

July 2013

Triannual

2 of 3 issues



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Fire Fact:

LFRA's Child Passenger Safety Technicians inspected 66 car seats during the first 7 months of 2013, identifying & correcting 66 misuse issues.

Loveland Fire Rescue Authority



Chief
Randy Mirowski

The Tragic Reminder of the Dangers of WUI Firefighting

During summer season of 2013 we have seen the numerous tragedies related to several Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fires in Colorado and the western part of the United States. The Black Forrest Fire in Colorado Springs started on June 11, it destroyed 486 homes, caused more than \$85 million in damage to those homes, burned over 14,000 acres and tragically ended the lives of two people. This fire caused all of us to think back to just over a year ago to the tragedies of property loss and the loss of life, from both the Waldo

Canyon Fire and the High Park Fire; the latter which threatened property in our own fire district. However, the impact of the loss of life and property in our region was overshadowed by the tragic loss of nineteen Granite Mountain Hot Shots in their fight of the Yarnell Hill Fire in Arizona on June 30. This fire was an alarming reminder to all of us of the dangers of firefighting in the WUI Theater.

Tragically, we have seen this type of fire before and the horrific outcome of firefighters losing their lives while just "doing their job." The Mann Gulch Fire, the South Canyon Fire and the Yarnell Hill Fire are all reminders of the dangers our personnel face in this very dynamic and very dangerous theater of operation. The question for each one of us is, and should be, a personal one; *what can we do to honor the memory of these fallen brothers and sisters and what can we do to help save our own.* I would submit to you that the answer to both of these questions is the same.

As this article is being written, there are continuing memorial services for the Granite Mountain Hotshots, there are fundraisers for the surviving families and there are investigations and Line of Duty Death discovery processes that will be ongoing for months to come. These are all important and correct actions in the wake of such a tragedy; but are these efforts enough?

As members of LFRA we are committed to improving the level of citizen service that we provide and to the enhancement of firefighter safety. We are committed to enhance the safety of our firefighting family members in every single area including improving command and control, improving tactical decision making, and improving our staffing numbers to adequate and safer levels. We must also be committed to looking out for each other on every incident and emergency scene we respond to. Command and Company Officers are responsible for the safety of our firefighters, but every person on the job is responsible for safety. In this edition I want to appeal to each member of LFRA to look out for each other and do all that you can to ensure the safety of your brothers and sisters. In doing so, you can do more to honor the fallen members of the Granite Mountain Hotshots and others who have paid the ultimate price in serving their communities.

Updates from Community Safety Division

If you were not aware, I have been reassigned to the Community Safety Division (at my request to Chief Mirowski). Working as the Division Chief in CSD has been a goal of mine for several years and I am thankful for the opportunity to work with some great people in the division. This is a chance to explore a different part of the fire service and I look forward to a new challenge. I also want to thank the organization and each of you for your support through the 7.5 years as the Operations Chief!



*Division Chief
Ned Sparks*

So, where is CSD going to go from here; in truth I cannot completely state a formal plan as I want to make sure I have a clear understanding of the jobs and associated duties. I can say that I want to draw the two divisions closer and bridge a gap between CSD and Operations. I have asked the division to work on creating or developing relationships and working closer with Operations. We are seeing some great interaction at emergencies with an increased presence from CSD. Thank you CSD for your efforts to meet the goal and to the Operations personnel for accepting and embracing us!

We have had some high profile projects:

- ♦ The Lauren Project – CO and smoke detectors through grant funding and support to get these detectors into adversely affected homes.
- ♦ Continuity of Operations plan and Development of the 2013 Full Scale Exercise at the airport scheduled for late September.
- ♦ Plan reviews have continued to increase as the economy recovers and in addition we have added a new plan reviewer, Ingrid McMillan-Ernst.

Strong work to all involved in each of these projects and the program managers; Scott Pringle, Pat Mialy, Carie Dann, and both Roy and Lisa for their assistance!

We also added a new position with Lt. Kurt Willson. Lt. Willson will be overseeing the Inspection Program to be kicked off around the end of 2013. Currently he is reviewing other organizations' programs and is building a plan to provide training to crews and developing the criteria for the safety visits. This will allow the crews to enter buildings for both pre-planning and developing positive relationships with the business community.

