NOV 2026
Volume 9
Issue 3

HALL MOUNTAIN

Volunteer Fire Association Newsletter

100% VOLUNTEER
SINCE 1978



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Hot Sheet	2
A Letter From The Chief	3
Support From Behind The Scenes	4
Community Safety Corner	6
Incident Snapshot	8
Training Highlights	9
Call Of The Quarter	10
Around The Mountain - Community News	11

No part of this newsletter may be reproduced without our permission.

The Hot Sheet

Hi Neighbors!

The Eastport Annual 4th of July Parade & Fire Department BBQ was a wonderful time. Everyone had a great time celebrating our Nation's 250th birthday. We even had our friends in Canada from the Yahk-Kingsgate Fire Department join us! Unfortunately, Smokey the Bear got a ticket from the Idaho State Police for riding a horse without a license. Hopefully, next year he won't be so reckless…

I don't know about you, but I am so proud of how hard our volunteers worked this summer on the wildfires. On July 8th, a fire started from lightning near Upper Smith Creek. From that evening until Sept. 5th, our volunteers worked 16+ hours a day as contractors for the U.S. Forest Service, helping protect the properties of Hall Mountain residents. This doesn't even include the two all-nighters as mutual aid for the Turner Fire and Ball Fire. Near the end of August, several new fires kicked off around the county, keeping almost every local fire department and many contractors from all over the U.S. busy keeping us safe.

After over 97 days, the Upper Creek Fire is now 100% contained with a total of 4,848 acres burned. We are so thankful that, between all the fires in our county, no one lost their homes, which is something that can not be said for the hundreds of families that lost their homes in the Spokane fires. Let's keep them in our thoughts as they continue to rebuild.

The Annual Fireman's BBQ in September was a great afternoon spent with our community! You can read all about it in the Fireman's Auxiliary updates on page 4.

I can't forget to mention the newly launched website, www.hallmountainfire.com, where you can find information about the department, check fire danger, start a new membership, and pay your dues!

If you have an event or news that you would like to add to our next newsletter, email info@hallmountainfire.com.

All the best,

Kody Hanner

Pay Your Dues

HALLMOUNTAINFIRE.COM

Follow Us On Facebook

Get all the most up-to-date emergency and community information.

@hallmountainVFD

info@hallmountainfire.com

(208) 267-7375

PO Box 159 | Eastport, ID 83826

Cover Image: Wyatt Hanner 517 protecting a home on the Turner Fire.

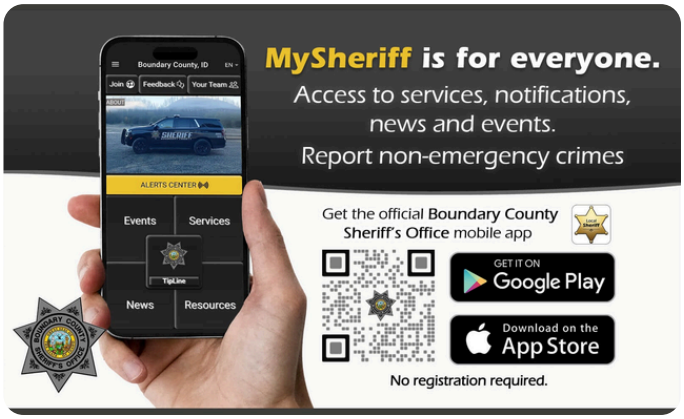
How to call 911 when you live on the border?

When you live near the Canadian Border like so many of us do, we get to deal with all sorts of little extra challenges. No daylight savings changing our phone times, no two-day Amazon, and if you call 911, you might get connected to Canada. This is fine as long as you are clear on your obligation to **give your location right away.**

We suggest you save the Boundary Country Sheriff Department non-emergency phone number on your phone for quick access.

Boundary County Sheriff
(208) 267-3151

We strongly suggest that you download their app, Sheriff, which you can find at https://www.boundarysheriff.org/pages/get-the-mobile-app.



Notice

Burn Permits are no longer required as of Oct. 10th. Be sure to practice safe burning:

- Create a 10-foot radius that is free of debris.
- Confirm overhead clearance of tree branches, power lines, and structures.
- Keep fires manageable and only burn plant matter
- Don't burn on days with winds over 15-20 MPH
- Don't leave a fire unattended, and keep a hose, shovel, and rakes nearby.
- When you are done burning, extinguish the fire completely with water. Then stir and add water again. Check the ashes again for a few days or weeks.

