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Around Montana

Ice Rescue Training In Ennis



Sunday morning in Ennis. Members from Madison Valley Fire, Search & Rescue and Madison Valley Ambulance practiced ice rescue techniques under the tutelage of technical specialist Bill Dooley of Lewis & Clark Search & Rescue and Dave Mason with FSTS.

Submitted by Dave Mason, FSTS

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FSTS Command and Staff Conference Panelists

April 18th and 19th, Great Falls, Hampton Inn

Panelists:

Greg Bonilla – Gregory grew up in Shelby, Montana. He went to the University of Montana as an undergraduate and obtained his law degree from the University of California-Berkeley. The rigors of living next to 7 million really weird people proved to be too much for Gregory and his wife so they returned home in 1996. Gregory has had a variety of experiences in his 18 years of practicing law, the most recent of which is serving as Managing Defense Counsel for the Montana Association of Counties Defense Services. Gregory has been a contributor to the annual staff and command training since 2004

Dan Clark – Director, Montana State University Local Government Center and former Mayor of Choteau

Rich Cowger – Chairman, Montana State Fire Chiefs Association and Chief of Columbus Fire Rescue

Russ Giese – Chief, Three Mile Volunteer Fire Department; President Sapphire Construction; former Ravalli County Training co-op President

Leonard Lundby - Chief Manchester Volunteer Fire Department; Vice Chairperson Volunteer Chiefs' Section of the Montana State Fire Chief's Association; Owner Triangle Turf Farms

Mike McGinley – Joined the DVFD in July 1987. I was on waiting list for 7 years. Applied right after the Labor Day plane crash in Dillon in 1979. Current Chief of DVFD since April 2013 Asst. Chief 2011-2013 Captain 1998-2011. Beaverhead Co. Commissioner since Jan. 2000. Current Fiscal Officer for MACO Board of Directors. Owner of Beaverhead Meats, Dillon, since 1983. Managed by my son Dave currently. Still married after 35 years while chasing fires for the past 28 years with 4 grown kids and now 5 grands.

Bill Perrin – President, Stevensville City Council; Chief (retired) Stevensville Volunteer Fire Department; former Ravalli County Training co-op President

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Rae Sourdough Volunteer Takes Third In Stairclimb Competition

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/dailyfeatures/local-firefighter-takes-third-in-stairclimb-competition/article_742babf0-d580-5b03-a936-62e1775c3f72.html?utm_medium=desktop&utm_source=block_801085&utm_campaign=blox



Rae Sourdough volunteer firefighter Dylan Gillespie had a goal of cracking the top five in last week's annual Scott Firefighter Stairclimb in Seattle.

And crack the top five he did.

Wearing dozens of pounds worth of firefighter gear, the 22-year-old finished third out of 1,711 firefighters, racing up 69 flights of stairs to the top of the Columbia Center in downtown Seattle on Saturday in 12 minutes and 19 seconds.

That time was 1 minute and 35 seconds faster than last year.

"It's really hot," Gillespie said. "You're trying to go all out. It's tough."

Gillespie explained that, last year, he had to stop on the way to the top to change out his oxygen bottle, running an extra set of stairs in the process.

"That just killed my time," Gillespie said. "It was a lot smoother this year." But more important than how Gillespie finished the race was how much he and his teammates raised for cancer research, he said.

The Scott Firefighter Stairclimb is a major fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The event has already brought in more than \$1.9 million. The Rae Sourdough team raised more than \$11,300.

"It's awesome to raise money for that," said Gillespie.

Gillespie has been volunteering with the Rae Sourdough Fire Department for the last four years, becoming a firefighter after moving to Bozeman from Minnesota.

"I knew I wanted to be a firefighter," said Gillespie, who works at Owenhouse Bicycling Co. Gillespie is a triathlete who trains year-round and he said he didn't do anything out of his normal routine to ready himself for the stairclimb.

"I didn't train on the stairs once for it," Gillespie said. "Swim, bike, run."

All told, eight other Rae Sourdough firefighters joined Gillespie in the stairclimb: Davis Johnson (16:03), Matt Migel (16:44), Chris Eaton (18:58), Sean Komora (19:32), Dylan White (21:36), Chris Branting (28:09), Michael Sheehan (29:49) and Ryan Olson (31:50). Gillespie said he definitely plans to compete in the stairclimb again next year — and beyond.

"I'm really competitive. I'll try to win it some year," he said with a smile.

Firefighters are still raising money through the end of March to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. To donate to the Rae Sourdough team, visit <http://bdcne.ws/rae-stairclimb>.

