

South Dakota FIREFIGHTER



**"SERVING FIREFIGHTERS
FROM THE WESTERN HILLS
TO THE EASTERN PLAINS"**

WWW.SDFIREFIGHTERS.ORG

JANUARY 2025 • VOL. 17 - NO. 11

REACHING MORE THAN 6,900 SOUTH DAKOTA FIREFIGHTERS EACH MONTH



A shop fire west of Huron on Dec. 10 brought response from the Huron Fire Department, Huron Rural, Wolsey and Cavour Fire Departments. See more photos inside.



**APPARATUS | BRUSH TRUCKS
PPE | RESCUE | SERVICE**

Quality
firefighting products
since 1994

mtfiresafety.com
tel 605-627-5165 | toll free 800-223-0792





Handline Handling 101

By JEFF SHUPE

For clarity, this grip actually evolved from the use of very light, thin jacketed hose that would kink/whip if you didn't support it. Measure out the hose and nozzle so the bale hand finger tips can just get over in front of the tip. Your hands should be supporting the line behind the coupling to avoid a whip/kink. Flowing at 160 (and likely less with "that smaller" tip) is pretty easy without any technique at all but that's a really bad training scar when you move up to the larger hose....or AMERICA'S TIP 15/16...3 points of contact on the hose. Your chest, inside of your arm and the hand grip on the hose. Keep the hose side foot back enough to make the appropriate angle, and your stance wide enough for balance (see the picture for the angle of the hose line mirroring the angle of the hose side leg).

This grip is actually easier with the 2.5 once you train with it as there is a lot more surface area and weight in the 2.5... the key for the king of hose lines is to keep the nozzle pointed up (where the stream is needed) especially when opening, so any nozzle reaction goes down into the floor. The 2" flowing over 250 is where you will find out if your grip needs adjustment as the NR is not backed up by the weight and surface area of the heavier 2.5. The back up man needs to keep the hose on the floor behind the nozzle man when he is oper-

ating the nozzle.

The 2" hose! Treating the middle child of the hose family like a 1.75 is a bad idea, especially if you are trained to whip that nozzle with too much hose in front of your grip. 250 - 270 gpm has the same NR no matter the hose size behind it. Show some love and keep the nozzle supported.

BIO

Our crew provides a wide variety of different backgrounds and experiences, from the busiest engine companies to small city fire departments. Together, we have over 175 years of fire experience. We all share a common belief and passion towards engine company concept. Each member has been hand selected by Jeff Shupe. Together, we teach the principles and practices of engine company discipline[s]. Our mission is simple, kill the fire! Our goal is to share our experiences, as well as lessons from those who came before us. We believe in aggressive firefighting. We are dedicated to the basics of firefighting. We are mentally prepared to "KILL THE FIRE". Our philosophy is "keep your firefighting simple."

Simplicity=Efficiency

ACTION FIRE PHOTOS NEEDED!

Please send them to jeff@southdakotafirefighter.com along with information to explain the photo.

Register Now for the 2025 NVFC Training Summit

Travel stipends available

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is excited to announce that registration is now open for the 2025 NVFC Training Summit taking place June 20-21 in Salt Lake City, UT. This signature conference provides an opportunity for firefighters and EMS providers to participate in valuable classroom training, idea sharing, and networking. Three learning tracks will focus on responder health and safety, volunteer recruitment and retention, and emergency service leadership.

The Summit includes two days of classroom-based breakout sessions with nationally-known instructors, keynote speakers, general sessions, networking events, and a vendor expo. The agenda features a selection of 18 courses relating to critical topics impacting the volunteer emergency services, with a focus on physical and behavioral health, working within NFPA standards, onboarding new volunteer responders, best practices for retaining volunteers, and leadership.

While the Training Summit is a great value, the NVFC recognizes that cost can be a challenge. To remove this barrier and help offset the costs, stipends are available that reimburse up to \$800 of conference-related expenses, including hotel, airfare/mile-age/transportation, and the event registration fee. To be eligible for a stipend, you must be a current member of the NVFC. Not a member? Join by Jan. 1 for just \$21 at www.nvfc.org/join (as of Jan. 2, 2025, the rate is \$24).

The 2025 NVFC Training Summit will be held at the Salt Lake City Marriott City Center. The hotel is in downtown Salt Lake City, just a short walk from tourist attractions, coffee shops, restaurants, and a light rail station to take you across the city. The event will kick off with an ice cream social and registration on June 19 and include a networking social event after classes on June 20. Throughout the event, attendees will have the opportunity to visit vendor tables. Sponsorships are available.

Learn more about the 2025 NVFC Training Summit, register, and apply for a stipend

at www.nvfc.org/summit. Questions? Contact Rachel Buczynski, NVFC chief of training and education, at rachel@nvfc.org.

ABOUT THE NVFC

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is the leading nonprofit membership association representing the interests of the volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services. The NVFC serves as the voice of the volunteer in the national arena and provides critical resources, programs, education, and advocacy for first responders across the nation. Learn more at www.nvfc.org.

For ADDRESS CHANGES CONTACT:
Samara Erickson
605-940-1795
Samarajo1982@gmail.com

Published monthly by Blaze Publications Inc.
NEWS & ADVERTISING DEADLINE:
15TH DAY OF EACH MONTH
 Email: jeff@southdakotafirefighter.com
 P.O. Box 122, Humboldt, IA 50548

Advertising Rate Card available upon request.
 We welcome your views, opinions, news tips and questions.
 Letters to the editor must be accompanied by a name and daytime telephone number, and may be edited for space.

INSURANCE SOLUTIONS FOR FIRE & EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Introducing FirstFireServices™ by Intact Public Entities formerly known as OneBeacon Government Risks.

Coverages Include:

- General Liability
- Management Liability
- Automobile
- Property
- Inland Marine
- Excess Liability

Eligible Classes:

- Volunteer
- Career
- Combination
- Partial Paid

EXCLUSIVELY OFFERED IN THE DAKOTAS BY:

Acrisure LLC, | EVAN ROBERTS
 email: elroberts@acrisure.com

Beresford City & Fire Department upgrades the 1989 ladder truck

By TARZ MULLINIX,
Past Chief

Due to imminent age, deteriorating mechanical condition, and the limited availability of replacement parts. It was determined that the apparatus was in critical need of immediate replacement. After discussions and studies involving a replacement, evaluating the expense of a new apparatus, and a two-year

build-out timeline, necessitated a search for a dependable used apparatus that would best suit the needs of the fire department.

