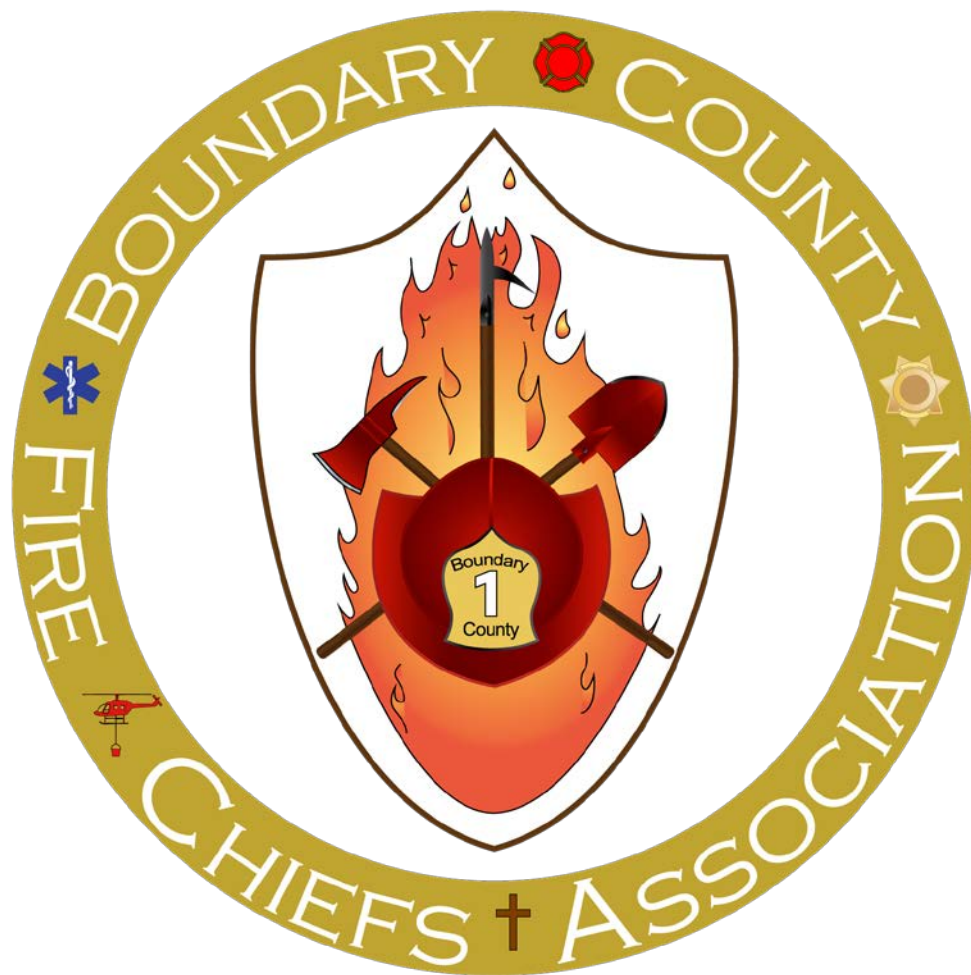


Boundary County Annual Run Report

2020



Boundary County Fire Chiefs Association

PO Box 437, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805

www.boundarycountyfire.com



The mission of the Boundary County Fire Chiefs Association.

The purpose of this organization is to further the professional advancement of the fire service, to insure and maintain greater protection of life and the property from fire, natural and man-made disaster, or other sudden emergencies. We strive to meet these goals by:

- Bringing together, at least once a month, persons interested in preventing, controlling, and suppressing fires to discuss ways and means of the betterment of the fire service, and reducing loss of life and property from unfriendly fires; to develop a bond of friendship and understanding among members of the fire service in Boundary County Idaho.
- Conduct research and studies of major problems affecting the fire service at community or regional levels.
- Sponsor, promote, organize, and seek funding for educational seminars and classes that will enhance the training for all agencies within the region at the most cost-effective level per student.

Purpose of the County Wide Annual Report.

- Provide information regarding call response, training, and agency information to all residents of Boundary County.
- Allow agencies to show their yearly statistics on a local level and share information that is pertinent to their operations.
- Increase support, interest, and engagement in your local Fire Agency, Emergency Medical Service, and Search and Rescue.
- Encourage the recruitment of new volunteers and members.

