



The Sunshine Fire Protection District Newsletter

Letter from the Chief By Michael Schmitt

Many of you already know me, and for those of you whom I haven't met, my name is Michael Schmitt and I have been a firefighter with SFPD for 16 years. I ran into Chief Bader in early 2000 at a residents home assessing the fire mitigation needs of the property. I asked him about the local fire department that he happened to be the Chief of at the time. After all these years and several excellent Fire Chiefs, it was interim Chief Bader again that approached me earlier this year asking if I would be interested in becoming the Chief for the district.

Knowing that those were big shoes of my predecessors to fill, I requested a few weeks to think about it to gather more information regarding all the responsibilities that are involved. After careful consideration and figuring out how I will fit this major commitment into my regular life, I realized that I felt honored to accept this new challenge in my life. I have always felt deeply connected to the Sunshine community. The officers of the department approved me and the SFPD board voted me in to formally

become Chief of the Sunshine Fire Protection District as of April 12th this year.

As of August 22, 2016, 23 different SFPD Firefighters participated in 51 calls.

- Medical – 19
- Structural, car, & wildland fire/smoke reports – 15
- Vehicle & Bike Accident – 8
- Search & Rescue – 1
- Hazardous Conditions - 2
- Automatic Smoke Alarm - 4
- Water Rescue - 2

I would like to extend a warm thank you to interims Chief Bader and former Chief Waltman for all of the excellent work they did. Having experienced some of those responsibilities for the past few months now, I am getting a thorough picture of the impressive work they have done. As we all are aware, we, as a community, have been through several significant

events that we thank them for guiding us through. Sunshine Fire has a strong group of highly skilled officers that always have been an inspiration to me, and every week it is evident that this job of Fire Chief is impossible without these individuals. SFPD is fortunate to have a core group of firefighters that is seriously committed to responding in the middle of the night in all sorts of weather conditions to help and protect neighbors and visitors coming through our district.

The Cold Springs Fire was a strong example of the immediate and skilled response from our firefighters to accept the challenge. We sent two different engines for one day each to the Cold Springs fire. I am proud to say that our firefighters saved homes from a fire that had the potential to become much worse. We thank all the agencies and aerial support that worked diligently around the clock to assist in the fires containment.

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Fire Marshall's Report

By Bruce Honeyman

There are 14 fire districts in what we think of as the Front Range to the West of Boulder. With the exception of a few (e.g., Nederland Fire and Boulder Mountain Fire), all have volunteer staffs as well as firefighters [Nederland and Boulder Mountain Fire have paid Chiefs]. No matter the size of the District, or the number of volunteers, we pretty much all need to do the same things, the most obvious of which is responding to 911 calls. Most of our time is spent doing non-emergency tasks: keeping the trucks in working order; making sure our cached water supplies are good; and training, training, training! Over the years the amount of paper work we need to do has also grown. Many of the paperwork tasks are unfunded mandates from the State and Federal government and a lot of the burden for doing these things falls to the Chief, officers and some great non-firefighter volunteers.

Given the above, it makes sense for us to share tasks with neighboring Districts when appropriate to

lessen the burden on the volunteers and help make things more efficient in terms of resource utilization—physical resources such as apparatus placement but, more importantly, human resources.

Four Mile Fire and Sunshine Fire have for some time worked closely together on a variety of tasks. For example, we respond to each other's 911 calls in both auto- and mutual aid capacities and have combined firefighting and medical trainings. In 2015 Four Mile and Sunshine adopted the 2012 International Fire code with amendments that are essentially identical. Over the years as the Sunshine Fire Marshal I have worked to make my office more active and proactive on issues and the IFC adoption has given us much needed authority.

As our Districts grow (and continue to recover from the Four Mile Fire)

the opportunities and obligations for the Fire Marshal also have increased and it makes sense to join forces with Four Mile to share Fire Marshal duties.