The replacement truck is a 2006 "E-One" 75' Aerial Ladder Truck. The reach of the ladder is less than the old unit but provides more flexibility for our service area. The pumping capacity is 1750 GPM which is significantly more than the old unit and will help enhance the ISO rating of the FD / City which is at a class 5. Up-to-date NFPA certi-

fications and test were completed by the seller. The new unit has been placed into service and operational training has been completed.

The firefighters would like to express their gratitude and thanks to the city council and mayor for their prompt attention with this matter and the enhancement for their safety. The old unit has been declared surplus and is for sale as is per the city's guidelines.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- JAN. 10-12, 2025:** Rushmore Fire Conference, Box Elder.
- FEB. 7-9, 2025:** Les Lukert Conference, Kearney, NE.
- JUNE 12-14, 2025:** South Dakota State Fire School, Watertown.
- SEPT. 21-25, 2025:** NVFC Fall Board meeting, Rapid City.




What's an inch tall and can move a fire truck?

A classified ad in the South Dakota Firefighter!

Email jeff@southdakotafirefighter.com to get your truck moving fast!

First Responders, their spouse, and dependents are eligible for FREE & CONFIDENTIAL services.

CONFIDENTIAL, FREE, THERE FOR YOU!

CONNECTIONS^{INC}

First Responders Assistance Program | First Responders & Family Solutions

info@connectionseap.com
www.connectionseap.com
Call today: 800-779-6125

Helping Your Family Find solutions:

- Stress
- Chemical & Substance Abuse
- Emotional Problems
- Marriage & Family Issues
- Post Traumatic Stress
- In-person Counseling or Telehealth
- Anxiety & Depression
- Mental Health

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.

• **JOHN WALSH**, 60, Pittsburgh, PA, died Nov. 20, 2024. John was a career firefighter with the rank of Battalion Chief for the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire and had attained 37 years of service. On Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024, Battalion Chief John Walsh was in command of a house fire when he collapsed. He was immediately transported to the hospital where he passed away. The cause of his death has yet to be determined.

• **STEPHEN MICHAEL PAVETTI**, 58, Apollo, PA, died Nov. 21, 2024. Steven was a volunteer firefighter with 18 years of service and 3rd Assistant Chief with Kiski Township Fire Department #1. On Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024, starting at 5:33 p.m., Assistant Chief Stephen Michael Pavetti responded to multiple calls for trees and wires down, with the last call at 8:03 p.m. After the calls were completed, Assistant Chief Pavetti and others from the department returned to the station, cleaned the apparatus, and put it back in service. They then had dinner together at the station. At approximately 3:30 p.m. the next day, Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024, Assistant Chief Pavetti was found unresponsive at his home where he was pronounced deceased from a cardiac event.

• **JOHNNY ALVIN GOINES**, 69, Jacksonville, NC, died Nov. 23, 2024. Johnny was a volunteer firefighter with 50 years of service with the Verona Volunteer Fire Department. On Friday, Nov. 22, 2024, Firefighter Johnny Alvin Goines responded to an emergency call made at 10:46 p.m. reporting a motor vehicle accident. A second emergency call was made at 11:05 p.m. reporting a vehicle in a ditch. Verona Volunteer Fire Department and Onslow County Emergency Medical Services responded to the second call and found Firefighter Goines unresponsive inside of his vehicle. He was returning home from the first call when he was found. Firefighter Goines was immediately transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased in the early morning hours of Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024. The cause of his death has yet to be determined.

• **HENRY SARDINA, III**, 46, Hopatcong, NJ, died Nov. 24, 2024. Henry was a volunteer firefighter with 13 years of service with the Hopatcong Fire Department and currently held the rank of captain. On Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024, Captain Henry Sardina, III was leading an in-station drill when he suffered an apparent heart attack. He went unresponsive, CPR was immediately performed, and he was revived. He was then transported to the hospital but suffered additional complications and cardiac emergencies in the days that followed. He passed away while still hospitalized on Sunday, Nov. 24, 2024.

• **GEORGE TURLEY**, 58, Chattanooga, TN, died Dec. 14, 2024. George was a career firefighter with 31 years of service with the Chattanooga Fire Department. On Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024, Captain George Turley was performing physical fitness activities while working at the fire station when he collapsed. Aid was immediately rendered by colleagues, and he was then transported to the local hospital where he was pronounced deceased a short time later. The cause of his death has yet to be determined.

• **RICHARD "RICK" SANDERS**, 48, Winchester, IN, died Dec. 12, 2024. Richard was a volunteer firefighter with 16 years of service with the Winchester Fire Department. On Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024, Firefighter Richard "Rick" Sanders responded to a two-story residential structure fire. While operating at the scene, Firefighter Sanders began not feeling well. He was immediately taken to an ambulance, where he collapsed into cardiac arrest. He was then transported to St. Vincent Ascension Hospital, where he was pronounced deceased.

• **RALPH MEYER**, 72, Osgood, IN, died Dec. 4, 2024. Ralph was a volunteer firefighter with 58 years of service with the Napoleon Volunteer Fire Company. On Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024, Firefighter Ralph Meyer responded to the scene of a structure fire. He then returned home. The next morning, Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024, he suffered a heart attack and was immediately transported to the local hospital where he passed away. Firefighter Meyer previously served as the fire chief and his son is currently the Chief.

• **ROBERT "BOB" CHANDLER**, 58, Anchorage, AK, died Nov. 27, 2024. Robert was the current chief of the Red Dog Mine Fire Department and had attained 15 years of career service. On Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2024, Chief Robert "Bob" Chandler was teaching a class when he began to feel ill. Colleagues did a patient medical assessment and obtained a base set of vitals; everything was within normal limits. The next day, Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2024, Chief Chandler was found deceased in his quarters from a cardiovascular emergency.

SDFA OFFICER REPORTS

By now you know I have a large collection of stories, that used to be put into service for sermons. Now, they serve another purpose. This one is one of those that I just can't forget. Soon after Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes retired, he had his legal secretary, Dean Acheson, come to read to him. Holmes chose Plato's Symposium to be read to him. Acheson was not at all enthusiastic about the choice and asked why they should take that as their text. Justice Holmes replied to Acheson, "To improve our minds, sonny!" I like Justice Holmes' approach to learning. You see somewhere along the line I managed to spend a lot of time in formal education. When I was in High School, I was anxious to be done. Then came college and I set my sights on a Master's Degree. That was to be enough for me, once I graduated, I swore I would never darken the door of an institution of learning. But then came a second master's degree, then someone suggested Doctoral studies, and then came this Licensed Marriage and Family, title. While I often joke that I am educated beyond my competency, what I learned along the way is how much I don't know. There are times when we think people with advanced degrees know a lot. However, what I learned is I know a lot about a small subject. It also taught me to fall in love with learning. So now, like Justice Holmes, I am pretty addicted to learning.

