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**Lincoln County Rural Fire District Gets New Pumper**



Lincoln county rural fire district has purchased a new fire truck to replace an aging one for the 1970s. Last week, eight brand new 2014 commander pump truck arrived from Spokane.

Libby volunteer fire department Chief Tom Wood said the new truck can pump 1500 gallons per minute. Wood also said that because the fire district was able to save money, a truck is 100% paid for.

"The district board members have been saving the money for this for about 10 years there will be no increase in taxes to pay for it," said Wood. "They were very prudent and did a commendable job banking that in their capital improvement funds."

The truck replaces a 1973 International that was sold to McCormick fire district last year. Working together, Wood said that the City of Libby, Lincoln County Rural Fire District, and the fire department have been able to keep replacement costs low.

"With all of us working together, each department doesn't have to buy a new truck," said Wood.

Wood said that many of his younger volunteer firefighters put in a lot of hours finding a new truck. He specifically thanked Nick Whiteman, Gary Wood, Brent Wood, Brady Fiacus, Adam Orr, and Joe Wood who all say on the committee that chose the new truck.

"They put a ton of work in and we all really appreciate their hard work," said Wood.

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**February Fires Claim Sheep, A Barn And 75 Acres Last Week In Stillwater County**

<http://www.stillwatercountynews.com/news/february-fires-claim-sheep-barn-and-75-acres-last-week>



Six sheep were killed in a barn fire on Noble Lane outside of Columbus last week. A 911 structure fire call came into dispatch last Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 9:47 p.m. in which a resident reported her barn was on fire, according to Stillwater County Sheriff's Dispatch records.

Inside the barn were three ewes and three lambs, all of which perished, said Columbus Fire Rescue Battalion Chief Nick Jacobs. The blaze was apparently started by one of the sheep knocking over a heat lamp.

Jacobs said the barn was fully engulfed in flames when crews arrived on scene and it was a total loss. Also lost in the fire was feed and tac, as well as damage to a horse trailer, said Jacobs.

Columbus Fire Rescue responded to the scene and turned it back over to the resident at 11:54 p.m.

Last Friday, strong winds were blamed for a grass and brush fire on Nye Road.

Stillwater County Sheriff's Office dispatchers received two calls on Friday, Feb. 6, from residents about the fire at 903 Nye Road shortly before 9:30 p.m. Callers reported the fire, which was on the north side of the road, was about a half mile long and was approaching timber. No structures were involved. Fire departments in Nye and Absarokee were dispatched. Absarokee Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Chief Josh Boyce said the fire was caused by wind gusts that snapped a power pole. The downed electrical lines started the fire.

The fire was reported to have already engulfed 18 to 20 acres when firefighters arrived on the scene. Columbus Fire Rescue was requested for Type 6 engines. Shortly before 10 p.m. Absarokee made a county-wide mutual aid request.

An hour later firefighters on scene reported that the fire had grown to between 150 and 200 acres, according to dispatch records.

The fire was reported controlled, but not contained, around 1 a.m. on Saturday. It was not contained until after noon. Two engines were left at the scene to patrol the area. Boyce said the fire department was finished at the scene around 6 p.m. on Saturday.

The fire, which occurred near mile post nine on the Nye Road, burned approximately 75 acres. Firefighters from Absarokee, Columbus, Park City, and Nye battled the blaze.

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### **Polson Firefighters Prepare For Seattle Stairclimb**

[http://www.leaderadvertiser.com/members/polson-firefighters-prepare-for-seattle-stairclimb/article\\_cd8ac0f6-b234-11e4-a3c1-fb9df9f18ff4.html](http://www.leaderadvertiser.com/members/polson-firefighters-prepare-for-seattle-stairclimb/article_cd8ac0f6-b234-11e4-a3c1-fb9df9f18ff4.html)



Firefighters are a family, bonded by time, training and love. And in their long tradition of serving their community, Polson firefighters gathered at Super 1 Foods last week to raise money for leukemia and lymphoma. The Polson firefighters' latest service project revolves around the Scott Firefighter Stairclimb in Seattle this spring and involves a critical training exercise that enables firefighters to save lives during the devastation caused through fire. The \$2,000 entry fee is a direct donation to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to help people like Bella Allred, 4, of Polson, who is fighting the deadly disease. Polson firefighter Blake Holman's best time so far is 120 stairs in 42 minutes. But in 2014, firefighter Jasper Stenstrom of Kitsap, Wash., who once faced a serious cancer scare, climbed them in 13.39 minutes, which is the same time that blood cancer became a reality for three people in the United States and claimed the life of another. Members of the Polson fire department participated in the stair climb challenge for the past three years and are preparing for their fourth year.

