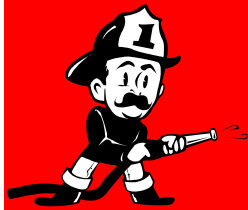


Basalt Fire-Rescue Newsletter

May 2011

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Scott Thompson



I am still in disbelief that we could yet again have another devastating structure fire. If you have not been counting or have lost track, that was number 6 that we have suppressed since the beginning of the year, which just happens to be a structure fire every 20 days. In our District so far this year we have managed to accumulate \$1,985,000 in estimated fire losses which is not a good thing- this amount is what the insurance companies monitor.

Once again, the volunteers have performed above and beyond during the latest fire. The duration of time spent on this fire was long, tedious and again, over an entire night. I am once again in amazement that our volunteers would sit on this fire for the entire night. I thank Brian Davies, David Herrera and Bret Hitchcock for volunteering to stay up and keep this fire suppressed and provide a fire watch. Without our volunteers unselfish willingness to volunteer the District could not afford the services that we provide our communities. Fifteen of our volunteers responded and extinguished this fire with the help of Aspen and Snowmass Fire. The response and extinguishment of this fire went smooth for the most part and all of you kept this fire from spreading to the nearby garage and horse stalls. Most importantly no one was seriously injured. The bad news is that one of our paid staff did sustain a knee injury

that is requiring surgery and being out of service for an extended period of time.

UPDATE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jenn Lemke



Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors April 28, 2011

- Scott reviewed the RFP's that had been received for the feasibility study.
- Scott informed the Board that he had a few qualified applicants for the EMS Director Job and would start interviews in May.
- The Board was informed that former volunteer Jeri Ring had passed away. The Board discussed the recognition of Common Law Marriages as they apply to retirees and their pension.
- The Board discussed the volunteer wellness benefit and instructed President McEnteer to present a guideline of the program to the Board. The item was tabled until the May 26 meeting.
- Director Guion asked if Board members would attend volunteer meetings. It was decided a calendar would go out to the directors to sign up for meetings.

Planned Agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors May 26, 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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!



**Bob Helmus
Gregg Yocom
Richard Neal
Chris Carmichael
Scott Thompson
Kyle Pimentel**

SAFETY MESSAGE

Bill McEnteer



While the number of fires is on the decline, firefighter deaths are not — and a new University of Georgia study helps explain why. Researchers in the UGA College of Public Health found that cultural factors in the work environment that promote getting the job done as quickly as possible with whatever resources available lead to an increase in line-of-duty firefighter fatalities.

"Firefighting is always going to be a hazardous activity, but there's a general consensus among firefighting organizations and among scientific organizations that it can be safer than it is," said study co-author David DeJoy, of the Workplace Health Group in the College of Public Health. "As a society, we ought to make the effort to make it safer."

The research, published in the May edition of the journal *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, examined data gathered from 189 firefighter fatality investigations conducted by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health between 2004 and 2009. Each NIOSH investigation gives recommendations directed at preventing future firefighter injuries and deaths. The researchers looked at the high-frequency recommendations and linked them to important causal and contributing factors of the fatalities.

Major Causes

The four major causes they identified were under-resourcing, inadequate preparation for adverse events during operations, incomplete adoption of incident command procedures and sub-optimal personnel readiness. DeJoy and his colleagues analyzed the investigations in terms of the core culture of the firefighting profession. Firefighting culture should not be construed as one of negligence, said DeJoy, but one based on a long-standing tradition of acceptance of risk. A job that relies on extreme individual efforts and has too few resources leads to the chronic condition of doing too much with too little, he said. "If you get used to taking risks, it's easy to take a little more risk," DeJoy said. "Most of the time when we take risks, like walking across the street or driving a car, nothing bad happens. This level of risk gets ratcheted up and becomes part of normal activity." Acceptance of risk becomes extremely perilous in a situation in which adverse events can happen at any time and margins of safety are very thin, he added.

