



Foothills Fire Protection District

THE FIREFLY

A Publication for the Community by Foothills Fire & Rescue

December, 2004

A Look At Super Speeders

By: Capt. John Kilpatrick

On November 13, Channel 4 News reported on the 10:00 o'clock news, "Superspeeders" were being frequently encountered in the Mount Vernon Canyon section of I-70. Fortunately, the Colorado State Patrol (CSP) has been making a concerted effort to curtail speeding on I-70 between the Genesee and Morrison exits. CSP defines super speeders as those driving more than 30 mph over the posted speed limit. On the one day that the news team joined the state patrol for four hours, the CSP stopped and ticketed three individuals passing through the exit 256 area at speeds in excess of 98 mph. Several other drivers were ticketed for speeds greater than 85 mph.

As firefighters, we have found this practice to be increasing at an alarming rate. A number of our accident responses, which are several hundred a year, place us in a vulnerable position when attending to accident victims on the interstate. A number of the secondary accidents occur because of inattention by the driver as well as the high rate of speed resulting in too little time to respond to

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traffic stopped in front of them. A number of drivers have driven through our accident scene without a reduction in speed whatsoever, in some cases injuring emergency personnel, their

equipment and accident victims.

You can help us by reporting speeders on the interstate. Make a note of the driver's vehicle color, make, model, year and license plate number. If you have a cell phone with you, dial * C S P immediately. The dispatcher will need to know the direction of travel and approximate location of the occurrence.

In many cases, CSP will attempt to stop the vehicle based on your description.

DID YOU KNOW!?!

Foothills Fire Protection District has partnered with Drive Smart Evergreen and the Evergreen Big O Tires Store to provide the only Child Safety Seat Fit Stations in the Jeffco mountains. The district has two paid staff and three volunteer certified Child Passenger Safety Seat Technicians available on an appointment basis to make sure your children are safely secured in their car seats whenever they travel in your car. Just call the District offices at 303-526-0707 ext. 1# to schedule an appointment.

DRIVE SAFE—DON'T BECOME A HOLIDAY STATISTIC!



HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

More than 3,500 Americans die each year in fires, while approximately 25,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if they had only had the information they needed to avoid a disaster. The U.S. Fire Administration offers the following life-saving tips that could make a big difference for you and your community.

Following these simple fire safety tips can increase your survival rate dramatically!

- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Test smoke alarm batteries every month and change them at least once a year. Consider installing a 1-year lithium battery-powered smoke alarm, which is sealed so it cannot be tampered with or opened.
- Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including fireplaces or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree and cause it to more easily ignite by heat, flame or sparks.
- Never put holiday tree branches or needles in a fireplace or woodburning stove.
- When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is to take it to a recycling center or have it collected by a community pick-up service.
- Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wire, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets and excessive kinking or wear.
- Only use UL approved lighting.
- Do not overload outlets. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet.
- Do not leave lit holiday lights unattended.
- Avoid using lit candles. If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked over.
- Never leave the house with candles burning.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ⊗ Eighty percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- ⊗ During the holiday season, there are over 1,200 fires and 190 fire injuries associated with improper holiday tree and candle care.
- ⊗ Most holiday fires can be easily prevented.
- ⊗ Having a working smoke alarm more than doubles one's chances of surviving a fire.

For more information on how you can help prevent fires and fire deaths, please contact Foothills Fire at 303-526-0707, or the U.S. Fire Administration at (800) 238-3358 or visit www.usfa.fema.gov, www.fema.gov or www.ready.gov.



Information on this page was provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. On March 1, 2003, FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages federal disaster response and recover efforts. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders and manages the U.S. Fire Administration.

Three Structure Fires Fought in November

By Capt. John Kilpatrick

November was an unusually busy month for structure fires in the Foothills Fire District. Three structure fires occurred within 11 days.

