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The Annual Pancake Breakfast is June 6 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!

Be Careful Out There...

It would be hard to imagine Mount Vernon Canyon without I-70. Those of us who live in the Foothills Fire Protection District see it, hear it and probably drive it every day. Some residents can remember what it was like before I-70, when Highway 40 was the big thoroughfare to the mountains. Just as I-70 shapes our travel, it also defines a



Accident on I-70

large portion of our fire and rescue activities. Over 45% of our emergency calls (nearly 600 in 1998) are responses to incidents on I-70. Approximately 25% were fire-related calls and 75% were EMS calls. From time to time, some residents express concern with all of the time and equipment that we dedicate to I-70 responses. After all, as government property, I-70 pays no taxes to the District, yet it receives a disproportionate amount of our resources. We have received EMS and gaming grant money from the state, partially due to our I-70 responsibilities, but this hardly makes up for the amount of time and money we spend on those responses.

I think we also have to look at the other side of the coin. Most of our residents use I-70 daily, so it is reasonable that we respond and help when help is needed. Volunteer departments cover I-70 below us (Pleasant View) and above us (Evergreen, Clear Creek and almost all points west). Even though its lot of work, the number of calls we cover on I-70 keeps us sharp and responsive. Our volume of about 600 calls each year amounts to one or two calls each day on average. This forces us to make sure our trucks are stocked and running well, our volunteers are responding, our radios are working and our command skills are sharp. Our active department is always practiced and ready to respond to your emergency whether it is on I-70 or off.

I'd guess it's my duty as Fire Chief to always close this column with a few safety points. After all, we'd rather meet you at the Annual Pancake Breakfast than on the scene of a traffic accident. Whether you're driving on I-70 or Highway 74, remember that mountain driving is different than driving on the flatlands. Vehicles move at very different speeds. Trucks and sightseers may be going 15 m.p.h., but Porches and BMWs may be going 80 m.p.h. That means each of us must drive defensively and keep aware of vehicles and terrain around us. Keep your seat belt fastened and make sure all occupants in your vehicle are wearing seat belts. All too often we see what happens when you don't take these precautions. Thanks for your support, and be careful out there!

Ed Daniels

Fire Chief
Foothills Fire and Rescue

Be Prepared...

Have you ever considered what you might do if a wildfire threatened your home?

Review the following guidelines to help prepare your family and your home in the event of fire.

Steps you can take now...

- Create a defensible space to clear and thin vegetation that could serve as fuel for a fire.
- Clear away wood debris around your home and under your deck.
- Stack firewood well away from your home.
- Have chimneys /flues cleaned and inspected.
- Clearly display your property's address.
- Clean gutters of debris.

What if a wildfire occurs near your home?

You may be contacted by a fire or law enforcement official and advised to evacuate.

- If you can, evacuate your pets.
- Know where safety areas are within your subdivision. (meadows and wide roads)
- Know emergency escape routes and have a preplanned travel route.

If you have time, follow these steps...

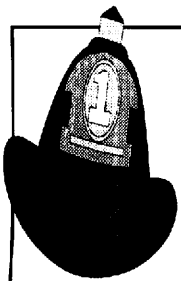
- Remove combustible items from around the house including lawn furniture/umbrellas etc.
- Close attic and basement vents.
- Connect long garden hoses to outside faucets.

Preparing and planning can be helpful in the event of a wildfire.

- Place a ladder against the roof of the house opposite the side of the approaching fire. If you have a combustible roof, set a lawn sprinkler on it.
- Shut off gas at the meter or at the propane tank.
- Close all windows and all doors, but do not lock them!
- Open the damper on the fireplace to stabilize outside/inside pressure.
- Close fireplace screen.
- Turn on a light in each room of the house, on the porch, and in the yard. This will make the house more visible in heavy smoke or at night.
- Fill bathtubs and sinks with water.
- Take down light-weight curtains.
- Park car in driveway. Close car windows and leave keys in ignition.
- Close garage doors but leave unlocked and disconnect automatic garage door opener.

Fire Department On Line

Foothills Fire and Rescue is now on line! Go to www.fire-ems.net. This site contains information about the department including fleet descriptions, number of alarms each year, and how to contact us.



When I Was a Boy...

...all I wanted to be was a fireman. I remember my shiny red pedal fire truck and a white plastic chief's helmet. I spent the whole day in my back yard pretending to put out fires and dreaming of the "big one."

Today things are different. I have the shiny fire trucks and my helmet is white, but I spend my day at my full time job, do volunteer fire fighting when I can, and I fear and dread "the big one". That's right, volunteer.

So, who are these volunteer fire fighters? They are your neighbors. They are doctors, lawyers, business executives, entrepreneurs,

nurses, engineers, pilots, chemists, mothers, fathers and grandparents. They are people who give unselfishly to their neighbors for the good of their community. They are all professionals. They are, each and every one, heroes.

Your neighbors, from all walks of life, spend their time, when they can, to complete the same basic training as paid firefighters. Some continue their training to become Emergency Medical Responders, Driver/Operators of heavy equipment, Wildland Fire Fighters, Hazardous Materials Responders, and Search and Rescue Responders. Some utilize their business skills in the areas of administration, accounting, public information, planning and organization. So who are they?

They are people just like you who

care about the quality of life we enjoy in our wildland/urban interface community.

