



# The Blaze

A Publication of the Idaho State Fire Commissioners' Association

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2025 edition of *The Blaze!* This publication of the Idaho State Fire Commissioners' Association (ISFCA), is intended to convey current information regarding ISFCA's ongoing activities and support effective communication among Fire/EMS agencies throughout the state of Idaho.

The target audience for *The Blaze* is agencies that are volunteer, paid/career, and/or combination paid/volunteer/reserve and provide either Fire, EMS, or combined Fire/EMS resources to their designated service areas. We hope also that the quarterly publication will be of assistance to elected fire commissioners and provide a forum for the productive exchange of programs, ideas, and concepts that effectively address the many challenges currently faced by first-responders.

The format of this edition is somewhat of a "trial balloon" based on prior publications and we absolutely welcome your feedback and ideas regarding future content. It is anticipated at this point that future editions will include topics relevant to upcoming trainings and conferences, regional news from member departments, features on "Hometown Heroes" – unique accomplishments by frontline first responders, guest articles by department chiefs, information on maintenance of physical and mental health, as well as a few "fun" topics (see "Firehouse Grill – What's for Dinner? Section). Please feel free to communicate your ideas for content to:  
Bob Foster, Publications Committee Chair:  
[bfoster@silverstar.com](mailto:bfoster@silverstar.com).

## 1st Quarter Blaze - 2025

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Informing, educating, representing, leading, and serving fire districts of Idaho in the preservation and protection of live and property

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# Everyday Heroes



Becca Parkinson became the first firefighter from the Teton County Fire District to complete the National Fire Academy's Managing Officer Program. The process took 2 years, with online studying and multiple trips to the Academy in Emmitsburg, MD. "The idea of the Managing Officer Program is to provide tools for people in mid-level [positions within their departments] to make an impact internally and externally in their community," explained Parkinson.

The Managing Officer Program also focuses on community risk reduction, and efforts to build a culture of safety within local fire departments. Each student in the Managing Officer Program is required to submit a Capstone Project. Parkinson's project focused on pre-planning during the department's downtime by continuing to develop a database of available assets in the event of an emergency. For example, building a database including detailed plans of new subdivisions, mapping resources, like the location of all hydrants and fire ponds, which might be snow-covered in winter and not easy to locate for crews responding to an emergency.

A lot of the Managing Officer Program is built around using data to look at trends in call information," explained Parkinson. The idea is that, by analyzing call information data to identify trends that could be mitigated by education. "For example, in a college town with a high incidence of dormitory fires, could they offer cooking classes to teach students to make macaroni and cheese without causing a fire in their dorm room?" said Parkinson.

With rapidly increasing development in Teton County, some areas, particularly in winter, would be difficult for emergency personnel to reach in an emergency situation. Having a database showing the number of nearby residences, where available water and road access are located can help responding crews determine what assets to send and help determine if it's likely to be necessary to pull additional assets from surrounding jurisdictions. "That information exists," explained Parkinson, "but is it in a format that I can pull up on a tablet while I'm in a fire engine at 3am?"

The Managing Officer Program is designed to enhance individual fire departments by establishing a curriculum relevant to all fire personnel, and by virtue of a single campus, draws fire officers from all across the nation into one community. "It's got people from huge departments, and people from tiny volunteer departments, all dealing with [similar issues]," said Parkinson. "It's a great networking resource."

Article Resources— Teton Valley News—Ellis Smith

[www.tetonvalleynews.net/commuity/teton-county-firefighter](http://www.tetonvalleynews.net/commuity/teton-county-firefighter)

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**FIRE COMMISSIONERS: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**By: Bob Foster, Fire Commissioner, Teton County Fire Protection District**

It is often the case that Fire Commissioners are the “hidden” or “little-known” elected officials at the county level. Other than being aware that a fire truck and ambulance show up when 911 is called, many citizens don’t know (or care) about the administrative structure of the fire district or Fire/EMS department. Similarly, members of the departments themselves, particularly if the department is a large one, may be unfamiliar with the duties and responsibilities of the elected Fire Commissioners.

Idaho Statute Title 31 Chapter 14-1409, 14-1410, and 14-14127 describes the formation of a fire taxing district, election of commissioners, and the duties of those commissioners.

