



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 Lieutenant Bill Nickel and Assistant Fire Chief Bob Kun stand at attention during the fire department's 9/11 vigil.

9/11 Tribute Draws Community Support

By Slim Talada

Every Sept. 11, Creston fire fighters remember and pay tribute to their 343 fire fighter brothers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the performance of their duties in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001, and to all fire fighters who have given their life to service in the line of duty. Ferndale and Bigfork fire departments were among the Flathead Valley fire departments that also participated in remembrances at their stations this year.

Each year, in front of the Creston Fire Station, we present the American flag, two engines and at least one department member who stands at attention for a one-hour shift from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. This year, 23 members of the Creston Fire Department participated, some doing more than one shift.

People driving by showed fantastic support by waving and honking their horns. A lot of them stopped and took pictures, a few would stop and ask why were doing it—but all thanked us. And we thank all of them for their support as we honor our fallen brothers.





Work on the Lake Blaine Training Complex is moving forward. The structure fire building (pictured to the left of the concrete live fire building in the center photo) was moved and repainted (lower left photo) to make way for the newly acquired three-room portable building (lower right). All three buildings are back in use, thanks to the many hours of labor put into the project by Creston's volunteer fire fighters and emergency responders, as well as CFFAM members Gloria Graves, Kathy Holley, Sandy Kalberg and Marc and Rose Scaccia.

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!

By the Numbers:

Soup for Supper

Last year's 4th annual Soup for Supper was a huge success:

No. soups made: 10 varieties
Attendance: 225 people
Total raised for CFD: \$3,278.83

This year's fundraiser, as well as money raised from donations (see the coupon at the left), will directly support the Lake Blaine Training Complex project. In particular, the fire department needs to purchase the following items:

4 matching twin beds with mattresses
4 night tables
4 bed table lamps
refrigerator
electric range
microwave
small apartment type washer/dryer
combo unit

On Call: Volunteers Say Support at Home and within CFD Is Crucial



Rachel Siblerud

Name: Rachel Siblerud
CFD role: EMT with endorsements and Secretary/Treasurer
Years with CFD: 3 1/2 years
Lived in fire district: 23 years
Day job: Piano teacher
Personal support group: "Family, friends, church and of course CFD."
Prior experience: "None! I walked into CFD a day before the Creston Auction three and a half years ago with no sort of fire or emergency medical experience and filled out an application."
Highlight: "The relationships

built with other CFD members! Also, being able to say 'you are more than welcome' to your patient or your patient's family when they express their gratitude for CFD...there's nothing like it!"
Key lesson learned: "What I have learned and continue to learn is the importance of teamwork. I love being part of a well-trained team, and being able to play a role within that team is rewarding."

Goal: "Confidence! To gain more confidence personally and maybe one day to really understand what the guys are talking about when explaining how the pumps work on the engines."

Reason to join CFD: "I'm not sure why I decided to join Creston Fire. Partly because my grandfather had been a member, I love where I live, I was looking for a way to serve others, I live less than a mile from the main hall in Creston. Or perhaps because I'd always

thought I wanted to learn emergency medical care. It all just seemed to lend itself to joining Creston Fire and I haven't regretted it for a second! I would encourage anyone to join! If you're looking to give back to your community, this is a great way. To work as a team, help your neighbors, learn new skills and be part of the 'fire family' is awesome!"



Lee Buller

Name: Lee Buller
CFD role: Deputy Chief of Fire Operations
Years with CFD: 26 years

Lived in fire district: 45 years
Day job: Heritage Custom Farming business owner
Personal support group: Family (at home and in the department)
Prior experience: "Fresh out of high school and knew everything!"
Highlight: "Being in command of a house fire and saving the house when most thought it was lost."

Key lesson learned: "If your gut says it's not safe...get out! I watched a couch go through the floor after I pulled my crew out of the living room because things did not seem right."

Goal: "Spend more time doing fun things with the family."
Reason to join CFD: "It's a good way to make a difference when someone is having a bad day...and it was just the right thing to do."

Have you ever thought about joining CFD? CFFAM and CFD welcome new members.

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CFD: Even Kids Can Stop Fires

By Julie Laing

Creston fire fighters and emergency responders are visiting the three schools in the Creston Fire District during the week of Oct. 7 with one message: Even kids can play a role in preventing fires.

The visits are timed to fall within National Fire Prevention Week, which commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of Oct. 8-9, 1871, that killed more than 250 people. Creston fire fighters have long used the nationwide tribute as an opportunity to reach out to area students and share basic techniques on how to perform home fire drills, set up a household evacuation plan, check and replace batteries in smoke detectors and more.

The presentations focus on this year's Fire Prevention Week theme, "Have Two Ways Out." Creston Fire Marshal Rich Lapp, who organizes the presentations,

CFFAM Meeting
When: 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 9
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

said students will be encouraged to discuss the lessons with those at home to ensure everyone knows what to do if a fire breaks out. He also said this week should remind all community members to change batteries in every household smoke detector. Detectors are crucial to saving lives and homes in case of a fire, but they are only reliable if batteries remain fresh. The Creston Fire Department recommends making battery swaps twice yearly when setting clocks back and forward with daylight savings time changes. The department also advises homeowners to upgrade to carbon monoxide alarms in areas of the home or garage where combustion cooking or heating appliances are located.

Mark York Calendar: Upcoming CFD Events

Tuesday, Oct. 16: 5th Annual Soup for Supper, 4-8 p.m., Creston Fire Station. Choose from 11 different homemade soups, salads, rolls and desserts. Donations are appreciated. Dine in or take out (we provide containers). Includes raffle for handcrafted and donated quilt from the Mountain Brook Ladies' Club. All proceeds to benefit CFD.

Tuesday, Nov. 13: Community CPR Class, 6-10 p.m., Creston Fire Station. Obstructed airway and CPR administered to adults, infants and children, taught according to AHA standards. You will receive a CPR card. The class will **not** certify health-care providers or day-care center operators. For more info and to reserve your space, please call Gloria at 250-4655 by Nov. 10. A \$15 reservation fee, which will benefit CFD, is requested.

April 5-7, 2013: 47th Annual Creston Auction and Country Fair.