



Foothills Fire Protection District

# THE FIREFLY

A Publication for the Community by Foothills Fire & Rescue

Fall 2007

## Stay Informed...

**D**id you know that you DON'T have to wait for this quarterly newsletter, the Pancake Breakfast or a fellow resident to share their interpretation of FFPD happenings? You can keep yourself informed firsthand every month. Residents are WELCOME every month at Foothills Fire Protection District Board Meetings. They are held at the Mt. Vernon Country Club every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday. Here are the upcoming sessions for this quarter:

- Tuesday, 10/16 at 6:30pm
- Tuesday, 11/20 at 6:30pm
- Tuesday, 12/18 at 6:30pm

## What's Going On in FFPD?

There are two significant events coming up in the District that residents should be especially apprised of. They are the up-coming budget cycle and the start of our Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan (CWPP).

First, in the coming months we will be preparing the 2008 Budget for review and eventual adoption by the District Board of Directors. The state mandates that the District present a draft budget to the Board of Directors by October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007 based upon the County Assessor's estimated tax valuation which was presented to the District by August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The Board has a public hearing (usually at the November Board meeting) to hear objections to the budget from the electors of the District. The Board then has until mid December to adopt the Budget and set the mill levy for the following year. The Board would like to welcome any input into the budget you might have. If you wish to submit constructive comments to the Budget Committee for their consideration send an e-mail to [Rob.Sontag@FoothillsFire.Org](mailto:Rob.Sontag@FoothillsFire.Org) and your comments will be given to the committee. We will post draft copies of the budget on our website at [www.FoothillsFire.Org](http://www.FoothillsFire.Org) as they become available.

Second, we will be starting our preparation of the Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan (CWPP) this Fall. This document will help the District to identify where to focus wildfire preparedness and protection efforts (including future grant request) in the next few years.

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## Fire Prevention & Safety Practice Your Escape Plan!

Fire Prevention Week commemorates the Great Chicago Fire in October of 1871. This disaster raged for several days and killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 more homeless and destroyed 17,000 buildings. Each October, Foothills Fire Protection District and Foothills Fire & Rescue participate in Fire Prevention Week. On Fire Prevention Week firefighters go to local community schools to teach kids about fire safety and escape plans. Firefighters give kids a tour of the fire trucks and ambulances. HUG-A-FIREFIGHTER is also done to show the kids what a firefighter looks like with their full gear on. Most young children are scared of firefighters when their bunker gear is on. HUG-A-FIREFIGHTER helps teach children not to be scared of firefighters and understand that firefighters are there to help them get to safety.

### U.S. FIRE FACTS

- The leading causes of home fires are cooking, smoking, heating, electrical equipment and intentionally set fires.
- In 2005, home fires killed 3,050 people. That means home fires killed roughly 8 people every day.
- In 2005, U.S. Fire Departments responded to 1.6 million fires- 24% were home fires.

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Different models of ambulance service exist, in-house such as Aurora, Evergreen, and West Metro, private service like Arvada, Fairmount, and Denver, or special ambulance districts such as Highland Rescue Team Ambulance District serving within Foothills Fire & Rescue and Genesee Fire districts. Providing this higher level of care and transport does have its costs. Fire departments that have ambulances in-house use a portion of their general fund to cover these costs. Fire departments that contract with private companies use money from their general fund to cover those contract fees. Fire departments that operate within a special ambulance district rely on the district to cover those costs on their own. These different models of service do have one commonality; they all recover the extended costs by billing the patients or their insurance.

On the surface it may appear that Foothills Fire & Rescue and Highland Rescue Team Ambulance District are duplicating services. This is not the case; both agencies have specific duties they perform and work seamlessly together to provide a high level of patient care. Foothills Fire & Rescue dedicated to the fore mentioned roles (listed in the second paragraph) and Highland Rescue providing the advanced medical and transport for patients. It may also appear that residents are paying twice for services.

The Foothills Fire Protection District does not bill residents for medical or fire calls.

