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Around Montana

Libby Fire Among Nation’s Best

http://www.thewesternnews.com/members/libby-fire-among-nation-s-best/article_f84a0496-b13a-11e4-b3f0-5b87a66ddc69.html

Libby’s volunteer fire department ranks among the nation’s best, according to their 2014 annual report.

The report, presented to the Libby City Council by Chief Tom Wood, shows average turnout and response times far better than national standards for rural fire departments. In 2014, the Libby Volunteer Fire Department responded to 110 calls, with an average of 16.1 members reporting and an average response time, from dispatch to arrival on-scene, of nine minutes and 46 seconds.

That effectiveness has allowed the Libby Volunteer Fire Department to retain a Class 3 certification with the Insurance Services Office, a group that rates fire departments for insurance companies. The Class 3 rating allows for lower insurance rates for both the city and for homeowners.

The National Fire Protection Association sets the standards for the effectiveness of fire departments around the country. For rural districts the standard is for six responders to arrive on-scene within 14 minutes.

Libby's performance also exceeds the standard for suburban areas, which requires 10 responders to arrive on-scene within 10 minutes. That standard applies to areas with between 500 and 1,000 people per square mile.

The standard for urban areas, those with greater than 1,000 people per square mile, requires 15 responders within nine minutes. Libby's response performance nearly meets that standard. The department responded to 110 calls in 2014. Of those calls, only 41 were within city limits. 46 were considered county fire district calls, which encompasses an area of roughly six miles around the city. The remaining 23 calls were out of district, beyond the six-mile radius.

Libby Fire Chief Tom Wood has been with the department for almost 45 years. He recalls his early years, when the department had three pieces of equipment: a 1954 Mack truck, a 1957 Ford and a small pick-up they used to haul around extra equipment.

"We've come a long way since then," Wood said. "Now we have 14 pieces of equipment and 28 volunteer fire-fighters."

The members of the department train every Thursday night, from 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. Members also spend time at the Montana State Fire Training School in Great Falls and at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Md. Libby fire-fighters tallied nearly 3,000 hours of training in 2014, according to the report.

That training, though, is only a small piece of what makes the Libby Volunteer Fire Department successful, Wood said. "The support of the community is what makes this a good fire department. We have 28 volunteers where most other rural departments have 10 or so. That makes it easier for us to get 16 people out to a scene, when we have a good pool to call."

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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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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.

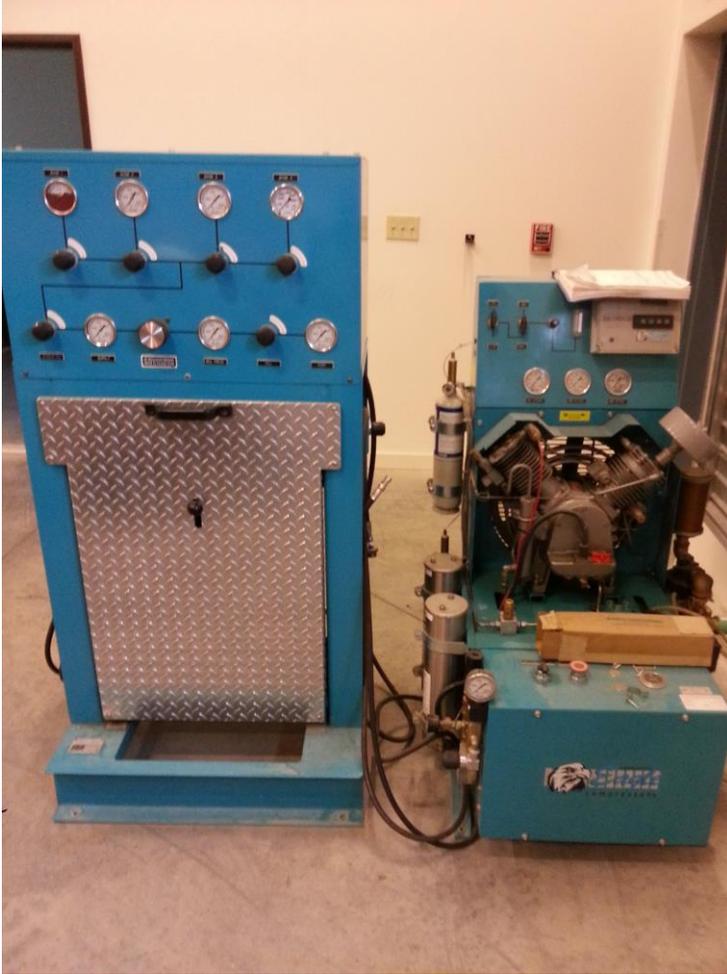
Cost is \$179 per person, including registration, course materials, including NIST training DVD, 1 dinner, 1 lunch, 1 breakfast and breaks.

