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## Vehicle Enhances Command Capabilities

In early 2008, the department acquired a new command vehicle. A 2008 Ford F-350 four-wheel-drive quad cab pickup was purchased to replace an older Ford Expedition command vehicle. The new command vehicle, Command 72, has also been fitted with a utility shell and a specialized slide-out equipment rack in the bed of the truck for hauling extra supplies and equipment. In the cab, the vehicle features 3 radios to enhance communications abilities, a location for a mobile data terminal / laptop computer, and room for assistants and other officers to sit.

On the outside, it has been equipped with LED emergency lighting and reflective striping/decals. LED lights are quickly becoming the gold standard in emergency lighting. They are impervious to vibration/shock, are extremely bright, have no moving parts, use a fraction of the electricity that halogen and strobe lights do, and do not burn out. LEDs were used extensively on C72, including the light-bar, the directional lighting on the back, front intersection lights, front grille lights, and under the tailgate.

The vehicle is certain be a valuable asset to the Red Lodge Fire/EMS fleet and will serve the department and the community for years to come.



## Let it Snow



On October 9th, the snow began flying in what would become a major winter storm that would drop more than 42 inches of snow on Red Lodge. While this meant some could enjoy a few days being stuck in their homes relaxing, the emergency responders in our community had to ensure that they would be able to respond should a call come in.

In addition to the on-duty crew members at the station, department volunteers also came in and spent time shoveling snow to ensure we could get vehicles out if needed.

Thank you to everyone who came in to help with the snow removal.



October 2008

Issue No. 2

## *From the Top* Deputy Chief Aaron McDowell



Hi Everyone;  
I recently had the opportunity to travel to Anniston Alabama for some training at the Department of Homeland Security's Center for Domestic Preparedness. The class was HERT which stands for Hospital Emergency Response Team. The class focused on what hospital's need to do to mitigate scenarios of mass casualty and patients who may have been contaminated by CBRNE agents. (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive) I had the great fortune to attend this class with Chris Benton, RN and Jim Marks from Beartooth Hospital. You just can't imagine the mark we left on Anniston!

We learned so much at this week long class. Probably the most important lesson learned was that to handle any MCI or Exposure to CBRNE, it will take a community effort. Even a small exposure to a chemical agent would immediately overload Fire/EMS/Law and the hospital. The sheer number of people needed to staff even a small walking wounded decontamination area is enough to make an incident commander want to crawl under a rock. But you know what? Chris, Jim and I came to the conclusion that we can do it. It will take

some additional training and getting more people down to Anniston for some basic training.

The training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness is free. They even paid for travel. I would encourage anyone who is interested to contact me, Chris or Jim. We will be doing some recruiting in the near future.

As a reminder, all EMS personnel need to bring their pager in for reprogramming. DON'T PANIC. It's a small change and you will still be able to listen to everything if you want.

As a reminder, membership in the Volunteer EMS association is contingent on completing at least 300 call hours, attending monthly meetings, and completing training requirements.

As a reminder, you are responsible for knowing equipment and ambulances. Please make time to come in and review the operation of our stuff!

Ok, that's it. As always, carry your pagers at all reasonable times, **and thanks for your time and efforts!**

## *National Fire Sprinkler Resolution Passed*

At the International Code Council Final Action Hearings in Minneapolis on September 21st, a significant victory was won by the fire service. A resolution was passed that will require residential fire sprinklers in all new one and two-family dwellings across the United States. The passing of

the resolution is the result of hard work by more than 100 public safety organizations who supported it, including the IAFC and the IAFF. The facts are there, residential sprinkler systems save the lives of the public as well as firefighters, and greatly reduce property damage due to fire.

## *Infection Control*

Fire and EMS are utilizing more and more equipment with touch screens nowadays, PDA's, laptops, medical instruments, etc. While it makes adjusting equipment or entering in date easier, it also provides an often-touched surface on which pathogens can be deposited.

laptops for mobile trip reporting, we need to keep in mind that the keyboard and screen need to be considered during decon. PDA's and cell phones are a few other often overlooked items.

