



the Sunshine fire protection district newsletter

June 01
Vol. 01 Iss. 2



Prevention Information from our Fire Marshal

What is a fire protection district? To many of Sunshine's residents, the Sunshine Fire Protection District (SF-PD) is synonymous with 'the fire department', the cinderblock and wood structure at 311 County Road 83. The SFPD is a special tax district whose operating funds are generated from a levy on District property value. An important function of the Sunshine Fire Department is to respond to emergency requests for aid, usually through a call to 911. Sunshine firefighters and emergency medical service (EMS) personnel (i.e., your friends and neighbors) respond to a variety of medical emergencies, smoke reports, actual fires and vehicle accidents. We respond day and night. We have even helped to rescue a dog from a mineshaft (no cat in a tree, yet, as far as I know).

However, another function of ours is

embodied in our official name: the Sunshine Fire *Protection* District. We are here to help prevent injury and the loss of life and property. As a member of the fire department, I respond to fire and medical emergencies. As Fire Marshal, I have an additional commitment to help make the District a safer place to live, work and play.


Some of the District's activities to prevent or mitigate injury and the loss of life and property are evident, such as the new 30,000-gallon cistern at 7000 Sunshine Canyon. The mill-levy question on the November, 2000, ballot, which was successfully, and overwhelmingly, passed, will enable us to upgrade our fire apparatus for more effective fire suppression. Other activities are less obvious. For example, as Fire Marshal, I review site plans to ensure that new dwellings and roads conform to the Boulder County Land

Use Code. I have also begun work on developing a fire code that we as a District can adopt.

Most importantly, as a community-centered fire district, we are here to help you prevent fire and accidents. While civilian fire deaths continue to decline, there is much that we can do to make things safer. Over 2/3 of civilian fire deaths occur in private dwellings (other categories include

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Calendar of events

Firefighter trainings and meetings:

Held at fire station on Saturday mornings from 0900-1200, unless otherwise noted.

Jul 7, Sat, 0900-1200 – Advanced Quick Attack (with porta-pond)

Jul 12, Thurs, 1930-2130 – Officer Meeting

Aug 4, Sat, 0900-1200 – Long Hose Lay

Sep 1, Sat, 0900-1200 – Topic to be determined

Sep 13, Thurs, 1900-2100 – SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus)

Oct 6, Sat, 0900-1500 – Structure Fire Training at Boulder Regional Fire Training Center

Nov 3, Sat, 0900-1200 – Hazardous Materials Training

Nov 8, Thurs, 1930-2130 – Officer meeting

Dec 1, Sat, 0900-1200 – Incident Command/Communications (ICS, radios, pagers)

Medical trainings:

Jul 18, Weds, 1930-2130 – Gold Hill Fire Barn

Aug 9, Thurs, 1930-2130 – 4-Mile Medical Training

Sep 19, Weds, 1930-2130 – Gold Hill Fire Barn

Oct 11, Thurs, 1930-2130 – 4-Mile Medical Training

Nov 21, Weds, 1930-2130 – Gold Hill Fire Barn

Board meetings:

Second Tuesday of every month, 7:30 pm, fire station, all community members are welcome

Jul 10, Aug 14, Sep 10, Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec 11

Special Events:

Jun 27, Weds, 1900 – Schoolhouse and Cemetery Association meeting to discuss special projects

Jul 20, Fri, 1830 – Sunshine Potluck at Schoolhouse

Sep 8, Sat, 1400-1800 – Community Fest at Station house

Sep 29-30, Sat & Sun, 1000-1600 – Annual Sunshine Arts and Craft Fair at Schoolhouse

Since the training schedule is subject to change, please call Assistant Chief John Metzger at 303-440-1921 to confirm.

Current board

Rich Landen, Chairperson

Bill Bender, Treasurer

Kimberly Neill, Secretary

Nancy Talmey, Member

Jay Schumacher, Member

David Wheeler, Member

Eric Bader, Fire Chief

John Metzger, Asst. Fire Chief

Bruce Honeyman, Fire Marshal

Board meetings are at 7:30 pm on the second Tuesday of every month at the fire station.



