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 Hiltebrand    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

Reporting Officer: Fire Inspector/Investigator Craig Etherton PIO
Reporting Officer Phone: 208-659-8986
Reporting Officer Email: cetherton@cdaid.org