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Around Montana

Early Morning Fire Destroys Home East Of Bozeman

<http://www.kbzk.com/story/28200938/early-morning-fire-destroys-home-east-of-bozeman>



BOZEMAN - An early morning fire east of Bozeman has left a family of five homeless.

According to the Fort Ellis Fire department, the blaze was reported on Storrs Road in the Trail Creek area around 5:22 a.m.

Firefighters say getting to the home was difficult due to its remote location and road conditions. The house was fully engulfed by flames when they arrived.

"The switch backs were so tight we couldn't get larger apparatus to pass through them, in fact, we had some that actually had to back down the hill just because it was so steep," said Fort Ellis Fire Chief Mike Cech. "Our district takes all of Trail Creek in Gallatin County as well as Timberline Creek and Jackson Creek and there are several very challenging home sites that we have to take care of. We do our best to try to get there as quickly as we can but challenges like we had this morning make it very difficult for us to do that."

Cech said the house is a total loss.

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Save The Date!! 8th Annual Madison County Fire Academy On April 24-26

Harrison, Pony, Norris, and Summit Valley Volunteer Fire Dept. will be hosting the 8th annual Madison County Fire Academy on April 24, 25, and 26, 2015. Some of the events in the planning process include the FSTS burn trailer, Emergency Responder Safety, DNRC saw class

(classroom portion), the East Helena Fire Department "Green Monster", and Farm & Heavy Equipment extrication. Stay Safe and hope to see everyone there!!!

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Helena Teams To Compete In Seattle's Annual Scott Firefighter Stairclimb

http://helenair.com/news/local/stepping-up-for-a-good-cause-helena-teams-to-compete/article_4309aa93-1878-5aa3-a187-6b5beeaac03b.html#.VO4sDIAn_VI.email



Racing straight up the Columbia Center in downtown Seattle wearing at least 50 pounds of firefighting gear takes great leg strength, endurance and motivation, said Owen Koeppen, a firefighter with the Helena Fire Department team competing in the annual Scott Firefighter Stairclimb.

That is why Koeppen and his four-member firefighting team have trained for months to compete against 1,925 other registered firefighters to raise money March 8 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Firefighters race up 69 flights of stairs and 1,311 steps to reach the top of the second tallest building west of the Mississippi. Last year, the event featured 1,800 firefighters from 300 different departments throughout the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Germany and brought in a record \$1.97 million for blood-cancer research and patient services.

Koeppen placed 11th two years ago, completing the climb in 12 minutes, 59 seconds, respectively.

"It's all about the kids," Koeppen said.

Asst. Fire Chief Kelly Tuck, Capt. Brian Roberts and firefighter Robbie Bennett know the importance of starting slow and keeping a steady pace when attempting to climb in high altitude on one-bottle of air (usually lasting 20 minutes).

The firefighters train alongside a three-member team from Helena College, using cardio devices such as stair mills at local health centers or running outdoors in winter to prepare for the event.

Members of the college team are representing their Fire and Rescue program. Instructor Matt Cline graduated from the program with an Associate of Applied Science Degree, while Rob Yamamoto and Tannin Trafton are second year students in the entry-level career training for firefighters.

"We're excited to race in the event and help people," Trafton said. "The college had a team last year and the baton was passed down to us. I think it's a major service to the community."

Aside from competition, everyone said they're focused on fundraising for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Both teams have dedicated their participation to 5-year-old Makenna Rossmiller, a local girl diagnosed with leukemia and staying at the Ronald McDonald House during treatment in Seattle.

"This is about people taking a special interest in helping the children," said Roberts, who added that the fire department had always tried to be involved in the community by raising funds for cancer and muscular dystrophy.

The Helena Fire Department and Helena College are also accepting donations. For more information or to contribute to a participating local firefighter or firehouse, visit www.FirefighterStairclimb.org.