Contact information

Eric Bader, Fire Chief

Home ph. 440-8123

Work ph. 444-8420

Pager 441-3851 #4561

SFPD-Chief@egroups.com

John Metzger, Asst Chief

Home ph. 440-1921

Work ph. 786-7000

Pager 441-3851 #4562

john@metzger.com

Bruce Honeyman, Fire Marshal

ph. 303-786-7731

SFPD-FireMarshal@egroups.com

Boulder County Pilot Project to Support Community Mitigation Programs

Boulder County is interested in initiating neighborhood wide wildfire mitigation programs in mountain communities. Our Sunshine community could be the first. Possible scenarios range from helping individuals share resources to, for example, chip dead trees, to community wide efforts such as creating firebreaks in strategic spots to help the entire region. The first steps will likely involve assessment of attitudes toward community vs. individual needs, and education efforts regarding sustainable forest health as it relates to wildfire mitigation. Individuals interested in being a part of this unique pilot project should contact Kimberly Neill at 303-444-7141.

Chief's Message

Swimming Pools

Are you planning on putting in a swimming pool? We have had several pools going in this past year. Two new pool owners have agreed to install a fire department connection that will allow the fire department to use the pool water for fire suppression. That makes around 20,000 gallons available as a water source and the water works great as a pool as well. If you are planning on putting in a pool, please contact Eric Bader to discuss the possibility of a fire department connection. It might save your house or life some day. It might also be tax deductible.

Smoke Reports

I see smoke over there, should I call it in as a fire? What will I say when I call it in? What is the difference between road dust, chimney smoke and a real fire? When in doubt, please call 911 and report the smoke to the best of your ability.

Try to give the best location that you can of the smoke. If we know where you are and what direction you are looking, this will help us to find it. Is it on a hillside, behind a ridge, in a valley and can you see flames? Please stay where you are when you call in the

smoke report. Whenever we are out looking to find the source of a smoke report, we will be contacting the person that called it in to help us locate the smoke.

Chimney smoke is white and rises in a thin column of smoke. Right after a rain, we often have people starting the fires in their house with wet wood that will show more smoke. House fires and wild land fires usually will have some darker smoke mixed in with the lighter smoke and most likely will not be the thin narrow smoke column that a chimney puts up. Road dust will also be light colored and will cover a much larger area. Unlike road dust, any fire that covers a larger area will have some darker smoke mixed in.

Should you go looking for the fire? When you call 911, the fire department responds. The fire department members are your neighbors who will drop what they are doing and respond to the fire call. Running false alarms will happen and we would like to keep the false alarms to a minimum. If you do not think that the smoke is a fire that should

drive to where the smoke is coming from. Once you find the source of the smoke, you can call it in or go back home to forget about it. This will give you peace of mind to know that there wasn't a house fire that you failed to call in. Please do not hike into the woods looking for fire unless you have the proper training and gear. Your car on our roads will most likely be able to get you away from a fire that is just a smoke report.

Please keep an eye on your district. We need everyone watching for wild-fires.

Have a great safe summer.

Eric Bader
Sunshine C-1

Tax Deductible donations can always be sent to:

Sunshine FPD
311 County Rd. 83
Boulder, CO 80302

Anyone donating money to the fire department will get a letter from us thanking you for your donation and giving you a tax deductible record.

Let the Dust Settle, Please

Cars driven at a quick pace along County Road 83 raise clouds of dust visible across the canyon. Worse, the dust is an irritant to which many residents attribute serious health problems, respiratory and otherwise. Some suspect that the dust's mineral content is a factor, as Sunshine is in the Gold Hill Mineral Belt. Although many Sunshine inhabitants favor paving the road, the County offers little hope that it will be done any time soon. Many dirt roads exist in the east part of the county with higher populations and therefore priority, cite County officials. In the meantime, please drive more slowly in respect of your neighbors' safety, health, and environmental enjoyment.

Volunteer Profile

For the last three years, Stephen Hall has done a remarkable job in organizing the Community Fest. Stephen would state, though, that the real credit belongs to the entire corps of volunteers who are involved. He has a team of regular volunteers but also makes an effort to involve new people each year, as a way to spread the sense of community to all our members. Certainly, Stephen has a gift of bringing people together to achieve our community goal, a goal that he supports in a multitude of ways. Stephen has been able to concentrate on the Community Fest because it occurs during one of the few quiet times of the year for his ski tour business.

