



In this Edition:

Around Montana

[Hotel Fire Kills Woman In Hardin](#)

[Gearing Up: Butte Firefighters Prepare For 69-Flight Climb](#)

[IAAI Training Opportunity Coming to Great Falls](#)

Around the Nation

['Like a bomb': Gas Blast Levels N.J. House, Injures 15](#)

[1 Hospitalized After Sauna Fire At YMCA In Wyoming](#)

[Mo. Firefighter Shot in Foot at Mobile Home Fire Recovering](#)

[Five Faults in Fire Service Ethics](#)

[Professional and Administrative Positions](#)

[Apparatus & Equipment Exchange](#)



=====

Around Montana

Hotel Fire Kills Woman In Hardin

<http://www.kbzk.com/story/28188313/fire-kills-one-woman-in-hardin>



HARDIN - The Big Horn County Sheriff's Office and coroner are investigating a fire that killed one woman in Hardin early Tuesday.

Big Horn County Coroner Terry Bullis confirmed the fire began around midnight at the Rodeway Inn on Crawford Avenue.

Bullis said a 26-year-old woman died in the fire, but her name is not being released as of Tuesday morning.

Authorities are trying to contact the woman's family members.

An autopsy is scheduled to take place Tuesday afternoon.

Management at the Rodeway Inn declined to comment on the fire.

Bullis said the woman's body was discovered in a room at the Rodeway Inn where the fire was contained.

It's unclear exactly where the woman is from but he said she is likely from Big Horn County.

[Top of the Document](#)

=====

Gearing Up: Butte Firefighters Prepare For 69-Flight Climb

http://mtstandard.com/news/local/gearing-up-butte-firefighters-prepare-for--flight-climb/article_55313f77-1d94-50d3-9342-7a0fca70117e.html



For a group of Butte firefighters, it takes training, dedication and heart to climb, conquer and cure.

To Mark McCarthy, Chad Silk, Matt Doble and Mark Mitchell, the fight is personal.

Come March 8, the four men will face 69 floors, 1,311 steps – 788 feet of vertical elevation – in full fire gear to help people like former Butte-Silver Bow battalion chief John Paull and others diagnosed with blood cancers such as leukemia and lymphoma.

"My aunt died from cancer. If you haven't had it in your family, you know someone for sure (who has had it)," McCarthy, 47, said.

The road to the 24th annual Scott Firefighter Stairclimb in Seattle has entailed months of preparation including running, circuit and elliptical training. The city's iconic Columbia Center, one of the tallest buildings on the West Coast, will test their mettle and their mental toughness.

The 6-foot-2 Mitchell, 28, who will face his third attempt next month, said training is critical to completing the climb.

"If you don't train for it, you won't finish. It's the most physically intense thing I've ever done in my life," he said.

Each firefighter will wear a bunker coat and pants, boots, a helmet, gloves, a mask and regulator, and self-contained breathing apparatus, all weighing about 55 pounds.

A 20-year veteran, McCarthy spearheaded the department's participation in the Scott Firefighter Stairclimb in 2011. His first time practicing climbing stairs in full gear was a "real shock."

"Your heart feels like it's going to explode, your lungs burn, your heart is pounding – it's uncomfortable," McCarthy said.

The flame-resistant gear locks in internal heat, and according to Silk, 29, the profusion of sweat when reaching the top of the Columbia Center's observation deck is in one word – wet.

But making it to the top is also the "best feeling in the world," he said.

Fundraising also plays a critical role. The firefighters will cover their respective travel costs, however, two fundraisers – one over the weekend and a second on Thursday -- will help support research for blood cancer research and patient services.

Audra Daniels, senior campaign manager for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, has managed the event for more than three years. She called the event a unique opportunity for firefighters to come together as a brother- and sisterhood.

Daniels said this year's stairclimb has 1,925 registered participants from 335 fire departments, including 24 from Montana. Nearly 200 female firefighters will take part in the event.

Last year's event brought in \$1.97 million. Daniels said the LLS brought \$195,000 to patients and researchers in Montana, \$22,000 more than the previous year.

"Montana has the second-highest fundraising per person of any state that participates in the stairclimb," she added.

Last year's Butte team of eight firefighters placed 33 out of 188 teams. The team time is a combined time of the three fastest individuals.

