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**FEBRUARY 2025 • VOL. 17 - NO. 12**

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The Rockerville Volunteer Fire Department responded to a report of a structure fire on January 6. Also responding were fire departments from Hill City, Whispering Pines, Rapid City, Battle Creek, Johnson Siding, North Haines and Rapid Valley as well as Keystone Ambulance. See story and photo inside. Photo by Rockerville Volunteer Fire Department.

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# Box Elder Fire Chief, climbing for a cause

A pair from the Black Hills are raising awareness for first responders' mental health.

By TYLER MATHIESON

The National Institute of Health estimates that around one in every four individuals will experience a mental health crisis in their lifetime.

Estimates have that percentage higher for those who work as first responders including police, fire and other emergency services.

Matt Emrich has first-hand experience of the toll that the job can take on someone.

Emrich is the Box Elder Fire Chief and has shared some of

his experience of finding himself at the end of his rope and what he decided to do.

"I got to a very dark point in my life, and a lot of it was just post-traumatic stress and personal family stuff. And I had a choice to make of whether I keep spiraling down this black hole, or I could say I need help and get it taken care of. So, I made the call, if you will, and told my immediate supervisors, 'Hey, I need help.'"

Matt received help through treatment and, though he says that not everything is perfect, he has come a long way. He has seen others in his life who have not made that same call.

"I've had a lot of friends that have had some serious mental health issues, and I've had a lot of friends that have died by suicide over the years that are all first responders, and, you know, all the time, I just wish that they would have made the call, and some of them did, and it was a little too late."

## WE MUSTN'T WALK ALONE

One thing that Matt credits with his recovery is being physically active.

Matt met Dan, who is a police officer in the area. The two clicked and became friends, bonding over similarities in their experiences.

"We both had a lot of personal issues and a lot that related directly to work that we had to work through. Both on our own and some of it, we bounced off each other and worked together."

Both Matt and Dan found outdoor recreation like hiking, rock climbing and mountaineering helped their mental health immensely. It didn't take long to decide that they wanted to do something a bit larger.

"Ultimately, kind of came down to that, well, hey, let's take this out of the country, and let's go to Africa and do this big trip."

Matt and Dan are set to leave for Africa this week. The pair have challenged themselves to summit Mount Kilimanjaro.

## CAUSE

The trip began as a vacation but has grown into something larger.

Matt and Dan are using their trip to help raise money and awareness for first responders' mental health. The money they raise will go to Save a Warrior® and Warrior PATHH, which are both organizations that provide help to first responders in need.

Matt and Dan hope to reach the summit of Kilimanjaro by Jan. 17.

You can follow the journey and give to the cause on Emrich's Instagram.



# Pennington County Search & Rescue Hosts Recruitment Event

By BRAD WALTON

The Pennington County Search & Rescue Team is a group of volunteer first responders providing life-saving services during emergencies.

Tuesday night, the team hosted a recruitment event at their headquarters on East Main Street in Rapid City.

"Currently, we have about 20 to 25 active members," Pennington County Search & Rescue Maintenance Officer Joshua Sheets said. "We're trying to boost those numbers up. That way, when we do have calls, we have more people able to re-

spond."

The team does everything from rescuing injured hikers in the Black Hills to using the jaws of life to save people from car accidents.

35 people signed their names as visitors. After hearing a brief presentation from Team Leader Shawn Gab, they got to see the team's arsenal of resources - including specialized vehicles, vertical rescue rope equipment, and more.

Becoming a team member isn't an easy task.

"Our training consists of about eight months to a year of training and a probationary period,"

Sheets explained.

For those who make it through training, the experience can be rewarding. Sheets recalled his own recruitment night and his journey in search and rescue.

"I showed up, and just thought 'this would be something I'd be really interested in,'" he said. "And five years later, I've become a maintenance officer and dedicated a lot of my time to this and it has become a big, big part of my life."

If you are interested in becoming a member, you can fill out an application at <https://form/jot-form.com/243246817472158>.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Email your Upcoming Event by the 10th of the previous month (ex. Aug. 10 for the September issue) to [jeff@southdakotafirefighter.com](mailto:jeff@southdakotafirefighter.com). There is no charge..

**FEB. 7-9, 2025:** Les Lukert Conference, Kearney, NE.

**MAR. 13-16, 2025:** 2025 SD Wildland Fire Academy, Pierre, six classes, registration closes Feb. 28. Visit <https://wildlandfire.SD.gov>.

**MAR. 29, 2025:** NE District School, Britton, SD.

**MAR. 30, 2025:** MLFTU, Senior Level Instructor class, Britton, SD.

**JUNE 12-14, 2025:** South Dakota State Fire School, Watertown.

**SEPT. 22-24, 2025:** NVFC Fall Conference and Meeting, Rapid City.

**OCT. 10-12, 2025:** South Dakota Firefighters Association Fall Conference, Spearfish Convention Center, Spearfish.

## WORKING FOR A BIGGER

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# Belle Fourche fire leaves man seriously injured, destroys home

By SIERRA FERGUSON,  
Black Bills Pioneer

The owner and occupant of a home on Butte Street in Belle Fourche was airlifted to a burn unit in Aurora, CO, to receive emergency care after a late-night structure fire Saturday.

Belle Fourche firefighters responded to a reported explosion and structure fire at the corner of Butte Street and 9th Avenue around 11:30 p.m.

Belle Fourche Fire Chief Aaron Thrasher said three structures were burned; the fire originated in a camper stored in a carport-style parking structure.

He added, the official cause of the fire has not yet been determined, and not much more is known about the nature of the homeowner's injuries. All other occupants in the three buildings were able to evacuate. No first responders were injured in the fire.

Thrasher said responding firefighters did everything they could to contain the flames. The house at 905 Butte St. is now considered a total loss, but Thrasher said given the age and spacing of homes in that neighborhood, the fire could have been much worse.

"There was a good response.



Emergency services responded to multiple structure fires in the area of Ninth Avenue and Butte Street following reports of an explosion and fire on the north side of Belle Fourche just before midnight on Dec. 21. The fire quickly spread to multiple homes before firefighters arrived on the scene. The Belle Fourche Fire Department worked swiftly to contain the blaze and prevent further spread. Officers evacuated several residents. All residents in the affected area were safely evacuated, and only one injury has been reported at this time. From the Belle Fourche Police Department Facebook page.

We did everything we could to keep it contained," Thrasher said. "We could have easily

lost the whole block." The Spearfish Fire Department, Belle Fourche Police De-

partment, Belle Fourche Public Works, and the Butte County Sheriff's Office also responded

to the fire to provide mutual aid.

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# U.S. Fire Administration Firefighter Fatality Notification

The following are U.S. Fire Administration Firefighter Fatality Notifications of firefighters who have died from across the United States. The South Dakota Fire Service extends its thoughts to the family and friends of these firefighters.

• **JOSEPH LYNN MURPHY**, 62, Lexington, TN, died Dec. 20, 2024. Joseph was a career firefighter with 46 years of service with the Henderson County Fire Department and the current chief. On Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024, Chief Joseph Lynn Murphy responded to a residential alarm. He then returned home. Later in the day, Chief Murphy suffered a cardiac event and was immediately transported to the hospital where he passed away on Friday, Dec. 20, 2024.

