

NORTH DAKOTA

FIRECHIEF

MAGAZINE

**DFD NAMES NEW
FIRE CHIEF:**
JEREMY PRESNELL

**NORTH DAKOTA
FIREFIGHTERS HELP
WITH WESTERN WILDFIRES**

**JRFD MOVES INTO
NEW FIREHALL:**
PLANS FOR OPEN HOUSE

VOL. 25, NO. 1

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Cover Photo Caption: North Dakota crew walks in along dozer line to mop up hot spots around structures

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A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

THE PRINTERS, INC

What a year it's been! We are happy to share this issue of the North Dakota Fire Chief magazine with you, partly because it means life is somewhat returning to normal. We are grateful to have the opportunity to put this issue together and grateful for your work on the frontlines during this pandemic. Special thanks to all of those who contributed articles, photos and ideas for this issue. And thank you to those who made time in your busy schedules to visit with us about advertising and articles. Your insight is always greatly appreciated.

Please continue sharing your department's stories and photos with us. We will use them in future issues. We would also like to know about events your departments are involved in. We encourage you to take photos of those events and share them with us at ndfiremag@theprinters.info.

As always, feedback and suggestions are always welcome. Please feel free to contact us anytime.

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JRFD MOVES INTO NEW FIREHALL:

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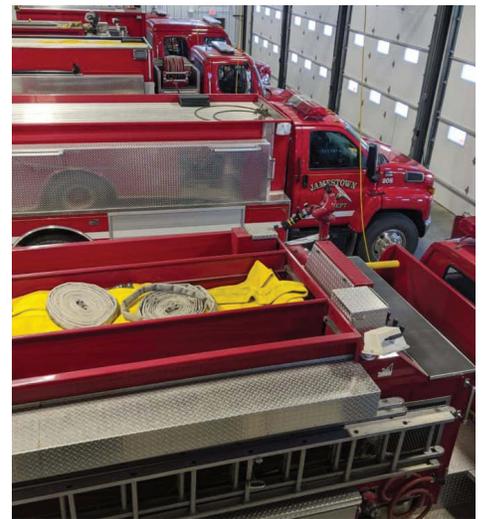
by Warren Abrahamson

*This article initially appeared on NewsDakota.com.
It is reprinted here with their permission.*

A plan that was years in the making has officially become a reality for members of the Jamestown Rural

Fire Department.

The department reports that they are finishing up groundwork this spring that could not be completed on the new firehall, located at 1209 9th Street SE. The building, previously occupied by CenturyLink, provides ample room for the department as their equipment and volunteer numbers grow.



The previous building at 205 3rd Avenue NW had gone through several additions since the JRFD was established in 1964. It had been 30 years since their last addition.

JRF District Board President Richard Klose says the new location is great news for the 22 surrounding townships.

“Our men have room now,” Klose said. “They have room to move around, work on stuff and organize. Everything is not a big cluster of clutter. We went from 5,700 square feet to about 20,000 square feet of space.”

JRFD Chief Brian Paulson says he’s grateful for the support from the area.

“I appreciate all the hard work our members and board have done to get this project done,” Chief Paulson said. “I am also truly grateful for the community support by the members of our rural fire district that we serve.”

Klose added that having the ability to house all JRFD equipment in one place will make a huge difference down the road.

“We can finally have all our equipment in one place,”

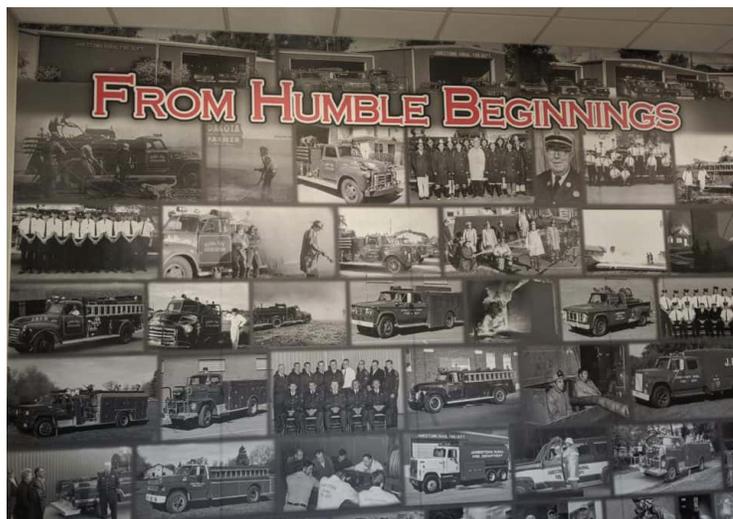
he explained. “Prior to this we had things scattered around, in storage sheds and different places. We’re able to have everything under one roof now. Having all that space is going to make things much more convenient for the firemen. And with the location, we can get out of town much quicker than we could before.”