It is important to remember such devices when we are decontaminating equipment after a call. When we get

While many manufacturers are coming out with antibacterial coatings and surfaces for frequently touched parts, basic BSI and good post-call cleaning cannot be overlooked.

## *October Guest Columnist* Asst. Chief Tim Ryan



I am sure by now most of you have heard about the Cross Boundary Grant Program that the department participated in this past summer. Several volunteers participated and worked hand in hand with the Forest Service, BLM, and DNRC this summer fighting fires and completing much needed fire prevention work in the Rural District.

The overall goal of the program was to prove that local government fire resources could help reduce the overall costs of wildland fires.

The RLF D was selected to participate in this project to enhance our ability to respond to requests for initial attack, WUI hazard assessments, and hazard mitigation work in and around the Beartooth Ranger District and the BLM Southern Zone for a period of one year.

We had great success this year and are looking forward to another productive summer. We completed fire hazard assessments on Grizzly Peak, Lamb Estates, and all the USFS lease homes, more than 100 homes in all. We have already met with the owners of Grizzly Peak to discuss options for reducing their risks and plan to meet with many more this winter. Our crews got to participate in several fires throughout the area this summer and everyone learned a lot and became better firefighters because of the program.

## *Staff News*

Bob W. Johnson's father, Scott, recently suffered a stroke and was hospitalized in Billings. Please keep him in your thoughts as we wish him a quick recovery.

Keep your eyes open for training opportunities this spring that the grant will finance. We are looking for participants for next summer as firefighters and also those who may be interested in filling various command staff positions such as finance, logistics, status and check in. Contact Tim with any questions.



### *Question of the Month...*

*"What do they pack Styrofoam in to ship it?"*

### *Quote of the Month...*

*"Courage is fear holding on a minute longer."*

*Gen. George Patton*



# September 2008 Alarms



## Fire Responses

9/10	MVA	Provided traffic control
9/12	MVA	Provided traffic control and personnel to EMS.
9/17	Alarm	Automatic alarm. No fire found.
9/17	Alarm	Smoke alarm. No fire found.
9/18	Alarm	Cancelled enroute. No fire found.
9/28	MVA	Provide traffic control and personnel to EMS.

## 2008 Totals

Total EMS responses:	336
Interfacility transports:	93
911 emergency calls:	241
Total fire responses:	106
Fires:	28
Explosions:	1
Rescue/EMS assist:	26
Hazardous condition:	13
Public assist:	2
False alarms:	9
Good intent calls:	22
Contract fires (wildland)	5

## Medical Responses

9/1	Trauma	Trauma from a fall, transported patient to BHHC.
9/4	Cardiac	Patient with chest pain transported to BHHC.
9/7	Cardiac	Patient with tachycardia and weakness taken to BHHC.
9/8	Interfacility	Severe headache. Patient taken from BHHC to SV.
9/10	MVA	Two non-transports. Pt with neck pain taken to BHHC.
9/10	Interfacility	Possible spinal injury taken from BHHC to SV.
9/11	Interfacility	Pt with respiratory distress taken from BHHC to BC.
9/12	MVA	Pt with back injury transported to BHHC.
9/12	Interfacility	Pt with fractured vertebrae taken from BHHC to BC.
9/12	Interfacility	Cardiac patient transported from BHHC to SV.
9/14	Interfacility	Pt with stroke symptoms taken from BHHC to SV.
9/15	Cardiac Arrest	Full cardiac arrest. Pulse regained, transport to BHHC.
9/15	Interfacility	Cardiac arrest patient transported from BHHC to BC.
9/17	Medical	Patient with altered mental status taken to BHHC.
9/17	Trauma	Pediatric trauma transported to BHHC.
9/18	Trauma	Pt with leg and arm pain from a fall taken to BHHC.
9/19	Medical	Diabetic emergency. Pt transported to BHHC.
9/19	Medical	Patient with altered mental status taken to BHHC.
9/20	Interfacility	Pt with fractured vertebrae taken from BHHC to BC.
9/20	Interfacility	Cardiac pt with chest pressure taken from BHHC to SV.
9/21	Trauma	Pt with trauma from bicycle accident taken to BHHC.
9/23	Medical	Seizure patient transported to BHHC.
9/27	Standby	EMS performed a standby at the Roberts FB game.
9/28	Trauma	Motorcycle accident pt taken to BHHC.
9/30	Trauma	Pt fell at Café Regis. Pt refused transport.
9/30	Trauma	Pt stated eyeball came out when he sneezed. He was transported to BHHC.

