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Around Montana

A Day In The Life of Great Falls Fire Rescue

<http://www.krtv.com/story/28122816/a-day-in-the-life-of-great-falls-fire-rescue>



GREAT FALLS -- Great Falls Fire Rescue responds to around 7,000 calls every year in the city. Those calls can range from lift-assists to medical calls to large structure fires.

Firefighter Steven Tucker noted, "You just can't really judge what's going to happen until it happens. You're not sitting behind a desk all day, and you can be sitting there doing training and then all of a sudden, you're going on a structure fire."

That's what happened to the department last Friday afternoon when a structure call came in from Morning Light Coffee Roasters on 9th Street.

Crews rushed to the old Eddy's Bakery building, where smoke could be seen from the roof. The inside of the building sustained some fire damage, but fortunately, there were no injuries. Battalion Chief Charles Rovreit explained: "We needed to bring more trucks, bigger tool boxes in case we run into something that one engine company can't send out. So we always send three engine companies and a battalion chief to all structure calls."

Time is of the essence when crews respond, aiming to be at a scene in four to five minutes. Time is also the reason why GFFR responds to medical calls. There are four fire stations around the city and only one ambulance headquarters.

Captain Adam Marsh says, "That's why the fire truck responds along with the ambulance. Generally the Fire Department arrives first, establishes patient care, and then the ambulance shows and we transfer care over to them. Sometimes we'll ride into the hospital with them, sometimes we won't."

When drivers see a fire truck or other emergency vehicles, there's some rules to the road. GFFR advises people not to panic, to pull over safely to the right side of the road, and don't be surprised to see fire trucks stop at red lights and stop signs. Even in an emergency, crews have to obey traffic laws.

"The last thing we want to do is cause an accident when we're responding to go help somebody," says Marsh.

Helping people is what firefighters do and when they're not responding, they're often training for unusual situations.

On the same day as the Morning Light call, crews worked on a "confined space" drill, lowering themselves down a makeshift man-hole.

They say that conducting ongoing training ensures that the fundamentals of every task are ingrained in their minds.

Tucker participated in the exercise and suited up to practice his skills; he said, "I don't think it's for everybody, but I enjoy it. It's fun to get put into different situations and even if you are a little bit scared, it's fun to go through and overcome it."

Because the more practice Great Falls Fire Rescue gets, the more prepared they are for when they're needed.

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2015 FSTS Staff And Command Coming In April

MSU Fire Services Training School will be presenting the Staff and Command seminar Saturday, April 18st through Sunday, April 19nd at the Hampton Inn, 2301 14th St SW, Great Falls Montana. Class will begin at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning.

This seminar is intended to assist chief fire officers, trustees, fire service area board members and administrative officials with the leadership and management of effective fire service organizations. This seminar will provide current or newly appointed chief officers, trustees, fire service area board members, administrative officers, and city/county commissioners' exposure to the fire protection challenges they face and the range of skills required for success. Participants' interest and needs will determine the content of the presentations which are informal and highly interactive.

Tuition is \$129.00 for members of a public Montana Fire Department and \$200.00 Private for private or out-of-state individuals. This includes 2 lunches, 1 dinner and handout materials.

To register please contact:

Jon Marshall at jonathan.marshall@montana.edu (406) 771-4338

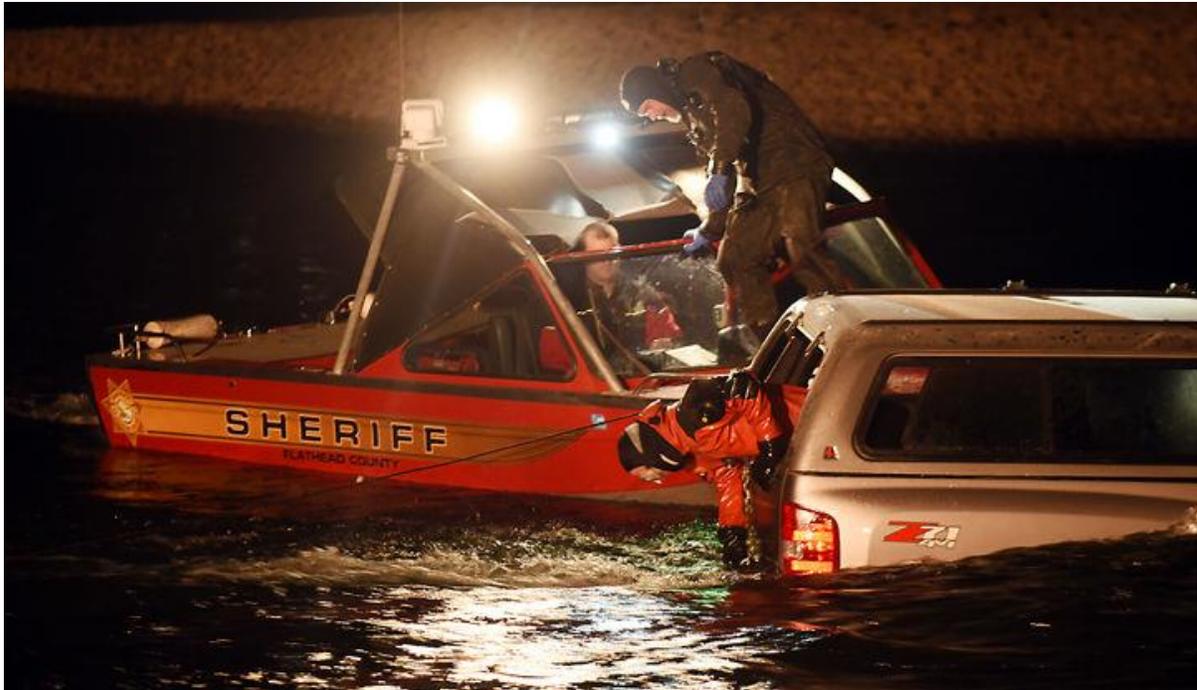
Or Kathy Craig at katheryn.craig@montana.edu (406) 771-4335

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Oregon Driver Survives Ride In Swan River

http://www.dailyinterlake.com/news/local_montana/oregon-driver-survives-ride-in-river/article_30eec0c0-b645-11e4-b521-a343883701c0.html



A man apparently spent nearly 30 minutes in the water after he drove his truck into the Swan River in Bigfork Sunday night.

The driver was an Oregon man but law-enforcement officials have declined to identify him because the investigation is ongoing. Authorities believe alcohol was a factor in the incident. Flathead County Sheriff Chuck Curry said the driver simply missed the entrance to the one-lane span on Bridge Street heading toward downtown Bigfork. From there it was a steep drop into the water below.

"[The truck] wound up going down the bank and wound up going into the water, which is fairly swift in there," Curry said.

The river current swept the truck into Bigfork Bay before it stopped. The cold water was close to the top of the truck doors by the time first responders arrived.

The call came in at 9:15 p.m. The Bigfork Fire Department and the Montana Highway Patrol responded to the scene along with the Sheriff's Office.

The driver stayed in the truck until a deputy pulled him out. One of the responding deputies, a member of the Sheriff's Office Dive Rescue Team, swam to the truck with a tether connecting him to shore.

The deputy pulled the driver out the passenger window and made it back to land, where medical personnel were standing by. Curry said the man was getting hypothermic by the time he was pulled out of the water.

"He was cold," Curry said. "I mean not significantly injured in the crash, but he went down a steep embankment."

A Bigfork ambulance transported the man to Kalispell Regional Medical Center. He remained conscious the entire time.

Mick Borges, assistant chief for the Bigfork Fire Department, said it took hours to pull the truck out of the bay. It was close enough to the mouth of the river that the current continued to push into the truck while crews worked to extract it.

Using tow trucks and a Sheriff's Office boat, they got the truck back on dry land after 3 a.m., nearly six hours after the first call.