The building and remodel cost around \$2.8 million, most of which was funding by a USDA Loan from the Community Facilities Loan and Grant program.

A wall of history greets visitors when they enter through the main doors. It includes pictures of former firefighters, equipment and events throughout the entire history of the JRFD. Hats from different eras sit on shelves and a case of different artifacts sit next to the entryway.

Klose added that the public is also what made this project possible.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on May 21, 2019 for the new station. An open house will be planned for a later date.





JAMESTOWN WELCOMES FIRST EVER CITY OWNED LADDER TRUCK

by Warren Abrahamson

This article initially appeared on NewsDakota.com. It is reprinted here with their permission.

City representatives along with fire department, police and Stutsman County Sheriff's personnel welcomed in the first-ever ladder truck owned by the city of Jamestown.

The community has been without a ladder truck since July 2019.

"It's a great day for Jamestown and I'm sure that our fire chief will be sleeping a little better and there is some training left to be done here as well before everything is ready to go," said Jamestown mayor Dwaine Heinrich.

Heinrich says while it was vital the city had a ladder truck in service, his hope was they would "never have to use it."

"This is one of those things kind of like life insurance, you're buying it hoping you're not going to have to use it anytime soon," he said. "The truck previous to this one and the one before that both lasted about 30 years. I would say even though we don't want to

use this on a regular basis, it's going to be here if it's needed. I'm sure if we were standing here 30 years from now talking about this fire truck people will point at this truck and talk about the one life that it saved and probably more."

Heinrich says it's important to keep in mind the many businesses and individuals, big or small, who have made contributions to the ladder truck.

"It's very important I think to stop for a moment and recognize the community and regional support this effort has garnered. We don't have all the money for the fire truck yet but we've had tremendous support," Heinrich explained.

Mayor Heinrich added they would love to celebrate accordingly pending COVID-19 restrictions in 2021.

Jamestown Fire Chief Jim Reuther added that he's relieved to have the ladder truck and the community should be commended for their help.

"It is a relief to me, no doubt about it," said Reuther. "I have to give a big hand to the community that has been there during this pandemic to really help out. There are so many people to thank. It's unreal. That's our plans in 2021, to do the right way to thank them. I am definitely relieved. I'd like to say that I hope we never have to use



it, but I know that's never going to happen."

Reuther says their staff will need to undertake some training before they're fully ready to utilize the ladder truck. They got extensive training in December.

Chief Reuther named the vehicle Ladder No. 1 because it is the first ladder truck owned by the city. Reuther stated again that this project was not possible without the community's support.

"I have to thank the community for the support making this happen. There are lot more people than just me to thank. We need to thank the community for making this happen," Reuther said.

While the truck has made its way home, Heinrich says their work is not done when it comes to funding the vehicle.

"We have made a request for the state to pay for

one-third of this truck. Part of our justification there is that for 91 years the state of ND stationed a ladder truck in Jamestown. We agreed that if they would pay for one-third of it we would find the money through donations to pay for the remaining two-thirds," explained Heinrich.

On Nov. 27, 2019, the State of North Dakota Department of Human Services, announced it was terminating its agreement with the city for the use of a state-owned ladder truck it had provided for over 90 years, although a ladder truck is required to provide fire and rescue operations for structures with two or more stories as well as large building complexes and other inaccessible areas, a number of which are located on state property in Jamestown.

The ladder truck cost just over \$1 million.



2021 ANNUAL STATE FIRE SCHOOL GOES VIRTUAL

Due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, the North Dakota Firefighter's Association Executive Board has made the decision to cancel the in-person Annual State Fire School and move to a virtual format. While to some this move may be disappointing, moving to a virtual fire school will ensure that we can continue to provide to our members and guests training opportunities.

The Association will be using the Zoom video conferencing application to provide user friendly access to numerous classes facilitated by instructors from all over the state. This year's classes will be shortened to two hours to ensure students do not get overwhelmed by sitting at a computer all day. Classes will begin at 8 a.m. and end by 3:45 p.m. Saturday and Sunday Feb. 27 and 28, 2021.

THIS YEAR'S CLASSES WILL BE SHORTENED TO TWO HOURS TO ENSURE STUDENTS DO NOT GET OVERWHELMED BY SITTING AT A COMPUTER ALL DAY. CLASSES WILL BEGIN AT 8 A.M. AND END BY 3:45 P.M. SATURDAY AND SUNDAY FEB. 27 AND 28, 2021.

Ending the classes at 3:45 will allow the NDFA to host a virtual vendor show. Vendors will be available to present their products virtually, answer questions and receive orders virtually over the same Zoom platform. The vendor show will be Friday and Saturday from 3:45-6 p.m.

