention Waldron’s retirement to receive \$75 plus tax room rate.

See attached flyer as well.

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NFA Decision Making for Initial Company Operations Miles City Location Change!

****New Location: Miles City Fire, 2800 Main St, Miles City****

Decision Making for Initial Company Operations is designed to develop the decision making skills needed by Company Officers (COs) to accomplish assigned tactics at structure fires. All

activities and scenarios used in this course are based on structure fires. As a Company Officer (CO) with the real possibility of being the first to arrive at an incident, the CO's initial decisions will have an impact throughout the entire incident. It is vital that they be able to make good management decisions that have a favorable impact on the eventual outcome. In addition to a possible role as the initial Incident Commander (IC), the CO may well be assigned a subordinate position within the ICS organization. COs need to have a clear understanding of the system, the position they are assigned, and their role in the organization if they are to function effectively and help make the system work.

New Location: Miles City Fire, 2800 Main St, Miles City

Times: 9 am to 6 pm both days

When: February 7th & 8th 2015 9 am to 6 pm

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Billings Firefighters Dust Off Rescue Sleds, Survival Suits For Ice Rescue Training

http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/firefighters-dust-off-rescue-sleds-survival-suits-for-ice-rescue/article_41332d9d-2974-52bd-9c13-9630385072dd.html





Billings firefighters are zipping on red dry suits this week to sharpen the skills that will help them save lives in icy waters.

Ice rescue training began Monday at Lake Josephine for members of the Billings Fire Department.

It's a refresher course for most who underwent a more comprehensive training last year, said Chris Lowe, BFD engineer and ice rescue technician.

"This year, we're going to be doing nothing but ice time," he said.

Ice rescues are precarious undertakings, but the department has a trailer full of equipment to help firefighters remain safe and work efficiently.

The rescue sled is one of those. Doubling as a pontoon boat and a kind of giant snowshoe, the sled allows a rescue team to cross open water and thin ice to reach a stranded patient, Lowe said.

Lowe and fellow ice rescue technician Greg Roper are training their coworkers on ways to lift a patient onto the sled and move him or her to the shore. The first step of pulling the patient from the water or ice can be aided by a ladder or backboard that act as a fulcrum.

The patient can then cling to a Velcro strap attached to the sled, if they're able, and be dragged to shore, Lowe said.

Firefighters from the shore can assist by firing a buoy from a .308 Savage rifle. The rescue gun can launch a buoy and tagline or rope some 200-300 feet, Lowe said. The buoy can be

used to pull the pontoon toward the shore, or “maybe the victim is out there and able to hold the rope,” Lowe said.

Fire crews practiced a handful of scenarios on the ice Monday. Between 20 and 30 firefighters are assigned to the department’s rope rescue team, which Lowe said is trained to respond to structural collapse, trench rescue and more.

But everyone is getting the refresher on ice training this week so the department can respond quickly to an incident in any part of the city.

“The sooner we can get a guy or a girl in one of those red survival suits and out there at least attempting a rescue is absolutely beneficial for a patient,” Lowe said.

The rescue sled was used in 2009 during an [hourlong rescue of a dog named Duke](#), who was stranded on ice overnight on a pond at Peter Yegen Jr. Golf Club.

While the 118-pound St. Bernard was no lightweight, Lowe said the department is becoming increasingly equipped to conduct rescue operations on much larger animals and incorporates specialized animal rescue techniques into its training as well.

Ice rescue training will continue through Wednesday.

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Search Crews Rescue Injured Snowmobiler Near Marysville

<http://www.krtv.com/story/28006258/search-crews-rescue-injured-snowmobiler-near-marysville>



HELENA -- A Helena woman injured during a weekend snowmobile crash was rescued by a Lewis & Clark County Search and Rescue.

According to the Lewis & Clark County Sheriff's Office, the 40-year old woman sustained injuries to her hips and legs on Saturday when she rolled her snowmobile in the Windshield Hill area near Marysville.

The woman was traveling with a group of twelve people at the time of the crash.

Two members of the group were sent to get help while the rest stayed with the victim.

“They did everything right,” said Lewis & Clark County Sheriff Leo Dutton. “Her companions stayed with her, didn't move her and they didn't wait to call for help.”

First responders from SAR, the Sheriff's office, Saint Peter's ambulance, and West Valley Fire snowmobiled in to the woman, where she was evaluated, stabilized, and then taken to a waiting ambulance.

