Fire-Rescue Administrative Division

Chief Mark Miller and Public Safety Administrative Director Renee Wheeler

August 2015 overview -

August has been hot and dry for the most part, which reflected several wildfires in the western part of our jurisdiction as well as several small brush along the eastern edge of our district. August is Corn Roast time with the added excitement (and in-depth planning) of the Pro-Challenge Bike Race. Both came off without a hitch and I’m happy to report that there were no significant incidents as a result of either event. Once again, LFRA personnel rock, and I’m proud of how they do what they do.

Highlights of the August report include; LFRA maturation update; 2016 Budget update; Administrative Analyst Recruitment; LFRA family member accident/TVEMS recognition; Badge Pinning; Leadership Journey class;

LFRA Maturation -

The maturation process is moving along: Considerable resources have been dedicated to moving the employee conversion process forward according to the plan. Some of those efforts include:

• Evaluation of the Property/Casualty and Workers Compensation coverage and quotes, including a meeting with the representatives from the Colorado Special Districts Pool.
• Evaluation and refinement of documents required for the conversion.
• A Joint Meeting was held on August 18th for the LFRA Board, City Council, Rural District Board, and Fire Rescue Authority Advisory Board
• Consolidated Fire Pension Board meeting was held August 19th, where the conversion documents related to the pension fund were reviewed in detail and bi-annual actuarial study was evaluated to make a determination about the Pension Board recommendation to the City Council and Rural District Board for monthly benefit increases. The Board voted to request an increase of $50, (7%) from $700 to $750 monthly for former Volunteer Firefighters that meet the criteria.
• We presented the conversion information to the LFRA Board on July 29th for a first review, and then at the August 26th LFRA Board meeting for their final review/approval. Subsequently, City Council will have the opportunity to vote on the ordinances/resolutions. Although we hope to have everything in place by November 1st, the “go live” date will likely be January 1, 2016 in order to make it logistically viable for the legal/IRS aspects of the process.

2016 Budget Approval Process Continues-

The Rural District Board approved the 2016 Fees and the 2016 LFRA Budget at their meeting on August 5, 2015. The budget was presented to the Fire Rescue Authority Advisory Board at their meeting on August 12, 2015 and was well received. The next step is City Council approval in October, followed by appropriation by the LFRA Board in October. An additional supplemental appropriation may be required to align resources with the Third Amendment to the Fire Authority IGA.
**Administrative Analyst Recruitment**

As identified in the Strategic Plan, we are moving forward with the recruitment of an Administrative Analyst. The position posting closed on August 14th. It was advertised locally and nationally through the Governmental Finance Officers Association website. We received 13 applications and seven candidates have been contacted to complete a written exercise and interview at the end of the month to assist in selecting the best candidate to join the LFRA team.

**LFRA Family Member Accident/Injury**

On August 5th, one of “our own”, Cindy Lyons, wife of Captain Mark Lyons was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident in Sturgis, South Dakota. They were hit by a drunk driver who lost control of his motorcycle and slammed into Mark and Cindy. While Mark was able to escape with only minor injuries, Cindy, unfortunately had serious injuries including a fractured pelvis, broken wrist and broken shoulder as well as other associated trauma. Cindy underwent surgery in Rapid City, S.D. and spent the next week there after the accident.

Due to the extent of her injuries, Cindy was not able to be transported back to Loveland without special care and vehicle accommodations. Our emergency services partners, TVEMS, came to the rescue. Chief Randy Lesher of TVEMS, immediately stepped-up, and said they would *handle it* and he assigned a two-person crew and a TVEMS ambulance to make the drive to Rapid City to get Cindy on August 12th, a week after her accident. It was a 6 hour ride there, they picked up Cindy, and immediately turned around and headed back, with Cindy on-board.

Upon her arrival at MCR, she was greeted by the Loveland Fire Station 6 crew as well as the TVEMS 329 crew, who lined up alongside the ambulance as she was being unloaded – a emotional welcome indeed!

I’m happy to say, that Cindy was released from MCR on August 26th, and is now at home, still wheelchair bound, but happy to be home and recovering. She has a long road ahead, but her and Mark continue to be amazed at the support from our emergency services “family”. TVEMS rocks! Get well soon Cindy!

**Badge Pinning/Swearing-In Ceremony**

On August 10th, we held a special ceremony to formally recognize five of our members who were recently promoted/hired. This is one of my favorite things to do as a Fire Chief and is symbolic of the tradition and importance of the *Badge* we wear so proudly. The ceremony included a short explanation of the history and meaning of the badge and then a “pinning” ceremony in which family members or friends get to pin the badge on the newly promoted/hired member. Good stuff, and a career event that these members will remember always. Pictures of the ceremony are included in Division Chief Ward’s update. Members pinned include:

- Carrie Dann – promoted from Lieutenant/Deputy Fire Marshal to Captain/Deputy Fire Marshal
- Ben Andersen – Promoted from Engineer to Lieutenant
- Sean Houlihan – Promoted from Firefighter to Engineer
- Uriel Sanchez – Promoted from part-time Firefighter to full-time Firefighter
- Jesse Schleiger – hired as a part-time Firefighter.