The North Dakota Fire Chief's Association Board plans to have their meeting and educational programs on Friday, Feb. 26. This will also be held virtually. Once complete this information will be posted on the ND Fire Chief's website, www.ndfirechiefs.com, the NDFA website, www.NDFA.net, and the NDFA Facebook page.

As we continue adapting to ever changing situation in our state and country, we hope you will join us for our first ever virtual fire school.

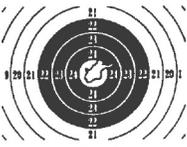
FROM THE DESK OF THE NDFCA SECRETARY

by Jonathan Hildremyr, Secretary/Treasurer

To the members of the NDFCA, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Jonathan Hildremyr. I am the Battalion Chief for the Mandan City Fire Department. On June 5, 2020 I was appointed to serve as your Secretary/Treasurer. The position had become vacant; my appointment is for the remainder of the current term. I would like to thank President Weltikol and the rest of the NDFCA board for their trust in me to fill this position considering I have only been a member of the NDFCA myself for two years. I see this as a great opportunity to network and learn from the chief officers of our state.

I would like to thank all of you who have sent in your annual membership dues. You may not have received your membership card this year due to the time frame of transitioning the secretary/treasurer records. This was due to the amount of time spent going through the records as I received them. I have met with John from The Printers and we have a plan for 2021 to make sure membership cards are sent out to those who submit their dues.

I hope everyone stays safe and healthy and I look forward to working with all of you in the future.



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UPDATE FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

by Douglas Nelson, ND State Fire Marshal

Greetings from the State Fire Marshal's (SFM) office. I would like to take this opportunity to provide some updates. The past year has been a busy, dynamic year for the State Fire Marshal's Office.

The focus of the SFM's office is to be a valuable resource and an assisting agency for Fire Departments and Fire Protection Districts in North Dakota. We strive to serve you through fire investigations, code interpretation, enforcement or guidance, plan review and any other assistance within our capabilities. All Deputy Fire Marshals are certified as Fire Inspector I, Fire Investigation Technicians, and are working towards becoming Certified Fire Marshals and Certified Fire Investigators.

In 2018, the State Fire Marshal's Advisory Committee was created. The committee gives direction, feedback and guidance to our office on how to best serve the fire service in North Dakota. The committee consists of two fire chiefs from volunteer departments, two fire chiefs from combination departments and two fire chiefs from full-time departments.

The State Fire Marshal's Office became fully staffed for the first time since 2016 this year. The additions of Kaylyn Lucas (Dickinson office) and Jon Collins (Fargo office) brought us up to five Deputy Fire Marshals.

A new State Fire Code was adopted this year. Effective July 1, 2020 the amended version of the International Fire Code (2018 Edition) was officially adopted as the Fire Code of North Dakota. Please see ND Administrative Rule 10-07-01 for specific amendments and visit [codes.iccsafe.org/content/IFC2018P3](https://www.iccsafe.org/content/IFC2018P3) for free online access to the code. The next code adoption process is scheduled to begin in 2022.

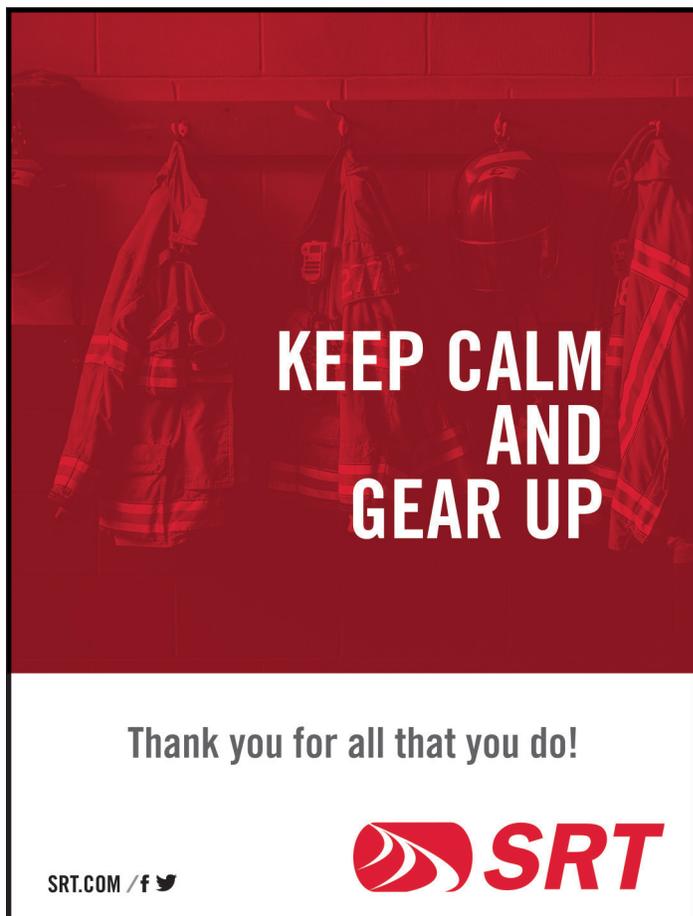
Angie Kutzer is the State Program Manager for the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Angie has been busy helping us work through the transition from NFIRS to the eNFIRS updated system. She has also

helped produce the monthly and annual fire reports.