The woman was treated and released late Saturday from Saint Peter's Hospital.

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Man Pleads Guilty To Heritage Christian School Fires

<http://www.kbzk.com/news/man-pleads-guilty-to-heritage-christian-school-fires/>



Zachary James Silflow changed his plea to guilty he pled guilty to two counts of felony arson in district court this afternoon. Silflow faces up to 40 years in prison. In return for the plea change, two burglary counts will be dropped. He will be sentenced March 19. Silflow faces the max penalties, there was no sentencing agreement made in court today. Silflow, of Gallatin County, was arrested Friday, Oct. 24, 2014 by Sheriff's Detectives. Heritage Christian's gym was set on fire earlier that day. Silflow was also charged with an earlier fire that took place in 2012 at the school.

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Around the Nation

Tenn. Firefighter Struck at Crash Scene

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/12040740/tenn-firefighter-struck-at-crash-scene>

Jeremy Pettway works as a cook at the Burger King on East Brainerd Road near where Chattanooga firefighter Lt. Larry O'Rear was hit around 9:19 p.m. Sunday by a red Mercedes. "A car just came flying," Pettway said. "[The car] was going at least 50, so I guess [the driver] didn't see the fireman."

O'Rear was helping direct traffic at the scene of a two-car crash that had happened earlier between the Burger King and Hardee's fast-food restaurants in the 7900 block of East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga police said. He was standing on the double yellow line in the utility lane directing westbound traffic, police said.

Andrea L. Payne, who was traveling eastbound, didn't see the firefighter, Chattanooga police said, and the impact sent O'Rear over the passenger side of her Mercedes.

"I seen him flying in the air," Pettway said. "The car just kept going."

Payne was questioned Sunday night but not arrested. She could not be reached Monday for comment.

O'Rear, who was hospitalized Sunday night, had his condition upgraded to fair Monday, Deputy Fire Chief Chris Adams said.

"He has some injuries that are going to take some time to heal," Adams said.

O'Rear is a well-liked firefighter, and about 100 of his co-workers came to the visiting area of the hospital emergency room Sunday night, fire department officials said.

"He's one, when you hear the news, your heart goes to your feet," Adams said.

Police will present the results of their investigation to a grand jury that will decide if charges should be brought against Payne, police department spokesman Kyle Miller said.

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Smoke Inhalation Caused Deaths of Md. Family in Mansion Blaze

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/12040987/smoke-inhalation-caused-deaths-of-annapolis-md-family-in-mansion-blaze>



Photo credit: Anne Arundel County Fire

The state medical examiner in Baltimore said Monday that six family members who died in an Annapolis mansion fire last month died of smoke inhalation and burns.

The deaths of homeowners Don Pyle, 56, Sandra Pyle, 63, and four of their grandchildren — Alexis Boone, 8; Kaitlyn Boone, 7; Charlotte Boone, 8; and Wesley Boone, 6 — have been deemed accidental, said Bruce Goldfarb, spokesman for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

The full autopsy reports will be completed in 60 to 90 days, said Dr. David R. Fowler, the chief medical examiner.

Through a spokeswoman, the Pyle and Boone families declined to comment on the medical examiner's findings.

The Pyles and their grandchildren died in the early hours of Jan. 19, when the Pyles' 16,000-square-foot waterfront home on Childs Point Road burned to the ground. A preliminary investigation determined the blaze was caused by a faulty electrical outlet that ignited materials in the home's great room, including a 15-foot-tall Christmas tree.

The outlet generated heat that started the fire, said Capt. Russ Davies, a spokesman for the Anne Arundel County Fire Department. Davies said Monday that the tree's Christmas lights were on and plugged into the outlet, but he said anything plugged in there could have triggered the fire — even a cellphone charger.

"It's just the worst possible scenario in that outlet, in that area, at that time of day," he said. Davies said the blaze serves as a warning that items susceptible to fire should be kept away from outlets in use. An example, he said, is a bed pushed against an outlet used for lamps or alarm clocks.

"If you walk around your house, you'll find at least one spot where there's combustibles near an outlet," he said.

Davies said the work of Anne Arundel investigators is "conclusive" that the faulty outlet sparked the fire, though the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is continuing its investigation of the blaze. The ATF was brought in to assist because of the size of the home, which investigators said is more akin to a church or commercial building than a typical residential home.

