

## BF Volunteer Fire Department News!

By Anna Diehl



### Students Learn About Fire Prevention

A number of Butte Falls Elementary students were eager to share what they learned last year about fire prevention and safety during the Butte Falls Volunteer Fire Department's annual observance of National Fire Prevention and Safety Month on October 7. Joining the BFVFD, was the Department of Forestry and Mercy EMT, Carrie Driscoll. Butte Falls Elementary students and pre-schoolers spent the morning participating in the event. Butte Falls Firefighters simulated an actual fire scene behind a door complete with billowing smoke and flames, both of which were provided by a smoke machine and infrared light. The key point a child needs to learn about a house fire is what to listen and look for if they smell smoke or hear the smoke alarm. Following a brief question and answer session with Fire Chief Rick Martin, teachers and students watched as Assistant Chief Jeff Gorman demonstrated how to safely check a door, such as a bedroom door, for fire on the other side. Crawling on their hands and knees through the smoke and red glare, Firefighters Jeff Seeger, Michael Hanson, and Jason Johnston made their way through the door toward the students simulating what might take place in a real fire. As they approached the students, they called to them through breathing apparatuses giving the students an idea of what they might hear during a rescue.

The emphasis of the simulation was not only to teach kids what to do in the event of a fire, but to listen for firefighters who enter the house and are calling out to them. Children were encouraged to touch the firefighters. In the midst of smoke, fire, and darkness a firefighter and their equipment can frighten and intimidate young children. Fire Chief Martin and fellow firefighters reassured the students that approaching firefighters are there to help them and that students shouldn't hide from the firefighters but rather go to them. Students and teachers also learned about wild land firefighting and the difference between the equipment used in structure fires and forest fires. Third Grader, Michaela Langston was asked why learning about fire rescue was important. Michaela said, "Because you could get burned really bad if you don't know what to do in a fire. I learned how to always touch the door with the back of your hand and if there's fire to stay down and crawl away from the fire to where its safe and wait for your parents or the fire department."

Each class practiced the Stop, Drop, Cover, and Roll technique for fire rescue. All students graduated the class with honors making the BFVFD, Department of Forestry, and Mercy very proud! On their way back to the classroom students had the chance to climb up into the fire engine. A bagful of fire prevention stickers, candy, pencils and reading materials was given to each student. A big thanks goes out to the Department of Forestry and Mercy personnel for helping out the Fire Department with this worthwhile event. Also, a special thanks to all the teachers at the Elementary School for supporting National Fire Prevention and Safety Month!



Have  
You  
Hugged  
Your  
Local  
Volunteer  
Firefighter  
OR  
EMT  
Today?  
Let  
Them  
Know  
How  
You  
Appreciate  
Them....

### Thanks Mercy Flights

Butte Falls Volunteer Fire Department wishes to extend **A SPECIAL THANKS** to Mercy Flights for the medical evacuation training at the High School ball field. "Because our community is remote, it's important that our firefighters be trained in every way possible for evacuation and rescue. Working with Mercy Flight and Ambulance personnel as a team is key to keeping our community as safe as possible", says Fire Chief Rick Martin.