Emergency Response Guidebooks (ERG 2020 Edition) arrived in July 2020. We have been working and communicating with local Emergency Managers to distribute these valuable HazMat response resources. If you have not received your ERGs please first check with your Emergency Manager (County or City). If they are not distributing them for your area, then contact us directly. The ERGs are also available as a downloadable app at www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/erg/erg2020-mobileapp.

Our dedicated Deputy Fire Marshals have continued to respond to any fire requested for, assist fire departments with complex inspections and conduct plan review of fire protection systems, propane tanks and flammable/combustible liquid storage tanks. We have worked with fire departments throughout North Dakota resulting in successful prosecutions of arson, mitigation of complex fire hazards and corrections to fire protection systems and tanks prior to installation.

The State Fire Marshal's Office is working to provide a valuable resource for Fire Departments and Fire Protection Districts, please do not hesitate to contact us. For fire investigation assistance contact State Radio at (701)328-9921 and for non-emergency assistance contact our main office at (701)328-5555. I look forward to working with all of you in the year to come.



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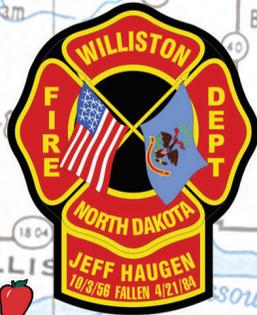


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Fire Chief Bob Sivak teaches a
"Stop, Drop, and Roll" class
to 3rd grade students as Fire Inspector
in October of 1986.
Dickinson Press Archives.

“IT’S NOT SOMETHING YOU DO, IT’S SOMETHING YOU ARE”

SIVAK RETIRES AFTER FOUR DECADES OF PUBLIC SERVICE

by James Miller

This article initially appeared in The Dickinson Press. It is reprinted here with their permission.

After 42 years of service to the city, Bob Sivak announced his retirement from the Dickinson Fire Department in January 2020. The move closes a large chapter of the tenured public servant’s life and leaves the city searching for a new chief for the first time in 14 years.

In the waning days, Sivak fills his time with administrative duties, but come evenings, still sleeps with the radio on.

“I still hear every call,” he said. “I still get to ride the trucks, I still go on calls. I still take part in training.”

The task of a Fire Chief is one of filling out grant applications, writing presentations, coordinating with other city departments and addressing firehouse concerns.

Speaking with The Press, Sivak said that even after all these years he identifies with the motto emblazoned boldly in the department’s kitchen — “It’s not something you do, it’s something you are.”

Sivak has been a firefighter since he started as a volunteer in September 1978, when after considering journalism as a career, he had a chance encounter with then Chief Joe Boespflug and was sponsored by a friend, Barry Curn.

“The rewards of what you do in fire service are unlike anything else — you can positively impact somebody... I don’t know how to explain it,” he said. “I had no idea where I was going to go or what I was going to do, but testing always pointed to public service.”

Firefighters, no matter the age or gender, have a common trait, Sivak said.

“It’s volunteer service to others. They want to give something back to the community and to humanity and are not looking for anything in return,” He said. “We promise to take care of our citizens when they are in trouble. They don’t know and they don’t care whether the firefighter is a career firefighter or a volunteer firefighter. They just know and recognize that’s a firefighter, they are here and my day is going to be better.”

Emotions took hold of the Chief as he shared the impact

firefighting has on the community, and on himself.

“I think we are unique among first responders, in that people who don’t know us from Adam will gladly hand over their own child and have no fears that the child will be in good hands,” he said.

Sivak shared some of his harrowing experiences, including a horrible backdraft he experienced during a grain elevator fire that could have resulted in serious injuries or death.

“God protects the innocent and fools, the rest of us are on our own,” he joked. “The door had collapsed and I was crawling through the space to get inside when the backblast swept past me and another firefighter. We were lucky that we weren’t killed.”

Sivak said that over the years the mission of the fire department had changed significantly, and that despite the upcoming change of command he is confident that the department and city will be in good hands.

“In 1978 we fought fires. Hazardous materials was a word just being talked about,” he said. “We’re an all-hazard fire response department — fire suppression, prevention, public education, hazardous materials incident response — locally and on a regional level. We’re one of eight department tasked with hazardous response in the state of North Dakota.”

Adding to the growing responsibilities of the department, Sivak supervised the added responsibilities of the department becoming an emergency medical response unit.