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.

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Eagle Cascade System To Give Away To A Montana Fire Department



Eagle compressor/cascade system, last serviced in 2011. Needs about \$1500 in repairs. It runs, but will not reach higher PSI levels. As is, where is, you haul. Must be for a Fire Department. Contact DC Haas, Smith Valley Fire District, 212-5659

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IAAI Training Opportunity Coming to Great Falls

Electrical Aspects of Fire Investigation

Instructor: Dave Cusatis IAAI-CFI, IAAI-CI

Where: Great Falls Fire Rescue Charles C. Carrico Regional Training Facility, 1900 9th Street South Great Falls MT, 59405

When: Thursday March 12th, 2015 8am-5pm Lunch Provided

Description:

This course addresses the critical skills essential to the effective investigation and evaluation of fires involving potential electrical causes. This course utilizes state of the art techniques, practices, protocols and standards to assist investigators to properly and effectively evaluate electrical systems and associated components to ascertain their role in a fire.

Students will be provided with a basic knowledge of electrical faults and failures of electrical components and circuits, as well as a working knowledge of the National Electrical Code (NEC) and how it applies to the fire investigations.

The use of 'Arc Mapping' will also be discussed and how it can be effectively used to assist in fire origin determination. Participants will also be able to demonstrate a general knowledge of electricity, electrical circuits, systems and arc mapping principles through a series of instructor led 'hands-on' practical exercises.

Register online at firearson .com

Click on training and certifications.
Scroll down to classes and events.
Click on Electrical Aspects of Fire Investigation
Or to register by phone call 1-410-451-3473

Cost:

Montana Chapter Members: \$100.
Montana Non-Members: \$200.

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Around the Nation

Two Mich. Firefighters Hurt at Blaze

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/12043957/two-mich-firefighters-hurt-at-blaze>

Two Michigan firefighters are recovering from injuries received while battling a fire Wednesday.

One Warren firefighter reportedly fell from a ladder while the second firefighter fell through a floor, [The Detroit News](#) reported.

The fire broke out about 2 a.m. Wednesday.

On Tuesday, Warren police responding to the home for a break-in. A furnace and water heater had been stolen, the paper reported.

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Calif. Firefighter Helps Save House; Suspended by Restaurant

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/12043758/calif-firefighter-helps-save-house-suspended-by-restaurant>

A family still has a place to call home. And, although that means the world to them, a restaurant owner apparently didn't share the same gratitude.

Carlos Delcid suspended Chelsea Kirksey for a week because she was late for her shift at Penn Valley Northridge Restaurant.

It was her first fire, and helped fellow firefighters with the Rough&Ready Fire Department save the home after an electrical panel caught fire, according to YubaNet.com. Delcid told a reporter the restaurant was busy and had "big reservations." He added that she should have borrowed a phone to call.

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Former N.H. Firefighter Convicted of Arson

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/11840232/former-nh-firefighter-convicted-of-arson>

DOVER -- Former Peterborough on-call firefighter and EMT Gregory Potter was found guilty on five charges of arson and three counts of criminal mischief for the fires he set in Durham on Feb. 2, 2013.

Potter showed no emotion as he sat at the defendant's table while jurors read the verdict at approximately 11:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Potter's mother, who has been at his monthlong trial nearly every day, showed little emotion and began to look at her cell phone shortly after the verdict was read.

After the jury was excused, members of the Strafford County Sheriff's department arrived at Courtroom 2 to take Potter into custody, but his lawyers requested that he be released on bail until his plea and sentencing hearing, which has not yet been scheduled. That hearing may not occur for up to 60 days.

During the bail hearing in Courtroom 1, Potter's attorneys argued that bail should remain at \$5,000 cash. Timothy Harrington of Shaheen & Gordon told Judge Philip Mangones that Potter has no criminal history and is not a flight risk. He added that Potter would be willing to wear a monitoring device.

Deputy County Attorney Alysia Cassotis argued that the state requires the court detain a convicted felon unless the defense can show through clear and convincing evidence the public would not be endangered by allowing the defendant to remain free.

