

## Loveland Fire Rescue Authority

March 30, 2012

Triannual

1 of 3 issues



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**Fire Fact:** In 2010, there were 1,331,500 fires reported in the United States. These fires caused 3,120 civilian deaths, 17,720 civilian injuries, and \$11.6 billion in property damage. (Source: NFPA)



### Keeping The Main Thing, The Main Thing...



*Chief Randy  
Mirowski*

By the time you read this article, we will likely be well into the month of April, the Fire Authority will have been in operation for three months, and our Vision Tour for 2012, where we focused on many of the outstanding accomplishments in the organization over the last three years, will have been completed. There is a lot going on at Loveland Fire Rescue Authority; at times so much is going on that all of us can get so caught up in the projects, programs and vision for the future that our most critical daily mission can get overlooked.

We've had a long-standing, over-arching goal within our organization for many years; that goal is to provide the best citizen service possible with a strong emphasis on enhanced firefighter and citizen safety. When we look at our most critical mission, providing great fire-rescue services to our citizens, I am impressed by the effort that our personnel put forth.

Recently, one of our fire crews responded to an emergency call for a citizen who had cut a natural gas line adjacent to their residence, with concerns about a possible ignition. Our personnel responded, took care of life-safety matters, clamped the line, stabilized the situation, then cleaned up and restored the property. As it turned out, the citizen needing our assistance was City Councilman Hugh McKean. Here is a portion from a very complimentary memo I received from the councilman: *"Your men could not have been nicer, more professional and more of a testament to what you perpetuate in the Fire Authority... You saved my home today Chief, and my neighbors and for that, and for so much more, I thank you."*

I contacted the officer on the first arriving crew (the IC) and he didn't know that this home was owned by Councilman McKean until after the incident was over. The excellent service that is provided day-in and day-out by our personnel is given to our citizens irrespective of their position, community status or socio-economic scale. Every single day our crews are out on the street making a difference to our citizens, the ubiquitous "Mrs. Smith."

After hearing about this incident, I was reminded of a wall plaque that used to hang in an office of one of my mentors, Dr. Ron Cottle. It read this way: "The Main Thing is to keep The Main Thing, The Main Thing. As we move forward in our organization with differing programs and projects, casting vision and working hard to accomplish that vision, our "Main Thing" is to take care of our citizens, Mrs. Smith, providing the best service for them that we can, and enhancing both their and our safety in everything that we do."

I am exceedingly proud of the men and women of Loveland Fire Rescue Authority and for the commitment to excellence that we have as an organization. I am also proud to be your Fire Chief and proud that in addition to all that we do, the Main Thing is still our Main Thing.



*Division Chief /Fire  
Marshal Merlin Green*

## *Updates from Community Safety Division*

As we turned our clocks forward, changed the batteries in our smoke & CO detectors, I'm reminded that spring is here. With that our planning efforts, scheduling and preparation for special events is at the forefront in balancing our work loads. Some of those annual events, such as the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration, Sculpture Invitational Show, and the Larimer County Fair just to name a few, are labor intensive. I'm pleased that we have a very collaborative working relationship with the organizers of these events to ensure that providing for public safety is the number one priority for all parties concerned.

In August of 2009, three employees from the Community Safety Division were moved to a newly created position called "Fire Inspection Technician" or FIT. This position is a developmental position with a commitment of three years. At the end

of 2012, our first person will be rotating out on line and fill the role of "Engineer". Dan Engelhardt is the first FIT to make that transition. As with any new position there is always a level of uncertainty and challenges: how well it will work; does it meet the needs of the community; does it meet the needs of the organization; and, does it increase the skills and abilities of the employee? Dan was instrumental in the success of this program. These past two years he honed his skills as a firefighter and has met the requirements as a state certified D/O Utility, D/O Pumper, and D/O Aerial operator. While learning these new tasks he maintained his skills as a Fire Inspector and Investigator.

