Fire-Rescue Administrative Division

Chief Mark Miller and Public Safety Administrative Director Renee Wheeler

June 2015 overview -

The beginning of June was, well, let’s just say WILD! The first week of June saw severe thunderstorms almost daily. Additionally, a devastating, tornado ripped through a residential area west Berthoud. That was unusual in and of itself, and we are grateful there were no serious injuries or fatalities. Once again, Loveland was able to avoid any substantial flooding, although we had reports of some basement flooding and minor street flooding. We stood up the Emergency Operations Center on two occasions, albeit limited, we were readied should the situation dictate. A great thank you to my staff and our Emergency Manager, Captain Pat Mialy, for standing ready to serve.

We (Renee Wheeler) have been busy developing the 2016 budget and at this point we are preparing for some supplemental increases to take care of increased incident activity and administrative work load. As always, LFRA staff are keeping us on the path of Enduring Greatness. I continue to be proud and honored to be a part of this incredible organization.

Highlights of the June report include; LFRA maturation update; 2016 Budget development; Social Media outreach; Public Affairs Officer; July 4th breakfast revival; Retirement of Phil Thrasher.

LFRA Maturation -

As mentioned previously, we are meeting twice a month with the LFRA workgroup consisting of representatives from legal (internal and external) HR, City Manager, LFRA Board Chairman, and LFRA management and three LFRA Captains, and Rural District. The main objective is conversion of all fire department employees to be under the Authority. Of course, this is a complex matter involving many details. The goal is to have the employee conversation process complete by October 2015.

Julia Holland has been working through a contract process to initiate a Health and Welfare Trust for employee health benefits that will allow all LFRA employees to maintain the exact same benefits (and cost) they currently enjoy with the City of Loveland. Renee is continuing work with payroll administration, and our outside legal representation is working to review all Administrative Regulations and all LFRA Incident and General Guidelines. On June 24th, the LFRA Board will review revisions to the Fire Chief Employment Agreement.

2016 Budget Development -

Budget development is in full swing. Several schedules have been updated for historical trend analysis: revenue collections, budget-to-actual variances by line item at the department level and the program level, phone line expenditures, fleet charges, city service allocations, cost recovery, and personnel projections.
Renee has met with all of the program managers to discuss program goals; equipment inventories and replacement planning for the next ten years; variances to the program resources needs, compared to the existing ten year plan; and historical spending comparisons to test the reasonableness of the projected expenditures. A DRAFT budget is complete, and is currently being reviewed by department Command Staff. A considerable amount of time has been spent reducing line items, using the strategies identified during the Reduction in Food Sales Tax effort, to address 2016 challenges within the existing resources.

Renee attended the Government Finance Officers Association conference in June and brought back a wealth of information in regards to financial information transparency, capital planning, strategic planning, compliance with the new “super-circular” for federal funds, updates on accounting standards, public private partnerships for funding infrastructure, disaster readiness, and governmental resiliency.

**Social Media Outreach**

Never underestimate the power of Social Media! As mentioned earlier in this report, the beginning of June, with the crazy weather we experienced kept crews busy with responding to a variety of weather related incidents. As such, we maintained a very intentional updating of our LFRA Facebook page as well as the LFRA Twitter page. The week of June 1st – 7th saw a remarkable increase in Facebook activity. For example, weekly total outreach increased by over 5000% to 241,072 people! Additionally, “people engaged” increased by over 9000% to 44,800! Wow...we are amazed by the number of people we were able to connect with and who appreciated LFRA insight and incident/weather updates by following our Tweets and Facebook postings.

**CSD Public Affairs Officer Assignment**

LFRA Community Safety Division member Scott Pringle, has been assigned to the position of LFRA Public Affairs Officer (PAO) as of June 15th. Scott has managed the Public Education and Safety activities for CSD/LFRA for several years building an excellent program and awesome community outreach. In an effort to realign duties and create efficiencies, we created a PAO position that will be responsible for disseminating Public Information, conducting building inspections and a variety of related duties. This realignment will allow us to hire a part-time Fire Inspector to help with the incredible workload we are experiencing due to the increased building activity in Loveland.

