



FREMONT COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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THE DISTRICT

May-June 2011

Volume 4, Issue 3

What Part of "FIRE" in Fire Department Don't You Understand?

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It seems that ever increasingly we as firefighters are being required to put on more and more hats to protect those who live within our response areas. Now I'm not saying that it is necessarily a wrong thing. I'm just saying that we are being pulled in more directions at times than we can always cover. Especially if you consider that a lot of our fellow firefighters often are wearing more than one hat and the other hats, whether in their paying job or in other emergency services, are sometimes called to duty at the same time and there are choices that must be made. Do I drive to the fire hall, the ambulance station, search and rescue, Red Cross, or? Do I report to the office or do I volunteer to help my community?

Back in the Day it seemed a lot easier! Not so many specialty incidents and we fought fire, that is what we did- put the wet stuff on the red stuff. Or was it? I remember as a young firefighter filling sand bags, being an EMT and searching for lost folks in the mountains as well as fighting fires. Maybe we are just busier due to the growth of our communities and the demand for help from the folks living here. Or are we just being required to do more things to cover our actions and protect ourselves?

Well no matter what the reason, we are busier now and have more things to cover per incident than in years past. It seems to me that by trying to divide up the pie and add more emergency services we are merely stretching our already thin resources even thinner. Let's face it there are only so many people that will volunteer in their communities to help out their neighbors. Then you add in standards, requirements, and protocols.... WOW!!

So what do we do?? Do we throw our hands in the air and walk away or do we roll our sleeves up and take care of the situation as it presents itself??

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Important Reminders:

- Have you completed your Pac Test? Is your red card ready?
- Headquarters still has a supply of Smoke Alarms. Please let us know if someone in your community needs one!

The District

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Notes form District Trainer Oakley

Hey folks,

Well, we are finally starting to get some fire activity. Over the last couple of weeks the pager is starting to come alive on a more regular basis. I want to take this opportunity to just hit on a couple of safety items that we all need to keep in mind.

We always talk about the 10 Fire Orders and the 18 Watch Out situations. We put a lot of emphasis on good pre attack briefings, size ups, LCES (Lookouts, Communications, Escape routes and Safety zones) and after action reviews. We also talk about the Common Denominators of tragedy fires. But, do we really take those 4 common denominators to heart when we are

1. On relatively small fires or deceptively quiet areas of large fires
2. In relatively light fuels, such as grass, herbs and light brush
3. When there is an unexpected shift in wind direction or wind speed
4. When fire responds to topographic conditions and runs up hill

All of these are important Situational Awareness reminders. The ones that concern us the most, this early in the season, are #2 and #3. Due to the heavy loading of light flashy fuels that have accumulated over the last couple of years, the fire behavior and rate of spread we are starting to see, border on extreme. These fuels are easy to ignite and can quickly grow out of control. Add to that the winds we have been experiencing and you have a recipe for potential disaster. This year we have already had a 56 acre grass/brush fire.

I know many of you have been keeping an eye on what is happening in Texas and are aware of the fact that a couple of volunteer firefighters lost their lives. There will be an investigation, fingers will be pointed and accusations will be made. None of that will change what happened and most likely will not make a significant impact on how operations will continue to be handled.



We as line firefighters need to make a commitment to ourselves and our fellow firefighters that safety is the top priority and **“everybody goes home”** is the only option.

BE SAFE,

Dan



Craig's message

continued from page 1. . .

I know most of you well enough to know that when the pager goes off and the hard work hits I can find you standing knee deep in whatever; getting things done. That is who you are. You love your communities and care deeply about protecting them.

So now what? It looks like we have a very significant possibility of flooding in Fremont County again; more on the Big Wind River side versus the Popo Agie, and the Little Wind is still up for debate. With the warmer weather we are already chasing grass fires. Structure fires and motor vehicle accidents (10-50s for those of you who are still struggling with the change to clear text) are always there. The best thing that we can do is prepare for the worst and pray for the best. Mother Nature holds the key to most of the incidents that we respond to and tends to control a lot of them once the human factor gets them going.

WELL?? Train... We need to be training. Preplanning... Another requirement is to be ready when the big incident happens, whatever it is. Readiness... Is everything and everyone ready to go when the pager goes off no matter what the incident is?? When is the last time you did a walk around on one of the engines and also around your bunker gear and other PPE? The gear and equipment will do you no good if you are not familiar with it and how it works. On the job training during an emergency is not the time to become familiar with your apparatus or gear.

Folks, the "Fire" in Fire Department means many things to many people and it is what we do! When someone dials 911 they are not looking for a description of what we do, they want someone to help. And because helping others is what we do, we will continue to do it. We train in Incident Command so that when we get on scene we can look at the situation, get the help we need even if we don't necessarily understand everything that is happening, and manage the incident. This is what we do, and we do it well.



Dan, Craig, Commissioners Downey and Campbell are pictured with one of the new trucks that will be arriving in Fremont County soon. Commissioner Steers also accompanied the group to Florida to inspect the trucks. All of the new apparatus should be in Wyoming in a matter of weeks.

Fremont County



Fire Protection District

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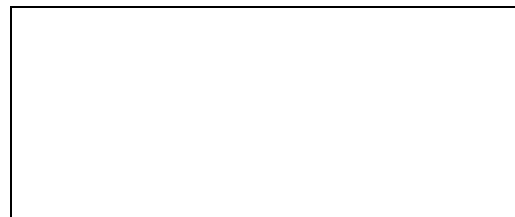
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Mission Statement

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



Did you know the name of the famous fire prevention bear is "Smokey Bear" not "Smokey the Bear"?

Smokey Bear was created in 1947 as the mascot for the well known advertising campaign of the US Forest Service "**Remember Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires.**"

A little bear cub became the living symbol of Smokey Bear in 1950 when he was caught in a wildfire known as the Capitan Gap Fire. Capitan Gap burned 17,000 acres of Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico. The little bear

Smokey Bear

cub had climbed a tree to avoid the flames, but his little paws and hind legs were burned. After the fire had passed, a group of soldiers who had come from Fort Bliss in Texas to help fight the blaze found the bear cub and rescued him. The little cub was treated for his wounds and eventually found a permanent home in the National Zoo in Washington D.C.

By the time he was flown to the National Zoo he had achieved national recognition

as the official Smokey Bear. He lived in the National Zoo for 26 years until his death on November 9, 1976. Smokey's remains were returned to New Mexico and are buried at what is now the Smokey Bear Historical Park. The plaque at his grave site reads "This is the resting place of the first living Smokey Bear. In 1950 when Smokey was a tiny cub, wild-fire burned his forest home in the nearby Capitan Mountains of the Lincoln National Forest..."