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Montana Mutual Aid Agenda For This Weekend

Montana Mutual Aid
Command, Strategy and Tactics
& Large Incident Management
Training Symposium

Meeting Agenda for February 28th and March 1st, 2015
Thanks to Sue Mergenthaler and the Eastgate Fire Department Crew for hosting

Saturday, February 28th, 2015

1000hrs Call to Order – Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

 Recognition of Eastgate Fire Chief Ken Mergenthaler (Eastgate Fire Trustees)

 Thank you to Sue Mergenthaler

 Introductions of Guests and Hosts and Session Notes

1020hrs Montana Mutual Aid – Purpose and Approach

Montana Fire Service Mutual Aid - History Review, Additions, SWOT

Montana Mutual Aid - High Line, Brandon Brunelle

Montana Mutual Aid - West - Gary Mahugh, Ed Burlingame

Montana Mutual Aid - East - Jerry Prete
Montana Mutual Aid - North Central – Joe Zahara

Montana Mutual Aid – Southern Zone –

Montana DES Update - Director Brad Livingston , MT DES(invited)

Montana Mutual Aid Communications – Ed Burlingame

Montana Fire Services Training School – John Culbertson(invited)

Montana State Fire Chiefs Association – Rich Cowger(invited)

Montana State Volunteer Fire Fighters Association – Bob Hanson(invited)

Montana Mutual Aid - MT DNRC - Greg Archie, Dave Hamilton(invited)

Montana Mutual Aid – Command Support Operations, Watch Desk, staffing

Montana All Threat Intelligence Center – Bryan Costigan – Open Source Briefing

Montana Wildland Fire –Fire Behavior Estimates, Fire Chief Sonny Steiger (ret.), Wolf Creek(invited)

1230hrs Lunch - MMA SWOT Inputs

1300hrs Command Strategy and Tactics and Smart Practices – Flex Block

Report on Fire Dynamics Research – Dan Madrzykowski, P.E.- Lessons Learned – Dan a fire protection engineer with the Fire Fighting Technology Group of the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Maryland. Dan has been a friend of Montana Fire Fighters for many years. We welcome him back to Montana.

Applying NIST Fire Dynamics Research – A conversation about fire dynamics, strategy, tactics and command - Dan Madrzykowski This will be a concurrent conversation integrated with the NIST Fire Dynamics presentation.

1530 Break

1545 **Fire Dynamics Research, Strategy, Tactics and Command, continues**
Madrzykowski

1830hrs Dinner(working)

1900hrs **Fire Dynamics Research, Strategy, Tactics and Command, continues**
Madrzykowski

2030 Adjourn

Sunday, March 1st , 2015

0730hrs Breakfast

0800hrs **Fire Dynamics Research, Strategy, Tactics and Command, continues**
Madrzykowski,

0930hrs Break

1100hrs Montana Mutual Aid – Watch Desk, Opportunities Ed Burlingame, Brian Crandell

1130hrs Good of the Order, Thank Yous and Closings - Thank yous to Sue and Crew -
Thanks for Showing Up. Snacks for the road (thanks, Sue and crew)

Next MMA meeting - November 7th and 8th, 2015 at Eastgate FD(starts at 1000hrs)

Fire Chief Ken Mergenthaler - UAL FLT 93 – NWA FLT 253

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The Location/Time Changed For The STICO Class In Butte This Weekend

Location: Justice Center 3615 Wynne ave.

Times: 0900 start. Anticipate course completion approximately 1400 Sunday.

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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

Off-Duty Phoenix Firefighter Dies In Car Crash

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fatal-incident/articles/2111967-off-duty-phoenix-firefighter-dies-in-car-crash>

PHOENIX — An off-duty Phoenix firefighter was killed last Friday after the car he was driving crashed on a freeway.

[AZFamily](#) reported that Matt Hiatt, 43, crashed into a concrete foundation on the right shoulder. His truck burst into flames, and he was unable to escape.

He was the sole occupant of the car.

Firefighter Hiatt is the son of a retired Phoenix fire engineer.

The cause of the crash is still under investigation and funeral arrangements are pending.

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Firefighters Save Chief's Life After Collapsing At Firehouse

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/aeds/articles/2111927-firefighters-save-chiefs-life-after-collapsing-at-firehouse>

FESTUS, Mo. — Firefighters are being credited with saving the life of their assistant fire chief after he suffered a heart attack in the lobby of the fire department on Feb. 13.

[KSDK](#) reported that firefighters used an AED to bring Assistant Fire Chief Donald Boyer, 82, back to life.

Boyer has worked for the Festus Volunteer Fire Department for more than 60 years. His son is the fire chief, and his grandson, Zackary Boyer, is a firefighter. He is grateful his grandfather was surrounded by his colleagues when he needed them most, according to the report.