** If you are planning a large agricultural burn, please let your local fire department or the sheriff's dispatch know in case concerned community members report the smoke.*

Community Calendar

Nov 26th	Thanksgiving
Dec 4th & 5th	Yule Love Craft Fair (Fairgrounds)
Dec 5th @6PM	Senior Center Festival of Trees Gala
Dec 25th	Christmas
Dec 31st	New Year's Eve

A Letter From THE CHIEF



Hello to all!

After a long, hot, and dry fire season, we are happy to announce the fire danger is finally down to low!
As most of you already know, we had quite an active fire season up here in the Hall Mountain jurisdiction. Our fire season started with a large lightning storm that moved through the area, starting two fires at the same time. One of them developed into the Upper Smith fire, which burned all summer. The second one started on private property just off Highway 1 near Copeland. It was spotted and reported by one of our own firefighters who was returning from making an assessment on the Upper Smith fire. With spotting this fire quickly, we were able to make a rapid response, getting it knocked down and put out quickly.

I would like to give special thanks to our responders at that fire. Our Jr. firefighters at the time were part of the response team. They helped tremendously and served our community very well. These young men and women who started working as Jr. Firefighters at the age of 16 jumped right in, using the skills we have been trained on, with the guidance of some of our senior firefighters. The landowner also did an amazing job assisting us with the firefighting efforts.

Shortly after we wrapped up that incident, we were dispatched to the Upper Smith fire, where we entered a federal contract with the Forest Service to assist. Our crew worked on the Upper Smith fire for a total of 47 days. We supplied two wildland engines and crews to man that equipment for the entire incident. Additionally, we leased our large water pump, Hydrant 1, to the Forest Service. It is a trailer-mounted mobile pump that is capable of pumping 500 gallons of water per minute. This pump supplied the majority of the water used by all water tenders for the duration of the incident. We worked 16 hours a day, 7 days a week, and our crew did an amazing job stepping up and making this happen.

During this time, we continued to respond to medical calls in our district, along with other fire calls, including a vehicle fire in the middle of the night on Highway 95. Hall Mountain also responded to the Turner Fire after just coming off the Upper Smith fire for the day. We had barely walked through the door when we received the mutual aid call to assist with the Turner fire. We threw our gear back on and were out the door with a very heavy response to that fire. See "**Call of the Quarter**" on page 10 for the whole story.

Last, but surely not least, I want to give a huge thank you to North Idaho Iron Works. We had a major leak develop on Engine 22 from the top of the tank while working the Upper Smith fire, taking the truck out of service. This was a problem! We had 24 hours to get it fixed or the truck would be removed from the contract. We rushed the truck down to their shop, and they jumped right on getting it fixed. In a matter of hours, they took the tank apart, cut out a very large crack, and welded a new piece of steel in place. The truck was put back together and back on the fireline before the end of the day. The crew did amazing and efficient work, for which we are immensely thankful. The Forest Service was amazed at the speed at which the truck was fixed and back to work.



The fire association was able to bring in a respectable amount of funds through its work on the federal contract. If you would like to read about how we will be using those funds to improve the department, flip to page 9 for **"Training Highlights."**

I must say the incredible amount of selfless service and time our men and women of Hall Mountain Volunteer Fire Association gave to the community was unbelievable. I am so very proud and honored to be able to lead this crew of firefighters.

Fire Chief
Ron Hanner

Hall Mountain Auxiliary News

The Hall Mountain Fireman's Auxiliary is here to support the first responders by fundraising for supplies and supporting the volunteers behind the scenes.

The Hall Mountain Fire Auxiliary plays a vital role in supporting our firefighters both on and off the fire line. Made up of dedicated community members, the Auxiliary works behind the scenes to ensure our crews have the resources, comfort, and encouragement they need to serve effectively.

In the last querter, we have provided your volunteers with:

- New shirts, hoodies, and hats for all responding volunteers

And most importantly, spread awareness around the community and raised funds to meet their needs while they do what they do best... be there when you **need** them!

Firefighter Appreciation Potluck & Silent Auction
This is our last event of the year. We will also be holding the drawing for the Henry Rifle!

Join us Saturday, September 26th (possibility of date change) at 1 PM in Fire Hall #1 on the corner of Hwy 1 and Porthill Loop.

