

FREMONT COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



The District

March-April 2017

District Chief

Last week I sat at the LODD Funeral of Chief Paul W. Murdoch of the Greybull Fire Department and thought back to almost 1 year and a month ago being at Speed's funeral. Here were two men that dedicated their lives to the preservation of life and property and more especially to being firefighters and making sure that their fellow firefighters were safe. At all times. Their lives while very different stories, tragically ended while serving their communities and fellow firefighters.

Moreover, then I flash forward and think about what I have been doing the last month. I have been writing emails and letters, researching information to help get a bill passed in the Wyoming Legislature to provide assistance to firefighters who, Heaven forbid, may come down with an illnesses that can be up to three times more likely to affect firefighters than the general public. Many of you have seen the posts that I had on Facebook about Senate File 89 – Presumptive illness for firefighters. Many of you helped write emails and contacted your senators and representatives to help support the bill, THANK YOU.

Well, unless you have been hiding under a rock you know that this very important piece of legislation has passed both houses of the legislature and is on its way to the Attorney General and then the Governor's desk for signature to become law. A very good day for the fire service in Wyoming indeed.

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**Daylight Savings
Time
begins on
March 12, 2017
Don't forget to
turn your clocks
AHEAD
one hour!**



Congratulations Nick, Ashlee and Austin for winning the Lander Rural SCBA Challenge Competition!

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District Chief

continued

With that though has come some personal contemplation. I am being a hypocrite. Here I have been beating the drums to get a bill passed and I have not done my due diligence for YOU. We still have folks out there who think it is a badge of courage to run around in dirty bunker gear. One of the very things that can lead to cancer in firefighters. Now is the time for a shift in OUR culture. We need to be sure to provide the safest environment possible for you to do your jobs. Let's face it, we love to help others. And that, is probably not going to change, but some of the things that we do, can change and make it a better environment for us to work in. Oh, we are still going to get dirty, and we will still do what it takes to help others. But we can start doing things that will help to not only protect ourselves and our fellow firefighters, but our loved ones at home also.

We have put into motion, steps that will help us to ensure that YOU have clean bunkers to protect yourself from some of the stuff that we do. New SOP's and Policies will be put into place and additional equipment will be purchased in the future as our budget allows to help make our work environment a little safer for us, at least to the point that we can make it. We will never be able to take away all of the dangers that we face or the unknowns that are out there. However, we will do our best to try to improve it the best that we can.

So look for some changes coming in the very near future and as we continue down this path. The studies have shown us steps that we can do to lessen the likelihood of getting some of the ailments that are associated with being a firefighter. There are risks associated with everything that we do, not just as firefighters but also in life generally. The simple things are where we can start. Things like putting on your seatbelt, stopping at red lights, drive the speed limit, put on your gear properly, and wash your gear after every incident that you are in the hot zone. Yeah, you heard me right, WASH YOUR GEAR.

I know it isn't always easy to get your gear to the shop to get it cleaned, but we are going to try to make it as easy as possible. No longer, is it cool to run around in dirty bunker gear, that stuff can kill you! We know it and it is time to do something about it.

As we remember those who have gone on before us, remember what they stood for. They wanted us to be the best firefighters possible and yet to be as safe as possible also. More than once your safety was discussed and what we could do to make it safer.

So let's honor the past, honor Speed and those who have sacrificed, and become a culture that has safety engrained in all that we do, and do all that we can to ensure that "Everyone Goes Home".

Thanks again for all that you do. If you have any thoughts or ideas please let me know. My door is always open, I may not always be there but I am only a call away and you know the number. However, remember, "Caller ID is a great thing". Leave me a message if I do not answer and I will get back with you. We are a "TEAM" and we all need to work together.

Respectfully

Craig



District Trainer

Hey folks,

First and foremost I would like to say job well done. January and February have been pretty busy months for us. With all of the working structure fires we have had, the cold temperatures and the unusually early flooding you have all stepped up and performed flawlessly. Thank you.

Wildland season is quickly approaching. Many of you have already started offering your annual wildland safety refreshers and have pack tests scheduled. Remember, if you need the packs, call in and reserve them. Usually it is not too big of a deal if a couple of battalions need them on the same night. However, we do have a couple of battalions that will require all of them. As far as district wildland trainings go, we have the annual S-130/S-190 scheduled for March 24th – 26th and letters have been sent to those who need it. Remember, in order to get a Red Card you will need to do the annual safety refresher as well as the pack test. Pack test forms are available at headquarters.

Along the same lines it is time to go through your wildland gear and make sure you are not missing anything and that damaged equipment is replaced. Make sure and check your fire shelter for wear and tear as well as an extensive amount of that black graphite looking discoloration that happens over time. Check your Quick attacks and Deuces also. Inventory lists for those trucks are available upon request, finding out things are missing now is better than when you really need them. You will also need to familiarize yourselves with the pumps and other equipment again. Granted, they haven't changed since last fall but a quick refresher never hurts.

This is a busy time of year, with annually required trainings of the district, Buffalo and Cody Fire Schools as well as the courses being offered at the Wyoming Fire Academy your choices and opportunities are plentiful. Please take advantage of them. I haven't received any information about the courses that are being offered at the Buffalo Wildland School or Cody Fire School, but I will get the information out as soon as I do.

Have a great spring, **be safe**, and **be smart**.

I will see you on the fireline.

Dan

Wildland Safety Officer

Human Factor Watch Outs

Watching out for yourself, coworkers, subordinates and your boss is a primary responsibility for everyone involved in high risk activities. Watch outs are not just for the tactical environment. The Human Factor Watch Outs are designed to create an opportunity for you to take a tactical pause and re-evaluate your situation.

If any of the following occur:

- Your briefing was unclear.
- You don't remember what took place in the last hour.
- You are not getting answers to your questions.
- You are not getting clear acknowledgement of your message.
- You are encountering hazards that are not mentioned in your brief.
- Your team is not debriefing.
- Your tempo is too high to maintain command and control.
- Your leaders intent is vague.
- Your supervisor's expectation is unrealistic.
- Take moment to re-assess your situation. Think.

Rocky



Announcements

S130/S190- March 24, 25, & 26th at WFA

FF1 Practical's - April 22 & 23rd at WFA

Cody Fire School - April 28 & 29th

Contact Headquarters for Details.

Contact Us

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The District

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