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*Division Chief  
Ned Sparks*

## *Fire Suppression / Operations*

What's new in "Operations"? Since the last installment of Fully Involved, a lot! We are now a Fire Authority, a very big deal!! Promotional and hiring assessment centers were held in January, with the results of promotions for Lieutenant Dave Friedrichsen, Engineers Nick Bukowski and Rick Summer, and the addition of Gina Gonzales as our newest Firefighter, Congratulations! I also want to thank all the personnel that accepted the challenge to test for the positions. Their preparation for advancement was commendable.

We had personnel transfers at the beginning of 2012; for some a significant change, the opportunity to work on a different shift, in a different district, new challenges and growth opportunities. Movement is essential for personal growth and is a consistent part of change. This pushes the organization forward and creates a pathway for succession and for developing our leaders at all levels.

We have received a grant for SCBAs which is HUGE for our department both financially and for the ability to equip our firefighters with up to date breathing equipment. The main point here is to thank Chief Mirowski and Lieutenant Mialy for their hard work writing the grant. This is not an easy task and the monitoring of the grant performance following the award is as challenging as the creation of the grant. I also want to thank all of the people who have been and are currently working on the SCBA program. Your efforts to keep us as up to date as possible with the equipment we have, has been a true challenge.

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## Training Division Update

We are already well into March. 2012 seems to be flying by but I guess we say that every year. As all of you have seen and experienced the Training Calendar is packed full of opportunities to refine our skills and even learn some new tactics such as positive pressure attack. The Captains have done an outstanding job of working with the Battalion Chiefs to manage the calendar to capitalize on these training opportunities.

### Training Highlights for the first half of 2012



- March – Positive Pressure Attack Classroom Sessions
- March – Academy for Firefighter Gonzales
- April – Positive Pressure Attack Live Fire
- April – Special Operations Rescue School
- May – Engine and Truck Academy Refresher Classes
- May – Wildland Field Days
- June – Mutual Aid Live Fire with Berthoud, Big Thompson Canyon, Estes Park, Johnstown, Poudre and Windsor



Battalion Chief  
Greg Ward

Captain Starck, Lieutenant Klaas and I are working with Greeley, Longmont and Poudre personnel to develop the first FRFC Truck/Support Academy. This Academy will be held July 30<sup>th</sup> through August 3<sup>rd</sup> at various locations around northern Colorado. Each FRFC Department will fill two student spots in the Academy; the Battalion Chiefs will choose the students for LFRA. This Academy should prove to be the gold standard truck academy in the State of Colorado.

### Training Area Improvements

I have many people to thank for the upgrades that are taking place at the Training Center. I know I will leave someone out, so I will apologize now... Sorry. There are so many people that put a great deal of effort into the Training Center and our training programs. This type of work and dedication is what makes LFRA a very special place to work!

Engineer Adent was instrumental in the design and construction of the new firefighter survival prop that is located inside the trailer between the garage and tower. This prop will allow our personnel to train on fireground survival techniques in a variety of situations that are built into the design. Captain Willard coordinated with the Army Reserve Construction Battalion from Fort Collins to complete several projects so far this year, including repairs to the flashover boxes and LPG car fire prop. The most noticeable project that the Army Reservist worked on is the smokehouse; we now have the ability to change up the layout of the second floor with new doors and some moveable walls.

Lieutenant Friedrichsen and Engineer Summer are making on-going improvements to the confined space prop; the newest additions are a coat of Air force F16 (some would call it battleship) grey paint and a Special Operations logo. The coat of paint made a huge difference in the appearance of the prop. Firefighters Sandoli and Marker are designing and building a couple new forcible entry props for the Training Center; these should be done by late spring and will be a great addition for our training. The Irons and Ladders classes that we hosted last year were the inspiration for these props.



A small portion of the Firefighter Survival Prop

## Office of Emergency Management

As the swift water rescuers dust off their boogie boards in anticipation of the spring snow melt, city planners and water engineers are unrolling the flood plain maps. Forecasts last year for a heavy spring runoff set into motion a city-wide coordinated effort for pre-emergency preparedness. This year, our staffers are ready to begin monitoring efforts and then to translate the data into early response plans.