On November 12 at around 10:00 PM in the evening, Foothills Fire and Rescue responded to a fire alarm at the Ralston Elementary School. It appeared that a smoke detector had triggered the alarm and the custodians had visually witnessed smoke in the kitchen area and evacuated the building. The first engine arrived on scene within eight minutes. Genesee Fire and Highland Rescue were requested to respond mutual aid to the scene. A total of 3 engines, 1 tender, an ambulance and 15 firefighters reported to the school. Upon arrival, the first fire crew into the building found that the smoke had dissipated. After a preliminary and secondary search of the entire building by other crew members, the source of the smoke was determined to originate from the kitchen. Apparently a fire had started in the kitchen near the vicinity of equipment and associated tubing. Fortunately, the combustible materials had self-extinguished after running out of fuel.

The second fire was on November 15 at 3:45 PM. Foothills Fire had the first engine enroute within two minutes from the Lookout Fire Station to a residence near Matthew Winters Park (a short distance south of the Morrison Exit). Foothills Fire and Rescue arrived at a single family residence (built in 1881) adjacent to the park. Apparently a flash fire had started in the furnace area of the basement. The fire department arrived in time to prevent the fire from getting large enough to ignite any additional materials in the area. Fortunately,

none of the fire suppression resources provided by both Foothills Fire and West Metro Fire Department were necessary.

At 3:00 AM the morning of November 22, Foothills Fire responded to a residence in the Genesee Park Area. A report of grey-yellow smoke but no flames were visible. Access to the structure was hindered due to the narrow road, access gates and cars which were parked along the roadway. A sharp drop-off on the south side of the road made it even more difficult to access the structure. Fortunately, the road was accessible from the Genesee development area. Genesee Fire Department responded mutual aid to the scene and was able to approach the structure. GFD Engine 1 was first on scene and found extensive smoke in

the main floor of the single family wood structure. After a preliminary and secondary search of the entire structure and establishing positive pressure ventilation, the source of the smoke was finally located in the kitchen. The refrigerator was located in a pine cabinet and the unit had overheated or an electrical short had occurred. The fire had scorched the back of the refrigerator and the wood paneling at the rear, sides and top of the pine cabinet enclosure.

Fortunately, there were no injuries to either residents or firefighters at any of these scenes and the property damage was relatively minor.

Fire Department Gets New Digital Radio System

For years Foothills Fire and Rescue has struggled with an outdated radio system. In June 1998, the Jefferson County Sheriff's office transitioned to a state-of-the-art digital radio system. At that time, Foothills began to plan for an updated radio system cooperatively with other Fire Protection Districts, but we soon learned that supporting the infrastructure of a fire-only system would have been far too expensive and risky.

Instead, Foothills decided to join Jefferson County in using the Colorado State Digital Trunked Radio System (DTRS, or the "Digital System"). The Colorado State Patrol uses the Digital System, as well as several other counties and emergency services agencies. More information on the State system is available at the following Web site: <http://www.colorado.gov/dpa/doit/comm/>

IN AN EMERGENCY



A Look at District Accounting and Financial Management

By Timothy M. Cusick, MBA, CPA, Managing Shareholder, Reynolds Henrie & Associates, P.C., Certified Public Accountants

Introduction

The Foothills Fire Protection District has strong accounting and financial management controls and reporting systems in place which comply with Colorado financial reporting requirements and suggested financial management practices. Financial activities are managed and monitored regularly by people other than District administrative management. Financial activities are reported and measured against budget on a monthly basis and quarterly basis.

Budgets

In accordance with Colorado law, annual budgets are submitted to the State. The budget preparation process includes input from the Chief, the Assistant Chief, the Captains, the District Administrator, the District Treasurer, and our firm. Upon completion of the initial budget draft, it is submitted to the Board of Directors for their review and input. After their review, a public hearing, and changes necessitated by Board direction, the final budget is approved by the Board and subsequently filed with the State.

Thereafter, the monthly financial reports include a comparison of actual revenues and expenditures to budgeted revenues and expenditures. Each quarter, our firm prepares an analysis of actual financial activity compared to budgeted financial activity and submits it to the Board for their review, discussion, and direction for corrective action, if deemed necessary.

