



The Sunshine Fire Protection District Newsletter

Letter from the Chief By Chief Steve Waltman

I would like to begin by welcoming our newest members, Paul Hourihan and Ross Wehner. Your fire department is all volunteer. It is an honor and a privilege to respond to help our friends and neighbors when they need help, but training requires a significant investment of time. Please thank Paul, Ross, and our existing members for donating their time to help our community.

I also want to thank Peter Beresford for serving as our Communication Officer, and George Woodward for taking over that role. Peter has tackled the Sisyphean task of keeping our handheld radios, truck radios, voice pagers, and digital pagers programmed and maintained with both skill and good humor.

Due to the considerable efforts of our Fire Marshal Bruce Honeyman and board member Alan Kirton, Boulder County has approved our

customization and adoption of the International Fire Code. This is an important tool for us to address important fire safety hazards in our community.

As we deal with our current snowfall and look ahead to yet more snow, please remember that if your driveway is not passable, it will delay our response to your house if you have a fire or medical emergency (unless your house is very close to a plowed road). Also, the increased use of wood stoves and fireplaces during the winter has resulted in chimney fires in our neighboring fire districts. One tool for dealing with chimney fires is Chimfex Chimney Fire Extinguisher flares.

They were unavailable for several years due to a catastrophic fire at the factory, but the factory has been rebuilt and we now have

them available for purchase at the discounted price of \$15 each. Call Deputy Chief Henry Ballard at 303-449-8619 to purchase these. If you do have a fire, remember to call 911 immediately in case the Chimfex is insufficient, or so that we can confirm that the fire has been completely extinguished.

Once things melt off, we will host a fire extinguisher training for the community. It will include brief instruction on the different types of fire extinguishers, their use, and then you will have the opportunity to practice using one to extinguish a live fire.

Thank you for your support!
Chief Steve Waltman

Your Wildfire Defensible Space:

The Boulder County Land Use Department is providing an aerial photo of wildfire defensible space zones for mountain residents. This photo is offered as an educational tool to help residents prepare for future wildfires. Just go to the website listed below and type in your address. The photos are currently from 2012.

<http://www.bouldercounty.org/property/forest/pages/yourdefensiblespace.aspx>

**CWPP Committee Update -
By Abby Silver**

The CWPP committee met on February 4th to review our accomplishments in 2014 and to plan our 2015 calendar.

A LOOK BACK AT 2014: 2014 was a very successful year for our district in terms of mitigation. A huge thanks to Boulder County and the Colorado Department of Natural Resources for the grant funding that helped us accomplish so much!

- We held two community chipping events, June 2014 & October 2014. Both were accomplished at no cost to the district due to being able to leverage several grants. (We do not expect to be able to repeat this funding windfall again.)
- The Sunshine Canyon Drive shaded fuel break was extended to the bottom (east) edge of the district, completing round one of mitigation along the length of SCD in the district. This work completed a grant we had received from the Department of Natural Resources.
- The shaded fuel break along CR 83 was given a maintenance update, due to the number of hazard trees and general die-off post-fire. All three shaded fuel break projects were funded 50% by grant money, 10% by landowner contribution, and 40% by SFPD/CWPP tax funds.
- A shaded fuel break was completed along the length of Whispering Pines.

- SFPD attained FireWise Communities USA recognition again in 2014.
- D-space work was performed on six more homes as well as Station 2. In total, the project accounted for D-space mitigation being performed on 22 properties. The homeowner cost was reduced by 50% because of a grant from the Department of Natural Resources. This project is now completed as the grant funding has been exhausted.

Spring CHIPPING:
Spring is around the corner so mark your calendar: June 1-5.

A LOOK AHEAD TO THE COMING YEAR: We have a number of projects and community events planned for 2015:

FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING: This event is still in the planning stages, but is tentatively scheduled for early May. Community members will be given information on when and how to use their fire extinguishers, and will be able to practice using one. In addition, we hope to have a company on hand to refill residents' fire extinguishers, ideally at no cost. Funding will come from the SFPD's CWPP fund, and we are applying for a grant from the FireWise Foundation. More information will be emailed once the details are finalized.

COMMUNITY CHIPPING PROJECT – SAVE THE DATE: June 1-5, 2015. Free curbside slash chipping has been very popular and highly successful in the past. Like last year, we will be offering both a spring and a fall opportunity in 2015, at no cost to the homeowners. Funding will come from SFPD's CWPP fund, and we will be applying for a Boulder County Chipping Grant. An opportunity to register and detailed information will be emailed to everyone in early May.

