



OUR TOWN

Where the desert meets the mountains.

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Emergency Services

Emergency Preparedness

City officials were at work during the Christmas holiday to lessen the impact of the power outage upon Hailey citizens. Hailey Fire and EMS personnel responded to multiple calls ranging from fire sprinkler and alarm system malfunctions to medical situations brought on by the lack of power. They were assisted by Hailey Police personnel with traffic accidents in intersections without signals and lighting. Wastewater treatment processes were carried out under the power of emergency generators, and crews monitored and repaired lift station pumps through a series of brown-outs, which can be very hard on battery back-up systems.

Councilmember Carol Brown spent most of Christmas day in the Emergency Operations Center at the new Blaine County Public Safety Facility assisting, along with officials from all other government and health organizations, with communication and public interface during the power outage. She had been assigned to that role by Mayor Rick Davis last fall when the Hailey City Council reviewed and adopted the All-Hazards Mitigation Plan assembled by emergency preparedness teams from all



Mayor Rick Davis

jurisdictions. “Our citizenry, for the most part, is well prepared for emergencies,” said Brown. “There are many, however, who are unable to assist themselves in these types of events. I can’t overemphasize the importance of preparedness planning, from governments and businesses down to each and every household, to prepare for its functions and steps during an emergency.”



Councilmember
Carol Brown

To that end, we have inserted within this newsletter a FEMA guide to winter household preparedness. The list looks very much like the pandemic flu preparedness lists we sent out six months ago when the H1N1 virus emerged as a threat, with the best remedy being that people who

either wanted to avoid contagion or felt ill to stay at home. A sufficient quantity of accessible food and water at hand in households, along with a plan for alternative communication, light, heat (or cooling), and transportation are part of planning for events when the usual day-to-day amenities become unexpectedly unavailable to us.



The City of Hailey is always in the process of improving its emergency planning. Although the Hailey Fire Station and Wastewater Treatment Plant, as well as St. Luke’s, had power from emergency generators, these facilities would not have been sufficient to shelter residents who may have needed heat during a second night of power outage. Hailey is in the process of planning for appropriate shelters and alternative power generation. Hailey applied for a DOE Local Energy Assurance Planning (LEAP) grant to help fund this planning effort.

Calendar

Important Dates

Arts Commission	01/07/10
City Council.....	01/11/10, 01/25/10
Community Oversight Committee.....	01/19/10
Historic Preservation Commission	01/26/10
Parks & Lands Board	01/05/10
P&Z Meetings	01/04/10, 01/18/10
Sustainable Building & Planning Advisory Committee.....	01/06/10, 01/20/10
Tree Committee	01/14/10
Idaho Human Rights Day*	01/18/10

* City offices closed .

HFD Offers Smoke Detectors

The Hailey Fire Department has received a donation of thirty ionization type smoke detectors from the Idaho section of the American Nuclear Society. These smoke detectors are available to any household in the valley that needs smoke detectors. With a recent close call at an apartment building in the city without any working smoke detectors, the Hailey Fire Department wants to remind people that a working smoke detector will provide early notification and give you a better chance to get out quickly and safely.

The smoke detectors use nuclear technology to detect smoke in the air. The alpha particles generated by the Americium have the following property: They ionize the oxygen and nitrogen atoms of the air in the chamber. To “ionize” means to “knock an electron off of.” When you knock an electron off of an atom, you end up with a free electron (with a negative charge) and an atom missing one electron (with a positive charge). The negative electron is attracted to the plate with a positive voltage, and the positive atom is attracted to the plate with a negative voltage (opposites attract, just like with magnets). The electronics in the smoke detector sense the small amount of electrical current that these electrons and ions moving toward the plates represent.

When smoke enters the ionization chamber, it disrupts this current – the smoke particles attach to the ions and neutralize them. The smoke detector senses the drop in current between the plates and sets off the horn.

Speaking of alarms, whenever the words “nuclear radiation” are used an alarm goes off in many people’s minds. The amount of radiation in a smoke detector of this type is extremely small. It is also predominantly alpha radiation. Alpha radiation cannot penetrate a sheet of paper, and it is blocked by several centimeters of air. The Americium in the smoke detector could only pose a danger if you were to inhale it and there is no danger of radiation under normal operating conditions. However, you do not want to dismantle the detector or be playing with the Americium in a smoke detector, poking at it, or disturbing it in any way, because you don’t want it to become airborne.

Please contact the Hailey Fire Department at 788-3147 if you need a new detector or if you would like your current smoke detector tested.



Thank you . . .

. . . for your support of the planned upgrades to the RV dump station at McKercher Park. The city’s grant application for this project will be sent early this month, and we have a large amount of local RV’er support to include because of your response!

Upgrades include a new restroom facility, a frost free hydrant, picnic tables and rubbish receptacles, and extending the parking hours at the site to a 12-hour maximum.

Grant Report

Hailey Awarded Four Grants

Hailey was awarded four grants in December:

1. **Idaho Dept. of Lands, Community Transportation Enhancement Program, \$30,000 for the E.W. Fox Demonstration Garden.** The garden will demonstrate water-conserving, lower maintenance landscapes using drought tolerant and native species appropriate for planting in and around Hailey. On Fox Acres Road, near the high school. Watch for it next spring and summer!
2. **Idaho Office of Energy Resources, Renewable Energy Enterprise Zone Program, \$30,000 for a Feasibility Study.** The project will study the feasibility of using Vertical Shaft Bioreactor (VBR) technology to process sewage treatment plant sludge (currently trucked to the landfill) and other potential biosolids wastes. One by-product of the VBR process is energy in the form of heat, which could be used to heat nearby facilities. Whole Water Systems/Whole Energy Solar of Ketchum are project partners.
3. **Idaho Power Foundation, \$500 for the J.C. Fox Building Mural.** This gift brings the Hailey Arts Commission closer to its budget goal for this historic mural. \$8,000 is still needed; donations will be gratefully accepted! Other donors include **The Mint, Atkinson’s, Hailey Paint, Idaho Lumber, Sun Valley Transfer & Storage** and individual donors.
4. **Environmental Protection Agency, \$8,943 for *Just Bag It!*** This project to reduce the use of plastic bags has lots of fun elements, including cloth bags with participating merchant, EPA and Hailey logos; a school poster contest; a kick-off event for Earth Day; and a public art contest to make a project out of plastic bags. **Atkinson’s, Albertson’s and the Hailey Chamber of Commerce** are project partners. The project begins January 1 and runs through 2010.



**Ida Visits the Capitol Day at
Hailey Public Library
January 9, 2010**

Join us to celebrate the historic
Rededication of the Idaho Capitol Building after
three years of renovation.



“Ida Day” Family Story Time

Saturday at 11:00am

Book Raffle and
fun craft activity

View images of the renovation
process, as well as the
Rededication Ceremony from the
front steps of the Capitol building
at 12 o'clock noon on the
Idaho Public Television website.