Montana Highway Patrol Trooper Eric Thoreson was able to get some questions in with the driver before he left in the ambulance. The trooper conducted another interview at the hospital.

"He said something hit his windshield and that distracted him," Thoreson said. "The next thing he knew, he was in the river."

Charges could be pending for the driver. Thoreson said he will examine the truck to see if there is evidence to support the man's story.

While it took hours to get the truck out of the water, getting the driver out quickly was the first priority for responders, according to Borges.

"It was all about safety," he said.

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Red Lodge Fire Rescue Position Announcements

Red Lodge Fire Rescue (RLFR) is accepting applications for positions on the seasonal fuel mitigation crew. The RLFR fuel crew generally works 40 hours per week with opportunities for overtime pay on local, regional, and national wildland fire engine assignments. One permanent seasonal position and up to 4 temporary seasonal positions will be hired. Primary duties will include removing forest fuels from the landscape to reduce wildfire risk. Additional duties may include responding to wildfires, miscellaneous station work, and other duties as assigned. Qualified applicants must work well with others in a physically demanding work environment. Wildland firefighting experience, chainsaw experience, NWCG S-130/190 and S-212 is preferred. Other necessary training will be provided to successful applicants. The temporary seasonal position is full time from mid-May through October with a salary range of \$14.00 - \$15.00 per hour.

The permanent seasonal position is full time from May - December with a salary range of \$18.00 - \$19.00 per hour. Additionally, permanent seasonal employees are eligible for holiday and sick time benefits as well as participation in the Montana Public Employees Retirement System.

Applications due by April 1st, 2015. For questions about the positions, please email Jon Trapp at jon@redlodgefire.com or call (406) 446-2320. Applicants should include a cover letter, resume and at least two references. Send submissions to:

Red Lodge Fire Rescue
PO Box 318
Red Lodge, MT 59068

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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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Recalls From The State Fire Marshal

Recall Date: February 12, 2015

Recall Number: 15-079

Kidde Recalls Disposable Plastic Fire Extinguishers Due to Failure to Discharge

Recall Summary

Name of Product: Kidde plastic valve disposable fire extinguishers

Hazard: A faulty valve component can cause the disposable fire extinguishers not to fully discharge when the lever is repeatedly pressed and released during a fire emergency, posing a risk of injury.

Remedy: Replace

Consumers should immediately contact Kidde for a replacement fire extinguisher.

Consumer Contact: Kidde toll-free at (855) 283-7991 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or online at www.kidde.com and click on Safety Notice for more information.

Recall Details

Units: About 4.6 million units in the U.S. and 175,000 in Canada

Description: This recall involves 31 models of Kidde disposable fire extinguishers with Zytel® black plastic valves. The recalled extinguishers are red, white or silver and are either ABC or BC rated. The ratings can be found to the right of the nameplate. Manufacture dates included in the recall are July 23, 2013 through October 15, 2014. A 10-digit date code is stamped on the side of the cylinder, near the bottom. Digits five through nine represent the day and year of manufacture in DDDYY format. Date codes for recalled units manufactured in 2013 are XXXX 20413 X through XXXX 36513 X and 2014 are XXXX 00114 X through XXXX 28814 X. A list of model numbers, that can found on the nameplate affixed to the front of the fire extinguisher, can be viewed here: <http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Recalls/2015/Kidde-Recalls-Disposable-Plastic-Fire-Extinguishers/>

Incidents/Injuries: Kidde has received 11 reports of the recalled fire extinguishers failing to discharge as expected. No injuries have been reported.

Sold at: Home Depot, Menards, Walmart and other department, home and hardware stores nationwide, and online from August 2013 through November 2014 for between \$18 and \$65, and about \$200 for model XL 5MR.