Recently, we had a fire in our community. This fire was a wake-up call. Fortunately, no homes were lost and only a few firefighters sustained minor injuries. We were lucky. We learned a lot and the time is now to prepare for the next fire. We need your help. What can you do? You too can volunteer. Perhaps as a fire fighter, perhaps as a volunteer who uses your own special skills. You may say you don't have time and you work in town. Many of us don't have time and most of us work in town. What if you called 911 and nobody came?

Contact one of your neighborhood heroes and let them know what you can do.

Firefighters Rally, Save Millions

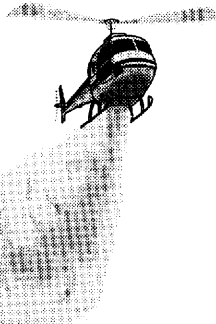
By Bob Aussprung

Two hundred and nineteen firefighters from some 18 different agencies rallied their efforts in fighting a 35 acre "interface" type wildfire last month and protected 22 homes in the Genesee and Lininger Mountain areas.

At about 2:50 p.m., Friday, February 26, a smoke report in the 2000 block of Montane Drive was called into the 911 dispatcher. Units from Genesee and Foothills Fire Protection districts were summoned.

Initially, six engines and two tankers were used to fight the fire. Due to the extremely dry conditions the front range has experienced this winter, the fire, being whipped by 25-35 m.p.h. winds, quickly spread across the southern face of Lininger Mountain.

The initial attack commander instinctively called for more help for other county resources to ensure the safety of the structures.



Five additional structural engines were called to help protect homes on Lininger Mountain. Jefferson County's helicopter was called for air support and three, 20-man handline crews were requested. As the winds kept up late into the Friday evening, it became evident that the initial responders were not going to be able to put the fire out. However by that time, the fire was turned slightly and was kept away from all structures. The closest encroachment on the northwest corner of the fire was estimated to be about 75 yards while the closest structure threatened on the northeast side was estimated between 50 - 60 yards.

Crews as far away as Ft. Collins, Boulder and Colorado Springs responded to the calls for back-up support. Jefferson County's helicopter did a fantastic job providing fire command a clear picture of the potential threat and water drop support. In the final analysis, one of the key reasons firefighters were able to get a handle on the fire before it reached the structures was because of mitigation efforts, i.e. defensible spacing and diseased tree removal on the slope where the point of ignition occurred.

First 500 Free

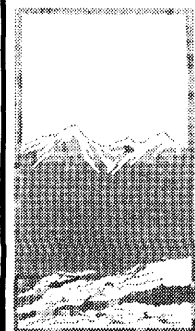
By Joan Schwarz

At the March meeting of the Foothills Wildfire Preparedness Committee (FWPC), a discussion was held about the importance of having address signs which are in compliance with the Uniform Fire Code. The Code states, House numbers shall be placed in such a manner as to be plainly visible and legible from the street or road fronting the property. Numbers shall contrast with their background. The committee decided to make house address signs available at no cost to the first 500 homeowners that request them.

The volunteer firefighters feel uniform address signs are of the utmost importance for them to be able to respond promptly to emergency calls. The style of sign being made available can be seen by driving through the Mount Vernon Country Club area.

The signs are 12" X 6" and have black numbers on a white background. The sign reflects light at night making it easier to see. Compliments from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department have been received regarding these signs.

If you have an interest in receiving a sign, please call Joan Schwarz with your address at 303-526-0017.



Mountain Clean-Up Program

Mountain residents are encouraged to participate in the second Annual Wildfire Chipper-Shredder project initiated by Jefferson County to help reduce the threat of wildfire around homes in wooded areas. The Foothills Wildfire Preparedness Committee (FWPC) will assist mountain residents on Saturday July 10 from 9am to 4pm at Ralston Elementary School 25856 Columbine Glen Avenue. Slash can be brought to Ralston where FWPC volunteers will manage the site. Piles will be chipped the following week and the material remaining will be disposed. If you have any questions, please call Joan Schwarz at 303-526-0017.

Join the newly formed Support Auxiliary

By Nancy Burke

Now you can help the 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!

This Support Auxiliary was designed to assist the volunteer firefighters of the 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 call, 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, we welcome you!



To obtain more information regarding these great volunteer positions, contact Joanna Braun of Idledale at BraunEnv@aol.com or (303) 697-0950 or Nancy Burke of Golden at nburke@earthnet.net or by calling (303) 526-7590. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age.

It's a great way to get involved and show your support of the Foothills Fire and Rescue Volunteers. Call today and let us know how you'd like to help!

Fire Forum

The Foothills Wildfire Preparedness Committee again supported the second Fire Forum held at Mt. Vernon Country Club. 95 people attended the meeting and it accentuated fire safety in the urban interface.

Defensible space was encouraged. Judy Peratt, Jefferson County Emergency Preparedness Director along with Carol Small of the Evergreen Fire Department distributed an excellent handout titled "*Caught In a Wildfire*".

Anyone wishing a copy can call Joan Schwarz at 303-526-0017 or e-mail schwarzj@ecentral.com.

The Fire Forum promoted by the Colorado State Forest Service will move to another location in the Front Range in January 2000.

The fire on Friday, February 26 was perhaps a forewarning of things to come this year so let's get busy creating defensible space and cleaning up debris that could be potential ground fuel.

Foothills Fire and Rescue
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Golden, CO 80401

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