February 2015 Overview

AS the new Fire Chief for LFRA, I have completed just over 100 days on the job. It has been an incredible experience, and I believe we have accomplished a great deal. To date, I have completed all the visits with the crews on all three shifts and I’m thrilled to say that this is one awesome organization, and I’m quite proud to be associated with you all! The display of skill mastery as well as position mastery has exceeded my expectations.

During the first 100 days, I conducted meetings with all personnel, primarily for me to get to know everyone, but additionally, to do an “autopsy of success”. Additionally, we posed three questions to each crew; “What are we doing”? “Why are we doing it”? And, “Where do you fit in”? This was a great way for me to understand the culture and organizational spirit of LFRA. With the information gleaned from these meetings, we are now embarking on what I call the “The Three E’s Tour”. The three E’s are; “Excellent, Ethical, and Enduring” (My vision for LFRA). We will do the “tour” all three shifts, and also make a presentation to the LFRA Board, the Loveland Rural Fire Protection District Board, and the Fire and Rescue Advisory Commission. We will take a look at what we have accomplished in 2014; reasons we have been successful; and most importantly, we will look at how we stay successful; defining the LFRA WAY, as well as taking a look at what’s ahead for 2015. Chief Sparks, Chief Ward, and Administrative Director Wheeler will all have a part. So, stand by for the Three E’s Tour!

Highlights of the February report include; Big Thompson Canyon Awards Banquet; Year End Budget Performance Evaluation and Carryover Investment Strategy/Documentation; Reconciliation of Contributions from Governing Partners and Billings; Consolidated Fire Volunteer Pension Fund Actuarial Application; LFRA Maturation – engagement Letter with Dino Ross at Ireland Stapleton; and, New Voice Over Internet Protocol Phones.

Big Thompson Canyon Awards Banquet

The Big Thompson Canyon Awards Banquet is February 28, at the Fountains of Loveland (Cascade Avenue). This is always a great time and it’s a privilege to recognize achievements and personnel with the BTCVFD. Chief Miller will be conducting the badge pinning ceremony for several new and existing Canyon Officers.

Year End Budget Performance Evaluation and Carryover Investment Strategy/Documentation

The amount available for carryover consideration has been analyzed. The accounts through year end have been reviewed, comparing actual expenditures to budget to identify the reasons for the remaining budgets in nearly 470 accounts. Projects in progress and purchase orders that need to move forward were documented. Identified issues and challenges from the last quarter of the year have been prioritized, and
decisions have been made relative to the requests for using 2014 budget savings in a fiscally responsible way have been documented and included in a supplemental appropriation for the February LFRA Board meeting. A public hearing has been posted for that consideration.

**Reconciliation of Contributions from Governing Partners and Billings**

The City performed the first step in closing the accounting year for 2014 so LFRA compared the calculated contribution for the final year end net expenditures to the contributions that have been received to check for errors to generate a December bill. The reconciliation was provided with the December bill to both governing partners. The January billing was provided as well, adjusted for the January payrolls that were charged back to December.

**Consolidated Fire Volunteer Pension Fund Actuarial Application**

The actuarial application checklist for the Consolidated Fire Volunteer Pension Fund was submitted. Last month the census data (listing of all participants and their service credits) was submitted, and this month an application for the bi-annual actuarial study (that provides the assessed valuation, the previous contributions from LFRA and the State, and the benefit change options for evaluation) was submitted. The current monthly benefit for fully vested retirees is $700 a month. The Pension Board voted on February 18th to pay $1,200 from the pension fund to have the actuaries calculate the commitment that would be necessary for three different monthly benefit change options: $735, $750 and $775.

**LFRA Maturation**

In our on-going process to bring the LFRA to full maturation, we have entered into an engagement agreement with outside legal representation to assist with some of the more complex matters. Dino Ross, of Ireland Stapleton, will be assisting in special circumstances, and we look forward to his expertise. Dino has a great depth of experience in dealing with similar issues relative to Fire Authority’s and Special Fire Districts.

