



FREMONT COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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THE DISTRICT

January-February 2012

Volume 5, Issue 1

The Young Man's Dream

Inside this issue:

District Trainer Oakley	2
The Young Man's Dream cont'd	3
The Young Man's Dream cont'd	4

There was a young man who dreamed of becoming a fireman. He dreamed of riding in the shiny red fire truck and helping damsels in distress. His only thought was of doing good and helping those who stood in need or were in harm's way. He dreamed of performing acts of heroism and saving lives.

So one day he went to his local fire department and asked if he could join. He was handed an application and was asked to fill it out and return it for processing. As the young man read the application and the requirements that he would have to fulfill he became dismayed. All of the requirements, all he wanted to do was be a firefighter not a doctor. Feeling somewhat dismayed, he took his application and turned to leave. As he was leaving the fire station questions flowed through his mind. What should he do and why were there so many requirements just to help others.

For several days, the young man pondered the application and what he should do with it. He suddenly remembered the old man who lived down the street he had once been a firefighter. The young man remembered the stories that he used to hear as a child, of the man and his acts of bravery. He remembered hearing of how the old man had fought the evil dragon and helped those in distress on many occasions. It was the old man and those stories that had perhaps inspired the young man about becoming a firefighter and helping others.

So he set out to visit the old man and ask the questions that troubled him. The day arrived and he knocked on the old man's door. An elderly man stooped from age and looking very tired answered the door. He asked the man at the door if the firefighter was at home and the old gentleman answered "Yes, he is here." The young man asked if he could speak with him. The man at the door laughed and invited the young man into his home. The young man explained that he wanted to ask the old firefighter about his days fighting fire and saving lives. The old man continued to smile as he asked the young man to sit down and explained to him that he was that firefighter and he would be happy to visit about his experience. It had been quite some time since anyone had come to his home to visit and he was anxious to have company.

The young man was surprised that this old man could be the fire-fighting hero that he had heard so much about as a child. However, the young man explained to the old firefighter his dilemma. He wanted nothing more in his heart than to be like the old firefighter, he wanted to fight fire and save lives. The old man grinned as he listened to the eager young man's wishes and desires, of his thoughts of saving the day and riding on the shiny fire engine into the sunset. The old man smiled deeply as he remembered the same desires when he too was once a younger man. He remembered his eagerness and desires to help his fellow man. Then his heart turned to the memories of the past and the experiences he had.

After listening to the young man the old firefighter asked him what he really knew of the fire service and what it means to be a firefighter. That young man remarked that you ride around on a shiny red truck and help people when they need it. Again, the old firefighter grinned with a tear in his eye and he asked the young man if he had time to listen to an old man's firefighting stories? The young man sighed and told the old man that he needed to know more about the fire service, while in his heart he contended that this would probably be a waste of a perfectly good day.

Quick Reminders

- **Contact Mary or Cindy for information about the Life Flight program. Remember you must be a member before you need the service!**
- **Remember Mid-Winter Fire School for those who signed up!**

Continued on page 3



Notes form District Trainer Dan Oakley

Hey folks,

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Of the 6 newsletter articles that I write each year this one should be the easiest of all. This is the one where I do a quick review of what happened last year and then pre-view what is on tap for this year. Sounds pretty simple but the truth is most of the time I am unable to remember what I did last week let alone everything that happened throughout the year. However, the one thing I can remember and it is the most important part of the job we do is that “Everyone went Home” after every call.

2011 was another good year in the training division. FCFPD had 10 individuals’ complete state certifications and has 9 others who are working on the practicals and will complete their certifications within the first couple of months of 2012. The district also had numerous individuals complete a large number of NWCG wild-

land courses and obtain a variety of certifications ranging from Wildland Firefighter Type 2 clear up to Incident Commander Type 3. Congratulations to all of the individuals who have completed the various certifications. Keep up the good work.

2012 is already set to be a busy training year, as always we start off with Mid Winter Fire School and have approximately 25 folks attending. We also have scheduled monthly district wide trainings that are open to everyone and will be presented at 7pm on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Wyoming Fire Academy. There is a variety of other trainings scheduled and those can be found on our website: fremontcountyfiredistrict.com. As a reminder, if your Battalion has any specific training that they would like to see, offer or sponsor let me know and I will assist you in any way possible.

I look forward to an outstanding 2012 and appreciate the hard work and dedication

Upcoming Training

- ◆ January 19th Res-Q-Jack Training 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the Wyoming Fire Academy.
- ◆ February 2nd Marathon Oil—Well Control Class at the Wyoming Fire Academy beginning at 8:00 a.m.
- ◆ February 24 –26 S-130/S190 will be held at the Wyoming Fire Academy.

that all of you freely and willingly give to the District, the citizens and the guests of Fremont County.

Be Safe,

Dan



The Young Man's Dream

The old firefighter saw by the look in the young man's eyes; he would need to hold the young man's attention. He began by showing him pictures of great conflagrations and horrendous disasters. He spoke of saving lives from accidents and of acts of heroism by him and his fellow firefighters. The young man was greatly intrigued and wanted to see more and learn more. Suddenly the old firefighter looked into the eyes of the potential young firefighter and then showed him a picture of a still stone monument with a flag flying at half-mast and names etched in stone. The young man was confused, why would the old firefighter show him a monument with plaques with names on it, when he had been enjoying such good stories about acts of heroism and of slaying the dragon?