Please note that some agencies in Boundary County have opted to not participate in the BCFCFA Run Report, these agencies still submit calls and reports to the State of Idaho. If you would like more information about your local Fire Agency please see pages 14-16 for a list of Fire Agencies and contact information



Boundary County Fire Service Honor Guard.

Established in the fall of 2018, the Boundary County Fire Rescue Honor Guard is a multi-agency team of dedicated fire service personnel whose goal is to promote honor and integrity in our region's fire service agencies, preserve traditions that remind us of the sacrifice of first responders here and around the nation from the inception of the fire service, show respect for those who have given their lives in the service of their communities, and remind personnel and the communities that we serve of our larger connection to a national identity of courageous devotion to the safety of others.

A typical year would see the Honor Guard marching in several parades, presenting our national and state colors at local civic events, memorial services for emergency personnel who have passed away, and local observances of national memorials. But 2020 was far from a typical year! Our usual full schedule was dramatically cut back due to imposed gathering restrictions. A number of services for individuals were postponed until 2021; local parades were cancelled; civic events were drastically curtailed.

Nevertheless, the Honor Guard continued to drill and be prepared to honor the fallen and our nation. And even with the restrictions, significant memorials were not neglected. The Honor Guard had the privilege of representing the fire service and other agencies at four significant events this past year:

- National Law Enforcement Memorial, June 5.
- Fourth of July Parade, Eastport, Idaho, July 4.
- 9/11 Memorial, September 11.
- National Fallen Firefighter Memorial, October 4.

It is our hope and expectation that the Honor Guard will be able to not only repeat our involvement in these events this year, but that we will also be able to serve our local fire service community personnel and their families in times of sorrow and loss as we have in the past. We also look forward to a renewal of local civic events in which we can once again proudly display our nation's colors and remind all of us why service to one another is so important.



Boundary County Fire Prevention Coop.

Mission: The Boundary County Fire Prevention Cooperative works to prevent unwanted human-caused wildfires through public outreach and education. We accomplish our mission through public outreach campaigns, education programs and presentations.

What is the Co-op? Boundary County Fire Prevention Cooperative (Co-op) – Formed in 2018, the Co-op is a working group under the sponsorship of the Boundary County Fire Chiefs' Association. Like the Fire Chiefs' Association, the Co-op is comprised of members from the various fire agencies in the county, with a commitment to bringing fire prevention services throughout the county.

Some of our yearly Outreach/Educational Events include:

- Smokey Bear Coloring Contest, Grades K-2
- Smokey Bear Wildfire Prevention and Campfire Safety Presentations
- County Fair Fire Prevention Booth
- Participation in Idaho Dept. of Lands (IDL) Arbor Day Event
- County Parades: 4th of July and Memorial Day
- Wildfire Home Protection Evaluations – Free service provided through IDL
- Free Smoke Detector Installation – coordinated by IDL, local fire departments, and Red Cross
- Fire Information Signs: burn permits, fire restriction info, and fire danger level signs
- Participates in National Wildfire Awareness Month – May
- Participates and supports events during Fire Prevention Week every October
- Periodically sends out press releases with fire prevention information
- Working to create FireWise Communities in Boundary County

***Due to the unforeseen impacts of COVID, the Co-op was unable to participate and/or facilitate many of the events listed above in 2020. ***

The Co-op offers wildfire home protection evaluations to provide homeowners with the education and information they need to create defensible space and harden their home against potential loss/damage due to wildfire. If you are interested in a home evaluation, call the Idaho Department of Lands at (208) 267-5577 to schedule a visit with a representative from the Co-op to learn what you can do to reduce the wildfire risk to your home and other structures. As always, preparing your home for a wildfire is your responsibility!



Paradise Valley Fire Protection District.

Paradise Valley Fire District (PVFD) is a 65 sq mile rural fire district consisting primarily of open wildlands and agricultural fields located southeast of the town of Bonners Ferry, Idaho. The district currently maintains two fire stations to protect lives and property of our 2,600 residents. We are staffed 100% by volunteers who live within the district or in the nearby town of Bonners Ferry. Like most firefighters, Paradise Valley volunteers do much more than just takedown fires: they also respond to vehicle accidents, medical emergencies, hazmat incidents, downed power lines and much more. Our dedicated volunteers are the heart of our emergency response capability.