## Tailboard

- A new supply of uniform t-shirts has come in for those of you who need new ones.
- The Cross Boundary grant program has officially come to an end for the season.
- The pallet of bottled water has been brought into the wildland bay from the storage container.
- One monitor in the bay is up and running for the ERRS system. We have a 19" monitor now that will soon be installed in another location in the bay for easy viewing before a response.
- Two new heavy-duty metal hose reels have been purchased and will be installed in the bay.

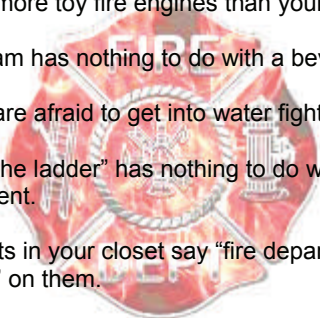
## Cascade T-Shirt Donation

On September 22nd, Red Lodge Fire/EMS received a donation of \$4,390.50 from Tim Weamer and his company, Fifth Gear. The funds were proceeds from the sales of the Cascade Fire t-shirts that Weamer's company sold, with a portion of the sale price being earmarked for donation to our department. We wish to thank Tim and Fifth Gear for their generous donation.



## You Might Be a Firefighter If . . .

- You have more toy fire engines than your kids.
- Alcohol foam has nothing to do with a beverage.
- Your kids are afraid to get into water fights with you.
- "Climbing the ladder" has nothing to do with career advancement.
- All the shirts in your closet say "fire department" or "firefighter" on them.



## Firefighters Attend Conference

To help keep Red Lodge Fire/EMS on the cutting edge of wildland firefighting, several members were sent to Jackson, Wyoming recently for the International Association of Wildland Firefighters conference. Assistant Chief Tim Ryan and Firefighter/EMT-I Jon Trapp attended the conference from September 22nd-25th, which covered all aspects of wildland firefighting. Some of the topics covered at the conference included safety, tactics, new technology/equipment, mapping, and more. They also had the opportunity to meet with experts in different areas of wildland firefighting so they could bring back ideas and knowledge to benefit our department. Red Lodge Fire/EMS has embraced the importance in keeping up-to-date with advances in firefighting and EMS, and often sends personnel to conferences and national-level training.

## Fire Safety - Cold Weather Operations

It is going to be that time of year before we know it, so this month we will take a minute to review our SOGs on cold weather operations as well as some general cold weather firefighting safety tips.



**Firefighters:** Keep nozzles cracked, stay hydrated, bring extra socks, wear layers under gear, wear hoods, keep an extra hood with you, have extra gloves, wear a stocking cap when able, use handholds on apparatus when boarding or stepping off, check hydrants for draining, watch your footing, be sure SCBA are dry before use, keep in mind that ice can bring down wires (as well as ladders, trees and buildings), keep points down.

**Crew Leaders:** Keep crew warm and ready, rehab is more

important, don't let ventilation fans blow snow into undamaged areas, make sure SCBA's are dry before use.

**Apparatus Operators:** Never shut the rig off, use high idle, be able to find defrost, heat and wiper switches in the dark, keep rigs washed, keep heat on in cab and doors shut, use handholds, drain pumps, don't forget to close drains before pumping, use chains, keep water circulating or moving, use sand for traction around rig, chock wheels on ice, keep compartment doors shut and dry.

