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**Around Montana**

**Lewistown Structure Fire**

On Sunday morning, February 8, 2015 at 0810 hrs; Lewistown Fire Rescue was dispatched to flames coming from a roof at a commercial business at 116 E Main Street. Initial crews arrived on scene within three minutes and reported flames and smoke were coming from the roof. Fire crews immediately began offensive suppression operations, extinguishing the fire within 20 minutes. Salvage and overhaul operations continued for two hours.

Investigators were able to determine the origin of the fire. Most of the fire damage was contained to the ceiling and a portion of the roof. No injuries were reported and the fire damage is estimated at over $40,000.

One engine, one aerial truck, one rescue truck and three command units responded with 16 firefighters to the scene.
Lewistown Police Department, Fergus County Sheriff’s Department, North Western Energy, Lewistown Ambulance and the Montana Department of Transportation responded to the scene to assist.

At this time the fire cause and determination is still under investigation.

Respectfully submitted
LAUREL - A Laurel man who claimed to have saved a co-worker from the fire that burned down the Fiberglass Structures Inc. on Thursday is now charged with causing the fire. Kristopher Michael Harasymczuk, 30, told Q2 on Thursday that he was being treated for burns he suffered after he saved another man from the burning building. On Monday, Harasymczuk was charged with negligent arson in Yellowstone County Justice Court.

Charging documents state that during interviews with investigators, a worker named Forest Hornoff reported that he was using an acetone solution to wash his hands and arms when he noticed Harasymczuk holding a lighter. Hornoff told investigators that he did not see Harasymczuk flick the lighter but immediately realized he was on fire. Harasymczuk then began patting Hornoff down in an attempt to put the fire out.

Other workers who were interviewed said, while they did not see how the fire started, they are aware that workers play with lighters while at the fiberglass plant. Fiberglass Structures Inc. President Rob Harris said he has never heard reports of any employee playing with lighters and that if he had, that person would be reprimanded and possibly even terminated.
One employee told investigators that Harasymczuk is a "chronic liar" and another agreed, adding that Harasymczuk is a "goofball."
The fire caused an estimated $5 to $7 million damage to the building, which the Laurel Fire Marshal said was a total loss.
Harasymczuk made his initial court appearance Monday afternoon where a judge set bond at $25,000.

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Coram Fire in the Storm
http://www.dailyinterlake.com/fire-in-the-storm/image_0a11465e-b0c2-11e4-afe9-7b43c096ef2c.html

Heavy snow falls as a house burns on U.S. 2 East in Coram on Monday morning. Firefighters from Martin City, Coram/West Glacier and Hungry Horse fire departments responded. One neighbor said he heard a big bang before the fire. The Dennis Beard family lived in the home, neighbors said. No one was injured, but a dog died in the fire, according to Coram/West Glacier Fire Chief Matt Cox. He said after the owner got the other dogs out, he returned to the burning building but was unable to locate the older dog in the smoke. It took firefighters three hours to fight the fire, which left the home a total loss, Cox said. “It was a tough one ... it was an older structure that was remodeled multiple times,” he said. “It had wall upon wall and underneath the ceiling and roof [the fire] gets up into all the little nooks and crannies and makes it really hard to get out.” The fire is believed to have been caused by an electrical problem.

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Around the Nation

St. Paul Firefighter Emerged with 'Limp Little Girl in his Arms'

Again and again, a father ran into a burning house in St. Paul. There was too much smoke for Peter Yang to breathe and he couldn't see in the darkness, but he was desperate to find his 4-year-old daughter. He'd already helped his four other daughters, his wife and his 83-year-old mother out of the house Sunday night; Ntshialiag Yang was no where to be found.

So, Peter Yang dashed outside to get a breath of the cold air and then head back in. He did it six or seven times, his brother, Michael Yang, said Monday.

Firefighters arrived. Neighbor Katie Kane saw what happened soon after: "I keep having this memory, and I can't get it out of my mind, of the fireman running out through the street holding a limp little girl in his arms."

Ntshialiag (pronounced "Chia-lee-ah") Yang was taken to Regions Hospital, where she was pronounced dead Sunday night.

"He's in total shock. He's broken down," Michael Yang said. "He's blaming himself all night that he wasn't able to save her. Everyone has tried to comfort him."

The cause of the fire in the Payne-Phalen home is under investigation; it doesn't appear suspicious, St. Paul Fire Marshal Steve Zaccard said Monday. It was the first fatal fire of the year in St. Paul.

Firefighters were called to 595 E. Jessamine Ave. at 8:41 p.m. Sunday.

Peter Yang and his wife, Kabao Vue, had been upstairs when their oldest daughter rushed up to tell them there was a fire, according to Michael Yang. Everything went dark as the electricity went out.

