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**Around Montana**

**CVFD Firefighters Raise Money For Stair Climb Event**

[http://www.belgrade-news.com/news/article\\_e7d7e492-b3ca-11e4-81fe-870f7a790407.html](http://www.belgrade-news.com/news/article_e7d7e492-b3ca-11e4-81fe-870f7a790407.html)



In 1,311 steps, 69 flights of stairs and 788 feet of vertical gain, Central Valley Fire Fighters work toward a mission greater than climbing to the top of a building in full firefighter gear. For about 20 minutes, the firefighters learn about a kind of pain, shortness of breath, and blurry vision that actually means something important. Each firefighter who competes in the Scott Firefighter Stairclimb in Seattle does so to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

This year, three CVFD firefighters are working hard to raise \$10,000 for blood cancer research. From 2 – 8 p.m. firefighters hunkered down at the Madison River Brewing Company to spread the word.

From every pint of beer sold for six hours on Wednesday, \$1 was donated for cancer research. Firefighters also sold CVFD shirts for \$20 at the brewery.

"Connecting with local businesses in the area is key," Phil Grondine, the CVFD firefighter spearheading the fundraising efforts said. "They are our customers, but places like Madison River are community centers."

Last year, CVFD raised \$7,400 through the Pint Night at Madison River and pledges for the stair climb. In total, firefighters from around the country raised \$1.94 million for cancer research through the stair climb event. Grondine will complete the event alongside Max Amenabar and Dustin Pittman, both CVFD firefighters.

Grondine says the charity events pair well with the firefighter creed.

"We're firefighters to save lives," Grondine said. "This is just another way to do that."

CVFD firefighter Nick Ramsay participated in the Stair Climb last year. For about 25 minutes, Ramsay huffed and puffed his way to the top of the Columbia Center, the second tallest building west of the Mississippi. While he can't remember how he made it up the final steps, the grueling climb taught him something.

"I kept telling myself, just a few more minutes," Ramsay said. "I can do that."

For people with cancer, the pain lasts a lot longer than 20 minutes. That thought propelled Ramsay through the final minutes of the firefighter stair climb.

Though Ramsay isn't participating this year, he supported his fellow firefighters at the brewery Wednesday.

"We see people on the worst days of their lives," Ramsay said. "It's nice to see them somewhere else."

Last year at pint night, CVFD raised \$656 from 236 pints of beer being sold and an additional donation from Madison River for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

This year, Grondine and the other CVFD Firefighters will participate in the 24th Annual Scott Firefighter Stairclimb. They are still avidly raising funds and looking for corporate sponsors. Anyone interested in learning more about the CVFD firefighters' fundraising efforts can visit <https://www.facebook.com/CVFDclimb>.

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### **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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### **Man Accused Of Lighting His Missoula Motel Room On Fire**

<http://www.kpax.com/news/man-accused-of-lighting-his-missoula-motel-room-on-fire/>

MISSOULA - A Missoula man is behind bars after trying to set a room on fire at a Motel 6 in Missoula.

Authorities were called out at about 5 p.m. Sunday for reports of smoke and flames coming from one of the rooms. Hotel employees were able to put the blaze out.

The man in his 40's was taken into custody and will face charges of criminal endangerment and negligent arson.

An investigation into the incident is still underway, and there's a no word yet on how badly damaged the motel room was.

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### **Joining Montana City Fire For St. Baldricks Head Shave Event**

I am happy to announce that I thought I would join Montana City Fire for their head shave event, raising money for St. Baldricks, raising funds for kids with cancer.

If you guys and gals would like to sponsor me, it would be appreciated. I just did some major fundraising on my side of the border, so don't think I will be getting too much support.

Trying to figure out how to post the link, so that you can donate directly on their site, it is part of the Montana City Fire Department, so please be patient while I check this new endeavor. Last time I was involved with the head shave for Cancer for the Terry Fox organization, we managed to raise around \$ 15,000, several departments had joined mine, it was a great event.

Will post the link as soon as I have it.

Thanks,  
Trudy Smith, Alberta

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### **Legislative Update - Week 6**

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

**SB103** (Provide presumptive disease coverage for paid firefighters) Had a hearing on Wednesday, February 11th.. 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.

**SB290** (Apply private motor carrier safety standards to certain public owned vehicles) Had a hearing on Thursday, February 12th. This bill came up unexpectedly. It had the potential to apply all kinds of regulations to emergency vehicles. The Montana Fire Alliance opposed the bill and suggested an amendment to exempt emergency vehicles. That suggestion was accepted.

