



THE FIREFLY

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR THE COMMUNITY BY FOOTHILLS FIRE & RESCUE

THANKS FOR THE THANKS

By Chief Ed Daniels

Iwould imagine that most of you heard about, or saw for yourself, the "Beaver Brook Fire" which burned in Clear Creek Canyon from August 20th through the 22nd. The fire burned almost 25 acres and was visible from many residential areas on Lookout Mountain, Cody Park and the Mount Vernon Country Club. Could anyone miss the JeffCo Sheriff's helicopter dropping bucket after bucket on the blaze? It was certainly a scary sight to see flames burning in the treetops just down hill from over 100 homes. We were concerned, because this fire fit the profile of one of Foothills Fire & Rescue's most extreme disaster scenarios. The Sheriff's Department was prepared to begin an evacuation but, fortunately, that was never necessary.

Instead, we were able to mobilize our local, County, State and Federal resources and we stopped the fire before it burned any homes or other structures. As the Incident Commander during the first day, I



was proud and inspired by the degree to which all of these people and equipment were able to come together so rapidly, and to be organized into an effective attack on a dangerous fire. First, our local emergency services personnel; Foothills Fire & Rescue, Genesee Fire Rescue and Highland Rescue sized up the situation. Once we had a size-up, we requested assistance from other County agencies. The JeffCo IMG (Incident Management Group) responded. They are a group trained and experienced command personnel who utilize the Incident Command System to manage wildland fires and other major emergencies. This response also included the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, the Evergreen Volunteer Fire Department, the Pleasant View Fire Department, the Golden Fire Department and the Jeffco 285 Hand Crew made up of volunteers from fire departments along the 285 corridor. The Colorado State Forest Service also responded with their considerable expertise in wildland fire fighting.

Right in the middle of the first day a truck loaded with compressed oxygen and acetylene caught on fire near Exit 256 on I-70. Knowing our local resources were committed, our friends at the Arvada and Wheatridge Fire Departments came up I-70 and put it out for us.

At the end of the first day, we had stopped the fire's southward progress, but the fire was still burning in the trees downward into the Canyon. At a meeting of the Command staff around 11pm we reviewed the fire weather forecast. Many of us were concerned about morning winds and dry thunderstorms moving the fire up or down the Canyon, where it would burn intensely in the trees and might start to move upward and southward back towards the residences. That is when we called in the Pike Regulars and smokejumpers from the US Forest Service to insure that we could be able to stop the fire that next day. The weather put a final end to our concerns when it started raining on the 22nd.

Since the fire, we have been receiving thanks from many individuals and organizations. These included Northwoodside, Inc. the nonprofit owners of most the land which was burned, the Clear Creek Land Conservancy which has a development easement

on most of the land, a number of children on Hess Avenue who drew some awesome pictures of us fighting the blaze, and many friends and neighbors we meet here and there. The print and broadcast media were also very helpful and professional during and after the incident. We appreciate all of the thanks, but we would like to make certain that the thanks are extended to all of our friends and colleagues that helped us fight the fire. Without them, the outcome would not have been so successful.



EXTRICATION DEMONSTRATION

Foothills Fire & Rescue is dedicated to saving lives and property. Of the 600 plus calls in 1997, 42% were accidents on I-70. Many of these calls deal with life threatening situations which at times require extrication. Because of this, our annual training programs incorporate this element. In 1998 we conducted this training on three occasions. The most recent activity included a public demonstration on Saturday, August 15, at the Kmart store adjacent to the Evergreen Exit.

HIGHLAND RESCUE TEAM



By Stacey Dorian

Have you ever wondered when you drive the I-70 corridor on the way to the mountains who provides medical services in the event of an automobile accident? How many of you know that the men and women responding to medical emergencies and highway accidents are volunteers? If you happen to live in the foothills communities of Cold Springs, Genesee, Idledale, Lookout Mountain, Mount Vernon, Paradise Hills, Rainbow Hills, Riva Chase and the outlying areas, it may in fact be your neighbor, friends or co-workers. As a matter of fact, the Highland Rescue Team volunteers have been responding to emergencies along the I-70 corridor from Morrison to the El Rancho exit for over 30 years.

In November of 1964, the Highland Rescue Team was established as part of the Idledale Volunteer Fire Department. A Chevrolet station wagon outfitted with equipment made or purchased by members of the initial squad provided the only response vehicle to the surrounding community. Two members of the original team were the first graduates of the first emergency medical technician class held in

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Colorado. After raising money through a scrap metal drive and procuring a loan from the Idledale Fire Protection District, the volunteer emergency squad was able to purchase its first ambulance in 1966. In the mid seventies, a state grant facilitated the purchase of a second 1974 Dodge Van which served as the team's second ambulance. This enabled the team to maintain an ambulance on both the North and South sides of the Idledale Fire Protection District. In 1978, the team received a "matching funds" grant from the Colorado State Health Department for the purchase of a new Ford Van Ambulance. At the same time, the North Grapevine Station was completed to house the new ambulance.