Although this year's team hopes to better its overall result, Silk said:

"Representing Butte is an awesome thing to do, no matter in what place we finish," he said.

[Top of the Document](#)

=====

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.

[Top of the Document](#)

=====

Around the Nation

'Like a bomb': Gas Blast Levels N.J. House, Injures 15

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/11856213/like-a-bomb-gas-blast-levels-nj-house-injures-15>



Utility workers inspect the damage following a blast in New Jersey.

Photo credit: AP Photo/Rich Schultz

A natural gas explosion leveled a house and injured 15 people, two critically, Tuesday morning after police and utility workers received reports of a strong odor of gas around Oak Avenue, off Route 9, in the Ocean County community of Stafford Township.

By the time the house exploded at 10:32 a.m. -- "like a bomb," according to one witness -- dozens of homes surrounding the property had been evacuated and utility crews were trying to locate a possible gas main break, according to Michael Kinney, a spokesman for New Jersey Natural Gas.

All that remained of 59 Oak Avenue, the house where the explosion occurred, was its cinderblock basement. Debris was scattered for about a quarter mile in each direction and houses in the immediate vicinity had windows and doors blown out.

Police said two of the utility's employees -- one in critical condition and the other in critical but stable condition -- were airlifted to the trauma center at AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center in Atlantic City.

Thirteen others, including utility workers, firefighters and emergency management personnel, sustained less severe injuries in the blast and were taken by ambulances to Southern Ocean County Hospital in Manahawkin.

About 300 homes in the vicinity were without gas or electric service and three homes in the immediate vicinity of the house that exploded are so badly damaged they cannot be occupied, authorities said.

Max Van Ness, a landscaper from West Creek, said he happened to be driving past the scene when the house exploded, and it was "like a bomb."

Within seconds, all that was left of the house was the smoldering basement.

"There's not anything left, just destruction everywhere," he said.

Police said more than 75 people had been evacuated from the neighborhood before the house was leveled by the explosion and ensuing fire.

The explosion shook houses as far as a mile away, officials said. The cause of the blast is being investigated.

[Top of the Document](#)

=====

1 Hospitalized After Sauna Fire At YMCA In Wyoming

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/hospitalized-after-sauna-fire-at-ymca-in-wyoming/article_597ded06-8a06-5e9f-af1c-f9045ce06eb0.html



CASPER, Wyo. — One person was taken to Wyoming Medical Center for treatment for smoke inhalation Tuesday following a fire in the men's sauna at the Casper Family YMCA.

YMCA officials said Ron Wales, a member of the Y board, was in the locker room when the fire started and alerted staff members of the fire. He and others used fire extinguishers to combat the fire. They also called 911.

Wales was later transported to the hospital. His condition was unknown late Tuesday, a fire department spokesperson said.

"We grabbed extinguishers, but there was heavy, heavy smoke," said John Kirlin, school-age program director at the Y. "You could only see 4 feet in front of you, and in a matter of seconds, you couldn't breathe."

Fire officials received the call about the fire about 12:25 p.m. and worked quickly. Work on the facility was limited to clearing smoke by 12:45 p.m.

Pat McJunkin, public information officer for Casper Fire-EMS, said firefighters arrived to find smoke coming out of the roof and smoke throughout the building. Because of the odd layout of the building -- it's been renovated multiple times -- they had trouble clearing smoke. Doors were propped open and fans ventilated the building.

The gymnasium remained open throughout the event. The rest of the building re-opened late Tuesday afternoon to the public.

All after-school and evening activities for Tuesday were canceled, said YMCA development director Katie Adrians. A full slate of programs and activities will resume Wednesday when the YMCA opens, Adrians said.

A number of people were in the locker rooms or the swimming pool at the time of the fire. They were moved to the gym and later allowed to gather their belongings.

"We got the building cleared out and everyone safe -- that was No. 1," said Brent Kleinjan, CEO of the Y.

McJunkin said damage was limited to the sauna but an estimate wasn't immediately available. Officials do not expect any water damage.

Officials closed 15th Street near the facility, between Lincoln and Wolcott streets, until about 1:15 p.m. The Y is located at the intersection of 15th and Durbin, just north of the Casper College campus.

In addition to 19 personnel from Casper Fire-EMS, officials from the Casper Police Department, Wyoming Medical Center and Casper-Natrona County Health Department also responded.