*Congratulations to them all!!*

**The Leadership Journey**

Beginning September 2nd, we will be leading another Leadership Journey Class. This is a class that former Fire Chief Mirowski developed and has been taught for the last several years in LFRA. It is based on the HBO series *Band of Brothers*. I now get the opportunity to be the “tour guide” and I’m looking forward to learning from all those involved. I had the opportunity to teach this class while I was Fire Chief in Vail and it proved to be as valuable there as it has been in
LFRA. We are all at different points in our journey and we are all leaders regardless of our rank/position, thus the reason this is such an invaluable opportunity to grow, and make course corrections as necessary in our desire to be great leaders.

Fire and EMS crews welcoming Cindy Lyons to MCR
August 2015

Significant Events / Training

- All companies completed night live fire drills at the Training Center.
- LFRA hosted a Blue Card Instructor Update for the Colorado Blue Card Instructors. Retired Assistant Chief Pat Dale from Olympia Washington was the Instructor.
- Twelve LFRA Special Operations personnel attended a 40 hour Rigging for Rescue Rope Technician Course. The class was hosted by LFRA, with participants from Front Range Fire Rescue, Larimer County Emergency Services, Platte Valley Fire District and Poudre Fire Authority.
- Battalion Chief Tim Smith, Engineer Josh Valerio and EVT Warren Miller (City of Loveland Fleet) completed the final inspection of the new aircraft rescue and firefighting truck purchased by the FAA and Fort Collins-Loveland Airport.
- Two new staff vehicles were delivered, they are 2015 Chevrolet 1500 pickups that will be operated by the Battalion Chiefs.
- Three new Part Time Firefighters started the very end of August, they will go through a short training program and then will be assigned to Engine 2 and Engine 6.

Training Center Utilization

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<tr>
<th>Thompson Valley EMS</th>
<th>Fort Collins Police</th>
<th>Northern Colorado Bomb Squad</th>
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<td>Loveland Police</td>
<td>SVI Trucks</td>
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Significant Incidents

- On July 29th, LFRA responded to a fast moving wildland fire in the Mariana Butte area, the fire burned just under two acres. A second alarm was requested due to the homes in the immediate area, no structures were damaged. The Berthoud Fire District responded with a wildland engine to assist. This was one of four wildland fires that crews worked on the 29th.
- LFRA, Larimer County Emergency Services, United States Forest Service and Rocky Mountain National Park wildland crews responded to a wildland fire on Palisade Mountain on August 9th. The only access to the fire was a rugged hike, which took approximately one hour. The fire was contained to under an acre. Lightning is the suspected cause.
- A late afternoon lightning storm ignited three fires in the Bobcat Ridge Open Space on August 13th. LFRA along with crews from the Poudre Fire Authority, Larimer County Emergency Services, US Forest Service Fort Collins Open Space Rangers, Larimer County Rangers, Colorado Division of Fire Prevention / Control and Rocky Mountain National Park contained the fires to approximately 12 total acres. A single engine air tanker and a water dropping helicopter assisted with initial attack operations.
Rigging for Rescue Rope Technician Course

Mariana Butte and County Road 20 Wildland Fires – July 30th

Bobcat Ridge Open Space Fire – August 13th
Palisade Mountain Wildland Fire – August 9th

Corn Roast Celebration Stand By Crew

LFRA, LPD and Public Works – Pro Cycle Race

Live Fire Training
Badge Pinning

Captain Carie Dann
Lieutenant Ben Andersen
Engineer Sean Houlihan
Firefighter Uriel Sanchez
Part-Time FF Jesse Schleiger
Update/overview of CSD, Special Events (Ned):

- Continue with the restructuring of CSD – a retreat was held to determine where we are in comparison to the Strategic Plan, evaluate and compare our direction with previous retreat held two years ago. Discuss priorities with the group; projects and programs.
- In the 7th month of the DRT training course and beginning the Strategic Plan Development portion of the training.
- FAB remodel continues at the FAB and Fire relocation of staff to existing space is underway.
- Hired a new PT inspector, Allen Cravey, a retired chief officer from Albany, Georgia, who has 30 years’ experience in the fire service.
- Set up class for ICC Haz-mat – Fire Inspector II class in Loveland.
- Begin discussions with the State of Colorado Certification Director, Theresa Staples, for Fire Inspector I and Fire Investigator certifications.
- Several Special Events – Arise Music Festival (Sunrise Ranch) Sculpture in the Park, Art in the Park, Art Invitational and the Corn Roast and Pro-cycle in the Old Town area.
- Appeal process has begun from the builder of 267 Meadowsweet Circle – One of approximately 21 single-family residences in the Mariana Springs subdivision required to have residential fire sprinklers.

