



4498 Hwy 35, Kalispell, MT 59901

Hot Spots

Newsletter of the Creston Fire Fighter Associate Membership

Learn more about your fire department and the efforts of its dedicated, hardworking volunteers.



Creston Fire has two fully equipped wildland engines as well as two large pumper/tenders, one emergency medical/rescue vehicle and one support vehicle. The wildland engines double as our cold water and ice rescue rigs, carrying cold water rescue suits, ice rescue sleds, ropes, and related gear. Creston Fire has long had the reputation of acquiring vehicles that can serve in multiple roles, limiting the total fleet numbers.

The Chief's Corner: "9-1-1, What is Your Emergency?"

By Gary Mahugh

Many people ask me "where does my call to 9-1-1 go, and what happens once my call is taken?" The answer is fairly simple; however, the inner-workings are quite complex.

When you dial 9-1-1, your call goes to the Flathead County 9-1-1 Center located near Glacier High School. When your call is received, information on a computer screen shows your phone number and, in most cases, your location. You're asked what your emergency is, where you are so as to verify your location, and the pertinent information of the assistance needed. You may be asked to remain on the line, depending on the emergency; in the case of fire or carbon monoxide exposure/ gas odor incident, it will be strongly suggested that you leave the building. Sometimes it may seem that you are asked a lot of questions, and sometimes that is true- the more information received, the safer the response and the greater the ability to dispatched appropriate resources.

It is a simple deal from the caller's end, but within the 9-1-1 Center, technology is everywhere. Once the 9-1-1 dispatcher has the information needed, that person dispatches the emergency service provider for the area. Whether fire, medical or law enforcement is needed, the dispatcher make sure response is on the way. In the case of Creston Fire, our dispatches are received via radio or pager and text services. We are dispatched for all fire-related emergencies, smoke investigations, medical emergencies, vehicle crashes and all kinds of other things that might make one go "hmmm?" Fire departments are kind of the clearing house when Ghostbusters are not available.

After receiving a page for an emergency response, our members who are available respond from their homes, work or wherever Creston Fire Fighter Associate Membership

ever they may be. This is the reality of volunteer fire departments, because we don't normally have fire fighters waiting at a station for the next call. In the Creston Fire District, we respond from four fire stations which are located in strategic areas to reduce our response times. For large events, response will come from all stations, as well as from our closest neighboring fire department through an Automatic Aid Agreement. If additional help is needed, we can also call on other fire departments that lie farther from the fire district.

The people of Creston Fire who come to assist you in times of emergency come from all walks of life. Regardless of their day job, they are well trained and have expertise to take care of the incident. Many of our members are emergency medical technicians who take care of medical emergencies with the assistance of other fire fighters. In the case of fire or rescue situations, the EMTs assist the fire fighters' efforts by setting up rehab stations, monitoring for things like heat exhaustion and making sure our fire fighters are hydrated at all times.

At Creston Fire, we do not transport patients; we work with neighboring agencies that provide those services. It is not economically feasible or realistic to expect staffing of an ambulance through strictly volunteer efforts. We do, however, provide patient stabilization, rescue, injury treatment and a myriad of other services.

Finally, I want to acknowledge what I think is the most important asset of your fire department: the people who serve as volunteer fire fighters. Their level of commitment is extraordinary. These fire fighters ask for nothing in return for their service other than knowing they have the best equipment and training available and that their leadership will provide a culture that will keep them safe. We have responded more than 300 times in each of the last two years, and each time our members have gone home to their families. From a fire chief's perspective, this is success, and making it even better is that we helped a lot of people along the way.

Fire Prevention Week, October 4-10, 2015

2015 FIRE PREVENTION WEEK QUIZ

The 2015 Fire Prevention Week's theme is "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep. Every bedroom needs a working smoke alarm!" Learn all about smoke alarm safety with this trivia quiz. Be sure to share your results. www.firepreventionweek.org