In 1982, Highland Rescue Team Ambulance Service was selected by the members as its new name which was reflective of the service area. By this time the increase in interstate traffic and a booming I-70 corridor population changed the distribution of calls. In 1983, thanks to the generous assistance of the community, the team was able to move into the facility located at the intersection of Highway 40 and Lookout Mountain Road. The land for the station was generously donated by the Mount Vernon Country Club. Highland Rescue currently owns three advanced life support ambulances, two stationed at the Highland Rescue Team headquarters on Lookout Mountain and one located at the Genesee Fire Department. The team currently contracts with the Foothills Fire Protection District and the Genesee Fire Protection District to provide lifesaving service to both districts.

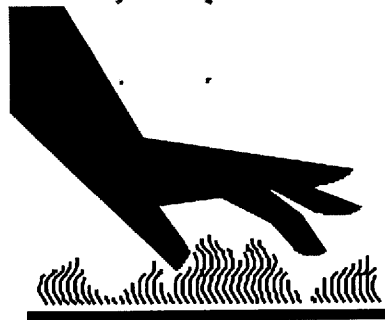
The Highland Rescue Team is primarily an all volunteer non-

profit organization composed of paramedics, emergency medical technicians and first responders trained to provide state of the art care to victims of trauma and medical emergencies. In 1997, Highland Rescue Team responded to 580 emergency calls, many of which were along what might be considered the most dangerous and highly traveled portion of the I-70 corridor between the Morrison exit and El Rancho. Some of the calls responded to in 1997 included an aircraft crash, a homicide, multi vehicle pile-ups/rollovers on I-70, a number of women in active labor, and carbon monoxide poisonings.

The presence of the Highland Rescue Team has a dramatic effect on the provision of emergency medical services within our community. Imagine the results of having to wait an additional twenty to thirty minutes for an ambulance to respond when your loved one is in a medical crisis or involved in a multi-car accident. The existence of these dedicated volunteers within our community allows all of us to live without anxiety even though we are miles from the nearest hospital.

The Highland Rescue Team relies on fee-for-services, tax deductible donations and donations from the Genesee and Foothills Fire Protection Districts to operate. It has never denied treatment for those who are unable to pay. Direct tax dollars are not available to the organization which presents an enormous challenge when funds are necessary for capital expenditures and improvements to their facilities. Fundraising, therefore, is an important aspect to the successful operation of this volunteer based service.

Community Volunteers are currently organizing Highland Rescue's 1998 Costume Ball/Silent Auction scheduled to take place on October 30 at the Pines At Genesee. Anyone interested in attending this gala event or wanting additional information should call Ellie Losasso at (303) 526-1471.



WILDFIRE HAZARD CLEANUP PROGRAM WAS BIG SUCCESS

By Joan Swartz

Jefferson County Emergency Preparedness Department heard the plea from the Foothills Wildfire Preparedness Committee (WFPC) and the Jefferson County Fire Forum requesting an alternative to the Rooney Road Slash Collection site. Pat Glapa, WFPC secretary, secured the site application and presented it to Ralson School Principal, Ms. Hunt Brandt who processed the application immediately. Ralston School then became the collection site for the Foothills Fire District.

The WFPC coordinated the effort to help homeowners transport their slash to the school. Sandy Bryant, WFPC treasurer, and Floyd Ditmore provided their trucks while Moe De Ritter, Dick Kiefer and Art Larson agreed to help with loading and transportation. Other volunteers that provided support at the site were Bob Thompson, Joan Schwarz, Jennifer Schwarz and Steve Ardnat. The entire effort had the feel of the community working together to eliminate as much slash material as possible.

JEFFERSON COUNTY FIRE FORUM

Save January 23, 1999 for the second Annual Jefferson County Fire Forum which is sponsored by the Colorado State Forest Service. The Forum will be at Mount Vernon country Club from 8:30AM to 3:00PM. The theme will center around "Current Issues in Fire and Forest Health" and will cover information for new and long-time residents. Registration will be \$5.00. For an information brochure, contact Ann Grider, Jefferson County public Information Officer at 303-271-8500, Joan Schwarz at 303-526-0017 or Judy Cattell at 303-526-0859.



**WILDFIRE
PROTECTION
INFORMATION NOW
ON LINE**

People living in fire prone areas or those having an interest now have access to helpful wildfire protection information on the Internet. The Firewise Home Page on the world-wide web is <http://www.firewise.org/>. This page, designed for people who live and / or vacation in areas susceptible to wildfire, features the Firewise Landscaping Check list and an informational booklet, Protecting Your Home from Wildfire. The Firewise Checklist was created by the National Firewise Landscaping Task Force, a consortium of national leaders in the area of firewise landscaping. Many residents of fire prone areas requested that this information be made available on line.