Significant Building Plan Reviews, and Inspections (Carie and Ingrid):

- Complete final inspections for the clubhouse at the Gateway 2534 apartment complex in Johnstown. This is the first building to be occupied as part of an 11-building multi-family development.
- Engineer Chris Sandoli is the new FIT on A Shift - congratulations Chris! Training has begun and additional FIT’s will be on deck for each shift.
- Sweetheart City Winery – Continued to meet and work with the applicants and their team to assist them with the Site Development process through Larimer County. The county/LFRA are still waiting for their site plan resubmittal and also the resubmittal for the Footings and Foundation permit.
- Resurrection Christian School modular classroom building – RCS wants to obtain a building permit to operate a modular classroom for three years on their property, due to enrollment growth. They’re required by state law to have a licensed design professional submit drawings for a permit. City Building Division and LFRA assisted the school in ensuring the submitted drawings meet IFC/IBC for exiting, emergency lighting and signage, and the required fire alarm system. Building and Fire met with the owner and design professional at the beginning of August but have not received a permit drawing submittal to date.
PIO, Website & Public Education (Scott):
- 6 Youth Fire-setting Family Intervention Sessions; 7 families, including 10 children and 9 adults
- 2 school safety assembly presentations
- 5 car seat inspections/installations
- 8 bike helmet fittings/donations
- 1 new inspection
- 1 re-inspection
- 2 burn permits
- Numerous LFRA website and social media updates
- PIO for Bobcat Ridge fires
- Press release for FM Global Fire Prevention Grant
- Fire drill for staff at Loveland Library
- City of Loveland bike safety event at Library
- YFS mandatory reporting training class
- Assist Windsor with Youth Fire Setter class
- Scheduling of BEC standby training sessions
- Emergency planning meeting with staff at Auburn Crest Hospice
- Emergency management training sessions with Pat Mialy
- Working on Public Education Community Risk Assessment
- Self-study for Fire Inspector II
- CSD planning retreat

Accreditation, Fracking, Inspections, Investigations (Ty):
- Developed draft risk analysis of oil and gas exploration processes for City Development Services and Title 18 committee.
- Completed initial training for FIT Sandoli (fire inspections, hazmat permit process, fire investigation)
- Completed preparations for Fire Investigation 101 and Fire Codes 101 courses
- Worked three OHW shifts in Operations (8/8 – FF on E6 for 12 hrs, 8/13 – recall staffing on E4 during Bobcat fire for 8 hrs, 8/22 – D/O on E266 during bike race for 4 hrs)
- Inspections: 26 new construction permit inspections, 7 hazmat permit renewals, 10 general inspections, 2 complaint inspections, established 3 new hazmat permits for oil & gas wells, reviewed/approved 8 burn permits
- Fire attack and Investigation: 544 Promontory Dr. – Juvenile Fire Setter with confession!
- Developmental opportunity: strategic planning process with WSFR
- Hazmat inspections: 16, New Construction Inspections: 38, General Inspections: 22, Complaint inspections: 3, Tent Inspections: 3, Burn Permit application review: 4
- 30th: Acting LT on E6 (6 hrs), 8th: responded w/ E5 to Delta medical in Lago Vista, helped shuttle Tower 6 to repair facility
- Helped with Active Assailant training at MVHS on 30th.
- Follow-up re burn permit violation/grass fire at Eden Valley Institute
Office of Emergency Management – August 2015 Activities Report

Significant events:
Lou completed all of the Continuation of Operations Plans (COOP) interviews with the departments that could meet with her, placing the draft COOP document project at 99% completion. She also completed the GIS ArcMap layer for the EOC that displays hazardous materials and target hazard locations, along with population densities and property values. This information was turned over to Lt Hessler for integration into CAMEO and Marplot for access in the field by response crews and the Incident Command staff. Lastly, she also completed a draft of the management plan for mobilization and operations of a disaster assistance center. We will definitely miss having her on Team LFRA.

The City Council approved the supplemental appropriation requests for the Chilson Center emergency generator and the Mitigation Strategy and Master Plan (MSMP) grant contracts. A draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for the generator is awaiting final approval from Facilities Management (FM) and then it will be sent to legal for edits and approval. FM is busy obtaining all necessary plans and concept work for this project. The vendor finalists for the MSMP were interviewed and a vendor selection was made. The work for the MSMP will begin after the executed grant contract arrives from the State and after a scope of work contract is signed by the vendor. Additionally, the planning efforts are in full swing for the update of the Northern Colorado Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The multi-jurisdictional emergency management program white paper was completed and submitted to Assistant City Manager Wensing, by his request. Once he gives the “go-ahead” order, this white paper will be presented to Mr. Cahill and other selected directors prior to going to Council for their support.