SIGN PROJECT UPDATE – We have formed a sign project committee whose goal is to insure that all repairs and replacements are made to our reflective address signs by early summer of 2015. We have decided that we need to replace the existing or missing/broken posts with a burlier version. Alan Kirton has been testing his sign on a heavier-duty u-post which has performed well at his house (with recorded winds of 90 MPH).

Please feel free to contact me with any input or project suggestions. Our infrequent meetings are announced by email. All are welcome!

Abby Silver
CWPP Committee Chair
abberoo@msn.com

2015's 'To Do' list for safety by Fire Marshal Bruce Honeyman

Each year about this time, Boulder County rural fire departments start thinking about the active fire season. New fire department recruits are encouraged to take S-130/190, the basic wildland firefighter course, and the 'wildland 'refresher' courses are being scheduled for more seasoned volunteers. As I've mentioned in other newsletters, we no longer have a 'fire season' but instead a year-round potential for fire that simply increases during the summer. For our District residents, 'fire season' preparedness comes in the form of creating and maintaining defensible space.

Over the years, my thoughts about defensible space have changed considerably. There is no doubt that modern building codes, particularly those parts tailored to homes in the urban / wildland interface, make homes more safe from fire. The standard reference on defensible space has been the Colorado State Forest Service publication *Protecting Your Home From Wildfire* (FIRE 2012 -1). However, as you read though defensible space information, ask yourself the following question: if no firefighting resources can reach my home (and this is likely in a large fire that overwhelms our ability to respond), can my home survive unattended? In other words: is my home stand-alone safe? In general, structures burn either by materials that carry the fire to the structure or by intense radiative heat. So, looking around the area near your home, ask the question: What can carry the fire to my house? If you have questions about your own home's defensible space, give me a call (303-449-6685) and I'll be happy to look over your property with you.

Some other things to think about for wildland fire mitigation:

- If the trees closest to your home ignite, will the radiant heat be sufficient to ignite your home? The answer can be complex and depends on multiple factors including window type, your siding and so on.

- Keep 'oily' shrubs and trees away from the house (Juniper is oil in the form of a tree!)
- Keep roofs clear of debris: all of those pine needles that accumulate over the winter need to be cleaned from gutters.
- Stack firewood uphill or on a contour and at least 15 feet away from buildings.
- Don't park vehicles in tall, dry grass: hot mufflers can start fires. Have bushes and forest litter crept back over the winter; is it time to widen the zone of thinned vegetation; have new ladder fuels arrived? A weed wacker may be your best tool for maintaining defensible space. As a general rule, dried vegetation (grasses, shrubs, etc.) will produce a flame length 3 times the fuel height.
- Check to see if roof shingles blew off during the winter Chinook winds: these need to be replaced.
- Enclose porch floors, roofs and attic openings (this will help keep wind-blown firebrands from getting into your home).
- Dispose of slash from thinning. There are a few remaining months to do this before the snows go. Be sure to follow the SFPD and County guidelines for burning.
- Get rid of trash that accumulated over the winter.

Ideas for general emergency preparedness:

- If you are new to the District, let us know! We are a small District and would like to know about our neighbors' needs and concerns. We're here to serve.
- If you have a buried propane tank, provide us with a means of locating it when the access to the tank is under snow (e.g., a flag sticking up several feet).
- If you have a sprinkler system for your house, please let us know if you have a fire department connection and its location. If you don't know if you have such a connection, call me and I'll check it out for you.