While the paragraph you just read may not seem out of the ordinary to those of you who are first responders, the coordination of pre-emergency preparedness efforts is achieving a new high water mark, so to speak. Over the last 5 years, much effort has gone into building relationships with all city departments for the purpose of coordinating response and recovery efforts before, during, and after emergencies. This began with several disaster exercises held at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland and then through the development of contingency plans. Loveland's department directors and division supervisors have received hands-on training and worked through the process of addressing local risks and vulnerabilities. This process resulted in a larger cadre of management-level city staffers that understand the importance of working together as a team when disaster strikes. The October 2011 snow storm / power outage event was a clear example of how far we have come in successfully working together as an organization.

Besides training city staffers, there are other improvement efforts in motion. The EOC was recently re-configured to enhance efficiency including the replacement of the plastic storage bins with metal cabinets and the modification of the general floor plan of the workstations. The Facilities Maintenance department is installing a second screen and projector in the EOC to allow for the display of real-time mapping as well as for live video feeds from the field. Additionally, several upgrades and enhancements were made in the Mobile Command Vehicle (MCV) with more than \$14,000 of Emergency Management Program Grant funds. The MCV now has the capability of transmitting electronic documents like emails and scanned files over the ham radio as well as the ability to stream live video from multiple field sites back to the MCV and the EOC. The printer / copier / fax machine was replaced and the VCR was upgraded to a DVR. The onboard computer was replaced, an IAP software program was purchased, a cell phone booster was installed, and an internet hotspot was set up. There is a full set of ICS vests available and a second radio charging bank that can simultaneously recharge 12 batteries. Most of the interior walls are now covered with laminate for use with dry erase markers. Finally, all of the mobile radios were outfitted with headsets, jacks, and speaker cutoff switches.

For 2012, the updated version of the Loveland Emergency Operations Plan will go before City Council for adoption and the Continuity of Operations Plan will also be revised. An evacuation plan is in draft form and once the plan is finalized the City's website will have an interactive format of evacuation maps. The next big project is the development of a Loveland-specific Disaster Recovery Plan.

### Fire Fact:

Fire sprinklers reduce the average property loss from fire by 71%. (Source: NFPA)

No one knows when the next large event will occur. Consequently, successful emergency preparedness is 'knowing what to do, having the right resources, and coordinating efforts toward the larger common goal'. With the improvements made in coordinating efforts during emergencies, the City of Loveland continues to move closer to being more resilient to disasters.



*Lieutenant  
Pat Mialy*

## Car Seat Program Reaches 1-Year Anniversary

Imagine this – you are crawling into a small, dark, confined space. It's hot and the conditions leave you with limited visibility. You have only a little room to move at all and you find yourself surrounded by obstacles, obstructions, and a number of potential hazards. You have with you a large and important piece of safety equipment and limited tools and resources to help you do your job. All the while, you're hoping you can save a life. What is it you are doing? You're installing a child passenger safety seat into the back row of a dirty and cluttered 1998 Geo Metro in hopes that in the event of a crash, it will be able to reduce injury to the child who sits in it and possibly even save that child's life!

Loveland Fire Rescue Authority's Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Program celebrated its 1 year anniversary in March of 2012. While there was no cake to eat nor any funny hats to wear, we were still happy to reach this milestone and to reflect back on what was accomplished in the first year of the current program. Here's a quick look back at our CPS Program, why it exists, and what we've accomplished so far.

It has been nearly a decade since Loveland Fire Rescue was last able to have any of its members trained and available to provide car seat inspection services. Our first attempt to provide this service to our community was short-lived for a variety of reasons. Other car seat inspection resources in Loveland also vanished over the past several years creating an absence for this service in the Loveland community. This essentially forced our residents to travel to other surrounding communities to get their car seats installed and inspected. Yet, right here in our own community, motor vehicle crashes are the second leading cause of traumatic injury to children under the age of 8.



**CPS Technician Tyler Olsen**

After years of considering how Loveland Fire Rescue Authority could attempt to fill this gap in service, a feasible plan was finally implemented early last year. In late January of 2011, six of our department members completed the 4-day (32-hour) training course to become nationally certified as Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPS Techs). On March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011, our program officially kicked off with our first round of car seat inspection appointments.