• **JEFFREY W. ALBANESE**, 49, Brockton, MA, died Dec. 21, 2024. Jeffrey was a career firefighter with 24 years of service with the Brockton Fire Department. On Monday, Dec. 9, 2024, Firefighter Jeffrey W. Albanese was responding to a still alarm when he suffered a cardiovascular event. He was immediately transported to Signature Brockton Hospital. He was later transferred to Beth Israel Deaconess in Boston where he passed away on Saturday, Dec. 21, 2024.

• **KEVIN SKINNER**, 56, Irvine, CA, died Jan. 5, 2025. Kevin was a Fire Apparatus Engineer with the Orange County Fire Authority and had attained 26 years of career service. On Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025, Fire Apparatus Engineer Kevin Skinner responded to the scene of a residential fire. While searching for possible victims, he told his colleagues that he wasn't feeling well. Fellow firefighters helped him from the home when shortly after he collapsed. He was immediately transported to the Providence Mission Hospital where he was pronounced deceased. The cause of his death has yet to be determined.

• **CHRISTOPHER HIGGINS**, 46, Gaithersburg, MD, died Jan. 11, 2025. Christopher was a career firefighter with 23 years of service with Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services. He had attained the rank of Master Firefighter. On Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025, the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services responded to a mutual aid call to a fire at a residence. Master Firefighter Christopher Higgins was the driver of the first ladder truck on the scene. While performing emergency operations on the exterior of the structure, he experienced a medical emergency. First responders immediately initiated CPR and he was then transported to the hospital where he passed away. The cause of his death has yet to be determined.

# SDFA OFFICER REPORTS

Under the Influence! What comes to mind when you hear that phrase? If you are like me you think under the influence of substances. I think of the numerous times I have responded to an accident scene to find someone under the influence... However, for Stephanie White, writing for Firefighter Nation, "under the influence" raises the question of who are you listening to, who is influencing you in your training and work as a firefighter? Where are you getting your information for training and policy information.

Ms. White, begins her "editorial" with this paragraph: "The first day of my probie year, there was no doubting who the fire dog on my shift was. With his thick New York accent and a walrus mustache to match, my first captain not only carried the knowledge of years of running fires, he looked the part. He was joined by the company lieutenant, who also sported a Long Island accent and his own walrus mustache, and taught me the value of being patient and listening to people when they're having their worst day. Sadly, I was too young and cocky to realize the value of their experience until later." Think about it, what do you remember about the first year or days on your department? Who were the people you saw around you who you knew you could count on, and learn from? Who were the people you knew you could count on to help you learn to be a Firefighter?

What prompted Stephanie to pen this article, was what she sees is the greatest threat to the Fire Service.... Wait for it.... The greatest threat.... The



Rodney Veldhuizen, Chaplain

"At the end of the day, if we manage to survive long enough, you will find yourself being that person that the newbies look to. Or you may be the voice of caution as you integrate men and women from other departments into your own."

Smartphone! Think about it, at any point in the day you can open that device we all carry so diligently, and find any drill or skill you want to learn about. Did you ever ask the question, who are these people? What is their department like? What kind of property are they defending? You see on one of the departments I served with we carried enough 2½" to lay about 7 blocks. Why? That was how far we wanted to be away from the grain silo if it might blow! I dare you to find a drill on your phone that shows you how to lay, much less re-pack that much 2½". You see that hose lay was unique to that department, and probably to any other department who is called to defend a grain handling facility. However, did you ever ask how many "social influencers" are from rural departments?

The easy access to social media creates sources that look flashy, and seem to have cool tricks, but do you know if that flashy approach or new tool has actually been tested in a fire? Do you run the risk or causing physical harm, maybe even death by trying to incorporate this new trend under live fire circumstances? I like this line from Stephanie: "Should I be taking the advice of someone yelling in my face about mental health while chugging their fourth energy drink of the day?" You see social media has delivered some good things, things I have come to depend on regularly, but I am still an old "Cold War Veteran" (no I did not serve in uniform, but I grew up with the advice, 'Trust but Verify'). That advice of trust, but know your source holds true in fire service. While we have seen some great advances, positive pressure ventilation, going away from High Pressure lines to variable stream nozzles and going back to straight stream nozzles, not every gimmick should be adopted on blind faith.

The reality is we might not have that walrus-mustache officer around anymore in our de-

partments. It just might be that you are now the guy or gal that others in your department are looking up to (Yeah, that is a scary thought) You might be the senior member of your department. You might look around and find that gravelly voice that used to be present to tell you that your new idea sounds not so smart and then explain why, is now yours! The reality is, the actual hands-on basics that we learned from those seasoned veterans will never steer you wrong. If the "old timers" don't pass along some of this seasoned advice, who will?

At the end of the day, if we manage to survive long enough, you will find yourself being that person that the newbies look to. Or you may be the voice of caution as you integrate men and women from other departments into your own. Keep in mind, just because that social media posted looks sexy, doesn't mean it is actually going to work. Steering the culture of your department or helping someone going through a tough time is not going to be answered with a short media post. The reality is that, as Stephanie points out that 60 seconds of something magical looking that we see on social media, doesn't tell us what conditions it has been tested under, nor do we know whether its producer has been tested. Keep in mind the old adage of not believing everything you see or hear.

As you look into the New Year for training ideas and innovations. Think about what you are doing? Who is influencing you? Are you under the influence of trusted leader or someone who has produced a "slick video." As the self-proclaimed "Old Man" of the Chaplain's corps, just because someone posts something on social media, or even "scientific journal" does not make it right! Be careful about who you are under the influence of!

Blessings,

CHAPLAIN RODNEY

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## CLASSIFIED ADS FOR THE SOUTH DAKOTA FIREFIGHTER NEWSPAPER

Classified ads run \$10 for the first 10 words, and 25 cents a word after that. A photo is \$10 additional. Rates are the same in each state (Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas). Email the ad to jeff@southdakotafirefighter.com to place your personal or departmental ads.



# Tuesday Morning Fire Attack With Slappy and Pappy Or Tuesday Morning Transitional Attack

By JERRY KNAPP

Staffing for volunteer fire departments is always a challenge, especially when most members are at work during the business day. They may be working in town and cannot leave, or babysitting, maybe at a doctor's appointment or working out of town on business or vacation. Whatever the case, we had better consider some new or alternative options to operate so we can serve our customers in low manpower situations. It is Tuesday morning and the tones go in for a working house fire. When you think of your department in this situation, does that make you shudder a little?

The purpose of this article is to consider the transitional fire attack when you may not have enough interior firefighters to mount your typical aggressive interior attack. A lot has been written and said about this type of fire attack, it is actually pretty simple and effective.

Let's go to the fire. It is 1023 hrs., Tuesday morning. Your first and maybe your only rig that will get out today is an engine that has an experienced driver behind the wheel, your newest LT in the right seat, an energetic and well-intentioned but as of yet untested, 17-year-old probie (Slappy) riding backwards on the right side and a very senior, well experienced 40-year member, age 68 (Pappy) riding backwards on the left side. One of your members meets you near the scene and is waiting at the nearest hydrant. He tags the hydrant and the engine pulls away and pulls up near the front of the house. Size up shows a 2½ story home typical of your first due area with heavy fire pushing out three windows on the first floor.

Technically you have enough manpower for 2 in 2 out but if the interior guys get in trouble with the heavy fire your pump operator and you the officer are the 2 out and that leaves no one for command and other critical pump operator duties.