The stair-climb challenge helps each team as well. "We rent a big house and all stay together," firefighter Julie Sisler said. "It's a really good chance for us all to bond." Polson's 10-member team is practicing for the challenge that includes much more than climbing stairs. Each participant wears a 50-pound pack that includes a helmet and working breathing apparatus.

Taylor Hayes is the youngest team member. Until his 18th birthday this spring, Hayes will be a junior firefighter. On his birthday he will be a full firefighter.

Hayes graduated from Polson High School one year early and is looking forward to this year's challenge. It will be his first.

The firefighters started training Jan. 1 and raised more than \$1,000 at Polson Wal-Mart.

At the demonstrations, volunteer firefighters took turns practicing stair-climbing in full gear, handing out hats to kids, stickers and helping customers with big purchases load their cars.

Firefighters will host future fundraisers while continuing to practice for the Scott Firefighter Stairclimb.

During the 15-year history of the Scott Firefighter Stair-climb, organizers contributed over \$9 million to support the leukemia research.

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## Recalls From The State Fire Marshal

1. System Sensor Recalls Combination Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Detectors Due to Carbon Monoxide Hazard <http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Recalls/2015/System-Sensor-Recalls-Combination-Carbon-Monoxide-and-Smoke-Detectors/>

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Recall Date: February 11, 2015

Recall Number: 15-077

System Sensor Recalls Combination Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Detectors Due to Carbon Monoxide Hazard

Recall Summary

Name of Product: i4 Series System Sensor combination carbon monoxide (CO)/smoke detectors

Hazard: The detectors can fail to detect carbon monoxide gas in the home, posing a risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Remedy: Replace

Consumer Contact: System Sensor at (800) 736-7672 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday or online at [www.systemsensor.com](http://www.systemsensor.com), and click on "Product Safety Notice" for more information.

Recall Details

Units: About 1,450

Description: This recall involves System Sensor i4 series combination carbon monoxide/smoke detector models COSMO-2W and COSMO-4W manufactured between 9/3/14 and 9/13/14. The detectors are round, white, and measure about 5.5 inches in diameter. Recalled units have date codes 4091 or 4092 printed on the lower left-hand corner of the label affixed to the back of the product and on the packaging.

Incidents/Injuries: None reported.

Remedy: Consumers should immediately contact System Sensor to obtain a free replacement combination CO/smoke detector. Consumers should keep using the recalled detectors until replacement detectors are installed.

Sold at: Security equipment dealers nationwide during September 2014 for about \$75.

Manufacturer: System Sensor, of St. Charles, Ill.

Manufactured in: Mexico

**Allen Lorenz, State Fire Marshal  
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### **Firefighter Who Races To Gold Creek Fire Is Victim Of Second Blaze**

<http://www.pburgmail.com/index.html>

Fires at separate Gold Creek locations have devastated two businesses in the last two weeks, destroying decades of work in just minutes.

Valley Fire chief Sean O'Connor said there was nothing to indicate that either fires were suspicious.

Jon Perry, owner of Better Than Logs in Drummond, said that about \$150,000 worth of items, including three restored vehicles, a trailer, and sentimental items brought out from California in 2008 all went up in flames in a shed at their Gold Creek rental the early hours of Jan. 17.

One of the losses included a 1931 Model A Ford he had restored with his son, Robert, now 23, when Robert was a child. It was a father-son project that had taken about a year and a half and it paved the way for Robert's career in mechanical engineering, which he currently studies in Washington.

Other vehicles that were destroyed included a 1955 Porsche 550 Spyder Replica, a 1986 Suzuki GSXR motorcycle, a 2004 Ford F350 Dually Truck, a 2003 Sterling i7500 truck, a Jayco 31' travel trailer, and an Eliminator 48' Racecar trailer, as well as work tools that he had spent a month sorting out in different crates.

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### **Tenmile Group Examines Effects Of Forest Management V. Wildfire**

[http://helenair.com/news/local/tenmile-group-examines-effects-of-forest-management-v-wildfire/article\\_171104c4-2b39-5bff-bd5d-0f4efa8042eb.html](http://helenair.com/news/local/tenmile-group-examines-effects-of-forest-management-v-wildfire/article_171104c4-2b39-5bff-bd5d-0f4efa8042eb.html)

The Tenmile-South Helena Collaborative Committee continued gathering information Wednesday for a planned recommendation to the U.S. Forest Service on a proposed 60,000-acre forestry project.