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Butte Firefighters Complete 69-Flight Stair-Climb Contest

http://mtstandard.com/news/local/butte-firefighters-complete--flight-stair-climb-contest/article_78a960da-bb35-58d7-bfad-e5f9229b3105.html



Four Butte-Silver Bow firefighters competed with 1,711 men and women who climbed Seattle's iconic Columbia Center on Sunday to fight cancer.

Mark McCarthy, Chad Silk, Matt Doble and Mark Mitchell conquered 69 floors, 1,311 steps – 788 feet of vertical elevation – in full fire gear weighing about 55 pounds.

The 24th annual Scott Firefighter Stairclimb tested the team's physical fitness and mental toughness.

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

This year's team of four placed 82 out of 190 teams with a time of 56:16 – just under 20 minutes behind No. 1 team Missoula City Fire.

Silk said Tuesday the team is happy and not discouraged with the result. He said on Sunday the men met the challenge as "just another workout."

For Silk, this year's stairclimb proved to be an even greater challenge. When he arrived at the 40th floor, he was unable to replace his air tank and had to climb the remaining floors on a half tank.

Running out of air, according to Silk, is grounds for disqualification.

He not only finished with air in his tank, but he bested his 2014 time by 35 seconds, coming in 148th out of 1,548 male firefighters.

The team raised about \$4,200 to support the mission of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and help those diagnosed with blood cancers such as leukemia and lymphoma.

"We're really thankful for all the businesses that donated. Their support was unreal," Silk said.

Missoula firefighter Andrew Drobeck won the stairclimb for the fourth consecutive year. Paul Kimball of Spokane was second, followed by Dylan Gillespie of Bozeman in third and Benjamin Brunsvold, Missoula, in fourth. Miles City firefighter Sarah Young finished ninth in the women's division, climbing the 1,311 steps in 18:06.

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Landmark Ranch House In Potomac Valley Destroyed By Fire

http://missoulain.com/news/local/landmark-ranch-house-in-potomac-valley-destroyed-by-fire/article_eaa2bffe-ff8b-517e-bfe2-84ce20ea3d4b.html

It should be noted that firefighters from Seeley Lake and Lincoln came to help with this fire. The chief and assistant chief from Lincoln had been on a 40 acre grass fire with DNRC. They were just arriving at the FSTS provided training at DNRC Clearwater when the call came in and they asked if we could use some extra hands. They responded to the fire and worked late into the night.



POTOMAC – Fire left a landmark ranch house in the Potomac Valley in ruins Monday evening, but firefighters from Potomac, Greenough and Missoula were able to prevent it from spreading to a nearby shop and wooden barn.

The 50-year-old house sat on the banks of Union Creek several hundred yards off Montana Highway 200 in the lower valley. Part of the roof collapsed in the fire and the interior was left charred.

Jeff Wilson, who raises black Angus on the ranch, said his family and some house guests were on the grounds but no one was in the house when the fire broke out. There were no injuries, though several pets perished.

The Greenough Potomac Fire Department responded to the fire about 7 p.m. and fought it into the night.

The late Floyd and Anna Mae Cheff bought the ranch in 1948 and raised their seven children there. They replaced the original 1887 log house with the current one in the early to mid-1960s.

“The Cheff ranch became a landmark in the Potomac Valley with its red-and-white Gothic arch barn proudly displaying the F-C brand, and the very pink ranch-style house,” read Floyd Cheff’s obituary in March 2014.

Pink was Anna Mae Cheff’s favorite color, according to a Missoulian feature story in 2007 on the occasion of the Cheffs’ 70th wedding anniversary.

“Ten years after the Cheffs left the ranch, they moved back when the owners couldn’t make payments,” the story said. “The first thing the kids and grandkids did was paint the house pink again.”

The cause of the fire was unknown Tuesday. Arson is not suspected, according to a Missoula County Sheriff’s Office spokesman, since the office was not called in on the investigation.

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Fire Officials: Bad Wiring May Have Sparked Paradise House Blaze

<http://www.kpax.com/story/28359287/fire-officials-bad-wiring-may-have-started-paradise-house-blaze>



PARADISE - Firefighters spent Tuesday morning cleaning up the remains of a Paradise home that burned down Monday night.

"It was really going. Flames were shooting way up above the trees," neighbor Dorothy McCune said.

McCune was just one house over from a raging house fire on Monday night in Paradise. Flames engulfed the home along Highway 200, reaching heights of about 75 feet.

"I was out of here! One of the gentlemen here in town came and told me, 'Dorothy get out of the house'," she said.

McCune says the house was one of the oldest in Paradise, and it turns out age may be part of the cause.

"We suspect it was electrical-caused. The wiring was really old in this house, and they were using... I understand they ran out of propane, and they were using base board heaters," Plains Rural Fire Department Captain Marlin Cooper said.