**Hearings and issues this upcoming week:**

**SB303** (Revise fire district laws) Has a hearing scheduled for Monday, February 16th, at 3:00 PM in room 405. The bill allows a fire district and a fire service area to consolidate. The Montana Fire Alliance supports the bill.

**HB483** (Raising pension benefit in VFCA) Has a hearing scheduled for Thursday, February 19th, at 8:00 AM in room 455. The bill would raise the retirement benefit, for volunteer firefighters covered by the VFCA, to \$200 per month. 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.) ;

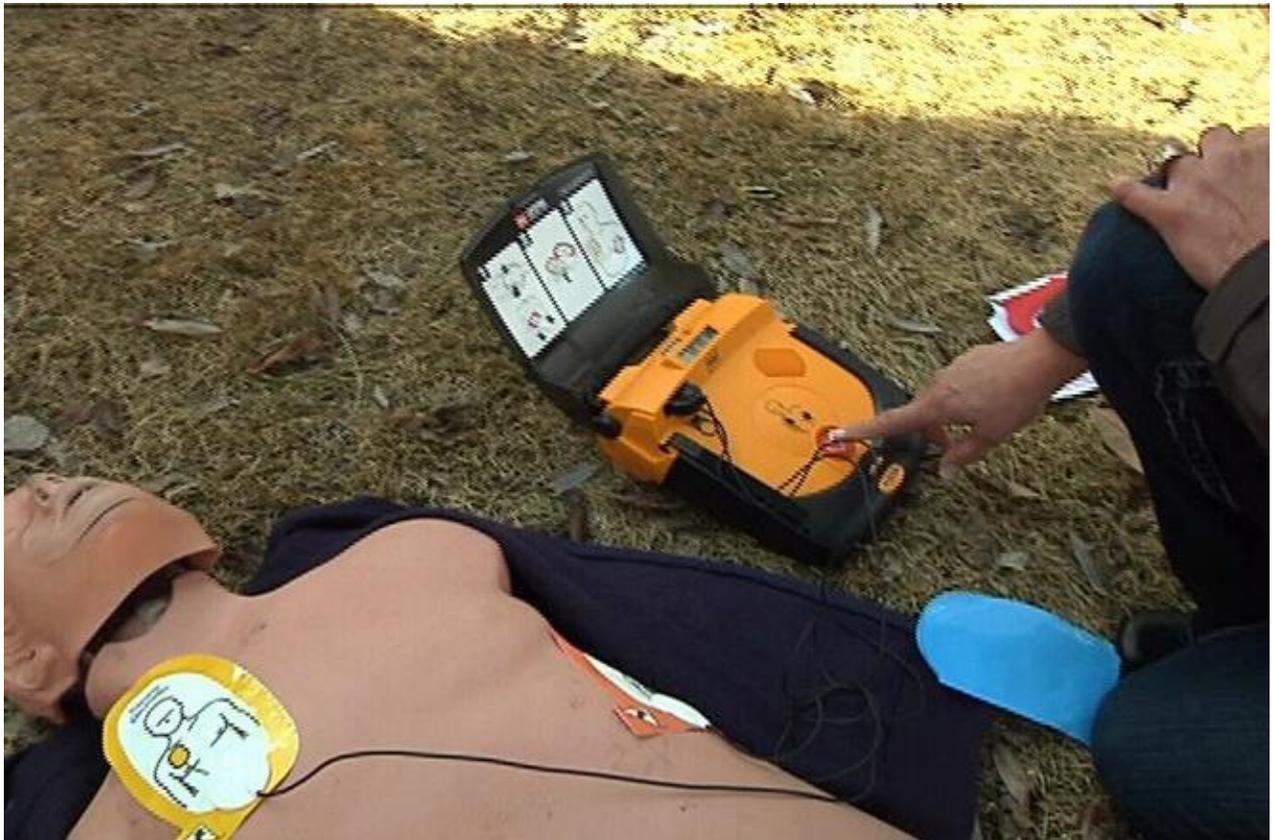
Respectfully Submitted  
Leonard Lundby  
Montana Fire Alliance - Legislative Liaison

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**Campaign To Register Lifesaving Aeds Underway In Gallatin County**

<http://www.kbzk.com/news/campaign-to-register-lifesaving-aeds-underway-in-gallatin-county/>



Two local women have launched an effort to save lives, by getting all automated external defibrillators or AEDs in Gallatin County registered with 911 dispatch.