PVFD is a sparsely populated district consisting of extensive wildland/urban interface area and is home to critical national infrastructure, including the TransCanada GTN Pipeline system that provides natural gas to California, Nevada, and the Pacific Northwest, as well as the BNSF Railway which links agriculture, ranching, timber, petroleum, and other industries to domestic and international markets. PVFD firefighters also protect about 12 miles of Hwy 95, which acts as the primary North/South corridor between U.S. interstate 90 and Canada, a major trucking route and primary route for summer vacationers all over.

PVFD maintains Mutual and Automatic aid agreements with the neighboring rural, city and state fire districts of South Boundary Fire, North Bench Fire, City of Bonners Ferry, and Idaho Department of Lands, boosting our commitment to nearly county-wide emergency response. PVFD also contributes firefighters and equipment to wild land firefighting operations within the general North Idaho, Montana, and Washington areas

Agency Information

Volunteer Personnel: 9	Paid Personnel: 1	Apparatus: 8	Stations: 2
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Calls for service in 2020

Fire	Vehicle Collision	EMS	Canceled	Total
50	28	123	65	266



North Bench Volunteer Fire District.

North Bench Volunteer Fire District (NBVFD) is a roughly 67 square milage fire district consisting of commercial, agricultural, urban, rural, and urban-interface communities. NBVFD provides all-hazard coverage from the northern Bonners Ferry city limits north to milepost 518 on Highway 95, also known as the Rock Creek area. Coverage East to West is from Moyie Springs city limits on the East to the Selkirk Mountain range on the West where NBVFD borders state and federal lands. NBVFD also provides coverage to the southwest of Bonners Ferry in the Pine Island area along with coverage to the southeast of Moyie Springs in the Mountain View and South Division areas. NBVFD provides services to an approximate population of 3,500 residents, this does not take into consideration the rapid residential and commercial/industrial growth that the NBVFD area has experienced over the last several years. NBVFD is a volunteer-based agency with personnel living throughout the district, Bonners Ferry, and Moyie Springs. In our all-hazard coverage, NBVFD responds for structure fires, wildland fires, vehicle fires, vehicle accidents, vehicle extrication, hazardous materials mitigation, medical calls of various natures, gas leaks, hazardous conditions, and many other emergent and non-emergent situations.

NBFD maintains mutual aid agreements with all fire agencies in Boundary County and MOU's with the Idaho Department of Lands, and United States Forest Service. NBVFD also provides vehicle extrication countywide and has automatic aid agreements with South Boundary Fire Protection District and Paradise Valley Fire District.

Agency Information

Volunteer Personnel: 22	Paid Personnel: 1	Apparatus: 11	Stations: 3
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Hours of Service

Training: 127	Total: 407	Training, People Hours: 1,745	Total: 2,848
Call out: 280		Call Out, People Hours: 1,103	

Calls for service in 2020

Fire	Vehicle Collision	EMS	Other	Total
24	29	148	89	290



Boundary Search & Dive Rescue.

Boundary Search & Dive Rescue Team (BSDRT) is a volunteer organization which operates under the auspices of the Boundary County Sheriff's Office. Over the years, members have assisted the sheriff's office with searches for lost hikers, hunters, water rescues and recoveries. Our purpose is to provide a well trained and equipped search and rescue force to support Boundary County in the event of a search or other emergency. Our members undergo training for various search and rescue techniques and scenarios.

2020 started off with a bang with a locomotive in the river, we completed our 3rd BSDRT SAR Academy graduating 9 members as Search and Rescue Technicians bringing us to 21 active technicians out of our 36-member team. BSDRT worked with South Boundary Fire Protection District and North Bench Fire District and hosted a 2 Swiftwater Rescue Courses through White Water Rescue Institute (WRI).

With the uptick in calls last year compared to previous years, BSDRT is expecting another busy year this year. Boundary County has been discovered.

Agency Information

Volunteer Personnel: 36	Paid Personnel: 0	Equipment: 12	Stations: 1
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Hours of Service

Training: 180	Total: 288	Training, People Hours: 1,300	Total: 1,898
Call out: 108		Call Out, People Hours: 598	

Calls for service in 2020

Water Rescue	Missing Person	Agency Assist	Rescue	Total
3	18	2	5	28



Curley Creek Volunteer Fire District.

