

THE FIREFLY

WINTER 2011



Foothills Fire & Rescue
Fire Chief

Brian Zoril

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In This Issue

Message from FFPD Board	2
Firefighters of the Year	2
Community Volunteers	2
Pancake Breakfast Update	2
Two January House Fires	3
Preventing Chimney Fires	3
2011 Fire Academy Begins	4
FFPD Hires New Paid Chief	4
Bright Sparks Kids Pages	In-Sert

Greetings From The Fire Chief

There continue to be many changes within the fire district. We have developed a plan that includes building the partnership between Genesee Fire, Highland Rescue Team, and Foothills Fire & Rescue.

We are currently holding a joint firefighter academy with Foothills, Highland and Genesee to train quality firefighters and expand teamwork that can be utilized on the larger scenes. This is a good way to strengthen the service we provide to our communities as a whole.

The Chiefs of all three departments have re-started regular joint meetings to help identify ways to improve our working relationship. Our focus is seamless operation and team work on incidents large and small. Additionally, we are working with Colorado State Patrol to improve our responses to vehicle crashes.

With the approval of the Board, I have elected to work Wednesday through Sunday. This schedule allows me better interaction with department members and residents alike. It helps to meet our strategic goal of 24/7 on-call coverage.

We now have a responder available every day of the week, during daylight hours. I can train with members on a regular basis, and I have the opportunity to see members and hear directly their needs and concerns. If you ever need to contact me directly, I am available from 10am until 8pm on my cell (303) 900-8675, or at the fire station (303) 526-0707 Ext. #2.

As always, we are looking for dedicated people to join our team. Please feel free to contact any member of the department to discuss membership. We would love to have you join our family!

Wishing you a safe, happy and healthy 2011.

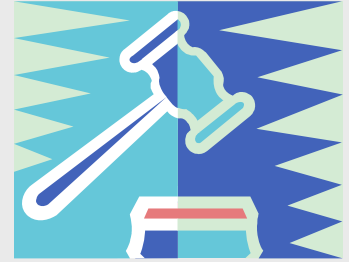
Brian J. Zoril
Fire Chief



Message from FFPD Board President

The District has been very busy these last several months:

- ▶ Hired a new paid, Fire Chief
- ▶ Purchased a new **Rosenbauer** fire engine (delivery expected February 2011)
- ▶ Construction of a new 4-bay garage for trucks and storage space for the Rainbow Hills Fire Station (est. completion in February 2011)



All this was accomplished without raising district taxes. The Board had been required to make some difficult decisions during 2010 to manage the District; decisions made with the community's interest and benefit top of mind. In these tough economic times, you can trust that your tax dollars are at work building better service, better equipment, and better firefighters for the long term.

While other Districts and governments continue to struggle and reduce services, our financial position remains very strong. With tax revenues shrinking our overall budget over the last few years, community participation in the department is even more critical. There are a variety of ways you can participate, such as becoming an auxiliary member, providing auction items for the pancake breakfast, donating your professional skills (such as grant writing), and volunteering as a firefighter.

The Chief and I will be attending many of the homeowner association meetings in the coming year to answer questions and provide information about the fire department. Please contact me at: (303) 594-7055, or my personal email at: zempower@yahoo.com with any questions or concerns.

Patrick Smith

Board President & Firefighter

2010 FIREFIGHTERS OF THE YEAR

Foothills Fire & Rescue Firefighters are recognized for their outstanding achievements, duty to the community, and the department.



Brian Cholez
Firefighter
of the Year



Adam Goldman
Officer
of the Year

**Thanks for
all your
hard work!**

Community Volunteer at Work

Foothills Fire Protection District would like to thank resident **Michael Lagrimanta** for his generous donation of locksmith service. We were having trouble with the main entry door on the Lookout Mountain Station. Mike showed up on a moment's notice and replaced the damaged hardware without any charge. Mike is a former Genesee Fire Department volunteer and has lived in the area since 1975. Thanks Mike!!!

June 5th PANCAKE BREAKFAST SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS

The annual Pancake Breakfast is approaching rapidly and is always held on the first Sunday of June which this year will be **Sunday June 5th, 2011**. The auxiliary coordinates and runs the breakfast with assistance from the firefighters and various community members. If you would like to volunteer to help or to donate auction items this year please coordinate with Chief Zoril at (303)-526-0707 or with Board Rep. Julie Ann Courim at (303) 526-0418 or jcourim@comcast.net.

Each year the auxiliary donates proceeds to the department members or the general fund for necessary equipment, personal gear, or other items deemed appropriate by auxiliary leadership. The auxiliary is instrumental in supporting the fire department as it also helps with rehab at fires for long scenes by providing food and support to firefighters.



**Thanks in advance for your
wonderful donations!**

Two January House Fires

Brian Zoril, FFPD Fire Chief

Foothills Fire & Rescue was asked to respond for mutual aid with Genesee Fire and Highland Rescue Team for a structure fire at 6:14 p.m. on January 2, 2011. Over 30 firefighters from Genesee and Foothills responded, along with two staffed Highland ambulances. The outstanding job of Chief Carlton Babb's Genesee team coupled with Foothills firefighters helped save the home. It was cold, but the training and skill of the teams made for a good outcome for the homeowner. The cause of the fire is under investigation.