**Voice Over Internet Protocol Phones**

New VOIP phones have been installed in the FAB. These phones have a variety of new features and although user friendly, they are light years ahead of the old phones we have been using. Thanks to our IT department for this great new technology!
Fire–Rescue Operations Division
Division Chief Greg Ward

February 2015

Significant Events / Training

- Completed hiring / promotional processes - congratulations to,
  - Kelly Olsen – Part-Time Firefighter
  - John Miller – Part-Time Firefighter
  - Jason Anderson – Firefighter Level I
  - Jeremy Bell – Engineer

- All Department Officer training was conducted on February 19th, subjects included customer service, the accreditation process and leadership.

Training Center Utilization

- Front Range Fire Authority
- Aims Community College Fire Academy
- City of Loveland Public Works

Significant Incidents

- Residential fire on Steamboat Springs Street in Station 2’s first due area caused significant damage to the garage of the home, despite the door from the garage to the house being left open, Engine 2 and Rescue 2 were able to contain the fire to the garage.

- Companies responded to a commercial structure fire on West Eisenhower Boulevard, the fire was contained to a small shop / storage building at a landscape business.

- Engine 1 was the first to arrive at an attic fire on West 4th Street during a heavy snowstorm. The fire originated near the electrical box and extended into the attic space. The fire was difficult to overhaul due to the old construction and void spaces. Crews remained on scene for several hours.

- Crews responded to a fire in a crawl space on West 36th Street in Engine 5’s first due area. This fire proved to be challenging for crews with limited access to the fire area. An extensive overhaul operation was completed including removing a section of the flooring to achieve final extinguishment.

- Rescue 2 arrived first on a residential fire on White Elm Drive, the crew was able to contain the fire to the hot tub and patio area at the rear of the house using their fire extinguishers until Engine 6 arrived on scene a couple minutes later. This address is in Engine 5’s first response area, however they were still operating on the 36th Street fire at the time of this incident.

- Engine 6 was the first fire unit to arrive on scene of a motor vehicle accident at Centerra and Eisenhower. The accident involved a mini-van that had run underneath the rear of a cargo truck. The accident required heavy extrication techniques and tools, including a large tow truck to free the driver of the mini-van.

Apparatus Updates

- The new Tower 6 was placed in service on February 21st.
- Ladder 6 (2000 Smeal) was removed from service and delivered to SVI for the refurbishment process.
Extrication Vehicle Accident – Centerra & Eisenhower

Steamboat Springs Garage Fire

West Eisenhower Building Fire

West 4th Street Attic Fire

West 36th Street Crawl Space Fire

White Elm Drive Porch / Hot Tub Fire
Update/overview of division, significant programs and projects (Ned):

- Assisting with the assessment process to replace the vacant CBO position. The first round of potential candidates did not meet with favorable review and the next round of applicants is being reviewed.
- The new full time Plans Examiner for the Building Department has resigned. The Fire Authority Plan Examiners will be working diligently with the Building Dept. to ensure we minimize delays for development and building projects.
- The Lincoln Hotel has begun the design phase of the project, but is behind schedule. We will be meeting with the Fire Sprinkler contractor to identify a strategy to help the property owner gain and maintain progress with the project.
- Began the DRT 10 month training course.
- IFC 2015 three day update class in Westminster (Carie, Ingrid, Ty and I, in attendance).
- Discussion with City Water Dept. regarding placement of fire hydrants at the end of cul-de-sacs. Follow up discussion will need to take place to verify Fire and Water are working collaboratively on development projects.
- Review of the Fire Safety Visit program and how pre-plans, and red zone need to be redefined to make sure we are not overloading crews.

Significant Building Plan Reviews, Special Events and Inspection (Carie and Ingrid):

- Discussion with Development Services, Facilities, Legal and Fire to create a process to establish when plans need to be created by a design professional – still in progress.
- Review of four phased residential development projects in the Thompson River and Thompson Crossings area.
- Value Plastics preparing for final fire inspections, sprinkler and alarm.
- Rough in at the Bristol Points Apartments completed.
- Final Fire Inspections for Big T. Brewery.
- R2J plan review of the High Plains School.
- Bronze Services permit application turned in to the Building Dept.
- Arcadia design team working with Fire Plan Examiners to ensure correct code compliance is in process.