The mother and five children inside the home got out safely. Their dog was missing during the fire, but was found safe on Tuesday morning, hiding under a mattress in the shed behind the home.

The fire took out the entire home, and now all that's left is rubble. But the amazing part, is that the flames were contained to just this area. Fire officials say it's all about having a fast response time, and good teamwork.

"We had good response from Plains Rural. Plains city fire responded too, and they went around that side, the back side, or the delta side, of the building, held that side, so that it wouldn't spread to any other structures," Cooper said. Fire officials say the family is staying at another residence in town until they can find a new home.

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Controlled Burn Gets Out Of Hand In Frenchtown

<http://www.kpax.com/story/28357095/controlled-burn-gets-out-of-hand-in-frenchtown>



FRENCHTOWN - Fire crews were called out to a controlled burn that got out of hand on Tuesday afternoon. The Frenchtown Rural Fire Department reports that homeowners were burning on their property near the Huson exit when the wind picked up and the blaze got out of control. An initial concern was a fence that was burning near a propane tank when crews were called to the scene at around noon. The blaze was contained by mid-afternoon Tuesday after it burned just under two acres.

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Missoula Rural Press Release: Wildland Fire-11284 Grant Creek Road

March 10, 2015
By Chris Newman
Deputy Fire Chief

At 2:06pm today, Missoula Rural Fire District (MRFD) received a call for service for a wildland fire in the area of the 11000 block of Grant Creek Road. The location is approximately 5 miles up Grant Creek Road. MRFD responded with a Battalion Chief, 2 wildland engines and 2 water tenders. MRFD was assisted by Missoula Fire Department and the Lolo National Forest (LNF). The fire was determined to be on the Lolo National Forest and they took command of the fire at 5:00pm.

The fire is believed to have started from a control burn that got away and spread into the grass and timber.

At this time, the fire has been controlled and mop-up operations are underway. Quick response by fire crews kept the blaze to approximately one acre in size. Units from the LNF and one water tender from MRFD will remain on scene to continue mop-up operations.

No injuries have been reported and no structures were damaged or lost.

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Controlled Burn Near Shepherd Gets Out Of Hand; Burns At Least 1 Structure

http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/controlled-burn-gets-out-of-hand-burns-at-least-structure/article_7f9f57b8-6fa1-583f-bce6-60c3c50b5eb5.html



A grass fire burned more than six acres and several outbuildings Tuesday afternoon near mile marker 1 on Highway 312, between Billings and Shepherd.

What started as a controlled burn around 4 p.m. quickly got out of control. Dry conditions and strong winds swept the fire across an open field and threatened residences bordering property at 2755 Highway 312, where the fire started, Billings Fire Department Battalion Chief Boyd Vopel said.

Five outbuildings were burned, he said. No people or animals were hurt.

Before fire crews arrived at about 4:45 p.m., neighbors dug trenches and used garden hoses to protect structures, said Peter and Ben McCullough, who helped stop the fire near a garage. "It just took off," Peter McCullough said.

Neighbors said the sheriff's department was first on the scene.

None of the homes near the fire were evacuated, Vopel said.

Firefighters were still mopping up burning structures and hot spots around the field in the early evening. Eighteen firefighters fought the blaze with four engines and three brush rigs. Vopel was not sure whether the landowner who started the fire had a permit for a controlled burn. Northbound traffic on Highway 312 was limited to one lane while fire crews worked. The fire crept to within a few yards of the road in some places.

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Prescribed Burns Planned In And Around Helena And Townsend

<http://www.kxih.com/story/28359276/prescribed-burns-planned-in-and-around-helena-and-townsend>

HELENA -- The Helena and Townsend Ranger Districts are preparing to implement prescribed burn projects in and around the Helena and Townsend areas. Prescribed fire operations will begin as weather and fuels conditions allow and could continue into late spring and early summer.

Here are details from the U.S. Forest Service:

Helena Ranger District:

Prescribed fire units totaling approximately 350 acres south of Helena are planned to be burned. These units are part of the Clancy/Unionville Vegetation Manipulation and Travel Management Project, and are designed to modify fire behavior within the treatment units.

Prescribed fire units in the Jimtown Road corridor totaling approximately 245 acres are planned to be burned. These burns will be broadcast burning slash created during fuels reduction work (both by handcrews and post mechanical harvest). These projects are part of the Jimtown Hazardous Fuels Project, and are designed to modify fire behavior within the Jimtown corridor.

Prescribed fire units totaling approximately 235 acres northeast of Helena are planned to be burned. These units are part of the Beaver Soup Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Project, and are designed to enhance wildlife habitat.

