



Foothills Fire and Rescue



THE FIREFLY

A Publication for the Community by Foothills Fire and Rescue

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Think About This...

By Ed Daniels

Yesterday was one of those days. You know, you've had them. It just seems like one thing after another. Here's how it went for Foothills Fire and Highland Rescue. It was freezing cold with fog and drizzle. For us, that means it is just a matter of time until the calls start coming in. Sure enough, Jefferson County Fire Dispatch (operated by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department) gave us the first page around 11pm, "Rollover accident eastbound I-70 at mile marker 258." Then another, "Rollover accident eastbound I-70 at mile marker 252." Off we went.

Our members generally leave from home when they get a call and head to their assigned fire station (we have five stations). They have to navigate the same icy pavement that causes these wrecks in the first place. In this case, we sent one fire engine, 543, and our heavy rescue truck, 581, to the lower accident and our lighter rescue truck, 580, to the one towards the Evergreen parkway. We didn't find anything up towards Evergreen, but when our crews approached the runaway truck ramp, they found a virtual ice skating rink with rolled over cars and jackknifed trucks. Worst of all, traffic was continuing to bear down on them at 65 mph or more, a prescription for disaster.

As Highland Rescue and Foothills members examined the victims and placed them on stretchers for their trip to the hospital, other firefighters posted themselves west of the accident to close the highway, and to warn the other rescuers if an approaching car loses control on the ice. This happened several times. The lookouts used their hand-held air horns to blast out a warning, and that was the only thing that saved the rescuers from becoming victims themselves. One of those cars lost control and hit our fire engine 543, damaging it and totaling the car.

Further up the road, at exit 256, I assisted a Jefferson County Deputy with closing I-70 and diverting traffic onto Highway 40. A line of flares and fire engine 553 blocked the road, but every once in a while a car coming too fast, or not paying attention, slid right on by. Then a Ford Explorer lost control and slid right into 553. Standing nearby, I had to scramble to get out of the way. Our Idledale-based ambulance, 586, took the driver to Lutheran Hospital. She took that ride in handcuffs, arrested by the State Patrol for DUI. Then, in the ensuing traffic jam, another woman ran out of her supplemental oxygen. And, in still another car, a woman went into labor.

Well, you can see what kind of night that was for our volunteers. If you want to help out when the ice and fog rolls in, slow down, and keep in mind that your friendly neighborhood volunteer firefighter might be standing right around that next corner trying to help someone out.

Another way you can help, if this kind of action interests you, is to consider becoming a volunteer for Foothills Fire & Rescue. The training requirements are serious, and it is not always this exciting or dangerous, but it has its moments. If you think you are suited for this type of community involvement, call us at 303-526-0707.

Ed Daniels
Fire Chief
Foothills Fire and Rescue

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Annual Pancake Breakfast is
June 3 from 7:00 to 11 A.M.
at the Lookout Mountain Fire
Station at 67 South Lookout
Mountain Rd.
Mark your calendar and come
have breakfast with us!

New Foothills Officers

Foothills Fire & Rescue is entering its fifth year, and we are proud to announce the officers who will lead our Department and serve our community during the 2001 calendar year. Most positions are elected by the Foothills membership, and the Chief appoints the others. The District Board must also ratify the selection of the Chief. The District Board members, who are elected by the District's residents, are the legal authority governing the Foothills Fire Protection District.

This year, I had the privilege of being elected as Chief by the members, and approved by the Board. The Chief is designated, by state statute, as the legal authority in the District with responsibility for fighting and investigating fires, and enforcing the fire code and other laws relating to fire and fire prevention. The District, and Chief, are also responsible for providing emergency medical services to the District, which we do under a long-standing and very effective relationship with the Highland Rescue Team.

Foothills Fire & Rescue (also known as "the Fire Department," or just "the Department") is organized in a paramilitary fashion. A Deputy Chief, Jacob Sliemers, and two Assistant Chiefs, Michael Whitney and Jeff Reynolds, report to the Chief. We have five station Captains, one for each station, who report to the Deputy Chief. Each Station Captain also has a Station Lieutenant. This year, the Station Captains and Lieutenants are:

Idledale – John Curtis, Bob Schwartz
 Grapevine – Ken Spencer, Deb Gillis
 Lookout – Damon Brown, Kris Emperor
 Mount Vernon – Steve Close, Drew Mayers
 Rainbow Hill – Jon Schreiner, John (Spike) Emperor

Because of the specialized nature of our emergency medical, firefighting and rescue duties, we have several Specialty Captains. For 2001 the Specialty Captains are:

Emergency Medical Services – Nettie Calvi
 Rescue – Ron Potter
 Wildland Firefighting – Sean Malone

Finally, because we interact with the press and the public on an ongoing basis, and especially during and after major incidents, we have a Public Information Officer, Ken Spencer.

These officer positions all come with significant responsibilities and time commitments. Like our Firefighters and Board Members, all of our officers are volunteers. Foothills has two paid personnel, Rob Sontag, our Administrator, and Chris Tomford, the Fire Marshall.

Please join me in congratulating this year's officers, and in thanking them for all of the time and effort they put in on behalf of the residents and visitors to our District.