Training & Public Education (Scott):

- 8 new general (school and business) fire safety inspections
- 7 new hazmat fire safety inspections
- 17 school and business follow-up (compliance) visits
- 1 Eng. Co. safety visit follow-up (compliance) visit
- 8 hazmat permit renewals
- 2 car seat inspection/installations
- 9 burn permits
- 1 pyrotechnics permit
- 1 Safety Village presentation
- 6 Safety Lessons Activity Book presentations
- Attended FLSEC training/meeting in Brighton
- Attended Safe Kids meeting in F.C.
- Conducted 3 BEC event standbys
- Completed Blue Card training module
- Attended CoL University training
- Attended training session for new phone system
- Attended wildland refresher training
- Attended all department officers meeting/training
- BEC scheduling

**Accreditation, Fracking (Ty):**
- Presented Accreditation information to LFRA officers setting the criteria for writing and documenting the programs. Community Risk Assessment document is still in process and the long term safety education outreach is in review. This is in alignment with a need for a stronger approach to electronic media and the use of a PIO for the Fire Authority.
- LFRA set up a meeting with local the Fire Marshals in our region to tour and create Hazmat Mitigation Plans for the sites in our area with the Anadarko operations team. This model will probably be used around our region for inspection and permitting. Working with Operations to verify response with a regional team is moving forward.
Emergency Management Monthly Report
February 2015

- Site visit to Vail Event Operations Center, Joint Information center, and county EOC during the World Alpine Ski Championship
- Provided EM overview presentation to Public Works leadership including new director
- Participated in emergency planning meeting with medical center
- Interviewed for grant management by company doing research
- ULI report discussion and summary documentation
- Co-instructed Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program (HSEEP) course at DIA
- Met with Don Sandoval Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to discuss CDBG-DR application for Mitigation Master Plan / Recovery Plan
- Participated in initial planning meeting for US Pro Cycle Challenge
- Met with Ward, Davis, Willson reference Willson's future work in OEM as a collateral duty
- Attended North Colorado Emergency Manager's meeting
- Attended Long Term Recovery Group meeting
- Met with HR ref OEM intern
- Attended LFRA operations meeting
- Met with Willson for OEM project assignments
- Met with Chief and Renee ref: OEM strategic planning
- Met with Christopher Barnes for City event planning
- Attended #6 LEAD Loveland class
- Participated in reunification workshop with stakeholders
- Attended all officers training
- Attended Colorado EM Conference
- Facilitated and managed silent auction for EM conference
- Participated in weekly radio test with state OEM
- Participated in state training and exercise planning workshop
- Co-presented ULI report discussion with City Council
Local woman, firefighters recognized for lifesaving actions

Silver Leaf Apartments Manager Barbara Kyser, several Loveland Fire Rescue Authority members honored Wednesday

By Dana Rieck
Reporter-Herald Staff Writer

POSTED: 02/25/2015 07:22:29 PM MST

Sandy Frazier, center, gets a chance to thank Loveland Fire Rescue Authority engineer Matthew DeDecker, center right, for rescuing her from her burning apartment last October during an awards ceremony at Fire Station No. 2 on Wednesday. DeDecker was quick to point out that the firefighters do everything as a team, saying they were all responsible for saving her life. Frazier's mother, Dorothea Schroeder, left, daughter, Nicole Pettit, center left, and apartment manager Barbara Keyser, right, also thanked DeDecker and the other firefighters. (Jenny Sparks / Loveland Reporter-Herald)

A Loveland resident's lifesaving actions brought together the fire community Wednesday afternoon to honor her, several firefighters and the life they saved from an apartment fire last year.
On Oct. 23, 2014, Barbara Keyser, a manager at Silver Leaf Apartments in Loveland, had to act quickly when she responded to an early morning fire alarm in Unit 23, which was occupied by Sandy Frazier, 61.

Loveland Fire Rescue Authority Chief Mark Miller said Keyser saved many lives when she quickly closed the apartment door after seeing thick, black smoke, pulled the building's fire alarm and called 9-1-1.

"One day I'll retire as fire chief and will certainly throw your name in the hat," Miller said to Keyser.