The old firefighter understood the confusion on the young man's face and his question. As he remarked to the young man, "In the beginning you asked "Why", why so many rules and regulations just to fight fire and to save lives?" The old man went on to explain to the young man that on this monument were the names of men and women that he knew. Men and women who only wanted to help others. Men and women whose families would much rather that their names were not there. Men and women who had died doing the very thing that the young man desired to do.

The old firefighter went on to explain that these men and women were memorialized by a nation that remembers them and their sacrifice. But a nation that also must ask why. He explained that every one of their deaths had been investigated and that each one was not in vain! They had died helping others. And to help understand "Why" all of these tragedies were studied. Through these investigations others lives may be spared.

The old firefighter went on to speak of secret lists and of initiatives. He talked about *Rules of Engagement*, about *Everyone Going Home* and of *Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives*. He spoke of studies and of speakers who taught and trained others on how to be safe and protect others while they went about fighting fires and saving lives. He also spoke of the roles and responsibilities of firefighters and the pillar that firefighters had been placed on in the past and how some had tarnished that pillar and now all were questioned not just the few. He explained the changes that he had seen while in the fire service. How it had gone from the organization that the young man dreamed of to the one now of rules, regulations and requirements.

The old firefighter explained to the young man that changes in the world have driven the changes in the fire service, and that the new rules and regulations are needed to help ensure the continued safety of firefighters in an ever-changing world. He explained how homes and cars are built different. How fire apparatus is bigger and more expensive. He described the changes in firefighter's equipment that have occurred through the years. And how many of these changes have changed the way firefighting is done. With these changes came the need for continued learning and training. Training is a great responsibility that comes upon every firefighter, something that must be done to keep up with the changes and the demands that are placed upon the today's firefighters.

The old man spoke of "specialty firefighting" such as Haz-Mat, confined space, hi-angle, and swift water. He laughed at the time when getting Mrs. Smith's cat out of the tree was a specialty. He told the young man that he understood the need to specialize in certain areas, but he warned against going beyond the basics when they are what will keep you alive. He talked about constraints inflicted upon firefighters wanting or needing to do too much. He explained that doing the basics is what will allow us to fight fires and save lives effectively.

The old man spoke of *Gordon Graham* and *High Risk/Low Frequency* and *Low Risk/High Frequency*. He talked of continual change in the fire service and the need for constant improvement and being trained and competent. He and the young man spoke of many things that day. And the young man began to understand why so much was required of him to become a firefighter.

The young man realized that what he wanted to do involved more than just jumping on the bright red fire engine and then riding off into the sunset when he was done. There would be much for him to do if he wanted to wear the coveted title of firefighter and fill the shoes of the old firefighter. He now understood that he must commit to continual training and a desire to stretch himself to learn everything that he can to protect himself and his fellow firefighters.

Continued on Page 4

A Reminder About Reimbursement Requests

Remember if you incur an expense for which the District should reimburse you; the request for reimbursement should be submitted within thirty days of when the expense is incurred. The only exception is mileage for attendance at Battalion Chief/Training meetings. Those are done annually in January.

Fremont County



Fire Protection District

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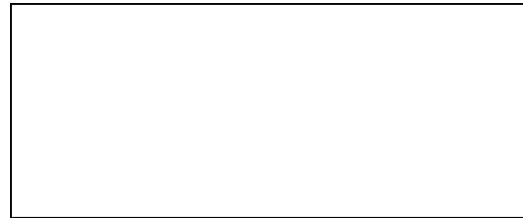
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Mission Statement

The Fremont County Fire District is dedicated to providing the highest quality of fire, emergency and other community related services to the residents and visitors of the district.



We're on the Web at

FremontCountyFireDistrict.com

The Young Man's Dream

He knew that this would be no easy task. Yet it would earn him honor and respect if he would honor and respect the role. He knew that he must remember the things that the old firefighter had taught him. He must remember the past and yet not live in the past. He will need to learn every day, and to apply his learning. The visit had taught him to respect those who have sacrificed so that he could learn from them and to learn from those that have studied the past to improve the future.

He thanked the old firefighter for sharing with him the things that he could use to improve the future. The old firefighter looked into the eyes of the young man and saw the same light in his eyes that he had felt many years ago. He knew that with men such as the one before him seeking to become firefighters that the honor of being a firefighter would continue.

He left the young man with a quote from Winston Churchill,

"To each there comes in their lifetime a special moment when they are figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a very special thing, unique to them and fitted to their talents. What a tragedy if that moment finds them unprepared or unqualified for that which could have been their finest hour."

And the old man challenged the young man to remind his fellow firefighters of the things that he learned that day to always strive to do their best and help those around them. He thanked the young man for the commitment he was about to make.

And THANKS to all of you who continue to do all that you do. I appreciate it and so do your communities.

Written by District Chief Craig Haslam