Since that time, we've been doing our best to meet the high demand for this service in Loveland. In just the first six months of the current program's existence, our CPS Techs inspected and/or installed over 100 child passenger safety seats. The high demand and the positive feedback from the community made it clear that we were in need of training additional department members to become CPS Techs. In December of 2011, four more members of LFRA received their national certification as CPS Technicians.

Currently we have nine members of LFRA who are trained and certified as CPS Technicians. Those members are: **Bobby Bartlett, Devin Becker, Dan Engelhardt, Mark Hernandez, Tyler Olsen, Scott Pringle, Greg Van Heel, Shelby Vrem, and Ben Ware**. Together these CPS Techs have now inspected about 200 child passenger safety seats. Of those seats, our members have identified and corrected nearly 300 installation errors!

Special thanks goes out to the Larimer County Safe Kids Coalition for providing many of the materials used for our program and for covering the class registration fees for all of our CPS Technicians to get their training. If you know someone who is in need of a child passenger safety seat inspection, please have them call 970-962-2497 to schedule an appointment.



*Deputy Fire Marshal  
Scott Pringle*

### Fire Fact:

Motor vehicle-related injuries kill more children and young adults age 2 to 34 than any other single cause in the United States. (Source: NHTSA)

## Engine 6 – 2012 Spartan / SVI Construction Process

The Apparatus Committee just finished the pre-paint inspection of the new Engine 6. This Engine will be 99% the same as Engine 1, with a few slight improvements. The most noticeable changes will be electric intake valves, a re-designed front bumper line tray, cab tilt switches mounted to the officer side pump panel, and hand crank wheel

valves for discharges over 2 1/2". The box and pump modules will be completed in the next month. The Spartan cab and chassis is set to arrive in mid-May. SVI expects to have the entire engine assembled in approximately 30 days from the cab and chassis delivery. The new Engine 6 will be delivered with Loveland Fire Rescue Authority lettering on the cab doors!



BC Greg Ward

## Special Operations

It is almost rescue school time again.... The Team is gearing up for four days of training in the rescue disciplines of large animal, rope, trench and swiftwater. We have personnel from Frederick-Firestone, Greeley, Poudre, Larimer County Emergency Services and Windsor-Severance joining us this year. Rescue school is held every other year and requires a big commitment for LFRA both in resources and personnel costs. I want to thank everyone that works to plan, instruct, attend, backfill and support this training event, it is the backbone of SOT's proficiency training.

We have added three members of the Windsor-Severance Fire District to our Team. These members will be integrated into the team through two days of introduction training and the rescue school. Please welcome Kirk Bauer, Kory Tope and Josh Carnes to SOT. Kirk was a member of the team for the past several years as an associate of Berthoud Fire and some of you may remember Josh; he started his fire service career as a volunteer firefighter with LFR.

A new addition to our hazardous materials capabilities came from the Estes Valley Fire District. They've turned over a decontamination trailer to us. They received this trailer in 2007 on a grant. Chief Dorman felt that the trailer would provide better regional response from Loveland than it had when in Estes Park. The trailer is being readied for service by Engineers Vrem and Williams, once operational the trailer will be housed at Station

3. The trailer is designed to decontaminate 60 walking people per hour and also has the capability to decontaminate injured victims that are on backboards. Thank you to Chief Dorman and the Estes Valley Fire District for making this grant asset transfer to LFRA. -Greg



*February 21, 2011 - Loveland Fire Rescue Celebrated 100 Years*



## **LOVELAND FIRE RESCUE 100 YEARS OF SERVICE 1911 - 2011**

### *Updates from Community Safety Division*

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This past January we conducted interviews to provide the next Engineer rotating into the FIT position an opportunity to receive some advanced training in the area of fire investigations, inspections, and other related activities so they have a base comfort level before filling this vital position. Six Engineers tested for this position, with Ben Andersen being selected to fill the role as FIT beginning in 2013. We are excited to bring Ben on board. I'm certain he is equally excited to take on this new opportunity.