Continued on Page 4

2015's 'To Do' list for safety

by Fire Marshal Bruce Honeyman – Continued from page 3

- Put emergency contact and medical information in a location that is easy for firefighters and emergency medical personnel to find. Pharmacies sell plastic information holders, usually emblazoned with a big red cross, that you can attach to the refrigerator door. If you have a living will or Do Not Resuscitate Orders (DNR), make sure that they are easy to find by emergency responders. Good locations include the refrigerator door, as described above, or with your collection of medications.
 - Get a fireproof safe for critical personnel information or put the documents in a safety deposit box at one of the local banks. Our 'fireproof' safe was destroyed in the Four Mile Fire, so beware!
 - Think about those items that are precious to you (e.g., family photographs) and keep them organized for quick and easy access if you need to quickly evacuate your home. In an emergency, you may have only a few minutes to gather belongings. Scanning photos is relatively inexpensive and there are many businesses in town that will create digital copies for you to put in a safe-deposit box.
 - Make sure that emergency responders can locate your house: your fire department address marker (the green plastic strips) should be in good shape and visible from the road. Many seem to have blown down during the severe winds of the last few months. If you need a new one, or are unsure if your current marker is adequate for the task, contact me. Remember that some of our mutual and automatic aid responders (e.g., AMR and adjacent fire districts) may not be as familiar with our District as we are.
 - Trim branches along your driveway to facilitate moving our equipment to your home (our largest pumper, 4501, is 9 feet wide and 11 feet tall).
 - Have flashlights with fresh batteries at convenient locations in your home
 - Develop a family evacuation plan. Agree upon a rendezvous point, perhaps at a friend's house in town. Practice family fire drills: know the best exits from your home.
 - Check the batteries on your smoke detectors. Smoke detectors save lives! Get a CO (carbon monoxide) detector, too.
 - If you have a gate on your driveway, make sure that we are up-to-date on the access code.
 - If you have a cistern for emergency water or a fire department connection for your swimming pool, make sure that the fittings are in order and that the cistern has water. If you installed a cistern as part of site-plan review stipulations for building, you are required to keep the cistern in excellent operating condition (including being full of water).
 - If you are going away on vacation, try to remember to park vehicles away from likely routes of emergency access. If you have a turnaround at your home, leave it free of vehicles so that we don't need to back down your driveway when we leave.
 - Make sure that your fire extinguisher is charged and is located for easy access. A good place for an extinguisher is just outside the kitchen. Extinguishers need to be serviced yearly! If you don't know the proper way to use an extinguisher, contact us and we'll be glad to show you.
 - Clean out your garage and storage areas! Properly dispose of hazardous materials.
 - Have your fireplace chimney inspected and cleaned.
- Finally, get an estimate of the actual costs to replace your home in the event of a complete loss and find an insurance company that will insure it for that value. Don't rely on your insurance representative to provide you with that number: find a trusted local contractor and have him or her write up an estimate.

Continued on Page 5

2015's 'To Do' list for safety
by Fire Marshal Bruce Honeyman – Continued from page 4

Furthermore, document all coverage negotiations with your agent through written requests and have him or her respond in kind. Remember, two thirds of homeowners who lost homes in CA and CO fires were underinsured.

If you have any questions about emergency preparedness, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Have a safe and fun Spring and Summer!
Bruce Honeyman

Emergency Alert Program

Please Sign up or update your account for the Boulder County Emergency Alert Program:

Public safety agencies throughout Boulder County have switched to a new emergency notification system. This system will allow residents of the county and all cities within the county to be notified of an emergency situation in a variety of ways, including on their cell phone, home and work phones and by text messaging and e-mail.

You will receive time-sensitive messages wherever you specify, such as your home, cell, or business phone, email, text messages, hearing impaired receiving devices, and more. You pick where, you pick how.

https://ww2.everbridge.net/citizen/EverbridgeGateway.action?body=home&gis_alias_id=160781

Fire Code Update:

On December 9, 2014, the Board of the Sunshine Fire Protection District adopted the 2012 version of the International Fire Code, with some amendments. At the end of February the County's Fire Code Review Committee (FCRC) also approved this document. Now that the Fire Code Review Committee has approved the District's version it goes on for approval by the Boulder County Commissioners. The date for this is still to be determined.

The roof is the most vulnerable part of a building during a wildfire event, because it is typically horizontal and acts as a receptacle for flying firebrands. Roofing material used in home construction is a crucial factor in determining the survivability of a structure in the event of a wildfire.

***State Tax Subtraction: Wildfire Mitigation Measures Subtraction**

Individuals, estates and trusts may subtract from federal taxable income certain costs incurred while performing wildfire mitigation measures on their property. For qualifications and limitations, please see: Income 65 Wildfire Mitigation Measures Subtraction from the Colorado Department of Revenue Taxpayer Service Division. (<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/Income65.pdf>)

Please contact a tax professional with questions. The State of Colorado Department of Revenue administers the program.

Around Firewise Home: Roof Realities and How to Reduce Your Vulnerability

Published in Firewise How-To Spring 2013 addition (www.firewise.org)¹

In this issue of How-To Newsletter, we explore the vulnerability of your home's roof. In subsequent issues of How-To, we will discuss other vulnerable areas of the home and its surrounding landscape, and how to best reduce overall wildfire risk exposure. In terms of a wildfire, the most vulnerable part of a house is its roof. We've all read or heard the popular saying "We didn't have any money, but at least we had a roof over our heads." There are many ways to interpret this phrase; one that comes to mind is the idea of resiliency in the face of adversity. However, in the context of wildfire preparedness, scientists have learned that simply having a roof over one's head is not enough. The roof is the most vulnerable part of a building during a wildfire event, because it is typically horizontal and acts as a receptacle for flying firebrands--a leading source of home ignitions during a wildfire event. In the following segment we will explore important roof attributes that matter with regard to wildfire ignition, and what you can do about them.

