



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 Department volunteers respond to medical issues, fires, accidents and other emergencies around the clock, 365 days a year. It takes a large group of dedicated people to provide such necessary volunteer services in our community—and one of them could be you.

The Chief's Corner: Is There a Fire in You?

By Gary Mahugh

Have you ever wondered what would happen if you dialed 9-1-1 and no one came to assist you in a fire or medical emergency? Have you ever thought about who comes when you make that call for assistance? These are important questions when it comes to the safety and protection of you and your family.

The “who comes?” part is what I want to address in this column. It is your neighbors who answer the call in the Creston Fire District, neighbors who have taken the challenge to be Creston fire fighters who provide fire and rescue operations and emergency medical services. These are people who volunteer their time and skills to frequently take care of people they don't know but who are having a really bad day. So, who are these volunteers? They are business owners, farmers, hospital and medical workers, mechanics, real estate agents, construction workers, painters, truck drivers and government employees. Some are retired. These are people just like you who want to make a difference.

Your volunteer fire department might seem like something that is always there when you need it, but it takes people like you for the department to be successful and to answer those 9-1-1 calls. I have heard many comments from fire fighters—

things like “I didn't know I had it in me” or “I didn't think I had the time” or “I always wanted to do something for my community.” Being a volunteer fire fighter is more than just going to emergency calls, even though that is a big part. There is a tremendous opportunity to find areas you can excel in, along with personal growth and satisfaction. It takes time, but at Creston Fire we concentrate on a balance among personal/family lives, work lives and fire lives. We find our best personnel come from backgrounds that never included emergency service work. It really just takes people who want to work on a team and do something that many will not attempt.

At Creston Fire, we pride ourselves on being compassionate providers of emergency services. While it might seem that fire departments are about big, red trucks and bright, shiny medical equipment, they are more about the people who provide the service. Sometimes I am asked, “What's in it for me?” The answer is quite broad, but the essence of being a volunteer fire fighter is the satisfaction found in helping others. In addition, we offer free training on an array of topics. We provide a place for you to work on your physical fitness. We offer a way to work on a team where leadership skills will develop. And every Creston fire fighter will tell you it is fun. The “fun” part might sound strange, but it is there.

So, if you are at least 18 years of age, male or female, and have a “fire inside you” to help others, joining Creston Fire might just be for you. Do you have what it takes? Isn't it about time you made a difference? Call 250-7396 or visit www.crestonfire.org.

Fire Prevention Week, October 5–11, 2014

2014 FIRE PREVENTION WEEK QUIZ

The 2014 Fire Prevention Week's theme is "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives; Test Yours Every Month." Learn all about smoke alarm safety with this quiz, and be sure to share your results.

- When a smoke alarm fails to operate, it is usually because:
 - The fire is too far away
 - The smoke alarm is too old
 - Batteries are missing, disconnected or dead
 - Batteries are inserted incorrectly
- _____ fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
 - One of every five
 - Two of every five
 - Three of every five
 - Four of every five
- The National Fire Protection Association's 2014 Fire Prevention Week theme is what?
 - Smoke Alarms, A Sound You Can Live With!
 - Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives; Test Yours Every Month!
 - Test Your Smoke Alarms Today!
 - Does Your Smoke Alarm Beep Where You Sleep?
- How should you test a smoke alarm?
 - Push the test button using your finger.
 - Use a stick or broom to push the test button
 - Light a fire in the fireplace
 - Burn toast in the toaster
- How often should you test all of your smoke alarms?
 - Smoke alarms don't need to be tested
 - Test smoke alarms when you change your clocks each fall
 - Test smoke alarms at least once each month
 - Test smoke alarms every holiday
- A smoke alarm should be installed where?
 - Inside each bedroom and on every level of the home
 - Inside each bedroom, in the kitchen and on every level of the home
 - Inside each bedroom, in the kitchen, in the attic and on every level of the home
 - Inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home
- Smoke alarms should be replaced every:
 - 5 years from installation
 - 5 years from manufacture
 - 10 years from installation
 - 10 years from manufacture
- If your smoke alarm sounds whenever you cook, you should:
 - Replace the smoke alarm with a photoelectric-type alarm and be sure the alarm is at least 10 feet from the stove.
 - Remove the battery and place it at least 10 feet away from the alarm
 - Remove the smoke alarm so that it does not sound when you cook
 - Cook with low heat
- If your smoke alarm makes a chirping sound, you should:
 - Replace the smoke alarm
 - Replace the battery
 - Test the alarm
 - Move the alarm to another location
- With today's modern furnishings and construction, you may have as little as _____ to escape a home fire.
 - 15 minutes
 - 10 minutes
 - 5 minutes
 - 3 minutes
- If the smoke alarm sounds, you should do what?
 - Stop what you are doing and investigate
 - Gather precious items and get outside
 - Stop what you are doing and get outside
 - Try to put out the fire
- What four things should you do if the smoke alarm sounds?
 - Get up, know 2 ways out, get outside, go to your outside meeting place
 - Get up, find out what's wrong, get outside, go to your outside meeting place
 - Find out what is wrong, call the fire department, get outside, go to your outside meeting place
 - Get up, push the hush button, get outside, go to your outside meeting place

Answers are located on page 3.

