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**Around Montana**

**Montana Mutual Aid Agenda For February 28<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup>**

Meets Saturday, February 28, 2015 at 10:00am at Eastgate Fire, Lewis and Clark County, Montana

(note revised date – February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015)

Join Dan Madrzykowski (NIST Fire Dynamics) for a remarkable training opportunity on February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> at Eastgate Fire.

Montana Mutual Aid welcomes the leader in the fire dynamics research discussing the latest results of the recent NIST Fire Dynamics research, and the command strategy and tactics to put that research to real world use when fighting fires in structures. This session will be an interactive conversation about how the fire service fights fires in structures.

Please join Dan for an outstanding day and a half program that will shape the fire service for the next 30 years.

Also presenting will be Sonny Stiger - wildland fire behavior, and forecasts for the 2015 wildland fire season and invited speakers from Montana DES, the Montana Fire Services

Training School, MT DNRC, Montana Fire Chiefs, Montana Volunteer Fire Fighters, Montana Fire Instructors, and other guests.

This program will be among the most valuable training opportunities in Montana in 2015. Registration is available on line at [www.montanamutualaid.org](http://www.montanamutualaid.org) or by calling 1-406-431-2458.

Cost is \$179 per person, including registration, course materials, including NIST training DVD, 1 dinner, 1 lunch, 1 breakfast and breaks. Session starts at 10am, Saturday, February 28 and concludes Sunday, March 1 at 12 noon. Session is held at the Eastgate Fire Station in Lewis and Clark County.

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### **FSTS Is Asking For Your Help On A Research Project**

FSTS is conducting a research project on bunker gear contamination after structure fire operations and the resulting fire fighter exposure to harmful chemicals on the bunker gear. Part of the research is to determine current fire service practices related to cleanliness of bunker gear. Below is a link to a brief survey that will help us understand what fire departments are currently doing to keep bunker gear clean. Your participation in this survey is greatly appreciated. FSTS will produce a full report that will characterize contamination of bunker gear after being in a structure fire and suggest methods to reduce fire fighter exposure to the contaminants.

Thank you.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RTTMT9W>

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### **Sunday Completed Confined Space Rescue In Kalispell**



Due to demand, there will be a second Confined Space Rescue March 26,27,28,29 at Kalispell Station 62.

Cost is 650 Dollars and registration can be made through Jon Marshall at the Fire Service Training School, [jonathan.marshall@montana.edu](mailto:jonathan.marshall@montana.edu)

There are 2 vacancies.

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### **Fire Near Big Timber Contained**

<http://www.kbzk.com/news/update-fire-near-big-timber-contained/>



UPDATE: Fire managers say a blaze burning near Big Timber was contained shortly after 10:30 p.m. Friday.

A 10-man crew remained on scene throughout the night to monitor the blaze as winds gusted from 55 to 70 miles per hour. Firefighters kept the fire at 10 acres although one primary structure and two outbuildings were burned. No one was injured.

Also at the same time, approximately 60 to 70 acres were burned in a separate fire on Friday night on Nye Road. No word on what caused the fire to spark.

Right now, units remain on scene keeping an eye on it, but no movement has been reported.

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BIG TIMBER - Fire crews are tackling a wildfire burning north of Big Timber. High winds are fanning those flame burning across the Yellowstone River from the town of Big Timber.

The fire is now burning in the area about three miles west of Featherbed Road in Sweet Grass County.

The fire started around 8:20 pm Friday and about 10 acres had burned by 10 pm. Rugged terrain and high winds have made it difficult for firefighters, according to Big Timber Volunteer Fire Chief Kris Novotny.

Firefighters are battling wind gusts between 77 and 70 miles per hour.

One primary structure and two outbuildings have burned. No one was in the buildings. However, the outbuildings contained farm equipment.

At this time, the Big Timber volunteer fire department says residents will be contacted if they need to evacuate.

No word yet on what may have sparked the blaze or how large the fire is.

The flames are visible from town.

Fire crews also asking residents to avoid the area, so firefighters have room to work. The fire has not impacted the fairgrounds, but the fire department asks that people stay clear of the fairgrounds and the Featherbed Road area.

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## **Legislative Update - Week 5**

### **The past week in review:**

**SB5** (Establish all-hazard incident management teams and provide funding authority) Passed 2nd reading in the House of Representatives 86-14 and is scheduled for its last reading on Monday, February 9th. After presumably passing that vote, it is headed to the Governor's desk for his signature. The Montana Fire Alliance supported the bill.

**SB147** (Provide income tax credit for Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Personnel) Had a hearing last Tuesday. Lots of questions from legislators. I'm not sure the bill will pass out of committee. The Montana Fire Alliance supported the bill.