Regina Daly is Four Mile's Fire Marshal. She is also a member of the County's Multiagency Fire Investigation Team (MAFIT). Recently the two Districts signed a letter of cooperation in which Regina and I share responsibilities and authority in each other's Districts. Regina and I work well together and it is fun to discuss issues with her and to mutually solve problems we encounter in site development and infrastructure management. It also helps our two Districts more efficiently communicate with each other, calibrate our standards and more solidly interweave our Districts' operations. Regina can be reached at reginadaly01@gmail.com.

*Mitigation Tip:

- Make sure the all vents are sealed to block any ember from entering a structure.
- Touch 'n Foam Fire Break is a flame resistant sealant you can purchase at McGuckin's. Fire Break® is self-extinguishing and works by eliminating oxygen flow in service penetrations, where fire spreads most quickly.

**CWPP Committee Update -
By Abby Silver**

After a few wet years, this dry summer has been a heads up for us mountain dwellers. The Cold Springs fire was a sobering reminder of the continued risk we all face from wildfire. All the fire mitigation work we do on our own property also trickles down to make our whole community safer. I want to personally thank everyone in Sunshine for making the effort to trim/limb/thin your trees, mow or weed wack your grass, and do all that you do to help make our community as resilient as possible!

Project Update: January – August 2016:

- We have completed the thinning along the shared driveway at 4300 SCD.
- Our spring chipping event was a success, with 31 homeowners plus the SFPD stations participating. Thanks to everyone who signed up, and to the Fourmile Mitigation crew for doing a great job as always!

Save the Date:
Fall Community Chipping
Oct 24-18

Future Projects: Sept 2016 – early 2017: Again in 2016, we are grateful to Boulder County, the Colorado State Forest Service, and the CO Dept. of Natural Resources for grant funding! These grants will help pay for two projects this year, our community chipping events plus a pile burning project that will begin once the snow starts to fly.

- Fall chipping will run from October 24-28. All residents will be contacted in mid-September and encouraged to sign up by email (as usual).
- Pile burning will take place over the winter when conditions are right and the contractors are available. Homeowners should have gotten an email asking whether you have piles you want included. If you still want to sign up, please email Abby (abberoo@msn.com).
- Sign project maintenance: Please contact Abby Silver (abberoo@msn.com) if your post is no longer upright or has disappeared.

We will be having a CWPP Committee planning meeting in early 2017 to line out our priorities for that year. Look for an email announcement sometime in early January. **As ever, please feel free to contact me with any input or project suggestions.** Abby Silver, CWPP Committee Chair: abberoo@msn.com

Sunshine Fire Protection District's Annual

COMMUNITY FEST

Saturday, September 17, 2016

4 to 8 p.m. at Station #2

Seeking Donations for the Community Fest of new or gently used treasures, services (like babysitting, cupcake baking, sharing your expertise or talent, etc.). Contact Deirdre Damron (303) 544 0273

Deirdre_Damron@hotmail.com

If you can volunteer the day of, contact: Beth Byerlein, beth.byerlein@gmail.com or (303) 440 9559

Raffle Prizes

Live Auction

Silent Auction

Homemade Chili & Beer

Chief's Report

By Michael Schmitt - Continued from Page 1

SFPD also had multiple firefighters patrolling our district as we coordinated with our neighbors of the Four Mile Fire district throughout the week of the fire.

The Cold Springs Fire was also a good reminder for all of us to be diligent when preparing our houses and properties for a wildfire. Please always remember to keep your grasses low, remove fuels from your homes exterior (including pine needles in your gutters) and have an evacuation plan in place for your family.

As you may remember, SFPD enacted its own fire ban for the district two weeks before the Sheriff's office did due to our local conditions. We will continue to observe the county's responsiveness to local conditions and plan our own solutions to increase awareness and preparedness in our district. For the coming winter months I would like to remind everyone to get chimneys cleaned and inspected and to keep driveways plowed and accessible for emergency vehicles.