## SEARCH AND RESCUE

Life is our first priority and if there is a need for search and rescue you sure can't do it under these fire conditions unless you use VEIS to the upstairs bedrooms. VEIS is a great search tactic under these circumstances. Using VEIS your limited manpower can search in relative safety and in a very effective way. The down side here is that generally this time of day the bedrooms are not occupied, most house fire victims die between 11 pm and 7 am. (Source: US Fire Administration, Report on Residential

Fire Fatalities...report available [usfa.fema.gov](http://usfa.fema.gov)) Unless you have verifiable evidence that no one is in the home, say from an escaped occupant, a search in areas that may contain salvageable human life is a manageable and worthwhile risk.

A note of caution here. We often launch immediately into a dangerous and often foolish search operations based on "reliable information." We instantly believe the bystander or neighbor without question. Experience has proven to me when the neighbor says "they are still in there" we should ask the following question, "How do you know?" or some other fact extracting statement. I have done 9 searches in my career under very bad conditions only to find out that there was no occupant in the building 7 out of those 9 times, despite those "reliable reports." Taking the few seconds to ask this simple question gives the well-meaning civilian time to consider their thoughts during a very stressful time for them. It also gives the IC time to verify and help substantiate his thoughts toward risking some or all of his members on scene.

So the question is, how do you make this scene with lots of fire better with the limited resources you have on hand. One option is to aggressively apply water to the fire as quickly as possible. In this case it means stretching a line to the windows where fire is showing and knocking down the fire using the reach of the stream. Apply water thru the window from the outside.

The alternative is to wait and hope other members or rigs show up while you wait to make your interior attack. What is the fire doing all this time? It is getting bigger and, in this case, spreading upstairs. This is a house and it most likely has an open staircase. Heavy fire is showing from several windows so it is also likely that this fire has got an adequate air supply from an open door or window. Since the house has a great abundance of fuel and a good oxygen supply, the fire will take control of the entire house soon, very soon, unless you intervene with decisive amounts of water from your fire attack system.

So your members stretch the line to the side of the home where the fire is showing. It is a 1¾" with either a 15/16" smooth bore or a combination nozzle that you have flow tested and will deliver about 180 gpm. This is much more water than the fire will require but we don't want to make this a fair fight. We want to kill the fire quickly with decisive

amounts of water. The firefighter calls for water, bleeds the line and since he is alone, kneels on the line, driving the nozzle reaction down into the ground. He will need his remaining stamina to get inside as soon as he knocks down the main body of fire from the outside. He holds the nozzle at a steep angle, close to the building, points the water toward the ceiling. Water ricochets off the ceiling falling onto the burning contents knocking down the fire in that room. This will take a few seconds and maybe an adjustment of the stream. The nozzle is basically held static in one position. It is not rotated in circles, moved in H, T or Z patterns. If the stream is not reaching the other rooms, he may have to repeat this into other windows.

Consider several of important facts:

1. First, rooms in homes are generally small and the reach of our stream is generally large. Without a doubt your fire stream will reach every portion of the involved room.

2. Second, we would all be very happy if this room had a sprinkler system flowing about 10 gpm from each head. Although a lot of your water is tracking along the ceiling and wall and falling into areas where you don't need the water. Much of the water is falling right where you want it, on burning fuel.

3. Third, you may not need the full 180 gpm so flow it for 30 seconds and it is a 90 gpm nozzle. Flow it until you think the fire is knocked down. UL research titled: Study of the Impact of Fire Attack Utilizing Interior and Exterior Streams on Firefighter Safety and Occupant Survival stated the following in the final report: "Although less is not necessarily better, when a water supply has not been established, or in areas where no municipal supply exists, water application should not be delayed to establish a water supply. Even a 500 gallon supply tank can be sufficient to knockback two rooms of fire, if the attack crew can get the water where it needs to go. During the 25 suppression experiments conducted, using a 1-3/4 hand line flowing between 95gpm and 165gpm, the most water utilized for initial knock-back and suppression was less than 250 gallons. When attacking a single room and contents fire, in a residential structure, knockback and initial suppression is often possible with less than 100 gallons, in some instances less than 75 gallons. Even flowing while moving to the compartment of origin did not result in utilizing more wa-

ter than available in a 500 gallon supply tank."

4. Fourth, the data from these 30 live burns based study showed that a 500 gallon tank on your engine will be enough for several rooms of fire. Clearly, establishing a reliable water supply with the line your engine dropped from the hydrant is always a great idea. But consider the amount of fire you can knock down with tank water while you are awaiting for the reliable water supply and what positive effect that can have on your overall success in saving the remainder of this home or possibly protecting trapped occupants and searching firefighters.

Now it is time for phase 2 of your transitional attack, get this line or another line inside quickly to finish off the remaining fire. Once the fire is knocked down, is not the time for a congratulatory party on the lawn. You need to get inside quickly because this is an aggressive interior fire attack. You can do this by moving the first line or abandoning your first line and stretching a second maybe quicker and easier for your limited manpower.

According to UL it is important to hold this nozzle in mostly a static position. Moving it as we have been taught during an inside attack will drive a lot of air into the fire area and limiting the products of combustion from coming out the top of the window.

An obvious advantage to the engine company members is that the fire is knocked down before they advance. Although not as much of a challenge and as satisfying as a hard core aggressive interior fire attack with the associated dangers to the crew it is a very effective

tactic. Consider also that if members become injured or trapped during the interior attack after the suppression from the exterior, the consequences could be significantly less resulting in less injuries or deaths from many causes.

An important part of this type of fire attack is to remember that it is an option. No one is saying do this all the time, it is an option for the engine company officer to consider. It can and should be applied at the right time under the right circumstances, with the right techniques and will result in outstanding success on the fire fireground especially in low manpower situations.

This article is a very brief summary of the practical application of the results of the Underwriters Laboratory study entitled: "Study of the Impact of Fire Attack Utilizing Interior and Exterior Streams on Firefighter Safety and Occupant Survival." The reader is encouraged to go to the website and take the free training courses that are available there to understand the full study results to improve your safety on the fireground. ULFIRE-FIGHTERSAFETY.COM

*Jerry Knapp is the Chief of the Rockland County, NY Hazmat Team, and is a 49 year veteran Firefighter/EMT with the West Haverstraw NY Fire Department. He served on the technical panel for the UL residential fire attack study. Knapp is the co-author of two books: House Fires and Tactical Response to Explosive Gas Emergencies published by Fire Engineering He is the owner of Suburban Tactical Inc specializing in fire officer and firefighter training.*

## Volunteer Firefighters Needed

You are invited to participate in the project: **Understanding the Role of Training on Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention**. This project was funded by the Fire Protection Research Foundation (part of NFPA) and is being conducted by researchers from Social Sciences Innovations Corporation (SSIC) with support from the National Volunteer Fire Council.

Your feedback is essential to help us understand the structure

and needs of volunteer fire departments.

The information collected will be used to enhance and tailor training programs to better serve your needs and improve overall effectiveness.

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Reach out to Dr. Brittany Hollerbach at [hollerbach@ndri-usa.org](mailto:hollerbach@ndri-usa.org) with any questions.



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# SDFA OFFICER REPORTS



Charlie Kludt, President

**"On average, there are about 200 new firefighters each year in the state filling much needed spots on our volunteer departments. There are roughly 9,000 firefighters serving in South Dakota. Over 8,500 are volunteers."**

## February Did you know..?

This article is going to have several "Did you know..?" items about the fire service in South Dakota and across the country.

