

# the Sunshine fire protection district newsletter

Oct 03  
Vol. 03 Iss. 4



## Change your Clock, Change your Battery

“Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery™” is a national home fire safety campaign sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (ICFIEFS) and Energizer.

Home fires. Somewhere in the nation, a home fire occurs every 85 seconds. The peak time for home fire fatalities is between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m.—when most people are asleep.

Tragically, many people mistakenly believe they’d be awakened by the smell of smoke in time to escape, however recent clinical experiments have found that the sense of smell lessens during sleep. In addition, smoke disorients people, making their ability to respond worse.

Fire deaths peak in winter months—December through February. Smoking materials and poorly installed, main-

tained or misused portable or area heating equipment are leading causes of fatal home fires.

Children and Home Fires. Children ages five and under are twice as likely to die in home fires. About 900 children die annually in home fires, 80% of whom were in homes without working smoke alarms.

The Issue: Smoke Alarm Neglect. Although smoke alarms are present in 94% of U.S. homes, 20% don’t work, mostly because of worn or missing batteries. That means nearly 16 million homes are at needless risk.

In the U.S., between 75 and 80% of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Half of the home fire deaths resulted from fires in the small percentage of home (6%) without any smoke alarms. Data

indicates that the US continues to have one of the highest fire death rates among the industrialized nations.

If a fire occurs, working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire nearly in half by providing early warning and extra seconds to escape. Due in large part to smoke alarms, home fire deaths dropped to 2,895 in 1999—the lowest ever recorded.

*(Cont. p. 2)*



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Halloween Carnival Nov. 1st



## Calendar of events

Training and meeting schedules are also 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.

Nov 8, Dec 13

### *Squad meetings:*

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

No November and December meetings due to holidays.

### *Medical trainings:*

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

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.

Nov 11, Dec 9

### *Special Events:*

Halloween Carnival, Nov. 1 starting at 4:00



## Change your Battery (cont. from p. 1)

The National Fire Alarm Code recommends a minimum of one smoke alarm on each level of a home, one inside each bedroom and one outside each sleeping area.

So take a few minutes to change the batteries in your smoke alarms, as well as take a few other fire safety prevention measures such as:

- ✓ Push the test button to make sure the alarm works
- ✓ Clean smoke alarms by vacuuming them. Repeat the cleaning monthly.
- ✓ Check flashlight batteries and place working flashlights near all beds to help family members exit if electricity is not working or to signal for help during a fire.
- ✓ Plan and rehearse two escape routes during a fire and select a meeting place for family members outside the home.
- ✓ Replace smoke alarms every ten years as components may degrade over time.

*Information provided by ICHIEFS and Energizer™ brand batteries.*

## Current board

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

## District Officers

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 the public.



## Contact information

Steve Stratton, Fire Chief  
Home & work ph. 303-786-8255  
Pager 303-441-3851 #4561  
[steve@stevestratton.tv](mailto:steve@stevestratton.tv)  
[SFPD-Chief@egroups.com](mailto:SFPD-Chief@egroups.com)

Tom Higbee, Asst. Fire Chief  
Home ph. 303-541-9891  
Mobile ph. 303-956-1507  
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[Higbeehomeinspection@netzero.net](mailto:Higbeehomeinspection@netzero.net)

Bruce Honeyman, Fire Marshal  
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[SFPD-FireMarshal@egroups.com](mailto:SFPD-FireMarshal@egroups.com)

**Point to Ponder:** Have you noticed since everyone has a camcorder these days no one talks about seeing UFOs like they use to?

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## Chief's Message

Compared to last year, this fire season has been pretty light. Relative humidities were up for most of the summer and fire danger really wasn't the concern it was last year. However, just a couple days ago Sugarloaf reported relative humidities at 1% and 2%. Readings in Sunshine are a little better but still hover in the single digits. Light fuels are pretty much in the explosive range. Like you, I have totally enjoyed our wonderful Indian summer, but these humidity levels indicate that the fire season isn't over yet and we still have the risk of wildfire until we get some rain or snow. Be careful out there.

The summer mitigation program sponsored by the Sunshine fire department has been another big success. 31 different property owners took advantage of the matching funds or free chipping, thanks to a National Fire Plan/Colorado State Forest Service grant. \$16,000 of federal money was matched with an equal amount of paid and volunteer labor. Probably the biggest single thing each of us can do to protect Sunshine from fire is to trim and clear trees around our properties. After our second year of funding this program Sunshine is well on its way to putting our forests back into a much healthier state. These same grant moneys have been applied for next year. Those of you who have started mitigation are encouraged to plan for further trimming next year.