Fire Fact:

Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Discuss and practice your home fire escape plan.

We will be involved with several high profile events requiring permits in August that will keep us on our toes. These will be followed up with the Safety Expo at the fairgrounds park in September involving other Public Safety entities and service oriented agencies.

Thank you for your time and have a great summer and fall.



*Division Chief
Greg Ward*

Fire Operations Division

So far this year the Operations Division has been more like the *Opportunities Division*, with numerous promotions and hiring. These opportunities are great for our organization; it is always special to see people in the organization move up or move into to new challenges in the case of accepting a rotational position. Opportunities always seem to bring change, new shifts, new crews, new bosses and new views; however in our organization these opportunities and changes do not mean a new direction! We are on the course of good to great and that does not change, we stay the course and move forward.

I have been busy meeting with the Officers about the **FOUR Rs** and describing how they make up the vision of the Operations Division. The Battalion Chiefs are working with the Officers on creating the expectations for the shifts using the **FOUR Rs** as the backbone of these discussions. The Command Staff and Officers of the Department have a focus that I have not seen before, that focus is to unify LFRA and unify our Officers. The major commercial structure fire on the 9th of July proved to me that this organization has the heart and drive to become unified. All of you that responded, on duty and off duty came together to provide the best possible service to our citizens as LFRA, not as the Operations Division or the Community Safety Division, but as LFRA!

RESPONSE – READINESS – RESOURCES – RELATIONSHIPS



Another impressive aspect of the fire on Lincoln was the response by our mutual aid partners. This fire proved the true value of the Blue Card program, all of the responding Fire agencies have been through the Blue Card program. The incident involved the following Fire Rescue response agencies:

Berthoud Fire Department – 1 Engine Company

Poudre Fire Authority – 1 Tower Company, 1 Air/Light Truck and 1 Battalion Chief

Windsor-Severance Fire Rescue – 1 Battalion Chief (WSFR also provided 2 Companies for coverage)

Johnstown Fire Protection District – 1 Engine Company, 1 Rescue Company & 1 Chief Officer

Greeley Fire Department – 1 Engine Company and 1 Chief Officer

Frederick-Firestone Fire District – 1 Engine Company & 1 Battalion Chief

Training Battalion News

My first day in the Training Battalion was Monday, June 3rd. Since that time quite a bit has taken place:

- With the help of the captains (Carmosino, Gilbert, and Willard) the training schedule for the remainder of the year has been completed. We will meet in October to discuss the training plan for 2014.
- The Training Area has been busy and used by LFRA, Johnstown, Milliken, Wyoming Air National Guard, Thompson Valley EMS, Public Works, and Loveland Police Department. As we move into late summer and the fall, it will also be used by Aims Community College and the Front Range Fire Consortium. Just be aware of the fact that when you come down to train, there may be more than one thing taking place at the facility.
- With the assistance of Renee Wheeler, Ty Drage, and the Legal Department, we are working on a propane bottle exchange service. This will make it much more efficient to have bottles available for live fire evolutions.
- Thanks to Dave Schuetz and Renee Wheeler, a new John Deere Gator has replaced the Mule at the Training Area.
- With great assistance and support from all three shifts and CSD, a total of four full time firefighters have been trained along with three part time firefighters, and one newly promoted engineer.
- Stan's Towing has been very helpful in providing several cars for extrication training. Additionally, Mark Hernandez's mother donated a car for training. Please remember that of all the vehicles we have, all but two belong to Stan's. Consequently these cars and trucks are not for salvage. Also, the month of August will bring about extrication training for everyone that is itching to get their hands on hydraulic tools and metal.
- With the assistance of the airport staff, Chris Wining moved several five gallon buckets of AFFF to the large garage. This foam is marked for training only and isn't meant for any of the apparatus.

Everyone has been doing a good job of keeping the Training Area clean and I appreciate that. I'm working on a punch list of items that need to be taken care of and once it's completed, I will post it in a visible place for all to see.

