



## FREMONT COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

305 S. Smith Rd. • Riverton, Wyoming 82501  
Telephone: (307) 857-3030 • Fax: (307) 856-2648

# The District

September-October 2010

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## From the Desk of Chief Craig Haslam

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Talking with my son and daughter the other night and discussing what they are doing now that school is back in session and they are participating in sports again. We were talking about them learning new things, brushing up on things that they have done in the past, and the big one getting in shape for the season. It was great to hear that they were enjoying what they were doing and look forward to what the new season might bring. Their optimism, for a new season-winning some games and being able to participate, was encouraging.

This started me reminiscing about the good old days and what it would be like to be back in school doing the things that I enjoyed. Then I got to thinking about what it required to participate in sports or anything else for that matter. The wind sprints, three man rolls, man in the middle, and whatever cruel and unusual punishment that the coach could come up with to get us, at least in his mind, to be prepared for the next game. Why did we continue to subject ourselves to the punishment that was required to participate in something that in a few years would probably mean nothing to most of us? Who was benefitting, WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE? Wow, too much to think about and not enough time! More questions than answers began to surface. No one was requiring me to participate, why was I doing it?? It didn't make much sense that I would put myself through such pain and anguish for short term gratification.

Well we all know that there are many reasons that we do the things we do, there are many driving forces in the world. Without these driving forces, we would just be a bunch of robots marching back and forth from one menial task to the next. By nature, most of us feel a need to be of use not only to ourselves but to our fellow man too. Why did I play football in High School, why do I continue to do things that do not show any immediate signs of being significant to me? There was/is a desire to belong - to be part of the team, the synergy that comes from being part of something that is bigger than us; and the hope and faith that the things that we do are truly of worth. Our perception of what we gain outweighs our perception of what it takes to be part of something.

### Important Reminder:

Remember Fire Prevention Week is October 4th through the 8th.

If you will be needing supplies contact Mike Adams right away! 307-349-1223.

If you want an updated photo in the newspaper contact Mary or Cindy at Headquarters.

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## Notes form District Trainer Oakley

Hey folks,

Well, summer is all but over and fall is definitely in the air. I hope that everyone had a chance to enjoy what little summer weather we had. With the flood wiping out the month of June, continually changing weather in July and the miserable heat and wind in August there sure didn't seem like there was much to enjoy. Oh well, football has started and hunting season is just around the corner. Things are looking up already.

Ok, enough chit chat, time to get down to business. Having been a battalion level Training Officer, a Battalion Chief and currently a District Officer I can tell you that the Battalion level Training Officer is the hardest job of all. As all of you know time is valuable and with all the activities that go on in the fall it gets even

more difficult for the training officers to do their jobs. Your training officers do their best to provide you with adequate and pertinent training year round. They also try to make trainings fun and informational to all levels of experience, which, by the way truly borders on the impossible. Here are some ideas that are great for the fall season:

Extrication: When was the last time you actually used your extrication tools? What about the lift bags cribbing and Res-Q Jacks?

Live Fire (burn building): Evening and night burns are excellent for learning fire behavior, accountability and ICS.

Search and Rescue: SCBA training without the black bag over your head and in an unfamiliar location.

Forcible Entry and Ventilation: Ladders, saws and power tools, what else could you ask for?

### Upcoming

### Training

- ◆ Sept 25 Live Fire Training – WFA – (burn building) Beginning at 9:00 AM
- ◆ October 23 S 131 – WFA Time TBA
- ◆ Coming up:
- ◆ November 20 – CPR Training— Time and place to be announced

All of these trainings are centrally located (WFA), hands on, outside and with the equipment and apparatus that you are going to use.