“Now, we’re doing medical assistance for the Dickinson ambulance — we finally have the personnel and structure to where we are able to extend our service into the community,” he said.

Sivak said that his retirement comes not as the end of the book, but merely the closing of a chapter.

“I’ve done this for so long, sometimes I wonder how to be anybody else — but I’m working on that. I like to hunt, and haven’t gone fishing in ages — maybe I’ll try that again. My wife, Pamela and I also like to travel,” he said of plans post retirement. “Sitting here today, I’ve put much time in, even though it doesn’t seem like it. Maybe that’s part of being in a field that I love, and having a job that I really love doing.”



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AMIDON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT PUTS OUT ANNUAL CALENDAR

by Jody Kerzman



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"Thanks for the support!"



"Thank You, Veterans!"

If you sign up to be a volunteer firefighter in Amidon, N.D., you're signing up to do more than just put out fires. Pose for a calendar, for example.

For the third year in a row, the Amidon Fire Protection District has put together a calendar featuring the department's finest volunteer firefighters. It's a creative way they've discovered helps bring in some much needed funds for the department.

"We have a lot of photos of our volunteers," explained Dick Frederick, Amidon Fire Chief. "We got to thinking we should do something with them."

Firefighters can add their birthday to the calendar, which features photos from fires they've been called to, as well as photos from the department's annual burgers and brats feed. The firefighters spend nine days during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally cooking for people headed to and from the rally.

"There used to be a lot of traffic during the Rally on Highway 85, which goes right through Amidon," said Frederick. "We had lots of Canadian bikers stop on their way to Sturgis and again on their way home. They like our food and our beer," Frederick laughed.

Road construction and the coronavirus pandemic have put the annual burger and brat feed on hold the past few years, but they hope to bring the tradition back.

Meantime, they're focused on selling their 2021 calendars, and recruiting new firefighters.

"We are strictly a volunteer department" said Frederick, who has been volunteering for 40 years. He's been chief for 30 of those years.

"I guess it got in my blood," he said while recalling the 1948 International pickup he and neighbors used to use to put out fires. They've upgraded to bigger equipment now, and the department has about 20 volunteers, but Frederick says they're always looking for more.

**OUR POPULATION IS GETTING OLDER
AND IT'S GETTING HARDER TO FIND PEOPLE TO
REPLACE VOLUNTEERS WHEN THEY DECIDE IT'S
TIME TO BE DONE**

"Our population is getting older and it's getting harder to find people to replace volunteers when they decide it's time to be done," he said.

The Amidon Fire Protection District covers 450 square miles of diverse terrain, everything from farmland, to ponderosa forest land and the Badlands. Volunteers are scattered around the district, many volunteer because they know if they don't they may not have help when they need it.

"Our community appreciates us," said Frederick.

There is proof of that support in the photos, and in the sales of the calendars.

"That makes us feel good," Frederick stated.

All proceeds from the sales of the calendars go toward the fire protection district's general fund. If you'd like to purchase a calendar, contact Dick Frederick at 701-440-8225.



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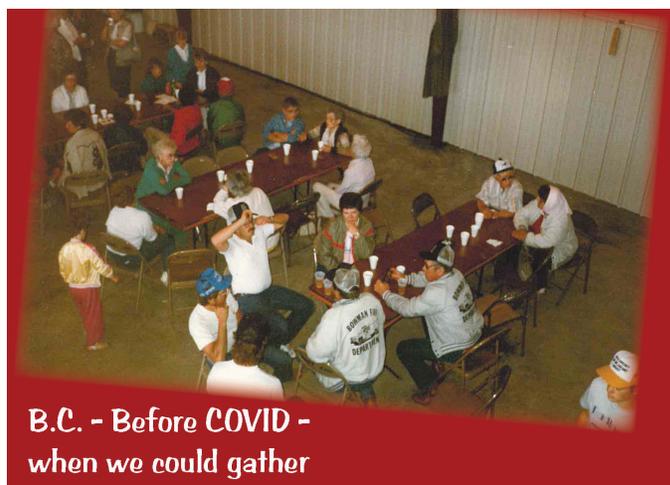
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NORTH DAKOTA FIREFIGHTERS HELP WITH WESTERN WILDFIRES

by Jason Catrambone, Williston Fire Chief

With four departments from around the state coming together to help Oregon, the drive there was one full of questions as our assignment was not given to us until we crossed the border from Washington into Umatilla, Ore.

The team was told to head to Selma, Ore. and we would be assigned to the Slater/Devil Fire. After a two and a half day, 1,700 mile drive, the crew arrived at base camp and set up their tents and got their gear ready to go. As soon as they were set, they were assigned to structure protection division yellow and headed out to the area of Caves Highway on the northeast side of the fire.