In regards to the email I sent earlier in July about visiting with everyone relative to training, I've started this process and I'm optimistic that I can finish the first round by September or early October. The primary hurdle with this endeavor is the daily schedule, so I would ask that you be patient because I will get around.

In conclusion, the majority of my time is spent at the Training Area, but I do go to the FAB in order to access the network, wireless, and print anything. The best way to get in touch with me is by cell phone. If you have any questions please feel free to stop by and ask.



*Battalion Chief
Rick Davis*



*Deputy Fire Marshal
Scott Pringle*

Save A Life - Community Safety Project Update

By now, you've likely already heard about our "Save A Life" community safety project. This FEMA grant funded project is designed to get working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms into the homes of Loveland community residents who do not have these important life safety devices. This project is a partnership between Loveland Fire Rescue Authority and The Lauren Project.

Through a series of neighborhood canvassing events involving door-to-door surveys, and through a number of alarm distribution events, we have been able to get smoke and carbon monoxide alarms installed in approximately 900 homes. Most of the recipients have been low-income and/or high-risk or disabled residents. We've already had at least one incident where one of these alarms properly alerted a family to the presence of high levels of carbon monoxide. Without the alarm, it's likely that the family would never have known about the potentially deadly build-up of this toxic gas in their home.

To date, the project has allowed us to distribute and install about 1,650 smoke alarms and 800 carbon monoxide alarms, thus improving the safety of thousands of residents in our community. I'd like to express my gratitude to everyone who has helped make this project a success. Our efforts are truly making a positive difference!



Fire Fact:

In 2010, cooking was involved in an estimated 156,400 home structure fires that were reported to U.S. fire departments. These fires caused 420 deaths, 5,310 injuries and \$993 million in direct property damage. Cooking caused 44% of all reported home fires.

Apparatus Updates



New Squad 2 under construction



DC Greg Ward



New Engine 236 as delivered



Removing the LFR and LRFPD graphics and installing the LFRA graphics!

LFRA 2013 Announcements & Upcoming Events

Anniversary Milestones for Years of Service

Engineer **Randy Kolb**—5 years
Firefighter **Zachery Sullivan**—5 years
Engineer **Rick Summer**—5 years
Lieutenant **Jason Goodale**—10 years
Public Safety Administrative Director **Renee Wheeler**—10 years
Captain **Robert Carmosino**—15 years
Deputy Fire Marshal **Scott Pringle**—15 years
Engineer **Chris Wining**—15 years
Engineer **Floyd Foncannon**—20 years
Lieutenant **Pat Mialy**—20 years
Lieutenant **Vance Stolz**—20 years
Division Chief/Fire Marshal **Ned Sparks**—25years

Fire Fact:

Roughly two thirds of home fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half.

-NFPA

Upcoming LFRA Events:

- ◆ Saturday, August 3rd, 9 am – 12 pm - **Car Seat Inspection** - Call 962-2497 to make an appointment
- ◆ Saturday, August 17th, 9 am – 12 pm - **Car Seat Inspection** - Call 962-2497 to make an appointment
- ◆ Saturday, August 31st, 9 am – 12 pm - **Car Seat Inspection** - Call 962-2497 to make an appointment
- ◆ Saturday, September 7th, 9 am – 12 pm - **Car Seat Inspection** - Call 962-2497 to make an appointment
- ◆ Saturday, September 14th, 10 am – 2 pm - **LFRA Emergency Preparedness & Family Safety Expo**
At Fairgrounds park
- ◆ Saturday, September 21st, 9 am – 12 pm - **Car Seat Inspection** - Call 962-2497 to make an appointment
- ◆ Saturday, October 5th, 9 am – 12 pm - **Car Seat Inspection** - Call 962-2497 to make an appointment
- ◆ Saturday, October 19th, 9 am – 12 pm - **Car Seat Inspection** - Call 962-2497 to make an appointment

Loveland Fire Rescue Authority



Fire Admin Bldg - Fire Operations Division/Community Safety Division

410 East 5th Street

Loveland, CO 80537

970-962-2497 phone

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.**