

Passions that Build



Personal Passions Make Us Unique — and Help Us Uniquely Succeed

While job titles indicate what we do at TAI, each one of us has unique talents, experiences, abilities, and interests that shape the ways we do our jobs. Across the organization, employees' personal passions are sparking fresh ideas, strengthening teams, and ensuring our ongoing success. In this feature you'll get to know three such team members: Travis Cannon, Bart Morris, and Shane Reinhart.



TRAVIS CANNON: Responding with Compassion

Travis's official title may be CDL Driver at Badger Building Supply in Hallspell, but he fills several roles, including yard foreman, dispatcher, and safety coordinator. His ultimate goal is to leverage his multifaceted skills into a management role.

Moments that Matter

Years ago, Travis was with his mother when she had an accident and broke her back. In the early moments of chaos and confusion, members of the local fire department arrived at the scene.

"They were friendly and very caring about her needs," he recalled. "That moment stuck with me. A passion awakened inside me to be there to help people on their worst day."

Five years ago, Travis joined Bad Rock Volunteer Fire Department in Columbia Falls, and in June he was named department chief, a role that requires 20 to 20 hours of his time each week. Whether he's making deliveries, dispatching drivers, or maintaining the yard at Badger, or he's training with fellow firefighters and responding to emergency calls at the fire department, he is continually gaining experience and knowledge that benefits both callings.

"My career in the building industry makes firefighting safer," he said. "I'm learning about the components of buildings, the time it takes for fire to burn away materials, and the products we can use to improve the wildfire urban interface (WUI) protection of a structure, which in turn increases sales for the company."

Just as significantly, he gets to be the kind, compassionate person who shows up on someone's worst day.

"Being that figure who brings a little hope in a stressful situation can't be duplicated by anything else," he said.

Every fire department needs volunteers in different roles, he noted, and it's never too late to join.

"Guiding people—watching a person grow into a mentor and leader—is one of the most rewarding feelings you can have."