Statute section 31-1417 specifies that, “a board of fire protection commissioners shall have the discretionary powers to manage and conduct the business and affairs of the district”. The “discretionary powers” may be summarized to include:

- (1) To sue and be sued;
- (2) To purchase, hold, sell, and convey real and personal property;
- (3) To levy and apply such taxes for operation of the taxing district and approve an annual budget by resolution;
- (4) To make and execute necessary contracts;
- (5) To adopt such rules and resolutions necessary to carry out their duties and responsibilities;
- (6) To hire, pay, promote, discipline, terminate district employees and/or contractors;
- (7) To set compensation and benefit levels for employees, commissioners, contractors, and agents;
- (8) To appoint appeals and investigatory boards for handling matters related to personnel, fire code enforcement, and other activities deemed necessary for carrying out the purposes and policies of the state statutes;
- (9) To enforce the state fire code;
- (10) To charge and collect reasonable fees for services provided to residents of the fire protection district.

Some Idaho counties establish additional job descriptions for elected fire district commissioners that specify meeting schedules, delegation of duties regarding administration of the district and department(s), negotiation of collective bargaining agreements, involvement in strategic planning, and implementation of policies and procedures that ensure responsible management of the public’s assets and funds. In addition to the department chief and command staff, fire commissioners often interact with other elected officials at the county and city level and serve on various committees and advisory boards that are relevant to the provision of fire and EMS services.

Fire District Commissioners are subject to the Idaho Open Meeting Law (Idaho Code subsections 74-201 through 74-208), Idaho Public Records Law (Idaho Code subsections 74-101 through 74-126), provisions of the Idaho Ethics in Government Manual (July 2019), and Chapter 4 of Title 74, the Ethics in Government Act.

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## Cybersecurity for Idaho Fire Protection Districts: Protecting Our Communities Starts with Protecting Ourselves.

By: Michael Albrecht, Fire Commissioner, Elk Bend Fire District

As Fire Commissioners, we spend much of our time ensuring our firefighters have the right gear, our equipment is up to snuff, and that we're ready to respond when the call comes in. But there's a growing threat that we need to address head-on: cybersecurity. Over the next four to five newsletters, I intend to lay out multiple cybersecurity items to consider when setting the policies for your districts.

Now, I know many of us didn't grow up with computers being a part of our lives. But these days, districts rely on technology more than ever before. From dispatch systems to resident records, everything is digital. And that means we're vulnerable to cyberattacks. As policymakers for our districts, it is our responsibility to ensure the community is protected.

This series of articles is about giving you the knowledge you need to make informed decisions about cybersecurity for your district and personnel. I want to share expertise from government agencies, insurance companies like ICRMP, and cybersecurity professionals, focusing on practical steps to safeguard your district.

### Why Cybersecurity Matters to Your Fire Protection District

Think about it. What would happen if a hacker shut down your dispatch system? Or stole sensitive information about your residents? Or completely locked you out of all the records you have been keeping on your computers or in online folders? The consequences could be devastating.

### The Risks of Ignoring Cybersecurity:

- **Data Breaches and Financial Strain:** A data breach can cost a lot of money. We are responsible for ensuring our districts are good stewards of taxpayer dollars. Notifying affected individuals, hiring forensic experts, dealing with lawsuits... it adds up fast.
- **Operational Disruptions:** If our dispatch system goes down, response times will increase, and firefighter safety is at risk. According to standard cybersecurity practices, backing up files and devices is critical. We can't afford to let that happen.
- **Damaged Reputation:** A cyberattack can erode public trust. And once that trust is lost, it's hard to get back.

**Ransomware Attacks:** Imagine someone locking down all your computers and demanding a ransom. Even if you pay, there's no guarantee you'll get your data back.

A weak or nonexistent cybersecurity policy leaves your district exposed. It's up to us to be proactive, implement strong security measures, and train our people to recognize and avoid cyber threats.