[Top of the Document](#)

=====

Mo. Firefighter Shot in Foot at Mobile Home Fire Recovering

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/12048700/mo-firefighter-recovering-from-gunshot-wound-to-foot>

A Missouri firefighter is recovering after being shot in the foot in a mobile home fire last week. Linn firefighter Adam Strobe told a [KRCC](#) reporter: "I hear a pop and feel my foot go numb." At first, he thought maybe a can had exploded. But, seconds later that changed.

"I felt my sock getting wet," he explained, adding that he ran outside for help.

The incident commander told him to calm down. But, that wasn't so easy.

A loaded gun in a dresser drawer overheated and discharged, hitting him in the foot.

"I'm lucky because the first time we went in we were on our hands and knees, so I could have got shot in the foot, leg, chest, head, or anywhere."

Strobe added that he's anxious to get back on the line.

[Top of the Document](#)

=====

Five Faults in Fire Service Ethics

<http://www.firehouse.com/article/12047440/five-common-issues-with-firefighter-ethics>



For almost 12 years, I taught a course titled, Introduction to Fire Service Ethics. I always started the first class with a simple question, “Why be ethical?” To my surprise most students didn’t have a well thought out answer. I’ll ask a similar question here. Why write an article on ethics? More specifically, why write an article on ethics for the fire service?

I can think of some reasons why writing such an article would be difficult. First, ethics entails a broad subject matter. There is no way to cover everything in a short article, so where does one begin? Second, as a society, we no longer share the same moral foundations as in the past. Our values differ among communities, generations and ethnicities. This means disagreement – sometimes, impassioned disagreement. Third, firefighters prefer action. However, ethical reasoning entails quiet contemplation. Arriving at ethical priorities, values and conclusions often require much thought before any action takes place. Lastly, most people consider firefighters ethical.¹ Of all people, do they really need ethics training? The shock and disappointment felt by the community when we make the evening news for ethical misconduct reveals their belief in the morality and integrity of firefighters.

The Need for Ethical Decisions

However, I can also think of some very good reasons to write such an article. Our nation’s fire service – career and volunteer – is funded by tax dollars (in part or whole); federal, state and local grants; and monies donated by the local community.² We work “for the people.” We are rightfully under the watchful eye of the people we serve. This is a good thing. Being a *public* servant is an honor, one we should all cherish. We represent something bigger than ourselves. What we do reflects back on our communities either positively or negatively. Furthermore, we are *professional* firefighters. Those who study professionals have discovered three distinguishing marks setting them apart from non-professionals.³ First, professionals are educated. Their job demands a specialized knowledge, something beyond mere training. Second, they are organized and work at self-improvement. Finally, professionals adhere to moral standards. I would add that none of this would make sense if professionals weren’t in

the business of serving others. This is why moral standards are so important. We represent, work for and with, other people for the common good – in our case, life safety and fire protection.

A third motivating reason for writing about ethics is identical to one that makes the task difficult. Our country is no longer characterized by a Judeo-Christian ethic. In other words, we really don't share the same values we once did. In addition, most departments have a multigenerational workforce, which while adding needed diversity, also brings very different value systems when it comes to work, pay and play. A final reason, one I want to briefly expand upon, is human frailty. We all, at times, desire the easy way and not always the right way.

Unethical Temptations

John C. Maxwell noted in his book, *Ethics 101*, there are at least five reasons why people experience lapses in ethical behavior: pressure, pleasure, power, pride and priorities.⁴ I would like to explore two of these causes in a bit more detail: pleasure and pride.

Pleasure

In my 30-plus years in the fire service, I have, encountered an array of unethical behavior, much of which can be attributed to the desire for pleasure. Behaviors such as stealing at the fire station and on emergency incidents; dealing and using drugs while on duty; and sex in the firehouse. Let's face it; we live in a pleasure seeking society. "Get all you can get," is promoted in TV ads and the lifestyles of the rich and famous. It's sad, but not surprising, that it would occasionally show up at the firehouse. Thankfully, these behaviors are rare. But these represent the big-ticket items; more common abuses take place all too often. Some examples are members coming to work late and leaving early "to make up for it," "borrowing" EMS equipment for an upcoming outing, abuse of sick leave, partying too late the night before a shift and using department supplies when washing one's personal vehicle.