**July 4th Breakfast Revival –**

*It’s back!* The long standing tradition of having a July 4th breakfast at fire station 2 for fire department members and family, has been revived. For many years the department had the sole responsibility of shooting off fireworks for Loveland. The day typically started with a breakfast hosted by the Rural District. The fireworks show was handled entirely by paid and volunteer members of Loveland Fire until 2005 when we made the decision to hire a professional pyro technician to choreograph the show. The breakfast tradition went away as well. However, Engineer Ben Andersen suggested we bring back the breakfast tradition as a way to get the members together for some comradery and fellowship. We are glad Ben made the suggestion and the Rural District and Local 3566 are hosting the event. We will look forward to a great gathering of friends and family and the continuance on of an old tradition.
Retirement –

Long time COL/LFRA employee, Engineer Phil Thrasher, will be retiring the end of this month. Phil has been with the department for nearly 20 years. He is well respected, a great asset, excellent Engineer, and a committed member of the department’s Honor Guard for many years. Phil and his wife Jan sold their home in Loveland (in two days) and are beginning a new chapter in their lives, and moving to Montana. We will miss them and wish them the best in this new adventure. Good Luck, Phil and Jan!
Fire–Rescue Operations Division
Division Chief Greg Ward / Battalion Chief Tim Smith

June 2015

Significant Events / Training

- LFRA hosted the Marine Corps League for a flag retirement ceremony at the Training Center. LFRA is proud to assist with the proper retirement of US Flags several times throughout the year.
- Battalion Chief Smith, Lieutenant Clark and Lieutenant Hessler attended a three day wide area disaster search class at West Metro Fire Rescue.
- The Special Operations Team conducted a full-team swiftwater rescue training day.
- LFRA played a huge role in the success of the 3rd annual Honoring Traditions, Leading Change Conference that is hosted by the Laramie County Fire District 2 in Cheyenne. Captain Gilbert presented a Blue Card overview and Battalion Chief Smith, Battalion Chief Starck, Lieutenant Adent and Engineer Klinger instructed the basic urban search and rescue course. Five members, including a member of the Canyon Battalion attended an eight hour heavy vehicle extrication course.

Training Center Utilization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Front Range Fire Authority</th>
<th>Aims Community College Fire Academy</th>
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<td>Thompson Valley EMS</td>
<td>Loveland Public Works</td>
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<tr>
<td>Larimer County Sheriff’s Office</td>
<td>SVI Trucks</td>
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Significant Incidents

- LFRA crews responded to the area of County Road 23 and Blue Mountain Avenue in the Southwest portion of Berthoud’s Fire District during the Berthoud Tornado. Crews conducted search operations, hazard control and building assessments for a period of just over 16 hours. Members of LFRA’s Command Staff functioned as part of the Incident Command Team. Other Fire/Rescue response agencies included units from the Berthoud Fire District, Longmont Fire, Mountain View Fire District, Poudre Fire Authority, Front Range Fire Authority, Frederick-Firestone Fire District, Windsor-Severance Fire Rescue and Thompson Valley EMS.
- Just before 0100 on June 16th, LFRA was dispatched to a multi-family structure fire on East 13th Street. The dispatcher relayed reports that a victim was trapped inside the apartment that was on fire. The first arriving LFRA apparatus reported a working fire on the first floor, in the center of a two story apartment building. The officer reported hearing the victim calling for help. The engine company advanced an attack-line into the structure, they were quickly followed by the members of Rescue 2. The fire was located and controlled quickly allowing Rescue 2 to advance beyond the fire area and rescue the victim. The victim was transported by TVEMS to McKee and was later transferred to the Burn Unit at Northern Colorado Medical Center. The fire cause was determined to be accidental, fire damage was limited to the apartment of origin.
- On June 18th shortly after 18:00 LFRA responded to a person trapped and sinking in the sand in the Big Thompson River near the Thompson Ponds at I-25 and the Big Thompson River. While en route the dispatch notes initially stated the person was trapped up to his waist but later updated to now one leg was freed. LFRA personnel used a hydraulic wand and the physical removal of sand from around the individuals trapped leg. The person was freed in approximately 20 minutes.
- LFRA responded to a Dive Rescue incident on June 22nd where two people were tubing on the Big Thompson River and were unaware of the low-head dam “water hazard” east of Wilson Ave. approximately a ¼ mile. The two people suffered minor injuries including a back injury when they fell over the low-head dam and became stranded on an island by the river. LFRA crews used a Rapid
Deployment Craft (RDC) with ropes and Swiftwater Technicians to get the people back across the river. The individuals were treated and released from a local hospital.