## Cybersecurity for Idaho Fire Protection Districts: Protecting Our Communities Starts with Protecting Ourselves. - Continued

By: Michael Albrecht, Fire Commissioner, Elk Bend Fire District

### Key Recommendations

This series will dive deeper into each of these recommendations, but here's a quick overview:

- 1. Develop a Cybersecurity Policy:** A cybersecurity plan should identify who is responsible for security and train them in their role.
- 2. Strong Passwords:** The Idaho Technology Authority provides standards for passwords including at least 8 characters, using both upper- and lower-case letters, and including special characters and numbers (<https://ita.idaho.gov/psg/g560.pdf>). Adhering to these standards means the difference between hackers cracking your password in minutes or years.
- 3. Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA):** In addition to a strong password, it is important to include multi-factor authentication like services that send an authentication pin to your cell phone, apps that generate one-time passwords (OTPs), or other similar methods. Additional steps beyond logging in with a password provide layers to your security posture.
- 4. Software Updates:** Security updates will keep your software safe. Software companies are continually identifying vulnerabilities which are patched during regular updates.
- 5. Employee Training:** Ensure your employees understand current cyber threats. This is absolutely critical because our people are often the first line of defense against cyberattacks. Social Engineering is the number one technique to manipulate some inside the system to let hackers in. The increase in phishing emails has skyrocketed in the last few years. An effective training plan increases awareness and decreases risk.
- 6. Data Backups:** Backups of your data prevent loss in case of an emergency. The best data backup plan follows a 3-2-1 rule to ensure redundancy. Keep at least 3 copies, store copies on 2 different types of storage media, and keep 1 copy offsite.
- 7. Network Security:** Secure your network with a firewall. Part of this strategy includes intrusion detection and prevention as well as using strong encryption for your wireless connections.
- 8. Incident Response Plan:** Have a plan in place should you be attacked. The reality is that there are those who have been attacked and those who are going to get hacked.

### Idaho 2025 Legislative Session Raising the Bar for Security

Our state legislators in both the House and Senate have passed House Bill 0035 which has also been signed by the Governor on February 21, 2025. This new law requires all state agencies to implement and use multifactor authentication to increase cybersecurity on state devices and when accessing state resources. It is a significant step forward for cybersecurity in Idaho and emphasizes the need to provide leadership in these matters by setting solid policy.

### Looking Ahead

In the coming articles, we'll delve into each of these recommendations and more, providing practical guidance and resources to help you strengthen your district's cybersecurity. By working together and taking these steps, we can protect our data and ensure that our districts are ready to face the challenges of the digital age.

I encourage you to take this seriously and join me in making cybersecurity a priority for all Fire Protection Districts in Idaho. After all, protecting our communities starts with protecting ourselves.

## THE FIREHOUSE GRILL: What's for Dinner?

SAVORY ELK STEW. Reprinted by permission from originator Kaci Lawless, *The Homemade Harvest*. 2/2/23

### INGREDIENTS

4 tablespoons butter  
 1.5 pounds elk stew meat  
 2 teaspoons salt (divided)  
 1 teaspoon garlic powder  
 1 teaspoon onion powder  
 2 medium sweet onions (diced)  
 3 cloves garlic (finely minced)  
 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce  
 4 cups beef broth (1 quart)  
 1 bay leaf  
 4-5 medium russet or gold potatoes (chopped)  
 1 can green peas (optional)  
 5 carrots (peeled and diced)  
 2 tablespoons cornstarch  
 1/4 cup cool water

### DIRECTIONS

- Season the meat with 1.5 teaspoons salt, the garlic powder, and the onion powder.
- Heat a dutch oven or heavy pot over medium heat and add 2 tablespoons of the butter.
- Brown the meat in batches. Be sure to add only one layer at a time and avoid stirring until you can see that the meat is searing on the bottom. Place meat onto a plate and continue to brown the meat in batches. Reduce the heat to low.
- After the meat is all browned, add your chopped onion and garlic to the pan along with 2 tablespoons of the butter and 1/2 tsp salt. Place a lid on the pan and allow to cook 3-5 minutes. Stir occasionally while scraping the browned bits of the bottom of the pan.
- Add back in your browned meat, the bay leaf, Worcestershire sauce, and the beef broth.
- Simmer the meat and broth on low about 45 minutes until the meat is tender. This time could vary depending on the cut of elk you are using.
- After the meat is tender, add your diced potatoes and carrots to the pot. If you would like to add any other vegetables, add them at this point as well.
- Simmer on medium/low about 25-30 minutes until the carrots are tender.
- If you would like to thicken the stew, mix the cornstarch with the water in a small cup. With the stew still simmering, pour about half of the cornstarch mixture into the stew while stirring. If you would like the stew to be thicker, continue adding until it has thickened to your liking. Remove bay leaf before serving and enjoy!