Scattered slash piles created by firewood gathering activities throughout the District, such as the Bear Gulch and Orofino Gulch areas, in addition to piles in Hunters Gulch and the Chessman Reservoir area created by Forest Service road maintenance, may be burned this spring/summer. These piles are mostly adjacent to main roads.

Townsend Ranger District:

Prescribed fire units totaling approximately 300 acres in the Elkhorn Mountains west of Townsend are planned to be burned. These units are part of the Crow Creek Vegetation Management Project and are designed to maintain and enhance wildlife habitat.

Prescribed fire units totaling approximately 440 acres in the Kimber Gulch and Weasel Creek areas of the Elkhorn Mountains are planned to be treated. These units are part of the Bighorn Sheep and Elk Winter Range Project and are designed to restore grasslands.

Prescribed fire units totaling approximately 1400 acres in the Big Belt Mountains northeast of Townsend are planned to be burned. These units are part of the Wagner Atlanta Vegetation Treatment Project, and are designed to restore grasslands.

Slash piles created by the Cabin Gulch Vegetation Project are also planned to be burned this spring, with burning continuing into the summer as conditions allow. Piles will be burned to remove fuels accumulated during project activities. These piles are in the Cabin Gulch area of the Big Belt Mountains.

Scattered slash piles created by firewood gathering activities throughout the District may also be burned this spring and summer, which are mostly adjacent to main roads.

For more information on this spring's prescribed fire plans or the projects they are associated with, please call Bob Culbreth or Brett Beagley at (406) 266-3425.

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Prescribed Burn Planned For Blue Mountain Area Canceled

<http://www.kpax.com/story/28301975/prescribed-burning-planned-for-blue-mountain-area>

UPDATE:

MISSOULA - Lolo National Forest officials report that Tuesday's prescribed burn in the Blue Mountain area will not take place "because smoke dispersion conditions are not favorable." The burn may be conducted later in the spring if conditions allow.

Original story:

MISSOULA - A prescribed burn is being planned for Tuesday in the Blue Mountain area, north of the motorcycle trailhead and forest officials say smoke will be visible from the Missoula and Bitterroot valleys.

This prescribed burn project consists of one unit totaling between 35 to 87 acres and will be ignited by hand. The purpose of the burn is to reduce hazardous fuels and promote grass and shrub growth for wildlife benefit.

The burn will be ignited only if operational safety, fuel moisture, weather condition and air quality parameters can be attained. Fire managers anticipate ignition to be complete in about six hours.

Updates on the burn will be posted on the [Lolo National Forest Facebook page](#).

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Helena Homes In Danger: Report Says Nearly 3,000 Residences At High Risk For Wildfire

http://helenair.com/news/local/helena-homes-in-danger-report-says-nearly-residences-at-high/article_b1023d42-77d6-573b-9e54-d1c80747b2de.html



A new report identified nearly 3,000 homes in the Helena area as high risk for wildfire with total rebuilding costs of nearly \$750 million -- an average of more than \$250,000 per property.

The report by California-based data analysis firm CoreLogic, studied vegetation, terrain and historic wildfires for towns and cities across the West. It categorized homes based on risk, estimating total rebuilding costs for homes in each category. The report further assigns numeric risks for homes that may not be in direct danger from wildfire, but could suffer damage due to adjacent high risk properties.

"We first began researching looking at wildfire as a method of identifying risk at any given location," said Thomas Jeffery, hazard scientist for the firm. "We then incorporated additional information on homes ignited by airborne embers based on low category data but measuring its distance to the property nearest with high or very high ratings."

Using the site-specific data, CoreLogic identified 1,167 Helena area homes rated as high risk and 1,764 rated as very high. Combined, the firm estimated rebuilding costs at \$739.7 million.

CoreLogic categorized nearly 8,000 Helena area homes as either low or moderate risk. Other properties rated as urban or agriculture received even lower risk categorizations, but those numbers were not included specifically for Helena.

When assigned a numeric value based on proximity to higher risk areas, numbers jumped to nearly 6,900 properties in the two highest risk categories.

"Depending on the size of the fire, those embers can blow a mile and start to ignite things. That covers the entire city limits," said Helena Fire Marshal Craig Trapp. "The entire city is

considered part of the wildland-urban interface; it's not just the South Hills but structures within the city as well."

It is important to note that the CoreLogic study analyzes an absolute worst case scenario in which properties are a total loss. It also does not take into account fuel mitigation and building materials that can greatly reduce risks to homes even in higher risk areas.

"Mitigation has really taken hold in the last few years. A lot of municipalities are trying to get all the properties on board with defensible space around structures and homes," Jeffery said. Helena is among those municipalities, with education programs aimed at making structures safer, and the city encourages residents to take steps before smoke starts to fly. Trapp encouraged homeowners to plant less fire susceptible landscaping near homes, clear gutters and move woodpiles away from structures.

