



SILVER CITY FIRE & RESCUE

VOLUME V June 2009

Silver City Loses a Friend

All of us at SCF&R send our heartfelt condolences to George Reed's family. George passed away in a flash flood along the Snake River on June 6.

George retired recently as our Backcountry Deputy. As an organization, we relied on George for his strength of character and his depth of experience in law enforcement. No one knew Owyhee backcountry better than George. George was a good friend, and we will miss him. Our prayers go to Ellen and family.

Challenges

With exceptional help from many, Silver City Fire & Rescue has grown rapidly and shown that an effective fire department can exist in Silver City. We have assembled a truly credible attack capability against both wildland and structure fires, and we've contributed to fire abatement efforts that have greatly increased the town's safety from fire. Our volunteer EMS unit has improved patient outcomes on many occasions over the last three years.

In our fourth year of service, changes are underway for Silver City Fire & Rescue. Factors such as the slowdown in the economy, volunteers working at capacity, and a finite operating budget are motivating changes. Let's talk about what we can and will do. This year we will:

- Continue to provide volunteer fire and EMS service to Silver City and the surrounding area.
- Encourage the community to clear and maintain defensible spaces around each home in Silver City.
- Reduce overhead by fine tuning the number of SCF&R vehicles in service.
- Welcome and train volunteers.
- Reduce costs by emailing these newsletters instead of mailing, and communicate regularly using our web site: <https://www.silvercityfireandrescue.org>
- Seek new and creative ways to raise funds so that we can continue providing valuable emergency and fire fighting services in the years to come.

Like other non-profit organizations, we have seen our donations and funding slide with the economy. At this time in 2008, we already had the funding for 2009. Today SCFR has a bare-bones budget that will allow us to provide the same level and quality of EMS and fire service for the remainder of this year, but no further.

Now we need your help. There are many ways to volunteer without committing to being on call. SCFR would welcome administrative help, equipment maintenance, community relations ideas, and go-getters to help with fundraising. Fire trucks need regular maintenance, and we would love to have a volunteer step up to lead that effort. Just spending a weekend clearing a defensible space around your home contributes to the effort.

We also need funding to protect Silver City's people and buildings next year and the years after. Raising funds in creative ways is our new critical challenge. As they should be, current SCFR volunteers are focused on providing EMS and firefighting services. So we are asking you – how can we jump this hurdle? Can you contribute a fund-raising idea or event?

Silver City Fire & Rescue is an optimistic bunch. We look at this as an opportunity to creatively and enthusiastically meet the challenges ahead. **Please join us with your ideas and support.** Together we will do a good thing for Silver City and its residents.

Ever Onward

We have well-trained volunteers who can help you in an emergency, fight fires on the hill or in town, take a look at your house and yard to advise you on how to make it firewise, and more. We're proud that we can offer these services to our community.

Of course, we always want to be equipped to do more. SCFR has reached a point where the EMS unit would do well to step up to EMT-Basic service, specifically to provide emergency medical services to the increasing number of OHV recreationists who ride the surrounding trails. But the reality is that we don't currently have the funding to get our volunteer EMRs this next level of training.

The Owyhee County Commissioners endorsed SCFR's 2010 State EMS Equipment grant application for a basket stretcher. We will use the basket stretcher to "package" and move a seriously injured patient across difficult terrain to an air ambulance.

We also have held dear the goal of one day having the resources to fight fires from inside buildings. But the reality is that as a weekend community (zero Census population), Silver City simply can't supply the full-time population, unquestioned water supply, or special equipment to mount a safe interior fire attack. It has become clear that it is the best policy for SCF&R to use the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI pronounced "woo-eee") fire fighting approach used by BLM, ID. Department of Lands, and United States Forest Service.

What does this mean? We can provide the same level of service we have for the last three years, but we can't push on to the fire-fighting level you would find in Nampa or Boise. Using the WUI approach, Wildland fire fighters mount effective fire attacks without putting fire fighters inside the structure. They defend adjoining structures to prevent the spread of fire. And they achieve the paramount objective in any fire attack – that every fire fighter goes home safely.

SCFR is as enthusiastic and driven as ever to build expertise, training, and connection with our community.

You can help:

- First, create and maintain defensible space around your home
- Step forward to take on one small job or train in one aspect
- Work with your neighbors to purchase and install a 4 inch valve on the hydrant nearest to your homes to allow for a quick hook-up to the pumper truck
- Support efforts to increase fire water supply in a number of ways: emergency creek impoundments, water storage tank, mine shaft water access, etc.
- When an air ambulance approaches, **Please Stay Way Back**. Keep kids and pets back. Staying back will protect you from flying debris, and help assure that the patient gets to the care they need as quickly as possible.
- Establish a hydrant at the 2nd Street and Jordan Street landing zone. With the use of this hydrant, sprinkling the LZ for dust abatement can be quickly accomplished by anyone.

