

the Sunshine fire protection district newsletter

Jan 03
Vol. 03 Iss. 1



Slash Burning Policies

To dispose of slash, there are three acceptable methods: burial, chipping, and burning. If you choose the last method, you need to be aware of the policies outlined below as well as practice common sense, e.g., no burning on windy days or under especially dry conditions. Snow days are best. Residents are allowed to burn without Sunshine Fire Department participation, but if department support is requested, residents are asked to schedule as far in advance as possible. Firefighters will do their best to comply with the resident's planned date. All burns are subject to weather conditions.

1. The homeowner is responsible for getting the burn permit, which is available through the Boulder County Health Department (3450 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80304; 303/441-1100). The permit applies only to clean slash less

than four inches in diameter. No household trash, weeds, leaves, stumps or lumber.

2. The homeowner must contact Boulder Regional Communications Center at 303-441-4444 and the Sunshine Fire Department (Fire Chief, 303-786-8255) on each day they burn, as well as alert their immediate neighbors.

3. The homeowner must call the Clean Air Colorado Update at 303-758-4848 (between November 1 and March 31) and 303-782-0211 (between April 1 and October 31) for daily updates of the air pollution designation and burn index on each day of burning. This 24-hour recorded message is updated at 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. Burning is NOT permitted on "Red" air quality days. This information may also be obtained at the Boulder County Health Department between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

4. No burning of any kind shall take place during Burn Bans which may be imposed during times of extreme dryness by city, county or state authorities.

5. Burning activities must be started at least two hours after sunrise and must be completely extinguished two hours before sunset.

6. At no time shall the burning be left unattended. Burning shall be supervised by one or more responsible persons depending on the type of
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Calendar of events

Training and meeting schedules are now available at the Sunshine Fire Department website: <http://www.sunshine-fpd.org/>

Firefighter trainings:

Trainings are scheduled for the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the fire station.

Feb 8, Mar 8, Apr 12, May 10, Jun 14, Jul 12, Aug 9, Sep 13, Oct 11, Nov 8, Dec 13

Squad meetings:

Squad meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the fire station.

Jan 23, Feb 27, Mar 27, Apr 24, May 22, Jun 26, Jul 24, Aug 28, Sep 25, Oct 23, No November and December meetings due to holidays.

Medical trainings:

Medical trainings are held from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

Feb 13 Four Mile, Mar 19 Gold Hill, Apr 10 Four Mile, May 21 Gold Hill, Jun 12 Four Mile, Jul 16 Gold Hill, Aug 14 Four Mile, Sep 17 Gold Hill, Oct 9 Four Mile, Nov 19 Gold Hill, Dec 11 Four Mile

Board meetings:

Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the fire station. Meetings are open to all residents.

Feb 11, Mar 11, Apr 8, May 13, Jun 10, Jul 8, Aug 12, Sep 9, Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 9

Slash Burning (cont. from p. 1)

burn. Precautions should be taken to localize the burning and in no way constitute a fire hazard to persons or property within or adjacent to the area of the burn. The pile to be burned should be no larger than six feet in diameter and four feet high. Flame lengths must not exceed four feet, and there must be no flammable fuels contiguous to any slash pile.
7. The permit must be available for inspection at all times during burning.
8. If for any reason a fire should become out of control, or the homeowner is concerned of the possibility of fire spread, do not hesitate to contact Sunshine Fire Department by dialing 911.

Year End Summary

In 2002, the Sunshine Fire Department responded to 47 calls, up from 32 calls in the previous year. The department also served on two major fires out of district: Wonderland Lake and Big Elk. A new fire engine has been approved and purchased, with delivery expected early summer.

Current board

Pavel Bouska, Chairperson
Bill Bender, Treasurer
Mary Mesch, Member
Jay Schumacher, Member
David Wheeler, Member

Steve Stratton, Fire Chief
Tom Higbee, 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 and are open to all property owners and residents (see schedule at left).



Contact information

Steve Stratton, Fire Chief
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Pager 303-441-3851 #4561
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SFPD-Chief@egroups.com

Tom Higbee, Asst. Fire Chief
Home ph. 303-541-9891
Mobile ph. 303-956-1507
Pager 303-441-3851 #4562
Higbeehomeinspection@netzero.net

Bruce Honeyman, Fire Marshal
ph. 303-786-7731
SFPD-FireMarshal@egroups.com

Internet Humor #1: According to a recent survey, men say the first thing they notice about women is their eyes. And women say the first thing they notice about men is how much they lie.

Chief's Message

Every month many of our area fire chiefs get together to share what's happening in each of their districts. It's a good time to hear what our neighbors feel is important, and keep communications open among our many departments. The big issue this month is... worry. Worry that there really isn't a fire season anymore. Used to be we could take a little breather from wildfire during the winter months. Not last year. And not this year either. No scare tactic here, just simple truth. As dry as this winter is turning out to be, each of us needs to work as hard as possible to ward off the danger of fire.