The city of Helena organized collaborative questioned Forest Service and city personnel on the pros and cons of logging and prescribed burning as compared to a wildfire, specifically on water quality and soil health. While severe wildfire could not be eliminated, logging and prescribed fire can limit effects and speed up rejuvenation of plants and soils, officials said. "The choices are letting Mother Nature take care of fuels accumulation or do it in a more managed way to mitigate some of those impacts," said Forest Service hydrologist Dave Callery.

The Forest Service received approximately 120 comments on the Tenmile-South Helena project. As proposed, work across 24,000 acres would include both logging and prescribed fire. The project aims to lessen dangers from wildfire to homes and infrastructure for the city's water supply.

The city organized the collaborative to deliver a coordinated response to the Forest Service in an effort to help shape the final project.

Critics have challenged the project as overreaching and failing to meet goals for wildlife in the heavily beetle-killed forest.

Forestry, hydrology and soil experts made their cases to the collaborative that the benefits of logging and prescribed burning outweighed potential negatives.

Mitigation answers much of the criticism of logging projects such as sedimentation from roads, Callery said. Using "best management practices" or a variety of techniques and equipment limits road sedimentation, he said.

"There's a common misconception that logging creates a whole lot of sediment that reaches the streams," Callery said. "Based on monitoring of past projects, we have a pretty good idea of the kinds of mitigation required to minimize impacts."

The known components of a project like limiting roads and skid trails in the work area, have management advantages over the unknown of a wildfire, Callery said.

What officials do know is that lower temperatures of prescribed fires limit impact to soils, which can become water resistant for years under the extreme heat of a wildfire, said Forest Service soil scientist Cara Farr.

Once free from vegetation, soils, particularly ashy soils after a fire, become much more likely end up in streams and diminish water quality, she said.

Under controlled, low-severity fires, some vegetation remains, preventing erosion -- and also charring rejuvenates plant growth, Farr said.

"Wildfires don't listen to us; they typically occur in not ideal settings," she said, adding that vegetation takes much longer to return after scorching leaves bare ground.

In lodgepole forests where logging and then prescribed fire has been used, results have been positive with strong regrowth, said Marshall Thompson, Forest Service partnership coordinator.

How managers choose to log an area depends on topography of the land, timing and minimizing impacts, said city of Helena open lands' manager Brad Langsather.

"You're not going to keep fire from moving in there, but we're hoping to not have fuels there in its path," he said. "The Forest Service does its best work when it's working hand-in-hand with the public."

In coming months, the collaborative hopes to hire a state-funded facilitator and to begin formulating a recommendation. The group will meet next on March 11 at 1:30 p.m., in the City-County Building.

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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](http://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**

**Ga. Firefighter Killed, Several Hurt in Collapse**

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/12044317/macon-bibb-firefighter-dies-at-house-fire>



**Photo credit:** Courtesy of WMAZ

The Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is investigating Wednesday night's fire that killed a Macon-Bibb firefighter and injured five others.

ATF investigators joined local investigators Thursday morning at the house at 2320 Fairview Drive, just south of Rocky Creek Road.

The federal assistance is routine when a firefighter is killed, said Sgt. Ben Gleaton, a Macon-Bibb fire investigator who kept vigil with his partner at the scene overnight.

Investigators looking for a cause of the fire started sifting through the ruins at about 7:30 a.m. Thursday.

Lt. Randy Parker, 46, suffered fatal injuries when he fell through the floor of the burning home in south Macon.

Parker was pronounced dead at the Medical Center, Navicent Health, at 9:09 p.m., Bibb County Coroner Leon Jones said.

District Chief Nathaniel Hall said the loss weighs heavy on the whole department.

"This is just a terrible thing," Hall said as he arrived at the scene Thursday morning. "We're just trying to come to grips with it."

A few minutes before 6 p.m., firefighters arrived to find the house engulfed in flames. After an initial group of firefighters went into the house, the floor collapsed, and several firefighters fell into the basement, said Chris Floore, spokesman for the Macon-Bibb County government.

Six firefighters, including Parker, were taken to the Medical Center. Battalion Chief Steven Stafford, 59, was airlifted to the Joseph M. Still Burn Center in Augusta, and firefighters Adam Mitchie, 34, and Ferrell Cromer, 46, were taken by ambulance to the burn center, Jones said. Two of the three taken to Augusta are being treated for smoke inhalation, and the other for smoke inhalation and burns on his hand.

Two other firemen -- Matt Couey, 27, and Ben Bollinger, 28 -- were listed in stable condition at the Medical Center, Jones said.

The homeowners, identified by a neighbor as Don and Kathy Coffey, were able to get out of their brick home unharmed.

The initial fire company arrived on the scene at 5:51 p.m., just minutes after they were called.