Moguls Ski and Snowboard Tours is a travel agency specializing in ski packages that Stephen founded 17 years ago with his best friend from high school. With tours offered in northern and southern hemispheres and on several continents, he's busy year round. The job has great fringe benefits, some unexpected—Stephen met wife Lisa, a client, on a ski slope in Vermont. They were married in '91 and moved to Boulder. Lured by the mountain life style, they bought a house in Sunshine in the summer of '92 where they're raising sons Tucker (7) and Dylan (5). Lisa is also highly involved and volunteers as both firefighter and EMR member. They can't imagine living elsewhere and cite their great neighbors as the cause.

In addition to chairing the Fest, Stephen has acted as coordinator for WHIM (Wildlife Hazard Identification and Mitigation) for the past several years. He's a member of our fire fighting team and is also Red Card Wildland Fire Certified, meaning that he has received the extra training and testing to fight national level fires.

Although Stephen spends more than thirty days per year on ski slopes in places as distant as New Zealand, he still finds time for other interests. He's been an avid ice hockey player since growing up in Ardmore, PA and participates in league and pick up games through the YM-CA. Since moving to Boulder, he's switched his team allegiance from the Fliers to the Avalanche and is a passionate fan. He also lists mountain biking

and trail running among his pastimes, although Lisa says that running may have dropped off his list after his last Red Card Certification physical fitness test nearly killed him.

His outstanding traits, according to Lisa, are extreme generosity, his easy going nature, and a great sense of humor. This must account for why he's listed on his company website as Vice President and "Chief of Karma". He states his philosophy there as, "It's all about karma. If you treat others well, life treats you well. If you do the right thing, good things will happen."

Stephen, thank you for all your efforts and good karma!

To volunteer for the Community Fest, contact Stephen at 444-0916 or better yet at stephen@skimoguls.com.

Dear Members of the Sunshine Community,

My name is Nathan Wheeler. You might know my father, David, who is on the fire department committee, or you might know my mother, Janice, who is secretary at Mapleton Elementary at the bottom of the canyon. The reason I am writing you is because I am doing a project to earn the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts. My proposed project is to construct a community picnic area/volleyball court along the firehouse road going between the cemetery and the firehouse. This location is fairly flat and sheltered from the road so that it has the needed privacy. But the requirements state all materials and/or money used must be donated. I am in need of the following: volleyball equipment, sand, tables, benches, railroad ties, gravel, fence material, and potting soil. The more, the better, and I can always use donated money. Feel free to contact me with any questions or ideas. My phone number is 303-442-0657. You can also e-mail me at Noodle2340@hotmail.com. Thank you.

Nathan Wheeler

Prevention Info (cont. from p 1)

apartments and highway vehicles). Over half of fire injuries also occur in dwellings. Not surprisingly, the leading area of origin of home fires is the kitchen (approximately 30%). The major cause of home fires is cooking equipment (22%); this is followed by heating equipment at 17%). The leading cause of civilian deaths in dwellings and manufactured homes is smoking materials; the leading cause of civilian injuries is cooking equipment. It is vital to know that over half of the people killed in home fires are killed in a room other than the room of origin of fire. Most people die of carbon monoxide (CO) inhalation or the inhalation of super-heated gasses.

Most fires in homes can be prevented through the elimination of fire hazards. A fire hazard is a condition that encourages a fire to start or increases the extent or severity of a fire. Some common fire hazards include:

- Poor housekeeping and the improper storage of packing materials and other combustibles;
- Defective or improperly used heating, lighting or power equipment;
- Improper disposal of cleaning compounds; and,
- Misuse of flammable or combustible liquids.

In future issues of the *Newsletter* I will talk about specific fire and life safety actions that you and your family can take. However, in the meantime:

1. Practice EDITH (Escape Drills in the Home). It has been demonstrated that citizens can safely escape during home fire emergencies with proper preparation and practice.
2. Be sure that you have sufficient numbers of working smoke detectors in your home. As a minimum, smoke detectors should be installed in the hallway outside of each sleeping area and between the sleeping area and others areas of your house. Remember to periodically test and maintain the detectors ('Change the clocks, change the batteries').