**SB47** (Increase assessments on classified forest land) The Senate Natural Resources Committee took executive action on the bill last Monday, February 2nd. It is stalled in committee on a 6-6 vote. A vote to table the bill also failed on a 6-6 vote. It remains in legislative "no-mans land". The Montana Fire Alliance supported the bill.

### **Hearings and issues this upcoming week:**

**SB103** (Provide presumptive disease coverage for paid firefighters) Has a hearing scheduled for Wednesday, February 11th, at 8:00 AM in room 422. This bill covers a wide range of illnesses and cancers that would be covered under workman's compensation coverage for paid firefighters. The illnesses and cancers would be presumed to have been caused by employment as a firefighter unless successfully rebutted by the workman's compensation insurer. The Montana Fire Alliance is monitoring the bill.

**HB241** (Clarify definition of commercial motor vehicle for emergency vehicles) Passed the House of Representatives and was transmitted to the Senate. It has a hearing scheduled in

Senate Highways and Transportation on Tuesday, February 10th, at 3:00 PM in room 405. The bill clarifies that a CDL is not required to drive an emergency vehicle when returning from a call. The Montana Fire Alliance supports the bill.

**HB161** (Revise laws related to arson investigations) The bill passed out of the House and has been sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee for a hearing on Tuesday, February 10th, at 8:00 AM in room 303. The bill makes some minor word changes to existing state statute. The Montana Fire Alliance supports the bill.

To follow the Montana Fire Alliance's "bills of interest" go to [www.mtfirealliance.org/legislative](http://www.mtfirealliance.org/legislative). ;

Respectfully Submitted  
Leonard Lundby  
Montana Fire Alliance - Legislative Liaison

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**Plains EMT's Practice Life-Saving Skills**

[http://vp-mi.com/news/emts-practice-life-saving-skills/article\\_ec0dcdd4-ae65-11e4-af55-23ac33749ccb.html](http://vp-mi.com/news/emts-practice-life-saving-skills/article_ec0dcdd4-ae65-11e4-af55-23ac33749ccb.html)



PLAINS- The Plains Community Ambulance volunteers began their bi-annual refresher course Friday night. The course continued on into Sunday afternoon, with classroom instruction and hands-on trauma practice.

"It's a state requirement, to keep your license, you have to do a 24 hour or 36 hour refresher depending on your level," explained John Meckler, who is an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT). He then described that everything an EMT can do is covered during the refresher sessions, including new technology, medications and the ever changing protocols. The classes were taught and lead by Michael Bedick and Zach Vanderwall. Bedick taught much of the classroom sessions on protocols and medications, while Vanderwall lead the trauma sessions.

Discussions and instruction predominated the mornings of Saturday and Sunday, covering the medications and dosages each level of EMT is allowed to give to a patient, and how. State protocols determine what an EMT is allowed to do, and then within an assigned region there are specific protocols EMT's must follow.

Eventually, the discussions became lessons on what is the best way to approach situations with different, yet viable options for stabilizing and transporting a patient. This ranged from what to do with a patient who is in a diabetic coma, simply dehydrated, or has overdosed. Different types of medications were discussed and how to give them, and which method would be best, based on the type of patient.

After lunch, the lessons switched to trauma training with different possible scenarios. Acronyms were used to remember steps to take when approaching a scene, and how to assess a person's needs. Skills and knowledge were honed, based on the EMTs' protocols and abilities.

On Sunday, the EMTs had a relay race in a park that put their skills to the test.

"It is something I do to help out my community... What you get to see is not necessarily all that great sometimes, but what you get to do is help people out," said Bill Kosel, who is an EMT. He said he also enjoys the camaraderie of the group and that he enjoys his work greatly.

For the AEMTs, training will continue next week to finish the required 36 hours of refreshing. Starting February 16, classes will begin for anyone who is interested in becoming an EMT. To register, call 406-529-9767.

## **Around the Nation**

### **Md. Firefighters Rescue Two from Plane Crash**

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/11838397/plane-crashes-near-fort-meade-in-maryland>



Firefighters work to extricate a passenger from a small plane that crashed near a Maryland airfield.

**Photo credit:** Anne Arundel County Fire/Deputy Chief Hoglander

FORT MEADE, Md. (AP) — A small plane crashed in woods near an airport in Maryland after takeoff Sunday, leaving two men injured, authorities said.

Anne Arundel County Fire Department spokesman Capt. Michael Pfaltzgraff said that department received a report shortly before 2 p.m. of a plane down west of Tipton Airport near Fort Meade, in an area between Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

Rescue crews found two men, one 55 and the other 80 years old, trapped in the wreckage, according to Pfaltzgraff. Their names and the extent of their injuries were not immediately disclosed.