Importer: Walter Kidde Portable Equipment Company Inc., of Mebane, North Carolina

Manufactured in: Mexico

Recall Date: February 12, 2015

Recall Number: 15-070

Jackco Transnational Recalls ZETA Battery Pack Due to Fire Hazard

Recall Summary

Name of Product: ZETA by Jackco Pocket Jump Starter – Deluxe Set

Hazard: The battery packs can overheat, split apart and melt the battery pack's enclosure, posing a fire hazard.

Remedy: Refund

Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled Pocket Jump Starter and contact Jackco Transnational for instructions on how to dispose of the product and how to obtain a refund for the purchase price. Consumers without a receipt will receive \$110.

Consumer Contact: Jackco Transnational toll-free at (888) 452-2526 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday, or online at www.jackco.com and click on "Pocket Jump Starter Product Recall" for more information or send an e-mail to recall@jackco.com.

Recall Details

Units: About 5,000

Description: The ZETA by Jackco Pocket Jump Starter - Deluxe Set contains a battery pack used to jump start vehicles and charge cell phones, tablets, laptops and other devices. The set comes in a black canvas case with red trim and a black handle. When closed, the case measures about 9 inches long by 8.5 inches wide by 3 inches deep and weighs about 2

pounds. The interior is black with mesh pockets. ZETA is printed on the front of the case in red and blue letters. The set includes mini jump clamps, universal cable for laptop charging, 12V accessory cable and USB cable with adapters. The battery pack has three Power Ports – 19 Volt, 12 Volt and 5 Volt -- and can be plugged into an AC wall outlet or a 12-volt car charger for recharging. The lithium-ion battery pack is white and 6 inches long by 3 inches wide by 1 inch deep. A silver product label with Model Number ZT50420 printed in black is found on the backside of the recalled battery pack. Under this product label is the date code: XM201407XXXXXX, which translates to July 2014, the date of manufacturing.

Incidents/Injuries: Jackco Transnational has received 487 reports of battery failure, and two reports of a fire resulting in property damage. No injuries have been reported.

Sold at: Retailers nationwide and at Amazon.com from July 2014 to January 2015 for between \$110 and \$140.

Importer: Jackco Transnational, Inc., of Azusa, California.

Manufactured in: China

***Allen Lorenz, State Fire Marshal
Montana Department of Justice
Division of Criminal Investigation
Investigations Bureau
Fire Prevention & Investigation Section
2225 11th Ave
P.O. Box 201417
Helena, MT 59620-1417
Office (406) 444-2050
Desk (406)444-7879
Fax (406)444-2759***



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Gov. Bullock Honors Montana Red Cross Volunteer Beth Morris



Bozeman, February 16, 2015—On Friday, February 13, Governor Steve Bullock presented a 2015 ServeMontana Award to Montana Red Cross Volunteer Beth Morris.

The award is bestowed on outstanding community volunteers and organizations in the social impact areas of education, healthy futures, environmental stewardship, economic opportunity, veterans & military families, and emergency response.

“We are delighted that Beth Morris was chosen for this significant honor,” said Colleen Tone, Regional Disaster Officer for the American Red Cross of Montana and Idaho. “Beth has been volunteering with the Red Cross since 2011 and wears many hats, including that of regional duty officer supervising and mentoring disaster responders during a deployment. She is an outstanding volunteer supervisor and we are very lucky to have her on our leadership team.”

This is what ServeMontana had to say about Beth:

Beth Morris is recognized for her volunteer work with the American Red Cross and her willingness to assist Montanans through difficult circumstances.

For many years, Beth searched for ways to give back to her community. Four years ago, she found the perfect opportunity through with the Red Cross here in Montana. For a year and a half, Beth worked as a Disaster Action Team Lead in Ravalli County personally working with those who lost everything in fires. Some of her hardest experiences were when individuals lost a family member or pet in the fire and she was given the responsibility to console them. But she’s always been amazed with how much the Red Cross plays an indispensable role in getting survivors back on their feet. One of her most memorable fires was during the Lolo Fire in August of 2013. Beth played an integral role in ensuring that the Red Cross was there to help and that shelters would be ready to go in the case of evacuation.