"Those sorts of things can go a long ways in creating a survivable space," he said. "As far as fighting fires, if it's a large scale fire there's just not enough folks here locally to go around." When it comes to fighting fires, those involving homes built in wildland areas are among the most expensive and difficult for fire crews, said Pat McKelvey, hazard mitigation project manager for Lewis and Clark County and the Tri-County FireSafe Working Group, also operating in Jefferson and Broadwater counties. Safety will always be the primary concern, he added.

"All three counties passed a safety over suppression ordinance. That means if we can't operationally defend structures safely then we're not going to do it," McKelvey said. The complexity of fighting wildfires near homes adds significant resources in terms of evacuations and defending those structures, he said, adding that gated roads can also cause delays.

Fire officials classify properties based on vegetation fuel loads and ability to suppress fires, McKelvey said, making statistics somewhat different than the CoreLogic study.

Even with some different criteria, Tri County's numbers show similar trends of nearly 3,200 homes in Lewis and Clark County and more than 1,600 homes in Jefferson County in high fuel risk areas.

Homes south of Helena, many in Jefferson County, are classified by fire responders as higher risk. Homes north of Helena near Hauser Reservoir also fall into some pretty hazardous fuels, McKelvey said. Beetle kill has made fuel loads much higher in many areas, he added.

McKelvey echoed the importance of mitigation and education for residents and builders to improve fire preparedness. Grant programs may also be available to help with costs, he added.

More than 4,000 acres in the Helena area have already been mitigated, he said.

Mitigation can pay big returns in wildfire prone areas. A federal cost-benefit analysis places a \$3 savings in firefighting costs for every \$1 spent. McKelvey puts that ratio at closer to \$1 spent on mitigation to \$8 in saving due to area conditions.

"We want people to understand the risk but realize that fuel hazards can be dealt with," he said. "Where we've had very good luck is with residents in the South Hills, and there's a lot of folks out there doing it on their own. We always want more, but by the same token we're pretty successful."

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CodeRed Emergency Notification System Now Available In Great Falls & Cascade County
<http://www.krtv.com/story/28361663/codered-emergency-notification-system-now-available-in-great-falls-and-cascade-county>

GREAT FALLS -- The City of Great Falls and Cascade County have implemented the CodeRED system, an emergency notification service that allows officials to alert people by phone, text message, email, and social media about time-sensitive general and emergency notifications. Deputy city manager Jennifer Reichelt says that CodeRED will be the "backbone" of the community's emergency planning and communications outreach for residents and city staff. Officials anticipate using the system to notify residents during natural or man-made emergencies.

"CodeRED's robust system will provide both City and County officials with a reliable, easy-to-use interface to quickly disseminate critical information to all citizens during emergencies. We are very eager to use this technology to enhance our emergency preparedness plans," said Vince Kolar, the Disaster & Emergency Services coordinator.

The system can also help organize personnel once a disaster has occurred. "Not only can we use this system to notify the public but we can also use it internally," said Kristal Kuhn, the emergency management planner for Great Falls. "The system lets managers build groups to contact specific personnel in emergencies. Rather than calling one person at a time, it has the capability to send out hundreds of phone calls at a time."

The system cost about \$10,000 but Kuhn said that the county was able to cover the cost through federal grants.

There is also a CodeRED Mobile Alert app that can be downloaded for free on Google Play and iTunes.

It provides "real-time, hyper-local alerts" to subscribers within the reach of a given location generated by public safety officials.

For more information call Kuhn at 406-455-8579, or Kolar at 454-6900.

[Click here to visit the CodeRED website to learn more or to register.](#)

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Cardiac Ready Communities Program Specialist Position

We are pleased to announce vacancy announcement for our Cardiac Ready Communities Program Specialist position.

Additional information and links to the job site can be found at:

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/EMSTS/cardiacready/fte>

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Jim DeTienne, Supervisor
EMS and Trauma Systems
(406) 444-4460

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2015 EMS Awards

Every day across Montana EMS providers respond to assist the citizens and visitors of our State in their time of medical need. In 2014 the EMS and Trauma Systems section of the Department of Public Health and Human Services established an annual awards

program. The intent of this program is to recognize an exceptional EMS Provider, EMS Agency and EMS System. This recognition is given annually during EMS Week. The 2015 Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20 on the Capital steps in Helena.

This program provides a mechanism through which extraordinary acts and meritorious service in the Montana EMS system can be recognized. The description of each award can be found on the attached 2015 EMS Award Nomination form.

The community, EMS providers, supervisors and managers are encouraged to be alert to the opportunity to recognize outstanding acts and performances by nominating the responsible individual, agency or system for an award. If selected, travel to the awards ceremony will be reimbursed.