"So that if there's an emergency right outside of a building, then 911 dispatchers would know where the AED is and direct someone to go get in," explained Cherry Eustace. Cherry and her partner Julie Evans have a company called Jolt. They teach CPR and say anyone can use an AED. And, they say AEDs save lives.

"Only 3-4 percent of people in cardiac arrest survive with CPR alone. If we can get an AED on them very quickly then it increases survival chances 60-70 percent," explained Eustace.

When the women began their campaign to register AEDs, only 12 AEDs across Gallatin County were registered.

Now more than 100 are. If you would like to register an AED here's the contact information: Julie Evans - 406-579-3703, joltcpr@gmail.com, Cherry Eustace - 406-581-4738  
www.joltcpr.com

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### **Injured Snowmobiler Rescued In Gallatin County**

[http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/injured-snowmobiler-rescued-in-gallatin-county/article\\_86fd2fb3-f898-5bd8-971e-c2723946e44b.html](http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/injured-snowmobiler-rescued-in-gallatin-county/article_86fd2fb3-f898-5bd8-971e-c2723946e44b.html)

BOZEMAN — A search and rescue team aided an injured snowmobiler in Gallatin County this weekend.

The Gallatin County Sheriff's Office says a 28-year-old Belgrade man was hurt Saturday in Red Canyon, about 10 miles north of West Yellowstone.

It says the man was a passenger when he was thrown from the snowmobile and struck a tree.

Two attempts to evacuate the man by helicopter were unsuccessful because of snow conditions and weather.

A rescue toboggan was used to transport him several miles down rough terrain to an ambulance, which took him to Bozeman Deaconess Hospital.

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### **Stevensville Fire Has Gear To Donate**

Please contact Bill Perrin at [bperrin@geojen.com](mailto:bperrin@geojen.com) or 406-207-0681

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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**

### **S.C. Firefighter Killed at Crash; Driver Charged with DUI**

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/12045473/sandy-springs-sc-firefighter-struck-and-killed>



Ken Stanton

**Photo credit:** Facebook photo



**Photo credit:** Courtesy photo via Facebook

A Sandy Springs firefighter was killed after being struck at the scene of a crash Sunday night. Kenneth Stanton, 52, was directing traffic when a vehicle drove around a tow truck and struck him.

[See photos](#)

He was pinned between a fire vehicle and the SUV, and sustained severe head injuries. South Carolina Highway Patrol Cpl. Bill Rhyne said that Charles Pickens, 64, has been charged in the crash.

"Kenny was a great man who would go out of his way to help anyone," said his cousin, Jason Pruitt. "He loved being a firefighter and serving the community. He was a former Marine and friend to everyone."

At least four other firefighters were injured when they were struck this weekend.

A deputy chief and firefighter were injured in [East Hartford, Conn.](#) when their command vehicle was struck when they stopped to investigate a crash.

Early Sunday in Montgomery County, Md., two Cabin John EMTs were injured when a pickup truck slammed into the vehicle they were working in. The truck then struck their ambulance.

In the same county, a [Wheaton rescue squad was hit](#) by a bus at a crash scene. No injuries we reported their.

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### **Fallen Firefighters Remembered on 60th Anniversary of Md. Blaze**

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/11843315/six-baltimore-firefighters-remembered-on-60th-anniversary-of-nine-alarmer>

Shirley Hanley was just 4 years old when her father was one of six firefighters to perish in a blaze Feb. 16, 1955, at an East Baltimore Street clothier, but her memories remain fresh 60 years later.

"I can still see my grandparents and mother sitting in the kitchen with devastation on their faces, waiting to hear about my dad. And I remember being told Daddy wasn't coming home," said Hanley on Sunday at the 60th anniversary of a fire tragedy regarded as one of the worst in the city's history.

The nine-alarm blaze at the Tru-Fit Clothing Company at 507-509 E. Baltimore St. claimed the lives of Hanley's father, Joseph Hanley Jr., Rudolph Machovec, Francis O'Brien, Richard Melzer, William Barnes and Anthony Reinsfelder.

Their fire hats and the fire engine were on display during the ceremony Sunday at the Thomas J. Burke Fire Station, about seven blocks from the fire site. The event was moved from the actual site of the blaze due to frigid temperatures.

