Donation – Highmark Federal Credit Union

Employees of Highmark Federal Credit Union chose Pennington County and Custer County Search And Rescue teams as the recipient of their Wear Jeans To Work fundraising drive. A huge thank you to all those at Highmark FCU for supporting our communities!

Team Leader’s Corner

The summer has been busy for the team. With the arrival of the new Rescue 1, our team spent a weekend putting it together. This is no small feat as every shelf has to be set up just right so the equipment fits well and is accessible in a "logical" manner for a rescue. The truck still has a few tweaks to get it perfect, but it is a marked improvement from our old truck. The safety of our responders and the public is paramount and this truck will provide both. We’re excited to use it for the next several years.

We trekked up to northern Montana (almost Canada!) to support the West Fork and Moose Peak wildland fires near Libby. Our generator powered camp for 21 days and our communications trailer was utilized to provide the critical link between the resources in the field and in camp. We are fortunate to use our equipment to support others and this generates additional revenue to keep our costs down to the community.

With several of our members back to school and summer winding down, we’re prepping for the next big project. We’re always looking for ways to work more efficiently, provide better and safer service, and to keep up with technology. Our team is researching unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) to meet the needs of several public service agencies in our area. Stay safe!

~Tammy Stadel
Team Leader
**Events and Training**

**Check Sheets**
Oct-Dec – Extrication

**October**
- 3rd – Business Meeting
- 10th – Building Shoring Classroom
- 17th – MLPI / Search Tabletop
- 24th – Building Shoring Practical
- 31st – no training

**November**
- 7th – Business Meeting
- 14th – Hazmat Awareness
- 21st – no training
- 28th – Safety / Situational Awareness

**December**
- 5th – Business Meeting
- 12th – Electricity Safety & Awareness
- 19th – no training
- 26th – no training

**Team Goals**
The following goals have been set for 2017:
- Complete the replacement plan for vehicles, including to have a new Rescue 2 by 2018
- 100% compliance with checksheet completion
- Maintain a minimum of 25 trained and active members
- Have at least six members attend training outside the department, including the Homeland Security Conference and Instructor Training

**Training Update**
Greetings from the training desk. We slow training down and make sure we are prepared for calls that we can get in the summer. We reviewed the vertical setups and equipment. We also set up a course for the team to practice their map and compass navigation and GPS receiver skills. The team had a great opportunity to learn more about dogs and human tracking from a trainer out of Texas. He is with the Border Patrol and brought us some great tools to help the team on our search calls.

August is a busy month for the hills. We give the hard working team some time to enjoy the activities that are going on throughout the area. The time off from training is an opportunity to recharge our batteries.

September we review our skills at Trench Rescue. The cool and rainy month made it a challenging time to train outdoors. The last training was on locating a down air plane using the ELT (Emergence Locator Transmitter) that are on all plains. The equipment is similar to tracking a transmitter on an animal. We train on this in case a plane goes down in bad weather and the Civil Air Patrol is not able to fly.

It has been a great summer. With the leaves changing colors it is time to get the snow shovels out and the snow cats ready to go on patrol.

~ Jason “JD” Dannenbring
Training Officer

**Operations Update**
Spring started slow for the team but we have had quite a few calls overall for the summer. There have been a variety of things going on including learning the new extrication truck. It is a very welcome upgrade to our fleet and functions very well.

The new people are getting up to speed quickly and that has helped us get a better response to our larger calls that we have responded to this summer.

~ Rick Lehmann
Assistant Team Leader - Operations

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