The ATF's work is concentrating on the Christmas tree, which was cut down 65 days before the fire. The Pyles put the tree up in their home 42 days before the fire, said Special Agent Dave Cheplak, spokesman for the ATF's Baltimore field office.

Investigators have acquired three Fraser firs from the same place where the Pyles obtained their tree. They plan to keep the trees in the same condition as the Pyles' tree and ignite them in an effort to re-create the fire at the ATF's Fire Research Laboratory in Beltsville, Cheplak said.

Davies said the ATF's work is being done with education and research in mind.

Arundel officials said that since the fire, the department has been inundated with calls from families seeking help in crafting fire escape plans, and from elderly residents needing assistance installing smoke detectors.

"This fire on Childs Point Road has really opened up a sense of vulnerability in people," Davies said. "This truly is something that could have happened in any home in Anne Arundel County."

"Everybody I run into — this is on their mind," said Fire Department educator Sharon New. "This is a teachable moment."

New said she tells families to create a fire escape plan by drawing a diagram of their home, including each story, door, window and the location of all smoke alarms. Families should practice different escape routes to prepare for a situation in which doors might be blocked, she said.

"Then you practice, practice, practice," New said. "You really want to create that rote muscle memory."

Families should establish a safe meeting place outside of the home, New said.

Families should make sure they have working smoke detectors in each bedroom and in hallways, she said.

Officials have said the Pyle home had smoke detectors but not sprinklers. Sprinklers were not required when the home was built in 2005, but Anne Arundel County passed legislation in 2009 requiring sprinklers in all new homes. In June, a similar law will become effective statewide.

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Memphis FF/Medic Charged with Sexual Battery of Patient

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/11829560/memphis-ff-medic-charged-with-sexual-battery-of-patient>

A firefighter/paramedic with the Memphis Fire Department has been accused of inappropriately touching a 17-year-old girl who was a patient in his ambulance, according to police.
Joseph Hartsfield, 38, was booked into the Shelby County Jail around 9 a.m. Monday charged with two counts of sexual battery.
According to an arrest affidavit, the victim told police that Hartsfield asked her questions of a sexual manner while she was a patient in his ambulance on Jan. 8.
The victim told police that Hartsfield examined her breast and was "acting creepy" because of the sexual comments made during the exam. She said that she felt Hartsfield was touching her breasts in a sexual manner.
Memphis Fire Department spokesman Lt. Wayne Cooke said the department is aware of Hartsfield's arrest.
"After he is released the administration will determine his job status," Cooke said.
He said Hartsfield has worked with the department since October, 2008.
Monday, Hartsfield remained in jail. He is scheduled to make his first court appearance Tuesday.

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Former Pa. Fire Chief to Report to Prison Feb. 10

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/12040877/wilkes-barre-township-chief-john-yuknavich-to-go-to-prison-feb-10>

State theft charges against former Wilkes-Barre Township fire chief John Yuknavich have been dismissed in the wake of his conviction on federal embezzlement charges.
Luzerne County Judge Michael T. Vough ordered the charges dropped Friday after prosecutors requested the move, citing Yuknavich's federal plea that will land him in prison for six months. Yuknavich was also sentenced last month to serve six months of house arrest after his release and to repay \$45,000 he admitted to stealing from the volunteer fire department. Yuknavich pleaded guilty in September to a count of stealing from programs that receive federal funds. Prosecutors said that between 2008 and 2011, Yuknavich skimmed money from checks the township gave to the department.
As part of his plea deal, Yuknavich agreed to resign from the department and his association with the township fire hall.
He is due to report to prison by 2 p.m. Feb. 10.

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Grants

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Town Pump Charitable Foundation

Mission Statement: The Town Pump Charitable Foundation was established in 1999 with the mission of providing financial support to Montana charitable or governmental organizations with a priority of supporting/meeting basic needs and education for Montana citizens.

Qualifications/Requirements: In general, an organization seeking financial support from the Foundation must be a 501(c)(3) or governmental entity. The grant must be used for charitable purposes and primarily for the benefit of Montana citizens. The organization must be able to provide a copy of the IRS determination letter showing non-profit status or provide evidence of governmental status.