Beth now serves as a statewide Duty Officer Supervisor. She is on-call every fourth week and oversees the management of the schedule to ensure that disaster duty officers are continually covered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Through this leadership role, she has found a new rewarding mission by helping duty officers grow in their knowledge and learn to make pertinent decisions on their own.

The American Red Cross mission statement states that *“The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers.”* Beth is a true example of this statement. She plans to continue volunteering for the Red Cross for many years to come.

The 2015 ServeMontana Awards were presented in the Old Supreme Court Chambers at the Montana State Capitol. During the same event, First Lady Lisa Bullock also presented three awards to schools that have successfully fed children breakfast through the initiation and support of school breakfast programs.

The complete list of award 2015 ServeMontana Award recipients is as follows:

- William Snell, Billings: Founder of the Pretty Shield Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization that provides charitable and educational services to Montana American Indian communities.
- Tom Meskimen, Martin City: Volunteer with the Martin City Fire Department for over 20 years.
- Big Sky Youth Empowerment, Bozeman: Through the use of creative programs and outdoor activities, volunteers mentor at-risk youth and help them through difficult challenges.
- Friends of the Montana Historical Society, Helena: 130 members who together devote an average of 600 hours per month volunteering to preserve, protect, and promote Montana history.
- Thompson Falls Student Council: Student-led organization that organizes volunteer activities to care for the community.
- Mary Olson, Missoula: Certified State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) counselor and Medicare Classroom Aide through the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).

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Around the Nation

Last Words of Fallen Ga. Firefighter: 'Let's go do this'

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/11843470/last-words-of-fallen-ga-firefighter-lets-go-do-this>



Photo credit: Macon-Bibb Fire Department



Lt. Randy Parker's colleagues march into his funeral service.
Photo credit: Macon-Bibb Fire Department



Pipers perform at funeral of Lt. Randy Parker.
Photo credit: Macon-Bibb Fire Department



Photo credit: Macon-Bibb Fire Department

In his final moments, Randy Parker was the same as ever. Trustworthy. A leader. A can-do guy. The kind of guy not afraid to, as he had in the past, hop in a dragstrip hotrod and mash the pedal to the floor. Or, say, march into a burning house.

Parker, a lieutenant with the Macon-Bibb County Fire Department, died last week battling a blaze on the city's southwest side. He was 46, a husband and a father of two boys. Some of his final words were recalled at his funeral Monday, in large part, because of what they said about him as a man.

A chief at the Feb. 11 fire on Fairview Drive south of Rocky Creek Road asked Parker and some other men to punch a hole in the floor of the house. Heat trapped in the basement needed venting.

"Let's go do this," Parker said.

In they went.

"It was time to go to work," Fire Chief Marvin Riggins said Monday evening. "That was just moments before the tragedy struck."

The floor gave way. Parker was killed, and five other firefighters were hurt.

At Parker's midday funeral, Riggins told a full house at the Macon City Auditorium, "In public safety we tend to deal with tragedy almost daily. ... Unfortunately, every now and then, and unfortunately last Wednesday evening, tragedy struck in our community. A tragedy struck in our own family. When it strikes in this sense, it takes on a whole new, different meaning for us."

A picture from the scene shows Parker standing, his hand on the hood of a truck, watching another firefighter fiddling with his turnout gear, those bulky, protective suits firemen wear. The unimpressed look on Parker's face was priceless, Riggins said. It was as if Parker was thinking, "Really? It's taking you a little long to get your suit on. Business is at hand." Riggins described Parker as a fine manager, someone who could bring out the best in comrades.

"Randy provided the sunlight," he said. "He was always looking for something to make us better."

Firefighters from across the region were on hand to pay their respects. "His extended family in blue," one speaker called them.

"We weep because we loved him," Riggins said. "Randy's gone now, guided by his faith and by the light of those he loved and cherished so much. Yes, Randy will be missed. But more importantly, Randy will be remembered."