Firefighter deaths dropped in the 1970s and 1980s, largely due to improvements in protective clothing, breathing equipment and radio communication, explained DeJoy. In the last decades, fatality numbers actually edged upward while the number of fires has gone down, he said.

On average, more than 100 firefighters die on the job in the U.S. each year, which is three times higher than the fatality rate for the general working population. "There's a lot of interest to see what is going on," DeJoy said.

Heart Attacks

The number-one cause of death identified in the study was not smoke inhalation or traumatic injury, but cardiovascular events. Eighty-seven of the 213 deaths examined in the study were cardiac-related. Deaths from cardiovascular events resulted in two predominant recommendations from the researchers: the need for improvements in medical screening and the need for wider adoption of mandatory fitness/wellness programming. Many of the recommendations can be traced to a lack of finances, said DeJoy. Not only does under-resourcing affect the ability of a fire department to acquire innovative technology, it can lead to a shortage of personnel at a fire, compromising rapid intervention and the ability to maintain command and control functions during operations, he said.

DeJoy acknowledged that there is a certain amount of subjective interpretation that goes into analyzing incident investigations. In addition, NIOSH investigations are not mandatory and can be refused by a fire department. NIOSH also mostly investigates deaths involving career, or paid, firefighters, although a majority of firefighters in the U.S. are volunteers and a majority of line-of-duty deaths involve volunteers. DeJoy said he hopes NIOSH will do more investigations of volunteer firefighter fatalities, as those organizations may have the

greatest need for evaluation and technical assistance.

Article taken from website: <http://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/1008186-New-study-reveals-pattern-in-firefighter-fatalities/>

EMS NEWS

Jim Garner



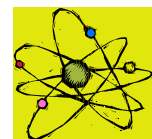
Even though the calendar says that winter is over Mother Nature has other ideas. We are still responding to calls on Hwy 82 that were the result of slick roads, so respond to the nearest station & respond on the apparatus from that station. When responding to any call rescuer safety is our primary concern, take your time.

Our call volume is still keeping us busy – 40 total calls in April.
Transports: 8
AVH: 5
VVH: 3
Refusals: 9

A reminder, that this is the time of the year when certifications start expiring, so check your certifications for the expirations dates. There are numerous classes & lectures coming up in the valley that are good for recertification & CE. You can check with me for dates & locations. This month's training is Pediatrics & Obstetrics.

CYBER CORNER

Steve Howard



This month's Cyber Corner will take on a seasonal taste. With all of the wildland fires kicking up around the country, keeping up

with the current state of things can be a challenge.

There are two good sites for national wildland fire information. The National Interagency Fire Center is the source of the daily Incident Management Situation Report. There are a lot of other wildland related links available here also.
<http://www.nifc.gov/index.html>

The other source for national wildland fire news is InciWeb. This site provides access to all of the major fires being monitored across the country.
<http://www.inciweb.org/>

On a more local note, you can access regional information at:
<http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/index.html>

This is the Rocky Mountain Coordination Center, also known as the GACC. If you want to see if there are any orders for resources that haven't been filled, click on the intelligence link and look for the "UTF Unable To Fill List." Some of the links on this site won't be current until June, when the system is back up to full speed.

For our immediate area, the Upper Colorado River web link is:
http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2gjc/ You can click on the Daily Staffing link to see what resources are available at any given time.

Keeping a continuous eye on firefighter safety, a great web site is:
<http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/>

For the EMS folks, there are a lot of informational links. One of my favorites is:
<http://paramedicine101.com/>
This site has a variety of articles, case reviews, tips, tricks, etc. It is more research based than a lot of other sites. Taking to time to read the comments can add a lot of additional insights.

Finally, a few humorous links. You probably have seen some of these but here they are:

"Bidding for Rescue" video:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjTO3Faj940>

Thanks for helping:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ql7khtJQssw>

"Mickey the Fire Cat" (no, I am not in this video but my first fire department had a ladder truck like the one in the video):
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTI0o9uL4es>

For the golfers:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svDFoBHzM1A>



*Mother's Day is
May 8th*