"Somebody was definitely looking after him, that's for sure," said Zackary Boyer.

The firefighters are not sure when Boyer will return to work. He has been recovering at home.

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Probe of Fire That Claimed Ga. Firefighter Continues

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/12048791/probe-of-macon-bibb-lodd-fire-continues>



Macon-Bibb Fire Department Lt. Randy Parker.

Photo credit: Courtesy Photo

Two weeks after Lt. Randy Parker perished in a house fire, the firefighters battling the blaze with him are sharing their stories of that night.

Agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are interviewing crews who fought the fire at 2320 Fairview Drive on Feb. 11.

"This is standard procedure that we do with a death," said Ashley Lightner, Resident Agent in Charge of the ATF Macon office. "This is the first time we have talked to the firefighters."

Investigators want to know what the initial crews saw when they arrived that night.

Preliminary reports indicated investigators thought the fire spread from a burn barrel near the woods line of the property.

Eyewitness accounts from the firefighters can help confirm any findings investigators might have reached combing the property last week.

An excavator dismantled part of Don and Kathy Coffey's house to access the basement, which erupted in flames after the fire was believed to be under control.

The firefighters' experiences might also point the investigators in a different direction or raise more questions, Lightner said.

Various reports from the scene that night indicated crews believed they had knocked down and contained the blaze to the carport side of the house.

A Macon-Bibb fire investigator had already gone in to the house to take pictures as firefighters thought the worst of the battle was behind them.

With heat coming from the basement, Parker and others suited up to knock a vent hole in the floor, but it gave way.

Parker died, trapped in debris, but other firefighters were rescued and taken to the hospital.

All but Battalion Chief Stephen Stafford have been released.

Stafford continues to improve at the Joseph M. Still Burn Center in Augusta and firefighter Adam Michie receives ongoing out-patient care for burns on his hands and leg.

No attempts have been made "at this time" to question Stafford, Lightner said.

Agents were expected to complete their firefighter interviews Wednesday and compile a report within a week for the certified fire investigators working on the case. Lightner said there is no effective way to estimate how long the investigation will take. "We have no timetable on it," he said. "it depends on the circumstances."

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Pa. Man Sent to Prison for Setting Mobile Home Ablaze

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/11856202/pa-man-sent-to-prison-for-setting-mobile-home-ablaze>

CARLISLE -- A 46-year-old Fayetteville man will spend the next seven to 14 years in state prison after being sentenced Tuesday for setting his ex-girlfriend's mobile home on fire near Shippensburg in 2013.

David Adkins, maintaining his innocence, was sentenced by Cumberland County Court of Common Pleas Judge Thomas Placey to an aggravated range of seven to 14 years in state prison on one of the arson charges because, as the judge said, "no lesser sentence is sufficient under the facts and circumstances of this case."

Adkins was found guilty in a jury trial in December of two counts of arson and criminal mischief for deliberately setting a fire which destroyed the structure after an argument over their relationship.

He also was sentenced to 46 to 92 months concurrent for the second arson charge, 36 to 72 months concurrent for the criminal mischief charge, eight years consecutive probation, 320 hours of community service, submission of a DNA sample and to pay court costs.

"This sentence is in the seven to 22 years range as the defendant has shown as is indicated in the file, his history of violent behavior," Placey said in his sentencing order.

Adkins proclaimed his innocence, saying only, "I am absolutely unequivocally innocent of all these charges."

But first assistant district attorney Jaime M. Keating said Adkins' violent history of manipulating and controlling others was not enough to mislead investigators.

"Through the evidence itself the defendant has shown that he is above everybody else, manipulating them ... but throughout this case, David Adkins proved he was no match for the Pennsylvania State Police and the people who brought this man to justice," Keating said.

He was found guilty during a jury trial in December after being charged in November 2013 in connection with an incident that occurred March 17, 2013, at the Shippensburg Mobile Estates, 10 N. Conestoga Drive.

Testimony at trial indicated that Adkins was out drinking that night, got a ride to the home of his then-girlfriend, Cheryl Barrick, and set the fire in Barrick's bed. Testimony also indicated that Adkins attempted to manipulate several witnesses into lying about his whereabouts. Investigators used GPS phone records to place Adkins near the scene at the time of the incident.

The jury found Adkins guilty of intentionally setting the fire following his disagreement with Barrick about the state of their relationship.

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