According to newspaper accounts, the fire began around 9 p.m. and engulfed the three-story structure with heat so intense that it shattered windows. The fire was considered under control around 10:45 p.m. Firefighters then entered the building, but about five minutes later the rear roof of the building and back wall collapsed, trapping a dozen firefighters.

The blaze also left nearly two dozen firefighters injured. News reports said that John T. O'Malley, secretary of the board of fire commissioners, called the tragedy "the worst catastrophe in the fire department's history." Ceremonial funerals for all six were held with mourners that included officials from fire departments of New York, Washington and Philadelphia.

"It had a profound impact on the city, and I read that the mayor started a fund for the families of the firefighters and the need for a chaplain service were two things that were the outgrowth of this," said former Baltimore City Fire Commissioner Stuart Nathan during remarks at the anniversary service.

News reports said that save for "modest" life insurance policies and funeral expenses, the firefighters were without long-term insurance. As a result, nearly \$170,000 was raised from donations. The city subsequently launched a permanent relief fund for families of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty.

"But I guess what's most important of all," Nathan said, "was a commitment never to forget that this happened, the sacrifice those men made and the impact it had on their families even going into today."

Shirley Hanley said she is grateful that the city commemorates the tragedy. She said that Sunday's ceremony, the first since the 50th anniversary, comes on the heels of another loss, her mother's death in December.

"She used to talk about Daddy being strict on us, my sister and I," Shirley Hanley said. "He was tall, very slender. I remember the summer before he was killed we went down to [Ocean City], and I remember standing at the waves, holding his hand and looking up at him."

Rick Melzer, 62, whose father also perished in the tragedy, went on to become a firefighter himself, serving for 25 years before retiring in 1999. He scarcely recalls much, he said, except "people coming to the house."

"He was only 28 years old at the time," Melzer said of his father. "He was still considered a rookie. He was a good guy, and he liked having a good time with the guys."

Melzer said that he never intended following in his father's footsteps, but grew up spending time around fire houses. He said he decided on the profession as early as high school.

"I guess it's in the blood," he said. "It's in the blood."

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### **Off-duty Ind. Firefighter Arrested for Interfering at Marina Fire**

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/11843318/off-duty-ind-firefighter-arrested-for-interfering-at-marina-fire>

The president of Inland Marina Inc. in Evansville and an off-duty Evansville firefighter were arrested Saturday after police said they interfered during a fire at the marina that caused more than \$2 million in damage.

Katherine Riecken-Parker, 33, and Edward David Parker, 47, attempted to run through a group of firefighters near a pedestrian bridge leading to the marina at 1731 Waterworks Road around 1:20 a.m., according to an Evansville Police Department arrest affidavit. Fire crews had the majority of their equipment and water lines on the bridge to fight a fire that started in a large house boat. The fire destroyed four boats and damaged another.

Ron Riecken was detained by Evansville police at the scene of the fire, according to Jason Cullum, Evansville Police Department spokesman. Cullum said Riecken was emotional and obstructing working firemen.

Riecken calmed down and was not arrested. He said he no longer has ownership interest in Inland Marina and that the property is owned by Inland Marina Inc.

According to records from the Indiana Secretary of State, Riecken-Parker is the president of Inland Marina Inc. She is Ron Riecken's daughter and is married to Edward Parker, a firefighter.

Ron Riecken's wife is Gail Riecken, a Democratic State Representative and candidate for Evansville mayor in 2015.

Gail Riecken said that she was not present during the fire.

"I was at the Harbor View, I couldn't get down there," Riecken said Saturday afternoon.

Harbor View is a subdivision north of the marina. Riecken attempted to go to the marina but was turned away at the subdivision by police who were blocking off Waterworks Road, Cullum said.

Workers with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management were at the marina Saturday containing thousands of gallons of fuel that spilled, according to Evansville Fire Investigator Tim Strange.

Crews shut off the marina's inlet to keep fuel from flowing into the Ohio River. Strange said none of the fuel has leaked into the river.

The first dispatch call came around midnight, after the fire originated in a boat owned by Bill Marver, according to the fire department. Three people were on the boat at the early morning hour and investigators were told they were preparing the boat for sale.

"They smelled some smoke, and had a breaker trip," said Richard Howard, a fire investigator. "They reset the breaker, and then the way it was explained to me, a woman knocked over a kerosene heater that was in the bottom of the boat."

A female who was on the boat was treated at the scene for smoke inhalation.

The fire spread quickly, engulfing nearby boats. Howard said firefighters were challenged to get enough water to the scene.