Several Sunshine folks have asked about having the fire department come and burn slash on their prop-

erties. Such controlled burns are a great way to get rid of the leftovers from your mitigation efforts. But while the upcoming winter season can be a perfect time to burn, planning for these events is a bit difficult. Humidity levels need to be high with snow on the ground and getting a group of volunteer firefighters together on a moments notice to burn your slash after a snow fall is not always possible. Also, location is often an issue. Slash piles on steep mountain slopes or where access is limited may be more than a team of volunteers can be expected to do. Several slash sites have been identified for burning this winter but only a small number can be overseen by SFPD.

It is time for a reminder that our fire trucks are bigger than your car or truck. Keeping your driveway trimmed so we have access to your property is very important to our being able to help in time of emergency. Take a few minutes to look around your area and make sure

emergency services can reach your house.

Over the next few weeks we will be surveying many parts of our district. You may have the opportunity to see your volunteers and fire trucks in your driveways. Don't panic. We will simply be confirming emergency routes, addresses and accessibility. If you wish not to have SFPD enter your property simply let us know.

This has been a great summer in Sunshine. Emergency calls have been lower than normal and your cooperation and encouragement has been wonderful. Let's continue to stay safe.

Steve Stratton  
Chief

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Boulder, CO 80302

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**(Longtime Sunshine resident)**  
**Cell: 303-881-6547**

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PO Box 56 Rollinsville, CO 80474

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## Volunteer Profile

A twenty year veteran of Sunshine, gregarious Bill Bender is known by just about everyone in the neighborhood as a passionate, fun loving guy who's not shy of challenging conventionality; those who know him well also see his thoughtful side.

Attracted by the natural beauty and easy access to Boulder, Bill moved from town to the home he built on Whispering Pines in 1983. He dug the footers by hand, racing to finish the structure before the winter months. It was a busy time—during one month, he worked on the house, opened his business and traveled to Connecticut for his wedding.

Connecticut was where Bill grew up, but he moved to Key West, FL soon after finishing high school. He recalls it as the time of his life, living as a hippie in a commune. To help support the group, he and a fellow communer opened a service station with a mechanics shop. There, Bill developed his mechanical expertise which led to his opening Independent Motors in Boulder, a

family owned shop servicing Nissans, Toyotas, Subarus, and Hondas.

After Key West, he tried Miami for a year, but found the “city of threads and treads” out of tune with his counter-cultural lifestyle. He bounced around for awhile, moving to the east coast, then west coast, then splitting the difference and moving to Boulder.

Bill became officially involved in the Sunshine department after hearing a board solicitation for a volunteer to take over Henry Ballard's position. At the time, Henry was a fire fighter, medical officer and board treasurer. Bill has now been treasurer for over five years and, although he plans to turn over the treasurer's role, he will hopefully continue as a board member.

Bill states that he really enjoys volunteering, it takes him out his daily concerns and allows him to give something back to the community.

The rewards of volunteering far outweigh what he puts into it he feels. It helps to work with dedicated people he admires, in particular chief Steve Stratton as well as past chiefs Eric Bader and Doug Young.

In his spare time, Bill enjoys reading about spiritual metaphysical matters and, most importantly, spending time with his sons Lance, age 13, and Donovan, age 8.

Bill loves to share his sense of fun, creating with Steve Spencer the annual Haunted Hayride at our Halloween carnival and sponsoring many community volleyball parties.

This November 14<sup>th</sup>, Bill is hosting a party to benefit the fire department (see last page for details). So go to the party, have a great time, and thank Bill for his contribution to Sunshine!

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\*within US, from US to Canada, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Guam

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## SFPD Deployed to Swain Fire

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, the Forest Service called the Sunshine Fire Protection District and asked if we could send a Brush Truck to Montana to help suppress wildfires. That afternoon, Rick Lansky, Larry Campbell and I set off for Montana in the Sunshine Brush Truck. We arrived to 100 degree heat and were sent out to help out with one of the many fires in the area. En route to the fire, a new fire was starting to really take off and the Sunshine crew was deterred to that fire.