What does that have to do with us in the Fire Service? A little over a year ago, our department taught Fire Fighter Essentials, I offered to teach ropes and ladders, as that was about the only thing that hadn't changed in the past 30 years. To my surprise, things had changed and I had to learn some new tricks. I wonder if we apply the same principles to our chaplaincy programs? You see there is no State delineated "Fire Chaplain 1 and 2" like we have for our firefighters. There is no core curriculum that says this is what a trained chaplain looks like. I am not going to start lobbying for that either. However, what I would suggest is that when a department looks for someone to serve as chaplain, that there is a body of knowledge and a level of training that should be expected.

Why do I even suggest this? For one, as firefighters, you are professionals, whether paid or volunteer. There is a body of knowledge you have to learn and be tested on to be called a "Certified Firefighter". You don't just show up at the station and say "I'm a firefighter" without demonstrating the appropriate training. Given that we would not accept a self-proclaimed Firefighter, why would a department take a self-proclaimed Chaplain? As someone who has invested over 160 hours of training, just to reach the bottom rung of the "Instructor Ladder" of Federation of Fire Chaplain's organization, and then countless hours beyond that in teaching, attending classes, and gaining more insight into what it means to be a chaplain, I believe the chaplain's Corp should demonstrate the same dedication to



Rodney Veldhuizen, Chaplain

"...as firefighters, you are professionals, whether paid or volunteer. There is a body of knowledge you have to learn and be tested on to be called a "Certified Firefighter". You don't just show up at the station and say "I'm a firefighter" without demonstrating the appropriate training. Given that we would not accept a self-proclaimed Firefighter, why would a department take a self-proclaimed Chaplain?"

training and learning that the firefighter's do.

What is a good base line for training? What would a "Probationary Chaplain" need to know? Let me outline the Federation of Fire Chaplain's two-day training outline. First a chaplain needs to know they serve in a long line of servant leaders. That "chaplain" is not a title, it is a place of service to the Firefighters. As much as any training, a Chaplain is someone who understands the value and place of serving others. Then a chaplain needs to know the unique circumstances of serving firefighters. Over the years I have come to appreciate the unique personality that is required to be a first responder. If the chaplain does not know the unique personality of firefighters, they will never be effective. Chaplain's also need to know how to support victims of fires and other emergency situations. I served as the pastor of a church for over 35 years, and nothing I learned in Seminary prepared me to support victims of disasters. Then there is what I call "Chaplain Ops". That is how do I get to the scene, what do I do when I am on scene? What kind of things do I need with me? So on and so forth. (This part of a class usually takes a couple of hours, as this is not common sense and you don't want the chaplain parking on the hose!) I generally then give them an introduction to Critical Incident Stress Management, generally just enough so they understand there is still more to learn. The final area in the essentials class is what to do in terms of firefighter injury or death. At the end of this inten-

sive two-day training, I remind this new taught group of "probationary chaplains", that this was just a 30,000-foot overview, and nowhere even scratches the surface of the body of knowledge needed to serve firefighters. Why tell them that? To remind them to keep learning, to keep seeking out more training, to become the best they can be. I want my trainees to know that the learning and training they have received is just the beginning.

At the end of the day, we are all grownups and I am not about to become the Fire Chaplain training "Nazi". However, when you consider sending your newly recruited chaplain for training, take the time to look over the credentials of who is offering the training. Look at the curriculum and see what is covered. Then remember, just because the person is trained, they are not the chaplain until the men and women of the department call them "Chaplain."

I also want to add a thank you to all for the opportunity to write for this group. I am humbled every time I have an opportunity to assemble one of these articles. To be honest, from month to month I never quite know what is going to come up, I have to depend on research, and a little "sanctified common sense." As we begin this year let me end with an old Jewish blessing: "The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance on you and give you peace."

Chaplain
RODNEY VELDHIJZEN

One person displaced after Spearfish structure fire Sunday

Early Sunday morning, a Spearfish home caught fire at Creekside Village Place.

Spearfish firefighters were dispatched when smoke was reported at 4:45 a.m.

By the time first responders arrived, the resident and their pet had made it safely outside, thanks to alerts from a working smoke alarm inside.

Spearfish firefighters, assisted by crews from Deadwood and Whitewood, were able to stop the fire's progression – keeping

flames contained to the building where they originated.

The fire was extinguished, and its cause is under investigation; first responders do not believe foul play was involved.

One person was displaced by the fire; they are being assisted by the American Red Cross and the Spearfish Fire Auxiliary, according to a statement from the Spearfish Fire Department.

(Spearfish Black Hills Pioneer, Spearfish, Nov. 27, 2024)

DEPARTED FIREFIGHTERS

Gerald Kammerer

Oct. 11, 2023

Silver City Volunteer Fire Department, Firefighter, Gerald "Jake" Kammerer, 78, died Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023, in Silver City, SD.

Born in Rapid City, Jake was raised on the Kammerer homestead on Elk Creek and attended Cathedral High School. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

He married Anita Schweigert in 1970 and settled in Rapid Valley to raise their family. In their free

time, Jake and Anita enjoyed dancing together, playing cards, home improvement projects, and visiting family and friends.

Firefighter Kammerer worked at Black Hills Packing Co. during the day, operated a janitorial service during the evening, and ran a mobile fleet washing company on the weekend. He later worked 22 years as head custodian at Canyon Lake Elementary. Upon entering retirement, Jake worked at St. Thomas More Middle School until a congenital heart defect forced him to fully retire in 2018.

When he wasn't at his day or night job, Jake was lending a helping hand to family, friends, or anyone that needed one. Jake was a man with an utterly selfless heart. He was a passionate advocate for justice and learning, frequently found reading, contemplating social issues, and advocating for positive change.

Drawn to the peace of the Hills, Jake and Anita moved to

their forever home in Silver City in 2004. Less from habit and more from a deep intention, Jake would frequently remark on his awe of nature, the beauty of silence, and the marvel of the woods and forces around him. He had a steadfast devotion to his faith and a deep compassion for all things Good.