Over the next 13 days the crew performed many different tasks, many new to those on the crew who had never been on a large wildland fire before. These tasks included prepping structures by clearing debris from around the base of the structures to mineral soil, clearing roofs and gutters, trimming trees and shrubs and shutting interior windows and blinds.

At the Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve the crew also set up structural protection sprinklers which included a few thousand feet of hose, three portable mark3 pumps, porta tanks and many other parts and pieces. Another task the crew was assigned was securing part of the fire line after a burnout operation was used to secure an area of the fire line. This was a late evening mission where

the crew mopped up hot spots and controlled some active fire along Takilma Road to prevent it from crossing into a housing development.

The crew also walked and worked miles of dozer line around the Gulch Creek, Dwight Creek and Elk Creek areas, mopping up hot spots, strengthening handline and ensuring that the structures in the area were safe as many of them had fire right up to their doors.

The crew of 17 firefighters from Williston, Minot, Fargo and Grand Forks jumped on every mission assigned to them, even with the long hot days and some chilly nights in the tent. Their limited experience turned into whole new skill set and they are returned home a team that is proud and thankful they were able to help the people of the Rouge Valley in Oregon.

Jeremy Presnell, 37, has officially been named the new Fire Chief of the Dickinson Fire Department. (Courtesy of DFD)



DFD NAMES JEREMY PRESNELL AS NEW FIRE CHIEF

by Matthew Curry

This article initially appeared in The Dickinson Press. It is reprinted here with their permission.

A new chief in town: Dickinson Fire Department under new leadership.

Jeremy Presnell, 37, is a native of Southern Idaho and has been involved in the fire service for approximately 17 years. Holding multiple leadership positions throughout his career, he was most recently the Fire Chief in Jerome, Idaho — a position he held for two years prior to moving to Dickinson.

“I’ve done six years in the Air Force as a firefighter and then I held positions of fire chief, deputy chief, captain and firefighter in Jerome, Idaho,” Presnell said.

“I have a bachelor’s in fire science, and a master’s in public administration and I’m currently working on my doctorate of public administration.”

While new to the town, Presnell stated he loves what he has experienced thus far in the city of Dickinson, commenting how beautiful it is and how excited he and his family are about being a part of the community and working with the DFD team.

When asked why he chose Dickinson, Presnell stated, “Really just the complexity of the department, it’s size and the makeup of the department. When I was able to come down and visit I just really felt that (Dickinson) has an amazing fire department and I heard great things from the community about the department and just through all my research, I got that feeling of wanting to be a part of it.”

While Presnell has held many positions throughout his career, being named the Fire Chief has always been a goal and one that holds a special place within his heart.

“BEING THE FIRE CHIEF IS A GREAT HONOR. BEING ABLE TO LEAD A TEAM AND JUST YOUR SUCCESS COMES OUT OF THEIR SUCCESS, WATCHING THEM SUCCEED. I THINK THAT THAT’S REALLY BEEN THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY CAREER.”

“Being the Fire Chief is a great honor,” he said. “Being able to lead a team and just your success comes out of their success, watching them succeed. I think that that’s really been the highlight of my career.”

With the experiences as a chief in Idaho, Presnell said his experiences in previous positions will certainly give him a leg up in achieving some of the goals that he would like to complete for the department during his tenure.

“Really just getting to know my team, right now, I haven’t really had a chance to get out and talk to each of the firefighters and that’s what I’m really looking forward to,” he said. “But I just hope to continue on the high standards that Dickinson Fire Department has already established and continue on that relationship they have with the community.”

While looking forward to meeting his entire firefighter team, Presnell mentioned he is really looking forward to meeting the locals of the Dickinson community. When asked if there is anything he would like the public to know, Presnell stated,

“My door is always open and I’m always willing to talk and listen to the community.”

Presnell is married and together they have two sons. They are looking forward to calling Dickinson home for many years to come.

