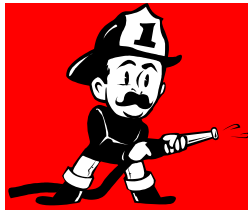


Basalt Fire-Rescue Newsletter

April 2011

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



Ready or not we are nearing the 2011 wildland season. It is always great to see the green grass and warmer days but this also brings with it increased wildfire risks for our communities. Please plan on attending the upcoming refreshers as well as checking and preparing your PPE and gear as needed. All wildland vehicles have been serviced and ready for the season, it is very important to spend extra time during the work details reviewing these vehicles and the equipment carried on them. Don't wait until we need it to refresh yourself! Thanks to Gary and Brian for getting the services done early.

Important change with regards to this years' refresher... **If you want a red-card:** This year the wildland refresher is a two part series, first night will be a basic refresher. The second night will delve deeper for those of you that would like to receive a red-card. Anyone can attend both nights as it is not intended to exclude anyone. Due to the required teachings it was impossible to fit all requirements into a single night.

We have added a new thermal imager in Thomasville. We chose this location due to the long distance from the other two units we currently carry. The imager is located in the front driver's side compartment of Engine 43. This unit is a different make than our units in El Jebel and Basalt; please check it out before attempting to use it for the first time.

UPDATE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors March 24, 2011

- Scott reviewed the RFP for the consultant on the possible merger.
- Scott noted that the advertisement for the EMS Director had been posted.
- The board denied a request for an ambulance write off.
- The Board was apprised of the progress on a volunteer wellness benefit. Bill McEnteer stated he would tighten up the wording and present it to the Board at the next meeting.

Planned Agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors April 28, 2011 @ 1700

- Minutes
- Reports
 - Chief's Report
 - Financial Report
 - Attorney's Report
 - Committees'
- Board Member Comments
- Staff Comment
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Training Opportunities
- Adjourn

SAFETY MESSAGE



This column focuses on Life Safety Initiative #4: All firefighters must be

empowered to stop unsafe practices.

If firefighters follow this Initiative, I know some folks will take it personally. "They are questioning my authority," they may say. Absolutely not! Look at it this way: they are questioning the conditions and actions that they are seeing that the incident commander may not see or be aware of. I guess the best way I can describe this Initiative is comparing it to football. The coach sends in the play, but if a player sees something different in the offensive or defensive schemes of their opponent, they may call an audible to make sure they can adjust accordingly or at least discuss it on the sideline before the next series of plays.

In the fire service, don't we call this risk management? The difference in football is that the players and coordinators are empowered to adjust the plan for success of the team. I know that the play may not work every time, but the players are at least allowed the freedom to engage in the decision-making process. However, the fire service has a much different hierarchy that discourages firefighters from questioning company officers or the company officers to question the incident commander.

When I used this analogy once in a presentation I was giving, one participant said, "Yeah, but football is a game, and firefighting is a matter of life and death." My response was simple. "Doesn't that make it all the more important to use every aspect of data and knowledge?"

A good leader empowers his or her crew to observe and utilize data for a successful outcome - you need to get over the fear that your leadership or authority will be questioned.

Our S.O.G.'s, as well as the incident commander, drive our operations. However, understanding that not every incident may be the same, we have to adjust accordingly within the provisions of our plans. Coming to terms with the fact that a good leader fosters and cultures an environment where decision-making is shared is critical.

an extensive fire. We need to be in shape and aware of the effects of heat related injuries. This also makes an excellent opportunity for training about environmental injuries related to fire season. We will review heat stroke, burns, sprains, strains, and splinting.

decisions about the strategy and tactics to use.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I8CxxwD0lr8>

Firefighter Survival

We recommended this online class a few months back. Here is the IAFF Firefighter Survival course. You will have to create a free account to take the class. It will remember which parts you have completed so you can take it one section at a time.

http://www.iaff.org/hs/fgs/FGS_CandidateGuide.htm

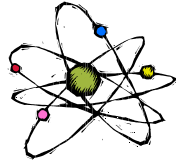
If anyone has other websites they want to recommend, let us know and we will pass them on.

March was a relatively busy month for call volume with a total of 42 calls for service.

MARCH STATS

Medical: 12
Trauma: 5
Refusals: 9
Trans to VVH: 5
Trans to AVH: 12

CYBER CORNER



There are a lot of educational resources on the internet for fire and EMS training besides funny and entertaining YouTube clips. A lot of it is good information, some of it is crap. What we hope to pass onto you are resources you can access to improve your personal knowledge and add to your mental tool box. In order to help you sort through the resources, we will provide them in some basic topics areas.

Firefighter Safety

All members should sign up to receive the Secret List. This is a frequent mailing from the Fire Fighter Close Calls website that highlights serious firefighter accidents and near miss incidents. The website itself has a lot of useful links and resources. The website is www.firefighterclosecalls.com. Click the Secret List button on the left and enter your email address.

Basic Firefighter Skills

This YouTube video covers the basic skill of reading smoke at a structure fire. Reading smoke is a good way to determine what may be happening inside a burning structure so you can make good



EMS NEWS



The end of March has proved to be the snowiest month of the year, as is historically the case. This time of year can be so hard to handle with good skiing and nice weather. Would we rather have fresh snow, or sunshine?

Wildfire season has already started in Colorado. Although we are said to have plenty of snowpack in the high country, the lower elevations have had a dry winter. We have perfect conditions for an active fire season. Everyone should think about keeping their packs and vehicles stocked with supplies. Food, water, and gear should be available in case we are called for