

BC South Fire Protection District
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hailey, Idaho – June 18, 2026 – In a landmark step forward for public safety in Blaine County, the Joint Powers Board of the City of Hailey Fire Department, BC South Fire Protection District, and Ketchum Fire District will hold a special meeting on **Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 10:00 AM** at Hailey City Hall (115 South Main Street). The public is invited to attend in person or join virtually.

At this pivotal meeting, the Board is expected to consider and act on a resolution to commence **joint operations** among the three agencies, effective **July 1, 2026**. This marks an exciting new chapter as the departments begin operating as a unified force—delivering seamless, high-quality emergency services to residents and visitors across the region.

Over the past several months, dedicated teams from all three agencies have worked tirelessly to align operations. Key accomplishments include standardizing policies and procedures, cross-training personnel on each department's equipment and apparatus, and building a cohesive unified leadership team. These collaborative efforts have laid a strong foundation for enhanced coordination and efficiency.

"This is a historic moment for Blaine County," said Fire Chief Kevan Crawley of BC South Fire Protection District. "By coming together, we're not just combining resources—we're elevating the standard of care for our communities. Our firefighters, paramedics, and support staff are energized and ready to deliver faster response times and greater capabilities across the full spectrum of services our residents depend on."

Improved Service, Stronger Capabilities. Pending approval, joint operations will immediately enable increased staffing through operational efficiencies, resulting in quicker response times and expanded expertise for critical incidents—including backcountry rescue, wildland firefighting, structural fires, and emergency medical calls. This proactive consolidation directly addresses the region's growing population, tourism, and rising call volume, ensuring a modern, agile public safety model that meets today's challenges.

Under Idaho law, the annexation of the Hailey Fire Department into the BC South Fire Protection District will appear on the November ballot. In parallel, BC South and Ketchum Fire District will

advance legal steps toward formal consolidation. Upon successful completion of all approvals, the three entities will fully unite as **Blaine County Fire & Rescue** following the November 3, 2026 election.

The consolidation also delivers a balanced tax levy, ensuring equitable, high-level service for all communities involved while maintaining fiscal responsibility. A detailed pro forma for the proposed tax levy will be released to the public in the coming weeks. Residents and stakeholders can explore the full organizational vision for Blaine County Fire & Rescue today at www.blainecountyfirerescue.org.

This initiative represents a bold commitment by elected leaders and fire service professionals to raise the bar for quality, capability, and agility in public safety. Blaine County is poised to become a model for regional collaboration that protects lives, property, and the vibrant communities we all call home.

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About Blaine County Fire & Rescue: Blaine County Fire & Rescue is the future unified fire, EMS, and specialized rescue service for the communities of Hailey, Ketchum, and the surrounding areas of Blaine County. By combining the strengths of the BC South Fire Protection District, the Hailey Fire Department, and the Ketchum Fire District, the new organization will deliver world-class emergency services through innovation, collaboration, and unwavering dedication to those we serve.

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Additional photos, video and info may also be available on our social media pages:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BCSouthFire/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bcsouthfire/>

X: <https://x.com/BCSouthFPD>

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