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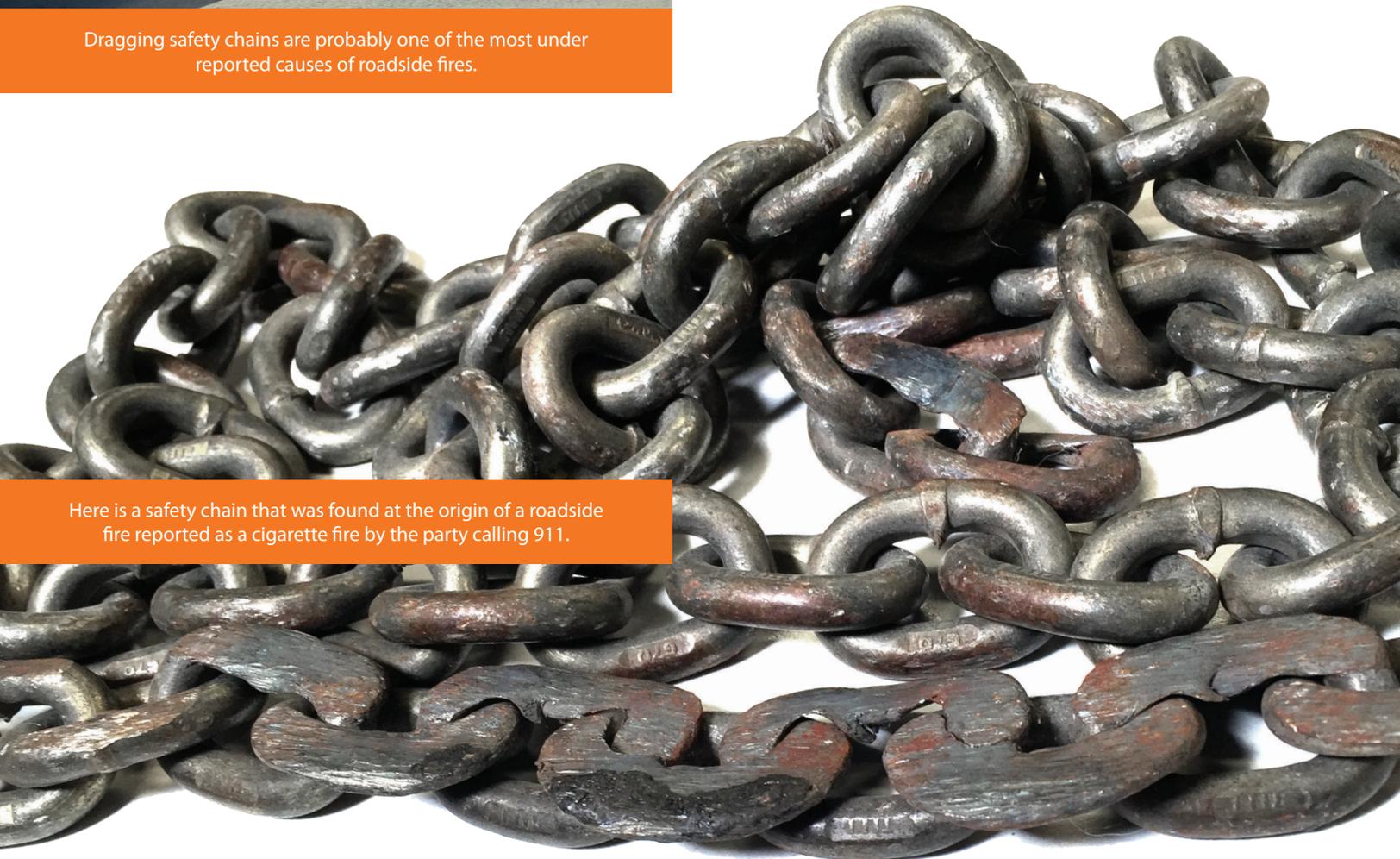
by **Jeremy Olson**

There are a couple old proverbs that are important to follow in prevention efforts. The first is “let your yes be yes and your no be no.” The second is “never cry wolf.” I have seen many a prevention effort go a wry because there was no thought given to these two proverbs. When it comes down to it these proverbs help promote any information campaign stay on solid ground.

Let’s start by taking a look at sharing facts as part of a prevention campaign or message. Making a “fire is scary” public comment is an easy trap to fall into as a fire prevention spokesperson but I see it multiple times on the news each year. The trouble with “fire is dangerous”



Dragging safety chains are probably one of the most under reported causes of roadside fires.



Here is a safety chain that was found at the origin of a roadside fire reported as a cigarette fire by the party calling 911.

or scary messages is that it is to some people some of the time. In ND we still have a rural culture that uses fire a lot as part of their daily life. Fire isn't scary, it's essential. A prevention message needs to be facts based and consistent. It also needs to meet residents where they are at with their fire knowledge.

Each October I can flip through the channels and watch different stations' interview different fire professionals who are sharing the same information for prevention week when it comes to homes and playing with matches. In contrast, every April when it comes to wildfire season you get a vast variety of messages and contradictory information. There are many reasons for this but you can sum them all up to opinion based vs fact based prevention messages. It's better to say "I don't know what caused a fire" than to assume or give an opinion.

Roadside fires are a great example. It's widely accepted among the public and many fire professionals that these fires are started by cigarettes thrown out a car window. This summer I watched a federal official out of DC make a plea for people to not throw cigarettes out the car window to help prevent fires. The facts tell a different story. Most roadside fires that are properly investigated are caused by bad mufflers, bearing, tires and dragging safety chains on low relative humidity days. Promoting assumption interferes with the needed message to the people who are now ignorantly starting fires.