As Keyser reacted to the fire on that October morning, Frazier was trapped in her apartment after the smoke knocked her unconscious.

"The fire department was there in three, three and a half minutes," Keyser said. "I just kept yelling 'Sandy, hold on, I can't get to you.'"

Wednesday, the women were reunited for the first time since the fire as the department gathered to honor Keyser with the Fire Chief's Distinguished Merit Award. Several Loveland firefighters earned the Unit Citation Award.

Engineer Matt DeDecker is credited by others for carrying Frazier out to safety, but he will tell you that everyone there that day should receive equal recognition.

"Nothing we do is individual; we do everything together as a team," DeDecker said. "In a situation like that you just fall back on your training and skills — it's second nature."

Frazier, who threw in some humor retelling her story, suffered from severe smoke inhalation and burns — but she doesn't remember much of the incident until she awoke in the hospital.

"I remember waking up with a tube in my throat," Frazier said. "I thought, 'Boy, people are going to be glad that this will shut me up for a while. But, eventually I got my voice back."

Her daughter, Nicole Pettit, chuckled only for a moment.

"When I walked into the hospital room I thought she was gone, it was tragic," Pettit said.

And really, DeDecker said, being reunited with a victim in a fire that severe doesn't always happen within the span of an entire firefighting career.

"It's pretty amazing," he said. "It's great to see her happy and healthy after all of that."

Frazier's gratitude and appreciation came through in the form of tears throughout the ceremony, and continued on as each firefighter lined up to give her a hug.
"I’m so thankful this happened; there must be a reason I made it through," Frazier said. "I’m just glad to see the ones that saved my life."

Sandy Frazier, left, and Barbara Keyser, right, share a moment Wednesday at Fire Station No. 2 in west Loveland. Keyser, a manager at Silver Leaf Apartments, was honored with the Distinguished Merit Award after being credited with saving many lives, including Frazier’s, last October when there was a fire in Frazier’s home at the apartment complex. (Jenny Sparks / Loveland Reporter-Herald)

Firefighters who received recognition

- Capt. Robert Carmosino
- Lt. Randy Stuart
- Lt. Jeremy Adent
- Lt. Bryan Clark
- Lt. Shawn Williams
- Engineer Matthew DeDecker
- Engineer Rick Summer
- Engineer Derek Correa
- Engineer Braden Marker
- Engineer Jason Tanner
- Fire Inspection Technician Dustin Waldorf
- Firefighter Adam Baukol
- Firefighter Rory O'Farrell
- Firefighter Brad Schiffelbein
- Firefighter Traver Heckman
Hello Tom!

I just want to start off by saying, I am so happy with your persistence. I know my mom very much appreciated, more than I will ever understand today's events in her honor. There's not very many things that have swung her way with her diseases and circumstances she's faced. I believe the Lord himself scooped her out of there that day with the help of Barb & those faithful firefighters. I didn't anticipate the turnout we had, and before the ceremony started, we were convinced there were many, many other firefighters and victims being recognized. The interview was a great idea, and I'm happy we were able to do it! I cannot wait to see what the Herald has in store for her! With the caring and thoughts about her well being, I've come to know how great of a city we have in Loveland for such amazing people, working together to protect and admire its residents. You helped pull this event together and I commend you for keeping in touch for so long. Thank you so much Tom, and I thank everyone that's helped us through you that I didn't get a chance to meet today! Let me know if there's ever anything else our family can do for you!

Nicole Pettit
A Unified, Multi-Department Response

Successful commercial fire highlights teamwork among several Northern Colorado fire agencies.

BY GREG WARD

When the initial attack had little impact on the fire, the IC changed the strategy from offensive to defensive.