We are always looking for silent auction donations from local businesses and the community!



Congratulations to Kara Barnett on winning a Henry Rifle and to Brad Lowther on winning the $500 cash.

Over the summer, we sold raffle tickets for a chance to win a Henry .45-70 Rifle, with the second ticket drawn winning $500 cash.

This is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year! And this year was no exception.



Our community won more than our prizes!
We had the opportunity to sell raffle tickets at the annual airport pancake breakfast. To support the Boundary County Airport, we also held a drawing for a $250 gift card to the airport.

Congratulations to Wade Sadler, the winner!

Have you noticed someone new moving into the community?

The Auxiliary would love to take them a **Welcome Packet** filled with information about local businesses, shops, services, and internet providers. If you know of new neighbors, please let us know so we can deliver a welcome packet.

Email us at auxiliary@hallmountainfire.com.



Continued on page 5

From Behind The Scenes

The Auxiliary Supports Our Whole Community

The Senior Hospitality Center is hosting a Festival of the Trees Gala and decorated tree auction. The event will take place on Saturday, December 5th, 2026, at 6:00 PM at 6635 Lincoln Street, Bonners Ferry. Tickets are $75 per person.

The Auxiliary has volunteered to decorate one of the trees that will be auctioned off that evening.
We hope to see you there!



We're always looking for new members—
men and women are both welcome!

Auxiliary meetings are held on the third Monday of each month, April through October, at 6:00 p.m. at Mount Hall Church on Highway 1.

We held our last meeting of the season in October; however, you are welcome to reach out at any time. We will have our first meeting of next season on April 19th, 2027.

Come see what we're all about!

We enjoy working together, serving our community, and raising funds for a great cause.

Auxilary President
Justine Williams

For more information on the Hall Mountain Firefighter Auxiliary, please contact:
Justine Williams, Auxiliary President
Call or Text: 209-663-7008

We appreciate the continued support of our wonderful community and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Hall Mountain Fire Board News

Hello to the Hall Mountain Community!

This summer's fires brought challenges that tested both our department and our community, but they also reminded us of the incredible people who call Hall Mountain home. During the fires, our volunteers stepped up, neighbors came together, and countless individuals gave their time, resources, and support when it mattered most. Watching our firefighters and community work side by side through such difficult circumstances was a powerful reminder of what makes this community so special. I could not be prouder of the dedication, generosity, and resilience shown by everyone involved.

Challenges also have a way of testing leadership, and our Board of Directors was no exception. Throughout a stressful season, we faced difficult conversations, differing opinions, and important decisions about the future of our department. While we may not have always agreed, we demonstrated that respectful disagreement and a shared commitment to our mission can lead to positive outcomes. I am proud that we were able to come together, put the needs of the department and community first, and move forward with a common purpose. That willingness to work through challenges together is what will keep Hall Mountain Fire strong for years to come.

Please feel free to reach out to the board or attend one of our monthly meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 6PM in the basement of Mt. Hall Church to voice any concerns or praises that you have!

Dallas Amoth

Community Safety Corner

A Cozy Fire Shouldn't Become a House Fire

There's nothing quite like a warm wood stove on a cold North Idaho morning. For many of us in the Hall Mountain community, burning wood isn't just about atmosphere—it's how we heat our homes for much of the year.

But there's a danger hiding inside our chimneys that is easy to overlook. Chimney fires can start unexpectedly, burn at extremely high temperatures, and spread into the walls or roof of a home. The good news? Most chimney fires are preventable with proper maintenance and burning habits.

What Causes a Chimney Fire?

Every time you burn wood, smoke travels up the chimney, leaving behind a substance called creosote. This black or brown residue can be flaky, sticky, or hard and shiny. It is also highly flammable!



As creosote builds up inside the flue, heat or sparks can ignite it, creating a fire inside the chimney itself.
Creosote accumulates more quickly when you:

- Burn green or unseasoned firewood.
- Restrict airflow to keep a fire smoldering.
- Operate a wood stove at consistently low temperatures.
- Fail to inspect and clean your chimney regularly.

Even a chimney that looks clean from the fireplace may have dangerous deposits higher inside the flue.

Prevention

Why annual chimney maintenance matters.

Have your chimney professionally inspected at least once every year and cleaned whenever necessary.
A professional inspection can identify creosote deposits, cracked chimney liners, damaged components, animal nests, and other obstructions that could lead to a fire or carbon monoxide entering your home.

