

THE FIREFLY

WINTER 2010

Greetings From The Fire Chief



Foothills Fire & Rescue
Fire Chief

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In This Issue

Are You Prepared?	2
Don't Fall Through the Ice	2
Lightning, Fires & You	3
Lights and Sirens	3
2010 Fire Academy Begins	4
2010 Board of Directors Election Update	4
Bright Sparks Kids Pages	Insert

I am John T. Kilpatrick, III and in December 2009 the Board of Directors chose me to be the first full-time paid Fire Chief for Foothills. I am both honored and humbled to be given this opportunity to lead and guide the fire department that I have grown to love over the last decade since moving to Lookout Mountain.

My goals for the department are many but they all are aimed at maintaining and improving the quality of emergency response service to our customers in the district. This new era of paid management will result in better stability in the upper management of the department. Foothills Fire & Rescue is a tax supported public agency. Operations and district administration must operate efficiently to make the best use of our tax dollars to optimize the quality of emergency response services in the district. By supplementing our tax revenues with grants and fee assessments for rescues, Foothills maintains a fleet of 15 apparatus designed to meet the needs of our responders on our widely varied responses.

Fire prevention is the most cost effective method for fighting fires. Our department supports strong prevention measures such as active control of all outdoor fires for recreational purposes. The department enforces the fire code requirements in new construction and remodels and encourages residents to mitigate their property for wildland fire hazards.

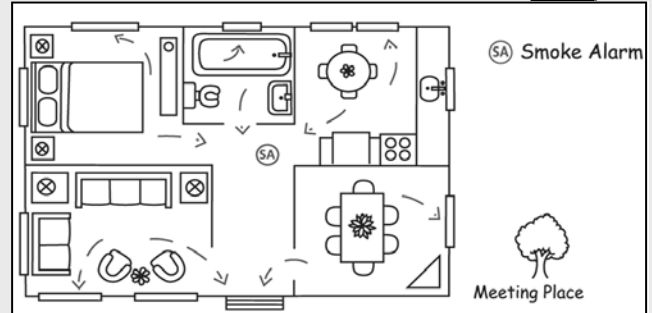
We also encourage homeowners and businesses to install monitored smoke alarms to help with the early detection of fires. We emphasize training for all of our members on a continuing basis to strengthen our skills in fire suppression, rescue and medical treatment for victims. Training also offers our members the opportunity to broaden their skills and become proficient in many different areas of fire related services. In addition, training with the neighboring fire districts helps our department maximize the effectiveness of mutual aid response on larger events. One significant way we do this is by holding an annual fire training academy jointly with one of our neighboring districts to train our volunteers to be able to respond safely and effectively.

The staff and volunteer members of Foothills Fire & Rescue are all proud of the job we do for the district and we know that we are only here to serve you, the public. If you would like any additional information or have questions you may contact us at 28812 Rainbow Hills Road, Evergreen, CO 80439, 303-526-0707 phone, 303-526-2225 fax, and email at info@foothillsfire.org.



With the events over the past several months, I thought it might be appropriate to let you know of some things we can do to be better prepared for dealing with an emergency in our community. All of us must do our part and work together for dealing with disasters. Remember, only a few years ago we had a significant snow storm. Were you prepared? I suggest that you Plan, Plan, Plan:

- ▶ You should be informed and learn about the hazards that could impact the community like a wildland fire or blizzard.
- ▶ Have a specific emergency plan in place for you and your family.
- ▶ Have a backup plan to contact your loved ones.
- ▶ Make a list of your specific needs before, during, and after a disaster.
- ▶ Make a list of family, friends, co-workers, and others that can be part of your plan.
- ▶ Make an evacuation plan for your home and work.
- ▶ If dependent on medications and oxygen, be sure to take them with you when required to evacuate. During the blizzard the department helped community members by delivering oxygen. How might a disaster impact your daily routines?
- ▶ If you receive regular home health care services you should make a plan with your service provider.
- ▶ The cell phone may not always work after a disaster. Make sure you plan for not having one.



Hopefully, the day will never come when you personally need Fire and EMS. However, if we all do our part by planning and working together we will be able to deal with a significant disaster when it occurs. Fire & Rescue coordinates with local, state and federal agencies depending on the severity of an incident. We will typically use the reverse 911 system if the community faces a significant hazard requiring evacuation or other community evacuation.

Foothills Fire Protection District 2010 1st Quarter Board Meetings:

Held every third Tuesday of the month,
Mount Vernon Country Club @ 6:30 p.m.

Jan 19th ❖ Feb 16th ❖ March 16th
April 20th ❖ May 18th ❖ June 16th

2009 FIREFIGHTERS OF THE YEAR

Foothills Fire & Rescue Firefighters are recognized for their outstanding achievements, duty to the



Dave Stajcar
Firefighter
of the Year



Jen Sliemers
Officer
of the Year

community, and the department.

**Thanks
for all
your hard
work!**

Don't Fall Through the Ice!