Shari Graham, Paramedic

EMS System Manager
EMS & Trauma Systems, DPHHS
406-444-6098
Sgraham2@mt.gov

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Recalls From The State Fire Marshal

Recall Date: March 10, 2015
Recall Number: 15-092

efco Expands Recall of Gas Trimmers Due to Fire Hazard

Recall Summary

Name of Product: efco Gas Trimmers

Hazard: The muffler on the engine can break during use and pose a fire hazard.

Remedy: Replace

Consumer Contact: Comet USA at (800) 800-4420 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday or visit www.efcopower.com and click on Recall Information at the bottom of the home page.

Recall Details

Units: About 1,900 in the United States and 200 in Canada. This product was [previously](#) recalled in December 2013.

Description: The trimmers are used in residential and professional applications for cutting grass and light brush. The cutting attachments include a trimmer head and metal blade. The trimmers are about 72 inches long and up to 28 inches wide. They are red and gray with either a bike or loop handle configuration. Three models are recalled in two engine sizes measured in cubic centimeters. They are 36cc models 8371 S and 8371 T, and a 40.2cc

model 8421 T engine displacement. The brand "efco" and model number are printed on the front of the engine and the brand name also appears on the wand.

Incidents/Injuries: The firm has received 11 reports of muffler failure, including two resulting in singed hair.

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the recalled trimmers immediately and return them to an authorized efco dealer for a free replacement.

Sold at: Authorized efco dealers and Menard retail stores nationwide and online from June 2009 to July 2014 for about \$400.

Importer: Comet USA, Inc., of Burnsville, Minn.

Manufactured in: China

**Allen Lorenz, State Fire Marshal
Montana Department of Justice
Division of Criminal Investigation
Investigations Bureau
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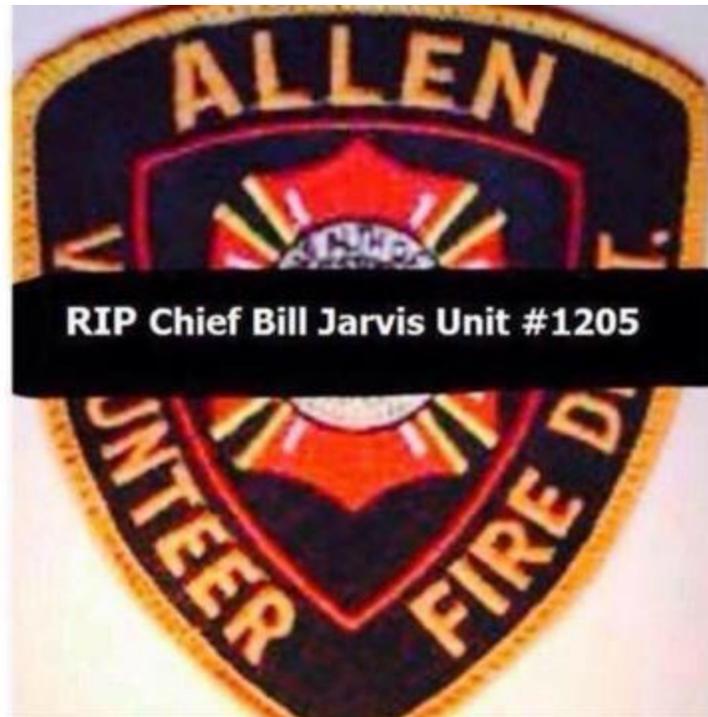
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Around the Nation

Ky. Fire Chief Dies of Heart Attack

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/12052940/ky-fire-chief-dies-of-heart-attack>



A fire department in Kentucky is mourning the loss of its chief. Allen Fire Chief Billy R. Jarvis suffered a heart attack on March 4 while responding to a call. He died Tuesday afternoon. Funeral arrangements are pending.

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CalFire Pilot Found Dead in Barracks

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/12052548/calfire-pilot-found-dead-in-barracks>

A pilot with CalFire was found dead in his bunk last week. Jerold "Jerry" Bonner, 72, was found about 9 a.m. on March 6. The incident occurred at the Alma Helitack base in Santa Clara County. Bonner, a CalFire pilot for the past 16 years, was a U.S. Navy veteran. This brings to 16 the number of firefighters killed on duty this year.

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Retired Md. Asst. Chief Rescues Neighbor from Burning Home

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/12052965/retired-md-asst-chief-rescues-neighbor-from-burning-home>

DUNKIRK, Md. (WUSA9) -- A retired Prince George's County assistant fire chief is credited with entering a burning home in Calvert County alone Monday to rescue a critically injured neighbor.

Tommy Breen of Owings said he was drawn to the home of neighbor 68-year-old Carol Hausmann by a tall column of black smoke. Breen was returning home from a gym after his morning workout.

Breen, who retired in 1998, kicked down the front door at 2650 Lake Shore Dr. and crawled through blinding, toxic smoke on his hands and knees while holding his breath. After retreating to the door for a breath of fresh air, he went in again and found Hausmann unresponsive at the foot of a stairway.

"I went back in and grabbed her by the ankles and pulled her to the door," Breen said.

At that moment Breen was met inside the door by arriving Dunkirk Volunteer Firefighter Matt Shrawder who helped him get Hausmann out of the burning house.

Another neighbor, off-duty Prince George's County paramedic Lt. C.J. Smart, ran to the house in time to begin working to revive Hausmann. Smart was home after his wife gave birth to the couple's second son.

Hausmann remained hospitalized Tuesday in very critical condition with burns over much of her body, according to Carl Golie, a family friend.

"I think what he did is very heroic," said Dunkirk Volunteer Firefighter Ben White, who witnessed Breen and Shrawder coming out of the burning house.

"There was high heat conditions, heavy smoke conditions," White said, as he marveled at a badly charred helmet he wore into the same house Breen entered without any protection at all.

"I knew that if I didn't get her she might not survive," Breen said. "I had to give her a chance."

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S.C. Toddler's Half-brother Charged with Murder, Arson

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/11875095/rock-hill-sc-teen-charged-with-setting-blaze-that-killed-half-brother>

ROCK HILL -- The half-brother of a 14-month-old boy killed last week in a mobile home fire has been charged with murder and arson after an investigation uncovered that the 17-year-old intentionally set fire to the home while the child was sleeping, authorities said.

The half-brother of a 14-month-old boy killed last week in a Lesslie-area mobile home fire has been charged with murder and arson after an investigation uncovered that the 17-year-old intentionally set fire to the home while the child was sleeping, authorities said.

The arrest comes just days after the fire that killed Joshua Hill on Friday morning in a mobile home park off Catawba Church Road near Lesslie.

The York County Sheriff's Office arrested Jacob Matthew Morgan, 17, on Monday, police records show.

Morgan will be tried as an adult in criminal court, said Willy Thompson, 16th Circuit deputy solicitor. Morgan turned 17 years old on Feb. 17, making him an adult under state law.

He is accused of setting a fire that officials say fully engulfed a home in the Apple Valley Mobile Home Park around 8:30 a.m. Friday. The home was destroyed and fire personnel have said they could not get inside in time to save the child.

In South Carolina, a murder conviction carries a mandatory minimum of 30 years in prison and up to life without parole. However, Morgan's young age saves him a potential death penalty case in York County because prosecutors cannot seek the death penalty for people under the age of 18, under state law.

Morgan had an initial appearance before a magistrate judge Tuesday afternoon in a courtroom adjacent to the York County jail in the basement of the Moss Justice Center in York. He was found to be indigent and the court appointed him a public defender.

Morgan has not previously been arrested in South Carolina, according to state records. He is being held without bond, awaiting an opportunity to go before a circuit court judge. Magistrates cannot set bonds for defendants in murder cases.

The York County Public Defender's Office will conduct its own investigation into the fire and circumstances around Joshua Hill's death, said 16th Circuit Chief Public Defender Harry Dest. Public defenders have not yet studied any evidence in the case, said B.J. Barrowclough, deputy public defender. The "loss of life, particularly the loss of life of a child, is a huge tragedy," Barrowclough said Tuesday.

The case has taken its toll on local fire and police officials "who tried so desperately to save Joshua's life," said York County Sheriff Bruce Bryant on Tuesday. "It's tragic that such a young life was lost in this fire. Our prayers go out to the family of Joshua Hill."

The intentional killing of a helpless toddler is "a truly terrible" act and one of the worst he's seen in his 43 years in law enforcement, Bryant said.

"People, what they will do, never ceases to amaze me," he said. "This family has been dealt a terrible blow. They were dealing with the death of the baby, and funeral arrangements, and now they have to deal with the fact that it is his brother who we have charged with committing this crime."

Bryant added that he is proud of the volunteer firefighters and one of his deputies who was one of the first people on the scene. The deputy tried to get into the burning home to rescue the boy, but she could not breach the flames and heat that engulfed the trailer with the child inside.

Some people at the scene, including the half-brother now charged with murder and arson, were allegedly screaming at emergency responders on Friday after those responders could not save the child.

"She did everything she could do -- everything -- to try and save that baby and it has been very hard on her," Bryant said. "She has lived through hell thinking about what she was not able to do. And now, this."

