

BILLINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2019

Mr. Kukulski,

The following report provides the highlights of each division of the Billings Fire Department. I have provided a new template to our division heads, so subsequent quarterly reports will more organized and professional looking.

Fire Chief – Bill Rash

The past quarter has been extremely challenging for the BFD. It is with great pain and apprehension that I have had to direct the training division to eliminate future training with the police department in respect to Active Shooter exercises (RTF), along with significant reductions and in some cases, elimination of specialized team training to include, but not limited to; advanced extrication training, hazardous materials training, confined space rescue training, rope rescue and water rescue training, structural collapse training and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus technician training. As we are all aware, this is a result of the budgetary cuts directed by City Council. I will continue going on record stating that these cuts in training compromise the safety and well-being of our firefighters and the public that we serve.

I was assigned as chairperson of the Equipment Replacement Program and have been working with Larry Deschene in preparing the necessary documents and presentations for city administration and city council.

Review and revision of BFD policies and procedures have been suspended due to this time being diverted to the public safety mill levy project. It is still my hope that we can revise policies and procedures, many dating back to 1994, before completion of my tenure.

Increased meetings and work on the public safety mill levy or public safety district have become a priority.

We have been working with Brent Brooks on revising the decades old ambulance ordinance and / or coming up with a contract.

Thanks for Dave Mumford and City Engineering, we have been working with City Engineer Deb Mehling and Engineer Will Robbins to address the many significant deferred maintenance projects at our fire stations. Unfortunately, we are finding that due to a significant delay, some stations that need new roofs may incur further damage due to a lack of contractor availability.

BFD recorded 4 rather than the 3 initially reported, cardiac saves that walked out of the hospital. These were direct results of our BFD paramedics being able to immediately treat these customers with Advance Life Support services. BFD EMS Coordinator and Training Chief will give a presentation to mayor/council on October 21st and will entertain any questions regarding our paramedic program.

Fire Administration – AC Valdez

- Started new budget year
- Promoted Diane Guy to Assistant Director for the 911 center
- Hired 911 dispatcher Travis Hunt for the new admin I support position with a start date of October 28
- Continue to work with American Medical Response on a possible operational changes
- Continue to develop public safety mill levy
- New lighting, inside and out, for station 4
- One new policy regarding travel reimbursement to the National Fire Academy and one revised forcible entry policy
- Monitoring the progress of two new pumpers

9-1-1 City Communications Center – Asst. Manager Diane Guy

- Replaced EXACOM logging recorder and upgraded recording software.
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- Installed Vesta 7.2 software on 9-1-1 telephone servers and all consoles which brings the Billings City/County 9-1-1 Center into full compliance with NG911 standards.
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- Replaced Analytics server – provides archived call records of 911 telephone activity.
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- Promoted Diane Guy to newly created Assistant Communication Center Manager.

Fire Prevention Bureau – Fire Marshal Mike Spini

The following are some statistics and accomplishments for the FPB for the past 90 days (July through September):

- 65 building plan reviews.
- 51 fire protection system reviews.
- 233 inspections completed by the FPB. This includes final construction, complaint, and licensing inspections.
- 21 fire origin and cause investigations.
- Eight smoke alarm installations in homes (19 smoke alarms and 7 carbon monoxide alarms installed).
- 22 fire safety station tours and in-fields.
- Three fire safety presentations.
- 14 Knox box installations/updates.
- Two juvenile fire setter education/consultations.
- Numerous meetings for subdivisions, master site plans, and pre-application meetings for large projects.
- Numerous conversations and phone calls concerning code consultation and compliance questions.
- DFM Morgan and DFM McLain became Certified Fire Investigation Technicians through the IAAI.
- Conducted interviews for a new administrative assistant for the FPB and 911 center and hired Travis Hunt for the position.

Operations Division – AC Matt Hoppel

The Billings Fire Department Operations Division has been kept busy with a variety of calls throughout this summer and early fall. We have experienced a well above average number of responses to Structure Fires, Technical Rescues, and traumatic motor vehicle accidents. Crews continue to handle these calls with the utmost level of service delivery.

It is with great honor to report that our Advanced Life Support delivery on the streets is paying high dividends to our customers. We were able to document a “Save” through advanced intervention prior to the ambulances arrival on a cardiac arrest. The patient is reported to be up and walking as we speak. This speaks volumes of the value of this program to the residents of Billings. In addition to this save, there have been numerous documented Advanced Life Support interventions that have positively affected the patient’s outcome.

The department has also been busy keeping up on their skills. The training division has been staying busy with managing on-duty training, planning for upcoming trainings / special events, managing the EMS operations in the department, and managing all of the equipment that is used daily in the suppression division. While supporting daily operations is our number one priority, we always have special programs running around the normal operations of the day. The following is a month-by-month run down of scheduled training and programs that have been completed.