Half an hour before the 90-minute ceremony began, firefighters by the dozens in full-dress, navy blue uniforms milled around inside the auditorium's main doors. There were hugs, pats on the back, long faces.

"I got kind of choked up," one said.

"Hanging in there best I know how," said another.

"He's a good guy. He's a really good guy," a man in a suit told another fellow.

"That's what I heard," the fellow replied.

Seated a few rows from the stage, 80-year-old Lucile Clark, godmother of Fire Chief Marvin Riggins, said the chief called her the other night in tears. She asked how he was doing.

"He said, 'You know how it is when you lose somebody -- a good man.' I said, 'I know, baby,'" Clark said.

Clark, a beautician known to firefighters across the county as "Big Mama," recalled Parker being "friendly as he could be."

The five bagpipers strode in playing "Going Home."

A slideshow of snapshots flashed on a projection screen: Parker as a boy with a mop of blond hair; him as an all-state trumpeter in his high school days in Louisiana; him on a white horse. As firefighters filed in, one shuffled over to Parker's flag-draped casket. He stood at attention and snapped off an emphatic salute.

Fire Capt. Jimmy Hollis, a good friend of Parker's, sobbed as he told of losing "a neighbor, a great friend, a beloved family member, a brother firefighter and a true hero."

Hollis said, "We'll never forget what happened last Wednesday. ... He fought bravely and despite unimaginable, difficult conditions."

Mayor Robert Reichert addressed Parker's wife and family.

"On behalf of a grateful community, we extend our deepest and most sincere condolences," he said. "The attendance here today is another visible sign of this love and compassion that we share at times like this. ... I pray that healing will occur, happiness will return to your family, to this department and to our community."

Cedric Scott, a friend and former Macon firefighting colleague of Parker's, recalled the fierce contests of the basketball game "horse" they waged in their days on the force together.

"We used to try to come up with a shot that was impossible for the other to match," said Scott, now a fire chief in Suffolk, Virginia.

Parker liked to poke fun at Scott's sports predictions.

"He asked me who was I going to pick in the Super Bowl. I told him Seattle. He said, 'Wrong again, buddy,'" Scott said. "He had a way of picking the winners."

Scott said Parker sent him a text message last Monday.

"The Lord put you on my mind this morning," it read. "I hope all is well. I just finished praying for you and hope you have a great day."

"Isn't that something?" Scott said.

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Train Carrying North Dakota Crude Explodes In West Virginia

<http://www.ktvq.com/story/28122191/train-carrying-north-dakota-crude-explodes-in-west-virginia>



A train carrying crude oil from North Dakota derailed Monday in West Virginia. According to CSX Rail, the train consisted of two locomotives and 109 rail cars and was traveling from North Dakota to Yorktown, Va. One person was being treated for potential inhalation, but no other injuries were reported. CSX reports the derailment has resulted in the precautionary evacuation of nearby communities, and precautionary suspension of operations at the Cedar Grove and Montgomery water treatment plants. Multiple explosions have happened, and there were tankers on fire. State emergency response and environmental officials were headed to the scene about 30 miles southeast of Charleston. Two towns near the site were evacuated

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Wisc. Family Sues Over Fire Death, Alleges Slow Response

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/11843435/wisc-family-sues-over-fire-death-alleges-slow-response>

The family of a man killed in a 2013 fire on Madison's South Side has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Dane County, the 911 center and its director, alleging that the delayed dispatch of firefighters led to the man's death.

Christopher G. Williams, 51, died on Oct. 16, 2013, in a fire at his apartment at 6425 Bridge Road, an incident that highlighted the need for changes at the 911 center amid criticism that it failed to meet national standards for answering and dispatching emergency calls.

On Friday, Williams' parents, William and Nancy Williams, along with his brother, James, and sister, Constance, filed a lawsuit seeking unspecified compensation for Williams' death. They allege that dispatchers were negligent in promptly sending firefighters to Williams' apartment after the 911 center received calls about the fire.