Material Matters—

Researchers and firefighters have known for more than 30 years that the type of roofing material used in home construction is a crucial factor in determining the survivability of a structure in the event of a wildfire. Combustible roofs, such as untreated woodshake shingle, are therefore an undesirable material choice in the event of a wildfire. One of the fundamental recommendations that NFPA® 1144² and the Firewise® Program make is that roofing construction materials be comprised of Class A³ asphalt shingles, metal, slate or claytile, and concrete products. Class A roofing materials are effective against severe test exposure: they afford a high degree of fire protection to the roof deck; they do not slip

from position; and they do not present a flying brand hazard. Through inference, a Class A roofing material has a much lower flame spread rating than a Class C material.

The 'edge-effect'

Although many of the most important actions for providing structure fire safety in the wildland-urban interface are accomplished during the planning, designing, constructing and landscaping phases of initial home development, the Firewise maintenance of the home starts on the day the new homeowner takes occupancy, and it continues as long as the structure stands. While roof materials, as noted above, are important, roof maintenance is just as critical. Roof vulnerabilities exist where dead leaves and needles accumulate. Plan on inspecting your gutters twice a year, in the spring and fall. If your house is under any trees you may have to clean gutters more often. Areas also to inspect are:

- (1) The roof troughs [see image 1]¹
- (2) Where the roof intersects with siding.
- (3) Around skylights
- (4) Where birds' nests may be constructed at the ends of unplugged roof tiles — which is why tiles should be plugged!

In summary, if the home has a Class A roof covering, be less concerned with rough troughs and instead focus on where the roof abuts the siding. Both the Class A roof covering materials and the adjacent side wall sheathing materials are important. Roof edges tend to accumulate dead leaves and needles. Therefore, a regular roof maintenance schedule, through which accumulated debris is removed from is an extremely useful strategy when trying to reduce the ignitability and exposure of the roof in the event of a wildfire.

¹ For images and full article please see page 5, 6 & 7 of the Firewise How-To at

<http://www.firewise.org/~media/Firewise/Files/Pdfs/Newsletters/Spring%202014%20How%20To%20Newsletter.pdf>

² NFPA® 1144, Standard for Reducing Structure Ignition Hazards from Wildland Fire 2013 Edition.

³ A combustible material is rated as Class A, Class B, or Class C based on its performance in an American Society for Testing and Materials [ASTM E 108 Standard Test Methods of Fire Tests of Roof Coverings].

SFPD OFFICERS

Chief - Steve Waltman
(303) 786-9414
chief@sunshine-fpd.org

Deputy Chief - Henry Ballard
(303) 449-8619
deputy-chief@sunshine-fpd.org

Fire Marshal - Bruce Honeyman
(303) 704-0162
honeyman@stanfordalumni.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Deirdre Damron
(303) 544-0273
deirdre_damron@hotmail.com

Secretary – Alan Kirton
ajkirton@ionsky.com

Treasure - Sam Mishkin
(914) 525-9464
sammishkin@gmail.com

Jim Peacock
jim@mythosandcompany.com

Eugene (Gene) Fischer
genefischer@yahoo.com

**COMMUNITY WILDFIRE
PROTECTION PLAN (CWPP)
COMMITTEE**

CWPP Chair - Abby Silver
(303) 442-1253 abberoo@msn.com

Website: www.sunshine-fpd.org

The Sunshine Recovery

Homes Rebuilt/under
construction on property
destroyed
30

New Home sites:
2

Home destroyed 57

**Please welcome our
newest
SFPD Fire Fighters:**

Paul Hourihan
Ross Wehner

Calendar

March:

- 10 SFPD Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. @ station #1
- 12 Medical/Behavior 8:30 AM to 12 p.m. @ station #1
- 14 Practical Training Helicopter Landing at 4 Mile
- 26 WUI training 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. @station #1

April:

- 1 Medical – Trauma 6-8 p.m. @ 4-Mile
- 11 Wildland Refresher – 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. station 1
- 14 SFPD Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. @ Station 1
- 23 Ventilation/PPA/Fire Control 7- p.m. @ TBD

May:

- 9 Live Burn 8:30 a.m. -12 p.m,@ Training center
- 12 SFPD Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. @Station 1
- 14 Medical – Airway/Breathing/Cardiology @ Station 1
- 28 Classroom TBD 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.@ Gold Hill

Comments or suggestions for next newsletter contact: Jennifer Lansky at 303.442.2709 or jen@lansky.cc