If your wood stove runs day and night throughout the winter, you may need to clean the chimney more than once per season.

Don't assume that chimney-cleaning logs or chemical treatments replace a proper sweeping and inspection. They don't!

Could Your Chimney Be On Fire?

Chimney fires aren't always dramatic. Some burn quietly and go unnoticed until damage is discovered later. Others produce unmistakable warning signs.

Watch and listen for:

- ✓ Loud cracking, popping, or roaring sounds.
- ✓ A rumbling noise resembling a freight train.
- ✓ Dense smoke or an unusually strong, hot odor.
- ✓ Flames, sparks, or heavy smoke coming from the chimney top.
- ✓ Unexpectedly intense chimney or stovepipe heat.

How Do You Clean a Chimney?

A qualified chimney sweep is the safest choice, especially when dealing with heavy creosote buildup, unfamiliar chimney systems, or difficult roof access.

For homeowners who maintain their own chimneys, the basic cleaning process includes:

1. Let everything cool. Never attempt to clean a hot chimney or wood stove.
2. Use the correct tools. Select a chimney brush and flexible rods compatible with your specific chimney liner and appliance.
3. Protect the area. Cover nearby surfaces and contain soot and debris using appropriate equipment.
4. Sweep the flue. Depending on the chimney system, cleaning may be performed from the top or bottom using the manufacturer's recommended method.
5. Remove debris. Clean out loosened soot and creosote, including deposits around baffles, connectors, and accessible cleanouts.
6. Check for problems. Look for damaged components, blockages, or unusual deposits. Have a qualified professional inspect the complete system before use.

Important: A DIY sweeping does not replace an annual professional inspection. Never attempt roof access without appropriate training and fall protection. Hard, glazed creosote may require specialized professional removal.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A CHIMNEY FIRE

1. **GET EVERYONE OUT**. Evacuate the house immediately, including pets if they can be reached safely.
2. **CALL 911**. Give dispatch your location and tell them you suspect a chimney fire. Do not assume the fire will burn itself out.
3. **DO NOT USE WATER.** Never pour water into a hot chimney or wood stove. Do not climb onto the roof or attempt to fight the chimney fire yourself.
4. **STAY OUTSIDE**. Keep everyone a safe distance from the building and wait for firefighters.
5. **DON'T USE THE CHIMNEY AGAIN** until a qualified chimney professional has inspected it, cleaned it as needed, and confirmed that it is safe.

Winter Heating Safety

Stay Warm Without Turning Up The Risk

Wood stoves aren't the only heating equipment that deserves our attention. As winter settles into North Idaho, we start pulling out space heaters, electric blankets, and heating pads to keep warm. These everyday conveniences can become fire hazards when used improperly, placed too close to combustible materials, or operated with damaged electrical components. **A few simple precautions can make a big difference.**

Space Heaters - Give Them Room

Space heaters are convenient for warming chilly bedrooms, workshops, and other spaces, but they can also ignite nearby materials or overload electrical connections.

Remember the 3-Foot Rule! Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn, including bedding, curtains, clothing, furniture, and papers.

Space Heater Safety Checklist

- Place heaters on a stable, level, nonflammable surface.
- Plug directly into a wall outlet—never an extension cord or power strip.
- Choose models with automatic tip-over shutoff and overheating protection.
- Keep heaters out of walkways and away from children and pets.
- Turn off and unplug portable heaters before leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Inspect cords and plugs for damage or unusual heat.
- Avoid plugging another high-wattage appliance into the same outlet.

Never use an oven or outdoor heating equipment to heat your home.

Don't Fall Asleep With a Heating Pad

Heating pads can provide welcome relief for sore muscles, but prolonged contact can cause burns—even at relatively low settings.

Keep these precautions in mind:

- Never fall asleep while using a heating pad.
- Follow the manufacturer's directions for temperature, duration, and placement.
- Avoid folding or bunching the pad while in use.
- Never place heavy bedding or pillows over an operating heating pad unless the instructions specifically permit it.
- Stop using a pad that becomes unusually hot, smells strange, or shows signs of damage.
- Take extra precautions if you have reduced skin sensation, impaired circulation, or difficulty responding to heat.

Electric Blankets - Hidden Hazards

Nothing beats crawling into a warm bed on a freezing night, but electric blankets contain heating elements that can overheat if damaged or used incorrectly.

