



## FREMONT COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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# THE DISTRICT

September-October 2011

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## Craig's message

Hello Everyone,

Well, it is that time of year again when the weather starts to get a little bit cooler, the kids are back in school, and I have no idea what to write for an article for the newsletter. I have heard of writers block before but this is ridiculous.

For those of you who sat down and visited with me recently, you can relate to the struggle that I am having. When everything looks so important and needs to be emphasized to our volunteers, where do I start? Do I talk about the good things that the District is doing out there; with the new trucks, new buildings that are coming up in North Portal and Midvale, or the influx of new applications that we have been having lately? Do I talk about the need to be more safety minded- to look out for our brother and sister firefighters? Maybe I should discuss safety while working on the highways and other incidents.

I could discuss all of the additional PPE that we are getting out to the Battalions. Like the new Department of Transportation's reflective vests for every member or the PFDs (personal flotation devices) that were purchased to place around the District for use during any type of incident near the water. Or how about the individual SCBA (if you don't know that one you better do some FFI studying) masks and the fit testing that goes along with it. What about discussing driver, personal, and crew situational awareness.

How about discussing all of our new vehicles and driver training? After all, most of our vehicles cost well over \$100,000 and the new engines and tankers came in at well over \$200,000. Let's talk about treating them like we are responsible for them and anything that we do to them!! Treat them like you would your most prized possession, they are and could be the one thing that makes the difference between life and death for us and our neighbors. In reality, we are the ones that pay for these pieces of equipment in a roundabout way.

I could tell you about all of the Union Cellular Towers that are popping up on District property, and how the additional cell service will not only provide better service in the remote areas of the county for our constituents, but also better service for the safety of our firefighters and enhance our communications capabilities.

Continued on page 4

### Quick Reminders

- **District Annual Picnic Co-hosted by Pavillion Battalion 7 and the District . September 24 11:00 am to 2 pm. See insert!**
- **Sunday September 11 there will be a Remembrance Service at the Veterans Memorial in Lander. See insert !**
- **Fire Prevention Week is October 10th through 14th. If you are new to the District or want a new picture in the newspaper please call HQ. today!!!**



## Notes form District Trainer Dan Oakley

Hey folks,

It is amazing how the summer months just seem to vanish. We spend all spring training and preparing for the “big fire season” and it never seems to arrive. The last couple of weeks has been a little busy and has provided indicators that maybe the worst is yet to come.

The Norton Point fire above Dubois has been burning since June 22<sup>nd</sup> and continues to slowly eat up more and more ground. A fire in the Badwater area (Lysite) burned up about 300 acres and an 800 acre fire threatened structures in the Upper Warm Springs subdivision (Dubois). There was also a quarter acre lightning strike fire started on the mountain face above Ft. Washakie (BIA). Currently, there is a small 10 acre fire burning in the Pine Creek area on south pass.

We have provided support to all of these incidents with manpower and equipment. The Fremont County Fire District and the volunteer fire service have always been about “neighbors helping neighbors”

and the last few weeks have once again proven that to be true.

Historically, our fire season really kicks off in late August and goes into October. This is also the time of year when our federal partners no longer have their seasonal firefighters and are extremely short-handed. This is when we need to be at the top of our game. The chance that we, as a district, may be the first on scene is almost guaranteed.

How you, as the Incident Commander, handle the initial attack will set the operational foundation for the rest of the incident. Scene Size Up, Firefighter Safety, completion of an Incident Complexity Analysis and the Strategies and Tactics for a successful fire attack is all part of your responsibility. Do you remember where to locate all of these checklists and recommended guidelines? When, was the last time you or your battalion as a group busted out the IRPG or Fireline Handbook and reviewed them?

With the warm temperatures and what seems to be daily

### Upcoming Training

- Remember September 16, 17 & 18 – There will be S-130/S-190 taught at WFA Contact HQ and sign-up.
- Battalion Chiefs: Contact Deputy Chief Oakley with any special training requests you have.

afternoon storms the potential for fast moving and rapidly growing fires increases. I know we all have busy schedules but at your next Battalion meeting take a few minutes and review SOP’s 402.1 and 402.2 as well as the IRPG with special attention being given to the 10 Fire Orders, the 18 Watch Out Situations and LCES.

You are our greatest asset and your safety is our #1 priority.

Be Safe  
Dan



## Around the District



The seven new Pierce trucks are here.



The District paraded all twenty of our Pierce Units up to the top of Red Canyon for this beautiful picture.



Kelly Gardner, Paul Downey and Speed Hartbank accept the Devon Energy charitable contribution from Devon Energy officials.



District personnel enjoyed a beautiful sunny morning in June atop Red Canyon.

### Thank-you Devon Energy!

The District would like to thank Devon Energy for their recent generous donation to Battalions 1, 4 and 10. Charitable contributions are available for the Battalion to spend on training, membership retention and new member recruitment activities. When a Battalion decides how they would like to spend their money they only have to clear it with the District Chief

*Fremont County*



*Fire Protection District*

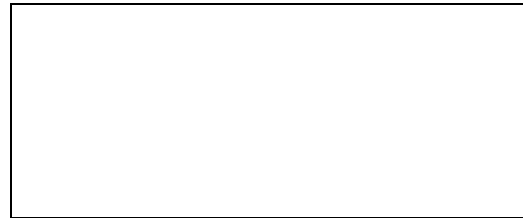
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Mission Statement

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.



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We're on the Web at

[FremontCountyFireDistrict.com](http://FremontCountyFireDistrict.com)

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## **District Chiefs Message Continued**

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We could also discuss the need for more volunteers in all of our Battalions, and the infusion of some younger blood to strengthen our forces. What can we do to bring people in, even though our force has dropped a little in our regular firefighters it remains at about our historical average? It is just that some areas have dropped while others seem to be picking up. What is the answer??

While each of these topics could take up an entire newsletter, maybe it is best that I just brush across each of them. Many of you probably don't take the time to read this entire newsletter, not because you are not interested, but because like all of us you are struggling to balance between all of the priorities in your life. We have to find the time to accomplish all of the things that life demands.

So I will just take a minute of your time to tell you how much I appreciate all that you do, and the sacrifices that you make in order to train, attend meetings and community functions, and to respond to incidents. Having grown up with a father that was a firefighter and an EMT, I understand the missed time from home and the sacrifice that a family makes to help out their community. Having been a volunteer for most of my 30 years as a firefighter I have a true appreciation for all that each and every one of you do and the value that it provides for the members of our communities and the entire county (as witnessed by our response to Dubois last week). My thoughts and prayers are with each and every one of you every day as we continue to help those who stand in need no matter the time of day or night. Thanks to you once again.