

My presentation is on the Blackwater Fire of 1937, in Cody, Wyoming. I chose this topic because I find firefighting very intriguing and have a long line of firefighters in my family. The fire was a tragedy. Fifteen firefighters lost their lives and 1,700 acres were burned to a crisp on the Shoshone. Most of the men were from the ages of 17 to 20. Many of the mishaps that caused the deaths could have been prevented. The Blackwater Fire played a very important role in the nation's firefighting tactics, response time, and communication processes. As I dove into research, I found that there were a lot of primary sources, such as the original investigation and photographs. Many of those sources were incorporated into my presentation and added valuable details, recalling the Blackwater tragedy.