## How Can YOU Support FFPD?

Some residents would like to know how they can be involved with the fire department if they don't want to become a firefighter. FFPD has many obligations to meet beyond just responding to emergency calls. The following are a few other ways to volunteer.

We have a whole team of folks who help us to maintain the wildfire danger signs around the District. This team is coordinated by Pat Glapa of Paradise Hills and over the past few months Pat and her husband Marty have overseen the overhaul of these signs. Thank you to them, the signs look great! Next time you drive by one notice not only the fire danger but the care this group of folks have taken to make sure we get our message across in a professional manner.

There is a group of folks who operate separately from the fire department but are a supportive and important group known as the Foothills Fire & Rescue Auxiliary. This dedicated group coordinated by Janet Tyrell-Eads, also of Paradise Hills, oversees several fundraisers for special projects that support the volunteer firefighters. These folks also volunteer their time when requested by the fire department by responding to large incidents to provide food and firefighter health evaluations.

Foothills Fire Protection District does, however, attempt to recuperate monies expended by billing individuals involved in highway crashes. The reality is there are two separate mills being paid, one to Foothills Fire & Rescue for rescue (all kinds), fire and haz mat response and more recently, one to Highland. This change was voted in by a majority vote of the residents to cover the base of Highland's operating costs. As a result of this new setup, it has allowed Foothills Fire & Rescue to put more money towards equipment and retention of personnel.

So, when you see a fire truck in front of a house, on the highway, or driving down the street and there is no smoke in the air, remember the emergency personnel in the truck are fulfilling the department's mission and supporting the other agencies protecting you and your family.

By Don Koogle, Paramedic Firefighter & Rosi Quintana, Administrative Assistant



We have groups of folks who we term reserve members. These are folks who have a skill set valuable to FFPD but may not be able to or wish to meet the requirements for full active membership. For example, we have one reserve member who is a Child Passenger Safety Technician Instructor. She helps our certified Child Seat Technicians to maintain their skills and certifications while also helping the District to meet its goals of reducing child passenger injuries in motor vehicle crashes. We have another reserve member who is a certified Fire Investigator who helps conduct fire investigations even though she no longer wants to function as a firefighter.

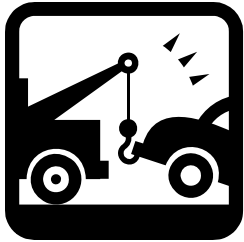
So you might be asking yourself "What can I do to help my community?" The answer is call and ask. We currently have a need for someone who can help us to keep our website up to date. We could use someone with a construction background to help with some small updating and remodeling projects around the stations. Perhaps you are interested in helping plan our annual firefighter recognition celebration this December. Or maybe you have contacts with a vendor who might be able to help with donated or discounted services or goods which could help the District. Please feel free to call if you have time to help. We will be glad to discuss how you might help a firefighter who has already come to your aid or might help you in the future.

By Rob Sontag, District Administrator

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## A Time for Gratitude!

Foothills Fire & Rescue would like to thank **State Farm** for donating vehicles used during our last Vehicle Extraction Training in August. In addition, we'd like to thank **Klode's Salvage** for providing free towing of the donated vehicles to and from the Rainbow Hills Station. Thanks to support and generosity like this, FFR volunteer firefighters are able to continue improving their rescue skills.



By Rob Sontag, District Administrator



**Special Thanks** to K.E.M. Printing at 16250 S. Golden Road in Golden, (303) 277-1127 for donating their time and printing of this publication. "The Firefly" is distributed to every address in the Foothills Fire Protection District. Sometimes issues are mistakenly delivered to addresses in the Genesee, Golden, Evergreen or West Metro fire districts. If you are not located in the Foothills Fire Protection District, we apologize and encourage you to contact your local fire district for further information or needs on any of the topics presented in this issue.