Lesslie Fire Chief Tommy White said Tuesday that the news that the fire was set intentionally is "horrible."

"My guys risked their lives that day and now we are finding out that it was done on purpose," White said, adding that firefighters could have died trying to save the child.

Morgan is accused of setting the fire "with malice aforethought" to kill his half-brother while the child slept inside, arrest warrants state. Investigators based the arrests, in part, on Morgan's own statements, according to the warrants.

Local authorities investigated the fire along with the State Law Enforcement Division, the state Fire Marshal's Office, the York County Fire Marshal's Office and the York County coroner. The day of the fire, a neighbor, Jessica Godbold, told The Herald that she heard screams and saw smoke. Godbold lives three doors down from the home where Joshua Hill died. She said on Friday that she saw someone going back into the house after flames broke out.

She identified that person as "Matt," the child's older brother. Matt's hair, Godbold said, was singed by the fire.

Godbold said she tried to help a sheriff's deputy -- a first responder -- get into the mobile home through a window. But, the glass exploded, she said, adding "it almost hit me, it was horrible."

A man who identified himself on Friday as the child's grandfather asked for the community to pray for his family. He added, "My grandson was full of life and laughter."

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Professional and Administrative Positions (Denotes New Posting)**

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****Cardiac Ready Communities Program Specialist Position**

We are pleased to announce vacancy announcement for our Cardiac Ready Communities Program Specialist position.

Additional information and links to the job site can be found at:

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/EMSTS/cardiacready/fte>

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Jim DeTienne, Supervisor
EMS and Trauma Systems
(406) 444-4460

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****DES Emergency Management Supervisor Position**

The Disaster and Emergency Services Preparedness Branch is recruiting for a Branch Manager. Please click on the link for more information:

<https://mtstatejobs.taleo.net/careersection/200/jobdetail.ftl?job=15140489>

Emergency Management Supervisor - (15140489)

Description

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Consider being a branch leader in the Disaster and Emergency Services Division. This position is responsible for managing the Preparedness Branch and supervising up to ten professional Emergency Managers. Responsibilities also include budget management, policy and procedure development, career ladder administration and reports to the Disaster Emergency Services Administrator. Successful candidate must have demonstrated ability to work and engage in diverse working environments within and outside the Department.

May be assigned as Agency Duty Officer on a rotational basis and must be available for emergencies on a 24-hour basis for a seven-day period. At all other times, incumbent must be available for duty around the clock in the event of emergency or natural disaster.

The Preparedness Branch is responsible for the coordination of preparedness and protection related activities throughout Montana, including grants, planning, training, individual and community preparedness, assessments, lessons learned, and continuity of government.

Qualifications:

Knowledge of: Emergency management organizations and organizational structures; principles and practices of urban, community and regional disaster planning; the methods and techniques of gathering and analyzing statistical data. Understanding of the functional relationship between the federal, state, and local emergency management organizations; emergency management planning and operations; management principles; the technical literature pertinent to emergency management programs; the proper channels for dissemination of program information.

Ability to: Interpret and apply emergency planning and operations rules and regulations; organize and coordinate program activities with federal, state and local agencies; effectively interact with state and local governments, volunteer, and private organizations and other Emergency Managers; implement emergency operations plans and direct/coordinate rescue and survival activities; evaluate emergency situations and make sound recommendations based on current weather or disaster conditions and personnel/resources available to meet demands. Collect, assemble, and analyze facts and draw conclusions to recommend solutions to problems; identify and interpret program requirements, policies, and regulations to provide guidance and advice; organize and present facts and opinions orally and in writing.

Education: Bachelors degree to include coursework/training in one or more of the following areas: emergency planning, regional/urban/community planning, disaster planning, public safety program planning, transportation planning, public administration or business administration, military science, or statistics.

Experience: Seven years experience in one or more of the following areas: emergency management planning, regional/urban/community planning, disaster planning, public safety program planning, transportation planning, public administration, business administration or the social sciences. Three of the seven years must be progressively responsible supervisory or managerial experience.

Alternative qualifications:

Equivalent combinations of related education and experience may be considered.

Applicant Pool Statement: If another department vacancy occurs in this job title within six months, the same applicant pool may be used for the selection. Training Assignment: Not Applicable

Job

: Project/Program Management

Salary: \$

70,295 - 70,295 Yearly

Benefits Package Eligibility: Health Insurance, Paid Leave & Holidays, Retirement Plan

Number of Openings

: 1 Employee Status: Regular Schedule: Full-Time

Shift

: Day Job

Travel

: Yes, 10 % of the Time

Primary Location

: Helena

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Apparatus & Equipment Exchange

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Cooke City Engine For Sale





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

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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

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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

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

call Joe: 406-578-2061

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