



The Sunshine Fire Protection District Newsletter

Letter from the Chief By Michael Schmitt

The summer is nearly over, yet we still have some time to go until conditions outside allow for residents to forget about the threat of a wildfire. Please continue cutting your grasses, cleaning your gutters and keep flammables (firewood or that pretty straw doormat for example) away from your home and other structures.

It has occurred a number of times in the past year that a resident has called my cellphone to report an emergency. Please remember that any time you feel like reporting a situation to me, call 911 first. Boulder County dispatch is not only trained to handle the many different types of emergencies, they also know which other agencies to dispatch besides Sunshine FPD. This saves valuable time by getting eyes on the situation as soon as possible. We also are just like any other agency in that we would rather have ten of us come (middle of the night, snow storm... don't care) to what turns out to be a false alarm than even potentially risking not being there to help in time. In the

end, we are happy to come and find out that nothing got destroyed and no one got hurt; at the same time, our firefighters and other agencies are trained to either provide the help needed or request other agencies to come in for support.

If you would like to contact me, email is the best way to follow up with once you called and I wasn't able to get to the phone. The amount of voice mails I get from my personal life, my own work and through the fire department is

immense and I may not be able to listen to each one of them. Please send an email to chief@sunshine-fpd.org after you call 303-246-4519 for a non-emergency situation.

The community in Sunshine is going through some significant changes. I would like to thank, also on behalf of all firefighters and everyone involved, the following people:

Dave Hurley for always being supportive and an excellent resource that sometimes just made the unexpected possible. He has been in charge of fire engine and equipment maintenance, and as many of you know is a guy that you can always ask anything. We have fire engines that sometimes need simple things and other times have something significant break, fail or just act up. Having someone like Dave made all the difference and we miss more than just his skills.

**As of September 1, 2017,
SFPD has responded to 56
calls.**

Medical – 15

Structural, car, & wildland
fire/smoke reports – 19

Vehicle & Bike Accident – 14

Search & Rescue – 1

Hazardous Conditions - 2

Automatic Smoke Alarm - 3

Other - 2

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**CWPP Committee Update -
By Abby Silver**

Summer has been a traditionally slow season for CWPP projects, and 2017 was no exception. That said, slash piles along the roads indicate that individual homeowners have been keeping after their forest thinning. Thanks to all residents for the work that you do to make SFPD a resilient community! And a special thanks to CWPP committee members Deirdre Damron and Johanna Hurley who are both planning to move to the flats with their respective families. We so appreciate your service over the years and will miss you both!

We will be picking up the pace again this fall on two community-wide projects. First will be our **fall community chipping**, which will begin on October 23 and run through the 27th (weather permitting). Residents will be notified as usual by email right after Labor Day and can begin to sign up then. As in the past, chipping will be offered free of charge. The second project, our **community slash burning**, will pick up as soon as conditions permit.

Unfortunately, we only had one day last winter that met the criteria for our large-scale pile burns to take place. This leaves the District with several hundred piles remaining. Recognizing that it would be optimistic to expect completion in the 2017/2018 season, we have applied for and received an extension of our grant funding into 2019. Thanks to Alan Kirton for being on the ball with that!

We also allocated around \$3,900 from our CWPP funding to the installation of the new emergency generators that were installed at Stations 1 and 2. The remaining \$27,000+ was funded by State and Federal grants. As ever, we are grateful to FEMA, Boulder County, the Colorado State Forest Service, and the CO Dept. of Natural Resources for grant funding for all of our projects!

Reflective Address Signs:
Show your emergency responders and the UPS guy some love, and let me know if your sign needs maintenance:
abberoo@msn.com.

We will be having a CWPP Committee planning meeting in early 2018 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 anytime with any input or project suggestions.**

Abby Silver,

CWPP Committee Chair: abberoo@msn.com

Save the Date:
Spring Community Chipping
October 23 - October 27, 2017



Photo courtesy of Abby Silver

Chief's Report

By Michael Schmitt - Continued from Page 1

His wife, Johanna Hurley, has been instrumental to the community for the last decade. She helped organize community events, the community directory and email group, made fantastic food for firefighters when we had our trainings and was always available to help. She organized others to support us and we already feel the difference in the last few months that she made over the years.

Deirdre Damron was not only a board member but in addition helped with countless community events and the department in general. Whatever help was needed she helped, organized or delegated whatever needed to get done. I am not sure if I am conveying the message to the depth it deserves.

But when I say "community events" I am referring to the very events that not only help our community stay close, but are also fundamentally important to us as a department. And only thinking of the donations that came in as a result would not give it justice.

These individuals leave a big gap and we are sorry to see them leave not only for all the work they did, but moreover for the personality and positive energy they had whenever they were involved with the department.

Thank you from all of us!!!

My intention for this letter to the community is to ask residents to become involved with the department and/or the community. With these wonderful people leaving it becomes even more important to remind residents of how important volunteering is, whether you are a new resident or have lived here for many years. Think about giving to the community.

