



NEWS RELEASE

Department of Public Safety

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Fire Marshal's Office Presents Gold Coin Gift to Delmont Fire Department

DELMONT, S.D. – Delmont firefighters, who were forced to rebuild their fire station after it was destroyed by a May 10 tornado, received a gold coin as a gift Monday night.

State Fire Marshal Paul Merriman presented the gold coin to the department at its regular monthly meeting. The coin was forwarded to the Fire Marshal's Office from a person in Sioux Falls who wished to remain anonymous.

In a letter that accompanied the coin, the donor reported seeing the result of the Mother Day's tornado which devastated several community buildings, including the fire station, a historic church, and homes. The donor said they were inspired to help as much as they could.

"Sometimes it is the small things that are so important. Not many people do the small things," the donor writes. "We can't do much, but maybe this will give other people who can't do much a realization that if we all do a little – big things can be accomplished."

The donor sent the coin to the state Department of Public Safety with a request that it be given to the fire department. Merriman says he was honored to make the presentation.

"The Department of Public Safety worked closely with Delmont officials after the tornado," he says. "We know how hard they worked to not only rebuild their fire station, but their community. I think this gift is a reward for what already has been done and what can be done in the future."

Based on Monday's gold prices, the coin's value is estimated at \$1,320.

Merriman presented the coin to Delmont Fire Chief Elmer Goehring. The chief says the department is not sure what it will do with the coin.

"Our members are proud of their department and their community," Goehring says. "This donor is like so many others who have provided financial contributions or who have come to Delmont to help us rebuild."

After the tornado, several other fire departments provided equipment and resources to the Delmont Fire Department.