Also, if you would like to meet some of our employees or firefighters face-to-face, Rob Sontag's office is at the Lookout Station, 67 S. Lookout Mountain Road (303-526-0707), and Chris Tomford is based at the Idledale Station (303-697-9722).

Wildfire--- Action You Can Take

Use this information to prepare for wildland fires if wildland fire conditions become extreme in our area.

1. Close all openings to your house and any other structures on your property. Include windows, doors, garage doors and vents.
2. Close any window protection you may have. Include shutters, heavy drapes and/or Venetian blinds.
3. Remove light, flammable curtains from the windows.
4. Test your water system---each valve and each hose. Include any pumps on your property.
5. Fill buckets and other large containers with water.
6. Raise a ladder to the roof near a hose bib and take the hose to the roof.
7. Bring all flammable outdoor furniture indoors.
8. Put as many vehicles as can be accommodated inside the garage.
9. Park all vehicles, including any in the garage, so that they are heading out toward the evacuation route.
10. Cover your windows with aluminum foil or other heat-reflective material.

You can reduce your property's flammability by taking action now. The importance of a class A roof which is maintained free of leaf litter and other fuel build-up cannot be overemphasized. Nor can proper landscaping maintenance, including elimination of pine needles and dead vegetation.

Remember that the Firewise Home Page is a resource for wildland fire protection information. Visit <http://www.firewise.org> for more information.

.... Compliments of the Firewise Home Page, sponsored by the National Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Protection Program.

Foothills Fire and Rescue Needs YOU!!

Firefighters are needed for the 2001 recruit class!

Every year your volunteer fire department needs new members to replace those lost through normal attrition. If you or someone you know might be interested in this exciting community service opportunity, please contact us. We will be happy to discuss the details of training and volunteering with you.

Requirements for new volunteers:

1. *Must be 18 years old or older.*
2. *Must be a resident of the Foothills Fire Protection District or live nearby.*
3. *Must be in good physical health and condition.*
4. *No previous firefighting experiences is necessary.*



The 2001 training class begins May 16, 2001.

Classes meet Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30 P.M.. and on some Saturdays. Formal training lasts about 15 weeks.

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 necessary. You need only the willingness to learn.

You Can Make A Difference In Your Community.

**Watch for upcoming informational
Open Houses in March!**

Contact us today!

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"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 dis-
trict if you need further information on any
of the topics presented in this issue.

Join the Auxiliary!

By Nancy Burke

You can help Foothills Fire and Rescue *without becoming a*
firefighter. Sure we need new firefighters too, but for those of you who
would like to volunteer in another way, now you can!

The Auxiliary is designed to assist the volunteer fire fighters of Foothills Fire
and Rescue before, during and after calls, through a variety of ways from babysitting for
children of firefighters (during a call), supplying refreshments including baking cookies
or making a pot of chili to leave at the fire house after a lengthy day of calls, organizing
social events and fund-raisers, and assisting with other related duties as they arise.

If you are interested in helping the Foothills Fire and Rescue volunteer team in this
unique way, give us a call!

• Contact Joanna Braun of Idledale at (303) 697-0950 or contact Nancy Burke
at (303) 526-7590.

It's a great way to get involved have some fun, and show your support of the Foothills
Fire and Rescue Team.



Fire Prevention Checklist

A family safety project

Most fatal fires occur in the home—the place most people say they feel the safest. Fortunately, you can reduce your family's risk of fire and other injuries. Look over this home fire safety checklist and discuss these topics with your family. If you need help or have questions, call or e-mail our Fire Marshal's office. The phone number is 303-697-9722. E-mail may be sent to firecop5@juno.com

- My house has working smoke detectors on every level of the home.
- My family tests our smoke detectors every month.
- We practice our fire escape plan twice a year.
- Everyone knows to stay low in smoke.
- We maintain ABC fire extinguishers within easy reach in several locations
- We know how and when to use a fire extinguisher, and when NOT to use one.
- We have talked about putting cool water on a burn immediately.
- My family knows how to smother a clothing fire—Stop, Drop and Roll.
- Matches and lighters are out of children's sight and reach.
- No one ever smokes in bed and cigarettes are extinguished in large deep ashtrays.
- We keep watch when cooking with grease or oil. (Cover grease fires with a lid or larger pan and turn off the heat. Never try to move a hot or flaming pan.)
- We have no appliances with frayed or broken cords. We disconnect an electrical cord by grasping the plug—not the cord.
- We unplug small appliances when not in use and we keep electrical appliances away from water.
- If we use a multiple outlet adapter (Power Strip), it has a built in circuit breaker.
- We empty fireplace and woodburning stove ashes into a metal can with a lid.
- Space heaters need space! We keep them at least 3 feet from combustibles.
- We store gasoline in a safety container outside of the home and never use gasoline as a cleaner.
- We never try to rekindle any fire or grill with a flammable liquid.
- We follow label directions for disposing of oil-based paint and petroleum products.
- We have our hot water heater set at 125 degrees or "LOW".
- Cleaners, medicines and other potential toxins are out of children's reach.
- Everyone wears a bike helmet—every time we bike, skateboard or rollerblade.
- We always buckle up! There are restraints for every age and size.