



THE FIREFLY

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR THE COMMUNITY BY FOOTHILLS FIRE & RESCUE

GREETINGS FROM FOOTHILLS FIRE AND RESCUE

CHIEF'S REPORT

Think Safety

REMEMBER that the New Year can be full of joy and happiness. We still need to be careful, however, because hazards abound during and after the holidays; the fireplaces smoldering while a family sleeps, a dried up Christmas tree waiting to be thrown away and improperly maintained natural gas water heaters or furnaces which can present carbon monoxide dangers not readily evident until it's too late. We want you to be safe during 1998 so give us a call if you have any questions regarding fire safety in your home at 526-0707.

Think Safety and have a great new year from all 65 of us volunteer fire fighters and rescue personnel here at Foothills Fire & Rescue.

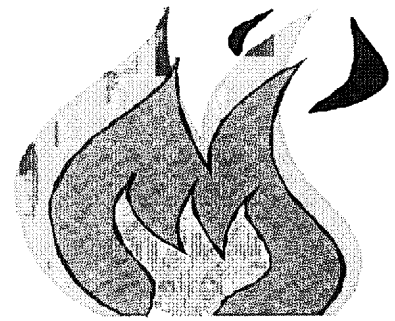
Sincerely,

Ed Anderson
Fire Chief

The Firefly

We hope to be updating you every quarter with our publication that we call "The Firefly." This is our effort to keep residents of the District informed of the activities of the new consolidated Foothills Fire Protection District. The mailing zones overlap so there are some people who are not within the Foothills District that will receive this newsletter. We hope that those people are interested in the emergency services in our community. Even though they may not be in our District they should appreciate an update from time to time as to the services provided. As you know, there is close cooperation between the Genesee, Foothills and Highland Rescue groups. We cooperate quite well and on an operational basis find ourselves providing emergency services as a single entity, even though each of the three departments is separate. Foothills and Genesee are Fire Protection Districts, organized under authority of the Colorado State Statutes as quasi-municipal governments. Highland Rescue is a private non-profit corporation that services the Genesee District and the northern portions of the Foothills District

with emergency medical services. Foothills operates an ambulance from its Idledale station to service the south portions of the Foothills District.



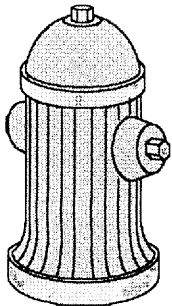
Wildfire News

We had one of the best wildfire seasons that ever existed in the history of the mountain. We really did not have a wildfire to speak of until toward the end of the year when a man-made fire involving a couple of acres of land got out of control at the end of Stapleton Drive, in the Denver Mountain Park. We probably over reacted, but between Genesee, Foothills, Evergreen, and Pleasant view we put the fire out and we had a darn good practice involving our I-70 Wildland strike team. The Colorado State Forest Service

helped supervise the event, The Salvation Army brought food, and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office provided support. Fortunately, the fire was quickly surrounded and put out without incident, and on a practical basis the departments involved not only extinguished the fire, but got the training they need to work together on a continuing basis for our next wildfire season. Hopefully it will rain twice as much next year and we will have another year without a wildfire season. We were lucky in the past year due to the moisture, but wildfire continues to be an ever-present danger.

FWPC

The Foothills Wildfire Prevention Committee (FWPC) is an organization created for the purpose of assisting the Foothills Fire Protection District in a long term program with emphasis on reducing wildfire risk. Contact Noelle Sutherland at 526-7641 for more information.



FIRE PLUGS

Those persons residing in the areas served by the Lookout Mountain Water district have

probably noticed that all Lookout fire plugs have been recently painted with a new color scheme. The plugs are painted a high visibility yellow, and the big 4 1/2 inch outlet caps are painted on a color code to show how much water is available from that particular fire plug. a blue cap means a flow of 2,000 gallons a minute or better, a green cap indicates a flow of over 1,000 gallons a minute, an orange cap indicates a flow over 500 gallons a minute, while a red cap indicates a flow of less than 500 gallons per minute of water. There are a couple of plugs in the district that are painted black, we guess that is an appropriate color for a plug we consider dead. In an ideal circumstance you should have a plug within 1,000 feet of your home that delivers over 1,000 gallons a minute. Water delivery is a very important component in firefighting and, as a matter of fact, an ISO rating, which may impact your insurance costs, gives 40% credit to the water supply in determining the rating. The Fire Department gets 50% of the credit, while the Dispatch system gets the final 10%.

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

When Foothills Fire Protection District came into existence January 1, 1997, a number of things needed to be done during the year to update and upgrade

our relationships with our neighbors. We reached an agreement with Highland Rescue Team that defines the relationship between Foothills as the governmental entity with the statutory jurisdiction over emergency medical services and Highland Rescue as a provider of these services to supplement the emergency medical services provided by the District. Highland rescue, as a non-profit organization serves the residents with emergency medical and ambulance service on a 24 hour a day basis. Foothills Fire Protection District is contributing \$11,000 to Highland Rescue in order to assist in the emergency service operation and ensure that there is adequate financial support to maintain the Highland Rescue Ambulances "on the hill" to provide quick, efficient emergency medical service in our community. Our agreement with Highland is on a year to year basis and will be reviewed as an ongoing project of the District to help ensure Highland's continued viability and operation in our community.