First, thank you to all the departments that have renewed their SDFA membership for 2025. If you haven't, yet, you still can. You can pay your dues anytime, but the \$10K insurance coverage and discounts for your members will not start until we receive your renewal. And remember to keep your rosters updated. If we need proof someone is on your department, make sure

it is in your department records. The extra insurance coverage available through Acrisure was due in January.

We have a few dates to plug into your calendar for the year.

- State Fire School - June 12-14, Watertown
- NVFC Fall Conference & Meetings - 22-24 September, Rapid City
- SDFA Fall Fire Conference - 10-12 October, Spearfish

Keep checking the SDFA website for other events and training opportunities.

There are several firefighter I/II classes starting around the state. If you have new members,

Hello South Dakota Firefighters, the SDFA held our Winter meeting in Chamberlain Jan. 11 & 12. State Fire School was a major portion of our time, watch our Facebook page for updates, you don't want to miss it. We also covered use and scheduling of the MLFTU trailers. Here is the link for all the information needed for using the MLFTU's. SDFA MLFTU Information - South Dakota Firefighters Association

PPE Grant if your department was awarded a PPE grant from the SD legislature and haven't claimed it yet, please do so. If we want to get these kinds of grants in the future, we need to get this round of money claimed. There is approximately \$1.2 million unclaimed. If there have been changes in the leadership of your department in the last couple of years, you may not be aware your department received one of these grants. Please

reach out and see if your department has money coming.

If you know someone that has advanced the fire service you should consider nominating them for Life Time Membership in the SDFA. Nominations for this year need to be submitted by March 15, 2025. More info can be found at <https://members.sdfirefighters.org/sdfa-honorary-lifetime-members>

Every year the SDFA along with the Dear Old Timers (DOT) and the State Auxiliary award 2 scholarships for graduating seniors that will be attending secondary school the next fall. We recently raised the amount of these scholarships to \$2,000. The scholarships can be used for universities, collages, trade schools or Vo-Tech schools. We do give some preference to students planning a career in firefighting but all applications are considered. Here is the link to

## Thoughts From an Old Board Member

Greetings and Ground Hogs Day most likely has come and gone. At this time, I don't know if he saw his shadow or not, but it really doesn't make any difference. The weather will be whatever Mother Nature decides it will be.

The other day I heard some remarks by a friend who was talking about families. Got me to thinking that each of us have a huge number of families. We have our immediate family of spouse, children, mother, father, etc. We then have our family of co-workers, if you're still working and not retired, those who you spend the better part of the day with. Then we also have our firefighting family. This is the family we go to meet on a second's notice. We go with this family to help some other family, who we may not even

know. We need to do what is necessary to help us take care of all these families. There are so many resources out there today that weren't there even a few years ago. Please take advantage of all these resources, for we can't take care of our families if we don't take care of ourself.

The sadness that the tragic passing of anyone you know is always tough. The SD Firefighters Assn. knows that all too well. For many years we have provided our members with AD&D and A&H insurance. Many times, Provident Insurance has finalized the claim and family members had no idea there was any coverage. They were so grateful that there was help for them. We know that no amount of money will ever replace a person, but sometimes it just may help to take some of that burden off. This is one way that the SD Firefighters Assn. is trying to help your family.

you may be able to join a class or do most of classroom items online. Check with the fire marshal's office for classes in your area.

On average, there are about 200 new firefighters each year in the state filling much needed spots on our volunteer departments. There are roughly 9,000 firefighters serving in South Dakota. Over 8,500 are volunteers.

The state of South Dakota has an area of 77,184 square miles. Just over 77,000 square miles are covered by volunteer fire departments.

The estimated breakdown across the country is 1.1 million firefighters, with roughly 700,000, almost 65%, being volunteer.

Only Delaware and South Dakota have state capital cities covered by volunteer fire departments.

We have around 900,000 people in our state. But tourism brings in over 14 million people each year.

The likelihood of a volunteer fire department responding to your emergency is extremely high, no matter what state you are living in or travelling through.

Unless you need help within the city limits of a larger community, you and your family are going to be served with the dedication and willingness of people who drop what they are doing to help you in your current crisis.

We owe it to our family, department, and people we respond to, to be ready and do our best.

You may have heard a saying, "Would you want YOU to show up to save you?"

Natural disasters have plagued several parts of our country over the last few months. The devastation of flooding in the east, storms in the south, and fires in the west have tested and stressed responders and families.

Take care of yourself physically and mentally. Get an annual physical. Keep current on updates or new things you might be responding to. What to do and not to do.

We're all in this together. Valentine's Day is coming. Do something nice for that someone special.

Until next time, stay safe.

CHARLIE KLUDT,  
President



Don Ward, Vice President

**"...if your department was awarded a PPE grant from the SD legislature and haven't claimed it yet, please do so. If we want to get these kinds of grants in the future, we need to get this round of money claimed. There is approximately \$1.2 million unclaimed."**

apply <https://www.sdfirefighters.org/scholarships/>. Applications need to be submitted by March 15, 2025.

I want to mention the South Dakota LAST team. "The mission of the South Dakota Local Assistance State Team is to provide support, planning and assistance for the families and the department members following the loss of life or line-of-duty death of a

public safety officer". Notice it says **"loss of life OR line-of-duty death"**. This means they are there to assist with any public safety officer's death, including retired or other non-line-of-duty deaths. If you have question give them a call. South Dakota Local Assistance State Team - SD LAST.

DON WARD,  
Vice President



Denny Gorton,  
Treasurer/Past President

**"we also have our firefighting family. This is the family we go to meet on a second's notice. We go with this family to help some other family, who we may not even know. We need to do what is necessary to help us take care of all these families."**

The 2025 Legislative session has begun, and it appears there will be a lot happening. The Governor's proposed budget is calling for numerous budget cuts and shifting of funds. This year may certainly shape up to be an active one. The fire service in general keeps a close eye on all this and goes to Pierre when necessary. Keep in touch with your local legislators and let them know when it

affects your fire service. One last pitch to check with your treasurer or whoever and see if your departments 2025 Membership dues have been paid. It is so important to support this statewide association that helps to look out for you.

With that I'll close for this month and remember be safe.

DENNY GORTON



# SDFA OFFICER REPORTS

Hope everyone is starting the new year safe and sound. With a new year, there are always new trainings going on, new classes to attend. Always visit the SDFA website for ongoing training under the events tab. Listed are many upcoming classes and trainings to attend.

Spring School will be in Vermillion April 26th, upcoming class info will be out. Vermillion is looking like a good set of classes. Keep an eye on Facebook and SDFA website for more class info.

2026 State Fire School, June 12th to 14th, classes and in-

structors are being finalized, we are hoping to get that information out in March or early April. Check website when registration will be open. The fall conference has been listed for going to Spearfish, watch for those details as they become available.

Our winter board was held Jan. 11th and 12th, we got a lot of work done, updating information, getting ideas put to paper. The SDFA board needs email addresses for all fire personnel, all these go into the Growth Zone system that we use. With these emails, we can send out, a lot of information to all of South Dako-

ta Firefighters, if your members are not getting any information, check to see that they have a growth zone account, if they sent in a correct email to us. Growth Zone is where all contact information is, where billing comes from, where fire personnel log into for registering for classes.

Annual dues notices were sent out, please look at the SDFA website for different membership type benefits you can get. The 100% membership gets you additional insurance you can purchase, newspaper emailed to every member, review the benefits of a 100% department.