We have two happy announcements that I am pleased to pass on. First, please welcome with me our new firefighters who will have the privilege to serve our residents; Meredith Jackson, Michael Johnson, Tyler Elorriaga, Derek Lapp and Alex Honeyman. Each one of them has already shown that they will make our

department stronger and we are happy to have them. Secondly, the SCBA (our breathing apparatus) that we announced in the previous newsletter and which we purchased with the help of the Colorado Firefighter Safety and Disease Prevention Grant has been put into service.

I also want to take this time to give a shout out to our SFPD board member Alan Kirton. We have received numerous grants due to his quick and professional attention and commitment to the needs of our district. Every one of these grants has resulted in an important improvement for our district. To list a few examples, the SCBA grant that Alan secured provided SFPD with new breathing apparatus as our old ones were fatigued to the point of creating a potential hazard. Alan won the grant that will supply each station with a generator and also a grant that enabled us to purchase multiple radios which are an important tool, but individually are too expensive for a small district to afford in such numbers.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. And as always, dial 911 in the event of an emergency.

I look forward to serving this fine community.
Michael Schmitt

Pet Disaster Preparedness

1. Create a group: neighbors/friends with whom you trust to evacuate your pet.
2. Provide Pet ID/Emergency information: (See Page 10 for a sample form)
3. Prepare a Pet Grab & Go Box: (See Page 11 for a sample form)

Important info to know:

Check www.BoulderOEM.com - Keep checking for updates to see where pet(s) are being evacuated. In an emergency event the address & phone number of the pet emergency evacuation location will be posted here.

Animal control @the sheriff's office: (303) 441-4444 or 911

Wildfire mitigation helps save homes in the Cold Springs Fire by Wildfire Partners

The headline of the Cold Springs Fire was proclaimed by The Mountain-Ear on July 14 as “Firefighters win!” The subheadline of the fire is “Mitigation wins too!”

Seeing homes standing untouched by a wildfire—even though they are surrounded by destroyed structures and burned vegetation—can be so surreal that some people want to declare these scenes as miracles. In fact, these homes are still standing thanks to hard work—performed by homeowners completing mitigation measures before fires occur and by firefighters suppressing the fire as it burns.

In and around the Cold Springs Fire perimeter, there is a long list of “saves,” homes that survived the fire. All residents in the region are indebted to the firefighters who protected and saved so many homes. From the mitigation perspective, all eight Wildfire Partners homes within the burn perimeter survived intact as well as all 13 homes that were constructed in compliance with the county’s wildfire mitigation building code requirements. The fact that none of these mitigated homes were destroyed is an important story that needs to be told. Dozens of additional Wildfire Partners homeowners who were evacuated received benefits from their mitigation work simply by knowing that they had acted responsibly and prepared their structures in advance.

During the Cold Springs Fire, firefighters were able to do structure prep on a number of homes that were not already mitigated—trying to create non-combustible zones around structures; moving large firewood piles, pine needles, wood mulch, deck furniture and other items away from homes; and cutting down and limbing trees right up against structures. On many other fires, firefighters do not have the time to do this work. Their message is clear—homeowners need to take responsibility and mitigate their homes in

advance with the assistance of programs like Wildfire Partners.

According to Jay Stalnacker, Boulder County’s Fire Management Officer, “Mountain and foothills homeowners have a direct responsibility to maintain and prepare their homes and property for a wildfire. When homeowners and government can collaborate as a community to both restore natural ecosystems and create defensible wildfire mitigation, both the environment and homeowners benefit. Wildfire Partners is an example of this effort and the results are obvious as you look at the post fire effects of the Cold Springs Fire. The mitigation created defensible space for firefighters to safely work in and ultimately helped create a more natural and healthy looking forest.”

National mitigation expert Pat Durland stresses that “Home loss to wildfires is a solvable issue, and programs like Wildfire Partners help folks understand and act to make that happen. It’s NOT a miracle or luck, it’s the process of combustion, and if we manage the fuels, combustion is interrupted and we win!”