Contact Information: If your organization is interested in seeking financial support from the Town Pump Charitable Foundation please send a brief letter outlining your mission, the project you want to support, the amount of funds you are requesting and a copy of your IRS determination letter. Also include the name and phone number of the contact person. Please do not send videotapes, CD's or an extensive presentation binder, if we need further information we will contact you with our questions. Please allow two to three weeks for processing. Send your letter of request to:

Town Pump Charitable Foundation
Attn: Grant Committee
P.O. Box 6000
Butte, MT 59702

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Walmart's Local Giving Program

Walmart's Local Giving Program helps local organizations and government (including FD's) with grants from \$250-\$2500. I know some departments have been successful in obtaining this grant. One idea for utilizing this grant is for new or updated AED's for your fire department or local ambulance service?

For more information click the link below.

<http://foundation.walmart.com/apply-for-grants/local-giving>

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Upcoming Training Opportunities

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Visit our training calendar and webpage here:

<http://www.montana.edu/wwwfire/Training.html>

NFA Decision Making for Initial Company Operations

****New Location: Miles City Fire, 2800 Main St, Miles City****

Decision Making for Initial Company Operations is designed to develop the decision making skills needed by Company Officers (COs) to accomplish assigned tactics at structure fires. All activities and scenarios used in this course are based on structure fires. As a Company Officer (CO) with the real possibility of being the first to arrive at an incident, the CO's initial decisions will have an impact throughout the entire incident. It is vital that they be able to make good management decisions that have a favorable impact on the eventual outcome. In addition to a possible role as the initial Incident Commander (IC), the CO may well be assigned a subordinate position within the ICS organization. COs need to have a clear understanding of the system, the position they are assigned, and their role in the organization if they are to function effectively and help make the system work.

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Times: 9 am to 6 pm both days

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*Register online at <http://www.montana.edu/wwwfire/register.php> or email jonathan.marshall@montana.edu

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2015 All-Hazards Incident Management Team Unit Leader Academy

When: February 9-13 2015

Where: Salt Lake City, UT

For more information on the academy, click here:

<http://publicsafety.utah.gov/emergencymanagement/AHIMT.html>

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A Day with Gordon Graham

When: Feb. 19, 2015

Where: Holiday Inn -- Bozeman, MT

Time: 08:00 -- 16:00

Registration: RSVP by Feb. 11, 2015 **Cost:** Free

Contact Person: Tim Crosmer MT DNRC w- 406-535-1908 C-406-366 - 4527

Email: tcrosmer@mt.gov

Gordon Graham is a 33 year veteran of California law enforcement. His education as a Risk Manager and experience as a practicing attorney, coupled with his extensive background in law enforcement, have allowed him to rapidly become recognized as a leading professional speaker in both private and public sector organizations with multiple areas of expertise.

Throughout the years Mr. Graham has expanded his efforts to assist public safety organizations. In 2002 he helped develop FireFighterCloseCalls.com which is now recognized as "the source" for information about fire fighter safety. This effort led to his assisting the International Association of Fire Chiefs with a similar effort—and the development of their FireFighterNearMiss.com safety site. In 2005 the IAFC awarded Gordon with the Presidential Award for Excellence for his lifelong work in improving firefighter safety and performance.

Topics of Discussion:

1. Why Things Go Right, Why Things Go Wrong
2. Organizational Risk Management
3. The Top 10 Things That Get Fire Fighters In Trouble

For more information or RSVP contact: Tim Crosmer, MT DNRC W- 406-535-1908,

C- 406-366-4527 email: tcrosmer@mt.gov

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NFA - Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations

Curriculum: Incident Management

STICO is designed to meet the needs of Company Officers responsible for managing the operations of one or more companies during structural firefighting operations. STICO is designed to develop the management skills needed by company officers to accomplish assigned tactics at structure fires.

Course Instructor: Rick Paulson, Captain of Training, Missoula Rural Fire District
Course Location: Columbia Falls City Fire Department, 624 1st Ave West, Columbia Falls, MT
Course Date: February 20th & 21st, 2015
Course Time: 1800 – 2200 Friday night, 0830-1630 Saturday

*Register online at <http://www.montana.edu/wwwfire/register.php> or email jonathan.marshall@montana.edu

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Gallatin County Leadership Seminar

February 21-22 2015
Tuition: \$50 for out of county residents

The website for registration and more information for the Gallatin County Leadership Seminar is: <http://leadership.readygallatin.com>.