Jake is survived by his daughters: Tonya (John) Gomez of Silver City; Lori (Travis) Phillips of Cedar Rapids, IA; Tara Kammerer of Rapid City; and Desiree Jacob of Dallas, TX. He is also survived by his sister Arlene Boetker and brothers Marvin, Maurice "Monk", and John Kammerer, all of Rapid City. Grandpa will be missed by Sophia Gomez, Olivia Gomez, Sam Phillips, Celia Phillips, Kyra (Landon) Hood, Taj Jacob, and also by his beloved nieces and nephews.

Firefighter Kammerer was preceded in death by the love of his life, Anita; parents, Fred and Susan Kammerer; brother, Edward Kammerer; and sisters, Eva McAllister, Rosemary Liston, Shirley Harbin, Deloris Komarek, and Joan Kline.

Memorial Mass was held at Blessed Sacrament Church on Oct. 21, 2023.

Burial at Black Hills National Cemetery will be held at a future date.

Father Daniel G. Juelfs

1946-2024

Father Daniel G. Juelfs, Fire Chaplain, passed away on Sept. 10, 2024, at the age of 77.

He was born Nov. 25, 1946, in Aberdeen, to Norbert and Adelaide (Callaghan) Juelfs. He was raised on a farm/ranch in Harding County. He received Baptism and First Communion at St. Eulalia Church, Ralph, SD and received Confirmation at St. Anthony Church, Buffalo, SD.

In 1965, he graduated from St. Mary High School, New England, ND. He completed two years at St. John Vianney Seminary, Elkhorn, NE and six years at St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, MN. He earned his Canon Law degree after studying at St. Paul University in Ottawa, Canada from 1996-1998.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Harold J. Dimmerling on June 8, 1973, at St. Isidore Catholic Church in Ralph. During his years of ministry, he served 26 parishes in Perkins, Corson, Butte, Ziebach, Meade, and Pennington Counties before retiring from full-time parish ministry in 2021.

Father Dan, as he was known by most, also served in various diocesan ministries, including judicial vicar, vicar general, vicar for clergy, College of Consultors, the presbyteral council, and finally as diocesan administrator. He served as vicar general for then-Bishop Blase Cupich and Bishop Robert Gruss reappointed him. On June 11, 2023, he celebrated a Mass of thanksgiving for his 50th anniversary of priesthood.

In 1973, he and the late Fr. Dale Kutil were instrumental in purchasing a house to serve as the

Newman center, where he served as director.

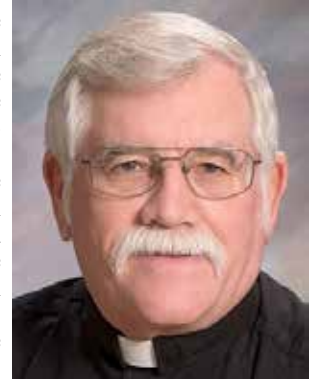
His ministry included Marriage Encounter chaplain and longtime Fire Chaplain for the Rapid City Fire Department.

He was eligible for retirement in 2016 but continued to serve in Eagle Butte and its seven mission parishes due to a shortage of priests. Later, he was assigned as parish administrator in Wall and then in Lemmon.

Father Dan retired from parish work in 2021 but continued to serve on the tribunal as defender of the bond and to provide sacramental coverage for parishes as needed.

Following the death of Bishop Peter Muhich, the College of Con-

sultors of the Diocese of Rapid City elected Father Dan to lead the diocese on Feb. 19, 2024.



He is survived by one sister, Marcia (Dale) Hochhalter, Brooklyn Park, MN; and two brothers, Gregory Juelfs (Dena), Buffalo, SD, and Vincent Juelfs (Karen), Huron, SD.

Father Dan was predeceased by his parents, Norbert and Adelaide (Leone) and his sister, Noreen.

A vigil service was held on Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2024, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City. A Christian Funeral Mass was celebrated at on Thursday, Sept. 19 at the Cathedral.

Burial was at the Priests' Cemetery at Terra Sancta.

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.



FOR SALE: 2003 HME 450 HP, 1500 pump, 1-K tank, loaded with options. **Jeff Sander 712-420-9945 FF-1**

John Sonne

1972-2024 - Ethan VFD

John Sonne, 52, of Ethan, SD, passed away Nov. 26, 2024, at his home in Ethan. Funeral services were held Dec. 5, at First United Methodist Church in Mitchell with arrangements by Bittner Funeral Chapel.

John Allen Sonne was born March 13, 1972, to David and Gayla (North) Sonne in Mitchell, SD.

John lived with his friends while attending high school in Ethan. After graduating from Ethan High School, he attended Mitchell Technical Institute for welding.

John met Mashell (Wittstruck) Sonne at the Ethan Street Dance. John raised Anthony Donovan as his own son, and John and Mashell had four more children, Tabitha, Gabby, Makayla, and CJ. His kids were his whole world, always at every event, and always right behind to support



them.

John worked at MDS in Parkston for four years and Hendrickson in Mitchell for 20 years.

John loved racing, fishing, camping, and hanging out with his friends and family. He always lit up the room he entered and could always put a smile on anyone's face. He loved being a firefighter and helping people. John was a proud member of the Ethan Methodist Church and Ethan Fire Department.

John is survived by his sons, Anthony Donovan of Sioux Falls, SD and Christopher Sonne of Tea/Ethan, SD; daughters, Tabitha Sonne, Gabriel Sonne, and Makayla Sonne all of Sioux Falls; sisters, Wanda Wubbena of Rock Rapids, IA and Samantha Baseier; and his father, David Sonne.

Benefits of being a 100% Department Member

When you pay your department dues, there are many advantages for your firefighters. Below is just one of the many.

INSURANCE

100% Membership provides the following:

- Basic \$10,000 of Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) insurance — 24 hrs/day
- Purchase up to \$250,000 additional AD&D
- \$10K of Line of Duty Health and AD&D, fire related health incidents, i.e. heart attack, stroke, other.

If you haven't paid your dues, it's not too late!