- Make a generous donation

- Show your appreciation to encourage SCF&R volunteers

First Responder? EMR? EMT-B?

Are you mystified by the alphabet soup of EMS designations?

The designation of First Responder has been changed to **Emergency Medical Responder** or EMR.

The First Responder label is being used to designate all first-on-scene emergency personnel. The new EMR label will differentiate EMS training level more clearly. EMT-B stands for Emergency Medical Technician—Basic.

Gift Shop Report by Sara Miller

It was like Christmas unwrapping the pottery from Kathy Hawkins. She has added a hot red color and a beautiful harvest color to her pottery line. For those of you who collect Kathy’s treasures, don’t wait long to see her new pieces. Also this year, Cheryl Burril has a new medium for her oil painting. We have a saw blade painted with eagles, and another with the Flint Mill. A real collector’s piece will be the saw blade painting of the church with the brown roof. The Gift Shop is proud of both artists for the quality and unique style of their items. We continue to have the “Name Your Own Price” section for things people donate to help out the cause.

If I made a dollar for the information and each greeting given in a day, we would be much richer. People are generous when they listen to our success stories.

Thanks to the Silver City people that help the Gift Shop. Pam Burton’s house is a real godsend. Dave Wilper does beautiful rustic framing. Gayland Carr always donates something he has restored, and the Hotel people keep those pieces of pie coming my way. It is a huge joy to work for a dedicated group of volunteers, a worthy cause, and a great city.

We Appreciate our Volunteers

Thank you to these dedicated volunteers:

Vern Tunnell	Dave Wilper	Geralynn Fiske
Wade Kimball	Mike Leonard	Sara Miller
Jesse Hyslop	Steve Fiske	Rick Thompson
Jan Hyslop	Cheryl Burril	Bobbi Stoddart
Doug Trosky	Pete Burril	Jim Hyslop
Deb Ward	Lee Ward	Linda Harder
David Miller	Kim Tunnell	Penelope Hyslop
Eric Cassady		

BLM Clean Up Day June 27

BLM & SCF&R will pick up and haul away the burnable debris that you clear from around your home if you will pile it up at the roadside.



Chimney Sweep

Please contact Jim at 890-6718 before June 30 to schedule a certified chimney sweep to inspect and clean your chimney. If your chimney passes inspection, the chimney sweep may certify your chimney for insurance purposes. Travel costs for the chimney sweep will be divided among participants. Cost per chimney would be specific to your chimney situation. Jim is putting this together as a service and will receive no remuneration.

The Board has accepted Doug Trosky’s resignation as Fire Chief and Training Officer. Doug is continuing to serve as a volunteer in EMS and fire.

Thank you, Doug, for your tireless efforts to create and build SCF&R.

The Board of Directors has appointed:

Jim Hyslop as Acting Fire Chief

Wade Kimball as Treasurer

Geralynn Fiske as EMS Supply Officer

Jan Hyslop as EMS Administrator

Plans for 2009

Budget:

Provide essential services

Meet Memorandum of Understanding/contract obligations with BLM, IDL, and State EMS

Vehicles:

Decommission and sell:

1984 Chevrolet brush truck

1978 Ford F150

Howe structure truck will not be brought into service until funding is available

In service:

IDL red tender

IDL white water truck

Interface (Wildland/structure) fire truck

EMS vehicle

Fire attack:

Wildland/Urban Interface (no interior fire attack)



Thank you to Dr. Sturkie for refresher training in Epi-Pen Administration Training— Left to right: Wade Kimball, Geralynn Fiske, Doug Trosky, Dr. Murry Sturkie, SCF&R Medical Director.

www.silvercityfireandrescue.org

The SCF&R website is up and ready for your visit.

In light of our tight budget, SCFR is asking that you allow us to send you the newsletter via email. The newsletter will be posted on our website at www.silvercityfireandrescue.org If you cannot receive the newsletter except through the postal service, we will be glad to continue to mail it to you.