- A smoke alarm should be installed where?
 - In the children's bedrooms
 - In the master bedroom
 - In the guest bedroom
 - Wherever someone sleeps
 - All of the above
 - Interconnected smoke alarms are best because _____?
 - if one sounds, they all sound.
 - only one smoke alarm will sound.
 - sound travels
 - they are installed in every room.
 - Smoke alarms should be tested at least how often?
 - Once an hour
 - Once a day
 - Once a week
 - Once a month
 - Smoke alarms should be replaced how often?
 - When it chirps
 - Every 5 years
 - Every 10 years
 - Every 15 years
 - If the smoke alarm sounds...
 - check to see if there is a fire.
 - get outside and stay outside.
 - look for smoke.
 - open windows and stay inside.
 - Half of home fire deaths happen between which hours?
 - 7 a.m. and 11 a.m.
 - 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
 - 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.
 - 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.
 - In reported home fires in which the smoke alarms were present but did not operate, almost 1/2 of the smoke alarms...
 - were defective.
 - had dead batteries.
 - had missing or disconnected batteries.
 - were improperly installed.
 - When a smoke alarm sounds, you may have less than how many minutes to escape?
 - 1-2 minutes
 - 2-3 minutes
 - 3-4 minutes
 - 4-5 minutes
 - Every home needs what?
 - Working smoke alarms
 - A smoke alarm on every level of the home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
 - A home escape plan.
 - All of the above.
 - NFPA has been the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week since when?
 - 1920
 - 1921
 - 1922
 - 1923
 - If your smoke alarm makes a chirping sound...
 - clean it using a vacuum hose.
 - replace the battery and then test the alarm.
 - replace the smoke alarm.
 - test the alarm.
- "Reproduced from NFPA's Fire Prevention Week website, www.firepreventionweek.org. (c) 2015 NFPA."

Answers are located on page 3.

49th Auction Successful

Creston Fire netted over \$39,000 from last April's auction. Treasures in the Saturday sale included "everything" vintage, blacksmithing tools, and an antique marble top dresser, all popular with bidders.

The gusty winds during the afternoon played havoc with the tarps and e-z ups, but things went on as usual.

The Sunday Sale had an array of vehicles, recreational rigs and farming equipment, including 5' dump rake wheels and a disassembled Model-T Ford for the do-it-yourselfer. There were only a couple "no sale" items at day's end.

It was another successful event, and the members of the fire department tip their helmets to all the volunteers for your hard work and thank everyone for your support.

Welcome To New Members

Creston Fire is pleased to announce the following fire fighters who have joined the department in 2014-2015:

Kari Carter
Joseph Delio
Raney Frick
Austin Goodson
Jesse Lee
Laurel Mallery
Dan Nielsen

This brings the total number of active fire fighters in the Creston Fire Department to 36. Some of these volunteers do double duty, performing emergency medical services in addition to their fire fighting activities.

The fire department is actively recruiting volunteer fire fighters, so please call 406-250-7396 or visit www.crestonfire.org for more information.

Yes! I Support the Creston Fire Department

Your support is important to the Creston Fire Department and its dedicated volunteers. Please help us in our efforts to be the first on scene to help you! All donations are tax deductible, and your canceled check can serve as your receipt. If you would like a written tax receipt, please indicate this on the back of this coupon. For our records, please provide the following information:

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Organization _____
(if the donation is on behalf of an organization)

Address _____

- Please contact me about CFFAM and becoming an associate member.
 Please contact me about becoming a volunteer firefighter or medical responder.

Phone _____ Email _____

Please make your check payable to the Creston Fire Fighter's Association and mail it with this coupon to:

Creston Fire Fighter's Association, 4498 Hwy 35, Kalispell, MT 59901

Thank you for your support!

Mark Your Calendar

8th Annual Soup for Supper

Tuesday, Oct. 20 3:30-7 PM

Community CPR Class

Tuesday, Nov. 3rd 6-10 PM

50th Annual Creston Auction

April 1-3, 2016

Community CPR Class

Creston Fire is sponsoring a CPR/obstructed airway class for adult, infant and child on Tuesday, Nov. 3rd at the main fire hall from 6-10 PM. Instructors Bill and Louise Tidwell will also discuss bloodborne pathogens and give an orientation on the automatic external defibrillator (AED). You will receive a CPR card, but this class will NOT certify healthcare providers or day-care center operators. A \$30 minimum donation to Creston Fire must be received by Nov. 1st so please call 250-4655 to reserve your space. If there is interest in a first-aid course after taking this pre-requisite class, we will schedule one in the near future.