Remember that we are your fire department. Please call us for questions and advice, and don't wait for an emergency to meet us. I can be contacted through e-mail (SFPD-FireMarshal@egroups.com) or phone (303-786-7731). Be safe.

Bruce Honeyman
Fire Marshal

Pine Beetle Update

A meeting was held at the Schoolhouse to update the community on the ongoing battle against pine beetle infestation. This year's hot spot is Gold Hill where a large number of trees are hosts to the beetles. Pine beetle flight usually occurs between July 15th to Sept 15th. All cutting of trees should have been completed by June 1st and be suspended until mid-October as the smell of pitch will attract beetles.

Goodbye, Mr. Ford!


After 30 years, Steve Ford's last day as a BVSD bus driver was June 7th. Steve was the senior driver for the district and drove the Sunshine route for the last 14 years. As parents and firefighters, we appreciate Steve's great safety record—almost a million miles with no reportable accident.

As a tribute, Sunshine fire engine 4502 escorted Steve on his last bus trip down Sunshine, with overhead lights flashing for the last block. For those who missed it... this went great!

Steve Ford appeared genuinely touched by the entire effort, as well as the crowd of people that greeted him when he drove up. A nice additional touch was the presentation of the traditional 30-year retirement "Golden Apple" from the school district.

Earlier in the week, Steve was surprised by a group of parents and school staff awaiting him at the school in the morning. By the curb, a street sign reading "Parking for retired school bus drivers only" was placed by Doug Young. Cake was served and a McGuckins \$200 gift certificate was presented.

Special thanks to Doug Young for the street sign and cake and organizing the tribute; Bruce Honeyman for driving the engine; Janice Wheeler for getting word out; and all the parents who donated money for the gift certificate and greeted Steve. And most of all, thank you Steve! Steve Ford was a great school driver, and he will be missed.



Get Ready for a Summer of Fun

Sunshine Potluck!
Friday, July 20th, 6pm, Schoolhouse

Sunshine Community Fest!
Saturday, September 8th, 2-6pm, Station

Annual Art and Craft Fair
Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 29-30th, 10-4, Schoolhouse

Sunshine Community Fest! Mark your calendars for September 8th. Our annual bash boasts great food, good beer, lots of neighbors you see once a year, kids games and activities, an auction for crafts and fresh baked goods, and too many other things to mention. And all supporting a good cause.

All proceeds benefit the Sunshine Fire Protection District. Last summers' event helped raise over \$3,700, a good chunk of our total operating budget for the year.

Suggested donation is \$7 per person, with a \$20 maximum per family. Kids under 12 are free. Bring a dish to share or a baked item for raffle. Chili, beer (micro and macro) and soft drinks will be provided. Your donation gets you door prize tickets for some great items. You may buy raffle tickets good for valuable goods and services. And our auction offers the best in locally baked foods and local handicrafts.

We need volunteers for the following jobs:
*Solicitations from local businesses
*Baked pies, cookies, etc. for the raffle

Please call Stephen Hall at 444-0916 if you'd like to purchase raffle tickets to sell to friends or to help volunteer your time. Better yet, email him at stephen@skimoguls.com.

Sunshine Schoolhouse and Cemetery News



Sunshine Schoolhouse and Cemetery Board Meeting

At the recent meeting, the Board of Directors was expanded to include two new members: Linda Luchangco and Donny Williams. Continuing in their existing roles are: Tom Stevens, president; June Howard, treasurer; Haydee Kuhner, secretary; Chris Voorhees and Janice Wheeler, members.

A special meeting of the Board to discuss specific projects will be held on June 27th at 7:00 pm at the schoolhouse. Projects include restoring the outhouse and its access and finishing the school renovation. All are welcome to attend.

Sunshine Potluck

The annual Sunshine potluck will be on July 20th Friday at 6:30 PM. Please bring a dish to share with 8-10 people and your own table service and beverage. For info call Linda Luchangco (303.444.6589) or Janice Wheeler (303.442.0657). Hope to see you there.