Monthly Training topics for the 3rd quarter are listed below are listed below:

July 2019

- **Dementia Training** was provided for all members was conducted by River Stone Health. To educate all of our providers with the best ways to interact with dementia and Alzheimer’s
- **12 Lead Cardiac Monitoring** was provided for all emergency medical providers in collaboration with MSU-B City Colleges Paramedic Program
- **Engineer Development Program** was conducted by the BFD instructors for 6 Hi-c engineer candidates the 3rd week of July. These members completed hundreds of hours of book work, drivers training, and classroom hydraulics theory, all culminating with one week hands on training
- The first ever **Rescue Operations Swim Test** was given to all members who work around water incidents. This class involved a swim test followed by hands on training in managing C-spine emergencies in the water
- Last fall the technical rescue team (TRT) added 9 members to its roster. These TRT members conducted **Rescue Water Craft Training** to become proficient in operating water craft rescue in swift water for victim rescue.

- A PPE Specialist from L.N. Curtis and Sons conducted **personal protective equipment awareness level training** the last week of July. This training provided a more in depth education to our members on the design, construction, limitations, and cleaning procedures required to keep the personal protective equipment in top-notch shape.

August 2019

- 10 days of Active Shooter/Rescue Task Force training was conducting with our law enforcement partners at the Billings Police Department. This training provided multiple opportunities for our members to treat simulated patients under direct protection, while hostile active shooters (role players) were firing simulation rounds.



- The BFD Hazmat team conducted their 8 hour quarterly training in August as well

September 2019

- Annual hose test of BFD's entire hose inventory for all apparatus and stations was conducted for 2 weeks this month. The technical rescue team conducted its quarterly training on heavy lifting and large vehicle extrication with Hanser's Auto Salvage and Wrecker. Hanser's continues to support our department
- with providing vehicles for us to cut and lift that provide scenarios that are as close to the live rescue as we can get during a training session.



- Vehicle Extrication Operations was conducted with all members of the BFD during the 3rd week of September.

The Training Division also manages all EMS operations in the BFD under the direction of Asst. Training Officer/ EMS Chief Bryan Francis. The list below is the list of achievements that have been completed by our EMS personnel.

- New Life Pack 15 monitors ordered
- EMS Inventory placed in the Check It system to help control the EMS equipment supply chain
- Multiple hands on trainings including extrication, water rescue and an Air way lab at the City college
- Several EMT-P's tested out on Oral boards with Dr. Lewis and Passed making them credentialed Yellowstone County Medics

Our Logistics Officer Chelsea Thompson manages all the equipment in our inventory, as well as our inventory management system. This equipment includes hundreds of thousands of dollars of equipment that is carried on all apparatus, in station inventories, repairs, and ordering of replacement equipment. The following is a list of accomplishments in the last quarter.

- Bringing the Check It program to a functioning inventory system for BFD.
 - This included developing the department layout with vehicle info.
 - Loading all the tools/equipment & PPE into the system for tracking ability, maintenance, and replacement
 - Building Inventory & Engineer checklists for vehicles, medical bags
- Training the department personnel on the Check IT program
- Attending training at Globe and NFPA 1851 to enhance are PPE cleaning and inspection program.
- Reorganizing the PPE program to maximize the life of our gear for on shift crews and recruit academies.
- Completing an overhaul on all BFD medical equipment to rid the department of expired items and develop a inventoried storeroom
- Preparing and Ordering the department for wildland gear replacement
- Attending FDIC for equipment research and training.

The Billings Fire Department Haz-Mat Response Team has also had a busy summer.

This past quarter, the Billings Fire Department's Regional Hazmat Team responded to a significant combustible gas leak from a rail car on a local siding. One of the department's tank-car specialists, Eng. Lee Weis, assisted the owner of the rail car in repairing the leaking valve. The timeliness of this call corresponds to the 3rd quarter refresher training on leaking over-the-road trailers, vessels, and other containers conducted by our team's hazmat technicians. Additionally, members of the hazmat team participated in a joint-training on rendering an improvised explosive device safe with members of the Billings Police Department's EOD team and the FBI. Federal grant funds are being leveraged to send members of the hazmat team to a variety of advanced training including seminars, command and control, leadership, and response to terrorist bombings. The hazmat team has been awarded both a State Homeland Security Grant which will provide equipment and a two-year cycle for multi-team training and exercises and a Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness grant for more advanced training over the next three years. These grant funds continue to work as a stop-gap to the elimination of funding for the regional hazmat teams at the state level.

