

VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTER KEITH WEAR



At midnight on December 13, 2010, Keith Wear, fire fighter with the Jefferson City Volunteer Fire Department was seriously injured while fighting a structure fire. The fire had spread from a large woodpile onto a studio and apartment building. Keith was bringing the halligan, a large steel tool, to the burning building when he fell backward on the ice, seriously injuring his back. Working with the ambulance crew, fire fighters placed Keith into the ambulance for transport to the emergency room at St. Peter's Hospital in Helena.

Now, three months later, Keith's medical situation has not improved while his medical bills keep mounting. An operation was performed on his lower back vertebrae in January. Costs of x-rays, MRI's and physical therapy continue. The insurance provided by the volunteer fire department for medical payments has maxed out at \$50,000. The prognosis for returning to work is put out to the future. In early March, Keith will be having another operation on his lower vertebrae at the UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles. He does not have full control of his legs and is in a lot of pain.

Keith has given so much to his community in helping others. He always could be counted on to respond with other volunteer fire fighters to highway accidents, forest fires and structure fires. Keith would reach out to local residents by providing his construction skills and delivering free fire wood. Now is our time to help Keith. Please give whatever you can to the Keith Wear Benefit, First Boulder Valley Bank, PO Box 207, Boulder, MT 59632. If you need information please call the Jefferson City Volunteer Fire Department President, Dave Cooper at 1-419-265-0242.