## THE FIREHOUSE GRILL: What's for Dinner?

Teriyaki Pheasant. Reprinted by permission from originator Lisa Foster, Owner/Operator of Pine Needle Embroidery, Teton Valley Idaho.

### INGREDIENTS

2 pheasant breasts  
 1 medium white onion  
 2-3 cloves of garlic  
 2 tablespoons butter  
 1/2 cup Very Very Teriyaki Sauce  
 1/2 cup Panda Express Orange Sauce  
 1/4 cup Paul Newman Ginger Sauce  
 1 1/2 cups cream or milk  
 1 brick cream cheese  
 Salt and pepper to taste

### Preparation and Cooking Instructions

Cut pheasant breasts into 1" strips. Chop onion and garlic. Cook together in butter until pheasant is no longer pink. Remove from pan and set aside.

Add all sauces to residual drippings in meat cooking pan. Stir together and heat until bubbling. Stir in cream or milk. Place cream cheese brick in center of pan and simmer about 5 minutes. Cream cheese will soften and break apart. Stir cream cheese into sauce, add pheasant breasts, and simmer an additional 5 minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste. Add thickening if needed.

Serve over plain rice, wild rice, or mashed potatoes as you prefer and enjoy!

## **THE VIEW FROM THE TOP: A FIRE CHIEF'S PERSPECTIVE**

**By: Mike Maltaverne, Fire Chief, Teton County Idaho Fire/Rescue/EMS**

### **Introduction**

Not all Fire Departments or Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are created equal. Often times, more populated or urban areas allow for a more robust emergency response system due to more predictable funding, available workforce and timely access to a healthcare system. A rural Fire/EMS system, on the other hand, is tasked with emergency response and essential medical care to either remote or isolated areas and communities. This remoteness can stretch these systems and cause significant challenges in the delivery of these services. Today's rural Fire/EMS system in the United States is facing a myriad of challenges.

Disclaimer: I currently serve as a Fire Chief for a small, rural Fire District and am only speaking for fire-based services or those EMS services that are provided as part of a Fire Department's expanded mission. Teton County Fire Protection District is a full time/career organization that provides Fire/Rescue/EMS services to all of Teton County, ID and a portion of Teton County, WY.

### **Communities We Serve**

Rural communities and the citizens that live here are downright built differently. Being incredibly self-reliant, these folks are used to working hard and not depending on anyone other than family, friends or neighbors to lend a helping hand. However, emergencies still happen in rural areas. These situations require someone trained and equipped to respond in a timely manner, access the person, determine what is wrong, develop and implement an operational or treatment plan, order necessary resources for the incident and transport to an appropriate healthcare facility. So why is providing that service so difficult? The nature of the work and way of life in these areas can make emergencies even more complex, requiring higher levels of care and coordination.

### **Challenges**

Delivering Fire/EMS to a rural or remote location takes time. Travel or response times are typically significantly longer. This matters when the incident, injury or illness is serious enough to need immediate attention and responders such as firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) or Paramedics are a 30-minute drive from the patient.

In the instance of an EMS response, the patient is assessed and treatment begins, that person needs to be transported to the nearest healthcare facility for a higher level of care. That transport may be longer than the initial response as it may be to a regional hospital or facility. When the total time of response, treatment, transport and returning to service are combined, one call for service can take an ambulance and its crew out of service for several hours.

Workforce challenges in rural areas can be significant due to lack of people available to fill Fire/EMS roles. A firefighter, EMT or Paramedic must complete the initial training, take didactic and practical tests to prove proficiency and obtain the necessary qualifications or licensure through the State. Maintenance of these qualifications and licenses can prove challenging in a rural setting. Many rural systems can only provide volunteer firefighters or EMS providers. So once one completes the training, passes the test and secures the qualifications or a license, they have to be willing to answer an emergency call at any time of day for no compensation.

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## **THE VIEW FROM THE TOP: A FIRE CHIEF'S PERSPECTIVE - Continued**

**By: Mike Maltaverne, Fire Chief, Teton County Idaho Fire/Rescue/EMS**

We ask them to provide this essential service as a “volunteer”. There are systems that will pay responders an amount per call or have full time paid staff. Regardless of the level of compensation, recruiting people for this type of work is difficult in rural areas. And it doesn't end there. Retaining them once they are on board is an ongoing challenge due to the physical and mental stress. This is not an easy job or lifestyle. Career burnout, post traumatic stress, unhealthy living, strained relationships, alcohol or substance abuse, lack of quality rest are all side effects of being an emergency responder.