The communications tower on the Fire Administration Building (FAB) roof continues to cause us challenges. A structural analysis and load study conducted several months ago shows that the tower is in imminent risk of structural failure. There are broken bolts, guy lines are out of proper tension, and no one can find the original plans to indicate that the guy line anchors were properly attached to the roof. No one knows if the roof is rated to carry the current tower load or wind loading. A second analysis will be conducted in early September to look at the roof and determine if it is sufficiently engineered to continue to carry all of the loading. If the answer is yes, the tower will continue to be used. If the answer is no, several decisions will need to be made as to the future of the tower and the communications needs for the FAB/Station 1.

Flood Recovery
- On-going city recovery planning meetings
- Met with Canyon/Loveland 2013 flood unmet needs group manager and Larimer County Office of Emergency Management

Operations and Maintenance
- Multiple Emergency Operations Center (EOC) projects are scheduled with the Facilities Management and Information Technology (IT) Departments
- Worked on LFRA accreditation assessment and met with Ty several times for multiple project aspects
- Met with Library IT for the EOC’s audiovisual matrix planning and demonstration of equipment
- EOC partially activated for the US Pro Cycle Race
- Coordinating with Capt. Gilbert and Facilities Management for FAB roof analysis ref communications tower
Planning and Documentation
- Met with Jodi in Public Works to discuss their planning needs
- Completed the LFRA COOP section for IT
- Multi-jurisdictional emergency management program white paper
- Finalized planning for US Pro Cycle Race
- Participated in city picnic planning feedback meeting
- Multiple planning conferences with LC’s HMP vendor and OEMs for document update
- Facilitated Lower Canyon and Loveland unmet needs community meeting
- Lou completed ARC map of hazards, values, and population; working with Fire to provide info for use in field and on Cameo
- Met with OEM volunteer Cheri Clymer
- Lou completed draft disaster assistance center mobilization, operations, and demobilization plan

Emergency Preparedness Relationships
- Attended NEAHR meeting
- Attended LEPC meeting, elected as Vice-chair
- Met with ARES for on-going program management
- Participated in CEMC planning meeting
- Attended LCEM meeting
- Assisted IT Department with vulnerability assessment for their COOP development

Grants
- Attended grant management training presented by Finance
- Emergency generator grant ordinance approved by CC for contract & funding
- Mitigation Strategy and Master Plan grant ordinance approved by CC for contract & funding
- CDBG-DR grant funded Mitigation Strategy and Master Plan contractors interviewed and selection made
- Completed first draft of RFP for emergency generator project

Training and Public Outreach
- Presented OEM Public Education training for Scott and Ty
- Facilitated multiple 2015 Expo planning meetings

Training Received
- Completed one city on-line class
- Completed 2 day Verbal Judo class
- Completed G291 Joint Information Systems/Center training

Exercises
- Participated in NDMS exercise for MCR

Other
- Participated in CSD retreat
- Participated in Mr. Cahill’s Division Manager’s meeting
RH Line

HISTORIC SOCIETY

“I’d like to thank the Loveland Historical Society for the work they’ve done on the Milner-Schwarz house on the inside, and the gardens and the open house they had last Sunday. I hope that they have an open house in the near future again.”

FIRE THANKS

“I want to thank the Loveland fire department for responding to a call about a strange odor in our home that we were worried was gas. The group that came was very professional, friendly and courteous. Good job. I feel grateful to have you as part of our community.”

IRAN DEAL

“What the Obama haters seem to forget about this deal with Iran is, it’s not just Iran and the United States that came to
Chief Miller –

I wanted to extend to you my appreciation for Loveland Fire. I attended a nighttime burn at the Fire Training grounds on Wednesday August 5th with two of my coworkers.

A little background of where I am coming from; I was a volunteer firefighter for 13 years. I started in Palisade, CO and then was with Galeton after moving back to the Front Range. I had the opportunity during that time to train with a multitude of agencies and within each agency a multitude of different personalities.

This last week when I was at the training grounds with LFRA, I witnessed mutual respect from everyone involved from the Battalion Chiefs (Smith & Starck) to the firefighters. I never heard a firefighter get “talked down to”, yelled at or belittled in any way. Each and every firefighter was engaged in the exercise and the environment during the exercise review was one of a positive environment which encouraged positive feedback versus an environment focusing on what an individual or group of individuals may have done wrong.

Your crews are the best of the best and I enjoy being able to spend time with all of them. Thank you to you and your staff for allowing us to see the operations of LFRA.

Respectfully,

Clint Swain, Dispatch

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Communications Specialist/CTO
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It will likely be delivered around Aug. 28th with vehicle ops. training provided by the manufacturer likely being scheduled for mid Sept.