

# 2012 BLM Airward/Recognition

- Airwards

Mile City, MT

Ex-Use Helicopter

Manager

“Training Excellence  
in Action”



**AIRWARD CITATION**  
**Conan Donnelly**

*Training Excellence in Action*

Conan Donnelly, Eastern Montana-Dakotas Helicopter Crew Supervisor has been going above and beyond basic aviation safety training for years. During the spring of 2010 Conan initiated a fire extinguisher/crash rescue training day with the Billings Logan International Airport Fire Department. The training has grown in scope and participation.

This particular training includes classroom and field exercises. Classroom training includes fire extinguisher videos explaining types, capabilities and safety procedures while operating fire extinguishers. Schematic diagrams of a multitude of aircraft are used to illustrate fuel tank locations and extraction points on different aircraft. After completing classroom instruction, the airport crash/rescue department engages training participants in live fire exercises. All participants have the chance to use fire extinguishers to extinguish a fuel spill and a propane fire in a controlled environment.

Additionally, aircraft have been available to provide hands-on experience utilizing crash rescue tools to gain entry. These trainings are exceptional and in most instances are the only times our employees are able to use and demonstrate their skills on aircraft crash-rescue procedures. Employees from across the Montana-Dakotas fire and aviation programs look forward to this annual training.

This training program demonstrates the forward thinking and initiative that is encouraged amongst Bureau of Land Management employees and demonstrates a great working relationship amongst cooperating agencies. If other programs can use the example that Conan has established as an avenue to work with their local airport crash/rescue experts, all agency aviators will be better prepared for a day when they may need to use these skills.

# 2012 BLM Airward/Recognition

- Airward  
Cedar City Interagency  
Fire & Aviation Group  
  
“Critical Response at  
Its Finest”



## **AIRWARD CITATION Cedar City Interagency Fire & Aviation Group**

### ***Critical Response at its Finest***

On June 3, 2012, Tanker 11 crashed while working on the White Rock Fire near the Nevada/Utah border. A highly skilled team stepped up and responded to this aviation mishap with great on-the-ground and aerial leadership, professionalism and attention to detail and safety.

Aircraft dispatchers at the Color Country Interagency Fire Center took immediate response after receiving the tragic news. Matt Huse, acting as the unit aviation manager and air center manager, was first notified at the tanker base and immediately took charge of the situation by providing excellent direction and guidance, keeping everyone informed and maintaining smooth operations. Tina Greenhalgh obtained command of the aircraft desk and began delivering all notifications in a timely manner as well as running the dispatch center efficiently until all aircraft were safely recovered to the Cedar City Air Center. Caitlin Robinson stayed on task while recording high quality key communication documents, which were later used by the NTSB during the mishap investigation. Chelsea Pollock communicated with the air attack on-scene and made appropriate notifications to ensure all aircraft returned safely. Mary Schmidt engaged within the staff to provide notifications and follow-up while performing all other duties required. This exceptionally qualified staff was able to react and respond diligently while remaining professional and composed during this highly stressful situation.

The air attack platform assigned to the BLM Color Country District also responded to this incident within an incident. Isaac Shinkle, air tactical supervisor, established a central point of contact for communications, accounted for all resources on the incident and quickly decided which aircraft would continue operations and which needed to depart safely to the base. Dan Cranney, air attack pilot, worked with Isaac to keep everyone calm and focused on their actions as well as offering emotional support to personnel in need after returning to the base. These men provided critical aerial leadership, rapid search and rescue efforts and remained focused on their roles and responsibilities during this crucial time.

Every team needs a hero, every hero needs a team. This team is full of heroes. Way to go, team!