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

Tuesday, Oct. 21, 3:30–7 PM

7th Annual Soup for Supper

Tuesday, Nov. 11, 6–10 PM

Community CPR class

April 10–12, 2015

49th Annual Creston Auction

Community CPR Class

Creston Fire is sponsoring a CPR/obstructed airway class for helping adults, infants and children on Tuesday, Nov. 11, in 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. You will receive a CPR card, but this class will NOT certify healthcare providers or day-care center operators. A \$25 minimum donation to Creston Fire must be received by Nov. 7. Please call 250-4655 to reserve your space. If there is interest in a first-aid course after taking this prerequisite class, we will schedule one in the near future.

Faces of Creston Fire: Past and Present



Scott Bradstreet

Name: Scott Bradstreet
CFD role: Fire fighter
Years with CFD: 4
Lived in fire district: 6 years
Day job: Driver for CAD
Personal support group: Family
Prior experience: 17 years at Bigfork Fire Department
Highlight: Being part of a professional team where everyone shares the same goals
Key lesson learned: Slow down and never assume.
Goal: Be able to be there for people
Reason to join CFD: To continue to help others. "Being on this fire department, you see how close a community really is. There

are no words for the life-long friendships you make while working with your fellow fire fighters. Having the experience of helping your neighbors, and applying the knowledge you gain through the professional training of how to fight fire and save lives—it's really something!"



Les Mahugh

On March 29, 2014, Creston Fire lost a long-time member and supporter when Les Mahugh passed away. Les was the father of Fire Chief Gary Mahugh and was a member for well over 20 years. He continued supporting Creston Fire following retirement through his efforts and by donating the

use of a portion of his land for the Creston Auction. Following Les's death, Creston Fire received memorial donations totaling nearly \$1,500. To remember Les in a lasting way, a new automatic external defibrillator (AED) was purchased to replace an aging unit. Les would have wanted this kind of purchase, because it is something that will help others well into the future. Thank you Les, for your service and your lasting legacy.



Bob Kun

On June 30, 2014, Assistant Fire Chief Bob Kun retired from active duty. Bob joined Creston Fire in 1992 following a move to the Flathead Valley from Kansas City. He came to Creston after a long career in law enforcement.

Bob brought many things to Creston Fire. While the transition from a law enforcement officer to fire fighter was a challenge, he showed a great skill in scene management. Bob had a full understanding and proficiency in the use of the incident command system, and he found a home in Creston Fire where he could continue to help others who needed assistance. Bob was a natural choice when Tom Arnone, our past assistant chief, retired from the department.

Throughout his second career as a fire fighter and fire officer, Bob could be counted on for those many jobs that came along. He served his community well, and we will miss his humorous quips and stories. Thank you, Bob, for your service—we hope you will continue being a part of our fire family.

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

- | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. c | 2. c | 3. b |
| 4. a | 5. c | 6. d |
| 7. d | 8. a | 9. b |
| 10. d | 11. c | 12. a |

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Creston Fire Fighter Associate Membership
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It's Tummy Warmin' Time

All you foodies want to be sure to mark your calendars for Tuesday, Oct. 21. Yes, it's time again for CFFAM's annual fall fundraiser, Soup for Supper. It's hard to believe that this year will be the 7th time we have opened the doors and invited family, friends, the surrounding communities, and passersby to stop in and enjoy their choice of soups, salad, rolls and desserts.

In 2008, we had just 3 soups to choose from that the crowd, although small, seemed to enjoy. Through word of mouth and tweaks each year, the event just keeps growing. Last year there were 21 roasters with 14 kinds of soups and chowders; more than 300 people stopped by to eat but also to sit for a while and visit with everyone there, including members of the fire department.

It has become quite a gabfest and something that is looked forward to each year. There's no rush—we have plenty of seating since we have access to the truck

bays, food is plentiful and tasty and the fellowship is wonderful. You can dine-in or use our takeout containers. The price is whatever you want it to be. All proceeds benefit Creston Fire, and this year's monies will go toward the ongoing training, safety and equipment needs of the department.

There will be homemade pies for sale, and we will kick off the raffle for the handmade quilt donated by the Mountain Brook Ladies Sewing Club. This year's beauty is aptly named "Autumn Elk," and the drawing will be in early December.

So, save the date Oct. 21, 3:30–7 PM. See you at the Creston Fire Hall.

CFFAM Meeting

When: 6:30 PM, Tuesday, Nov. 18

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

Calling All Bakers

We seem to always run short of goodies for the dessert table at Soup for Supper. A favorite yummy you would like to whip up and drop off at the fire hall anytime Tuesday, Oct. 21, after 8 AM, would be appreciated. Thanks!

Auction 2014 Big Success

Creston Fire netted about \$45,000 from the auction last spring. The treasures in the Saturday sale included some nice antiques and blacksmithing tools, which were popular with bidders. Probably what was the most helpful for the weekend was that the weather was so cooperative for the couple of weeks prior to Consignment Day, which gave people the opportunity to get into their garages and storage units and clean them out. The Sunday Sale had some nice equipment and few "no sale" items at day's end. It was a successful event, and the fire department thanks all the volunteers for their hard work and everyone for their support.