Wildfire Mitigation Success Stories

Wildfire Partners homeowners have success stories to tell because they performed comprehensive mitigation that often entailed many hours of hard work and hundreds of dollars of expense. Wildfire Partners homeowners spend an average of 60 hours and \$2,400 performing mitigation and receive an average of \$700 in financial assistance from the program.

Each of these homeowners has an interesting story to tell of how their efforts were worth it and how mitigation and Wildfire Partners helped save their homes.

The following Wildfire Partners homeowners have agreed to be interviewed by print media to share their important stories.

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Wildfire mitigation helps save homes in the Cold Springs Fire by Wildfire Partners - Continued from page 5

David and Trise (Patricia) Ruskay

Over the last few years, David and Trise Ruskay have been thinning and taking lower limbs off all the trees around his house, removing about 30 pine and spruce trees. They removed juniper and kinnikinnick bushes completely in that 30 foot range as well. The Ruskay's performed his mitigation with the advice of Wildfire Partners.

As the flames steamed up his driveway, David ran along with Timberline and Nederland firefighter and only had about five minutes to take what he could. "I returned expecting to see very little left of our home and gorgeous property. What I found was a 360 degree 50 foot swath all the way around the house in which there sat a green island, our house untouched in the middle of it and black everywhere beyond that line."

David is clear. He did not save his home from this fire. "Local, not so local and not even close to local firefighters saved it. They risked life and limb to make sure my wife Trise and I had a place to return to. All I did was help them make it happen."

"For those of my close neighbors that lost all, I am so very sorry. They need our help and support and are sure to get it. Those that survived can thank their consistent and diligent mitigation and all the agencies that were fearless and brilliant in their attack."

David's advice, "Invest the time and money necessary to automatically produce the most successful outcome possible. I can't describe adequately how great it feels to be home again safe and sound."

Robert Lanham

Bob Lanham has been working on mitigation of his mountain home for many years and received his Wildfire Partners Certificate in 2015. His mitigation worked perfectly, ground fires stopped about 20 feet from the structure and trees burned within about 100 feet. He saw this exact fire coming 10 years ago and implemented a very specific and targeted mitigation program for when that day arrived.

According to Bob, his story "would make a true believer out of any mountain homeowner of the value of fire mitigation." When he purchased the home, it suffered from 30 years of benign neglect and was a fire waiting to happen—wood shingles, lumber stacked under the wood decks, and dense conifers overhanging the home.

Bob's house was ground zero. The fire burned across half of his yard on the south side of the house. It stopped at the point where he'd earlier raked the grass down to bare dirt, removing accumulated pine needles and aspen leaves. He said it was "a lot of work, but worth it."

Bob's was the only surviving home of the three adjacent properties on Sherwood Road. He believes his neighbors' homes would have survived if they had mitigated to the extent he did. One of his neighbors just bought his house and hadn't even moved in yet. He was planning to join Wildfire Partners and work on mitigation; he just didn't have enough time.

Bob said that one thing that probably saved his home, in addition to his mitigation efforts, was the selfless actions of Charles Schmittmann, a captain with the Nederland Fire Protection District. Bob was unable to get to his residence before the mandatory evacuation, leaving his garage door open to blowing embers. Charles checked on homes as the fire swept through the neighborhood and closed the garage door. At the same time he was doing this, his own home fell victim to the fire and was totally destroyed.

Lester Karplus

On Lester's property, the fire came dangerously close to all of his buildings, yet none burned. Two of his neighbors lost their homes. Nederland Fire Chief, Rick Dirr told Lester that his mitigation

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Wildfire mitigation helps save homes in the Cold Springs Fire
by Wildfire Partners - Continued from page 6

really helped save the property and they did assign assets to protect it. According to Boulder County’s Fire Operations Specialist Seth McKinney, Lester’s home was “very well mitigated.”