Dave Jorgenson, Southeast Director

"... there are always new trainings going on, new classes to attend. Always visit the SDFA website for ongoing training under the events tab. Listed are many upcoming classes and trainings to attend."

You can join the NVFC organization, dues are \$24 for 2025, go to their website to see the benefits you get, anyone can join, spouses, children. You get AD&D insurance, virtual training, classroom discounts, member promotions. NVFC.org. If you have any questions,

reach out to any board member. Again, visit the SDFA website for information.

Thanks for being a First Responder.

**DAVE JORGENSON,**  
Southeast District Director

Hello from the Northeast District. The Northeast District Board has met a couple of times over the past few months planning our Northeast District Spring Fire School. This year's school will be hosted by the North Marshall Fire Department in Britton on Saturday, March 29th. A class listing and additional details will be available soon. One highlight of the upcoming school is the SDFA Mobile Live Fire Training Unit for a live burn class on Saturday, March 29th (weather permitting). We are also planning on hosting a Senior Level Instructor or Train-the-Trainer class in

Britton on Sunday, March 30th. More information will be available soon on this class as well. You will be able to get class descriptions and register online at [www.sdfirefighters.org](http://www.sdfirefighters.org) under the Events tab.

The SDFA board met in January in Chamberlain. Among the things we worked on was continuing to finalize plans for State Fire School at Lake Area Technical College in Watertown on June 12th- 14th. Another event we worked on and that you can add to your calendar is our Annual Fall Conference that will be held October 10th- 12th in

Spearfish.

One last reminder to send in your SDFA dues if you haven't yet. With your 100% department dues you will get the AD&D policy for all of your rostered members, along with this monthly newsletter. If you received this newspaper we have your email address, but at your next meeting or training check with the rest of the firefighters on your department that they are all getting this newsletter. If someone is not getting this we probably just need their email address or need to update the email address. If you have questions on this contact



Mark Stoks,  
Northeast District Director

"This year's school will be hosted by the North Marshall Fire Department in Britton on Saturday, March 29th. A class listing and additional details will be available soon. One highlight of the upcoming school is the SDFA Mobile Live Fire Training Unit for a live burn class on Saturday, March 29th."

your SDFA district representative.

Hopefully I will see you at one

of our upcoming events!

**MARK STOKS,**  
Northeast District Director

Greetings from the SDFA Secretary! I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! With the New Year in full swing, it means it's time to pay those dues. As most of you know there has been some changes on how to get your rosters updated. The Association is utilizing the software they have had for a few years to try to make things easier to update rosters and pay dues. Growth-zone has been a great addition to the association and works great to track membership and get information out to the members in a timely manner.

Also new this year is the electronic delivery of the newspaper with that being said you will not receive it if we do not have an email on file for you. If you do not have email available, you can always view the latest paper on our website at <https://www.sdfirefighters.org/> under the green SD Fire Fighter Newspaper link. I have been busy updating rosters that have been sent to me but encourage all department admins to log in and update the rosters throughout the year if there are changes. If you need help navigating the login don't hesitate to contact me and we will get

it figured out.

With that being said currently there are 117 departments that have been 100% paid departments and 25 Department only that have not submitted for renewal. In my opinion one of the biggest benefits of 100% membership is the AD&D Insurance so don't delay your renewal and if you are a department only consider being a 100% department membership.

I know there has been a lot of information we have sent out over the last few months; it is going to take some time to get the bugs worked out and



Samara Erickson,  
Secretary

"I have been busy updating rosters that have been sent to me but encourage all department admins to log in and update the rosters throughout the year if there are changes. If you need help navigating the login don't hesitate to contact me and we will get it figured out."

with change there is frustration. Please, please reach out to me if there is something I can help you with to navigate the dues renewal or anything in the mem-

ber center.

**SAMARA ERICKSON,**  
Secretary

# STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Grant Program:

It is essential for all departments receiving funding through the grant to gather their reimbursement requests along with the corresponding invoices and submit them to the State Fire Marshal's Office for processing and payment. All necessary documentation must be completed and submitted by the deadline of May 31st, 2025, to ensure timely reimbursement.

If you have any inquiries or issues related to the grant or reimbursement procedures, do not hesitate to contact our office at



Paul Merriman, State Fire Marshal

"It is essential for all departments receiving funding through the grant to gather their reimbursement requests along with the corresponding invoices and submit them to the State Fire Marshal's Office for processing and payment. All necessary documentation must be completed and submitted by the deadline of May 31st, 2025."

(605) 773-3876. Our team is committed to offering assistance and guidance to ensure a smooth experience throughout this process.

This grant program showcases the strong commitment of Governor Noem and the South Dako-

ta Legislature, highlighting their unwavering support for the safety and well-being of firefighters across the state.

Stay safe and take care!

**PAUL MERRIMAN,**  
State Fire Marshal

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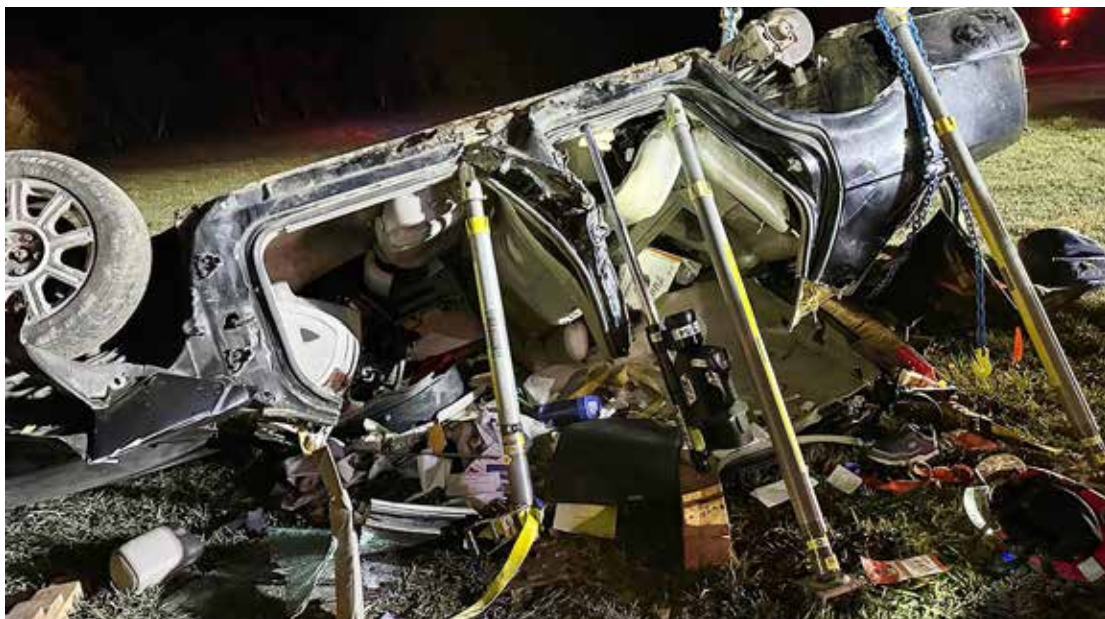




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## Vermillion crews respond to roll over

Busy final quarter for the members of Vermillion Fire & EMS. Rescue and EMS units were paged for a roll over in the county. Upon arrival, the first arriving officer located the vehicle which left the roadway and rolled into a field. Thankfully, a field approach was nearby and made for easy access and tool deployment. The unrestrained patient was found pinned inside the vehicle reporting moderate injuries. EMS personnel entered and began assessing the patient while an extrication plan was developed. HEMS was contacted due to mechanism of injuries. The patient was extricated safely and treated while the helicopter was on final. The patient was loaded with the assistance of Mercy One AirMed 4 and taken to the nearest trauma hospital. Patient received serious but not life-threatening injuries as a result of the crash. Crashed vehicle photo credit, Capt Kleinhesselink. Aircraft photo credit Division Chief Klunder.