"We have one hydrant in the parking lot of the marina, and then we have to rely on grafting water from the (Ohio) river, which takes some time to get started," Howard said.

Parker and Riecken-Parker were seen scuffling with firefighters by an officer posted in the east side of Marina Point. A request came over from Central Dispatch soon after to have police units respond to the scene. Crews waved to police to help them near the pedestrian bridge, according to the affidavit.

Police helped five firefighters restrain the two from continuing onto the bridge, according to the affidavit. Both Parker and Riecken-Parker were reportedly pushing and shoving firefighters. One officer noted Parker was belligerent and kicking at several officers, striking one in the face and causing pain, according to the affidavit. Parker was taken into custody after an officer used a TASER on him, according to the affidavit.

Officers noted in their report that the couple reeked of alcohol and had unsteady balance. Riecken-Parker resisted a police officer's commands to leave the bridge several times, telling him he was not going "to force her off her property," according to the affidavit. The officer noted once inside the squad car she immediately began to apologize for not following his requests.

Both suspects on Saturday were lodged in Vanderburgh County jail with no set bond on preliminary charges of resisting law enforcement, public intoxication and interfering with firefighters. Edward faces an additional charge of battery on a public safety official.

Howard early Saturday afternoon said the cause is considered accidental. A short time later, Howard said the department is considering the cause "undetermined and under investigation." "We need to verify the explanation of how the fire started, more than anything," Howard said, adding that he is taking over the investigation because of his experience level. "We just, with the amount of loss we had, we don't want to jump to conclusions. We want to investigate a little farther."

Evansville's water treatment plant on Saturday morning was alerted to the possibility of fuel in the Ohio River after the fire. The treatment plant on Waterworks Road began applying activated carbon to water entering from the intake valve, several feet beneath the surface. Evansville Water & Sewer Utility Director Allen Mounts said the alert came from the U.S. Coast Guard or the city Fire Department, and he described the treatment plant's action as "a precautionary measure."

Mounts said petroleum usually gathers on the surface of a body of water, and the possibility of contaminating water coming in the intake valve was slight. But he said the activated carbon would remove any harmful substance.

Mounts did not know how long the treatment plant would continue to apply the activated carbon, calling it a judgment call by the plant's managers.

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**Ind. Firefighters Leave Moldy Fire Station**

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/11843319/ind-firefighters-leave-moldy-fire-station>

ANDERSON -- A mold problem is requiring the city of Anderson to close Station 2 of the Anderson Fire Department for approximately two weeks starting on Monday.

The firefighters and equipment from Station 2 will be moved to headquarters while the mold problem is mitigated by Reeder Heating & Air and Shepherd Homes, Inc.

The type of mold and location in Station 2 was not available on Saturday.

Station 2 is located to the east of Jackson Park in the 2300 block of West 22nd Street.

Anderson Fire Chief Phil Rogers said the department was made aware of the mold problem about a year ago.

"The firefighters in the station were getting colds more often," Rogers said. "We tested the air at Station 2."

Rogers said fire protection coverage in the area will not be impacted while the mold mitigation work is undertaken.

The distance from Station 2 to the three nearest stations ranges between two and four miles.

It is approximately three miles to fire headquarters, 44 W. Fifth St.; four miles to Station 4, 621 W. Cross St.; and two miles to Station 6, 133 W. 29th St.

"The welfare of our citizens is important," Rogers said.

Mayor Kevin Smith said it was the opinion of Rogers that the work to mitigate the mold problem in Station 2 should be done immediately.

"The firefighters were expressing concerns about their health environment," Smith said. "We wanted to mitigate the mold problem because firefighter safety is a priority for the city."

This is the second fire station that is experiencing a mold problem.

There has also been a mold problem at the fire headquarters in recent years.

Rogers said the mold is confined to the front office area of Station 1.

"We're going to wait until the study is done," he said of a planned study this year to determine if a new headquarters station will be constructed near the intersection of Meridian and 19th streets.

During the 2015 budget sessions the Anderson City Council and Smith administration agreed to a \$40,000 feasibility study to determine the cost of a new headquarters building, estimated at \$4 million, as compared to rebuilding the existing building, estimated at \$2.7 million.

At the hearings Rogers said there were mold, structural and efficiency issues at the existing headquarters station.

Smith said mold continues to be an issue at Station 1.

"We are hearing about a lot of issues with mold," he said.

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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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