In a memo written in June, Dane County Executive Joe Parisi wrote that it took Madison firefighters 10 minutes to arrive at the fire, while Monona firefighters were closer but were not sent.

Fire department spokeswoman Bernadette Galvez said the cause of the fire was not determined.

Dispatchers, the lawsuit alleges, "failed to properly follow policies, procedures and protocols implemented by Dane County to ensure prompt dispatch of firefighters to fires and were negligent in other aspects of handling the call regarding the fire."

It also says 911 center director John DeJung "knew or should have known of the problems in dispatching emergency responders, including firefighters, to emergencies such as is described herein and knew those problems created an imminent threat to public safety."

The lawsuit also accuses DeJung of failing to create and implement adequate policies and procedures on the dispatch of firefighters, and that the procedures and protocols in place at the time were deficient and caused a delay in dispatching firefighters.

DeJung and other county workers also failed to adequately supervise and train dispatchers, the lawsuit alleges.

Dane County risk manager Dan Lowndes said Monday that the county had not been served with the lawsuit and could not comment on open litigation.

The Williams family's lawyer, Terrence Polich, said the County Board denied a claim brought by the Williams family, leaving them with six months to file a lawsuit.

Last year, Parisi made a series of changes at the 911 center, including a "pre-alerting" protocol for more critical fire and emergency medical incidents.

Among other changes, the county also changed call-taking protocol to shorten call waiting time.

Parisi also has advocated dropping jurisdictional boundaries between municipalities to allow the nearest responders to answer calls.

The County Board also approved a measure in November to dissolve the 911 center board and replace it with an advisory commission, giving more decision-making power over the 911 center to Parisi and the County Board.

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Mass. Firefighters Encounter Backdraft Hours After Tackling Fatal Blaze

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/11843434/mass-firefighters-encounter-backdraft-hours-after-tackling-fatal-blaze>



Waltham mechanic hated New England winters, especially this year, and dreamed of moving to Florida -- but stayed to help his mother, a former oncology nurse stricken by Alzheimer's disease, heartbroken neighbors said after a savage fire on Ash Street took the lives of both on the coldest day in a decade.

"He hated the snow. He was always cold. His dream was to go to Florida," heartbroken next-door neighbor Charlie Medeiros recalled of Eric Miller, 49, with whom he toiled shoulder-to-shoulder for five hours shoveling out their shared driveway Sunday. "He couldn't do it because his mother was sick, so he had to take care of his mother. That's what he did, 24/7. She had developed Alzheimer's and it was getting worse in the last couple years."

Elizabeth "Betty" Miller was the mother of three, Medeiros said. Eric Miller had a 21-year-old daughter.

The grandmother was "a sweet saint who was always soft-spoken and always had a kind word," said John Kimball, who has lived across the street from the Millers for more than 40 years. "They were great people, and they will be missed."

The fire that killed them broke out around 3 a.m., and the two became the state's seventh and eighth fire deaths this year.

Six hours later, firefighters at the scene were just winding down when they got the call for a four-alarm blaze 1 1/2 miles away at a duplex on School Street. The half-dozen occupants there made it out alive but firefighters faced brutal conditions -- including a backdraft that blasted two firefighters out of an attic and into the path of flames climbing toward them from below.

Waltham Fire Chief Paul Ciccone said Capt. Paul Quaranto and firefighter Michael MacEwen were nearly trapped in the third-floor attic. "They were actually blown down the stairs because we just couldn't get water to them. The first few minutes were very tenuous, to say the least."

"It came in as an all-out fire, which meant it was already out," said Quaranto, a 15-year veteran and father of three girls ages 7, 13, and 16. "We had actually met Engine 3's crew inside. They were in there before us, and they were coming back down the stairs and we had the thermal camera so we went past them. That's when everything hit the fan."

Quaranto said he and MacEwen, 25, had good visibility as they made their way deep into the third-floor attic, but when met by a "light haze," decided to put their masks on.

"In the midst of doing that the smoke just came down and took us," Quaranto said, wearing an ice-encrusted helmet he borrowed after losing his in the escape. "It was a lot of smoke and air pressure. We weren't that far from the stairway, but there was a lot of stuff in the room. A lot of boxes, trash, chairs, umbrellas. We couldn't move, couldn't get to anything, couldn't get to the window, so we had to back down the stairway where we came in.

"We called for a mayday. There was fire coming up from the second floor, up towards us. We got through that and just bailed outside. They'd been having some water problems -- hoses frozen, not working."

"We had all the problems you could have at this fire," Ciccone said. "The trucks were frozen from the earlier fire. They hadn't had a chance really to thaw out. Once we started operations here, pumps were freezing, throttles were freezing. We had a little bit of trouble with frozen hydrants, so one of the factors here was water. It was very challenging."

The causes of both fires are under investigation. Ciccone stressed, "At this point there's no reason to be suspicious of either one of them."

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Grants

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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>

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Upcoming Training Opportunities

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Visit our training calendar and webpage here:

<http://www.montana.edu/wwwfire/Training.html>

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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

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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>.

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NFA - Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations

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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.

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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> or email jonathan.marshall@montana.edu

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DES Coordinator's Workshop

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

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Advanced Critical Incident Stress Management

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

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2015 FSTS Staff and Command Coming in April

MSU Fire Services Training School will be presenting the Staff and Command seminar Saturday, April 18st through Sunday, April 19nd at the Hampton Inn, 2301 14th St SW, Great Falls Montana. Class will begin at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning.

This seminar is intended to assist chief fire officers, trustees, fire service area board members and administrative officials with the leadership and management of effective fire service organizations. This seminar will provide current or newly appointed chief officers, trustees, fire service area board members, administrative officers, and city/county commissioners' exposure to the fire protection challenges they face and the range of skills required for success. Participants' interest and needs will determine the content of the presentations which are informal and highly interactive.

Tuition is \$129.00 for members of a public Montana Fire Department and \$200.00 Private for private or out-of-state individuals. This includes 2 lunches, 1 dinner and handout materials.

To register please contact:

Jon Marshall at jonathan.marshall@montana.edu (406) 771-4338

Or Kathy Craig at katheryn.craig@montana.edu (406) 771-4335

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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

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

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NFA Wildland/Urban Interface Firefighting for the Structural Company Officer

Wildland/Urban Interface Firefighting for the Structural Company Officer identifies operational activities and safety concerns for structural company officers assigned to a Wildland/Wildland Urban Interface incident. Topics covered include Introduction to Wildland/Wildland Urban Interface firefighting, interface environment, wildland fire behavior, command and control issues of wildland/urban interface firefighting, and tactics.

Course Time: 1900 - 2200 Friday, 0830-1630 on Saturday

Note: Saturday will involve actual WUI visits and simulations

Equipment Required: Wildfire PPE, Portable radio

Personal Requirements: Currently serve as or aspire to serve as a company level fire officer with interest in how to safely and effectively perform in the WUI fire environment.

Course Instructor: Brian Crandall, Former Fire Chief, Training Officer and FSTS trainer
Course Location: Smith Valley Fire District, 3426 Highway 2 West, Kalispell
Course Date: May 1st & 2nd , 2015

*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

Leadership III for Fire & EMS: Strategies for Supervisory Success provides the company officer with the basic leadership skills and tools to perform effectively in the fire service environment. The course covers when and how to delegate to subordinates, assess personal leadership styles through situational leadership, discipline subordinates, and apply coaching/motivating techniques.

Course Instructor: Brian Crandall, Former Fire Chief, Training Officer and FSTS trainer
Course Location: Flathead County OES, 625 Timberwolf Pkwy, Kalispell
Course Date: May 16 & 17, 2015
Course Time: 0830-1600 Saturday & Sunday

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

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Events

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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