

## Black Eagle Volunteer Fire Department P.O. Box 533, Black Eagle, MT 59414

The Black Eagle Volunteer Fire Department Board Chairman, Anton Spek Jr., is pleased to announce the selection of Mr. Doug Coster as the new Fire Chief for the Department, effective immediately. At the conclusion of the interview process Doug was selected as the optimum candidate to lead the department and address the challenges faced by the volunteer fire service organization that is so critical to Black Eagle and the surrounding community. "I am confident that the new Chief, Doug Coster, will lead the Department with compassion and clarity, has the vision and stability for the Department to successfully thrive and provide fire and emergency service in this new decade, Spek said.

The people of Black Eagle will be pleased to hear that their new Fire Chief is a resident of the Eagle, living all but five years of his life here. His father, Thomas Coster, was one of the founding fathers of the Fire District. Tom passed away this summer but Doug's mother resides in Black Eagle as do Doug and his family. Doug's wife, Vicky, is active in the community and as a volunteer with the local animal organizations helping foster and place stray and abandoned animals, particularly kittens and cats. Often Doug accompanies her on late night and early morning feedings and care of animals that are feral but in need of help. Doug is employed by the State of Montana as a road maintenance technician and one of his duties is plowing the snow in lovely Montana weather.

Doug is a thirteen year veteran of the BEVFD, beginning his career as probationary fireman and working his way through the ranks to an officer position. Doug is a committed fireman, attending many trainings in the years. It is important to recognize that this is a volunteer position, the Department has all volunteers. The time involved in not only volunteering as a fireman but improving knowledge is also on the volunteer's own time and dime, these commitments are necessary to effectively and safely fight fires and provide emergency service when needed. Some of his trainings are MSU Fire Service Certificates in Staff and Command, Leadership 2, NIMS for the Fire Service, FEMA certificates IS-00700, 00100 and 00300, Fire Investigation, First Responders, Montana DNRC Certificate in Basic Wildland Firefighting, Oklahoma State University via Vaughn Fire Department Fire Fighter I and II certificates, VFIS Vehicle Driver Training Instructor Certificate, Professional Truck driver Institute Certificate, SAFE Tractor Trailer Driver TTD 150 Certificate, Carpenters International provide – OSHA 10 Certificate and the American Heart Institute BLS Provider CPR/AED certificate.

Chairman Spek and the BEVFD Board of Trustee's said they are looking forward to working together with Chief Coster for success and growth of the Black Eagle Volunteer Fire District, including the building of a new fire station. Please take the time to thank all of the volunteers in the community and welcome Doug as the new Fire Chief.

Responding to Fire and Mutal Aid calls with an one hundred and seventy mile service area – We appreciate your support! Thank you