**Command Staff:** Stay warm (you think more clearly), get more help coming earlier in the incident (weather can hamper response times), more crews will be needed so people can be rotated often.

**Everyone:** Snow can mask tripping hazards and can hide hoses and tools. Extra caution must be taken on the fireground.

## EMS Safety The Emotionally Disturbed Patient

Sooner or later, the call is bound to come, a call for a man or woman not acting properly. As you respond, you are probably running through all the possible causes in your head, hypoglycemia, intoxication, drug use, etc. While these are the most often encountered causes, one must always consider that the patient is emotionally disturbed. Emotionally disturbed covers a wide gamut of circumstances. The person could be under a great deal of stress, could have a genuine psychiatric condition, may be off their medications, etc. No matter what the source of the behavior, as responders, you need to ensure your safety. Here are some tips for dealing with disturbed/agitated patients:

- Do not make eye contact. Eye contact can be seen by the EDP as confrontational and can heighten their anxiety level.
- Speak in a soft, level tone. Only one person should talk at a time. Do not overwhelm them with questions.
- Respect their personal space. They may require more of a "comfort bubble" due to their state.
- Call for law enforcement.
- Do not let the patient get between you and the exit.
- Do not surround the patient. Keep your crew in a non-confrontational posture.
- Follow your gut feeling. Always keep the safety of you and your crew in mind.

## Training/Meetings

10/13	Fire training - Rural Water Supply	1900-2200
10/20	Fire training - Primary search	1900-2200
10/22	EMS association meeting	1900-2000
10/22	EMS training - Domestic violence	2000-2200
10/25	Fire/EMS ropes training	0900-?
10/27	Fire officers meeting	1900-2200

## Website Update

We now have a website up and running. It can be found at [www.redlodgefire.com](http://www.redlodgefire.com). While currently in it's early stages, it will be growing rapidly and will be a good source of information for the public as well as our members.

The site now contains a member's page with links to the department calendar, call book, ERRS page, and more. The department newsletter is now available on the website in PDF format. Some of the other ideas that are being considered for the website include a photo gallery, apparatus information, call stats, fire safety/prevention tips, EMS information and more.

It will be growing rapidly in the months to come, so be sure to check it often.

## City IT Update

The City of Red Lodge is currently undergoing an information technology study and upgrade. Nationwide, many local and state governments have increased the number of services and information sources available online, and the City of Red Lodge will be doing the same.



Making public information available online not only makes local government more accessible to the people it serves, but also reduces personnel and material costs to local governments. For example, if a citizen wants a copy of the city council meeting minutes, going online and printing a copy saves an employee from having to pull the document, copy it, and also saves the citizen a trip to city hall.

A city IT committee consisting of Tom Kuntz, Kyle Starr, Lindsay Johnson and Jason Priest has been formed. The committee will be evaluating existing city technology and planning the implementation of the new advances to be made.

## In Memory



In memory of the 29 firefighters who were killed while fighting the Griffith Park Fire near Los Angeles 75 years ago on October 3rd, 1933. The fire remains the deadliest fire for wildland firefighters in U.S. history.

## Cascade Fire Photos

Here are some more assorted images taken during the Cascade Fire of 2008.



Easily one of the best photographs taken during the Cascade Fire. Taken from a helicopter by Mr. Goeller, this photo shows flame heights of 300-400+ feet and demonstrates the enormous energy of a large wildfire. If you look in the red circle you will see firefighters on the ground and how miniscule they are compared to the flames.



The Red Lodge Fire/EMS mobile command post turns onto West Fork Rd. at the onset of the Cascade Fire.



A great photograph showing significant torching in the trees. Photo by Tim Ryan.

## From the Red Lodge Fire/EMS Photo Archive



Red Lodge firefighters prepare to fight a structure fire with fire showing.



Asst. Chief Jim Avent, EMT-B Brad Hauge, Lieutenant Trent Em-neth and Captain Tyler Rae work a motor vehicle accident.

### Red Lodge Fire/EMS

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