On July 9, 2013, at 9:16 p.m., the Loveland (Colo.) Fire Rescue Authority (LFRA) was dispatched to a commercial-office fire on North Lincoln Avenue in central Loveland. While en route to the scene, Battalion 1 requested a second alarm due to conditions visible from a distance. Engine 1 arrived on scene within 4 minutes of dispatch and completed LFRA's Blue Card initial and follow-up radio reports, including our first benchmark of 360 complete. Arriving crews encountered a medium-size, two-story office building with a basement, built in the early 1980s. Fire was showing from the Charlie/Delta corner of the attic, and smoke was showing from the entire attic space. E1 declared an offensive strategy at a medium level of risk with the intention of making a quick hit on the visible fire from the exterior before transitioning to interior attack operations on the 2nd floor. E1 secured its own water supply. Based on the time, crews suspected the building was unoccupied. B1 arrived on scene and confirmed the follow-up radio report (incident action plan) with the initial incident commander (the officer from E1); command was then upgraded to B1.

The balance of the first alarm began to arrive on scene. Squad 2 was
charged with gaining access to the structure for the engine companies. Engine 5 was tasked with establishing a second water supply and deploying a second attack line. Truck 6 was given the assignment of completing a roof report. After several minutes, the officer from E1 reported the fire attack was having very little impact and fire was visible throughout most of the attic space. The IC initiated the emergency radio tone from the battalion chief vehicle and changed the strategy to defensive strategy at a low level of risk. All companies cleared the building and delivered PARs. The IC divided the structure into two divisions, with tactical-level supervisors assigned to each division. Initially, company officers were assigned to the division-supervisor positions; these positions were upgraded to battalion chiefs once second-alarm resources started arriving on scene. The Bravo Division covered the Alpha and Bravo sides of the building, and the Delta Division covered the Charlie and Delta sides.

Additional water supplies were established for LFRA T6 and Poudre Fire Authority Ladder 5 to initiate elevated master stream operations. E1, Engine 3, Engine 6 and Berthoud Fire Department Engine 2 deployed numerous ground master streams. Poudre Fire Authority Battalion 2 was assigned as the incident safety officer, with the objectives of establishing a collapse zone and perimeter air monitoring. As the IC depleted the tactical reserve, a third alarm was requested with responding companies assigned to a staging location on a separate radio channel. A command team was established to support the IC. The operations chief worked as the support officer, and the fire chief filled senior-advisor duties.

The operations chief from the Johnstown Fire Protection District was assigned as the staging manager. Third-alarm companies were assigned to on-deck positions within the divisions, allowing the supervisors to recycle and rehab crews as needed. Once the Frederick-Firestone battalion chief arrived on scene, a second safety officer was assigned, providing a safety officer for each division. An additional aerial master stream was put into place on the structure's Delta Side on the arrival of LFRA Reserve Truck 7. The division supervisors and safety officers worked together to establish and communicate the collapse zone around the structure.

The warm, dry, calm weather that evening created an inversion that held the smoke low to the ground in the fire area, which became a concern for the neighborhood directly east of the building. Command assigned LFRA Utility 1 and the Greeley Fire Department chief to monitor the neighborhood and identify evacuation needs. The City of Loveland Emergency Manager and the on-duty Thompson Valley EMS supervisor assisted with identifying and communicating shelter locations. Thompson Valley EMS also established and staffed a rehab station for firefighting personnel.

The bulk of the fire was controlled in approximately 2 hours, and the fire was declared under control in just less than 6 hours. LFRA crews remained on scene for more than 35 hours for overhaul and investigation. The building sustained major damage. However, it was not totally destroyed. It has since been repaired with tenants moving back into the reconstructed portions. The investigation revealed that a maintenance operation earlier in the day caused the fire.

Off-duty recall personnel staffing three additional reserve companies, along with the Poudre Fire Authority and Windsor-Severance Fire Rescue,

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**Loveland Fire Rescue Authority**

Population: 97,458  
Service Area: 194 square miles  
Fire Stations:
- Five staffed stations  
- Three volunteer stations in Big Thompson Canyon  
- ARFF station at the Fort Collins-Loveland Airport staffed on an as-needed basis  
Minimum staffing: 22 personnel on duty including the Battalion Chief  
2014 Total Incidents: 7,003
provided backfill station coverage during the incident.

