

NOMINEE SUMMARY

Stephen Hester – Nominated by Montana State Fire Chief’s Association

Steve Hester is currently the Fire Chief at Great Falls Fire and Rescue. Steve has almost forty years of full-time fire protection experience, twenty-two years of chief fire officer experience, and 13 years of Fire Service HazMat Training Specialist experience. Along with said experience, Steve is a skilled public safety and education practitioner. Steve is familiar with National Fire Protection Standards, Uniform Fire Code, Department of Labor laws, and fire safety programs. He also has an extensive background and advanced education in human management, leadership, and organizational theory and change. Steve is a Montana certified Hazardous Materials Instructor.

Bill Perrin – Nominated by Montana Volunteer Firefighter’s Association

Bill Perrin is presently a firefighter/EMT with the Stevensville Fire Department. Prior to his retirement as District Fire Chief, he served as a firefighter, Town Assistant Chief, Battalion Chief and Captain. He also served as Chief in Harlem, MT and as a firefighter in both Bridger and Custer, Montana. Bill started his volunteer career in Custer in 1970.

Bill has served on the NFPA 1001 Committee for Firefighter I and II and NFPA 1500 Committee for Firefighter Safety. He has assisted the Montana Fire Services Training School in providing training on numerous topics including auto-extrication, financial management for the fire service, officer, and leadership. Bill has retired from a banking career that included working in banks in Bridger, Harlem and Stevensville, Montana.

Gary Mahaugh – Nominated by Montana Volunteer Firefighter’s Association & Montana State Fire Chief’s Association

Gary Mahaugh has served as Fire Chief at Creston Fire District in NW Montana since 1981. Gary joined Creston Volunteer Fire Department in 1974, serving in a variety of roles until being appointed Fire Chief. Gary served as an EMT for a number of years and was an EPA trained Hazardous Materials Technician for approximately ten year and serves with the Flathead County Fire Investigation Team. He has served three terms as President of the Montana State Fire Chief’s Association and has been an active member of the MSU FSTS Advisory Council. Gary is an All Hazard Type 3 Incident Commander for the North West Montana Incident Management Team. He has spent many years on the Flathead County 9-1-1 Administration Board and continues to serve as a member of the 9-1-1 Operation Board. Gary, and his wife Luann, also own Mahaugh Fire & Safety in Kalispell.

James Raymond Short – Nominated by Montana State Council of Professional Fire Fighters

James Short is currently the Training officer for the Bozeman Fire Department and has been with Bozeman Fire since 2009. James is a 2007 honors graduate and holds an Associate’s degree in Fire Science from Montana State University-Billings. He has over 200 hours of certified classroom training in Fire Prevention, Fire Scene Investigation, Incident Command, and Fire Suppression.