The Curley Creek Fire District is an approximately 30,317 acres (47 sq mi) district composed of 410 landowners. The district boundaries are the Kootenai River on the south, the Montana State Line to the east, the Moyie River to the west and the North section line of Section 25, T63N, R2E on the north.

Ownership:

Forest Service 11,000 acres

State of Idaho 1,010 acres

BLM 360 acres

Private 17,947 acres

Since our chief, Brad Stalcup, has retired, we are currently in the process of finding a replacement, which can be difficult in a rural community. Being a chief involves not only responding to midnight calls, but also filing the endless paperwork required by the government, organizing training meetings, and making sure our vehicles and equipment comply as much as possible with government standards and are in good operating condition. If interested contact Dean Prentice at 208-267-1047.

We are also looking for additional volunteers for firefighting. People interested in becoming a firefighter can get additional information by coming to a Curley Creek Board meeting. Meetings are held at 6 PM the first Tuesday of the month at the Curley Creek Grange Hall.

Agency Information

Volunteer Personnel: 14	Paid Personnel: 1	Apparatus: 6	Stations: 2
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Calls for Service and Training in 2020

Fire	Vehicle Collision	EMS	Training Days	Total
8	10	34	26	78



Boundary Ambulance Service.

Boundary Ambulance is a not-for-profit private company contracted by Boundary County to provide EMS service county wide.

In 1965 community members who saw the need for medical service and transport capability started Boundary Volunteer Ambulance which is now the longest continuously operating EMS services in the State. In 2014 we made a big shift to transition to an ALS (advanced life support) level service and have continued to make great strides increasing the quality of care for our community including moving from a volunteer model to paid employees. This gives us the ability to staff an ALS level ambulance as well as an ALS quick response vehicle. Some of the primary advantages include consistent and fast response times (averaging 1 minute 30 seconds) and the ability to promptly handle interfacility transfers from our local hospital.

One area of focus over the last couple years has been working with Boundary Community Hospital to coordinate the care of TSE (time sensitive emergencies). These include stroke, heart attacks (STEMI), and trauma. This has increased the efficiency and quality of care overall. Numerous metrics are tracked monthly and annually to assure that care is both quick and appropriate.

Lastly a new program that we are proud to offer is Community Paramedicine which utilizes paramedics who have received additional specialty training to work with patients who may not require emergency transport or care but may need an in-home evaluation, assistance with medications or coordination of care with their primary physician.

Agency Information

Volunteer Personnel: N/A	Paid Personnel: 25	Equipment: 5	Stations: 2
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Calls for service in 2020

911 Calls	Transfers	Standby	Mutual Aid	Total
887	261	68	N/A	1213

Idaho Department of Lands – Kootenai Valley/Pend Oreille Forest Protection Districts.

The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) has primary forest land protection responsibility for state and private timber land throughout Idaho. The Kootenai Valley Forest Protection District (FPD) is part of the large Pend Oreille Supervisory Area. Together, the Kootenai Valley and Pend Oreille FPD's provide the majority of forest land protection in the valleys of Boundary and Bonner Counties.

The IDL partners with the US Forest Service and rural and volunteer fire protection agencies to deliver the highest level of forest fire protection services possible. IDL is also a cooperator in the larger, national wildfire fire protection system. Through a variety of state, national and international agreements, IDL is able to bring in firefighting resources such as crews, fire engines, helicopters, and air tankers from around the United States and Canada when needed.

IDL and all local fire protection agencies partner to bring fire prevention awareness to the county through the Boundary County Fire Prevention Cooperative, with emphases on preventing human-caused fires and teaching how to protect your home from wildland fire.

Agency Information

(numbers reported are for Bonners Ferry and Sandpoint Offices)

Personnel: 11 + 11	Equipment: 5 Type 5 Wildland engines	Stations: Bonners Ferry and Sandpoint
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Calls for service in 2020

Fire	Acres Burned	Mutual Aid	False Alarm	Total Calls
24 + 24	6 + 702	6 + 13	14 + 60	141



USFS Bonners Ferry Ranger Station.

Motto: Caring for the Land and Serving People

The phrase, “Caring for the Land and Serving People,” captures the Forest Service mission. As set forth in law, the mission is to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people.

