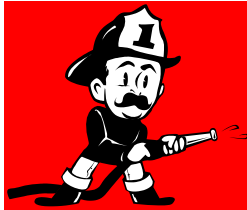


Basalt Fire-Rescue Newsletter

September 2011

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Scott Thompson



I would like to thank everyone that helped with completing the yearly hose testing. This is never an enjoyable task, though it is very important for everyone's safety. It occurs every year but this year was real evident, even many of our EMS volunteers jumped in with the testing and lugging of hoses. This was certainly a team effort; everyone lending a hand was proof of a great team. Thank you all for participating. For the bad news, or at least disappointment on my part, eight members of our department did not attend either night of the hose testing sessions. This in my play book is less than acceptable and I am contacting each person individually to remind them of their personal commitments to our group.

We have huge changes coming with our radios and radio systems. For the most part the differences that you will first see are some new radios in the vehicles. For the most part, these can be figured out by just using them, all radios have buttons that are clearly marked such as scan, group etc. The rotary knobs adjust volume and change channels. As we get more of these radios and really get a handle on what is needed for an instruction sheet I will be creating and attaching cheat sheets. The first to have been installed are in Engine 42; please take a quick look at it when you have a moment. The other vehicles that will

be getting new radios are Squad 42, Engine 44, Medic 44 and Brush 43. All these changes are necessary due to the FCC requiring all radio systems to transmit on a narrower frequency range.

The next radio change will be hopefully occurring sometime this fall. We will be adding a new channel called County Fire. This channel will be used by all fire departments dispatched by Pitkin County as the dispatch channel, including us. This channel will be used to speak to dispatch only; we will continue to use our Basalt Fire channels to speak with one another and to use as command channels as needed.

while driving, and of course you do have your seat belt fastened! Looking over some of the fire-related news here are some highlights (lowlights). A tanker/tender rolled over on the way to a fire, it happens every year usually due to excessive speed... so remember the weight you are driving and how it can shift on a corner. Many of you may have seen the video of the firefighter attempting to go up the ladder onto a very steep roof, and he fell about eight feet and the next guy also slipped off the ladder. If you read the comments after the video they were very critical of how the ladder was being used, the fact that there were no SCBA on the first firefighter, and questioned why they weren't using the aerial parked at the fire. They did mention that the odds of the aerial working were not good as the maintenance program was terrible. So take a minute and thank Gary and Brian for keeping our equipment in top working order and the District for providing us with the funding to have top of the line equipment. It is truly amazing that more firefighters are not injured or killed in some of our cities due to poor maintenance. If you see something not right with our equipment or your gear, be sure to tell someone as it may be a life saver. Be smart and be safe!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO YOU!**



**Holly Goldstein
Jim Garner
Jenn Lemke
Barb Forrest
Gary Lutzeier**

SAFETY MESSAGE

Bill McEnteer



School is back in session so it is time to again watch out for the little ones

EMS NEWS

Jim Garner



The Seasons are a changing and Fall is in the air. The weather patterns are shifting and the first snow is not far

away. Be aware of changing road conditions when responding to calls. Call volume is remaining steady, and we are still on track to do over 600 calls this year.

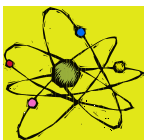
This is also a good time to attend training outside the Department. For our ALS members there is a 12-lead/Capnography class in Glenwood on Sept. 20th (see flyer on bulletin board at Sta. 42, if interested). Also AVH and Aspen Ambi are offering an EMT Intermediate/ Paramedic refresher in October. See me for the tentative schedule. The Colorado State EMS Conference is in Keystone Nov. 3rd-6th. They offer a wide range of topics that allow one to get most of the needed CE for recertification. Schedule and topic descriptions will be in the box at my desk. The Department may be able to help with costs.

August Incidents

Total Calls: 54
Medical Calls: 26
Transport: 22
Non-transport: 4
AVH ED: 11
VVH ED: 11

CYBER CORNER

Steve Howard



I thought we would try a different twist to this month's Cyber Corner. This time you get to try out your web skills to answer a few Fire and EMS trivia questions. We can compare answers at Tuesday's business meeting.

1. Who is credited with starting the fire service in the United States? Where was it created and what was it called?

2. What is the origin of the Maltese cross symbol used by the fire service?
3. If you are "catching the plug" at a fire, what are you doing and how did the term originate?
4. Why are fire engines red (at least real ones are) and when did the practice start?
5. Where was the Haligan Bar created and by whom?
6. What was the original reason why Dalmatians were kept as fire house dogs?
7. What is the first recorded use of ambulances as a specialized vehicle?

*** PLEASE NOTE ***

**The office will be closed
Monday, Sept. 5th for Labor
Day. Have a great long
weekend!**