So, how do we avoid these momentary lapses in good behavior? First, we need to concede the reality of temptation and human frailty. No one is perfect and we all experience moral failures from time to time. We also need to appreciate the fact that seeking pleasure is not wrong. It's probably one of the most common activities shared by human beings. However, there are appropriate pleasures and inappropriate pleasures and also a right time and place for certain "gratifications." Next, we need to understand, own, and be thankful for the great responsibility we bear as professional firefighters. This entails practicing discipline, avoiding known temptations, and being willing to make sacrifices. Having a mentor, someone to hold us accountable and offer guidance, is crucial. Reproducing that counsel by mentoring a younger member of the department is how we perpetuate professional values and conduct.

Pride

Even those unfamiliar with the Jewish and Christian Scriptures know the passage, "Pride goeth before destruction" (Proverbs 16:18).⁵ Nevertheless, it seems few of us think we are susceptible to the *consequences* of moral lapses. We – pardon the pun – like to play with fire. The kinds of behaviors connected with pride that have made the evening news or garner customer complaints are accepting bribes and favors (big or small), not fully taking care of a customer's needs because we perceive the task as "beneath us," and breaking the law while driving because we're in "Big Red." Thankfully, these kinds of behavior are rare and disapproved of by the vast majority of us. Nevertheless, smaller infractions take place. A humorous example of pride is the joke that goes, "How do you know someone works for the fire department?" "I don't know, how?" "They'll tell you!" We ought to take pride in our profession, but we can carry it too far and become puffed-up. Self-importance produces an, "I'm better than you" attitude, which leads us to mistreat one another around the firehouse. Inflated pride produces disrespect for those above and below us. It leads to arrogance

displayed toward other city or district employees because we work for the fire department and “risk our lives.” It prompts us to repeatedly go to that popular convenience store because they’ll supply *us* with *free* drinks.

We are all susceptible to pride. It takes discipline and self-control to tame it. One good practice is to write out the kind of character and reputation you want to be known for and work towards acquiring it. Memorize your department’s Mission Statement and make it a priority. Recall how you felt the day you were hired – that’s the level of pride (mixed with fear), which produces public *servants*. Put a picture of your family in your locker and look at it often. This will remind you why you do what you do. Finally, remember, it’s the greatest privilege in the world to work as a professional firefighter. No matter what you think, you didn’t accomplish that on your own. Remember those who helped you along the way, thank them often, and do the same for someone else.

Conclusion

Why write an article on fire service ethics? Because being ethical is crucial to what we do and firefighters don’t run from difficult challenges. Since we are in the business of serving our fellow human beings, we have an obligation to maintain the public’s trust. This means working at professionalism and self-improvement. It also means being aware of our human weakness and frailties – our vulnerability to pleasure and pride. We’ve discussed some simple steps that we can begin taking immediately to ensure virtuous and responsible behavior. Now it’s up to you.

References

1. Jeffrey M. Jones. 2010. *Nurses Top Honesty and Ethics List for 11th Year: Lobbyists, car salespeople, members of Congress get the lowest ratings*. Accessed on August 7, 2014. <http://www.gallup.com/poll/145043/nurses-top-honesty-ethics-list-11-year.aspx>. GfK Verein: *Global study on trust in professions*. 2014. Accessed on August 7, 2014. <http://www.gfk.com/news-and-events/press-room/press-releases/pages/gfk-verein-global-study-on-trust-in-professions--.aspx>.
2. Michael J. Karter, Jr. and Gary P. Stein. 2013. *US fire department profile 2012*. Quincy: National Fire Protection Association. Available at: <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/research/nfpa%20reports/fire%20service%20statistics/osfdprofile.pdf>. John M. Buckman III, et al. 2004. *A call for action. The blue ribbon report: Preserving and improving the future of the volunteer fire service*. Fairfax: International Fire Chiefs Association. Available at: [https://www.iafc.org/files/1VCOS/VCOS Blue Ribbon Report.pdf](https://www.iafc.org/files/1VCOS/VCOS%20Blue%20Ribbon%20Report.pdf).
3. William F. May. 2001. *Beleaguered rulers: The public obligation of the professional*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press. 7-14. Kayhan Parsi and Myles N. Sheehan (eds). 2006. *Healing as vocation: A medical professionalism primer*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. 9-21.
4. John C. Maxwell. 2003. *Ethics 101: What every leader needs to know*. New York: Center Street. 55-70.
5. *Holy Bible*, King James Version.

