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## Delmont Fire Department Turns a Dream into Reality

The Delmont Fire Department functions more efficiently and provides a higher level of fire protection service to the community thanks in part to Douglas Electric Cooperative, Inc., recipient of USDA funding, who provided funds for the construction of a new fire hall.

Delmont Fire started at the Delmont City Pump House on November 23, 1903. This Pump House is still standing and is now in a Museum. In 1969, Delmont Fire built and moved into a new fire hall at 110 W Main Street. Then in January of 2015, Delmont Fire moved into a new modern and very spacious fire hall, which was still located on Main Street, but further west. This fire hall was destroyed on May 10, 2015 during the Mother's Day Tornado. It was rebuilt at the same location and the Fire Department moved in again in December of 2015, in time for the annual Christmas party. There were other options for location of the fire hall, but members felt it should be on Delmont's Main Street because it adds to the character of the Main Street. The latest facility is 60 feet by 100 feet in dimension with four bays.



*In the photo above is the Delmont Fire Department's newly constructed fire hall.*

Having a new fire hall adds to recruitment possibilities. Firefighters are able to maintain and work on equipment with plenty of room. There is also room for training. All of the firefighters are volunteers. Recruitment of good volunteers is what has kept the community safe. Being able to respond to an incident, whether it be a fire, car accident, or other medical emergency, getting firefighters and trucks out of the station safely and quickly is very important. On a side note, before they had the new station they had personnel putting on gear right next to the trucks as they were pulling out of the station. This created a huge safety issue.

The number of calls they have a year is completely dependent on the weather. However, medical calls have gone up over the last few years.

Although the town lost approximately 150 residents due to the Mother's Day Tornado of 2015, the fire district is still 150 square miles. They also serve two Colonies, Greenwood and Clearfield. Ag equipment continues to grow larger and more expensive, as do the fire trucks and equipment. People continue to build homes, shops and barns, cattle or hog confinements. It is very important that the fire district remains proactive and on top of the latest trainings and newest techniques to continue to serve the taxpayers.

Delmont Fire Department partnered with Douglas Electric Cooperative, Inc., who provided revolving loan funds received through USDA Rural Development's Economic Development's Grant program to assist with the construction of the new facility. The funding was leveraged with a state of South Dakota Community Development Block Grant and applicant contributions to cover the total project cost of \$550,000.

<b>Obligation Amount:</b>	\$250,000 Rural Economic Development Grant
<b>Date of Obligation:</b>	March 13, 2014
<b>Congressional District:</b>	At Large, Senator Thune, Senator Rounds, and Congresswoman Noem
<b>Partners:</b>	Douglas Electric Cooperative, Inc., State of South Dakota, and USDA Rural Development
<b>Demographics:</b>	The Delmont Fire Department provide firefighters, first responders, and EMT's for the Delmont Rural Fire Protection District. The District covers parts of Charles Mix, Douglas and Hutchinson counties; including the communities of Delmont, Greenwood and Clearfield Colonies (approximately 150 square miles).
<b>Impact:</b>	The new fire hall easily accommodates the department's fire trucks, equipment, and protective gear; contains more space for the volunteers to meet and train; and provides many more years of service to the community.