Faces of Creston Fire



Raney Frick

Name: Raney Frick
CFD role: Fire Fighter
Years with CFD: Nearly a year
Lived in fire district: 22-ish years
Day job: FC Juvenile Detention
Personal Support Group: My kiddos and some of the other department members.
Prior Experience: None
Highlight: The highlight has been getting to know the other members. Many of the officers and members are very approachable, so it makes it easy to find a comfort level within the department. They are all quite huggable, too, and who doesn't love a hug?
Key Lesson Learned: With every

experience, whether it's good or bad, always walk away having learned something.

Goal: To get Chief Mahugh to dance in front of everyone.

Reason for Joining CFD: I joined simply because it was something I was interested in. My family has a history with the department, so that probably swayed me a little, but the one thing that was holding me back was my kids. They were both nervous about me joining, so the Chief sat down with them before I filled out any paperwork and talked to them about what is expected from both a member and the department as a whole, as well as the extra steps CFD takes to make sure that safety is the top priority on any call.

Reason to Join CFD: You get to meet people from all walks of life and you all kind of mesh together to make up a rag-tag sort of family. And you know that whether you are dealing with something personal or something related to a call, that "family" is going to be there to help you out. It's much more than just being in a fire department.



Tom Shuster

Name: Tom Shuster
CFD Role: Fire Fighter/EMT; Capt. Mountain Brook Station
Years with CFD: 21
Lived in Fire District: 21 years
Day Job: Const. Contractor
Personal Support Group: My wife and two daughters
Prior Experience: None
Highlight: Every time someone bakes me cookies after a call—I'm easy that way
Key Lesson Learned: Firefighting and EMS are really about turning someone's big problem into a little one or no problem at all. If you are making the problem worse, you're doing it wrong.
Goal: To continue to improve to

be able to do the job efficiently and effectively.

Reason for Joining CFD: Shortly after moving into the district in 1994, I drove by the Creston Fire station and saw a sign that read, "Volunteers Wanted." I thought it would be an opportunity to meet some good people and learn some things. I was right on both counts.

Reason to Join CFD: The job involves a tremendous amount of hard work and responsibility with a schedule that is completely random. Your compensation is the goodwill of your neighbors, your fellow fire fighters, and the personal satisfaction you get from making a difference. If this sounds appealing, you will probably fit right in.

Fire Prevention Week Quiz

Check your responses against these answers to the quiz on page 2:

- | | | |
|-------|-------|------|
| 1. e | 2. a | 3. d |
| 4. c | 5. b | 6. d |
| 7. c | 8. a | 9. d |
| 10. c | 11. b | |

Creston Fire Department
Creston Fire Fighter Associate Membership
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It's Soup Time Again !!!

You want to be sure to mark your calendars for Tuesday, Oct. 20th. Yes, it's time again for CFFAM's 8th annual fall fundraiser, Soup for Supper, where family, friends, the surrounding communities, and passersby stop in to enjoy their choice of soups, salad, rolls and desserts.

Last year there were 21 roasters with 18 different kinds of soups and chowders. We started with over 81 gallons and ended the evening with only 1-1/2 quarts! Almost 400 people stopped by to eat and then sit for a while and chat with everyone there, including members of Creston Fire.

There's no rush—we have plenty of seating since we have additional tables and chairs set up in the truck bays. You can dine-in or takeout - **no outside containers, please.** The price is whatever you want it to be and all tax deductible. (we have receipts for cash donations) All proceeds benefit Creston Fire, and monies will go toward additional equipment and

CFFAM Meeting

When: 6:30 PM, Tuesday, Oct. 13

Where: Creston Fire Station,
4498 Hwy 35

What to bring: A dish to share

More info: Contact Gloria Graves,
250-4655, crittermom10@hotmail.com
or Creston Fire on Facebook

training for all our fire fighters.

There will be homemade pies for sale, and we will have tickets for the hand-made quilt/wall hanging donated by the Mountain Brook Ladies Club. This year's beauty is appropriately named "Bear Paw" (see pic.) and the drawing will be in early December.

We will also kick-off a raffle for a shotgun, a rifle and a gun safe as an additional fundraiser to commemorate next spring's 50th Annual Creston Auction and Country Fair. That drawing will be held Sunday, April 3, 2016.

So, come hungry and come early to the fire hall in Creston on Tuesday, October 20th- **doors open at 3:30!**

Bakers Needed

The response last year was great and so we are sure to have plenty of goodies at the dessert/pie table, we are asking you to, once again, whip up a "yummy" and drop it off at the fire hall on Tues., the 20th, anytime after 8 a.m. Thanks!



"Bear Paw" Quilt