Many rural systems face budgeting challenges out of their control. Many systems rely on a blend of taxes collected as well as a subscription or user fee. A patient may receive an invoice for services and EMS transport or in many instances are partially covered by insurance. Economic disparity is generally higher in rural areas resulting in patients being under or uninsured and may lack the financial ability to pay for the services they receive.

Rural systems are not immune from the effects of inflation. Inflation can impact necessary expenses and higher fixed costs such as fuel, tires, personal protective equipment, vehicle purchase prices, cost of disposable supplies, utilities, insurance, payroll etc. While expenses may increase, revenue sources like taxes and user fees are very difficult and slow to adjust and may not keep pace.

### **All Is Not Lost**

The challenges can be met with sound business practices that we can obtain from the private sector. The importance of the strategic planning process is the same. Understanding where your organization is today, or your current reality, and identifying where you want to go can provide an organization with a road map. Working with the community to identify the gaps and means to close them can prove to be successful and sustainable.

When working with the community, being honest about what a service can and can't provide could be helpful in getting their support for additional funding, personnel or resources. Ultimately, it's their service and their decision to what level they can access it. Community engagement and relationships with stakeholders enhance rural Fire/EMS systems.

Many improvements are on the horizon. Rural areas are increasingly being served by air assets such as medical helicopters and fixed wing air ambulances. These resources can reduce response times and get patients to more definitive care in a timelier manner. In addition, different forms of technology are making their way into rural Fire/EMS systems with improved cellular connectivity, telemetry or the ability to remotely share info with a physician, automatic CPR devices, enhanced mapping and decision support tools. Today's Fire/EMS systems have better data to help identify issues and help address them.

While rural emergency responders across the country are facing challenges, there are many positive developments occurring. Our greatest commodity may not be a steady budget, buildings, fire trucks or ambulances, but rather the professionals who provide these essential services to our communities. You will not find more compassionate and dedicated group of individuals with motivation that comes from their unmatched sense of community.

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**Bond Defeat was Pennywise but Pound Foolish**  
**By: L.V. "Buzz" Beauchamp, Fire Commissioner, Caldwell Rural Fire District**

Quick, call 911

So, you call 911 for your Emergency, how long will you wait? Hopefully, you will fall below the Average Response Time of less than 10 Minutes. (Inside City 5 -6 Minutes / Rural areas 7- 9 minutes)

This opinion is related to the November 16 front page article in the Idaho Press regarding "There is no pot of gold". The article offered frightening information about how shortsighted the Voters are about Emergency Services Funding. Any time the word "BOND" is mentioned in an election, the Voters are "Bond Weary" and tend to be Negative. The only clear statistic given is the Cost per \$100,000 Appraised Value. This can be deceiving, UNLESS You "Crunch the Numbers". Using an example of a \$400,000 Home, the Taxable Value is \$275,000 after the Home Owners Exemption of \$125,000. The Taxable Value is then multiplied by the "Levy MIL Rate" for the Taxing District (Let's use an Average of 0.0050 ). SO,  $\$275,000 \times 0.0050 = \$1375$  Annual Property Tax (Remember this!)

In the Article, the Canyon County Ambulance District suffered a defeat of the \$5.8 Million Bond which would have Cost \$15 Additional per \$100,000 Taxable Value. Using the previous example  $\$15 \times 2.75 = \$41.25$  Additional per Year! SO, a jump up from \$1375 to \$1416.25 PER YEAR . Most Property Owners pay Mortgages, and many use Escrow accounts to pay taxes. To break the Tax Amounts down to a "Monthly Budget",  $\$1375 / 12 = \$114.59$  per Month. IF the \$5.8Million Bond had passed,  $\$1416.25/12=\$118.02$  per Month!! So, AN INCREASE of \$3.43 PER MONTH was TOO Much to pay for TWO Stations AND Seven Additional Medic Staff??

SHAME on the Voters in Canyon County, Star and Middleton for NOT PASSING The Emergency Services BONDS! Response Times MAY Increase!

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## Who is the ISFCA Board??—The Volunteers of the Association

### Michael Albrecht - ISFCA President

My wife and I grew up in the beautiful state of Idaho, where our love for adventure and service was nurtured amidst its stunning landscapes. Early on, I developed a deep appreciation for the outdoors and a strong sense of duty to my community. This passion led me to a life-changing journey that began at a recruiting office in Idaho Falls and, after a brief period of enlistment, continued at the United States Naval Academy.