**Apparatus Updates**

- The new Aircraft Fire Rescue Truck is in the final steps of production, the final inspection is scheduled for mid-August.
- SVI continues to work on the refurbishment of Ladder 6, they are making great progress toward the September completion date.
- Two new pickup trucks are on order, one is a replacement for a SUV that is at the end of its lifecycle and the other truck is for the added Lieutenant position in the Training Battalion. The pickup trucks will be assigned to a shift Battalion Chief and the Training Battalion Chief.

*LFRA SOT Personnel Operating at the Berthoud Tornado*

*Swiftwater Rescue Training*

*Vehicle Extrication Training*
Retire Phoenix Chief Brunacini in Cheyenne / Engineer Waldorf being interviewed by Cheyenne News 5

Individual trapped in the sand in the Big Thompson River near Thompson Ponds. Engine 3 and Rescue 2 working to free the person.
Swiftwater incident on June 22nd.
Update/overview of division, significant programs and projects (Ned):

- The Lincoln Hotel has completed the installation and testing of the Fire Sprinkler system. Minor code violations are going to be resolved and inspection on June 29 or 30. I want to thank all of the people from CSD staff, Development Services, Legal and to both FRAC and City Council for their work and support – this is a big deal for the safety of the occupants of the building and for the continued redevelopment of the old town part of Loveland!

I am forgoing the usual monthly highlights to share the CSD reorganizational plan.

Beginning on June 13th, 2015 changes were made in CSD to alter the direction of the division. We are continuing to find the best method to utilize staff and altering roles/responsibilities to meet the needs of the community and the safety of our firefighters. Changes in the division are a work in progress and will continue to be as we strive to find the best use of the staff. Deputy Fire Marshal Dann is the second in command of the division based on her technical expertise and experience. Deputy Fire Marshal Pringle has taken a new position called Public Affairs Officer - a combination of Public Educator and Public Information Officer. Engineer Drage is in a rotational position overseeing Accreditation and the Hazmat program. We will be utilizing the line Fire Inspection Technicians for simple inspections – liquor license inspections, fireworks stands, Christmas tree stands, tent permits, etc. We will also be hiring a half time inspector to help with new construction and remodel compliance. I am including a list of staff and duty assignments.

Division Chief, Ned Sparks – Oversee the office and staff by providing vision for the Community Safety Division. Develop work plans to meet the direction set by the Fire Chief and the Strategic Plan. Work with the Executive Directors in the City to achieve Economic Development.

- Ensure new construction and building/business remodels are meeting fire code for both city and rural projects.
- Work on difficult compliance issues with the Planning and Building Dept.’s from the City of Loveland, Larimer County and Town of Johnstown.
- Develop staff with opportunities for professional development, providing for succession within organization.
- Continue to remove barriers between Ops and CSD to enhance service and provide support on emergency incidents.
- Bring new ideas to the organization to increase training on fire code inspection and investigation with the line crews.
- Work with Emergency Management to develop EOC set up and operations with CSD staff.
- Special Event permit coordination within the City and County processes.
- Oversee or assist with the EOC as needed when operational.

Deputy Fire Marshal, Captain Carie Dann – Second in command of CSD, is the FIT liaison from CSD to work with the Captain’s & FIT’s. Responsible for utilizing the FIT’s with new construction inspections and assist with the Fire Safety visit program. Participate with training crews on the application of Fire Code at the crew level.
• Ensure the needs of Economic Development are being completed on time and with a positive customer service experience.
• Reviewing the current use of FIT’s, evaluating and developing duties and training in conjunction with the Captains.
• Work with FITs and Captains when necessary with the Fire Safety visit program; Captains and FIT’s will develop the annual list and coordinate with preplans development.
• Work with Engineer Drage to develop a training plan for FIT’s in the fall of 2015.
• Fire Sprinkler plan review – transitioning from contract service in 2016.
• Can be used as a fire investigator if needed.
• Assist with the EOC as needed when operational.

Public Affairs Officer, Scott Pringle: PIO & responsible for LFRA website and Public Education.

• Develop a community risk needs assessment in conjunction with Accreditation and the creation of a public education team of Firefighters and Retirees to assist CSD.
• Update the website and work with DFM Dann to place requirements for builders and fees.
• Develop training for crews needed for BEC event standby – evaluate sign up process to make improvements working with Bonnie.
• Research how to implement Red Zone data, work with Capt. Lyons placing on the website.
• Work with Emergency Management as needed for website updates.
• Create a policy for how and who places information on the website.
• Continue to work with R2J schools on annual inspections.
• Program manager for Youth Fire-setter intervention and develop staff participation with the interviews.
• Can be used as a fire investigator if needed.
• Assist with the EOC as needed when operational.