This incident had many challenges, but they were successfully met in large part due to Northern Colorado’s regional Blue Card Training and Certification. Although commercial building fires are rare in Loveland’s response area, LFRA was prepared because of its commitment to improving strategic- and tactical-level operations, which supplement a strong foundation of well-honed, task-level skills. “Listening to this fire from early on, it sounded like one fire department operating at a training exercise,” said Greely Fire Chief Duane McDonald. In reality, there were six fire departments operating on scene with chief officers from five of these departments filling roles within the command structure. All of the responding departments have embraced Blue Card and have become certified.

**LFRA’s Risk Profile**
- **We may risk our lives a lot, within a structured plan, to save savable lives=high level of risk**
- **We may risk our lives a little, within a structured plan, to save savable property= medium level of risk**
- **We will not risk our lives at all to save lives or property that are already lost=low level of risk**

The IC announces the risk level during the follow-up report along with the strategy. If crews are entering a building that might have civilians inside, the risk level is set at high until crews conduct a search, then the risk level drops to medium. The change in the risk level is announced over the radio. This lets crews know the risk level is continually being evaluated, and they are now operating inside the structure for the structure itself and not civilian lives.

At this particular fire, nothing indicated civilians were inside the commercial office building at 9:16 p.m. The initial IC set the risk level at medium, indicating to the responding companies that operations were geared toward saving the building and contents (we may risk our lives a little, within a structured plan, to save savable property). Had there been any indication the structure remained occupied, the IC would set the risk level at high, and crews would have initiated a primary search.

The continued assessment of the risk level is verified through the risk-profile change that is announced over the radio with significant benchmarks, such as primary search complete and fire under control. The risk level is also reaffirmed during a change in the incident strategy.

**Lessons Learned**
The Blue Card-influenced design of LFRA’s battalion chief vehicle proved very effective for managing this fire’s command and control. Well into the incident, the City of Loveland Mobile Command Vehicle was staffed and available to respond. The vehicle was not utilized because the BC vehicle served as the command post. However, there were many other logistical needs the Mobile Command Vehicle could have fulfilled, such as meetings with the building.

**Taking Control of Command Training**

In 2009, the Loveland (Colo.) Fire Rescue Authority implemented an improvement plan for command and control. This plan included training in situational awareness, tactical decision-making under stress and the Blue Card Hazard Zone Management System for our chief- and company-level officers. A command training center (CTC) was established thanks to great partnerships with City of Loveland resources and the ingenuity of LFRA personnel. LFRA decided the chief officers would lead from the front on this initiative. Therefore, the chief officers completed the first Blue Card certification class in the fall of 2010, followed quickly by the company officers. Our neighboring automatic and mutual-aid partners have adopted the Blue Card System and have initiated the certification process through LFRA. Many of these departments have developed their own CTCs.

At this incident, personnel from several agencies worked seamlessly due in part to unified regional training.

The LFRA’s Blue Card instructors have conducted more than 30 Blue Card certification classes for fire officers throughout Colorado since 2010. LFRA was fortunate to establish strong relationships with several key Colorado fire agencies that have helped take lead roles in Blue Card training in the Denver metropolitan area and in Colorado’s mountain areas. These agencies include Arvada, South Metro, West Metro and Vail. These relationships have allowed LFRA to focus on helping the Northern Colorado fire departments with the Blue Card certifications.
## Fire Companies & Supporting Agencies

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<td>Johnstown Operations Chief</td>
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owner, operational-period briefings and discussions with agency representatives.

Shortly after this incident, LFRA recognized the need to give the Loveland Police Department (LPD) a brief overview of the Blue Card system, LFRA terminology and command-post operations. This training was delivered to LPD lieutenants and sergeants in August 2013.

The established LFRA alarm levels lacked the appropriate number of truck/support companies in greater alarm assignments. This has been corrected to include four truck companies and a heavy rescue squad in the first three alarms. These companies are in addition to the engine companies and chief officer depth already built into the alarm assignments.  

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Greg Ward is the division chief of operations for the Loveland Fire Rescue Authority (LFRA). He has been in the fire service for 24 years, serving with the Berthoud Fire Protection District, the United States Air Force Academy Fire Department and the Black Forest Fire District. He has spent the past 20 years with the Loveland Fire Rescue Authority.

Greg is proud to be a third-generation Colorado fire service chief officer.