

Caldwell Perspective 08.2017

Caldwell Fire Department Update

There is never a dull moment in the firehouses, Caldwell is extremely busy running a total of 555 responses in July alone, with year to date responses as of end of July reaching over 3427, giving Caldwell Fire an 11.19% year to date increase from July of 2016.

The Caldwell Fire Department consists of two stations with 36 Firefighter positions and three additional positions began training in August for a total of 39. Within the department we have one of the State of Idaho's Regional HazMat Teams which specialize in handling hazardous material situations in the southwestern counties of Idaho. These individuals complete intense continuing training to enable the team to safely work in these conditions. In addition to the firefighters there is an administration staff including a Deputy Chief, Steve Donahue; Fire Marshal, Andrew Cater; Administrative Assistant, Lisa Richard; and Chief Mark Wendelsdorf, serving as Caldwell's Fire Chief for 13 years.

In June, we said good-bye to two well loved individuals within the fire family. Captain Trent Price and Administrative Assistant Patti Cook retired after both served many years with the Caldwell Fire Department. Their careers were celebrated with a community open house that had an overwhelming turnout (as can be seen in the pictures). Many memories and well wishes were shared as Trent and Patti moved on to the next chapter in their lives.

In July, the firefighters participated in the Elks BBQ for Foster Children, allowing the children to view the fire truck up close and visit with the crew. We also participated in the Canyon County Fair, where our fire fighters and Fire Marshal shared fire safety tips with the kids, handed out Eclipse Glasses and, a huge thank you to our community, we collected over \$575.00 for the Caldwell Burnout Fund. These dollars go right back to our community to help displaced families due to fire damage.

The Chief and staff are busy with budget development and approval for both the City and for the Rural Fire District. Additionally, the union and the city are continuing negotiations for a new labor agreement.

Firefighters continue to train on and shake out two new Fire Engines received earlier this year.

Grass fire season is upon us and the Department has responded to numerous grass fires both in our District/ City and to supply aid to other departments. This is in addition to our normally high volume of calls. Caldwell Fire responds to approximately 16 calls per day making our two staffed stations the busiest stations in Idaho.

Fire Safety Tip of the Month: When barbequing this summer, position grills at least ten feet away from siding and deck railing, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. Make sure to position the BBQ on bare, level surface, away from dried grasses and other hazards.