MIKE MUNOZ began his career as a firefighter with the Peoria, AZ, Fire Department in 1986 and is currently the battalion chief. For over 12 years, he has taught ethics for the Peoria Fire Department and has also taught ethics at Glendale Community College and Fayetteville State University. He currently serves on the Ethics Committee at Phoenix Children’s Hospital. He received his Bachelor’s Degree in Public Safety Administration from Grand Canyon University, a Master’s Degree in Education (Counseling) from Northern Arizona University, a Master’s Degree in Religion from Reformed Theological Seminary, and a Master’s Degree in Bioethics from Loyola University Chicago. He is currently working on a Doctorate in Bioethics from Loyola.

[Top of the Document](#)

=====

Professional and Administrative Positions (Denotes New Posting)**

=====

Fire Chief West Fargo Fire Department - West Fargo, ND

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

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

=====

Apparatus & Equipment Exchange

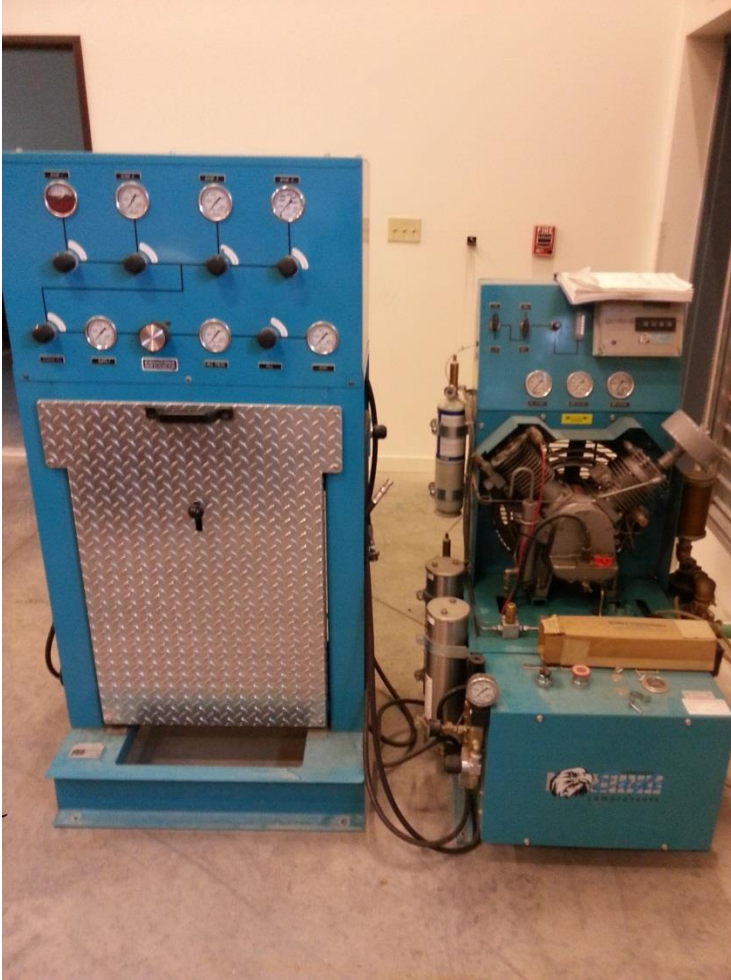
=====

Stevensville Fire Has Gear To Donate

Please contact Bill Perrin at bperrin@geojen.com or 406-207-0681

=====

Eagle Cascade System To Give Away To A Montana Fire Department



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

=====

Cooke City Engine For Sale





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

=====

1977 Tender for Sale



cab over cargo star IH 1977

det. 6V92 deisel engine

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

aprox. 1800 gal. baffled water tank

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

scene lights, emergancy lights, siren, & pa

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

2 mid ship 1-1/2" crosslays

rear filled or top hatch

lots of storage cabinets on both sides of truck

8" round dump in rear

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

10,000.00 cash obo

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

call Joe: 406-578-2061

=====

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

fstdailylatest@montana.edu

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

[Top of the Document](#)

=====