We arrived in the middle of nowhere around dusk. We could see our fire burning the grass and torching ponderosa pines. That first night we were assigned the dirt road in front of the fire and our job was to keep the fire

from jumping the road. Even at 2 a.m. when we timed out (timed out is where we have worked 16 hours and must stop for a rest), the trees were still torching. The next day, waking in a smoky field, we found out we were on

a fire called the Swain Fire and that all the equipment we had was what we could see: five other brush trucks, two bull dozers, a local tender and our knowledge of fighting fire. Not wanting to complain, we asked about support like gas, food, water. The response was, what you have is it.



After a quick meal of MREs, (Meals Ready to Eat) and a not so quick trip to gas up, we attacked the fire which was ripping, with trees on fire, spots over the road, etc. We tried to help hold the road, but the fire won that battle hands down.

*(cont. p. 9)*

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## Forrest Jones Is a Legend in Sunshine

*From Sylvia Pettem's Sept. 18th Daily Camera column*

Nearly every community has a few legendary characters, but the mountain town of Sunshine has just one. The late Forrest Jones was known to every old-timer and, for nearly a century, his life was intertwined with the place he called home...

Jones was born in the town of Sunshine in 1897. During his childhood, his family moved back and forth between the Jones cabin (now a Boulder County landmark) and a ranch on Sunshine Canyon Road. In a booklet he wrote on the history of his hometown, Jones said that he had "a good life in Sunshine."

"I think it's important that young people know some of the history," he told his readers. "There aren't many people around who remember as far back as I do." According to Jones, he made his living doing whatever jobs were available. That included cutting wood,

mending fences and working on the mountain ranch.

Jones never drove a car. He rode a horse or walked wherever he needed to go. However, he wrote about how excited everyone was in 1906 when the first car, a Reo, drove into town. Jones was 9 at the time, and his recollection was that the early cars weren't very dependable.

"They worked," he wrote, "but you had to push them sometimes." (The Camera reported 26 automobiles in Boulder that year.)

Electricity didn't come to the mountain town until 1940, although some of the surrounding gold mines had electric power as early as 1929. Water was pumped from a community well and hauled in barrels by a horse-drawn wagon to individual homes.

When Jones was a boy, the town had a post office, as well as a grocery store, two hotels, a bakery and a saloon among its businesses. Jones attended the Sunshine School from about 1903 to 1912.

Over the years, Jones became the unofficial caretaker of the Sunshine Cemetery. His interest started in 1921 when his family moved the body of his maternal grandfather from the cemetery in the nearby mountain town of Salina to the one in Sunshine. As a young man, Jones helped dig many of the graves.

In an interview in 1984, Jones said, "Seven or eight men would take turns for one or two days. We'd drill by hand, blast, and dig with a pick and shovel." Jones also set up the four cornerstones that mark the cemetery's boundaries and strung the barbed wire that hangs between them.

In addition, he compiled a list of 157 burials in the Sunshine Cemetery and donated the list to the Carnegie Branch Library for Local History. He kept up his interest in the cemetery until the day he died in 1989 at the age of 92.

Jones never married and is buried with his siblings, parents and grandparents under the lilacs that they planted years ago. "I put some roses in," he once said, "but they didn't grow."

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## Community Fest Thank You

Congratulations, Sunshine! Community Fest donations were a record \$10,000 this year, up from \$7,685 from last year. Participation was also up 6% over last year's numbers with 133 attendees this year.

While the Sunshine Community Fest hit an all time high in attendance at 133 people, there were many of you who couldn't make it because of the date change, Telluride Brews and Blues, etc. We didn't want you to feel left out of the pure joy we had raising \$10,000. So, in our ever constant attempt to be "inclusive", we'd like to extend the opportunity to those who couldn't make it to send your contributions to the Sunshine Fire Protection District.

Simply make a check out to the Sunshine Fire Protection District, put it in the mail addressed to SFPD, 311 County Rd. 83, Boulder, CO 80302, and live with the happy glow that you too contributed to the best Community Fest to date. As always, donations are tax deductible.

Special thanks to the following community members for all their hard work:

- *Dorrie Higby* for business solicitations
- *Danny Williams* for the donated beer and business solicitations
- *Paul Gatza* for donated beer
- All the firefighters for their help in set-up and clean-up
- *Beth Beyerlein, Janice Wheeler, David Wheeler, and Dee Spencer* for their auctioneering skills
- *Mary Mesch* for her superb chili



- *Steve Spencer* for the iced tea, ice, coffee, etc.
- *Gary Townsend* for arranging the donation of the Fire Station Red wine

And thanks to all those who contributed baked items for auction and those that brought a dish to share. Some of you solicited business contributions as well, and helped with clean-up.