After he got his wife and four of his daughters outside -- they are ages 1, 6, 8 and 10 -- Peter Yang went back inside to get his mother, Michael Yang said. She fell and he carried her out of the home.

Peter Yang, whose 59th birthday is Tuesday, kept calling for Ntshialiag, but got no response, his brother said. He persisted in trying to find the girl; the fire burned his hair during his efforts.

Kane, who lives around the corner, saw the flames. "My mom said, 'Maybe you can help,' " she said Monday.

"I said, 'OK, well maybe I can help,' so I ran over here."

She said she saw a woman standing alone with no jacket and no boots. She was crying. Kane, who had never met the family before, went up and hugged the woman.

"She kept saying, 'My baby, my baby! ... My baby's in there!,' Kane said, choking up as she talked about it Monday.

Kane saw Peter Yang -- his face was covered in soot and he was wearing a gray suit that looked black from all the soot, she said.

"You could tell he was panicking, but he was trying to work with the firemen," she said.

Ntshialiag was found in a second-floor bedroom, Zaccard said. The fire started in a first-floor bedroom, he said.

Zaccard said he didn't have information about where in the room Ntshialiag was, including whether she'd been hiding out of fear.

He said children that age tend to. That's why it's important for families to have plans for how adults are going to get children out of a home in a fire, Zaccard said.

"That's what the father was doing -- he did the right thing -- but he ran out of time," Zaccard said.
When families create fire-escape plans, they should think through details, such as, "If a staircase is blocked, where is the nearest ladder an adult can climb to get in a second-floor bedroom?" Zaccard said.

On Sunday night, when the firefighter ran out carrying the little girl, Kane said Kabao Vue "got down on her knees on the boulevard and just started praying, so I put my arms around her and I started praying with her, too."

Peter Yang and Kabao Vue were hospitalized for smoke inhalation; both were released Monday morning.

Ntshialiaig was especially close with her father -- "Daddy's little tomboy girl," Michael Yang said. She was often by his side and cuddling with him.

The girl turned 4 years old Jan. 31. She was smart and playful.

"She was smiley," Michael Yang said. "Really, she was just an innocent kid."

After the fire, the other girls were taken to a neighbor's house and Michael Yang said he went to pick them up Sunday night.

"They were all crying and I picked them up in my arms," he said. The 8-year-old was asking where her sister was and continues to ask, he said Monday morning.

The blaze also jumped to a neighboring home, where three generations of a family fled to safety.

Justin Day, 28, said he, his father and grandfather were unhurt. He returned to the house Monday and saw "everything in my room was pretty much destroyed." But he dug in the debris and was surprised to find the heart pendant and earrings he'd got his girlfriend for Valentine's Day and showed it to her.

Day's 70-year-old grandfather, a retired St. Paul firefighter, has owned the house since 1961 and they're told it's salvageable, Day said.

"I'm more worried about the family next door and the loss they're going through," Day said.

Peter Yang's family doesn't know how the fire started, Michael Yang said. A next-door neighbor's son told the family that he heard a loud explosion. But Zaccard said there was not an explosion -- it was likely the sound of fire blowing out glass windows.

Michael Yang said he bought the house in the 1990s and many family members have lived there. "It was our first dream home and it provided for everyone," he said.

On Monday, the aftermath of a nightmare could be seen from the outside -- broken windows and scattered children's shoes, including a small sneaker that appeared to be the same one Ntshialiaig was wearing in a photo her family gave the media Monday. There were also signs of people expressing sympathy to the family -- a bouquet of flowers left in the fence; a Hello Kitty toy from the 4-year-old daughter of Kane, the neighbor who'd run out the night before.

Michael Yang shared Monday that he had stopped by the house earlier Sunday and got one final, happy memory of his niece: Ntshialiaig was chasing her younger sister around. He and Ntshialiaig exchanged a high-five.

"Life is very short," he said Monday. "Cherish and love what you have before it's too late."

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Three Killed in Maryland House Fire

Fire officials say that three people have died after being rescued from a Brooklyn Park house fire on Tuesday morning.
We're told that the 57-year-old woman, 18-year-old man and 17-year-old boy were found unconscious at the home in the 100 block of Hilltop Road West at 2:40 a.m. They were taken to local hospitals following their rescue but died. Fire investigators are on the scene.

Switch to Fire-Based EMS Coming to Pa. Area

Beginning in March and for the following six to eight months, the Muhlenberg Area Ambulance Association will house two of its ambulances in Exeter Township. The Muhlenberg association will provide 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week advanced life support, while the Exeter Fire Department transitions to the township's new fire-based EMS model. Exeter fire officials presented their working timeline during a township supervisors meeting Monday.

