

Hailey Fire Dept.
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It is my honor to represent the men and women of the City of Hailey Fire Department. This year the fire department endured many challenges from significant wildfires to being one of the busiest and most active years for all types of calls for service.

The department lost a long standing leader with the retirement of Fire Chief Mike Chapman who served proudly for **22** years. Chief Chapman served both the community and the department with an unselfish commitment to preserving the safety and welfare of his fellow man.

I would like to thank not only the Fire Department Staff and Firefighters but the entire community in welcoming my wife and me to our new home in Hailey. I am honored to have been chosen to represent and to work hand in hand with a truly dedicated group of firefighters. The City of Hailey Firefighters do more than just respond to emergencies. Your firefighters attend weekly training, participate in drills with other local fire departments and are involved supporting the community.

It is very important that the community has a clear understanding that we are a combination fire department consisting of paid and volunteer firefighters, just like every other fire department in the Valley. Presently, there are three full time positions with the Hailey Fire Department. Those positions are responsible for Fire Department Administration, Fire Prevention and Public Education activities. The majority of the operational issues are handled by Fire Department Volunteers. These individuals have committed themselves to this community, they serve unselfishly anytime of the day or night and make sacrifices leaving their families to help others when the alarm sounds.

The future will continue to bring changes with several new programs and partnerships. First, the one we are most excited about is a program/partnership with Wood River High School through which we will adopt a Fire Explorer Program. The first year we will begin with High School Juniors where they will learn about Fire Department Operations, First Responder skills and Leadership. The second year of the program will be more exciting as the senior Explorers will serve as mentors to the new juniors and so on. A second program we are working on is a partnership with Hailey Police and other groups called "Do the Right Thing" where students get nominated and recognized for making the right decision in a challenging situation.

Finally, I am proud to report that your Fire Department will continue to work and train with our neighboring Fire Departments in ensuring we can continue to provide the highest level of service for the community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Craig Aberbach, Fire Chief