I took a little hike around much of Sunshine a few days ago, and it is quite obvious that a lot of work has been done. More trees are limbed, grass is trimmed, many homeowners have moved flammables away from their homes. There are fire breaks taking shape and plans for more are in the making. But as I stood looking out over the Ann U. White trail, and up Four Mile Canyon Creek, I couldn't help but think that if a blaze got a good

start, given the current weather patterns, it would take everything we've got to bring it under control. As worrisome as this is, I also couldn't help reviewing the resources available.

I think I am safe in saying that at no other time has Sunshine Fire Protection District been as well staffed with as many well trained individuals. And the training is the important part. Several of our firefighters are state certified, not easy in a volunteer department. And two more enter training in a few days. At least eight of our members will be off to firefighting classes around the state during the next few months, with each class meant to directly deal with the threat of fire in mountainous areas that interface with families and their homes. And perhaps the most significant development is the mentoring of four Sunshine volunteers this summer as "engine bosses" who will gain the knowledge and experience to command a fire apparatus on fires outside of our district. For the first time we will have the oppor-

tunity to deploy our own firefighters at fires throughout the west, gaining invaluable experience and knowledge that can then be brought back home and utilized on a moments notice.

Yes, the threat is high. Maybe even more than last year. Concern is warranted. But I feel confident we are meeting this challenge head on with the people, resources and training necessary to make Sunshine a safer place to live.

Steve Stratton
Chief

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.

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Cell: 303-881-6547

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PO Box 56 Rollinsville, CO 80474

Internet Humor #2: A man was telling his neighbor, "I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art."

"Really," answered the neighbor.

"What kind is it?"

"Twelve thirty."

Volunteer Profile

After living seven years in Boulder, Rick Lansky and wife Jennifer decided they needed more space for themselves as well as their two dogs. Sunshine seemed ideal and a year ago they moved in just east of Bald Mountain. The timing was fortuitous for our district, because shortly afterwards Rick saw a newsletter request for a volunteer to design our Sunshine Fire Department website. One hundred of Rick's volunteer hours later, we have a comprehensive website for fire fighters and residents. (See *Sunshine Online* opposite page.)

Although he doesn't specialize in web design, Rick is proficient through his work in a related internet field. He's a software engineer working on web native applications, a fairly new field where applications are designed specifically to be used online through a browser interface. Typical clients are companies who design their products in the U.S., but outsource production to offshore contract manufacturers. Critical data can be shared between the parties much more effectively, improving product life cycle management. Although his employer is located in Silicon Valley, Rick was able to negotiate a telecommuting arrangement that allowed him and Jennifer to stay in Boulder.

Jennifer works at Sun Microsystems as a business analyst, but it was climbing that brought them together, not technology. When Rick and a buddy reached the peak of Mount

Rick also likes building things, including furniture, but adds that finding time to do so is difficult.

Rick readily admits that the initial



Harney in South Dakota, they encountered Jennifer and her sister there. The buddy knew the sister, introductions were made all around, and the rest is history.

In addition to climbing, Rick enjoys hockey and ultimate—that's ultimate frisbee to the uninitiated and over forty crowd. Boulder has a very active ultimate league, according to Rick, due to its popularity with the college-age population.

nudge to volunteer came from Jennifer, who he describes as a "volunteering sort". Doug Young, who worked with him on the website project, then talked him into attending a burn building training. He just expected to be an observer, but two hours later was suited up and in the midst of an inferno. Now he's signed up to take the basic fire fighting course and foresees more future involvement. "It's all Doug's fault!", he says.

Internet Humor #3: A little boy was walking down the aisle at a wedding. Every few steps he would bring his hands up like claws and growl. He did this all the way down the aisle and the crowd was in tears by the time he reached the end. After the wedding, he was asked what he was doing. He said, "They told me I was the ring bear."

Sunshine Online: www.sunshine-fpd.org

The idea for a Sunshine website had been talked about for years and everyone agreed that it was needed, but no one had both the time and expertise to do it. To our good fortune, Rick Lansky moved up to Sunshine and to our rescue. (See *Volunteer Profile opposite page*.) He took on the project, working closely with Doug Young, and after one hundred plus volunteer hours the site went live in November. Check it out—it's definitely a professional product. It's content-rich with clean, well-executed graphics and designed to execute quick page loads.

The home page features the following areas:

- Community News
- Chief's Message
- Upcoming Events for next 30 days
- Boulder Colorado News
- National Fire Related News
- Today's Fire Danger
- Current Weather

The content on this page is dynamic, meaning that the information is continually updated through hidden links to other sites. What's technically cool is that this feature doesn't compromise page load time. Updates are made on a frequently scheduled basis and cached, so the data is readily available when the page is loaded.