Foothills Fire & Rescue responded mutual aid with Genesee Fire Department and Highland Rescue to a confirmed structure at 3:45am on January 24, 2011. Response from Foothills included Heavy Rescue 1, Engine 1, Tender 1 and Utility 3. The fire was quickly controlled and extinguished. Light to moderate snow made operations difficult at times. Despite the difficult conditions, we were able to make an aggressive attack and save the home. Highland Rescue and the Foothills Auxiliary provided rehab for firefighters on scene. The official cause of the fire is under investigation.

Remember, early notification and a quick response give firefighters the best chance to save homes involved in fire and save lives that are threatened. Please be diligent with noticing things out of the ordinary like excessive smoke from chimneys, outlets or switches that are shorting, or appliances that seem to be working improperly. Keeping your property mitigated helps improve your property's chances of survival in the event of a major fire. Remember to keep batteries fresh in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors.



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Preventing Chimney Fires

Craig Moilanen, FFPD Captain

This is the time of year chimney fires become an increasing risk for homeowners. It is very important that you understand your responsibilities as a homeowner to help prevent damage to your home caused by these potentially deadly risks of those simple warm and cozy fires in your fireplace.

Chimneys are designed to insulate your home and release the smoke and toxins into the exterior atmosphere. Over time creosote can build up inside the flu of the chimney creating a tar like substance. Creosote is highly flammable and if proper maintenance is not completed, the increased heat and flame in the chimney can cause a very damaging fire.

Some chimney fires can be extinguished quickly, while others lead to major damage. It is very important that you have your fire place and chimney inspected and cleaned as necessary on a regular basis.

Just as wildland mitigation is important in the summer, don't forget your winter

fire prevention responsibilities to protect your home. Your relaxation by a clean fireplace will make your evenings and relaxation much more enjoyable knowing you have taken the steps to keep your home safe. You can learn more at www.csia.org.

1. Have chimneys inspected and cleaned annually by a qualified professional chimney service technician. This will reduce the risk of fires and carbon monoxide poisonings due to creosote buildup or obstructions in the chimneys.

2. Always use the fireplace screen. This metal screen helps prevent any sparks from leaving the fire box and igniting nearby combustibles.

3. Always keep the hearth area clear of any combustible material. Manufacturers recommend keeping furniture and other combustible materials at least 36 inches away from the fireplace.

4. Never leave the fire unattended. Make sure the fire is completely extinguished before going to bed.

In the foothills we experience heavy winds and the increased air can help reignite and flare up fire that is not fully extinguished.

5. If not already in place, install a chimney cap to keep debris and animals out of your chimney.

6. For the exterior keep tree branches at least 15 feet away from the top of the chimney.

7. When building a fire start by placing the firewood at the rear of the fireplace on a supporting grate. Never use flammable liquids when starting a fire.

8. Use the right fuel when burning firewood in wood stoves or fireplaces, choose well seasoned wood that has been split for a minimum of six months to one year and stored in a covered and elevated location.

9. Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Remember to replace the batteries twice a year and test the devices to ensure they are in working condition.

2011 Fire Academy Begins

Foothills Fire and Rescue and Genesee Fire have been holding combined Fire Academies for a number of years. It has been advantageous for our 2 districts, as we run numerous mutual aid calls with one another. This year, the academy is promising to be very successful for our district. We received over 40 applications for the 2011 fire academy. After interviews, we chose 9 to join our academy. There are 6 recruits from in district, 4 from the Idledale area and 2 from the Lookout Mountain area.

We started our 2011 academy on January 7th and it will run to the end of May. Those recruits who complete the academy will be state certified in Fire fighter I, Hazardous Materials Operations, Wild land S-130/190. We also include a rigorous highway safety course for all those participating in the fire academy. Some of the courses taught in the academy include: Fire behavior, and Personal protective equipment, building construction, ropes/knots, ladders, power tools, search and rescue, rapid intervention team, ventilation, water supplies, fire extinguishers, fire prevention, fire alarms, loss prevention, communication and public education, basic medical, CPR/AED.



Should you find this interesting, please call and I can answer any questions you might have. We always welcome people who are interested in becoming firefighters.

Thank you, and be safe!

Dave Gerald
Captain
Foothills Fire & Rescue

Foothills Hires New Paid Chief

At the December 21, 2010 BOD meeting, the Board of directors established a list of finalists including, but not limited to, recommendations from three separate interview committees consisting of volunteers, paid staff, local Chiefs, and community members. The district received 55 applications from around the United States. The four finalists in alphabetical order included:

- ▶ Hank McCarthy, Jr.
- ▶ Sam Walters
- ▶ Tim Zimmerman
- ▶ Brian Zoril

The District offered and Brian Zoril accepted the position of paid Fire Chief, which began January 5, 2011. Chief Zoril was Foothills' Interim Chief as of August 2010. He brings over thirteen years of volunteer fire experience to the position and is a third generation firefighter in the community.



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