Our agency was created on the principle of managing the Nation’s natural resources “for the greatest good, for the greatest number, for the longest time.”

Wildland fires are a force of nature that can be nearly as impossible to prevent, and as difficult to control, as hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods.

Wildland fire can be a friend and a foe. In the right place at the right time, wildland fire can create many environmental benefits, such as reducing grass, brush, and trees that can fuel large and severe wildfires and improving wildlife habitat. In the wrong place at the wrong time, wildfires can wreak havoc, threatening lives, homes, communities, and natural and cultural resources.

The Forest Service has been managing wildland fire on National Forests and Grasslands for more than 100 years. But the Forest Service doesn’t – and can’t – do it alone. Instead, the agency works closely with other federal, tribal, state, and local partners.

This is more important than ever because over the last few decades, the wildland fire management environment has profoundly changed. Longer fire seasons; bigger fires and more acres burned on average each year; more extreme fire behavior; and wildfire suppression operations in the wildland urban interface (WUI) have become the norm.

To address these challenges, the Forest Service and its other federal, tribal, state, and local partners have developed and are implementing a National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy that has three key components: Resilient Landscapes, Fire Adapted Communities, and Safe and Effective Wildfire Response.

Agency Information

Active Red Carded Personnel: 39	Paid Personnel: 19	Equipment: 2 Type 6 engines	Militia: 20
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Prescribed Fire

Pile Burning Acres	Total: 424	Broadcast Burning Acres	Total: 0
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Fires in 2020

Local Fires	Acres	Personnel Off-District	Days Off-District	Total Acres OFF-District
6	2.75	31	531	1,292,909



Boundary County Chaplains Corp.

BCCC exists to provide biblically based chaplain services to all fire service, law enforcement, and other emergency services personnel and their families within Boundary County.

It is our mission, while in contact with the community, to care for the troubled and those who have endured loss, been victimized by the events and tragedy that have left them abandoned, helpless and without hope.

BCCC is a Christian ministry that exalts the Lord Jesus Christ. BCCC is not in the business of seeking converts to any particular church group or denomination, but provides service regardless of the personal faith or beliefs of those we serve. The Boundary County Chaplain Corps is a public benefit private non-profit organization. Our chaplains are professionally trained and nationally certified. Some of the services we provide are:

- Help bring Calm to Chaos – Offering help and assistance to those in crisis and facing traumatic circumstances, both first responders and victims of tragedy.
- Confidential Personal Counseling – to all emergency services personnel, their families, and the community.
- Ride-alongs with officers and emergency services personnel, encouraging and establishing trust, identifying with their daily pressures and responsibilities.
- Inmate/jail visitation, including ministry to jail personnel.
- Emergency Services – Chaplains are available for on-scene support for all crisis intervention and assistance when needed. We support law enforcement by assisting in domestic disturbance, death notifications, suicide prevention, and other ways. We can provide shelter, food, and other support services using our “Angel 1” mobile rest area (a refurbished ambulance) as long as personnel need us in the field.
- Providing Critical Incident Debriefing and Defusing – following a critical incident or traumatic event, for officers, emergency services personnel, and the community.
- Officer Training and Public Awareness – to help the officer and emergency services personnel and their family members maintain healthy relationships to enhance their careers.
- Officiating Services – officiating at funeral or memorial services for firefighters, officers, emergency services personnel, and our community.

In 2020 we were called upon nearly 30 times to minister to personnel and victims, and Angel 1 was called out to serve in the field about a dozen times for long term comfort services to personnel fighting fires, managing accident scenes, and other emergencies.



Summary

2020 brought many challenges to Boundary County and the emergency service agencies that respond to and serve those that reside in, travel through or visit our great community. Throughout the year agencies overcame the obstacles and many challenges that the year brought with it, many of which centered around continuing and improving call response, training, education, public service, and some new challenges that COVID-19 introduced. The emergency service agencies took those challenges head-on while standing tall with dedication and pride for their communities.

Even though our county saw a mild wildland fire season and fewer people traveling through our county in 2020, many agencies had an increase of calls for service. Some of the calls that agencies responded to included hiking miles in on a narrow trail to rescue campers stuck on the wrong side of a rainstorm-swollen mountain creek, multiple emergent calls happening simultaneously, removing injured occupants from wrecked vehicles, structural and wildland fires, and medical calls.