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## A Short History of Grants Received

Foothills Fire & Rescue is in its tenth year now and I thought it would be interesting to look back and see our progress with financial help from grants. Finding, applying for and receiving grant funds has been one way for Foothills Fire & Rescue to off-set the costs of purchasing needed equipment and apparatus without approaching the residents for additional monies. A variety of members within the organization have put in the time and research needed to complete the application process for grant funds. It has been a great collaboration of volunteer and paid members as well as in-district and out-of-district members. Foothills Fire & Rescue has applied for and been awarded grants from various sources like Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO-this is a source from Colorado Lottery), Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant through the Colorado State Forest Service, El Pomar Foundation, Colorado Gaming grants and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants to name but a few. We apply every year for some type of grant. Understand though that there are many emergency agencies that apply to Colorado and thousands of emergency agencies across the nation that apply for these same funds. As a result, there are some years when Foothills Fire & Rescue does not receive grant funds. Nevertheless, we press on each year spending countless hours searching and applying for outside grant resources!

Foothills Fire Protection District has been fortunate to have several individuals within Foothills Fire & Rescue who were willing to spend their time working on these funding sources. Below is a **sample** of just some of the grants. Many more were received than are listed here, but hopefully this will give you a glimpse at FFPD savings over the years thanks to grants. The chart shows grant source, amount awarded, use of the funds and the awarded grant year.

<b>Source of Grant</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Use</b>	<b>Year</b>
Colorado Gaming Grant	\$40,000	Ambulance (portion of)	1998
American Heart Association	\$8,400	AEDs (shock boxes)	1998
FM Global	\$1,200.00	Fire Investigation Equip.	2000
Colorado State EMS	9,680	Medical Equipment	2001
FEMA- Assistance to Firefighters	\$177,663	SCBA Protective Equip.	2002
FEMA- Homeland Security	\$65,351	800 mHz Radio System	2003
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$917.47	Wildland Fire Radios	2004
Rural Fire Assistance	\$1,650.60	Wildland Fire Radios	2004
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$953.39	Wildland Fire Radios	2005
El Pomar Foundation	\$15,000	Water Tender (560)	2005
FEMA- Assistance to Firefighters	\$43,400	Protective Gear	2006
FEMA- Assistance to Firefighters	\$12,000	Thermal Imagers (fires)	2006
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$915.29	Wildland Fire Radios	2006

As Foothills Fire & Rescue moves into its second decade, we will continue our pursuit of outside grant sources to help fund our major purchases. If you know of a possible source or would like to be involved in grant writing please feel free to contact us.

Thanks, Jacob Sliemers, Fire Chief

# “What Have You Done For Me Lately”

By Rob Sontag, District Administrator

In a continuing effort to let our constituents know a little more about the emergency services provided by the District we are providing a look at the year-to-date 2007 round-up of the calls to which Foothills Fire & Rescue responded. We are also providing a summary of 2006 calls for comparison.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> three-quarters of 2007 we ran 448 calls for service.

The composition of these calls were:

Type Of Incident	Total Of Incidents:	Percentage Value:
100 Series-Fire	24	5.36%
200 Series-Explosion	10	2.23%
300 Series-Rescue & EMS	250	55.80%
400 Series-Hazardous Conditions(No fire)	7	1.56%
500 Series-Service Call	28	6.25%
600 Series-Good Intent Call	99	22.10%
700 Series-False Alarm & False Call	24	5.36%
800 Series-Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	6	1.34%

For 2006 we ran 552 calls for service.

The composition of the 2006 calls were:

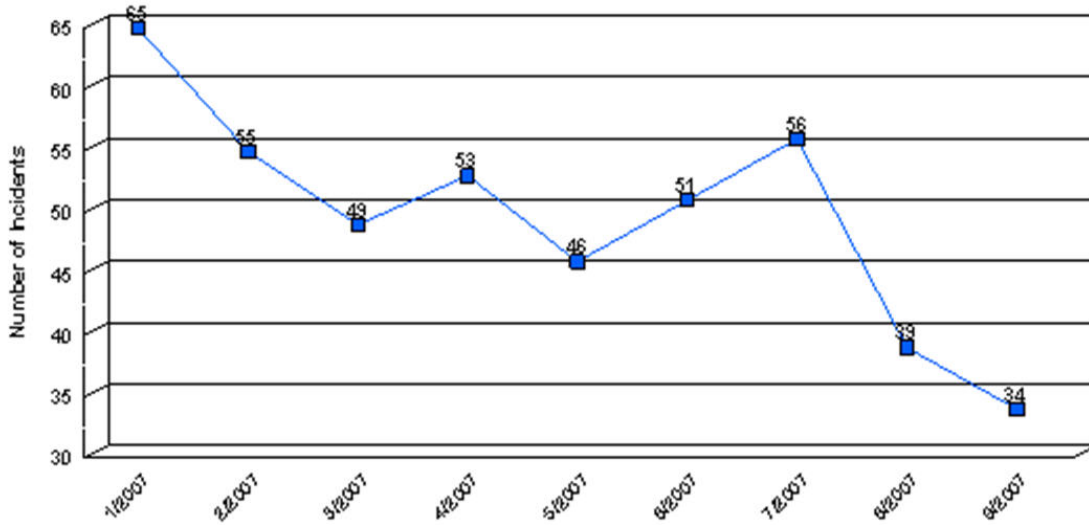
Type Of Incident	Total Of Incidents:	Percentage Value:
100 Series-Fire	36	6.52%
200 Series-Explosion	9	1.63%
300 Series-Rescue & EMS	271	49.09%
400 Series-Hazardous Conditions(No fire)	17	3.08%
500 Series-Service Call	20	3.62%
600 Series-Good Intent Call	177	32.07%
700 Series-False Alarm & False Call	21	3.80%
800 Series-Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	1	0.18%

**Grand Total:** 552

Our average response time for this half of the year was 6.87 minutes.

Our average response time for 2006 was 7.34 minutes.

Broken down by month our call volume for this first half of the year looked like this:



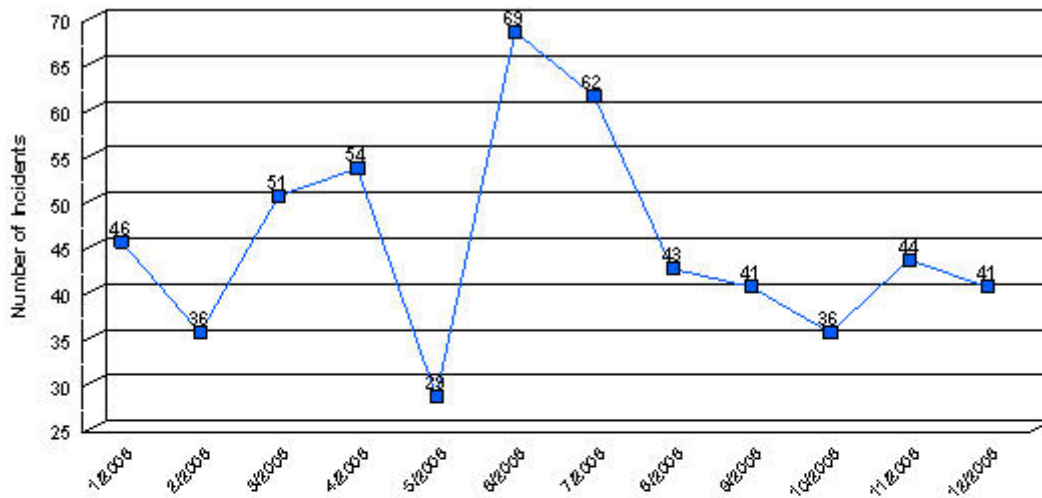
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Period:	# of Incidents:
1/2007	65
2/2007	55
3/2007	49
4/2007	53
5/2007	46
6/2007	51
7/2007	56
8/2007	39
9/2007	34

Print Date 10/3/2007

Total Incidents: 448

And for comparison 2006 looked like this:



Plotted points on Graph read from left to right.

Period:	# of Incidents:
1/2006	46
2/2006	36
3/2006	51
4/2006	54
5/2006	29
6/2006	69
7/2006	62
8/2006	43
9/2006	41
10/2006	36
11/2006	44
12/2006	41

Print Date 10/3/2007

Total Incidents: 552