At the Naval Academy, I received a world-class education and honed my leadership skills while studying alongside some of the brightest minds in the country. After graduating, I married my sweetheart, and together we embarked on an extraordinary career in the United States Navy. As an F/A-18 fighter pilot, I had the privilege of serving my country on multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. These experiences tested my skills and strengthened my unwavering commitment to protecting and defending the values I hold dear.

After 24 years of honorable service, I retired from the Navy and returned to my roots in Idaho. Alongside my amazing wife, who stood by me throughout my military journey, we embraced the opportunity to reconnect with our community and contribute to its growth. My Navy experiences instilled in me a strong sense of duty, discipline, and integrity, which I am eager to channel into making a meaningful impact in the state we are proud to call home.

One such opportunity arose in my local fire district, where I first served as Fire Chief and later as Fire Commissioner for the Elk Bend Fire Protection District. These roles deepened my appreciation for the vital work of fire service professionals and the critical role of strong leadership in ensuring community safety.

Now, as the President of the Idaho State Fire Commissioners' Association (ISFCA), I am honored to lead an organization dedicated to enhancing fire safety and emergency response across our great state. My focus as President is to grow ISFCA's membership by engaging fire districts statewide and promoting the value of collaboration and shared expertise. Equally important is ensuring that current members have access to high-quality training, legislative updates, and networking opportunities to enhance their professional development and the effectiveness of fire service leadership in Idaho.

As we work to build a stronger, more connected ISFCA, I invite you to join us in this vital mission. Your involvement is essential to achieving our goal of a safer, more resilient Idaho. Whether you have questions, insights, or ideas for collaboration, I welcome your input. Please feel free to contact me at [office@isfca.org](mailto:office@isfca.org) or (208) 742-4740. Together, we can ensure that ISFCA remains a powerful resource for Idaho's fire service community and the residents we serve.

### Monte McMillan—Region 2 Director

Hello from Northern Idaho. I have lived in north Idaho all my life on the family farm. I farmed until I retired 3 years ago and leased it out. I fill in for the one farming it when needed. I started in the fire service a little over 40 years ago. I was a firefighter for the Moscow Volunteer Fire Department for 36 years. In that time I was also in the Moscow Rural Fire District. They are two separate fire services. I now do only the rural side of fire. I have been the chairman for the commissioners for roughly 8 or 9 years. This alone keeps me busy along with all my side jobs.

### L.V. "Buzz Beauchamp"— Region 3A Director

I have lived in Caldwell since November, 1981. In 2004/05 We built Our Dream Home in the county area close to the Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge. Little did I know I was in the Rural Fire District. I was contacted by My former Neighbor, Bill Gigray, telling Me the Fire District needed a Commissioner, since the "Elected Official" did not live in the District. I submitted an application, thinking I wouldn't have a chance. My "Emergency Service" experience was Seven Summer seasons as an Ocean Lifeguard. ( One year was very easy, as the movie "JAWS" was released and not many swimmers!) I had to become an EMT to improve my status to receive better "postings".

My Education is a B. S. Degree in Business. My Professional Career has been from working in an International Truck Factory Branch as a warranty administrator to Credit and Collections for I.H.C.C. (International Harvester Credit Corporation) to Equipment Sales for a CASE Dealership.

I do have a bit of "Fire" in My genes, since My Father was a Firefighter for Los Angeles County after he got out of the Navy in 1946. Our Family were long time friends with the Klingers. "Granka" Kieth Klinger was a long serving Fire Chief of Los Angeles County (One of the first Fire Companies to use Helicopters).

So, I always back My vehicles into My Garage!

## Who is the ISFCA Board???—The Volunteers of the Association

### Alan Roberts – Region 4 Director

Married to Sue Roberts

Father of 4 kids and 4 grandkids

Business owner for 39 years. Sold our business 2 years ago.

Currently working as the Emergency Services Director for Elmore County. I oversee 23 FT EMS personnel and another 25 paid on call EMS and Rescue personnel. Our coverage area is all of Elmore County, 3400 square miles of city, rural, remote areas along with approximately 60 miles of interstate. Currently in 2nd term as Rural Fire Commissioner and still active on the city department going on 36 years serving as Chief Engineer. I came to Idaho in 1978 as an 18 Year old kid to serve in the USAF working in Civil Engineering. Public service has always been a passion and I hope to continue well into the future in some capacity.