SDFA OFFICER DIRECTORY

PRESIDENT
CHARLIE KLUDT
 P.O. Box 606
 Viborg, SD 57070
 605-326-5072 Home
 605-940-1087 Cell
 Pres@sdfirefighters.org

VICE PRESIDENT
DON WARD
 1202 Union St.,
 Belle Fourche, SD 57717
 605-645-2689 Cell

SECRETARY
SAMARA ERICKSON
 1017 S. Cleveland Ave,
 Pierre, 57501
 605-940-1795
 Samarajo1982@gmail.com

TREASURER
DENNY GORTON
 PO BOX 1884
 Rapid City SD 57709
 484-0806 Cell
 sec@sdfirefighters.org

DIRECTORS:
SOUTHEAST
DAVE JORGENSON
 501 NE 2nd St.
 Colton, SD 57018
 605-446-3980
 SEDir@sdfirefighters.org

NORTHEAST
MARK STOKS
 901 13th Ave. SW
 Aberdeen, SD 57401
 605-380-9817 Cell
 NEDir@sdfirefighters.org

CENTRAL
RICHARD GEORGE
 39604 227th St,
 Woonsocket SD 57385,
 605-461-9190,
 CenDir@sdfirefighters.org

NORTHWEST
CHAD BAUMGARTEN
 PO BOX 599
 Lemmon, SD 57638
 374-5868 Home
 222-9702 Cell
 NWDDir@sdfirefighters.org

BLACK HILLS
 BHDDir@sdfirefighters.org

BADLANDS
JASON MOSTERD
 526 Franklin St,
 Burke, SD 57523
 605-840-0252
 BLDDir@sdfirefighters.org

SOUTH CENTRAL
RICK GUSTAD
 PO BOX 33
 Platte, SD 57369
 605-337-9629 Home
 605-680-2637 Cell
 SCDDir@sdfirefighters.org

NVFC DIRECTOR
JEREMY WALLA
 6408 Prestwick Rd
 Rapid City, SD 57702
 605-484-3911 cell
 Jeremy.walla@gmail.com



SDFA OFFICER REPORTS



Charlie Kludt, President

“Winter time can be a good time to have review discussions about how emergency and non-emergency operations went over the last year. If there could be some adjustments to make improvements to how you do things. Maybe you have a new piece of equipment, new people with more capabilities, older people with lesser capabilities, a new idea, or a needed change. How are you set?”

January 2025

How are you set..?

Happy New Year to everyone. Do you have any resolutions or are you all set for 2025?

SDFA Board will be having our winter meeting on Jan. 11-12 in Chamberlain at Cedar Shores conference center. If you have items you would like the SDFA board to discuss, let your district member know or feel free to come to the meetings.

Legislative session will be

starting. We will keep a watch for anything that may be of interest for the fire service.

Quick reminder to get your grant invoices turned into the fire marshal. If you had changes to your officers and you are not sure if you have funding waiting for your department, contact Doug Hinkle at the marshal’s office.

Winter time can be a good time to have review discussions about how emergency and non-emergency operations went over the last year. If there could be some

adjustments to make improvements to how you do things. Maybe you have a new piece of equipment, new people with more capabilities, older people with lesser capabilities, a new idea, or a needed change. How are you set?

Are you set for the next new thing coming that we will be facing? Or are you set in your ways?

Some folks like to do the “What if this happens...?” discussion and debate when it may need to be more “What does happen..?”

If you have busy highways or lots of accidents requiring good extrication equipment, you may want a good set or two of extrication tools.

But if you respond to one or two accidents every couple years, maybe \$1,500 dollars of battery powered reciprocating saws, blades, chains and handy-man jacks is what you need to learn how to use, versus, \$50,000 in extrication equipment.

But also keep in mind, new situations may require new procedures with any tools you have available. Skinning the car rather than cutting posts may be the new mid set necessary.

You got a set of grain rescue tubes. But do you know how to get them out and down safely? Maybe a simple rope rescue session on a common, local set of grain bins is in order.

Do an assessment of the calls you have had over the last five years. Were you prepared? Did you have what you needed? What would be better to have? What do you need?

Think about the people and patients you assist. And the capability of the people you have on your department. Train with what you have. Figure out what you need.

Hope you have a wonderful 2025.

Stay safe,

CHARLIE KLUDT,
President

Thoughts for the New Year

Well, here it is. Remember when we thought that 2024 would never get over. Now it is, and we wonder, “where did it go so fast.” Those so-called experts say that as we get older time does seem to speed up. I have no proof of that, but it does seem just days ago that 2024 came in.

So, what is in store for you this year? Vacations, more fun time, new boat, new house, more family time? We make resolutions to do stuff. I’m making a resolution to read a book by Bobby Halton,

“*Editon’s Opinion.*” It is “column’s that Bobby wrote for Fire Engineering magazine for the past 18 years” Many of you have read Bobby’s opinion throughout the years. I got the book a year ago with all the great intentions to read one of his editorials a day. I fell off the wagon. Yep, I had too many excuses for not reading one. Too busy, have to mow the yard, need to get this month’s article written, the list goes on. So, I am pledging to follow through this year, starting on Jan. 1, 2025.

This January edition is the first of a new era. For the first time in well over 20 years the SD Firefighters newspaper will be only



Denny Gorton,
Treasurer/Past President

“Many departments received an electronic dues invoice, and the rest should have received their dues notice via the US Postal Service. So, ask if your department has paid their dues for this year. The benefits you receive are darn good and the cost is darn small. The AD&D and the A&H insurance should be reason enough. However, even bigger is simply supporting the South Dakota Firefighters Association, Inc.”

delivered electronically. We’re asking for two small favors from you. The first one is if a fellow firefighter says they didn’t re-

ceive their copy of the paper, ask them if they have provided a VALID email address to us. The second favor is if a fellow firefighter says they didn’t receive their copy ask them to check their spam or junk folder. You just never know, and the email may say the name of Samara Erickson. That’s easy and will help us a bunch.

Ok, here’s the pitch for your departments 2025 Membership dues. Many departments received an electronic dues invoice, and the rest should have received their dues notice via the US Postal Service. So, ask if your department has paid their dues for this year. The benefits you receive are darn good and the cost is darn small. The AD&D and the A&H insurance should be reason enough. However, even bigger is simply supporting the South Dakota Firefighters Association, Inc. We are your voice when it comes to legislation, statewide training utilization of the Mobile Live Fire Training Trailers, and so much more. Ask your treasurer if he or she has paid your department’s due yet.

I am not going to bore you with anymore, this month. However, remember to make a resolution to become the most active firefighter in your department, to pitch ideas for training, and most importantly to be a mentor to a new firefighter and be safe.

DENNIS GORTON,
Treasurer

SOUTH DAKOTA WILDLAND FIRE

Where to find us online

We are often asked where to find South Dakota Wildland Fire posts and pictures online.

We appreciate the interest and offer the links below.

Thank you for your support.