* Please send your email address to scfr@heritagewifi.com

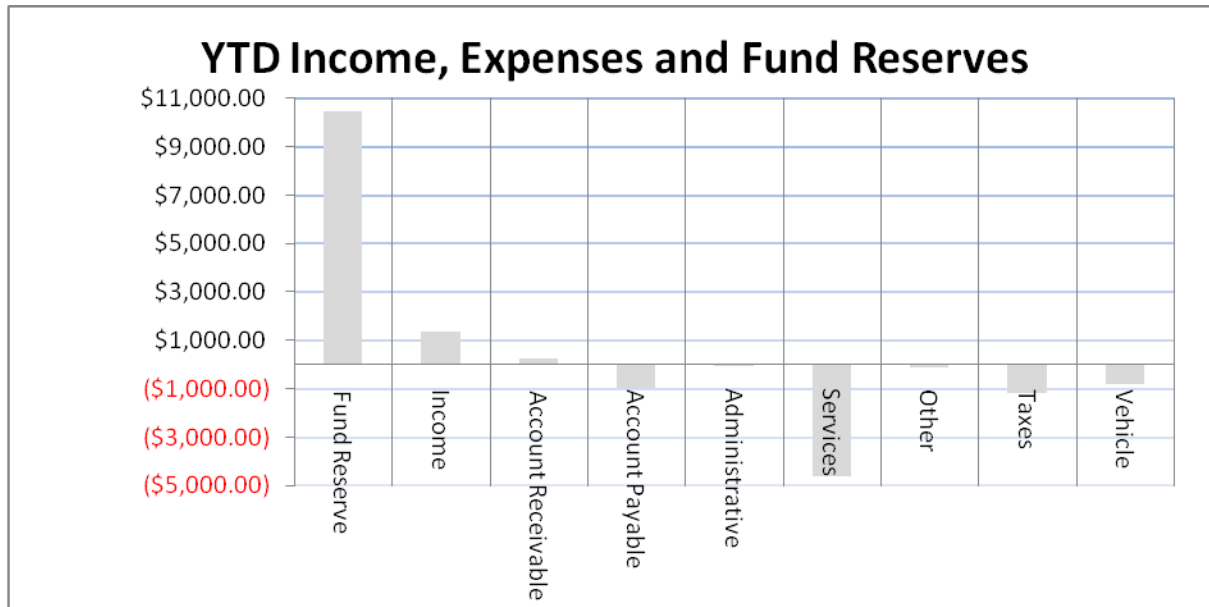
OR

* Please let us know if you prefer to have the newsletter mailed to you by calling (208) 466-5064.

Treasurer's Report: SCF&R Financial Status

Operations for the summer of 2009 are underway. With the increase in recreational traffic expected this summer due to families taking "daycation" vacations, SCF&R is expecting an increase in calls for EMS and Fire incidents.

SCF&R has not been immune to the economic downturn everyone is currently experiencing. With a decrease in donations and grant funding, the SCF&R Board has taken steps to limit expenses while providing essential services to home owners and recreationalists in the SCF&R response area. Shown below is a graph of Year to Date (YTD) Income, Expenses and Fund Reserves.



With prudent fiscal management, the SCF&R Board was able to build a fund balance of \$10,500 at the end of calendar year 2008. This fund balance has been vital in providing services in calendar year 2009.

For comparison purposes, January to June 2008 expenses (excluding the purchase of a new EMS truck) were approximately \$14,000, and income from grants and donations was approximately \$8,700.

Current year expenses (January to June 2009) are approximately \$7,800. This amount represents the bare minimum expenditures to maintain normal services. Current year income from grants and donations is approximately \$1,300.

Fund reserves along with prudent financial management are allowing SCF&R to operate the rest of this year. Your continued support is vital. We ask that you partner with SCF&R and make a tax deductible donation.

SCF&R looks forward to serving Silver City residents and recreationalists in the years to come,

Wade Kimball

SCF&R Treasurer

With enthusiasm, and hard work, SCF&R's members and supporters have built a great organization. SCF&R is equipped, organized, and staffed. SCF&R meets all requirements as an EMS unit, a fire department, non-profit corporation, and recipient of many grants. SCF&R presents a value to the community that is worthy of your support.



SILVER CITY FIRE & RESCUE

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Silver City Fire & Rescue, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation.

SCF&R provides fire protection and emergency medical services in the Silver City and War Eagle Mountain area of Owyhee County.

SCF&R is licensed with the State of Idaho as an Emergency Medical Responder, non-transport Emergency Medical Services unit. SCF&R's volunteers staff three fire trucks and one EMS vehicle equipped to meet the needs of the community.

SCF&R volunteers are committed to continuing training in all aspects of emergency medical services and fire suppression.

Please support SCF&R with your donations. Our volunteers actively pursue grant opportunities, but donations from generous supporters fund the organization's basic needs. All personnel are true volunteers and receive no remuneration or financial benefit from their service.

SCF&R receives no tax revenues.

An envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Silver City Fire & Rescue Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. EIN 20-3770533

Your donation is tax deductible as allowable by law. Please fill in and **keep this form as your tax receipt**. Thank you!

Date:

Amount:

Check #:
