



In this Edition:

Around Montana

[Livingston Fire & Rescue New Fire Chief Takes The Helm](#)

[Crews Battle Missoula Structure Fire](#)

[Frenchtown RFD Crews Responded To A Chimney Fire Up In The Petty Creek Area](#)

[2 Boys Die After Falling Through Ice On Pond Near Great Falls](#)

[Recalls From The State Fire Marshal](#)

[Missoula Rural Fire Fighters Invite Public To Climb With Them For A Cure](#)

[Ruby Valley SAR Participates In Rigorous Training Program](#)

[Red Lodge Fire Rescue Has A 1988 Pemfab Imperial 100' Ladder Truck For Sale](#)

Around the Nation

[N.Y. Firefighter Dies of Injuries After Being Struck by Vehicle](#)

[Calif. Man Commits Suicide Outside Fire Station](#)

[Bogus Pa. Fire Police Officer Arrested](#)

[Arson Probe in Ferguson Could Take Years](#)

=====

Around Montana

Livingston Fire & Rescue New Fire Chief Takes The Helm

<http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/city%E2%80%99s-new-fire-chief-takes-helm>



Livingston Fire and Rescue's new fire chief joined the department Monday with a meet-and-greet at the city's fire station and introduction to the Livingston City Commission at its meeting Tuesday night.

Ben Coffman moved to Livingston from the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, where he worked as a lieutenant with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in Virginia.

"Coming from a department of 1,500 to a fire department with 15 firefighters, it's a little different," Coffman said Monday morning.

Coffman moved to Livingston about two weeks ago with his wife and twin 3-year-old boys. He used the time before taking over as chief to settle into his new home and become acquainted with the city.

"We wanted to move to a small place that had a small community feeling that's a good place to raise a family," he said.

According to Coffman, his old department received about 90,000 calls per year, and he would work three 24-hour shifts in five days, which for him was a less than ideal schedule.

"There's many days there I didn't sleep for 24 hours because you're just moving right along (from call to call)," he said.

Coffman topped a candidate pool of more than 50 fire professionals applying for LFR's fire chief position.

He said he wasn't actively searching for a new position when he saw the job posting but couldn't pass up an opportunity to work in a town like Livingston.

This is the first time since 2013 Livingston has had a permanent fire chief.

[Top of the Document](#)

=====

Crews Battle Missoula Structure Fire

<http://www.kxlh.com/story/28023780/crews-battle-missoula-structure-fire>



MISSOULA - Firefighters are on the scene of a reported structure fire on Blaine Street near Loyola High School in Missoula.

A call came in that smoke was showing from the window and crews arrived on the scene in the 300 block of Blaine Street at 9:35 a.m.

A neighbor told MTN News that they saw smoke coming out of a window. The neighbor then ran into the home and says that nobody was home.

No injuries have been reported and the Missoula City Fire Department was still on the scene investigating as of 10:30 a.m.

[Top of the Document](#)

=====

Frenchtown RFD Crews Responded To A Chimney Fire Up In The Petty Creek Area

<https://www.facebook.com/FrenchtownFire/timeline>



When crews arrived heavy smoke with flames were visible from the chimney. Crews extinguished the fire and checked the attic and walls with a thermal imaging camera to make sure no fire had penetrated into the walls.

[Top of the Document](#)

=====

2 Boys Die After Falling Through Ice On Pond Near Great Falls

<http://www.krtv.com/story/28029122/2-boys-die-after-falling-through-ice-on-pond>



GREAT FALLS -- Cascade County Sheriff Bob Edwards has confirmed that two of the three boys that fell through the ice on Wednesday afternoon have died.

The third child is in the intensive care unit at Benefis hospital.

The names of the children have not been released at this point; Sheriff Edwards tells us that all three were between the ages of 4 and 5 years old.

We will update you as we get more information.

(First Report, 4:23 pm) Three children have been taken to Benefis hospital in Great Falls after falling into a pond east of Sand Coulee on Wednesday.

Emergency crews were called to the scene just after 3:30 p.m. to a location near McCoy Road.

We're told that the three boys -- whose ages have not been released -- went through a fence and were on the ice of a sewage holding pond on the Pleasant Valley Colony; the ice broke, and all three boys fell into the water.

Some other children saw it happen and ran to get help.

Emergency responders included Cascade County Sheriff's Office, Belt Ambulance, Belt Fire,

and a Mercy Flight helicopter.

Two of the boys were taken to Benefis via ambulance, and the third was taken in a private vehicle; the Mercy Flight helicopter was not used.

The medical condition of the three boys has not yet been released.

[Top of the Document](#)

=====

Recalls From The State Fire Marshal

Recall Date: February 4, 2015

Recall Number: 15-071

Lifesmart Recalls Lifepro Brand Portable Mini Space Heaters Due to Electrical Shock Hazard

Recall Summary

Name of Product: Portable Space Heaters

Hazard: The screws used to attach the back plate to the heater are too short and allow the back plate to detach when removing the heater from the outlet, posing an electrical shock hazard to the user.

Remedy: Repair. Replace. Refund.

Consumers should immediately unplug and stop using the recalled space heaters and contact Lifesmart to receive either a free repair kit consisting of four longer screws with instructions on how to install them; a free replacement heater with the modified screws; or a full refund.

Consumer Contact: Lifesmart at (866) 484-2066 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or online at www.lifesmartproducts.com and click on 2014-Product-Recall for more information.

Recall Details

Units: About 17,000

Description: This recall is for Lifepro brand portable infrared quartz space heater models LS-IQH-DMICRO and LS-IQH-MICRO. The recalled heaters are about 6 1/2 inches tall x 5 inches wide x 3 3/4 inches deep and made of black plastic. They have a three-prong plug built into the back to allow them to be plugged directly into an electrical outlet. The Lifepro logo is molded into the front bottom of the heaters. Model LS-IQH-DMICRO is a 400-watt heater with digital display on the top. Model LS-IQH-MICRO is a 450-watt heater with no display. The model name and wattage are printed on a label on the back of each heater below the plug.

Incidents/Injuries: None reported

Sold at: Meijer stores, Northern Tool stores, QCI Direct stores and Tuesday Morning stores nationwide and online at Amazon.com, BJs.com, HomeDepot.com, QCIDirect.com, Samsclub.com, Walmart.com and Wayfair.com from January 2014 through December 2014 for between \$40 and \$50.

Importer: Source Network Sales and Marketing, LLC d/b/a/ lifesmart, of Plano, Texas

Manufactured in: China

3.

Recall Date: February 4, 2015

Recall Number: 15-072

Children's Pajamas and Robes Recalled by Lazy One Due to Violation of Federal Flammability Standard

Recall Summary

Name of Product: Children's pajamas and robes

Hazard: The footed pajamas and robes fail to meet the federal flammability standard for children's sleepwear, posing a burn hazard to children.

Remedy: Replace

Consumers should immediately take the recalled pajamas and robes away from children and return them to Lazy One for a free replacement garment, including shipping.

Consumer Contact: Lazy One toll-free at (866) 340-5278 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. MT Monday through Friday, or online at www.lazyone.com and click on the Product Recall link on the bottom of the page for more information.

Recall Details

Units: About 8,400

Description: This recall involves 100% polyester Lazy One children's sleepwear garments, including footed pajamas and two robes. The one-piece "footeez" style footed zip-up pajama is beige with a red, pink, blue and yellow owl print with the wording "I'm OWL yours." It has blue trim at the neck, cuff and right-hand side single pocket. The pajama has a foot-to-neck zipper, non-slip soles and a rear opening on the behind. It was sold in sizes children's small through extra-large. One of the recalled robes is pink with moose graphics and "Don't Moose With Me" printed on it. It has solid green trim, two front pockets and belt. The second robe is red with printed moose graphics and solid black trim, two front pockets and belt. Both robes were sold in sizes 4T through 14. "Lazy One", the size and "Made in China" are printed on the garments' neck label. Garments with "Flame Resistant" printed on the neck label are not included in this recall.

Incidents/Injuries: None reported.

Sold at: Department stores and children's boutiques nationwide and online at www.lazyone.com from October 2013 through June 2014 for about \$22 for the pajamas and about \$15 for the robes.

Importer: Lazy One, Inc., of North Logan, Utah

Manufactured in: China

**Allen Lorenz, State Fire Marshal
Montana Department of Justice
Division of Criminal Investigation
Investigations Bureau
Fire Prevention & Investigation Section
2225 11th Ave
P.O. Box 201417
Helena, MT 59620-1417
Office (406) 444-2050
Desk (406)444-7879
Fax (406)444-2759**



[Top of the Document](#)

=====

Missoula Rural Fire Fighters Invite Public To Climb With Them For A Cure

Members of the media and the public are asked to climb alongside a firefighter; donate and challenge your friends to do the same! Due to fundraising pledges the more steps climbed, the more money goes to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society to find a cure.

MISSOULA, MT, FEBRUARY 4, 2015 – Missoula Rural Fire District (MRFD) and PEAK Health & Wellness have teamed up to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society to help find a cure and improve the quality of life for patients and their families. The 1st Annual Stair Climb-A- Thon is a fundraising event, held at PEAK’s Blue Mountain location on Wednesday February 18th from 7 am to 7 pm. The event will give PEAK members and staff as well as the public a fun opportunity to get on a stair machine alongside a firefighter for fifteen minutes (or more), get to know their local firefighters, and learn more about the outstanding annual event that is the Scott Firefighter Stairclimb.

Every penny raised will go to finding a cure and help families that are dealing with these devastating diseases. We are encouraging everyone to come and donate as well as challenge a firefighter. Sign-up sheets are available at PEAK Health and Wellness, Blue Mountain location or call 251-3344 to sign up.

Missoula Rural Firefighters have been top ranked competitors in the annual world competition Scott Firefighter Stairclimb in Seattle which raises money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma

Society. Many members of Missoula Rural Fire District who climbed the seventy-two flights up Seattle's tallest skyscraper wearing fifty pounds of gear will be on hand. The firefighters at The PEAK will climb in full gear too. The public is invited to try on firefighting gear including an air pack to experience "The Climb!"

"Missoula is a great community and we're looking forward to having a lot of fun with this as well as helping our local firefighting heroes raise money for LLS. Join us on February 18, 7 am - 7 pm, 5000 Blue Mountain Road" said Susie Turner, Director of The PEAK Health & Wellness Center.

[Top of the Document](#)

=====

Ruby Valley SAR Participates In Rigorous Training Program

<http://www.madisoniannews.com/ruby-valley-sar-participates-in-rigorous-training-program/>

On Jan. 17, a group of dedicated search and rescue volunteers practiced avalanche rescues and learned snowmobile techniques deep in the backcountry of the Upper Ruby as part of Ruby Valley SAR training.

"First we had the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center guys come teach a class, then we took the things we learned to the ground and practiced them," Ruby Valley SAR president Bill Sinclair said.

Sinclair took over the leadership of the Ruby Valley SAR nearly two years ago when the former president quit. Just last year, Madison County voted in a permanent SAR mill levy - approximately \$85,000 per year - to help fund both the Madison Valley and Ruby Valley SAR units.

"We're funded by taxpayers," Sinclair said. "Those who are paying taxes deserve a product, a trained service."

Sinclair implemented a rigorous training program when he took over the presidency - in this year alone, the Ruby Valley SAR will travel to Dillon to hone their swimming skills, get practice with wetsuits, and complete a certification course for swift water rescues.

During the Jan. 17 training, SAR volunteer Robert Allhands from Sheridan taught the rest of the group about operating snowmobiles, Sinclair said.

Allhands said he is a SAR member because he wants to give back to the community.

"Volunteering and helping out is what makes these small communities work," Allhands explained. "I enjoy it, the training is a chance to get outdoors."

Since Sinclair became president, Allhands said the group's training schedule has easily tripled. "We're all getting certified and qualified in the areas we can help out with," he said.

In addition to snowmobile training, the group was deployed to find a buried avalanche beacon with beacons of their own, and also learned how to dig pits to check snowpack.

"We were going to set out from Vigilante," Sinclair said, referring to the Forest Service cabin in the Upper Ruby. "But it's hard to run a snowmobile in the dirt so we had to head 10 miles up the road before we could practice."

Out on the job

SAR units are private organizations that can only be mobilized by the sheriff's office - in Madison County, that is Sheriff Roger Thompson.

"They're a critical group," Thompson said. "They get called out on hunter rescues, water rescues, missing people."

Approximately 10 years ago, former Sheriff Dave Schenk reached out to a group of people in the Ruby Valley about organizing a formal SAR group, Thompson said.

“(Schenk) wanted one in the Ruby (Valley) so there would be resources spread across the county,” Thompson explained. “There was already a SAR program in the Madison Valley.” Since then, participation in the Ruby Valley SAR has grown steadily. “They’re a vital resource,” Thompson said. “We have a lot of rural space in this area to cover.”

[Top of the Document](#)

=====

Red Lodge Fire Rescue Has A 1988 Pemfab Imperial 100' Ladder Truck For Sale

It has a 8V92 Detroit Diesel engine, Allison Transmission, Hale 1500 GPM pump, and generator. 300 gallon tank. The turn table is shot and the truck cannot be UL certified for use as a fire truck. Scrap value on this truck is high. Asking \$10,000. Contact me at the number listed below.

Aaron L. McDowell
Deputy Chief
Red Lodge Fire Rescue
406-425-0853

[Top of the Document](#)

=====

Around the Nation

N.Y. Firefighter Dies of Injuries After Being Struck by Vehicle

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/12041736/montgomery-ny-firefighter-dies-of-injuries-after-being-struck-by-vehicle>

A fire department in New York is mourning the loss of a longtime member. Charlie Wallace, 74, died Tuesday of injuries sustained Jan. 10 when he was struck by a vehicle outside Montgomery Vol. Fire Co. Wallace, a 43-year member, was the chair of the board of fire commissioners. He was directing traffic in front of the firehouse when he was hit. His fellow firefighters visited him in the hospital during his stay. Funeral arrangements are pending. He is the seventh firefighter to die on duty in 2015.

[Top of the Document](#)

=====

Calif. Man Commits Suicide Outside Fire Station

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/12042059/man-shoots-self-outside-san-bernardino-firehouse>

A man drove his car into the driveway of San Bernardino Fire Station number 11, pulled out a gun and shot himself Wednesday morning, police said. Firefighters were working in the rear of the station in the 400 block E. Vanderbilt Way when they heard the gunshot. They found the man, believed to be 80 years old, dead in the driver’s seat of his car.

Police found a suicide note but would only say there was an apology in it to firefighters for having to deal with his suicide.

[Top of the Document](#)

=====

Bogus Pa. Fire Police Officer Arrested

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/12042025/ppp>

A Hempfield man has been charged with impersonating a public servant because state police said they found him patrolling two township neighborhoods in a vehicle identifying him as a fire policeman.

Guy Frank Rubei, 58, said Wednesday he is part of a group organizing a Westmoreland County Volunteer Fire Police Department.

"I haven't done anything wrong," Rubei said.

But state police said Rubei is not a member of any local fire department and has not been authorized to act as a fire policeman. Locally, fire police are usually members of a volunteer fire department given limited police powers to direct traffic, control crowds and support firefighters in other ways.

Police said Rubei was operating a "privately owned vehicle resembling a fire police department vehicle" with emergency lights activated in the West Point and Wendover areas of Hempfield on Oct. 31. Rubei told troopers he was "patrolling the neighborhood for Halloween, promoting his company and handing out candy," according to reports.

On Jan. 6, Rubei was in the same vehicle when a responding trooper found him at the scene of a disabled vehicle on a ramp connecting Route 119 to Route 30 east in Southwest Greensburg, records show.

Rubei said he happened upon the disabled vehicle while taking his son to work.

The white GMC pickup truck sat parked in Rubei's driveway Wednesday, adorned with red decals reading "emergency" and "fire police." The truck has an emergency light bar on the hood, a siren and a dashboard camera.

"This truck is just a display truck for the department; that's all it is," said Rubei, adding that his group has listed itself with the state as a corporation and has applied for nonprofit status, although records show that status has not been granted.

A preliminary hearing is set for March 3.

[Top of the Document](#)

=====

Arson Probe in Ferguson Could Take Years

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/11830612/arson-probe-in-ferguson-could-take-years>

FERGUSON -- Tim Marrah believes that, normally, 2 1/2 months would be plenty of time for police to find and arrest whoever broke out the windows of Ferguson Optical, where he is manager.

But given that it happened Nov. 24 -- as protesters damaged, looted and set fire to dozens of businesses -- Marrah accepts that his crime may never be solved. It involved only broken glass, he says, and belongs at the bottom of the stack for busy detectives.

"We just hope they get something resolved with the people who lost their businesses," he said in an interview Tuesday. "We were just happy to come back and that our business was still here and it wasn't burned or gutted out, so we were very fortunate."

Police say Marrah has a good grasp on a challenge that may occupy them for years in a task spread across several law enforcement agencies to minimize disruption of their normal caseloads.

Officials said that of an estimated 400 looters seen on surveillance videos and photos, only 10 have been identified, and only one of them has been arrested and charged.

Still, St. Louis County police Detective Michael Byrne is optimistic. His department has been releasing batches of fresh images each week for about a month, and reward money is being offered.

During the next three weeks, the department plans to release images from businesses previously looted in August, shortly after Ferguson Officer Darren Wilson killed Michael Brown after a confrontation that started a national debate over policing and race. The Nov. 24 unrest came with the announcement that a grand jury did not indict Wilson.

In all, county police are investigating more than 40 lootings spread across Ferguson, Dellwood, Jennings, Black Jack and unincorporated areas of north St. Louis County.

"As time goes by, boyfriends and girlfriends break up, and I expect people will start to call us," Byrne said. "But I'm a little disappointed in the level of feedback we've gotten from the public. So far, most of our leads have come from law enforcement who recognize these people."

Byrne said he worked full time on these cases for about six weeks and has been able to add in his regular workload. Officers assigned to light duty have helped sift through seemingly endless hours of surveillance video to try to identify suspects and distribute the images to the public.

"If I could get all 400 charged, that would be great, but it's not realistic," he said.

Police believe several groups of looters went from business to business, based on what investigators can see.

Byrne said he is trying to obtain DNA from rocks, bricks, tire irons and other tools people used to break into businesses. That would at least help track those with prior felony records, whose DNA profiles should be in the national database.

He noted the statute of limitations on these types of crimes is three years, and he believes investigators will be working right up until the deadline to make the last of the arrests. But investigators have seen progress.

Byrne noted that 26 people were arrested in connection with the lootings that November night.

And he believes that as culprits are arrested, they will implicate others.

Meanwhile, the St. Louis and St. Louis County police bomb and arson squads are working with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to investigate 26 associated arsons, a number that includes fires in vehicles as well as buildings.

"It's a monumental task," said John Ham, an ATF spokesman.

His agency summoned investigators from around the country to distinguish fires intentionally set from fires that spread from other burning buildings.

The ATF also has set up a hotline and an email account. Hundreds of messages have come in but nothing proved useful so far, he said.

The "few" valuable tips came from police who recognized suspects, Ham said.

"Without the public's help, the chances of these fires being solved are very remote," he said.

Ham said that while arson is always complicated to investigate, Ferguson-related cases are worse, because concerns about violence prevented firefighters from putting out the blazes as quickly as they ordinarily might.

"The fact that these fires had to burn as long as they burned, and number of people who went in and out of these scenes complicates our ability to bring closure to these," Ham explained.

He said federal charges can be filed if an arson interferes with commerce -- and automatically if a church is involved.

Like Byrne, Ham said he is hopeful that leads will start to come in.

"We're confident that in all 26 fires, people other than the people who set them know who did it," he said.

County police ask anyone with information to contact CrimeStoppers at 1-866-371-8477. The ATF email is Fergusonfires@atf.gov, and its tip line is 1-888-283-3473.

[Top of the Document](#)

=====