A huge thank you to the following businesses and individuals who contributed their products and services. We encourage everyone to support these businesses with your patronage, just as they have supported us.

Avery Brewing  
Beth Beyerlein  
Black Pebbles Publishing/Frank McGuire  
Boulder Outdoor Center/Eric Bader  
Boulder Map Gallery  
Celestial Seasonings  
El Loro Jewelry and Clog Company  
Feather Thy Nest  
Fleet Feet Sports  
Fred's Propane  
Gaiaam  
Gold Hill Inn  
Great American Beerfest

Hotel Boulderado  
Indochine  
Jax Fish House  
It's Thyme for Dill  
Lefthand Brewing Company  
Mountain Sun Brewery  
Mullein Beautiful Home  
Oscar Blues  
Pedestrian Shops  
Planet Bluegrass  
Redstone Meadery  
REI  
Rental City  
Rhumba Restaurant  
Rockies Brewing  
Rocky Mountain Anglers  
Shields Family  
Sky Chair  
Sonoma Coast Vineyards  
Spruce Confections  
Steve Stratton  
Tom's Tavern  
Two Hands Paperie  
United Wood Company  
University Bikes  
West End Gardener  
West End Wine Shop  
Wild Oats  
Willow Tree  
Zolo Grill

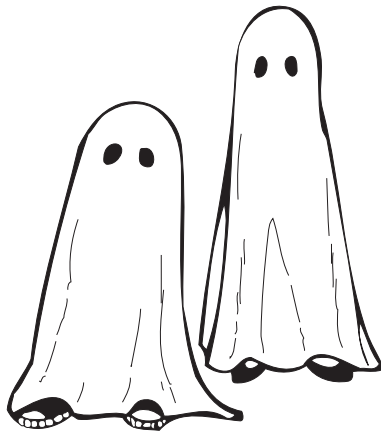
Stephen Hall  
Community Fest Director

*Editor's Note: and many thanks to Stephen Hall for his many years of organizing successful Community Fests.*

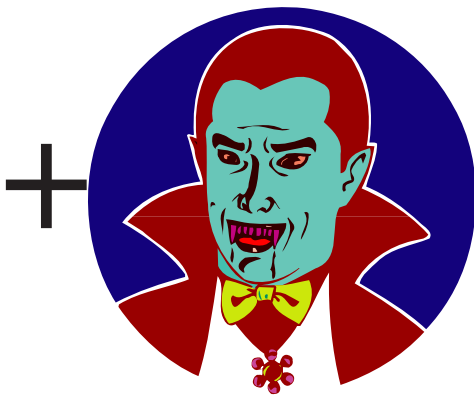
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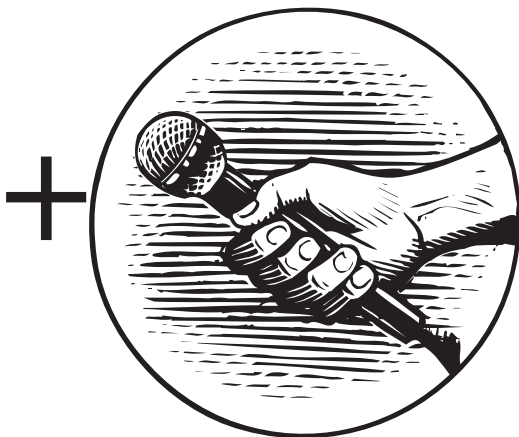
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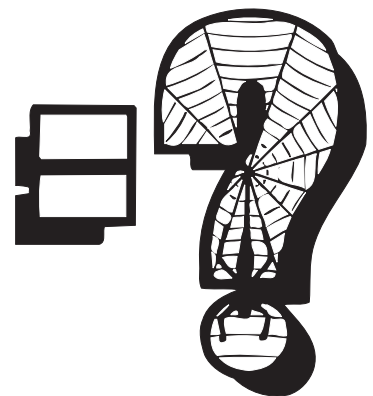
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Answer next page!