Monthly Accounting and Reporting

On a monthly basis, our firm reconciles bank account balances, prepares monthly cash reports, and compiles monthly financial statements for presentation to and discussion with the Board of Directors. As stated previously, these financial statements include comparisons to budget.

Cash Management and Disbursement Controls

Cash receipts are comprised primarily of property tax receipts and response

fees. Property taxes are deposited directly by the County Treasurer into the District's ColoTrust investment account. Response fee income is deposited in the District's operating bank account. Response fee billings and collections are monitored by two members of the District's Board of Directors. Both tax and response fee receipts and other receipts are reported to the Board of Directors on the monthly cash report.

Cash disbursements for operations and other requirements are made monthly, except payroll which is disbursed twice each month through a payroll service with whom we manage the interface. Each month, all non-payroll cash disbursements are reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors before checks are signed and released. Prior to each monthly Board meeting the directors receive a list of proposed disbursements. At the Board meeting the Directors are able to review the proposed disbursements with management and to review the unsigned checks and their supporting documentation. After review, discussion, and approval by the Board, the checks are signed by two Directors.

Annual Audit

In accordance with Colorado Statute, the District's financial statements are audited annually by a firm of independent certified public accountants. For the past two years the audit has been performed by McMahan and Associates, LLC. They have been retained for the 2004 audit.

Conclusion

The Board of Directors and our firm, as

the District's financial and accounting services provider, maintain an active involvement in the fiscal affairs of the District. The financial position of the District, its expenditure activities, its budget variances and budget variance trends are monitored and discussed each month. Issues which may affect the future financial position of the District are routinely reviewed by the Board, District Management, and our firm.



Give Your Life New Meaning

Join a progressive, professional organization that provides training and skills development in all aspects of emergency services to your community. Join our team as a volunteer Firefighter, EMT, or Paramedic. No previous firefighting or emergency service experience is necessary. You need only the willingness to learn.

*Make a Difference
in Your Community!*

Contact **Deb Gillis**
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Special Thanks to the following for the time and effort to produce this edition of the Foothills Fire Protection District Firefly newsletter: Robin Martin for donating design and layout of "The Firefly", and 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 District, we apologize and encourage you to contact your fire district if you need further information on any of the topics presented in this issue.

FOOTHILLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS AUDIT SURVEY

Foothills Fire Protection District would appreciate it if you would take a few minutes to fill out this Communications Audit Survey and return it to the District, either by folding it as marked and mailing it in, or dropping it off at the Lookout Mountain Fire Station. If you prefer, you can visit our website at www.foothillsfire.org and complete the survey on line. Thank you for your time!

1. How familiar are you with the Foothills Fire Protection District ? (FFPD)
 - A. Very
 - B. Somewhat
 - C. Not at all

2. What is your general opinion of FFPD?
 - A. Excellent
 - B. Good
 - C. Fair
 - D. Needs Improvement

3. Why do you say that?

4. What comes to mind when you think of the FFPD?

5. Do you think FFPD communicates well within its district and with its neighbors?

If 'no', how can it improve?

6. Have you had previous contact with anyone from the FFPD? What were your impressions?

7. Are you aware of any recent media coverage involving the FFPD?
 - A. Do you recall what the coverage was about?
 - B. Do you feel that the coverage was fair and accurate?
 - C. Did it change or add to your impressions of the FFPD?

8. How would you like to be informed about events and news surrounding FFPD?
 - A. Newsletter
 - B. Bulletins
 - C. Media Coverage
 - D. E-mail
 - F. All of the above

9. Are there issues within FFPD that you think should be addressed? If 'yes', what issues?

10. Do you feel FFPD should be more involved, less involved, or is adequately involved in programs with the community?

11. Is there anything you'd like to see changed with respect to the FFPD and the way it communicates?

**Foothills Fire Protection District
67 South Lookout Mountain Road
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