

# Basalt Fire-Rescue Newsletter

## January 2012

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### A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Scott Thompson



Have you ever had a period of time that you just wished would end? Well I for one am very glad we have completed 2011 and are due for a brighter and positive New Year! During 2011 we managed a 36% percent drop in our revenues for 2012, with a preceding 6% increase in our calls for service over 2010. We managed to amass \$5,167,000 in estimated fire losses; this is the single largest year of fire losses on record. I should make note that we had only one arson fire, and we as a department are not really that bad at stopping or extinguishing fires. We began our year with a fatal house fire and ended on New Years Eve with a ½ acre wildland fire. We have certainly had more than our share of fires this year.

Let's put this in perspective- this year we responded to 15 structure fires and 20 other types of fires. Compared to prior years, 2010 only had a total of 18 fires; three were structure fires, with minimal to no loss. In 2009 we responded to 10 structure fires, 17 other types of fires and had a total loss for the entire year of \$403,000.

2011 Year totals:

- 35 fires, 15 structure, 20 trash, wildland etc.
- 357 EMS and rescues
- 44 Haz-Mat or hazardous conditions, CO calls etc.

- 33 Service calls, elevators, water leaks, weather etc.
- 84 Good intent calls, BBQs, smoke, steam etc.
- 86 False alarms
- 8 other, mutual aid, cancelled etc.

To finish the year in review we are still in the process of sorting out and investigating the narcotics theft from the department. This of course has had detrimental affects on our volunteer members, paid staff, the Board of Directors and most importantly how we are viewed as an organization. Through the process we found it necessary to limit all ALS members access, and we strengthened our policies and procedures to limit future thefts. The bottom line is that we have not identified the person or persons responsible for the thefts but will continue to be vigilant with the investigation and have hope for a resolution and placing this in our past.

I would like to thank all of you for what you have accomplished in 2011. Without each and everyone's efforts we would not have been successful- each of you are the best.

### *Mark Your Calendar!*

The Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at the Roaring Fork Club in Basalt. Please look for the emailed "eVite" in your inbox. If you have not received your invitation yet, please call Erin ASAP, to update our contact information for you.

**RSVP by January 10<sup>th</sup>**

### EMS NEWS

Matt Avidan



The new ambulances are in service (new 42 here and the new-to-them 43 in Thomasville), the old Thomasville unit has been sold and is gone and the rear bumper on Brian's truck has been fixed.

We will be starting with the "new" yearly calendar for training next month, initially with Cardiac in January. That will include the second CPR refresher (multiple fires in one day sort of hindered the Saturday class), an ACLS refresher and an online component (if PDF will cooperate this time). I have not posted the year long schedule yet because we are still waiting to try and coordinate that with other regional agencies.

There is a mini-conference in Grand Junction this month for anyone who is behind on hours, the EMT-Basic (Carbondale) and Intermediate (Carbondale/Glenwood) start soon and we are setting up a CPR instructor course for those who are interested.

Many of you have probably come to the conclusion that I am struggling for material this month... but I do have one important topic. Grant applications are due soon. The District does not really "rely" on grant funding, but they are a very good way to expand our service or capability and it would be a shame to not try and take advantage of them as best we can. If you have any ideas for things to look into applying for a grant for, please speak up. If you are capable of helping write the

requests... speak up loudly! Among six grant sources right now we are \*looking at\*... MCI materials and a regional drill, Community Paramedic Training, more AED's (for Fire units like E 44 and B 43), upgrading the ambulance cell phones to allow us to transmit EKG's to the Hospital, another Lifepak grant (it's not spelled with a "C"), bike helmets and hosting a Child Car Seat installer class.

Happy Holidays everyone.

splinters! So what is the message? Use your PPE!

So far this winter we have been lucky with the weather, but remember to keep some extra warm clothes with your bunker gear in case we actually have another fire like the apartment building. I know I could have used a change of clothes later that night, but mine were in the other vehicle (not so smart). I did have additional dry gloves which proved to be a godsend at 1 am. One of our members was smart enough to have YakTraks on his fire boots that night and that made walking around a lot safer. The bottom line is: take care of your gear, wear it when appropriate and be aware of winter-specific hazards for the remainder of the season. To quote the Hill Street Blues TV show, "Let's be careful out there," as there have been some tragic fires in the news this holiday season... it can and does happen when we least expect it. Here's wishing all of you a happy and safe 2012!



**Happy New Year!**

**The offices at Station 42 will be closed on Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> for the New Year's holiday**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!**



**Karen Jammaron  
Karl Oliver  
Joey DiLisio  
Gary O'Neill  
Brian Davies**

**SAFETY MESSAGE**  
Bill McEnteer



The Basalt & Rural Fire Protection District spends a lot of money on personal protective gear for our firefighters. It is up to us to wear it and use it properly and at the right time. A helmet in the car will do you no good when a nozzle falls off the engine and bops you on the head. A flashlight that has weak or worn out batteries will not light up much of anything. Gloves sitting in your pocket will not protect your hands from glass

**UPDATE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Jenn Lemke



**Planned Agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
January 26, 2012 @ 1700**

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