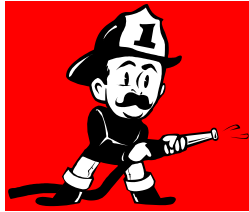


Basalt Fire-Rescue Newsletter

February 2011

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



Well, we began the New Year with a flurry of significant calls. On January 3rd we responded into Carbondale's Fire District on an auto-aid house fire. The fire was on the old highway just down-valley from the Alpine Animal Hospital. A bedroom was fully involved in fire upon our arrival, and unfortunately we were notified that a resident of the home was not accounted for. Our crew entered into the bedroom searched, located and extricated the victim from the fire. The victim was declared deceased at the scene. We turned this incident over to Carbondale Fire fairly quickly and returned to our station.

Before even getting our equipment cleaned and restocked on the engine we were called to another structure fire, this time in our District at the Little Elk Creek Subdivision in Snowmass. This fire was contained to a single bedroom but the damage estimates from smoke and heat is \$75,000.00. This was an accidental fire caused by an unattended candle. We had a great turnout for this call with 23 firefighters.

On January 5th we were dispatched to yet another structure fire in Red Table Estates on Missouri Heights. We found a living room and dining room on fire. The fire was efficiently extinguished but not before the home sustained severe heat and smoke damage. The estimated loss during this fire is \$100,000.00. This fire was also accidentally started by the homeowner leaving his woodstove's door open. Unfortunately Gary Lutzeier did sustain a broken foot after falling from the back of Tender-42 onto the ice. Gary has been out since but is

expected to make a full recovery and be back with us shortly. Again you all made a great showing of 23 firefighters.

In between the fires we also responded on January 11th in the early afternoon to a horrible head-on collision on Highway 82 at Holland Hills. This was a significant crash as both vehicles were traveling at or near the speed limit when they crashed. The best of news was that one of our own, Lea Vasten was narrowly missed by the deceased driver before he plowed into the other car, great defensive driving Lea! One person was seriously injured and another fatally injured due to this crash.

On January 12th we responded with the assistance of Carbondale and Snowmass Fire with 29 firefighters, six engines and an ambulance to the Willits Subdivision for another structure fire. This two-story 3,000 square foot home was fully involved with fire extending though the roof when we were called. Two nearby homes were in eminent danger of burning but were protected by our firefighters. The entire structure collapsed one hour after our arrival. The fire has been ruled a deliberately set fire and an arson investigation is underway. 19 of our firefighters responded as well as 10 mutual aid firefighters. We did not leave the scene until after lunch the following day due to hot spots and securing evidence and the scene. There were no injuries with this very dangerous fire. Much has been stated concerning our response time; we were attaching to a hydrant with Engine 42 in 13 minutes and 9 seconds after page. The persons making comments have never come to the District but I am making plans to go to their Home Owners Meeting. Of course I believe that the facts standby our people, we protected all surrounding homes, stopped the fire in an efficient and safe duration of time and we have a great fire department with members that protect our community. You're the best.

UPDATE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors: January 27, 2011

- The board adopted Res. 1, Series of 2011 regarding meeting location.
- Scott requested permission to purchase a Life Pack 15 for approximately \$15,000 through a grant. The board approved the purchase as long as the District received grant money funding.
- The Board discussed participating in an informational retreat with Carbondale Fire Board regarding merging. The board asked for a detailed agenda before formally committing to the retreat.
- Jenn presented the Board with a Supplemental Budget for 2010.
- Jenn presented the board with the 2010 ambulance write offs. Also covered was the option to send delinquent accounts to collections. The board approved the write offs and decided to send delinquent accounts to collections.

Agenda for Regular Pension Board Meeting of the Board of Directors: February 24, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

- Minutes from 8-5-10
- 2010 Pension list
 - *Letters of reconsideration from volunteers not making pension
- Financial Report
- Adjourn

Agenda for Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors: February 24, 2011 5:30 p.m.

- Minutes: Jan 27, 2011
- Reports:
 - Chief's Report
 - Financial Report
 - Attorneys Report
 - Committee's
- Board Member Comments
- Staff Comment
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Training Opportunities
- Adjourn

Driving- Bad things can happen if you don't wear your seatbelt, drive too fast for conditions, have a vehicle that is not ready for bad weather and you are a distracted driver. These are not hard to correct so be sure that you do the right things the first time.

Walking- Stepping from an apparatus without three points of contact, listening to your iPod with headphones on (soon to be illegal in one state) and not being aware of your footing. Again, easy to say and harder to do... but something to think about. We all need to become more safety aware in the future months and not let complacency be our downfall!

King Airway for any EMT Basics who want to use the procedure. We will review advanced airways and practice effectiveness on our basic airway management.

January Stats

Total calls for service: 65
Medical: 07
Trauma: 08
Refusals: 11
Transport to AVH: 05
Transport to VVH: 08

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Scott Garcia
Bret Hitchcock
Brandon March
Ryan Newberry
Steve Stefferud
Ralph Zukowski
Dan Oppenheimer
Abby Eagye



We have certainly started 2011 with a jump in activity. Fires and car crashes, medical problems and CO alarms. This is fun, and this is why we are here, right? Our presence in the community is even more apparent. The effectiveness of our training and our professionalism is showing. I believe it has been noticed, and while we struggle to fill an engine, or pull someone to drive an ambulance, the level of devotion it takes in order to operate a successful organization is staggering. I have watched this Fire Dept. grow from a single station in town with the largest area of coverage in the State, to what it is today. I must say that for a rural Fire Dept. operating with urban statistics, WELL DONE!

It is hard to say if spring has come early to the valley. The weather this winter has been unusual to say the least. They say that the state snowpack is above normal, but I can almost drive to the Yurt. It is too early to start talking about spring, but I want everyone to be prepared for the snowiest months of the year, yet to come.

This month for EMS training we will review airway management and adjuncts. We need to sign off on the

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Thomasville's Annual Poker Run is Sunday, February 13th at 9:00 AM. Meet at Station 43 for some fun, good food and to help raise money for the Vince Thomas Memorial Fund. If you have questions about the event, or would like to volunteer, please contact Ken Jammarron at: 927-3225.

SAFETY MESSAGE



Ready for spring... not so fast! We will have more winter and that means staying sharp regarding safety awareness, both driving and walking. Let's think about what could go wrong while doing either of those everyday tasks:

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Pension Board will be meeting on February 24th at 1700 hours at Station 42. If you have any issues regarding your pension for 2010, please submit a letter to Jenn before this meeting so it can be reviewed by the Board. Thank you!

The District Office (Station 42) will be closed on Monday, February 21st for Presidents Day.