Have a great spring & summer  
Best Regards,

Merlin

### *Fire Suppression / Operations*

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We are moving forward with the addition to Station 6 at an estimated cost of \$925,000. The goal is to have the project underway by mid/late-June with an estimated completion date of early/mid-October. There are of course many steps between now and when the project gets underway. We will do our best to share the progress as we move forward.

Thank you to the Training Division and the instructors for making the Blue Card system a success in our organization and regionally. Each of your contributions made the program a success! BC Ward, BC Davis, BC Cerovski and BC Smith: you guys rock!

Thank You also to the leadership/officers and firefighters involved in the daily response to emergencies and the extra duties of the ARFF, EMS, SOT, Tac-Fire, and Wildland teams. Your commitment to the Fire Authority is appreciated! Strong Work Folks! -Ned

*2011 Awards & Acknowledgements***Badge Pinning**

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <u>Engineer</u><br>Nick Bukowski | <u>Lieutenant</u><br>Dave Friedrichsen |
| Rick Summer                      |  |

**Certificate of Appreciation**

|             |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Devin Davis | Mark Harris | John Curnes |
| Ray Davis   |             |             |

**3-Cs—Commitment, Compassion & Courage**

|               |              |              |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Matt DeDecker | Curtis Burke | Greg Gilbert |
| Eric Klass    | Kurt Wilson  |              |

**Unit Citation Award**

|                  |            |           |
|------------------|------------|-----------|
| Robert Carmosino | Mark Lyons | RJ Varner |
| Ron Hill         |            |           |

**Meritorious Service Award**

|               |            |            |           |
|---------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Scott Pringle | Rick Davis | Ned Sparks | C – Shift |
|---------------|------------|------------|-----------|

**Firefighter of the Year (Elks)**

|                   |
|-------------------|
| Dave Friedrichsen |
|-------------------|

**Chief's Foundation Stone Award**

|           |
|-----------|
| Greg Ward |
|-----------|

**Fire Department Years of Service**

| <u>5 Years—2006</u>  | <u>10 Years—2001</u> | <u>15 Years—1996</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Tom Chesher          | Ben Andersen         | Jason Goodale        |
| Derek Guard          | Ty Drage             | Cy Pollema           |
| Ron Hill             | Todd Heasty          | Scott Pringle        |
| Steve Lester         | Eric Klass           |                      |
| Zach Sullivan        | Braden Marker        |                      |
| <u>20 Years—1991</u> | <u>30 Years</u>      |                      |
| Floyd Foncannon      | Mike McKenna         |                      |
| Randy Stuart         |                      |                      |
| Roylene Sterkel      |                      |                      |

*Loveland Fire Rescue Authority 2012 Events*

**Saturday, April 21 – Community Safety and Preparedness Fair, Thomas M. McKee building at The Ranch (Larimer County Event Center).** Safety & Emergency Preparedness info and activities for children and their families. 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Free to attend.

**Saturday, April 21, May 5, May 19, June 2, June 16, July 7, and July 21 – Free Car Seat Inspection, Fire Station 3.** By appointment only – call 962-2497 to schedule.

**Wednesday, April 25 – Colorado Children's Day, Downtown Loveland.** 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at various City of Loveland buildings including Fire Station #1, the Chilson Center, Loveland Fire Exhibit, the newly expanded Public Library and more. This event features numerous activities for children and their families.

**Saturday, April 28 – Save The Brains: Concussion Prevention and Sports Wellness Fair, PVMG South Loveland Primary Care, 1327 Eagle Drive.** This free event includes safety info & activities for children and their families. Also offering free pre-participation sports physicals by appointment – call 495-7500 to schedule.

**Saturday, June 9 – Teddy Bear Hospital, Medical Center of the Rockies.** This free event features various safety-related activities for children and their families. LFRA will have fire apparatus on display.

**Loveland Fire Rescue Authority**

*Fire Admin Building - Fire Suppression Division / Community Safety Division*

*410 East 5th Street  
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970-962-2912 fax*

*For all emergencies, call 911*

**Through commitment, compassion and courage, the mission of the Loveland Fire Rescue Authority is to protect life and property.**