## Lack of fire funds discussed

By JASON FERGUSON

A recurring theme was revisited at the Dec. 11 meeting of the Custer County Commission when Fairburn Fire Department Chief Clinton Rittberger came before the commission to discuss how inflation is hammering county departments in terms of keeping up with proper funding and equipment for those departments.

Rittberger referenced a recent meeting of the county's Fire Advisory Board, saying the board is intent on helping out the departments in any way he can, saying districting is one way of alleviating financial stress. The county already has a pair of fire districts in Fairburn and Hermosa (Battle Creek), and the Custer Volunteer Fire Department most recently appeared to be heading toward forming a district before the plan fell apart.

Rittberger said while the county has recently given fire departments some unexpected funding through "windfall money" such as the \$690,000 set aside a few years ago from surplus funds the county was required to spend down, the fire fund levy in the county of .204 is not keeping up with rising costs.

Rittberger said the \$3,000 the departments will receive above budget requests will be the first such increase in six years. However, Rittberger then cited some statistics regarding increase in costs, such as a 36 percent increase in the cost of mechanical expenses, and a 30 percent increase in buying used vehicles.

"I want to bring attention to the fact we are going to have to rely on something more than windfalls the commission has been giving," he said. "We are falling way behind the levy to support our department."

Rittberger said at his department there might have been 20 calls per year a decade ago, but that number has risen to 49 within the district and another 17 outside the district, much of which is medical calls and car accidents. The aforementioned levy is only for fire, he pointed out. "I'm only bringing attention to

something you're aware of, but this is something that is serious and coming into this next year we're going to have to seek some better financial assistance to help these fire departments," he said.

One department, he said, told the fire advisory board his department's expenses are 70 percent above what its budget is for the county. Rittberger said he would like to gather more solid data and then come back to the commission to show exactly where things are falling behind.

Of that initial \$690,000, \$90,000 was set aside for creation of a fire district, while \$325,000 was given to the Custer Volunteer Fire Department. Another \$250,000 is earmarked to help fund a new Argyle Volunteer Fire Department station, leaving around \$25,000 of those funds.

Rittberger also said the fire advisory board would like to see \$5,000 of the \$90,000 in money that was allocated specifically for implementation of the currently-shuttered fire district plan to be put back into the hands of the fire advisory board for allocation to the departments, more specifically, some that did not receive a portion of the initial \$690,000. Around \$75,000 would be held back for emergency.

"We aren't done with the district," commission chairman Jim Lintz said. "Until we are, we shouldn't disperse those funds."

"That's one of my concerns," commissioner Craig Hindle said, saying he also wanted to leave money for a future district push.

Custer County State's Attorney Tracy Kelley said some sort of some formal action would be needed to reallocate the earmarked money back to the Fire Advisory Board. Ultimately, around \$30,000 would be available for the allocation if the \$5,000 is reallocated.

"That would be fine," Rittberger said. "It was given by the commission. We're not going to start tipping chairs over if we don't get any."

The commission will investigate what is required for the reallocation of the funds.



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**2/3/2025 11:30 am Rapid City Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program Pipeline Safety Program (HSEEP)**  
Best Western Ramkota Hotel - 2111 N Lacrosse St, Rapid City (lunch)

**2/3/2025 5:30 pm Hot Springs First Responder Pipeline Training Program (Dinner)**  
St Anthony of Paduca Catholic Church - 538 University Ave, Hot Springs

**2/4/2025 5:30 pm Belle Fourche First Responder Pipeline Training Program (Dinner)**  
Branding Iron Steakhouse - 19079 S HWY 85, Belle Fourche

**2/5/2025 5:30 pm Buffalo First Responder Pipeline Training Program (Dinner)**  
Harding County REC Center - 204 Hodge St, Buffalo

**2/11/2025 11:30 am Pierre Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program Pipeline Safety Program (HSEEP)**  
Pierre Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center - 920 W Sioux Av. Pierre (Lunch)

**2/12/2025 5:30 pm Mobridge First Responder Pipeline Training Program (Dinner)**  
Scherr Howe Arena - 212 Main Street, Mobridge

**2/13/2025 11:30 am Aberdeen Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program Pipeline Safety Program (HSEEP)**  
Dakota Event Center - 720 Lamont Street South, Aberdeen (Lunch)

**2/18/2025 5:30 pm Huron First Responder Pipeline Training Program (Dinner)**  
The New Plains - 960 4th Street NE, Huron

**2/19/2025 11:30 am Mitchell First Responder Pipeline Training Program (Lunch)**  
Loyal Order of Moose - 516 W 15th Ave, Mitchell

**2/20/2025 5:30 pm Freeman First Responder Pipeline Training Program (Dinner)**  
Freeman Community Center - 224 S Wipf St, Freeman

**2/25/2025 11:30 am Sioux Falls Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program Pipeline Safety Program (HSEEP)**  
The Social - 301 S Thomson Avenue, Sioux Falls (Lunch)

**2/25/2025 5:30 pm Madison First Responder Pipeline Training Program (Dinner)**  
Dakota Prairie Playhouse- 1205 N Washington Ave, Madison

**2/26/2025 11:30 am Brookings First Responder Pipeline Training Program (Lunch)**  
Dacotah Bank Center - 821 32nd Ave, Brookings

**2/26/2025 5:30 pm Watertown First Responder Pipeline Training Program (Dinner)**  
Watertown Event Center - 1901 9th Avenue SW, Watertown

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## Downtown Brookings business lost to early morning fire

The Brookings Fire Department was called to a fire at 318 Main Avenue in Brookings on Dec. 30. According to social media, sirens were heard about 5:15 a.m. The fire seemed to be roaring in the rear of the Brost's Fashions. Brookings Fire Department brought two more fire trucks to fight the large blaze about 6 a.m. The Volga Fire Department was also called for additional support. There were no reports of tenants from the apartments involved in the fire. Early reports suggest the fire had been contained to the rear of the building but the entire structure became involved in flame. It is not known whether the fire spread to the adjacent businesses, but smoke seems to have permeated The Exchange and Seven Songbirds as smoke could be seen escaping through attic vents on the face of each building. Nearby businesses include The Exchange, Seven Songbirds Boutique as well as Johnson & Richter Creative, The Nook, Limestone and Estheva Spa Therapies in the Grunewaldt Properties LLC building. Pasque on the corner of 4th street and Main is closed due to water and debris in front of the store. Owners from several of the affected businesses were on hand, including Kevin Grunewaldt. Photo credit: Kade Waltz



## Colome Volunteer Fire Department Holds Elections

The Colome Volunteer Fire Department held its elections Jan. 14, 2025.

- Re-elected were:
- Fire Chief Glenn Sealey
- First Assistant Chief Kurtis Atteberry
- Second Assistant Chief Wayne Hofeldt
- Secretary/Treasurer Matt Bolie
- Training Officer Nash Atteberry.