Lester stated, “Fire was going to happen. It was a question of when, not if. I feel after this fire that I should have gone further in my mitigation efforts, but I really didn’t understand how the fire was going to react. I did my basic stuff, but not extra. It was a lot of hours and money, but it was worth it. My lesson from this experience was that we will build the buffers even bigger.”

Wildfire Partners is still accepting applications for 2016. Wildfire Partners Mitigation Specialist and Sunshine resident Abby Silver is available to perform your on-site assessment. More information is available at www.wildfirepartner.org. Or contact Abby directly with questions at asilver@wildfirepartners.org/ 303.442.1253.

Wildfire Partners background

Launched in 1994, Wildfire Partners is a collaborative initiative with more than 35 partner organizations led by Boulder County. The program provides critical technical and financial assistance to help Boulder County homeowners in the foothills and mountains prepare for wildfire. It is funded by Boulder County, a \$1.5 million grant from the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, and a \$1.125 million grant from FEMA. More than 800 homeowners are currently participating in the program with more joining every day.

Apply to Wildfire Partners

Applications are available at www.WildfirePartners.org. Call 303-441-1420 or email info@wildfirepartners.org with questions.

For link to the online article with photos, please see: <http://www.wildfirepartners.org/wildfire-mitigation-helps-save-homes-cold-springs-fire/>

Fall Arts and Craft Fair

at The Sunshine School House

Saturday, October 15th, and Sunday, October 16th.

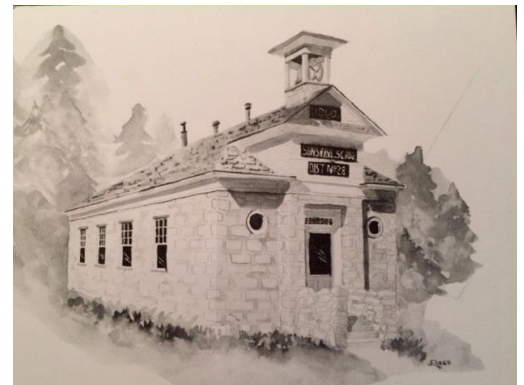
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

10 percent of vendor’s sales go to the Sunshine Historic Society.

Please come and supports our vendors while enjoy some tea & bake goods with your neighbors. Also stay to enjoy the atmosphere of the historic schoolhouse, grounds, and cemetery.

If you are interested in being a vendor or available to help with advertisement, signs, cleaning of the schoolhouse, baking goodies, please Contact Dee Spence at deefish7@gmail.com.

Priority is given to Sunshine community artists & craft vendors.



Boulder County Emergency Alerts

Sign Up for Emergency Alerts!

The Cold Springs Fire was a time to reflect on our own preparedness for a wildfire event. The following contains recommendations for receiving or accessing emergency information.

TO RECEIVE EMERGENCY MESSAGES sent to your phone: SIGN UP for the Emergency Alert program. Go to www.BoulderOEM.com Under "Emergency Alert Messages", click on the sign up link www.boco911alert.com This will redirect you to the Everbridge.net website where you can sign up or update your information.

Even if you are already a subscriber, you need to UPDATE your contact information because the site has recently completed a software upgrade.

TO CHECK ON THE STATUS OF AN EMERGENCY:

Go to Boulder County Emergency Management www.BoulderOEM.com for information about an active fire or another emergency. Click on the blue "Emergency Status" button.

Slash pile burns, especially in the tussock moth

IMPORTANT NOTE: Our communications system uses your email address to send SFPD and community notices to you. During an emergency, our Fire Chief, Michael Schmitt, will get information to the community as soon as possible. However, he cannot return phone calls from residents as he is actively responding to the situation and directing our fire fighters.

Our communications system is not designed to send emergency information and cannot respond to emails sent to the "community@sunshine-fpd" address. When you receive a notice and wish to respond, please don't hit 'reply', but instead look for the contact information in the body of the email.

Finally, in an emergency, always dial 911 to request immediate assistance.