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NFA - Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations

Curriculum: Incident Management

STICO is designed to meet the needs of Company Officers responsible for managing the operations of one or more companies during structural firefighting operations. STICO is designed to develop the management skills needed by company officers to accomplish assigned tactics at structure fires.

Location: Butte Silver Bow Public Archives

When: February 28 - March 1 2015

Tuition: Free

*Registration Deadline of 15 students before 45 days of the start day of the course! Register Early!

*Register online at <http://www.montana.edu/wwwfire/register.php> or email jonathan.marshall@montana.edu

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NFA - Leadership I for Fire and EMS: Strategies for Company Success

Curriculum: Management Science

This 2-day course presents the company officer with the basic leadership skills and tools needed to perform effectively in the fire service environment. The course includes techniques and approaches to problem-solving, ways to identify and assess the needs of the company officer's subordinates, methods for running meetings effectively in the fire service environment, and decision making skills for the company officer.

Course Instructor: Brian Crandall, Former Fire Chief, Training Officer and FSTS trainer

Course Location: Flathead County OES, 625 Timberwolf Pkwy, Kalispell

Course Date: March 14 & 15, 2015

Course Time: 0830-1600 Saturday & Sunday

*Register online at <http://www.montana.edu/wwwfire/register.php> or email jonathan.marshall@montana.edu

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DES Coordinator's Workshop

Location: Fort Harrison, Helena

When: March 17-18

Register/Contact: Marschal Rothe 406-324-4776 mrothe@mt.gov

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Advanced Critical Incident Stress Management

Location: Choteau
When: March 30-31
Register/Contact: Carol Staben-Burroughs carent@montana.net

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NFA Leadership II for Fire & EMS: Strategies for Personal Success

Leadership II for Fire & EMS: Strategies for Personal Success provides the company officer with the basic leadership skills and tools needed to perform effectively in the fire service environment. The course addresses ethics, use and abuse of power at the company officer level, creativity in the fire service environment, and management of the multiple roles of the company officer.

Course Instructor: Brian Crandall, Former Fire Chief, Training Officer and FSTS trainer
Course Location: Flathead County OES, 625 Timberwolf Pkwy, Kalispell
Course Date: April 25 & 26, 2015
Course Time: 0830-1600 Saturday & Sunday

*Register online at <http://www.montana.edu/wwwfire/register.php> or email jonathan.marshall@montana.edu

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NFA Wildland/Urban Interface Firefighting for the Structural Company Officer

Wildland/Urban Interface Firefighting for the Structural Company Officer identifies operational activities and safety concerns for structural company officers assigned to a Wildland/Wildland Urban Interface incident. Topics covered include Introduction to Wildland/Wildland Urban Interface firefighting, interface environment, wildland fire behavior, command and control issues of wildland/urban interface firefighting, and tactics.

Course Time: 1900 - 2200 Friday, 0830-1630 on Saturday

Note: Saturday will involve actual WUI visits and simulations

Equipment Required: Wildfire PPE, Portable radio

Personal Requirements: Currently serve as or aspire to serve as a company level fire officer with interest in how to safely and effectively perform in the WUI fire environment.

Course Instructor: Brian Crandall, Former Fire Chief, Training Officer and FSTS trainer

Course Location: Smith Valley Fire District, 3426 Highway 2 West, Kalispell

Course Date: May 1st & 2nd , 2015

*Register online at <http://www.montana.edu/wwwfire/register.php> or email jonathan.marshall@montana.edu

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NFA Leadership III for Fire & EMS: Strategies for Supervisory Success

Leadership III for Fire & EMS: Strategies for Supervisory Success provides the company officer with the basic leadership skills and tools to perform effectively in the fire service

environment. The course covers when and how to delegate to subordinates, assess personal leadership styles through situational leadership, discipline subordinates, and apply coaching/motivating techniques.

Course Instructor: Brian Crandall, Former Fire Chief, Training Officer and FSTS trainer
Course Location: Flathead County OES, 625 Timberwolf Pkwy, Kalispell
Course Date: May 16 & 17, 2015
Course Time: 0830-1600 Saturday & Sunday

*Register online at <http://www.montana.edu/wwwfire/register.php> or email jonathan.marshall@montana.edu

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