Box Elder responded to a one-story with a basement residential structure fire on Dec. 31 at 2317. They spent "two years" working on this fire, since they didn't clear the call until the early morning hours of January 1. No injuries or fatalities. Submitted by Matthew Emrich.

# Box Elder Structure Fire

The Box Elder Volunteer Fire Department responded to a report of fire and smoke visible from a residential structure in the 2200 block of Coyote Trail, Box Elder SD, 57719.

First arriving firefighters found a free burning fire with a heavy smoke condition, issuing from the single story, residential structure with fire extending into the ceiling and roof assembly.

Rapid attack by firefighters contained the fire to the structure of origin, stopping the spread of the flames to nearby structures, infrastructure and other improvements.

The American Red Cross Serving Central and Western South Dakota, family and neighbors are assisting the residents.

No reports of injuries to firefighters, civilians or domestic animal were reported.

Agencies responding included Pennington County 911, Box El-

der Volunteer Fire Department, Box Elder Police Department, Box Elder Public Works, Black Hawk Volunteer Fire Department, United States Air force 28<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing / Ellsworth Air Force Base Fire Department, Whispering Pines Volunteer Fire Department, Rapid Valley Volunteer Fire Department, the Rapid City Fire Department and Ambulance Service, North Haines Volunteer Fire Department, The New Underwood Volunteer Fire Department.

The American Red Cross Serving Central and Western South Dakota, Black Hills Energy, Montana Dakota Utilities.

Please maintain your smoke and CO detectors, keep them clean, free of dust and dirt. When you change your clock, change detector batteries. Replace the entire detector after 10 years or you suspect they are failing or faulty.

## Fire near Fort Randall Casino has temporarily shut down operations

Blaze at Yankton Sioux Tribe Recycling Center contained without major injuries or further damage

A fire that broke out near the Fort Randall Casino in Wagner on Tuesday afternoon temporarily halted operations at the popular gaming venue. The fire, which started around noon, was located at the Yankton Sioux Tribe (YST) Recycling Center, situated just east of the casino along Highway 46.

According to Mike Kotab, the Charles Mix County Emergency Disaster Manager, the fire was contained to the recycling center. The facility, which houses various pieces of equipment, was the site of a significant fire outbreak next to a propane tank. Kotab confirmed that because the fire occurred on tribal land, the

Charles Mix Emergency Management team did not play an active role in the incident, though multiple local fire departments were involved in the response.

Fire crews from Lake Andes, Ravinia and Wagner responded to the scene, working together to contain the fire. As of approximately 2 p.m., all units had

cleared the area, and control of the site was handed back to the landowner. While the cause of the fire remains under investigation, the damage to the recycling center appears significant, with several pieces of equipment reportedly destroyed.

Danielle Zephier, an employee at the recycling center, shared that the loss includes two balers, a skid steer and various tools.

"Right now, we're just in shock. Might cry later," Zephier said. "Thankfully the propane tank didn't catch on fire, or things could have been worse."

The Fort Randall Casino took to social media to express its thanks to the local fire departments and emergency management teams for their quick and efficient response. A message posted on the casino's Facebook page read, "We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the fire departments and emergency management for their swift and efficient response to the fire at the YST recycling center. Your dedication and bravery in ensuring the safety of our community do not go unnoticed. Thank you for your unwavering commitment and service."

Cardboard, newspaper, plastic, bottles, paper, aluminum, cans, metal and cans from local businesses and organizations, including Wagner Indian Health Service, Gus Stop II in Lake Andes and the Yankton Sioux Tribe administration building.

(Mitchell Daily Republic, Mitchell, Jan. 8, 2025)



## Harrisburg awards night

Harrisburg Community Fire Department held their annual awards night on January 11. Award winners from left to right are: Jacob Schroedermeier, EMT of the Year; Eric Gast, Firefighter of the Year; Chief Cody Lengkeek standing in for Shanden Reiners, Rookie of the Year; Jason Gordon, Chief's Award; and Paul Coon, Friend of the Fire Department. Submitted by Taylor Berg.



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# Rockerville Area Structure Fire Escalates to Two Alarms

The Rockerville Volunteer Fire Department responded to a report of a structure fire, in the 13000 block of Earl Court, unincorporated Pennington County South Dakota.

Upon arrival Firefighters found an active fire in a residential structure with heavy fire and smoke conditions.

Firefighters, facing freezing temperatures and snow packed ice covered roads, stopped the spread of the fire, containing it to the structure of origin.

The American Red Cross Serving Central and Western South Dakota, family and neighbors are assisting the residents.

No injuries to Firefighters, civilians, or livestock was reported, unfortunately one domestic animal did perish as a result of the fire.

Please maintain your smoke and CO detectors, keep them clean, free of dust and dirt. When you change your clock, change detector batteries. Replace the entire detector after 10 years or you suspect they are failing or faulty.

**AGENCIES RESPONDING:**

Pennington County 911, Rockerville Volunteer Fire Department, Hill City Volunteer Fire Department, Whispering Pines Volunteer Fire Department, Rapid City Fire Department, Keystone Ambulance Service, Battle Creek Fire Department, Johnson Siding Volunteer Fire Department, North Haines Volunteer Fire Department, Rapid Valley Volunteer Fire Department, Black Hills Electrical Cooperative, Pennington County Sheriffs Office, South Dakota Highway Patrol, South Dakota Department of Transportation, Pennington County Highway Department, Montana Dakota Utilities, neighbors, and American Red Cross Serving Central and Western South Dakota.

The Rockerville Volunteer Fire Department responded to a report of a structure fire on January 6. Photo courtesy of Rockerville Volunteer Fire Department.



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# Salem and Spencer Fire Departments respond to devastating fire at M&S Trailers

Fire departments from Salem and Spencer were called into action Friday morning, Dec. 27, 2024, to battle a structure fire at M&S Trailers, located at 25457 435th Avenue, west of Salem.

The fire caused extensive damage, with owners Brad and Judy Bailey reporting the loss of tools, trucks, and equipment valued at over \$250,000. The destruction of inventory and resources poses a significant challenge for the Baileys as they work to recover.

The Baileys have been a part of the Salem community since 2001. Brad, who initially commuted to Sioux Falls for work, has been with M&S Trailers for 25 years. In 2015, he purchased the business and relocated it to its current site in Salem. His three sons often lend a hand, making it a family-run operation.

Since its founding in 1989, M&S Trailers has built a strong reputation in Sioux Falls and the surrounding areas for crafting

high-quality car trailers, motorcycle trailers, hydraulic dump trailers, gooseneck trailers, and custom trailers at competitive prices.

Brad shared that three trailer orders were already scheduled for the new year, but now he must assess the damage before determining how to proceed. This time of year is typically one of the busiest for M&S Trailers, with demand peaking around the holidays and leading into spring.

Setbacks are common in businesses, moving forward is hard, so any kind of help is appreciated.

The Baileys expressed heartfelt thanks to their neighbors and the local firefighters who assisted during the crisis. Small town communities have always been known for coming together in times of need.

If you would like to support the Baileys in their rebuilding efforts, or just lend a kind ear to

them you can reach out to them at 605-336-3233 or visit them at 25457 435th Avenue, Salem. Additionally, their granddaughter, Autumn Hickey of Chamberlain, is setting up a GoFundMe campaign to help with recovery efforts.