South Dakota Wildland Fire (SDWF)

- SDWF Website: <https://wildlandfire.sd.gov/>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/southdakotawildlandfire/>
- SDWF X (formerly Twitter): <https://twitter.com/SDWildlandFire>
- SDWF YouTube: www.youtube.com/@southdakotawildlandfire

SDWF on Department of Public Safety

- DPS Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SDPublicSafety>
- DPS X (formerly Twitter): twitter.com/SDPublicSafety

Interested in working for SDWF:
<https://wildlandfire.sd.gov/hiring.aspx>

“SOUTH DAKOTA WILDLAND FIRE (OFFICIAL)”



@SOUTHDAKOTAWILDLANDFIRE

SDFA OFFICER REPORTS

Hello South Dakota Firefighters, I hope everyone had a great holiday season and you will be able to lose those extra pounds from all the good meals and goodies consumed.

As we start this new year, I got to thinking about commitment and what it could mean to your spiritual relationship, your family, your job and yes, the fire service.

Committing to go to a religious service one extra time a month could help you get through something going on in your life. Committing to put your phone down

and spend more time with your family can have many benefits. Committing to do your job right the first time and not having to go back to fix a mistake could gain new customers because of happy customers referring you. The list goes on.

In the fire service by committing to attend one more training than last year, could be at your local station, district school or state fire school, may be a factor in saving a life. Possibly you commit to spend an extra hour a month inspecting your equip-

ment and you find a small problem then it corrected before the piece of equipment is OOS at a critical time. Maybe you commit to writing one more letter to an elected official and you receive extra funding. Depending how you raise funds for your department but selling 10 more raffle tickets than last year may get the needed equipment sooner.

I guess what I am saying is to commit to making something better in your life this year and the results could be big.

Instructors Conference will be



Don Ward, Vice President

"As we start this new year, I got to thinking about commitment and what it could mean to your spiritual relationship, your family, your job and yes, the fire service."

held in Mitchell this year Jan. 4-5. The South Dakota Firefighters Association board will be meeting the next in Chamberlin. We will be doing more planning for fire school and checking to see if there is anything in the legislature

we need to be following. If you have ideas on how to improve the fire service in South Dakota get them to a board member.

DON WARD, Vice President

The State of the South Dakota Fire Service

As my time in the fire service turns from years to decades this verse from Styx, *Man in The Wilderness*, becomes more relevant - *"Another year has passed me by, still I look at myself and cry, what kind of man have I become?"*

At some point in your life, you will reflect on your past and ask if you have done enough. So let me take a minute to talk about the state of the fire service in South Dakota. Simply put, what

an exciting time to be in the fire service! Seeing the number of conferences and training events in the state is energizing. The crew in Vermillion just put on the Five Alarm Leadership conference bringing in two legendary speakers and multiple training sessions. This type of event takes months to plan and attendees benefitted from that hard work.

Watertown has become a hotbed of fire training including the **Tactics on Taps** event, which will have happened by the time you read this article and it looks like it will be sold out. We received several class proposals from Water-

town Fire Rescue personnel and hope to get them implemented in the summer 2025 **State Fire School** (June 12-14).

The Rapid City area has been working hard on creating a top tier event with the **Rushmore Fire Conference** (Jan 10-12) offering a series of classes designed for fire, EMS and law enforcement using local instructors. Some of these classes are unique and aimed specifically at South Dakota firefighters.

The phrase "leave it better than you found it" seems to be in full swing from border to border not only on a state level but nation-



Rick George, Central District Director

"The phrase "leave it better than you found it" seems to be in full swing from border to border not only on a state level but nationally as well. This is exciting to see and experience as we take public service to the next level."

ally as well. This is exciting to see and experience as we take public service to the next level. Keep expanding your firefighting skills and knowledge! I will see

you on the training ground soon!

RICK GEORGE, Central District Director

STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Homeland Security Grants - Open Application Period Starts January 1, 2025

The open application period to apply for 2025 State Homeland Security grant funding starts Jan. 1, 2025.

Applications must be submitted through the EDGAR (Electronic Database for Grant Application & Reporting) system by Feb. 14, 2025 at 5 p.m. Central Standard Time. The link to EDGAR is: <https://sddpsigx.intelli-grants.com/>.

All applications must have a Homeland Security nexus and follow grant terms and conditions.

Projects must have a nexus to Homeland Security providing protection against **terrorism** threats.

Examples-

- Access control systems such as electronic locks, video entry, door locks, metal detectors, and panic buttons.

- Lighting
- Fencing, gates, barriers, etc.
- Cybersecurity risk assessments

- Migrating online services to the ".gov" internet domain

- Projects that address vulnerabilities identified in cybersecurity risk assessments such as hardware, software, access control to systems, training, and exercises

- Tactical gear or ballistic protection

- Training Special Weapons

and Tactics (SWAT) teams

- Training Special Response Teams (Taskforce 1)

- Training and awareness programs.

- Backup generators and transfer switches for PSAPs or EOCs only

- Training and exercises
- Detection equipment for CBRNE threats

- Rescue equipment

- Pagers for fire, ambulance, or search and rescue

- Equipment compatible with the State Radio System such as P25 radios, repeaters, and extenders.

- Training and exercises.

Award agreements will be generated and sent out after funding becomes available; **projects cannot start before the grant award**



Paul Merriman, State Fire Marshal

"Award agreements will be generated and sent out after funding becomes available; projects cannot start before the grant award agreement is signed by the grantee and HLS. Award Agreement and Funding for projects is expected to become available on or about September 2025."

agreement is signed by the grantee and HLS. Award Agreement and Funding for projects is expected to become available on or about September 2025.

For more information, please contact the SD Office of Homeland Security at 605-773-3450.

Questions? Find more information on the South Dakota

Homeland Security Grants webpage or call 605-773-3450.

To apply for a Homeland Security grant, read through the application instructions and apply online by Feb. 14, 2025 at 5 p.m. CT.

PAUL MERRIMAN, State Fire Marshal

SDFA AUXILIARY REPORT

As first responders, you all are used to being calm, cool and collected in emergency situations. I know that I am a bit of an over-reactor when it comes to these things. LOL. So, when the active shooter happened at the Empire Mall on Dec. 6th, I was surprised at how calm I was. I work in the mall and was there when it all went down. I didn't hear any shots from my store, but I did see the activities in the hall--cops in the hall with big guns and people being evacuated. The only training I have ever received having anything to do with an active shooter was the lockdown drills I participated in working in the Fargo mall.

While I was surprisingly calm,

I felt unprepared. Being in a relationship with a first responder for 13 years has made me no stranger to continued training. The more training, the more prepared we can be for any number of situations that may arise. In the spirit of the New Year and New Year's resolutions, I am making it my goal for 2025 to take an active shooter course and take any other continuing education courses that I can find that will help me be better prepared for emergency situations. What are your 2025 resolutions/goals?