Use your electric blanket safely:

- Inspect the blanket, cord, and controller for damage before use.
- Never fold, bunch, tightly tuck, or place heavy objects over a blanket while it is heating.
- Keep pets from chewing cords or damaging heating elements.
- Avoid using an electric blanket together with a heating pad.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for overnight use; otherwise, turn it off before sleeping.
- Replace blankets with frayed wiring, scorch marks, exposed heating elements, or malfunctioning controls.

Never use an electric blanket on someone unable to recognize or respond to overheating without appropriate medical guidance and supervision.

Don't Forget Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarms!
Working alarms are one of the most important layers of protection in your home.

Winter Safety Checklist

- ✓ Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms monthly.
- ✓ Install smoke alarms inside bedrooms, outside sleeping areas, and on every level.
- ✓ Install CO alarms on every level and outside sleeping areas.
- ✓ Have your chimney and heating equipment professionally inspected annually.
- ✓ Keep combustible materials at least 3 feet from heating appliances.
- ✓ Keep exits and walkways clear.
- ✓ Make sure your house number is visible from the road, even in snowy conditions.
- ✓ Practice your household fire escape plan and identify an outdoor meeting place.

Are Chicken Heat Lamps Worth The Risk?

Heat lamps are a common cause of chicken coop fires. Dry bedding, feathers, dust, and wooden structures can easily ignite if a lamp falls or overheats.

Keeping Chickens Warm Without Heat Lamps
Healthy, fully feathered chickens generally tolerate cold weather well when provided with:

- Dry, deep bedding and wooden roosts.
- Protection from drafts with adequate ventilation.
- Plenty of feed and fresh, unfrozen water.
- A dry, insulated coop when practical.

Remember: A dry, draft-protected, well-ventilated coop is often safer than adding supplemental heat. Young chicks and vulnerable birds may require additional warmth.

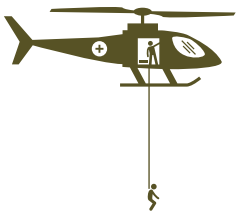
If Supplemental Heat Is Necessary:
Consider a poultry-rated radiant heating panel or brooder plate instead of a traditional heat lamp. If using a heat lamp:

- Use an agricultural-rated fixture with a protective cage.
- Secure it with a metal chain and independent backup attachment, never just a clamp.
- Maintain safe clearance from bedding, walls, and other flammable materials.
- Plug directly into a suitable outlet and inspect cords regularly.
- Avoid leaving traditional heat lamps running unattended.



Incident Snapshot

THIRD QUARTER 2026

 **1** VEHICLE FIRE	 **0** CHIMNEY FIRE	 **6** WILDLANDS FIRE
 **10** VEHICLE ACCIDENT	 **10** MEDICAL CALLS	 **0** HAZMAT
 **0** SEARCH & RESCUE	**0** DOWNED POWER LINES	 **0** SERVICE CALLS
 **2** MUTUAL AID	 **2** FALSE ALARM	 **4** MISCELLANEOUS

Training Highlights

Training Today. Ready Tomorrow.

When the pager goes off, there isn't time to learn on the job. That's why training is one of the most important responsibilities of every Hall Mountain firefighter. From medical emergencies and vehicle accidents to structure fires and wildland incidents, our volunteers spend countless hours honing their skills to ensure they are ready for whatever emergency comes next.

Summer Training

Due to the wildfires, summer training was rather sparse. However, it emphasizes the importance of the training we do for the rest of the year. When we are called to respond, whether it is for a small spot fire, a ripping grass fire, or a forest fire that consumes our resources for weeks, that is **not the time** to make sure everything is in order.

We spend hours of our own time every month making sure all of our equipment is in working order, with all required maintenance and repairs done before the emergency happens. Time and resources are poured into our volunteers for fire certifications and medical licenses. An untrained responder on a call is not an asset and can even be a liability.

We are thankful that we took the time this spring to hone our wildland skills as a team so that we were prepared for the intense fire season we had ahead of us. However, this wasn't by luck, but by design.

We train ahead of the seasons to refresh our veteran volunteers and train our new ones by:

- Getting wildland certifications in the spring
- Confirming proper function of our extrication equipment in the summer
- Learning chimney fires and practicing ladder safety in the fall
- Reviewing medical practices in the dark days of winter
- And, running ice rescue drills as the lakes begin to thaw

So, if you ever feel like our our training updates are on repeat, that means we are doing it right!