With many of the agencies in Boundary County being volunteer based, 2020 highlighted just how much our county's volunteers give back to their community! The volunteers of Boundary County's various fire agencies, along with Search and Rescue, have professionally and optimistically faced new challenges or problems. They have helped anyone in need without caring if it was at 2 AM or in the middle of family dinner night.

If you or someone you know feel that you could help one of your local agencies, we encourage you to stop in and talk to them! Many agencies in our county want and need more volunteers.

The Boundary County Fire Chief's Association in conjunction with the following agencies look forward to serving you, our community, as we forge ahead in 2021.



Boundary County Agencies.

- **Boundary County Search and Rescue**

Mission Statement: Our purpose is to provide a well trained and equipped search and rescue force to support Boundary County in the event of a search or other emergency. Our members undergo training for various search and rescue techniques and scenarios.

President: Tony Jeppesen Phone No: (208)627-9539

- **Boundary County Chaplains Corp**

Mission Statement: The purpose of BCCC is to provide support and encouragement to first responders and their families here in Boundary County, both on scene and afterwards. The focus is upon the spiritual and emotional needs of first responders, as well as to victims in times of crisis.

President: Len Pine Phone No: (208)946-9761

- **Bonnors Ferry Fire Department**

Mission Statement: It is the goal of the Bonnors Ferry Fire Department to protect the lives and property of its citizens in a safe and expeditious manner through the practice of fire prevention, fire suppression and fire investigation.

Chief: Dave Whiney Phone No: (208)267-4390

- **Boundary Ambulance Service**

Mission Statement: Boundary Ambulance Service is the longest running, active ambulance service in Idaho. Since our inception, our 501(c)(3) non-profit organization has been one defined by the dedication of our responders to providing an excellent public service, and our ability to readily adapt to our community's ever-evolving needs.

Chief: Jeff Lindsey Phone No: (208)267-2604



- **Moyie Springs Fire Department**
Mission Statement: We dedicate our efforts to provide for the safety and welfare of Moyie Springs Residents through preservation of life, property, and the environment.
Chief: Ken English Phone No: (208)267-2598
- **Curley Creek Vol Fire District**
Mission Statement: #1 Fight and extinguish any structure fire occurring on land belonging to members of the corporation (Member structures), within the Curley Creek Volunteer Fire District. #2 Protect member structures, within the district, from fires occurring on other lands. #3 Respond to and fight wildland fires on member's property within the district as per the current Memorandum of Understanding between the Idaho Department of Lands and Curley Creek Volunteer Fire District, Inc. #4 Provide the above services on a mutual aid basis to other participating fire districts. #5 Provide the above services to non-members for compensation according to the fee schedule determined by the Board of Directors.
Agency Representative: Frank Wright Phone No: (360)269-2453
- **North Bench Vol Fire District**
Mission Statement: Our mission is to preserve life and property, promote public safety and foster economic growth through leadership management and actions as an all risk life safety response provider.
Chief: Gus Jackson Phone No: (208)267-8674
- **Paradise Valley Fire District**
Mission Statement: To Provide Quality Emergency Response and Fire Protection for the Public.
Chief: Mike Glazier Phone No: (208)267-7909
- **USFS Bonners Ferry Ranger Station**
Motto: Caring for the Land and Serving People
District Ranger: Kevin Knauth Phone No: (208)267-5561



- **Idaho Department of Lands – Kootenai Valley**

Mission Statement: To conserve and protect six million acres of private, state and federal forestlands by preventing and/or suppressing all unwanted fire; to enhance forest management on state endowment lands by utilizing fire as a management tool; and to help local communities better cope with wildfire in the wildland urban interface.

Fire Warden: Ken Homik Phone No: (208)267-5577

- **Hall Mountain Fire Association**

Mission Statement: We, the members of Hall Mountain Volunteer Fire Department, dedicate our efforts to provide for the safety and welfare of the public through preservation of life, property, and the environment.

Chief: Brad Lowther Phone No: (208)267-7375

- **South Boundary Fire Protection District**

Mission Statement: To protect Life and Property in our community from fire and other disasters; to assist our neighboring communities; to continually prepare for these situations through on-going training and public education.

Chief: Tony Rohrwasser Phone No: (208)267-8052