OVERVIEW

October Leadership Truism
“Little hinges swing big doors.”

ADMINISTRATIVE & HR MATTERS

The LFRA 2018 Budget was formally approved by City Council at the October 3, 2017 Council meeting. As stated previously, the Board was supportive of the budget as a whole, with high priority on doing what is best for our members in regards to safety, benefits, and equipment. Many thanks to Cheryl Cabaruvias for her focus and commitment to the budget development. Other admin matters included:

- Design nearly complete for new LFRA Web site
- A variety of HR matters were initiated/completed, including: online open enrollment process with CEBT, updated NeoGov PE and rolled out year-end evaluations – due Dec. 1, Solicited compensation information from 12 other entities for Fire Inspector, Plans Reviewer and Deputy Fire Marshal compensation review, Recruiting Project Team follow-up, developed Office Support Specialist job description, and processing of Leaves and Claims for personnel.

2018 LFRA STRATEGIC PLAN

The 2018 Strategic Plan is nearing completion, with the final draft going to the LFRA Board on November 13. Most recently, the Compendium of the Plan was presented top the LFRA Board as well as the Rural District Board. At the November 13, LFRA Board meeting, staff will seek direction from the Board for final approval, prior to final adoption of the Plan. Special Projects Manager, Randy Mirowski has lead the

revision of the Strategic Plan, along with the invaluable input and constructive critique of the Fire and Rescue Advisory Commission (FRAC) members. FRAC’s help has been enormous, and their insight and feedback has facilitated a more user friendly and readable Plan. We value their assistance over the last eight to nine months – thank you FRAC!

FIRE STATION 7 PROPERTY

Over the course of the last several months, there has been a great amount of due diligence into developing estimates of the soft costs associated with building a new fire station in west Loveland. It is anticipated that LFRA will finalize the purchase of the property in the next 30-45 days.

As previously mentioned, LFRA is planning to build a new “west side” fire station on the property just north of Big Thompson Elementary School on N. County Road 27. We are excited to have a station in west Loveland due to the growth of the jurisdiction as a whole. Filling in the current “gap” in response coverage on the west side of Loveland is a critical element in maintaining appropriate response times. Once the station is completed (anticipated in mid to late 2019), it will have a significant effect of the ISO rating of homes and business in the area, ultimately reducing insurance costs for applicable homes.

Number of Calls for Service: October 716
2017 Calls for Service - Year to Date 7,086

Protecting life and property, focusing on response, readiness, relationships and resources.
FIRE OPERATIONS DIVISION
by Division Chief Greg Ward

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT RESPONSES

October 12, 2017

LFRA, Front Range Fire Rescue authority and Thompson Valley EMS were dispatched to a residential structure explosion on East County Road 16 in the Johnsons Corner area. The heavily damaged structure was lifted from the foundation by the explosion, but there was no resulting fire. The occupants of the home were asleep at the time of the explosion, however were able to make it outside safely. One of the occupants suffered minor injuries, but did not require medical transport. The cause of the explosion has been identified as a propane leak.

October 19, 2017

LFRA crews quickly extinguished a room and contents fire in a home on North Madison Avenue. The fire was contained to the bedroom where the fire originated, this room sustained heavy fire damage. The rest of the structure sustained smoke damage, but the damage was limited by the interior door to the bedroom being closed. Several pets were rescued or sheltered in place within the structure during the firefighting operations. Thompson Valley EMS, Larimer County Sheriff’s Office and the Larimer County Humane Society assisted on scene.

October 29, 2017

LFRA assisted the Berthoud Fire Protection District with a large hazardous materials leak just inside Weld County, crews located an oil type substance bubbling up from the ground, running down a driveway and collecting in a small ditch. Approximately six gallons of the substance was leaking per minute, LFRA Haz Mat personnel began a containment operation in an effort to stop the flow from leaving the original property. Several oil companies in the area responded and assisted with the containment operation and identification of the substance. LFRA initially had command of the incident, which was determined to be in the Berthoud Fire District, command was transferred to them. The substance was determined to be coming from an abandoned well that had been capped many years ago.
COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION
by Captain Pat Mialy, Emergency Manager

UPDATE / OVERVIEW

October was a busy month for public education and outreach. The 1st grade presentations were delivered by the on duty crews who were able to connect with 557 children and 81 adults – for a total of 638 contacts. The presentations were designed to meet the State of Colorado schools standard: Demonstrate strategies to avoid hazards in the home and community. The lesson plan contained several learning activities: Firefighter personal protective equipment and Fire Engine emergency response, and equipment. The group learning activities were conducted simultaneously, rotating the groups upon the completion of each learning objective. Chief Sparks and CSD extend a big, super grateful thanks to the crews for doing an outstanding job!