Additionally, a menu provides numerous links to other material:

- Fire Department Links—Among many items, this section includes the Scheduled Events calendar for the year; a Virtual Fire Cache with many fire fighting training resource guides; and a Message Area. Rick used blog-

ging software to ensure that messages can be easily entered by authorized persons who aren't HTML proficient.

- **Sunshine Links**—This section includes the current Sunshine Newsletter and archived past newsletters and a Sunshine History page.

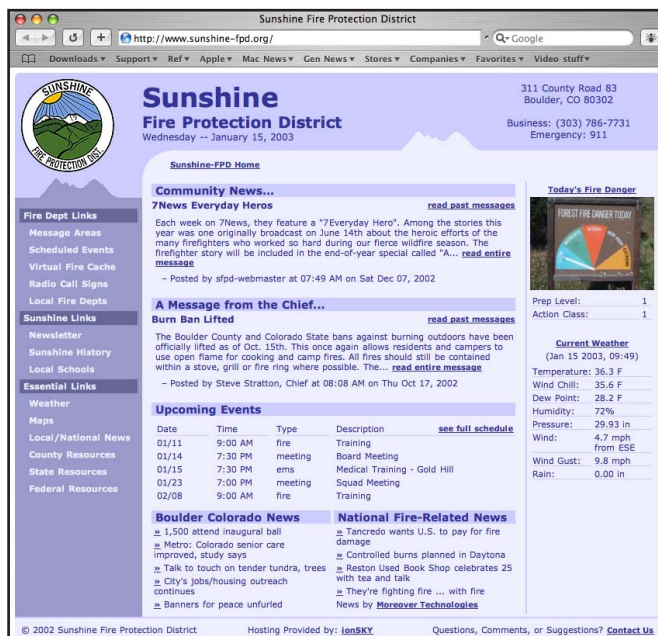
- **Essential Links**—This area provides links to other websites for current weather, maps, local and national news, etc.

The map section provides links to the Boulder County Sheriff's office for mountain area maps, something hard to find on standard map sites.

After browsing the site, you'll have an appreciation for the work that went into it. The process was a collaboration between Doug Young and Rick. As a longtime Sunshine volunteer and leader, Doug had a good sense of what information would be helpful to the fire fighting community and residents. Doug is also a software engineer, so he understood the programming challenges and realities and was able to communicate effectively with Rick.

After Rick understood the content requirements, he developed some mock-up pages showing how the information was organized and the

graphics. When satisfied, he moved on to the dynamic elements. Before he could work on this, he needed a



server that could handle these programs in the background. He's a customer of ionSKY, a wireless broadband supplier providing high speed internet connectivity to our area, and so solicited their support. Rick appreciates that the staff did quite a bit of work to configure the server as needed. IonSKY is also now providing free hosting of the website.

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Wanted: Nefarious Sunshine Desperadoes



Crime: Bad Acting!

Front row, from left: Erica Bader, Alanna Shetter, Eleanor Mahoney, Tony Luchangco, Steve Spencer, Pavel Bouska, Nancy Engellener, Brendan Hoffman, Travis Shetter, Trigg Bader Back row: Robin Allegra, Mary Mesch, Paul Gatza, Janice Wheeler, David Wheeler, John Hoffman, Kathy Sullivan, Butch Helper Not pictured: Steve Stratton (Judge Roy Coffin), Linda Luchangco and Karen Schumacher (bears), Judy Frye (stage coach lady), Danny Williams (driver), Steve Lavington (Black Bart gambler)

Sunshine Fire of 1901

The following article, written by Silvia Pettem, details how a Sunshine fire was fought with a bucket brigade one hundred years ago. Thank goodness we're better equipped now!

Nearly every mountain town in western Boulder County had a destructive fire, and the community of Sunshine was no exception. Its two frame hotels burned in October 1901. At the time, the gold-mining town was home to 3,000 people, and the Grand View Hotel and the Sunshine House (formerly the White Crow Hotel) were in the heart of

the town's business district. No one seemed to know how the fire started. A miner named Johnny Lewis was the first to see smoke coming out of an upstairs window in the Sunshine House about 5 a.m. The blaze spread quickly to the Grand View. Years later, Lewis told the late historian Forest Crossen that flames shot up from the pitch in the pine logs used in the hotels' construction.

Without water works or an organized fire department, there was

nothing residents could do but carry out some of the furniture and let the buildings burn. When the wind started up, however, blowing burning wood shingles toward houses and barns, everyone — men, women and children — worked together to try to save the other buildings in town.

