

# FREMONT COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



The District

September-October 2015

## District Chief's Message

Hello Again

We have all seen the posters etc. that simply state, "Everything that I needed to know in Life I should have learned in Kindergarten." Or at least something along those lines. I usually try to be pretty upbeat and positive with my newsletters, but seems like a lot of things lately have been really bothering me. I don't know if it is merely the current events in my life or I'm just getting cynical. At the end of last fiscal year Fremont County Fire Protection District had a net asset value of almost \$15,000,000. That is money that has been spent on buildings, improvements, apparatus, equipment, firefighter PPE, and maintenance. It takes a lot of work and effort to maintain the type of buildings, infrastructure, apparatus, and equipment that we now have. There was a time when I said that I would put any firefighter of FCFPD against the best from anywhere else, unfortunately now I would have to hand pick those that I would put up as examples of the District. Oh don't look so shocked. I know that I am not the only one that has noticed it on the fire ground, grow up. It is pretty amazing that the district spends thousands of dollars every year to buy you the best equipment out there and you would rather use it inappropriately or not use it at all. Everyone out there just had to have extrication gloves, have you looked at them or do you understand what they are supposed to be used for? I think the name is pretty self-explanatory.

Continued Page 2

*"Teasing my brother about his career (fire fighter) I asked:*

*"What kind of crazy person runs into a fire?"*

*His reply:*

***"One that is well-trained!"***



## In This Issue

- Craig's Message continued
- Craig's Message continued
- Dan's Message
- Upcoming Events

# District Chief

continued

**E-X-T-R-I-C-A-T-I-O-N**, I know that most of you are at least **Firefighter I** certified and probably have taken an extrication class at some point, and I know your Battalion Chief has been told at least once that these are not to be worn for anything but extrication. Even my 3 year old granddaughter is cognizant enough to know that you don't put plastic on your hand and play with fire. Do the words shrink wrap mean anything to anyone out there, if you don't believe me check the materials that they are made of. Kind of like the imaginary sleeves that are on your t-shirt protect your arms from being burnt because you don't understand that you should wear your nomex shirt when fighting wildland fires.

I pray that while you are willfully ignoring all S.O.P.s and common sense that you are not hurt, injured or heaven forbid even worse. Did you know that each application for workers compensation is returned to us asking if we agree with the claim and that there is a place to check off – disregarded safety or refused to use safety equipment properly?

For crying out loud if you won't do it for yourself do it for your family or loved ones. Kind of like wearing a seat belt, how many people have you helped pick up out of the barrow pit because they were thrown from a car by not wearing a seat belt? Looks pretty bad when we pull up on scene and jump out of our apparatus without having to unclip our seat belts and then cuss someone for not wearing theirs. And how many times have we had to kick the beer cans off the road or out of the way as we are extricating people out of vehicles and cussed them?

Once again ladies and gentlemen I am no doubt preaching to the choir. Those of you who are truly dedicated to what we do understand that what we do is dangerous and that we need to take every precaution possible to make it safer. We will never make this job 100% safe, but we need to make sure that we do things to make it as safe as possible. We need to change "OUR" culture to a culture of safety. I am not proud to admit that I have done stupid stuff and got away with it, because that is how bad things can happen. We need to make sure that we are following the rules and that those around us are following them. **We are all Safety Officers**, if you see someone doing something wrong, do something about it. I will admit that I have looked the other way once in a while because I know that some of you out there will do nothing but mock the situation and turn your bad habits into me or someone else into being the bad guy. I won't call out names but you know who you or they are and we need to change for the good of us all.

So what are my options? Do I become the Safety Cop on the fire ground and start making you feel as bad as you are behaving or do I rely on each and every one of you to start policing each other and stopping the bad habits that seem to be getting worse? Do I punish everyone because of the few? It would be real easy to go around to each fire hall and remove all of the extrication gloves and then I wouldn't have to worry about someone getting hurt because they refuse to do the right thing. But I would rather use my time and energy to do something that is truly more beneficial for everyone, because I would have to visit all 15 stations in the District, that's right you all have people doing it. Once again wipe that shocked look off of your face — it does not work.

## District Chief

## conclusion

Wouldn't it just be easier to work together, listen to the positive criticism, train like your life depends on it, and help each other do what is right and safe? We are all adults here, maybe we should act like it and respect not only our safety and those around us, but the safety of those who we have offered to help. We do a great job stopping what we are doing when the pager goes off and helping those in need. Our love for our fellow man is impressive to say the least, so why don't we show the same regard for our own safety?

For those of you who are doing the right thing and keeping us on the right path, Thank You. I appreciate it immensely. I know that most of you are doing what is right and are excellent firemen who love to help your neighbors and communities, and yes I would put you up against anyone. For those who think it is cute or funny to mock safety, maybe it wouldn't be a bad idea to snap a few pictures and send them to you family and see what they think of your disregard for safety. Because after all isn't it about "Everyone Going Home", that is my wish for each of you! Thanks for all that you do and **be safe out there!**

Craig

## District Trainer

Hey folks,

Another summer come and gone, Time flies when you are having fun. Even though the heat of July and August are passed and we really have not had any significant fire activity stay vigilant and prepared because September and October are still prime fire season.

We have recently seen a little spike in new recruits and applicants here at the office, this is a good thing. However, it does have its drawbacks. Most notably the fact that you, the experienced and senior firefighters within this district actually have to step up and do things right. As Chief Haslam has so directly stated in his portion of this newsletter, the blatant disregard for personal safety has got to stop. You are not only responsible for your own well-being but also the well-being of those who serve with you. How can we expect the new members to wear and use the proper PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) that we provide to them when, YOU their primary example WON'T. As Chief Haslam has eluded to, no one wants to be the A\*\*hole Safety Nazi, but hey, if that's what you want, that's what you are going to get! To the majority of you who are doing it right, THANK YOU. For those who think that this is BS here's a news flash: YOU are the problem. Enough said.

I know that this newsletter is a complete reversal of what you are used to reading from us and that we usually do what we can to be upbeat and positive about life in general and especially life within this amazing fire district. Unfortunately, sometimes we have to burst the happy bubble and get real. It is not what we like to do, but occasionally it needs to be done. The reality of what we do and one common primary responsibility that Craig, Speed and I have is to make sure that you go home to your family safe and unharmed. As hard as we try to make sure that happens, we are dependent upon you to not only make sure that you are utilizing the proper PPE but that your brothers and sisters are as well.

**If you have it use it, if you need it, ask for it.**

Dan

## Upcoming Events

Wheatland Fire School September 17 thru 20  
Contact Dan

Fire Prevention Week October 4 thru 10  
Contact Cindy

# Happy Halloween

and

# Safe Hunting

## Contact Us

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The District

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