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## Sunshine Schoolhouse and Cemetery News



**Riddle Answer: The Most Rip-Roarin' Halloween Carnival Ever!**  
Please join us for the premier Sunshine fun event of the year. Here's the details:  
*When:* Saturday, Nov. 1st, starting 4:00  
*Where:* Sunshine Schoolhouse  
*Events:* Children's Carnival, Haunted Hayride, Gold Fever Treasure Hunt, Happy Hour at the Sunshine Saloon (BYOB), Bubble Trouble Contest, Open Mike, Potluck, Pumpkin Carving Contest, Square Dancing, Adult Monster Mash  
*Bring:* potluck dish, beverage, carved pumpkin, talent for open mike hour  
*Cost:* \$5/person, max. \$20/family

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## Swain Fire (cont. from p. 5)

The order came to move out. We were being sent to a road 3.5 miles from our current location, where we would try to stop the fire. We arrived at the road shortly before the fire did and were assigned the job of backfiring the grass along the road in front of the fire. This new road was beyond the ponderosa pines and was mostly all grass. I think we set fire to a mile of grass. We had spots over the line, but we were able to pick up the spots before they got big with the water in our truck and with help from a helicopter that was also called in. We were also joined by a couple of crazy smoke jumpers and worked with them. So ended our second 16 hour day.

The next week was a variety of picking up escaped fire, mopping up hot spots, cold trailing in a grid pattern for hot spots and patrolling for new fires. We four-wheeled all around the fire. The Sunshine Brush Truck and crew did an awesome job. On the second day, Sunshine rose to the forefront as an engine and crew that could get the job done. I am extremely proud of the job we did in Montana and the job that Larry and Rick did.

After the first week, a replacement crew came up to the base camp to relieve us. The replacements consisted of Chris Anderson from Pinewood Springs Fire as engine boss, Michael Schmitt and Henry Ballard. The three of them were staged at camp, moved to another area of Montana and then released for home.

Sunshine Fire Protection District benefited from this fire in many ways.

Our brush truck has never run better, as being run every day was good for it. We have firefighters that are better trained with more fire experience. We have learned tricks for our brush truck and what needed to be repaired. Even the carrot of being able to go out on a wildfire is a tremendous benefit to attracting and retaining our volunteers. Sunshine even made a little bit of money on this dispatch, as the Forest Service pays for our response. My thanks to the board in letting Sunshine respond to fires outside our district.

Eric Bader

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## Mine Shaft Dangers

*Excerpted from the Daily Camera, Oct. 20th, written by Ryan Morgan.*  
Gold rushers dug at least 23,000 mines across the state, and 3,600 in Boulder County alone. Now, the state is ramping up efforts to clean up those mines in Boulder County, focusing on 47 holes that dot the area around Sugarloaf Mountain.

The horizontal shafts, called adits, that visitors are most likely to explore can turn out to be treacherous. "You can have an adit that will be going along for a while, and all of a sudden it goes down for hundreds of feet in a vertical shaft." ... To prevent unplanned plunges, workers will either fill the mines or use a concrete cap to block their entrances, at a cost of \$700 to \$4,000 per mine. Bat mines, however, will



### Kid's Corner

It's that time of year again! The Sunshine Halloween Carnival is bigger and badder than ever. There will be all your favorite things like the Children's Carnival, Pumpkin Carving Contest, the Haunted Hayride and lots of good food.

In addition, we're adding more stuff for the older kids. There'll be a Gold Fever Treasure Hunt in the woods and a Bubble Trouble contest.

If you have any talents, skits, funny jokes or riddles, we'll have an open mike where you can perform. Maybe you'll be discovered by a Hollywood talent agent here!

The Sunshine Saloon will be set up where you can belly up to the bar for beer ... root beer, that is! Just remind mom or dad that it's BYOB.

The evening will end with family square dancing. So pick your pardner (who might be a were-wolf, Jedi knight, or witch!) and do-se-do!

Happy Halloween!

### Classified Ads

Responsible Sunshine teenager available for babysitting. Call Bonnie at 303-443-4771.

*Classified ads are \$1/line. Business ads are \$10. The deadline for the next issue is Jan. 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.

Mary Mesch  
5188 Sunshine Canyon  
ph. 447-1471 fax 447-2739  
mmesch@ionsky.com



### Party to Benefit Sunshine

Come enjoy gambling, girls, drinking plus much more!

Where: Bill Benders  
4801 Gibbs Ave, Boulder

When: Friday, November 14th,  
8:00 PM until ?

Suggested donation of  
\$10 p/p to benefit  
Sunshine Fire  
Protection District



RSVP to 303-442-8949  
or willambender@cs.com

THIS SHOULD BE REAL FUN  
ALL ARE WELCOME!



*Mine Shaft Dangers (cont. from p. 9)*  
be outfitted with \$2,500 "bat grates"  
allowing bats but not people through.

For more info or to report a dangerous shaft, contact Julie Annera, Colorado Inactive Mine Reclamation Program.