*(The Special, Salem, Jan. 2, 2025; written by Carla Snyders, staff writer.)*



## Midland VFD receives grant

Midland Volunteer Fire Department received a grant of \$3,360 to purchase two AEDs from the Midland Community Foundation. One will be located at the fire hall and the other in Midland's unit four. With heart attacks being the one of the leading causes of first responder deaths, a goal is to equip all Midland fire trucks with an AED. Also at the check presentation, a check was presented from the 1880 town of \$425. These funds were raised through a Halloween event the local tourist attraction sponsors.

## BURNABLE METAL THROWS WAUBAY FIREFIGHTERS FOR A LOOP

Arriving on scene to a vehicle fire Dec. 21, Waubay firefighters were presented with what fire chief Adam Jorgenson called a "tricky fire." Firefighter Carsten Zirbel applied water to the Chrysler Town & Country van which caught fire about 5 p.m. in front of the Waubay laundromat along U.S. Highway 12 in Waubay.

According to Jorgenson, the fire took longer to contend with than usual on account of the body panels on the inside of the vehicle being made of magnesium which is a burnable metal. Half a dozen firemen attended the scene for over an hour and a half. There were no occupants of the vehicle and no injuries. The vehicle is considered a complete loss.

The cause of the fire, according to Jorgenson, is unknown.

*(Webster Reporter and Farmer, Webster, Dec. 30, 2024)*

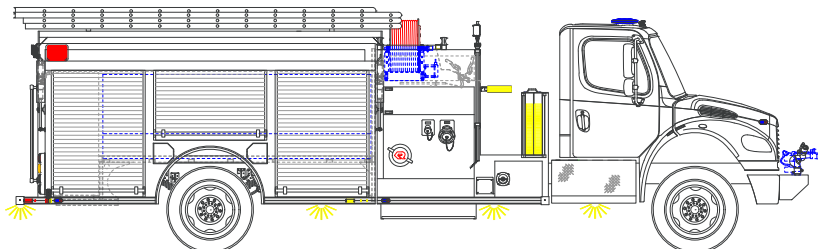
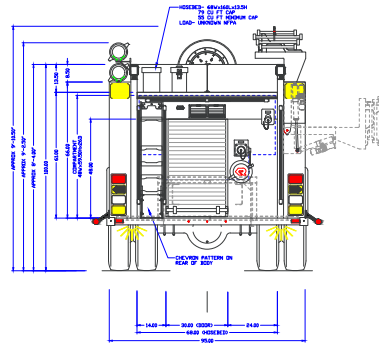
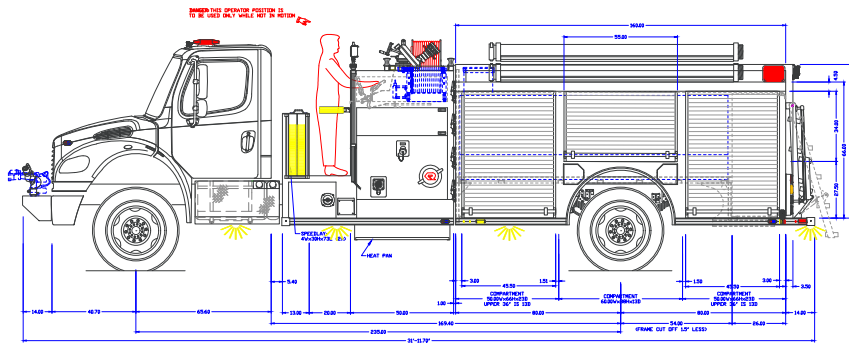


## Chancellor firefighter retires

After 61 years of dedicated service to the Chancellor Community Fire Department, Harvey Jongeling has decided to retire. South Dakota Firefighters Association President Charlie Kludt (right) is shown presenting Harvey with his SDFA Lifetime Membership Achievement Award.

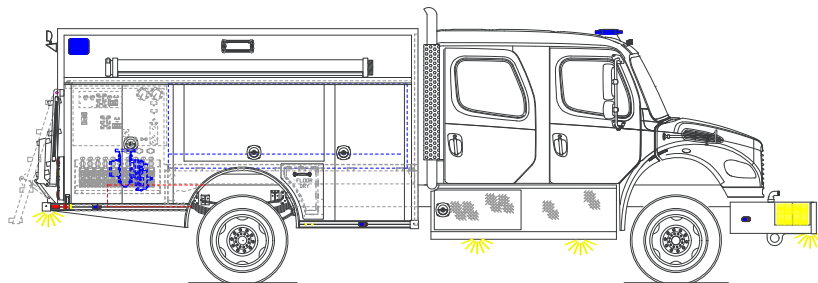
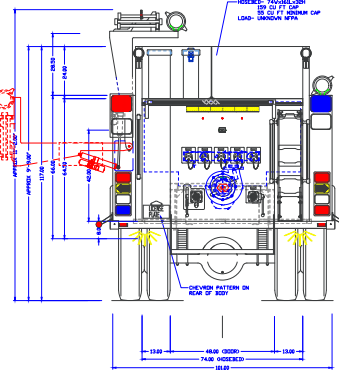
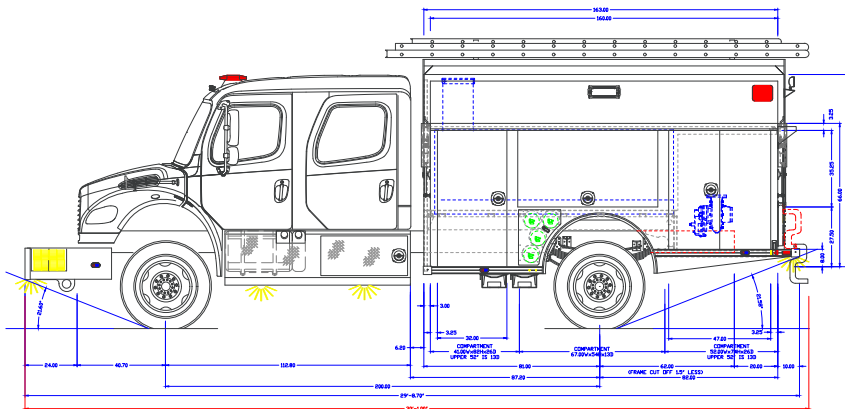


# RECENT SALES



**PARKSTON FIRE DEPT**  
**ROSENBAUER PUMPER**

APPROVED BY:	
CHASSIS:	FREIGHTLINER
PUMP:	ROSENBAUER 1250 GPM
TANK:	POLY/1000/20(FOAM)
PANEL MATL:	STAINLESS STEEL
COMP INTERIOR:	SPATTER PAINTED
MAXIMUM HEIGHT:	NONE
MAXIMUM LENGTH:	NONE
BODY WIDTH:	95"
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<b>PARKSTON FIRE DEPT., SD</b>	
<span style="font-size: small;">ROSENBAUER FX 1/8" 1412-D</span>	



**ROCKERVILLE FIRE**  
**ROSENBAUER PUMPER**

APPROVED BY:	
CHASSIS:	FREIGHTLINER
PUMP:	WATEROUS 1250 GPM
TANK:	POLY/1000/20(FOAM)
PANEL MATL:	STAINLESS STEEL
COMP INTERIOR:	DA SANDED
MAXIMUM HEIGHT:	11'6"
MAXIMUM LENGTH:	30' 5"
BODY WIDTH:	101"
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<b>ROCKERVILLE, SD</b>	
<span style="font-size: small;">ROSENBAUER FX 1/8" 1847-D</span>	

**Contact your Heiman Fire Partner for more info!**



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