



# Media Release

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Incident Type: Information

Date and Time of Incident: April 12, 2019

Narrative:

## **Executive Assistant Katie Hirst Named Employee of the Year Coeur d'Alene Fire Department**

On April 12, 2019 The Coeur d'Alene Fire Department held its annual awards banquet. Each year the Fire Department takes an opportunity to recognize its members for acts of dedication and professionalism within our community.

"I think that it is important to recognize the good work our men and women do for the community and our department. They are mostly selfless acts, often occurring on their off time. Most of them think it's not a big deal, but the services they provide to the community are a big deal...a real big deal." Stated Fire Chief Kenny Gabriel

One of our highest honored awards is the Employee of the Year. This year that award was given to Katie Hirst, our Executive Assistant.

Katie joined the Department in 2002. She served as both Administrative Assistant I, and II until taking over as the Executive Assistant in 2017. "Katie is the glue that keeps our office running smoothly" said Chief Gabriel

The Executive Assistant is instrumental in preparing and managing the budget of the Fire Department. She also manages the wages and benefits of our personnel, while tracking vacations and leave due to illness and injury.

Katie supervises our two Administrative Assistants. This year both of those positions were filled by new people and Katie has been working tirelessly to get them both trained while still completing her regularly assigned duties, often working weekends to make sure everything was completed.

We are very proud to announce Katie Hirst as our Employee of the Year.

Other awards presented at this year's awards ceremony:

**1,000 call club (for responding to over 1,000 calls for service)**

Greg Thaxton          Eric Loney    Chris Kieres    Gabe Eckert    Chad Matchell  
Ryan Whitelaw          Scott Robinson          Ben Kaiser

**Ironman award (For running the most calls for service)**

Ben Kaiser (1,143)

**2018 Firefighter of the year ( North Idaho Fire Chiefs)**

Greg Thaxton

**2018 EMS Paramedic of the Year (North Idaho Fire Chiefs)**

Scott Dietrich

**2018 Paramedic of the Year (Kootenai County EMS)**

Scott Dietrich

**Union Firefighter of the Year (CDA Firefighters Local 710)**

Eric Paul

**Award of Merit**

Steve Jones-co-creating the North Idaho First Responder Fitness Challenge  
Colby Ivey, Greg Thaxton, Blaine Porter – Peer Support Training

**Award of Exemplary Action**

Gabe Eckert    Eric McAuliffe  
Brian Shiplett          Jessica Bryant

**Union Service Award (CDA Firefighters Local 710)**

Josh Sutherland

**Unit Citations (for exemplary acts)**

Tom Hildebrand          Bill Dodd          Travis Georgius (Ice Rescue on Avondale Lake)

*For a Cardiac event during Race the River:*

Don Bates    Ben Hector    Greg Thaxton          Robert Anderson  
Jack Craven    Scott Robinson          Andy Goodsell          Scott Dietrich          Matthew Glenn

**Award of Appreciation**

CDA Auto Recycling  
Superior Towing  
Mitzi Michaud (NIC Workforce training)  
Shaun Endsley (Scott Safety-SCBA)

**Years of Service Awards**

5 years Colby Ivey

10 Years Scott Dietrich Jeff Butcher

15 Years of service

Luke Pichette Jeff Canfield Eric Paul Jeff Sells Matt Tosi  
Jake Beiker Steve Jones Matt Smith Dave Tysdal Kelan McKeirnan  
Michael Fredrick Robert Anderson Katie Hirst

**Photo Credit Amy Valdez**

**End of Release**

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