Pfaltzgraff said it took the emergency workers about 50 minutes to free the men from the plane.

Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen said the aircraft was a Grumman American AA-1, and that it went down a half-mile from the runway after departure. Bergen added in an email that the FAA is investigating, and that the National Transportation Safety Board will seek to determine the cause.

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**Wildfire Along Nevada, California Border Destroys 40 Homes**

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/11836767/swall-meadows-wildfire-destroys-40-homes>



Firefighters have gained the upper hand on a wind-driven wildfire that destroyed 40 homes, burned nearly 11 square miles and forced about 150 people to leave two small California towns at the eastern base of the Sierra Nevada.

**Photo credit:** AP Photo/Jim Stimson via CalFire

SWALL MEADOWS, Calif. (AP) — Firefighters have gained the upper hand on a wind-driven wildfire that destroyed 40 homes, burned nearly 11 square miles and forced about 150 people to leave two small California towns at the eastern base of the Sierra Nevada.

The fire started near a highway on the border of Inyo and Mono counties Friday afternoon. It blew up when 50 to 75 mph winds whipped through wooded areas near Swall Meadows and the neighboring community of Paradise for about three hours, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Capt. Liz Brown said.

An incoming storm caused the winds to constantly shift direction, making it tough for firefighters to contain the blaze, she said Saturday.

"We had to take defensive positions to protect as many structures as we could while protecting ourselves," Brown said. "We did what we could."

She said Swall Meadows was hit hard by the blaze — 39 homes were destroyed there while one burned in the community of Paradise.

Firefighters made progress after rain moved in, and have contained 50 percent of the blaze. But Brown said the rain hasn't been enough to completely put out the fire. A three-year drought across California has created extremely dry timber brush that has fueled the flames, she said.

The cause of the fire was under investigation.

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**FDNY Finally Fires EMT After Threats**

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/12042979/fdny-finally-fires-emt-after-threats>

A city EMT was finally fired three years after being accused of pulling a knife on a co-worker, threatening another with a broom handle and calling a female colleague a "thesbian." The string of bizarre and abusive behaviors finally ended the FDNY career of Sean Holdip, 35. On March 10, 2011, the EMT pulled a 3- to 4-inch blade in front of Brooklyn's Brookdale Hospital and made threats against two paramedics, according to witnesses. Holdip told Judge John Spooner during a 2014 hearing that he pulled the knife to "clean his nails."

In a late 2010 incident, Holdip aggressively swung a broom handle six feet from a different partner because he thought the man had insulted his driving. FDNY bosses assigned Holdip to a supply room after the knife incident, while its investigation dragged on for nearly three years. He was fired in September, and lost his appeal in December. He did not return calls for comment.

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### **Man Catches Fire After Being Tasered by Va. Police**

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/12042937/chesterfield-police-taser-suspected-drunk-man-clothing-catches-fire>

A man's clothes caught fire after a Chesterfield County police officer Tasered him while he was fighting with rescuers.

Chesterfield police tried to pull over the driver for the suspicion of driving under the influence when the man fled in his vehicle, according to [WTVR.com](http://www.wtvr.com).

The driver lost control and the car rolled over several times, trapping the driver.

Firefighters were called to extricate the driver from the vehicle.

#### **[Watch Video](#)**

A police spokesman said that the man began fighting with the firefighters and police officers when a Taser was deployed.

"One officer discharged his TASER at the man in order to bring him under control and this ignited the man's clothing, which may have come in contact with gasoline during the crash," the spokesperson told the television station.. "Firefighters quickly extinguished the fire and transported the man to VCU Medical Center."

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### **Entry Level Positions (\*\*Denotes New Posting)**

#### **\*\*Firefighter Glendive, MT**

<http://jobs.mt.gov>

Firefighter- Lieutenant Driver/Operator in Glendive, MT. QUALIFICATIONS: HS diploma or GED; three (3) years experience as a firefighter; valid MT driver's license; ability to meet legal, physical, and medical requirements, including but not limited to specific requirements for corrected and uncorrected visual acuity; must have color vision; ability to pass extensive background investigation. DUTIES: Responsible for operating fire/ambulance apparatus and equipment at emergency incidents, ensuring all equipment is in proper working condition in order to provide the best possible fire and life safety services through the safe and effective use of the equipment and facilities of the Fire Department. HOURS/DAYS: Will work a regular shift, as assigned, including days, nights, holidays and weekends. WAGE: Starting pay is

\$17.25 per hour. BENEFITS: include vacation, sick leave, paid holidays, retirement and medical insurance. Closes at 5 p.m. February 27, 2015.

Open Date: 2/4/2015  
Close Date: 2/27/2015  
FSTS Posted: 2/9/2015

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