Cassotis said approximately 50 people were affected by the fires in Durham. She said Potter's intention was for all of the fires to be as damaging as the one he set at 4 Smith Park Lane that destroyed a barn and attached apartment.

"This is not just a crime against one person," Cassotis told Mangones. "There were five separate multi-unit structures set on fire."

Mangones determined Potter should be detained until sentencing.

When bailiffs placed handcuffs on Potter and walked him out of the courtroom, he began to show some emotion but did not cry.

Each of the arson charges carries a sentence of up to 7 1/2 to 15 years in prison and a fine of \$4,000. Presiding Judge Steven Houran asked Harrington and Cassotis what their suggestions would be for sentencing prior to the bail hearing, saying he has not had much experience with arson convictions.

Arson is one of the toughest crimes to prove, according to a bailiff at Strafford County Superior Court, often because there are no witnesses.

Durham Town Administrator Todd Selig released the following statement, "In terms of the Potter verdict, I am very pleased with the good work of the Durham Police Department in conducting a highly professional investigation as part of the Potter arson trial. The verdict sends a clear message to the Seacoast: If you try to burn down portions of a community, you're going to jail."

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Former Pa. Chief Behind Bars for Embezzlement

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/11840258/former-pa-chief-behind-bars-for-embezzlement>

Former Wilkes-Barre Township Fire Chief John Yuknavich reported to prison on Tuesday. Yuknavich, 51, will serve his sentence at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York City, according to Edmond Ross, a spokesman for the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Ross confirmed that Yuknavich was in federal custody as of Tuesday. Yuknavich was sentenced last month to serve six months in prison after he pleaded guilty to embezzling funds from the volunteer fire department to which he belonged for 35 years. After his release from prison, Yuknavich will spend six months of home confinement. He will also be on probation for three years and must pay back the \$45,000 he admitted to stealing from the fire department. Yuknavich pleaded guilty in federal court in September 2014 to one felony count of stealing from programs that receive federal funds. Prosecutors charged that he skimmed funds for his own personal use from monthly checks that Wilkes-Barre Township gave the fire department to cover its mortgage and expenses. Yuknavich, who had control of the fire department's finances, deposited a portion of the funds in a bank and kept the rest for his personal use, prosecutors said. He had faced a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. Metropolitan Correctional Center, in downtown Manhattan, is "an administrative security metropolitan correctional center" that holds 756 inmates, both male and female, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons website.

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Professional and Administrative Positions (Denotes New Posting)**

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Fire Chief West Fargo Fire Department - West Fargo, ND

The West Fargo Fire Department, West Fargo North Dakota, is accepting applications for the position of Fire Chief due to retirement. The City of West Fargo is one of the fastest growing cities in the state with a population estimated at over 30,000 residents. The West Fargo Fire Department is a combination department consisting of the Fire Chief and three paid Fire Inspection/Prevention Officers and 40 volunteers operating out of two stations. Our coverage area includes 15 square miles within the City of West Fargo and three townships surrounding the City.

Salary range is \$65,000-\$90,000, DOE, with an attractive benefits package. Applications will be accepted until Friday February 27, 2015 at 4:00 PM. Job description and application can be found at www.westfargofire.org.

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Apparatus & Equipment Exchange

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Cooke City Engine For Sale





1978 Ford 900, 8.8 litre-gas Bean Automotive, price negotiable. Contact Chief Dale Dempsey 406-838-2077

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1977 Tender for Sale



cab over cargo star IH 1977

det. 6V92 deisel engine

auot trans. single axle, dual wheel. short wheel base makes turning around in small areas a snap!

aprox. 1800 gal. baffled water tank

also ext. ladder on pass. side, and a portable 1500gal. folding tank on driver side (vinyl needs some patching)

scene lights, emergancy lights, siren, & pa

pto pump 3- 2 1/2" discharges:1 frt.,1 pass. side, 1 rear

2 mid ship 1-1/2" crosslays

rear filled or top hatch

lots of storage cabinets on both sides of truck

8" round dump in rear

Slow mover, but gets there. great for helping protect your property & buildings from wild fires, or to fill stock tanks, or water arenas

10,000.00 cash obo

to be sold in "as is"condition.
more pic's can be emailed

call Joe: 406-578-2061

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Do you have some unused turnout gear that could benefit another department in Montana? Let us know so we can help spread the word! There are many departments that are in need of turnout gear or anything else fire/rescue related. Contact us at:

fstdailylatest@montana.edu

To post your advertisement today! There is no cost associated to advertise in the Latest for Montana department members.

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