Next, when we default to the "fire scary, fire dangerous message" we reinforce fear in one group of people while losing credibility with the larger group of people who use fire as part of their day-to-day activities. This larger group understands that fire can be dangerous but it can also be useful. They understand that the affects of fire have different implications based on timing, application and intensity. The longterm results of crying danger is a public that makes bad decisions based on fear and a larger group that ignores your messaging.

It takes a little more time and some humility, but sticking with the facts and saying "we don't know" when we don't know builds a trusting relationship with the public. More importantly it starts healthy conversations about the real facts about fire, real actions to prevent fire and information that helps people make wise decisions. This way when the bad thing happens, people will trust and listen to the message that needs to be followed.



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MINOT FIRE CELEBRATES 125TH ANNIVERSARY



by **Stuart Hammer, MFD**

Winston Churchill famously said, “Those who don’t know history are destined to repeat it.” There is importance in recalling history; knowing where you have been tells you where you are and illuminates the path for the future.

Minot Fire Department recently celebrated their 125th Anniversary. Like many celebrations, the planned events had to be canceled due to the pandemic. Though a formal celebration couldn’t be held, the department felt it was still important to showcase the history of the department through the avenue of social media posts highlighting various parts of the department’s history.

History is a tough teacher. It gives you the test first and the lesson later. Minot has endured its share of major events over their 125-year history. Everything from fires, floods, chemical spills and now a pandemic. Each has provided a valuable lesson. As a willing student, Minot Fire Department has used those lessons to not only improve their service to the City of Minot today but also sharpen their focus on the department’s goals for the future.

Every good structure has a strong foundation. A solid foundation provides the strength needed to support the structure today and into the future.

“The importance of our fire fighters knowing the history of the department cannot be stressed enough” said Chief Kelli Kronschnabel. “Understanding how the department began and where it is today creates an understanding of the direction we want to go for the future of the department.”

Undoubtedly, firefighters from the past of Minot Fire Department would be proud of everything the department has accomplished. Presently, firefighters with the department strive to contribute to the continued growth of the department.

Knowing the history of the department, seeing where it began as compared to where it is today, one thing is for certain: The future looks bright for Minot Fire Department.



ND FIREFIGHTERS HEADED TO OREGON

by Julie Martin

*This article initially appeared on KFYP-TV.
It is reprinted here with the station's permission.*

After returning home from a 30 day mission in Jordan, Mont., firefighters with the North Dakota Forest Service are headed to Eugene, Ore.

Two engines and six firefighters left for Oregon to help state law enforcement battle the Holiday Farm Fire.

Squad Boss Hunter Noor says the crew will get their

assignment once they are in town.

"You check in, and they plug you in where they need and what the fire is doing. They might need you for structure protection one day and then the next day they could be using you to hold out a burn operation," said Noor.

Over the last couple of months, crews from North Dakota have been sent to Nevada, Colorado, Montana and Oregon.

"It's a good thing that we can get out of the state of North Dakota and help not just North Dakota, but other states. It makes you feel like you're doing some good outside of North Dakota, as well," said Noor.

ND FIREFIGHTERS RECAP FIRST WEEK BATTLING OREGON BLAZE

by Julie Martin

*This article initially appeared on KFYP-TV.
It is reprinted here with the station's permission.*

In September, 17 firefighters from four North Dakota departments made the trip to Oregon to help in the battle against the raging wildfires.

Volunteers from Williston, Fargo, Grand Forks, and Minot fire departments were assigned to the Slater fire, which had burned more than 150,000 acres and at the time was only 24% contained.

In their first few days there the crew saved historical sites and relieved other crews.

Visibility was cut down to a quarter of a mile as North Dakota crews drove into Oregon.

"You were in smoke from just over in Montana all the way down here to Oregon," said Jason Catrambone, Williston Fire Chief. Once at their site, tents were pitched and firefighters were sent out on assignment.

"When we wake up in the morning we never know what we're going to be doing for the day, and even after we get assigned something, that can change from hour to hour," said Dane Carley, Battalion Chief for the Fargo Fire Department.

The crew walked the outer edge of the fire putting out hot spots and containing the spread. In a Facebook post, North Dakota crews were thanked for their efforts to protect the Oregon Caves National Monument.

"It needed clearing out of flammable materials from the base building, cleaning off the roof and then the crews set up a sprinkler system," said Catrambone. Videos show the 17-man crew from all four cities coming together for one cause.

"They came together right as it was needed and that was day one getting down here. Everything from setting up our tents to getting out in the line. Everyone is just itching to do more," said Catrambone.

And although they were thousands of miles away from home, they felt the backing of their home towns.

"There's a lot of support out there and we really appreciate that. We do really appreciate the support. It feels good to know people are paying attention and trying to follow our story," said Carley.

The six-man crew from the North Dakota Forest Service worked at the Holiday Farm Fire, which is 200 miles to the north.

They also worked on the edge of the fire, building containment lines.



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