The interactive home page allows users to ask questions of fire protection experts, and to register and receive further firewise information as it becomes available. The Firewise Home Page is

sponsored by the National Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Protection Program. Sponsoring agencies include the USDA-Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, the National Association of State Foresters, the US Fire Administration, and the National Fire Protection Association.

IS THIS FOR REAL?

By Captain Greg Bateman

Last night around 2:00AM we had a smoke detector alarm – what happened was incredible. I woke to see my wife jump out of bed and run for the hall door. I move a bit slower. I found her standing under the smoke detector trying to reach the detector on the ceiling. "Turn it off – you'll wake-up the entire neighborhood," she shouted.

Well, it went off by itself and we returned to bed. Later I found a weak battery. I thought if that had been a real emergency, if we had a fire in the house, my wife would have been seriously injured. It was time to review our Emergency Evacuation Plan.

What would you do if you had a Smoke Detector or Carbon Monoxide Detector alarm? Surely, rushing to turn it off is not the response desired. Do you have a plan? When was the last time you checked your detectors?

Each month we should test all of our detectors. We should replace batteries on those detectors which

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use them every four months. Most important we should review and practice a Emergency Evacuation Plan with each member of our family. If you need help developing an Emergency Evacuation Plan you can contact Foothills Fire & Rescue at 303-526-0707 for assistance.

Remember if an alarm sounds – stay low, don't stand. Keep a flashlight by the bed. Dial 911 and ask for help. Evacuate the structure by the safest route – follow your Plan. Wait for the fire department to check out the structure.

All of the members of the Foothills Fire & Rescue are there to help. Do not hesitate to call us.



**YOU WERE
PERFECT**

Thank you for your support during our Annual Pancake Breakfast. We estimated that 700 of you made it to the breakfast and contributed a total of \$3,042.

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 necessary. You need only the willingness to learn.

Make A Difference In Your Community

Contact:



Foothills Fire & Rescue
67 South Lookout Mountain Rd.
Golden, Colorado 80401

Ph: 303-526-0707
foothillsfirerescue@juno.com

WELCOME TO NEW RESIDENTS

The Foothills Wildfire Preparedness Committee (FWPC) would like to welcome new residents to the Foothills Fire

District. Since the inception of the FWPC they have endeavored to deliver a Wildfire Packet to new residents. The packet contains information about defensible space and suggestions for landscaping as well as other important firewise suggestions. The FWPC meets monthly on the third Thursday at 7:30 PM at the Foothills Fire Station on Lookout Mountain Road. To receive a packet or for further information contact the FWPC Communications Chairperson, Joan Schwarz at 526-0017

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PREPAREDNESS

Wildfires can and do happen as was witnessed when 25 acres burned on Lookout Mountain in July of this year. This along with other disasters often strike without warning which makes it extremely important that you and your family prepare in advance to create a disaster plan. Part of a good plan is to determine how you might cope with an evacuation if told to do so. A plan, such as the one suggested here, could save a life or prevent property damage some day.

- √ When asked to evacuate, do so IMMEDIATELY.
- √ Establish a buddy system with neighbors to assist elderly, sick, disabled or children who are left at home alone.
- √ Assemble and store a survival kit to be available at all times. Take your kit with you when you leave.

- √ Establish a meeting place for your family members.
- √ Advise someone when you leave and where you will be.
- √ Decide on and memorize a telephone number for family members to call so as to advise of their whereabouts.

Think in advance about what you would do or take with you given 30 minutes notice to evacuate. Consider alternate routes off the mountain or away from the fire. If you have livestock, make emergency arrangements to assure their safety and well being. Be sure to wear long-sleeved shirts, pants of natural fibers (not synthetics which can burn easily), sturdy shoes, gloves and a handkerchief to protect your face. In addition to your survival kit, be sure to have your prescription medications, eye wear (glasses, contact lenses), important documents, charge cards, safe deposit box keys, computer diskettes, jewelry, valuables, etc. Learn how to turn off the gas to your home. Close all windows and doors, including inside doors and lock your home.

FEMA and the United States Fire Administration makes available a book titled "Wildfire, Are You Prepared"? which is available by writing FEMA, P.O. Box 70274, Washington, DC 20024. For more information, you may also call Joan Schwarz with the Foothills Wildfire Preparedness Committee (FWPC) at 526-0017.

Articles for the Firefly may be submitted to Ken Spencer, Editor, by calling Foothills Fire & Rescue at 526-0707

COSTUME BALL



*Benefiting Your Highland
Rescue Team Ambulance Service*

*The Pines At Genesee - October 30, 1998 - Live Music
Dinner and Dancing - Silent Auction - All for a good cause*

For Information or Reservations

Call 526-9571

FOOTHILLS FIRE & RESCUE

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Golden, Colorado 80401

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