You don't need to be a firefighter that can carry someone up a 1000' steep hill. We have numerous positions aside from being an active firefighter with which you can help. As a volunteer agency we depend on you, the resident, to volunteer.

The department consists of the Chief, the Deputy Chief, Officers and Firefighters. They are all representatives of the department and responsible to train to specific standards, respond to calls, maintain engines and equipment to keep it operational and safe. We are looking for dedicated firefighters, event managers or support, equipment managers, helpers to keep the stations cleaned and organized, and we are also looking for a reliable person that can handle occasional data entry. All positions do require an interview and a background check of course. There is no position that is more important than another. Each is a piece of the whole that makes the department and supports the community. Contact me with any questions. Needless to say, volunteering can be very rewarding. While it is not always the easiest thing to do, I think I can speak for all of us in the department that being involved and helping others (direct or indirect) is a very satisfying experience. Making friends and learning new skills as well as knowing that what you do in one way or another promotes public safety and that of your neighbors is appealing and satisfying to most.

The annual Community Fest on September 24 is coming up soon. We would really appreciate our residents to come in numbers and support the department in any way you can. If you can help with the event itself please let Beth Byerlein (Thank you Beth!) know. She has been organizing it for years and any help I am sure is appreciated. But attending and showing support in any way you can (bring food, donate to the department or shake hands and eat!) is a really good start.

Thank you,

Fire Chief Michael Schmitt

Fire Protection Tip: Install smoke detectors, test them each month and change batteries once a year.

Fire Marshall's Report - Personal Choices and Community Effects

By Bruce Honeyman

Last week, the monthly fire training was an opportunity to hear Michael Kudas present his new book, 'Megafire'. It's clear to most of us living in the West that fires are becoming less 'seasonal' and that the intensity of fires is increasing: 'fire season' has lost its meaning and 'normal' is a moving target. Michael's talk was an interesting exploration of the changing fire 'landscape' whose components include climate change, how humans have contributed changes to fire frequency and intensity, and our political / social role in affecting and responding to fire. One statistic stated by Michael, and which prompted the topic of this newsletter article, is that humans are the cause of **80% of forest / wildland fires**. 'Only you can prevent forest fires!': Smokey the Bear is correct (at least 80% of them). This brings me to the issue of personal choices and community effects.

When we think of wildland fires our point of view tends to be as to how a fire started somewhere will affect our homes and property. And this is a good starting point for considering our place in the wildland / urban interface. But, to a certain extent, it locates us as the potential victims of a wildland fire and in a defensive posture. But, how would our behavior change if, instead, we viewed ourselves as a potential fire source: recall that 80% of fires are human caused.

What if we first thought of our homes and activities as a threat to our community, that our actions may directly cause a fire or augment its spread? Most of you reading this know that the Four Mile Fire was caused by the irresponsible burning of slash by a resident of Four Mile. I'm sure that most of you don't know that each year we respond to a number of 911 calls where one of our District residents did something similar but through luck or whatever was spared starting a similar fire. Hot coals from a wood burning stove tossed onto snow? The snow will put the coals out, right? Raise your hand if you've called 911 to ask us to put out this type of fire. A slash pile burn that was 'out'. Ditto. A recreational campfire? That's the whole Smokey the Bear thing.

But what about the not so obvious? How about your home as an **ignition source**? If it catches fire, will the fire spread to the wildland and into the community? We think about defensible space in terms of a fire reaching our home but what of the converse? Does your defensible space protect the community from a fire spreading **from** your home? If a fire reaches your home and ignites it, your home burning will produce an incredible amount of heat and burning material that will help propagate the fire.

Is your defensible space sufficient to help **stop** the fire?

Another not-so-obvious part of fire 'protection' is infrastructure 'preservation'. Defensible space isn't something you do that is isolated in time: it requires continual upkeep. If you have a cistern dedicated to firefighting that was required through the County's site plan / building process, you are required to keep that cistern and access to it in operating status in perpetuity, and if you sell your home the buyers need to maintain it, too. When we respond to a fire we expect the water resources to be available to us—our lives are at stake as are yours. The community's 'life' is at risk, too, because stopping a fire early is our only hope, and that means water where we have planned for it to be located.

It's the same with emergency access. The turnouts, turnarounds and vehicular access to your home need to be maintained: a pullout created 10 years ago has likely degraded to the point of uselessness to us. The cistern with the tractor parked in front of it or the fire department turnaround at your home that has become residential parking: they impede our ability to get an early

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Sunshine FPD Board News

Alan Kirton – Chair, Sam Mishkin – Treasurer, Gene Fischer, Jim Peacock

The Board of Directors has recently gone through a number of changes. At the July board meeting Deirdre Damron announced that she was stepping down from the board. Deirdre has been on the board for over six years and has been the Chair of the board for over five years. Deirdre has also been an integral part of the CWPP Committee and has helped to organize many of Sunshine FPD's community events. She will be sorely missed. Jean Gatza has agreed to fill the vacant board position and will officially become a board member in the October board meeting. Alan Kirton has agreed to become the Chair. Board members are elected to four year terms and are limited to serving two terms. Sam Mishkin, Gene Fischer and Jim Peacock are all on their

second term with their terms ending in 2020. Alan Kirton is on his first term which ends in 2018 and by Colorado law, board appointments are up for election in the next election. Therefore, two board positions will be up for election in 2018.

Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month, at 7:30 in Station 1. Community participation in these meetings are welcomed and encouraged. The Sunshine web site provides access to the board meeting minutes and Treasurer's reports (www.sunshine-fpd.org). Feel free to contact board members if you have any questions or concerns about what's happening in the district.

Joint Med Evac Fire Training in Sunshine

Photos Courtesy of Samantha Lansky



Please Call 911

If you need emergency assistance or come upon an emergency, please call "911". This is the most efficient way to get emergency response to the scene. Calling an SFPD firefighter directly can delay emergency response.

Fire Marshal's Report
by Bruce Honeyman - Continued from page 4

'knock' on the fire, or to protect your home, and the community has a greater risk of being affected.
Sunshine is a 'fire protection district' and for many people that is synonymous with a fire department and fire 'suppression'.

That is certainly an important component but, in my opinion, the most important expression of 'fire protection' is what choices we make as individuals to help protect the community. Only you can prevent forest fires!

New Communications Manager: ANNA MEFFORD

I'm pleased to introduce our new Communications and Database Manager for the Fire District, Anna Mefford. Anna will be sending SFPD community notices using the current notification system. In fact, she has already been sending notices. These Emails come to you from: community@sunshine-fpd.org

She will be updating and editing the Directory in the fall. Look for an email requesting any edits to your listing. Anna is very capable and I am delighted that she has volunteered to take on this important responsibility for our Community. Johanna Hurley

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If you are NOT receiving email notices from the fire district, and wish to receive them, please email Anna Mefford at annamefford@gmail.com. Please contact Anna whenever there is a change to your email address, so that she can update your information.

**Sunshine Fire Protection District's Annual
COMMUNITY FEST & POT LUCK**

Sunday, September 24, 2017

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

Adult Beverages

Auction

Auction

Homemade Chili

Carbon Monoxide

What is Carbon Monoxide? Carbon monoxide, or “CO,” is an odorless, colorless gas that can kill you.

Where is CO found? CO is found in fumes produced any time you burn fuel in cars or trucks, small engines, stoves, lanterns, grills, fireplaces, gas ranges, or furnaces. CO can build up indoors and poison people and animals who breathe it.

What are the symptoms of CO poisoning? The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. CO symptoms are often described as “flu-like.” If you breathe in a lot of CO it can make you pass out or kill you. People who are sleeping or drunk can die from CO poisoning before they have symptoms.

Who is at risk from CO poisoning? Everyone is at risk for CO poisoning. Infants, the elderly, people with chronic heart disease, anemia, or breathing problems are more likely to get sick from CO. Each year, more than 400 Americans die from unintentional CO poisoning not linked to fires, more than 20,000 visit the emergency room, and more than 4,000 are hospitalized.

How can I prevent CO poisoning in my home? Install a battery-operated or battery backup CO detector in your home and check or replace the battery when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall. Place your detector where it will wake you up if it alarms, such as outside your bedroom. Consider buying a detector with a digital readout. This detector can tell you the highest level of CO concentration in your home in addition to alarming. Replace your CO detector every five years.

Have your heating system, water heater, and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.

Do not use portable flameless chemical heaters indoors.

When you buy gas equipment, buy only equipment carrying the seal of a national testing agency, such as Underwriters’ Laboratories.

Make sure your gas appliances are vented properly. Horizontal vent pipes for appliances, such as a water heater, should go up slightly as they go toward outdoors, as shown below. This prevents CO from leaking if the joints or pipes aren’t fitted tightly.

Have your chimney checked or cleaned every year. Chimneys can be blocked by debris. This can cause CO to build up inside your home or cabin.

Never patch a vent pipe with tape, gum, or something else. This kind of patch can make CO build up in your home, cabin, or camper.

Never use a gas range or oven for heating. Using a gas range or oven for heating can cause a buildup of CO inside your home, cabin, or camper.

Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal – red, gray, black, or white – gives off CO.

Never use a portable gas camp stove indoors. Using a gas camp stove indoors can cause CO to build up inside your home, cabin, or camper.

Never use a generator inside your home, basement, or garage or less than 20 feet from any window, door, or vent.

How can I avoid CO poisoning from my vehicles? Have a mechanic check the exhaust system of your vehicle every year. A small leak in the exhaust system can lead to a buildup of CO inside the car.

Never run your car or truck inside a garage that is attached to a house even with the garage door open. Always open the door to a detached garage to let in fresh air when you run a car or truck inside.

If you drive a vehicle with a tailgate, when you open the tailgate open the vents or windows to make sure air is moving through. If only the tailgate is open CO from the exhaust will be pulled into the vehicle.

Sources : Center for Disease Control & Prevention
www.cdc.gov/co/faqs.htm

