



STATE OF IDAHO
LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIREFIGHTING AND EMS
MEDAL OF HONOR

Awarded to

Ernst Fritz Wiedenhoff

*For conspicuous gallantry and exceptionally meritorious
conduct at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty.*

On June 29, 2025, at approximately 1:21 p.m., multiple fire organizations responded to a reported wildfire on Canfield Mountain near the Nettleton Gulch trailhead in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Kootenai County dispatch received the initial fire report from a citizen. Northern Lakes Fire Protection District units were dispatched alongside the previous responding agencies, to provide additional assistance for fire suppression activities.

Captain Ernst Wiedenhoff arrived at the designated staging area and proceeded toward the command post when radio communications with the ambushed firefighters were lost. To re-establish radio communication, he moved to their location and found them trapped. Under active gunfire, Captain Wiedenhoff crawled to a working radio to alert incoming responders and law enforcement of the danger, which aided in protecting the lives of many others. He remained at the command post, providing necessary information to central dispatch and tactical resources, who were able to secure the area and make it possible for additional personnel to safely come and provide rescue and medical aid.

Captain Ernst Fritz Wiedenhoff's actions were courageous and heroic, putting his own safety aside to care for the safety of others. His extraordinary heroism, fortitude, and endurance, with danger to his own life above and beyond the call of duty, are in the highest traditions of the Northern Lakes Fire Protection District and Idaho fire service.

Signed this 1st day of September 2026.

A blue ink signature of Brad Little, written in a cursive style.

BRAD LITTLE, Governor of Idaho