At 6:43 p.m, while firefighters were actively battling the flames, the floor near the front door gave way, sending a group of responders into the basement below and setting off a "code red," which called for an immediate evacuation and the start of rescue efforts, Floore said. After the six firemen (sic) were taken to the hospital, Parker was pronounced dead.

"He is an officer that served our community for more than 20 years," Floore said.

Macon-Bibb County government is asking the community to keep the families of Parker and the other injured firemen in their thoughts and prayers, Floore said late Wednesday. "Also please reach out to their crew members and friends as this is a tragedy which impacts all of us," he said.

Earlier in the night at the fire scene, the Coffeys' neighbor Sandra Carter said she was alerted to the fire by a loud noise.

"I heard what sounded like something exploded," she said. "I ran screaming for my neighbors, but they didn't hear me." She eventually made contact with the Coffeys.

Carter said she feared the worst for one of the firefighters, who later turned out to be Parker.

"It just seemed like an eternal time that he had been trapped in there," she said.

Carter said three of the Coffeys' dogs were killed in the blaze, although firefighters could not confirm that Thursday morning.

Once word spread of accident, off-duty firefighters rushed to the scene to spell those who were fighting the fire, Hall said.

"We're such a family. We put our lives on the line everyday," he said. "We don't want to take for granted what we do, but we're survivors. We're running in when everyone else is running out."

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### **Okla. Fire Chief Hurt in Tanker Blast**

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/12044074/okla-fire-chief-hurt-in-tanker-blast>

An Oklahoma fire chief is recovering following an explosion involving a tanker.

Bristow Chief David McSpadden was about to work on a tanker that hasn't been driven in about six months, [Newson6](#) reported.

He thought he smelled acid, and when he popped the hood something exploded.

He suffered a broken neck and jaw and damage to his eye sockets, the station reported.

The state fire marshal is investigating.

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### **Smoke From Garage Fire Claims Idaho Man**

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/11841131/smoke-from-garage-fire-claims-idaho-man>

A strong wind fanned the flames in a garage fire that sent smoke into the attached home and resulted in the death of an 83-year-old Lewiston man.

Robert Greene died from smoke inhalation at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center following the late-night fire Tuesday at his home in a duplex at Royal Plaza, on the northern edge of the Lewiston Orchards.

Lewiston Fire Chief Travis Myklebust said Greene was found unconscious and not breathing in the living room of his duplex after crews responded at 10:42 p.m. to the fire that started in a Chrysler parked in the garage of the home at 2870 Juniper Drive.

"The patient was immediately removed from the structure, CPR and advanced life support measures were performed and the patient was transported," he said.

The fire in the garage was quickly knocked down as a search team checked for other occupants. Firefighters thought Greene's wife was inside, but Myklebust said she had been admitted to the hospital a couple of days earlier for an unrelated condition. Firefighters remained on scene until about 12:35 a.m. Wednesday.

An electrical short under the hood of the four-door sedan that smoldered and ignited plastic is being blamed for the blaze. The smoke and flames alerted the garage door sensor, causing the garage door to open automatically, he said.

"The garage door tripped, it opened and got all that air," he said. "There was lots of fuel and heat in a small area."

Fire crews were met with heavy flames when they rolled on scene. Additional units were called and about 30 firefighters responded to the blaze. Crews from Asotin County Fire District No. 1, the Wheatland Fire Protection District and city of Asotin responded, Myklebust said.

The occupant of the duplex's adjacent home has been placed in the care of Royal Plaza staff.

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### **Street Bears Name of Fallen Scranton Firefighter**

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/11841253/street-bears-name-of-fallen-scranton-firefighter>

To get to school each day, hundreds of students will now travel on Captain James L. Robeson Way.

Scranton School Board directors voted unanimously on Wednesday to name the street leading to Isaac Tripp Elementary School after the late Scranton firefighter.

Capt. Robeson was electrocuted in 2008 while fighting a fire. In 2010, when deciding what to name the new school at 1000 N. Everett Ave., board members discussed naming it after Scranton settler Isaac Tripp, civil rights leader Rosa Parks or Capt. Robeson. At the time, directors said they wanted to rename the portion of North Everett Avenue leading to the school after Capt. Robeson. The district owns that portion of the street, school officials have said. No formal action was ever taken on renaming the street, and at last week's work session, board Vice President Bob Sheridan asked the board to finally make the name change official.

Lackawanna County Commissioner Pat O'Malley, who served on the board when the school was named, spoke at the meeting and said he thought the board had renamed the street in 2010.

"He was there to protect us as a firefighter," Mr. O'Malley said. "He's a hero of the community."

Capt. Robeson's widow, Linda Robeson, said her husband would be surprised to have a street named after him.

"We're very honored," she said.

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