**Sunshine Fire Protection District's Annual
COMMUNITY FEST**

Saturday, September 17, 2016
4 to 8 p.m. at Station #2

Seeking Donations for the Community Fest of new or gently used treasures, services (like babysitting, cupcake baking, sharing your expertise or talent, etc.). Contact Deirdre Damron (303) 544 0273
Deirdre_Damron@hotmail.com

If you can volunteer the day of, contact: Beth Byerlein,
beth.byerlein@gmail.com or (303) 440 9559

Raffle Prizes

Live Auction

Silent Auction

Homemade Chili & Beer

SFPD OFFICERS

Chief - Michael Schmitt
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
SFPD Phone # 303.789.7731

The Sunshine Recovery

Homes Rebuilt/under construction
on property destroyed
32

New Home sites:
2

Home destroyed 57

**Please Welcome our
Newest SFPD
Firefighters:**

Derek Lapp
Alex Honeyman
Tyler Elorriaga

Calendar

Sept:

- 10 Structure skills training - 8:30-12 @ Gold Hill Fire Barn
- 13 SFPD Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. @ station #1
- 17 Community Fest 4-8pm @ Station 2 (SCD)
- 22 Driver Safety training 6 to 8 PM @ station #1

Oct:

- 8 Live Burn Trailer training 8:30 AM - 12PM @ station #2
- 11 SFPD Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. @ Station 1
- 15&16 Sunshine Craft Fair 10AM - 4PM
- 27 Boulder County Annex Lecture 7:30-9 PM @ TBD

Nov:

- 8 SFPD Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. @Station 1
- 16 Live Burn hose management 8:30-12 @ TBD

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

PET EMERGENCY INFORMATION SHEET

(Use the back of this form for additional information)

Pet Owner Information:

Owner's Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Work: _____

Email: _____

Name of Emergency Pet Guardian: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Work: _____

Email: _____

Pet Information:

Pet's Name: _____ Sex: Male Female Date of Birth: _____

Species (Dog, cat, etc.) _____ Breed: _____

Distinctive Colorations/Markings/Feature/weight: _____

Spayed/Neutered: Yes No ID Microchip: Yes No

Veterinarian Name: _____

Address: _____

Office Phone: _____ Emergency Phone: _____

Medical problems/conditions/allergies/care: _____

Medications & Instructions: _____

Dietary care/feeding instructions: _____

Behavior or habits: Does this animal bite? Yes No

Medical Care: If your pet is injured do you authorize an available veterinarian to provide medical treatment? Yes No I will reimburse any expenditures up to Max. Amt: \$ _____

Recommended Attachments:

Proof of vaccinations	Photos
Important medical records/prescriptions	Pet medical insurance

Pet Grab & Go Bag

[Place the following in a container that is easy to transport. Label your box in bold letters with this document attached to the outside. Place it near your front door so rescuers can GRAB & GO.]

Animals in Home to be evacuated: # ____ Species (dog, cat. etc.) _____

Names: _____

Food (Brands/Names):

Medications:

Pet Crate or crate location:

Other items to go with your pet(s): Please check if in the Grab & Go Bag.

<input type="checkbox"/> Pet Food (3-7 days worth)	<input type="checkbox"/> Harness (location: _____)
<input type="checkbox"/> Water for your pet	<input type="checkbox"/> Blankets/ Towels
<input type="checkbox"/> Treats	<input type="checkbox"/> Bed(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Toys	<input type="checkbox"/> Food/Water bowls
<input type="checkbox"/> Leash (location: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> Litter box/ Litter
<input type="checkbox"/> Muzzle (location: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Pet where-about: description of the location(s) in and/or around your home in which your pet(s) are most likely to be – include favorite “hiding places”

Notes & Comments: Affix product and/or medication labels in space below, or on back side (optional):

-----Tear here & affix to front Door -----

Emergency Personnel Evacuation Notice for Address:

- All People have Evacuated this home: Yes No
- All animals have been evacuated: Yes No

Comments: _____