Low angle rope rescue training

Equipment Updates

Now, on to the exciting part. The fire association brought in a respectable amount of funds through their work on the federal contract. You will soon be seeing our newly purchased wildland engine that will be housed at Station 2.

We are also in the process of building a new truck to replace Engine 22 that is housed at Station 1. The engine we are custom-building will be much like Engine 32. This new engine will have a 1500-gallon tank, which is 500 more gallons than the current Engine 22, and enclosed compartments to keep all our tools and equipment out of the weather and debris.

We are also making a major upgrade to this engine. The interior of the tank will be a poly-lined tank encased in steel. This will prevent potential rust from damaging the steel tank, therefore extending the longevity of this equipment.

Being able to continue upgrading our equipment will help keep our community safe for years to come!

Interested In Volunteering?

There are multiple ways to serve!

- Firefighting
- Maintenance
- Medical
- Fundraising
- Administrative
- Dispatching
- Support
- Jr. Program

Requirements

- Live in the district
- 16 years or older
- Pass interviews
- Good attitude

Scan to learn more or visit
hallmountainfire.com/get-involved

Call of the Quarter

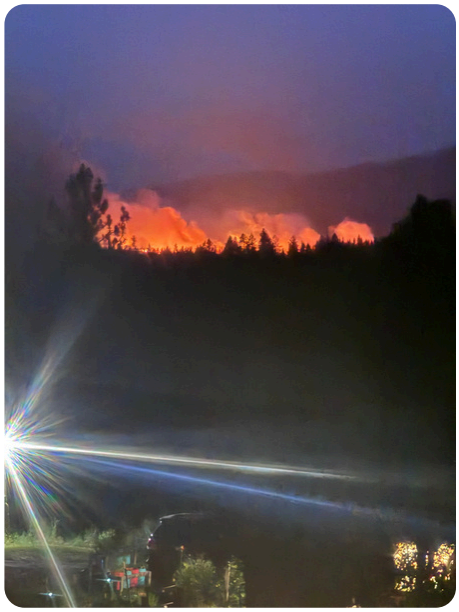
Rapid Response. Teamwork. Community.

It's not a mutual aid call when it's our neighbors in need.

The evening of July 15, 2026 is probably one our community will not forget.

We had just walked in the door from a 16-hour shift on the Upper Smith Fire. Two of my sons, who are on the department, and I, Chief Hanner, were exhausted and ready for a hot shower and hearty dinner. My wife had just run down the road to drop our teenage daughter and younger son off at a neighbor's to house-sit for the weekend. About the time I removed my gear, a call came out over our pagers and cell phones. With most of our family on the department, the piercing beeps and cell phone tones echoed through the house, followed by dispatcher chatter. That's when my phone began to ring.

One of our volunteers was on the line telling us to get to Turner Hill Road FAST! He was watching the grass fire he had called in moments before spread from just a few acres to close to 100 acres before he could finish his sentence. Before I could register that Turner Hill wasn't in our district, the boys and I were strapping our tired muscles back into gear we had barely just shed; because why do they call it mutual aid when you're asking your neighbor for help?



As we ran across the yard to our engine, I felt the hot wind whipping out of the valley at a speed I hadn't felt since the sandstorms in Iraq. And I knew we had little time to spare. As we took the S-turns near our home in Porthill, the trees opened up, exposing the full length of the valley. I was shocked to see flames lapping high above the ridge from 15 miles away.

I quickly called my wife, who was no more than a mile from where I knew the fire was raging, and told her to get the kids from our friends' house and get home. But to be ready for a long night. I may wear the call sign of 500, but she can make things happen! As she told me she had already dropped off the kids, our daughter called to say she could see the fire coming over the ridge. My wife told me not to worry about the kids; she was going to hold down the fort by doing what she did best, so that I could do what I did best. As usual, she reminded me not to be THE hero, because I was already my kids' hero, and we hung up.

The boys and I continued to caravan down Highway 1, blaring our horns as we passed the Forest Service camps, although many of them had already begun to scramble out of their tents and were running to their trucks. I was concerned for our friends and neighbors because a grass fire is only a grass fire until it begins burning homes. I thought of the tight one-lane roads weaving in and out of the ridge along the edge of the valley and pushed the gas a little harder.

