

Award of Exemplary Action

Brian Rhead

Cory Oscarson

On the morning of August 14, 2019, Coeur d'Alene Fire Department units were dispatched Delta with mutual aid for a motor vehicle collision on Highway 95 near Cougar Gulch. Dispatch reported a vehicle versus a semi-trailer on Mica Grade. Units arrived on scene to find a semi-trailer that had become detached from the tractor and had come to rest in the oncoming lane. A passenger vehicle traveling in the opposite lane collided with and became lodged under the trailer. Initial size up estimated extended extrication times for two victims. Kootenai Electric employees Brian Rhead and Cory Oscarson were traveling on Highway 95 that morning and arrived on scene shortly after the incident occurred. Brian and Cory quickly took action by chocking the wheels on the semi-trailer and using the landing gear to raise the front end of the trailer off of the car. The actions taken by Brian and Cory created valuable space which drastically decreased the extrication times of both victims and gave the victims their best chance at survival. Without the knowledge and actions taken by Brian and Cory that morning, extrication would have been prolonged and may have cost both victims their lives.