Training Officers, if you or your battalion is interested in any of the above trainings please contact me at Headquarters 857-3030

Have a great fall season and be safe,

Be Safe,

Dan



## From the Desk Craig Haslam continued from page 1

What is significant is not the same for any of us. Each of us must find for ourselves what we want to gain or do; and what we are willing to do to get to that point or situation in our lives. We must all decide for ourselves, even though sometimes driven by outside influences, what we want and/or where we want to be. I think for the most part, I am preaching to the choir. The majority of us made a decision a long time ago that we wanted to be part of something that would help out our friends, neighbors, and our communities.

We chose to be part of an organization that provides an essential service that we can participate in and that we can be proud of. And like our favorite hobby or back to our sports days – we have to practice, train, and educate ourselves to be good at whatever it is that we want to do.

Unfortunately, firefighting is a vocation that is very dangerous. We must commit to continuing education and training. We must choose to do what is necessary to be ready when called upon. So why don't we just learn from each experience that

we have to prepare for the next one?? Why did we practice for sports or other things that we wanted to do? Why do we train and certify for firefighting?

We all have a unique human instinct to survive! A couple of quotes to stress this point are:

***“Experience is the worst teacher; it gives the test before presenting the lesson.”***-Vernon Law.

***“Good judgment comes from experience, often, experience comes from bad judgment.”***-Rita Mae Brown.

We must learn from the experiences of others to prevent putting ourselves in harm's way and stay out of the school of hard knocks.

I know that I keep belaboring training and certification, but I will continue to do so until we all get it. There is no end to training and certification and there won't be as long as there are still fires and we choose to help our friends, neighbors, and communities. Again, most of you get it and continue to train and prepare for the times when you are called upon to help, unfortunately there are still some

out there who think that they have been there, done that, and know all that they need to know. This mentality is as dangerous to those in the fire service as it is to the quarterback who decides that he is the team and doesn't need anyone else to score a touchdown. Hopefully, those in fire service won't get the same awakening as the quarterback got when the offensive line, tired of being told they weren't needed, told the opposing line that they could just go by and cream the quarterback.

We must all train and learn together, work together, and by doing so become a team. Each team needs leaders and people who will step up and take the leadership roles. Training and certification will take us to this point. I commend those of you who continue to train and learn about fire and the fire service, it is your dedication that keeps you and your fellow firefighters safe. Thanks to all of you for your continued dedication to the fire service and to the patrons of the Fremont County Fire District.

*Fremont County*



*Fire Protection District*

305 South Smith Road  
Riverton, WY 82501

Phone 307-857-3030

FAX 307-856-2348

E-mail: [FremontFireHQ@wyoming.com](mailto:FremontFireHQ@wyoming.com)

#### Mission Statement

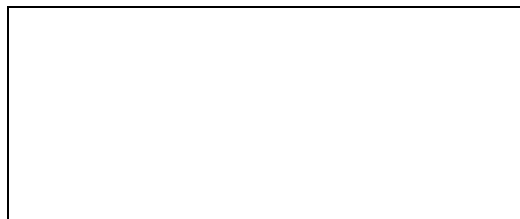
The Fremont County Fire District is dedicated to providing the highest quality of fire, emergency and other community related services to the residents and visitors of the district.

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We're on the Web at

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

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## Old Glory

General George Washington used as the Continental Army Flag in 1776 a flag consisting of red and white stripes. Historians believe Frances Hopkinson, one of the signors of the Declaration of Independence, played a major role in re-designing the Continental Army Flag into

the stars and stripes design used for the first official flag of the United States.

On June 14, 1777, the day still observed as Flag Day today, Congress established the first official flag of our Country. This is the flag design which Betsy Ross was commissioned to sew. It is believed that Betsy Ross changed the stars to five pointed stars instead of six points because five pointed stars are easier to sew than six pointed ones. In establishing the flag as the official flag of the United States Congress said "That the Flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate

red and white, that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field representing a new constellation."

George Washington described the flag by saying "We take the stars from Heaven, the red from our mother country (England), separating it by white stripes, thus showing that we are separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing liberty."

The reason for folding the U.S. flag into a triangle is that the three corners represent the shape of the hats worn by the Revolutionary Soldiers.