CSD Rotational Engineer, Ty Drage – Accreditation, including use and development of the ETI and Omega software, Haz-Mat program manager; Primary Fire Investigator and Fire Investigations instructor within LFRA.

• Accreditation - continual review of governance documents for compliance and associated computer software.
• Community Risk and Emergency Services Assessment for Standards of Cover – Aligning resources to risks and performance objectives.
• Haz-mat program and complex inspections, will work with the Captains to utilize the FIT’s for “simple” inspections.
• Primary Fire Investigator – oversee all investigation reports and coordinates with FIT’s on fire investigations.
• Work with Captain Lyons to place SARA Title II and haz-mat annual notifications into CAD or ETI for use on incidents.
• Assist with the EOC as needed when operational.

Fire Plan Reviewer, Ingrid McMillan-Ernst – Primary plan reviewer for development and inspections as needed to assist businesses and building owners.

• DRT and CRT participation within the City process.
• Can be utilized for fire investigations.
• Assist with the EOC as needed when operational.

Administrative Technician, Bonnie Wright – Main counter contact in the CSD office (keeps us on track).

• Work with contractors and general public to obtain permits and office support.
• Works with other departments within the City of Loveland as requested or required
• Assist with the EOC as needed when operational.

*Part time Fire Sprinkler Plans Reviewer, Chuck Boyes (retired)* – Part time plan reviewer for 4 hours per week as a contract service.

*Part time Fire Code Inspector* – position is being created to provide support for new construction fire protection systems. This position is up to 20 hours per week, no benefits. This position will be posted on the City of Loveland website within the next week or two.

*Current Fire Inspection Technicians; Ben Andersen, Nick Bukowski, Dustin Waldorf* – Primary duties; work on the Rescue as the third person in the crew and work with crews on Fire Safety Visit Program.

• Reports to the line Captain at Fire Station 2 on the Rescue and is the main contact with DFM Dann to resolve fire code issues.
• The FIT’s have an expanded response area to assist with inspections from Madison to Boyd Lake Ave. and available for CSD use.
• May ask for assistance from the Engine/Truck crews with simple tasks; Knox-box, complete premise information for new buildings in ETI.
• Assist with fire code inspections and fire protection system acceptance testing as available.
• Assist with Special Event inspections (tent inspections) and liquor licensing.
• Fire investigator on scene to process the information collected and determine if more CSD staff is needed.

This is not an all-inclusive list and as always, we will be continuing to review and alter duties as needed to utilize staff as efficiently as possible and within budget. We will be exploring the use of Service Clubs, Volunteers and Retired Firefighters for some of the programs.

Significant events:
The 21st annual **Loveland Honors** event celebrated 34 volunteers on Thursday June 11, 2015 at the Loveland Police and Courts Building, hosted by the city of Loveland and McKee Medical Center. Our own ARES Team was recognized for going above and beyond in their contributions to the Loveland community over the last 2 decades equating to thousands of volunteer hours.

The 15 member group provides backup emergency communications for the city’s emergency operations center and support communications in the field. ARES has consistently done a great job in making sure the city can communicate with Police, Fire, EMS, and Public Works even when our primary communication systems fail. They are consummate professionals who successfully rise to any challenge. Their expertise, skill level, and dedication to serving and protecting the community is truly outstanding and worthy of our recognition. RH link for Loveland Honors: [http://www.reporterherald.com/news/loveland-local-news/ci_28304345/loveland-volunteers-honored](http://www.reporterherald.com/news/loveland-local-news/ci_28304345/loveland-volunteers-honored)

I nominated them for: 1) their long-term dedication to Loveland; and, 2) their efforts during the 2013 Flood where they set up a radio transmission relay that directly helped save the city’s fresh water supply. When Estes Park lost all means of communicating, ARES was the only group in Colorado to have and maintain contact with them, resulting in the coordination of many successful rescue operations.

Lou Giuliano will be wrapping up her projects at the end of this month and we hate to see her go. She was a real workhorse and a pleasure to work with.