Their only firefighting method, at the time, was a bucket brigade. Lewis and others filled buckets at a spring and passed the water to men waiting in line. Then the men hoisted the

(Cont. on back page)

Sunshine Schoolhouse and Cemetery News



Arts & Crafts Fair Thank You

Thank you to the vendors who participated at the Sunshine Arts & Crafts Festival. Over \$600 was raised for the Sunshine Cemetery Association fund for schoolhouse maintenance.

Vendors

Jim Armitage
Pat Dawson
Vera Dobson
Anita & Lauren Hanson
Ruby Heflin
June Howard
Linda Luchangco
Nancy Mason
Sylvia Pettem
Hugh Rose
Michael Sakoske
Dee, Steve & Dustin Spencer
Janice & Mike Wheeler

Also, thank you to all residents who supported the Festival through your purchases.

Sunshine Cemetery Association Annual Board Meeting

The annual board meeting of the Sunshine Cemetery Association will be held this April, the date and time to be posted on the schoolhouse door. The meeting is open to all property owners.

Wildlife Watch

The bald eagle – so named because of its white head – is found only in North America, and it's the continent's second largest bird of prey. Only the California condor is larger. Young bald eagles are dark brown in color when they fledge the nest at about 12 weeks of age. Their head and tail feathers turn predominantly white in the fourth or fifth year. Adult males weigh about eight to nine pounds. Females are slightly larger, about 10 to 14 pounds. Length is 31 to 37 inches with a wingspan of six to 7.5 feet.

Historically, bald eagles lived throughout North America from Alaska to Newfoundland, and from Florida to California. But numbers started to decline in the last century due to pesticides, human disturbance and loss of trees for nesting habitat. Since the bald eagle was placed on the Endangered Species List and the pesticide, DDT, was banned, bald eagle populations have rebounded.

Bald eagles are seldom seen far from water - large rivers, lakes and sea-coasts. In Colorado they are often found near reservoirs, especially where there are abundant fish. In 2001, there were about 51 nesting pairs of bald eagles in the state. Two decades ago, bald eagles were extremely rare in Colorado and throughout the Continental United States.

In addition to fish (self-caught or stolen from other birds), bald eagles eat sick and injured waterfowl, muskrats, squirrels, rabbits, prairie dogs and often eat carrion and road-killed animals.

Nests can be seven to eight feet across, usually in tall trees high above the ground and near water. Bald eagles often choose dead limbs in tall trees,



possibly because their view is not obstructed by foliage. A female lays one to three eggs, which are dull white. The incubation period is about 35 days, with both the male and female keeping the eggs warm.

The bald eagle is on the U.S. Endangered Species List. It is classified as threatened in all of the continental United States except Alaska. Historically, only two to three pairs of bald eagles nested in Colorado, but the nesting pairs have recently increased by eight or nine each year up to the current estimate of 51 breeding pairs in the state. Colorado is a very popular wintering area for bald eagles. The annual midwinter count shows a stable population of up to 800 eagles.

The San Luis Valley in the southern part of the state is one of their favorite places because of its supply of fish and waterfowl from open water as well as its high population of rodents and rabbits. The Pueblo Eagle Day Celebration is held in February in the San Luis Valley. It's possible to see as many as 200 eagles in a day. For celebration information, contact John Koshak at the DOW's Colorado Springs office, 719-227-5221.

Excerpted from the CO DOW website.

Sunshine Fire of 1901 (cont. from p. 6)

sloshing water pails to the rooftops where young boys were told to douse every burning shingle in sight. Older boys and men were ready to get the children down if it looked as if the whole roof might catch on fire.

In the meantime, women wetted down their quilts and blankets for the men to throw over other roofs in order to protect the buildings that had not yet caught on fire. The women also packed valuables, the rest of their bedding and their families' clothing. Horses were hitched to wagons, ready for a speedy evacuation.

Eventually, the town's residents were able to save their homes. According to Crossen's interview with Lewis, the tin shaft house of the Little Giant Mine, also in the center of town, acted as a fire break and kept the fire from spreading. Today, there is no trace of the early Sunshine hotels except for their stone terraces, on private property.

In 1900, a year before the hotel fires, Sunshine residents replaced their original one-room frame school with one of stone. Today, the 102-year-old school building is one of the town's few reminders of its past. The building is locally land-marked and also on the state and national registers of historic places.

Excerpted from *Daily Camera*, Sept. 26, 2002, Silvia Pettem.



**Premiere Property
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Tom Stevens
MOUNTAIN REALTOR
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449-7720 or 459-0457
1877 Broadway
12286 Switzerland Trail

Classified ads are \$1/line. Business ads are \$10. The deadline for the next issue is April 15th.

From the editor

Remember, this is your newsletter! If you have any feedback, ideas, letters or would like to submit materials, please contact me.

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Found: Two children's fleece jackets were found at the schoolhouse following the Halloween Carnival. To claim, call Linda Luchangco at 303-413-1282.