PS--remember to renew your Auxiliary Membership! :) and have a great 2025!!

TONI SCHMIDT



Toni Schmidt, Auxiliary President

"Being in a relationship with a first responder for 13 years has made me no stranger to continued training. The more training, the more prepared we can be for any number of situations that may arise."

Don't need it... SELL IT!
South Dakota Firefighter Classifieds...
jeff@southdakotafirefighter.com

2025 SDFA AUXILIARY BOARD

PRESIDENT
TONI SCHMIDT
Tea

VICE PRESIDENT
CARMEN KAST
Alcester

TREASURER
CHERYL ANDERSON
Belle Fourche

SECRETARY
COURTNEY WALKER
Sturgis

DIRECTORS:
HOLLY BAUER
Whitewood

AMY HORN
Brandon

Free South Dakota's Pipeline Safety Program!

Who should attend?

Firefighters, law enforcement, ambulance, utility workers, school bus drivers, rural mail carriers, and the general public.



Learn what to look for. Who to call. What to do and what not to do if you suspect a possible pipeline emergency.

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

ATTEND FOR A CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF 4 - \$250 GRANTS FOR YOUR AGENCY

County fire departments purchase new equipment to serve their communities

On Saturday, Dec. 7, the Town and Country Fire District was called out to the Dennis Feistner farm southwest of Woonsocket to help fight a controlled burn that got away from the owners. The fire was started to burn a pit, but it flared up a trailer of hay bales nearby, and firefighters were called out to help get the blaze under control.

According to Fire Chief Brandon Goergen, there were approximately 12-14 firefighters on scene, and it took about five hours to get the fire out. There wasn't a significant loss of property, but the dry conditions the area is facing can make a fire stubborn, especially with grass, hay or other brush.

One great takeaway from the weekend blaze is that the Woonsocket firefighters were able to use their new HEN nozzle that was just recently purchased. Town and Country's Second Assistant Fire Chief Rick George posted a review of the nozzle online, and he said, "Anyone that has ever dealt with hay bales on fire knows the special kind of hell they are. The broad, flat pattern [of water sprayed] was

very effective at cooling/extinguishing large sections of ground with one pass. A quick switch to straight stream and we were able to blow apart any spot fires burning under remaining hay." Fire Chief Goergen also reiterated that the new nozzle was so handy that the guys recommended getting another when possible.

Along with new equipment purchased in Woonsocket, the Artesian Fire Department purchased a new truck for their department from the Goodar Township Volunteer Fire Department in South Branch, MI. They were blessed with a wonderful donation from Selland Trucking of Woonsocket to haul the truck from Michigan to its new home in Artesian with no charge to the fire department.

This is a wonderful reassurance that the men and women who serve as volunteer firefighters in Sanborn County use the best up-to-date and most effective equipment possible and that they are supported completely by those they serve.

(Woonsocket Sanborn Weekly Journal, Woonsocket, Dec. 12, 2024)

SDSU

First Responder Health and Wellness Lab

Join our listserv for a quarterly newsletter on Wellness Fitness Initiatives for First Responders in South Dakota.

Research projects will also be announced through this listserv.

Lab Director: Allison Barry, PhD email: allison.barry@sdsu.edu



Supporting Those Who Protect and Serve Be Prepared to Respond to any Emergency Situation

When every second counts, trust MacQueen to be there with the highest-quality extrication equipment. Our Hurst Jaws of Life® extrication tools are designed to handle the toughest emergency situations, ensuring your team is ready for anything.

We're here to support you at every stage of your equipment's lifecycle, providing training, maintenance, and service every step of the way.



Contact your local MacQueen representative to learn more about our life-saving rescue solutions.

macqueengroup.com | 800-615-6789



ACTION PHOTOS NEEDED!

Please send them to

jeff@southdakotafirefighter.com

along with information to explain the photo.



Beresford fire house on parade

After attending Fire School this summer, the Beresford Fire department built a fire house which they showcased at their 125th anniversary this summer. When it came time to do the parade of lights it was a no brainer to add some lights and a tree and turn it into a float. Submitted by Lt. Bruce Olson, BFD.

FIRE PUT OUT ON MONDAY MORNING IN WATERTOWN LANDFILL

Watertown Fire Rescue and landfill workers squelched a fire on Monday morning at the Watertown Regional Landfill.

At 6:45 a.m. on Dec. 9, Watertown Fire Rescue was dispatched to a fire at the Watertown Regional Landfill, according to a release. The fire was located in the main garbage cell and was intensified by high winds. Landfill staff discovered the fire when they arrived for their morning shift.

Watertown Fire Rescue deployed Battalion 1, Engine 1, Tender 1 and Brush 2 to the scene.

Upon arrival, crews found the fire burning along the operating face of the garbage cell, according to the release. The fire department crews used water to reduce the high heat and stayed on-site to cool down the landfill's bulldozer.

The fire was extinguished by landfill crews, who used their land scrapers and bulldozer to cover the entire cell and smother the flames, according to the release. Watertown Fire Rescue remained on the scene for four and a half hours.


While the cause of the fire is undetermined, Watertown Fire Rescue reminds citizens not to dispose of lithium-ion batteries in residential trash. Lithium-ion batteries can easily cause a fire when they are damaged. Common household items with lithium-ion batteries include laptops, tablets, mobile phones, e-cigarettes, power tools, drones, remote control cars, e-bikes and e-scooters.

(Watertown Public Opinion, Watertown, Dec. 11, 2024)



FELD FIRE™

"We've got you covered."

YOUR SINGLE SOURCE APPARATUS / SERVICE / EQUIPMENT 



AMKUS®

RESCUE SYSTEMS

YOUR SINGLE SOURCE
for Amkus Rescue Systems

Licensed Distributor of Amkus Rescue Systems



THE LATEST IN RESCUE TECHNOLOGY!
Check out our full line of ION Battery Powered Rescue gear on our website!



Visit us online at:
FeldFire.com

CARROLL | 113 N. Griffith Rd., Carroll, IA 51401

GRAIN VALLEY | 1330 NW Jefferson St., Grain Valley, MO 64029

ST. LOUIS | 10403 Baur Blvd., Ste. E, Olivette, MO 63132

800.568.2403 |

800.568.2403 |

800.568.2403 |

18-0208



Huron shop fire

A shop fire west of Huron brought response from the Huron Fire Department, Huron Rural, Wolsey and Cavour Fire Departments. Huron Ambulance, Huron Police and South Dakota Highway Patrol were also on the scene. The building suffered severe damage, but no injuries were reported. Photos from the Huron Fire Department Facebook page.