By fall, they said, they hope to have 9-1-1 service fully up and running, replacing the Exeter Ambulance Association as the primary provider for residents. "We're meeting our benchmarks and in some cases we're ahead of schedule," Exeter Fire Chief Robert Jordan said. "I'd say it's conservative, but we're hoping to meet that timeline." Between now and fall, the fire department will be pursuing its Basic Life Support certification, followed by its Advanced Life Support license. Two ambulances have already been obtained and will be fully outfitted by March 1, with a third ambulance pending. Additionally, two new power lifters and stair chairs have been acquired and will be ready by the end of this month.

As of now, Jordan said, the Muhlenberg ambulances will be housed at Exeter's Reiffton and Stonersville fire stations. That could change, however, if the township seeks a lease agreement with the more centrally located Exeter Ambulance Association, as suggested by Supervisor Jeff Bukowski on Monday.

Exeter fire officials have said they will honor existing Exeter Ambulance Association subscriptions once they fully take over 9-1-1 service next fall. Questions are still up in the air, though, on the legality of Muhlenberg Ambulance honoring them. According to Jody Heckman, a supervisor at Muhlenberg Ambulance, Muhlenberg has hired around 20 interim, hourly employees to offer assistance in Exeter's transition.

"They're going to be Muhlenberg employees. They'll use our trucks, our uniforms, our protocols, our standards," he said. "When they are ready to go, we are going to hand those employees over to Exeter fire."

The primary goal, Heckman said, "is to take care of the community."
"We have no dog in this fight. We have the resources," he said. "We told Exeter, we'd be more than happy to help you."

Officials with the Exeter Ambulance Association have said they'll continue to stay in business, and could still rescind the 9-1-1 shutdown notice they delivered in December. As part of its plan for a more efficient EMS operation, Exeter fire officials have said employees would be cross-trained to respond to both EMS and fire calls. Some, like Exeter Township resident Linda Focht, expressed concern over that new training requirement.

"I would really like to see that be voluntary," Focht said Monday. "It seems that you may lose a lot of good people because they have no desire to be firemen."

Supervisor Barry Ziegler said he felt that the township was "rushing into" the fire-based EMS model.
"I think we ought to step back and say, we need to look at this more," he said.

Other supervisors countered, however, that the township was acting in the best interest of residents.
The Exeter Ambulance Association "stood up at the podium (in December) and announced, 'We are sending a letter to our governing body, announcing that we are terminating our services within 90 days,' " Bukowski said. "Being stewards of the community, we did the responsible thing by saying, 'Fire department, get going. We want you to be ready by March 23.' "

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Miss. Ambulance Stolen, Crashed

TUPELO – Charges are expected to be filed against a man police say stole an ambulance from North Mississippi Medical Center on Sunday afternoon. Steven Foster of Ecru will be formally charged after his release from NMMC, according to Tupelo Police Chief Bart Aguirre. Foster escaped with an ambulance after refusing treatment at the Tupelo hospital on Sunday, according to police. Aguirre said Foster’s journey took him to Pontotoc County, where the Lee County Sheriff’s department joined in the chase. Law enforcement officials followed Foster in the stolen ambulance until he wrecked the vehicle and abandoned it. “He had abandoned the ambulance just west of the Trace Lake exit … and headed into a church,” Aguirre said. “That’s where our officers apprehended him.” Upon being captured, Foster returned to NMMC for observation and remains a patient of the facility.

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Grants

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](http://foundation.walmart.com/apply-for-grants/local-giving)

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**Upcoming Training Opportunities**

Visit our training calendar and webpage here: [http://www.montana.edu/wwwfire/Training.html](http://www.montana.edu/wwwfire/Training.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
Topic 1: Why Things Go Right, Why Things Go Wrong

Topic 2: Organizational Risk Management

Topic 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

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

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.

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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Montana Mutual Aid Agenda For February 28th – March 1st

Meets Saturday, February 28, 2015 at 10:00am at Eastgate Fire, Lewis and Clark County, Montana
(note revised date – February 28th and March 1st, 2015)

Join Dan Madrzykowski (NIST Fire Dynamics) for a remarkable training opportunity on February 28th and March 1st 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 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.
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](http://www.montana.edu/wwwfire/register.php) or email jonathan.marshall@montana.edu

DES Coordinator's Workshop

Location: Fort Harrison, Helena
When: March 17-18
Register/Contact: Marschal Rothe 406-324-4776 mrothe@mt.gov

Advanced Critical Incident Stress Management

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

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
NFA Wildland/Urban Interface Firefighting for the Structural Company Officer

*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

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

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