Arts and Crafts Festival

The annual Arts and Crafts Festival is slated for September 29th and 30th from 10 am to 4 pm. The festival is a

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Mountain Gardening

Native grasses are incredibly fragile and once worn down can take several years to reseed. If you have a despoiled area, such as occurs during construction, sowing native seed can accelerate the recovery process. Most species require little water or other help, but are best sown during cooler, wetter weather.

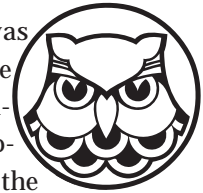
Granite Seed Co., out of Lehi, UT, is an excellent source of western range native species, claiming to have the widest selection of both field produced and native harvested reclamation grasses for the West. On a recent trip to the area, Eleanor Mahoney visited them with samples of grasses from her property. They were able to identify the species and provide her with seed.

Fortunately, Granite has an excellent website (www.graniteseed.com), so an in-person visit isn't required. The website allows the user to browse a list of native species—by common or botanical name—with information on each variety, and order accordingly. The site isn't very helpful for identification, so it's best to use local resources to identify your desired species for an exact match. Common grasses in our area are mid-grass prairie, western wheatgrass, big bluestem, little bluestem, and blue grama. Wildflowers include lily, mouse ear chickweed, western wallflower.

In addition to grass, Granite sells wildflower seed, trees, shrubs, legumes, erosion control and hydro-

Wildlife Watch

Mount Sanitas was named after the Colorado Sanitarium which was located just west of the present trailhead. The Latin term "sanitas" means health, and is still relevant given the current use of the site for exercise. The sanitarium was founded in 1895 and rates were \$1 to \$3 per day, including treatment, room and board. Cattle were grazed to provide dairy products for the patients.



Red-tailed hawks and golden eagles may be seen soaring above in search of mice and rabbits while coyote and bobcat hunt them below. The gobble of wild turkey is occasionally heard. Deer are abundant and their predator, mountain lion, have been spotted.

The Wittemyer family owned most of the land west of the sanitarium and patented one of the last homesteads in the area. Rock quarries owned and operated by CU during the 1920s were the source of rock for early campus buildings.

Formations in the area are the Fountain, Lyons, Lykins, Entrada, Morrison, and Dakota and range in age from 280 to 135 million years old. The prominent hogback on the east is commonly referred to as Dakota Ridge.

seeding products. Seed prices vary greatly year to year, with prices currently high. Last year's record fire season and another bad summer expected has led to a high demand for seed for reforestation, bidding prices up.



Kid's Corner

Here's some cool kid websites to explore:

ala.org/alsc/children_links.html
appukids.com
beritsbest.com/
bobthebuilder.org/
coolplays.com/
crayola.com/kids/
cyberkids.com/
dinosauria.com/
disney.com
goan.com/kids.html
kids.com
kidcrosswords.com
kidsvista.com/index.html
magickeys.com/books/
monroe.lib.in.us/childrens/kidswebs.html
nationalgeographic.com/kids/
randomhouse.com/seussville/
sunsite.berkeley.edu/KidsClick!/
uptoten.com/
wicked4kids.com.au/
wsu.edu/DrUniverse/
yahooligans.com/

From the editor

Remember, this is your newsletter! If you have any feedback, ideas, letters or would like to submit materials, please contact me. (Please note that my e-mail address has changed.)

Mary Mesch

5188 Sunshine Canyon
 ph. 447-1471 fax 447-2739
 mmesch@macconnect.com

Ads

Business ads are \$10. Classifieds are \$1/line. Please submit ads by Sept 1st for the next issue.

**Premiere Property
Brokers**

1877 Broadway &
12286 Switzerland Trail

Tom Stevens
MOUNTAIN REALTOR
AND RESIDENT

449-7720 or 459-0457

(cont. from p. 7)

great showcase for the talents of many Sunshine artists and benefits the school. If you would like to be a vendor or need info please call Janice Wheeler (303.442.6589) or Linda Luchangco (303.444.6589)

Schoolhouse Scheduling

The Sunshine School is available for your special events. To schedule a date and to receive the school guidelines, contact Linda Luchangco (303.444.6589).