Springtime will be coming soon which means warmer days and melting snow and ice. This is the most dangerous time to be around ponds, lakes, and creeks. The ice may look strong but can break unexpectedly. If you fall through the ice one of the first things to remember is to try not to panic. Breathe deeply and try to get out by pushing yourself up onto the ice and spreading your weight out thus avoiding breaking the ice further. If you are able to get out, stay on your stomach and crawl to shore. If you are unable to get out yell for help, hold onto the ice, and move as little as possible. You actually lose less heat by staying still.

If you are on shore and see someone fall into the water, don't go in after them. Remember, the same thin ice that caused them to fall in can also break under your weight. Get their attention, tell them to hold onto the ice and stay still. Call 911. If they are close to shore you can use something to reach out to them without going on the ice yourself. Use a rope, ski pole, branch, or other item to try to reach them. Tell them to hold on and pull them in. If they are too far out to reach, stay on shore and keep talking to them until help arrives. Keeping their attention is vital to their survival. Firefighters are trained in ice rescue and will use dry suits, specialty rope equipment, and floatation devices to safely pull the victim to safety.





Lightning strikes in Colorado kill an average of one person every year. Two years ago, a hiker in Mathews Winters Park was struck and killed during a dry lightning storm in June.

Did you know that Colorado ranks second in the number of lightning strikes among the fifty states of the United States. Only Florida receives more strikes. Ironic that the highest state and the lowest state hold the number 2 and number 1 spots, respectively.

In the Foothills Fire & Rescue district we have an average of four to ten lightning caused fires every year. In the last five years we have had three fires caused by lightning at single family residences. Wildland fires caused by lightning pose a hazard to our district because they can be in areas that are difficult to access, they may go undetected for a period up to several days, and they may start wildland fires that pose significant threat to many of the residences or other structures in the district. Foothills Fire & Rescue takes a very aggressive stance when it comes to fighting lightning caused fires in the district. By reacting quickly we try to catch the fires while they are relatively small and easy to extinguish.

How can you help the fire department be prepared for a lightning caused fire? Consider putting a lightning rod on your residence to reduce the probability of having your home struck by lightning. If you are home when a lightning storm comes into the area, keep a watch out for strikes near your home and report any strikes by calling 911. Consider installing monitored smoke alarms if you do not already have them so that a fire at your home can be reported to 911 even if you are not at home. Lightning storms can occur during any time of year in Colorado so we all must be alert to the danger at any time.

Be safe out there and avoid being outside during lightning storms if at all possible.



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Lights & Sirens

Pati Stajcar, FFPD Firefighter

I'm noticing a trend. Our neighbors see us going toward the fire station with our Firefighter license plates and safely pull over and let us pass. We leave the station with the fire truck going to a call, and even though we have no lights and sirens on, again, we see many of the people who live in Foothills Fire Protection District pull off the road safely and let us pass. It's happening more and more and we truly appreciate it. We really do try to not use our lights and sirens too much around the neighborhood. We have to use them if there is traffic in our path and at intersections when responding to a call.



Sometimes when we do use them some drivers get excited and don't know what to do. Just to let you know, if an emergency vehicle is behind you with lights and sirens find a place you can safely pull over to let them pass. Sometimes if you're stuck in a lot of traffic and I 70 is like a parking lot, you don't know which lane to pull into.

Look in your rear view mirror to see which side the emergency vehicle is closer to. We may want to pass you on the right since the shoulder of the highway may be our best access so try to safely pull toward the left. You may have noticed I used the word safely many times. Safety is paramount in the fire service, your safety and the emergency personnel responding to the call.

Stay safe and stay well.

2010 Fire Academy Begins

On January 8, 2010 the latest edition of the Foothills/Genesee Fire Academy held its first instructional class. Classes will run through May with many Saturday sessions to train our newest recruits about firefighting, rescues, extrications, hazardous materials, and wildland/urban interface fire dangers. Foothills Fire has eleven recruits and Genesee has five recruits in the class.

Fire Academy is run each year to train new recruits to the two departments. The recruits must master the same material that is taught to new recruits at major fire departments throughout the state. They must pass the state fire exam provided by the Colorado Division of Fire Safety. It is an intensive program that requires a real commitment on the part of the recruits to successfully complete it. Typically, the recruits enjoy the rigors of the class and are excited about the experiences that they can look forward to as recruits and firefighters.



If you should happen by Genesee Fire Dept. station on Currant Drive some Saturday morning between now and May, stop by to observe the recruits in action, and maybe think about volunteering yourself for the next academy.



2010 BOD Elections

On May 4, 2010 there will be an election of two directors for the Board of Directors of the Fire Protection District.

Self nominations forms for the two positions open are available Feb. 3, 2010 and must be submitted by Feb. 26, 2010.

The polling place for the entire district will be the Lookout Community Chapel at 166 S. Lookout Mountain Rd.

Absentee ballots are available from the main fire station at 28812 Rainbow Hills Road prior to April 27, 2010.

We encourage each district elector to get informed about the issues involving the fire department and its Board and to cast your votes come May 4, 2010.



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