We pulled off the highway onto Turner Hills into a chaotic scene of emergency personnel, residents leaving, and flames blazing high above the hillside. We made our way down the road toward the valley floor through the smoke until the night sky opened up and we could see the full extent of the fire wrapping down the ridges like two arms, ready to engulf the line of fire engines heading straight into the embrace.

We had many personnel and all our wildland equipment respond to that fire, including Engines 22 and 32 and Water Tenders 31, 34, and 36. If you are not familiar with this equipment. Tender 31 is a 7000-gallon tanker pulled by a semi truck. We used this tanker as a water supply point for engines to refill on the fire line. We also used Tender 34, our 4,000-gallon tanker, to shuttle water from North Bench fire station back to the staging area to keep the larger tanker full. Engine 22, which holds a 1000 gallons and Engine 32 at 1500 gallons moved water from the big tanker to the fireline, keeping the fire crews supplied with water.

Crews from across the county and beyond did an amazing job, ensuring no homes were lost that night or in the days that followed as the fire continued to burn toward town and thankfully stopped in the following days. My wife and kids spent the night helping people evacuate, updating the Hall Mountain Facebook page to alert residents, and calling friends with house phones as power was cut to the area.

We worked through the night, only making it off the fire in time to report back to the Upper Smith Fire promptly at 6:30 AM. Incident command just laughed as the crew from Hall Mountain Fire rolled into camp, shook his head, and gave us our assignment for the day.

As I dozed off that night, I was thankful that we not only had a great professional response to the fire, but that so many members of our community didn't think twice before jumping into action without a second thought. We live in a special place...

Around The Mountain

Local news, community highlights, and neighborly happenings.

The Last of the Juniors



The last of our current junior firefighters have graduated to adulthood!

Twins, Savannah & Wyatt Sanders (Chief Hanner's Kids), turned 18 recently and are no longer junior firefighters. These two have trained with the department for the last two years and have not only earned their spots on the roster through age, but through hard work and teamwork.

Congratulations, 522 & 523!

If you have a 16 year old in your life that would be interested in joining the department, we are accepting junior applicants.



Our firefighters in the community!

Firefighter Eli Michelsen recently passed his EMT test and was offered a position with the Switzer Mountain Fire Department. Eli started with the department as a junior and, after becoming a full firefighter at 18, pursued an EMT license to better serve our department and advance his career.

Firefighter Wyatt Sanders was the 2026 Boundary County Fair King. He earned this through his participation in 4-H, community service, writing an essay and an article, and a panel interview with the fair board. He completed all of these requirements while working the Upper Smith Fire, raising his 4-H hog, and playing for the Badgers Varsity Football Team! Go Hall Mountain Kids!

Staying Connected

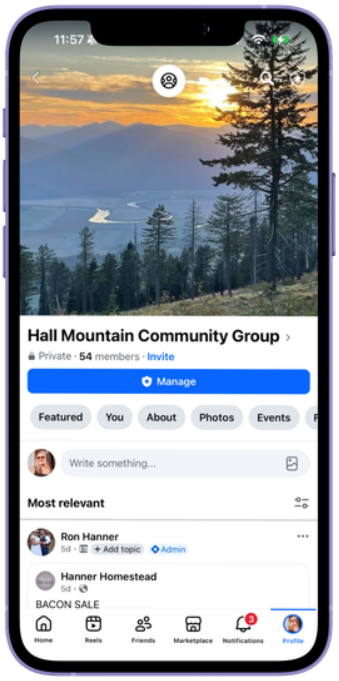
In a time when technology is expanding faster than any of us ever believed, there are many of us who still honor a face-to-face conversation and a handshake over a keyboard and a screen. However, opportunities to stay up to date on local news, read the classifieds, or celebrate our neighbors are becoming less prominent.

But could there be a way to have both?

That is why some of us here in Hall Mountain created a community group on Facebook that is specific to our location!

This is a place where we can share news, celebrate each other, promote our businesses, sell a hog, or hand down clothes.

If you are looking for a way to connect locally, join the Hall Mountain Community Group on Facebook and keep the conversation going!



If you have something you would like to share in the "Around the Mountain" column, please reach out to info@hallmountainfire.com.

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/HALLMOUNTAIN



Thank You

For your support!

Your support has allowed us to stay debt-free, 100% volunteer, and allow your voice to be heard!