### Bob Foster – Region 6B Director

Bob Foster is a 32-year resident of Eastern Idaho and currently lives in Teton Valley. He has 20 years' experience as an Idaho-licensed Advanced EMT and was the administrator of a rural, volunteer EMS agency for 10 years. During his active career Bob was a NOLS-certified Wilderness EMT and a member of the Himalayan Rescue Association Mount Everest Base Camp EMS team. Bob is the former vice-chairman of the East Idaho Region VII Crisis Intervention Team and a certified Critical Incident Stress Management facilitator. His field work has included certification as Operations Section Chief and Logistics Officer in the Incident Command System. Bob was privileged to represent rural emergency medical services on the Idaho EMS Advisory Council (EMSAC) and chaired the East Region Time Sensitive Emergency (TSE) Committee.

Bob presently serves as an elected fire commissioner for Teton County Fire and Rescue and has been a board member of Silver Star Communications since 2006. He holds a master's degree in organizational development and a graduate teaching credential in business and industrial management. Bob has 35 years' experience as a strategic planner and currently consults with a wide variety of public and private organizations.

An avid outdoorsman, Bob spends his "spare time" working as the transportation and guest logistics coordinator for a historic flyfishing lodge and fully enjoys all the recreational opportunities offered in Rocky Mountain region.

### Rebekah "Becky" Luther – At Large

My name is Rebekah Luther I do go by Becky, I have been Married to my husband for 38 years, I have 2 sons that are married, one in Idaho and the other in Tennessee. I have 2 grandchildren with one more on the way. I worked for Cal Fire as a firefighter, Fire prevention officer, and ended as a Deputy State Fire Marshal. We moved to Idaho in 2018 after retirement. I was not done; I was appointed as a Fire Commissioner to the Kuna Rural Fire District in 2020. I enjoy sewing for Project Linus and make blankets, quilts, and other things like Crocheting. I love to garden, and I have completed 1 full marathon, 13 half marathon, and now I have been doing 5ks working back up to more half marathons. I hope to continue supporting the fire service with my knowledge and would like to see our Station #2 go online this next spring.

### Lorraine Elfering– At Large

My name is Lorraine Elfering and I am a Fire Commissioner for the Parma Rural Fire District; I have been a Commissioner for about 3 years;

I was born and raised in Weiser, Idaho and am the youngest of 7 children in my family.

I retired with over 30 years of experience in law enforcement. I began dispatching before 911 was a number to dial - it was all 7 digit numbers. I was a dispatcher with Payette Police and Payette County SO and a 911 Dispatcher, 911 Manager and a Project Manager for the 700 MHz system with Canyon County SO;

I have been married to my husband for 46 years; we have 3 successful children and 2 amazing grandchildren. We currently live in the Parma area and have for about 20 years. I continue to volunteer with TVEMSS and the Canyon County Fire Chiefs Assoc; Becoming a fire commissioner has been challenging and rewarding for me. Every day I learn something new about fire service, and know how important our fire districts are to our communities.

## THANK YOU SPONSORS AND VENDORS

To all of our Sponsors and Vendors, Thank You for supporting and believing in our organization. Without your continued support, ISFCA wouldn't be able to provide the educational and leadership training that we have.

### 2024 Sponsors and Vendors

Curtis Tools for Heroes  
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We highly encourage you, as Fire Districts, to support our Sponsors and Vendors throughout the year with your business, as they support us. Check out our website for their contact information.

***Just for fun, here are some "downtime" trivia puzzles that may provide a little mental exercise and light-hearted conversation around the department:***

1. In 1608, the first recorded structure fire in the United States occurred in \_(location)\_\_\_\_\_.
2. In 1630, the first formal fire prevention program in the United States was established in (location)\_\_\_\_\_.
3. The (event) \_\_\_\_\_ in 1871 led to laws requiring new buildings to be constructed with fireproof materials and the development of smoke detectors.
4. The first U.S. Ambulance Corps was established in 1862 during the Civil War by (whom) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Match the correct answers:**

Dr, Jonathan Letterman, The Jamestown Colony, The Great Chicago Fire, and Boston, Mass.