APPARATUS | BRUSH TRUCKS PPE | RESCUE | SERVICE

You need a fire truck that is every bit as dependable as the members of your department. We are an authorized Toyne Fire Apparatus dealer and are proud to partner with this leading U.S. fire apparatus manufacturer.



From conceptualization to final delivery, our design-build process guarantees the utmost quality in crafting brush trucks for your department. Collaborating with our partner, Midwest Design, ensures a custom build tailored to your exact specifications.

QUALITY FIREFIGHTING PRODUCTS SINCE 1994.

We provide a comprehensive selection of firefighting equipment, from fire extinguishers to fire trucks and everything in between. Our factory-trained service technicians are available for on-site pump testing, service of rescue tools, and more.



105 Kasan Ave | PO Box 167 | Volga, SD 57071 | mtfiresafety.com
tel 605-627-5165 | toll free 800-223-0792

Watertown Fire Rescue puts out Thursday night garage fire

A garage and its contents went up in flames on Thursday night in Watertown.

At 9:30 a.m. Dec. 5, Watertown Fire Rescue was dispatched to 5628 Fourth Ave. SW for putting out a fire in a detached garage. The garage was fully engulfed when crews arrived on scene, a release said.

Crews advanced multiple handlines to fight the fire. Due to the lack of fire hydrants in that area, water was shuttled by Tender 1 from a hydrant at the intersection of Fourth Avenue and South Lake Drive, according to a release.

Watertown Fire Rescue crews were on the scene for approximately 3.5 hours. The garage and its contents, including a vehicle, are considered a total loss, a release said.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

(Watertown Public Opinion, Watertown, Dec. 10, 2024)

Don't need it...
SELL IT!

South Dakota
Firefighter
Classifieds...

jeff@southdakotafirefighter.com

5 Alarm Leadership program held in Vermillion

A little more than 80 firefighters from three states spent a weekend with two fire service legends on November 16 and 17. Chief Rick Lasky and Chief John Salka brought their 5 Alarm Leadership program to Vermillion and spent the two days talking tactics and leadership while sharing stories about their experiences. The event was hosted by the Vermillion Rural Fire Association and sponsored by the Pheasant Country FOOLS and the City of Vermillion. Lunch both days was sponsored by Heiman Fire Equipment. A special thank you goes out to Mike Murra and Shannon Kymala for their work putting this all together, your efforts did not go unnoticed. Submitted by Rick George.



LACF grant helps Lennox Volunteer Firefighters gear up for grass fire calls

The Lennox Volunteer Fire Department has been awarded \$2,500 from the Lennox Area Community Fund (LACF) to support the purchase of Wildland Boots.

The Lennox Volunteer Fire Department made this request as they currently do not have any wildland boots for the firefighters. When they are called to a grass fire, firefighters have to pull their structure boots out of their bunker gear to use on a grass fire.

“We are wanting to equip a majority of our members with the right type of boot for the right situation,” stated Lennox Volunteer Fire Department Treasurer, Micah Strasser, in his grant application. “Ensuring we have the right boot for the right call will help us keep our other boots in good shape for the structure fire calls we get.”

With the grant the Fire Department will be able to purchase seven pairs of boots for the members. They are hoping to get 15 wildland boots.

The LACF awarded this grant as part of its 2024 funding cycle, which benefited eight local organizations, including the Lennox Volunteer Fire Department. Other recipients include the Lennox

Area Historical Society, Junior Achievement, Worthing Fire Department, Lennox Community Library, Lincoln County 4-H, Love, I.N.C., and Lennox Area Ambulance.

Since 2004, the LACF has supported the Lennox, Chancellor, and Worthing communities by providing financial backing to numerous nonprofit organizations.

Through the generosity of its donors, the LACF continues to strengthen the local area by awarding grants to meaningful causes. Donations of any size help to increase the fund’s balance and allow the organization to continue its impactful work. To make a contribution or learn more about the LACF’s mission, visit lennoxareacommunityfund.org.

With Giving Tuesday approaching on Dec. 3, the LACF welcomes donations of any size from the community. Every gift, large or small, helps to increase the fund balance and allows the LACF to continue to give grants to local organizations like the Lennox Volunteer Fire Department.

(Lennox Independent, Lennox, Nov. 28, 2024)

Trust us to Protect your most Valuable Assets... Your Volunteers

- Accident & Health Coverages
- 24 Hours-Accidental Death & Dismemberment
- Group Term Life

Insurance Plans Specifically Tailored for your Department

First Responders contact **EVAN ROBERTS**

Acrisure, LLC

elroberts@acrisure.com



Insurance products are underwritten by subsidiaries of Unum Group & administered by Provident Agency, Inc.



WELCOME RANDY!

RANDY HOOK JOINS HEIMAN TEAM!

We are excited to introduce Randy Hook as the newest Sales Consultant at Heiman Fire. Randy will be serving customers in Central and Eastern South Dakota as well as Southeastern North Dakota. Randy is taking over the role that Jim Heuer has serviced for Heiman Fire for many years. Jim is assuming a new role at Heiman Fire and we are excited to have him assist in this new capacity.

Randy brings a wealth of experience to his role, with 15 years of service as a volunteer firefighter and EMS professional in Minnesota. His background gives him a firsthand understanding of the challenges faced by fire and emergency services, allowing him to provide practical, informed solutions. In addition, Randy has many years of direct sales experience working with municipal and private organizations, building strong relationships and helping clients find the best outcomes for their unique needs.

Outside of work, Randy is a dedicated family man who loves spending time with his loved ones. Whether he's hunting, fishing, or coaching one of his children's sports teams, Randy is passionate about creating memories and supporting his family in every way he can.

Please join us in giving Randy a warm welcome to the Heiman Fire family! We are thrilled to have him on board and look forward to the expertise and energy he brings to our team.

Contact your Heiman Fire Consultant for more info!



WHEN PROTECTION MEANS EVERYTHING.



Chris Bornitz
Eastern South Dakota
605.530.8210
chrisbornitz@heimanfire.com



Randy Hook
Central & Eastern South Dakota
605.254.1791
randy.hook@heimanfire.com



Brian Gaalswyk
Western South Dakota
605.769.0376
briang@heimanfire.com

View Trucks & Shop for Fire Equipment online at  HEIMANFIRE.COM