The Foothills Fire Protection District is a party to a county wide mutual aid agreement among all the Fire Departments in the County. In addition to the county wide agreement we are utilizing Genesee equipment, and Genesee is utilizing Foothills equipment to provide mutual aid and in many cases automatic aid when an alarm is sounded. In general, any of the

large commercial areas or places of public assembly will have assistance provided on an automatic aid basis for both Foothills and Genesee. In addition daytime responses between 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM for all calls are toned out (alert tone to notify emergency units) by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office as a general alarm in which Genesee, Highland and Foothills jointly respond. The written agreement approved by the Board of Directors of the Genesee and Foothills Districts, formalizes the operational agreements made by the Departments and helps assure reliable, responsive and adequately staffed response 24 hours a day to the residents of our mountain community.

PRESCRIBED BURNS

By Noelle Sutherland

ARE they really going to burn all those slash piles? Why? If you have seen piles of branches and brush piled near your house or neighborhood by an agency such as your local fire department or Jeffco Open Space or Colorado State Foresters, perhaps you have wondered how that stuff is going to be disposed of. Come to a seminar on January 17, 1998 from 8:00 AM to Noon at Mount Vernon country Club called "Prescribed Burns:

Fighting Fire With Fire". There will be talks by experts on the various kinds of purposeful fires with time for questions and answers and information about specific burns planned for your area. The areas where burns are planned for this Winter encompass the entire foothills area from Morrison to Floyd Hill and North and South to Clear Creek and Bear Creek. This forum is especially geared to the concerns of homeowners so come and ask all the questions you wish. Free enrollment in the morning's presentation, continental breakfast and information packets will be available to any Jeffco resident who calls ahead for reservations. Please call Jan Wilkins of the Mount Vernon Stewardship Committee at 526-9344 for information or Colorado State Forest Service at 279-9757. for reservations for breakfast and packets.



LONG RANGE PLAN

By Ed Anderson

Foothills invites citizen participation in the completion of the Long

Range Plan that currently is being drafted by a committee that has been formed. It includes members of the community as well as members of the fire department and members of the Fire Protection district Board. The plan is becoming voluminous as it progresses toward completion. We hope to present the interim plan to the Fire District Board by the end of January and to have it completed by the June 30, 1998. Copies are available at the Lookout Mountain Fire Station at 67 South Lookout Mountain Road. We encourage any taxpayer or resident of the District interested in assisting us in formulating the plan or providing input, to contact the fire department with any concerns. Generally meetings have been held at the Lookout Mountain Station on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM. Anyone interested should contact the Department at 526-0707 to ascertain when the next meeting will be held. While we will have copies of the ultimate plan available at the Fire Stations, we will attempt to provide a summary of the plan in a future issue of the Firefly so that the people we serve are aware of our direction. A tremendous amount of effort has been put forth by the committee

members, and things are starting to come into focus for a plan that is projected for the next ten years.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

You are welcome to attend any of the following regularly scheduled meetings:

Foothills Fire & Rescue Department. Conducted on the first Thursday of each month from 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM at the Genesee Grange Hall located at the intersection of Highway 40 and Lookout Mountain Road. The next meeting is scheduled for January 7, 1998.

Foothills Fire Protection District Board. Conducted the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30 PM - 9:00

PM at the Mount Vernon Country Club. The next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 1998.

Foothills Wildfire Prevention Committee (FWPC) Attending this meeting is a way for non firefighters to volunteer valuable services and to hear and learn from reports by Communications, Evacuation, Risk Reduction and Water Availability groups. The meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month from 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM at the Lookout Mountain Fire Station on Lookout Mountain Road. The next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 1998.

FIREFIGHTER APPLICATIONS

We are accepting applications for the 1998 firefighter recruit class. Contact Chris at 526-0707 if interested.

AIRLIFE HELICOPTER ACCIDENT

Foothills Fire & Rescue has worked closely with AirLife. We are shocked and saddened by the helicopter crash in Littleton. It was just a few weeks prior to this unfortunate accident we were involved with AirLife on a project at Red Rocks. The members of the department voted to donate \$1000 to the victims memorial fund. Anyone desiring to make a contribution may do so by sending their check to : Airlife Fund Health One, 600 South Cherry Street, Denver, Colorado 80240.

Articles for the Firefly may be submitted to Ken Spencer, Editor, by calling the Lookout Mountain Fire Station at 526-0707 (Monday - Friday)

FOOTHILLS FIRE & RESCUE

67 South Lookout Mountain Road
Golden, Colorado 80401

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