**Flood Recovery**
- On-going city recovery planning meetings

**Operations and Maintenance**
- Met with Shane, John, and Chief Cerovski on EOC technology upgrade brainstorming
- Facilitated meeting with Chief Miller, Renee, Larry, and Jason ref L-4 as future OEM site
- Met with Lorna and John ref EOC technology and layout
- DTR radios installed in EOC; additional monitors and computers ordered
- Opened EOC for Berthoud Tornado event
- EOC reference library updated and organized

**Planning and Documentation**
- Worked with Tree and Renee to get NIMS re-adopted by City Council
- Initial planning conference with LC’s HMP vendor
- Worked with Lou G on Fire’s COOP chapter
- Attended US Pro Cycle planning meeting
- Facilitated 2015 Expo planning meeting
- Attended kick off meeting at LC for HMP doc update with vendor and large group
Emergency Preparedness Relationships
- Attended NEAHR meeting and workshop
- Met with Janelle from LCDHE on an AAR for Ebola incident
- Participated in CDPHE’s AAR on Ebola incident
- Met w/Larry ref airport EOP and future of station 4
- Participated in Larimer Co.’s DART planning meeting
- Met with Becky, DeeAnn, and Renee for Finance Section planning
- Met with Sandi Friedrichsen of WSFD
- Attended LC’s community outreach program planning

Grants
- Emergency generator management
- Mitigation Strategy and Master Plan RFP re-posted, will close on July 2nd
- Created evaluation form for mitigation strategy and master plan proposals
- Met with Devin, Chief Miller, Mark, and Renee for generator grant planning

Exercises
- Participated in Larimer Co EOC functional exercise

Other
- Attended the city picnic planning meeting
- Completed CSU fitness evaluation
- Provided EOC facilitator training with Chief Sparks
- Worked with IT to have EOC specific emails set up
- Worked with IT to have EOC electronic resource folder placed in V:intra-dept shares
June 19, 2015

Mark Miller, Fire Chief
Community Safety Division/
Fire Prevention and Emergency Management
410 East 5th Street
Loveland, CO 80537

Dear Chief Miller:

On behalf of the Hunters Run subdivision, we wish to thank you and your wonderful fire fighters for arriving at our block party for Loveland’s Community Night Out on Wednesday, June 17, 2015.

The young, as well as the old, were so excited when the fire truck arrived. It came from our new Fire Station 2 on 29th Street. Your crew spent an extraordinary amount of time with our families and that was so very much appreciated. The kids loved it when they could climb all over the fire truck. The Jaws of Life tool caught a lot of attention also.

Loveland is a wonderful place to live and it is reassuring to know that we have services and personnel available that are so professional, yet take the time to let the community learn more about them, such as in LCNO

Sincerely,

[Signature]

On behalf of the Hunters Run HOA
Mrs. John (Carole) Allman, Pool Chairman,
From: Greg Gilbert
Sent: Saturday, June 06, 2015 9:09 PM
To: Jason Starck; Greg Ward; sforman@tvems.com
Subject: Kudos from LCSO

Chief Ward, BC Starck and Captain Forman—

Sgt. Gerry Baker shared that LCSO was very impressed with the professional efforts of the LFRA and TVEMS personnel at the Thomas Court incident. They were especially impressed with the personnel assigned to P341 and E5. Everyone’s focus on the mission allowed the deputies to concentrate their efforts on addressing the threat.

GREG GILBERT
Captain – 2B
Loveland Fire Rescue Authority
Greg.Gilbert@cityofloveland.org
(970) 962 - 4763

From: Robert Stumpf <rstumpf@berthoudfire.org>
Date: June 5, 2015 at 19:19:27 MDT
To: "mlee@mvfpd.org" <mlee@mvfpd.org>, Rick Vandervelde <rick.vandervelde@poudre-fire.org>, "greg.ward@cityofloveland.org" <greg.ward@cityofloveland.org>, Bernie Covillo <bcovillo@frfr.co>, "Mike Blackwill" <mblackwill@wsfr.us>, "jerrod.vanlandingham@ci.longmont.co.us" <jerrod.vanlandingham@ci.longmont.co.us>, Steve Forman <SForman@tvems.com>, "tposzywak@fffd.us" <tposzywak@fffd.us>
Subject: Exhausted...

Gentlemen….I wanted to let you know how grateful I am personally….and we are organizationally for your help in the last two days. I cannot think clearly enough yet to adequately locate the contact info for everyone on scene last night and today…but please share my gratitude with your troops. It is humbling and heartwarming to be surrounded by so many talented and capable players who will drop everything to help and lend their best assets so far outside their jurisdictions for such extended hours. Cheers to all of you…your people. Thank you.