BIOGRAPHY PLAN REVIEW

• Working with FCLWD and City of Loveland Water to implement a new procedure for contractors to obtain hydrant test data. The new process will bring LFRA in line with how most jurisdictions ensure contractors obtain hydraulic data.

• Created a new, multi-department committee to develop a method to locate businesses that are occupying buildings without being issued a Certificate of Occupancy. Finding these businesses is a problem in most jurisdictions. In some instances, businesses have been in tenant spaces for several years without meeting minimum legal and life-safety requirements. The goal of the group is to find these businesses early in order to avoid a compliance process several years later that is painful and time consuming for the owner and City staff.

• Working with City Building Division and the owners of Time Escape (escape room business) to issue a building permit and obtain inspections, approvals and Certificate of Occupancy. The owners moved in two years ago without first obtaining a building permit. Meetings with their architect and city and LFRA staff showed the building does not meet IBC and IFC standards for minimum life-safety.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Investigations

• Reviewed the investigation report for FIT Fischer for the 420 E 57th St Lot #25
• Reviewed the Investigation report by FIT Vrem and Lt Andersen for the 4809 N Garfield Fire
• Responded and assisted FIT Vrem with the 3542 N Madison Fire
• Responded and conducted the Investigation for the 6539 CR16 Explosion
• Attended three day IAAI Investigation Conference in Vail

Inspections

• Hazmat Permit Inspections – 3
• Regular Inspections – 6
• Code Compliance Visits – 3

Service Calls/Public Education

• Pub Ed at Mary Blair on 10/24
• Car Seat Installation 10/30/2017
• Two Fire Drills for Businesses

General

• Worked on standardizing private hydrant colors with the three water districts
• Attended Fireview/ Dashboard/Omega trainings
• Attended Accreditation meeting in Copper Mountain with Chief Cerovski
• Attended LEPC meeting in Ft Collins
• Worked on Culture Project, assigned by Chief Ward

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Operations & Maintenance -

• Monthly maintenance of the EOC and MCV are on-going with no significant issues to report.

Planning & Documentation -

• The Thompson School District submitted a draft Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for our review. The plan is robust and is taking the district in a better direction for on scene management of emergencies and pre-planned events. Feedback was provided to them for consideration.

• The Airport staff held a planning meeting for the revision and review of the airport’s EOP. Only minor edits are needed and the final version will be produced within the next two weeks for distribution.
• We met with Kristen on a couple of occasions to determine the layout and content needs for the OEM and Fire Safety sections of the new LFRA website. A list of FAQs for the new webpage was developed for Kristen.

• PAO Pringle worked with three Loveland businesses to assist them with emergency action plans and continuity of operations planning.

• We collaborated with Capt. Dann, FIT Vrem, and the Public Works for improved resident communications and road condition status updates at the N. Garfield road project. The outcome was daily road condition reports shared with emergency services and dispatch as well as an information portal for residents impacted by the project.

Preparedness & Relationships

• The annual Emergency Preparedness and Family Safety Expo was held at the Ranch. This year, we included the Weld County planners and community. This 4-hour event provided safety and preparedness information and resources to attendees. Our headcount was just above 500 from the tri-city area. The AAR is scheduled for November 8, 2017.

• PAO Pringle collaborated with the acting director of COLT, and with a State of Colorado rehabilitation therapist to provide specialized car seat training for a blind, single parent of a newborn who is dependent upon COLT’s paratransit buses as a primary means of transportation. This was a great collaboration between agencies to meet the special needs of this client.

• We staffed in information booth at the City’s Business Appreciation event on October 5th and provided resource information for emergency preparedness and offered scheduling opportunities for emergency action plans and continuity of operations planning with local businesses.

Grants

• The 2017 EMGP fully executed contract was received and archived with the city.

Training & Exercises

• The airport tabletop exercise, managed by the airport staff, is scheduled for 2018. The 2019 full-scale exercise will be expanded into a county level event in order to include additional planning partners.

• PAO Pringle attended 3 days of emergency management training at the State EOC, including the FEMA G318 Local Mitigation Workshop and the G205 Recovery from Local Disaster for Local Governments courses. He also attended an Electrical Fire Investigations course in Westminster.

Public Information

• PAO duties performed and social media communications managed for a variety of department events and incidents. Numerous contacts and inquiries were handled, including: newspaper, television, and radio news agencies. Press releases were created and distributed for a home explosion incident and a residential structure fire incident.

Community Safety/Education

• Youth Fire setter Intervention sessions were provided for the families of seven children involved in a variety of fire setting incidents.

Firefighter Heckman and Firefighter Baker teaching first graders about fire safety
COMMUNITY KUDOS

Dear Firefighters,

Thank you for your daily services and putting out fires so our homes don’t burn. Thank you for all the fires you have put out and all the lives you have saved.

Sincerely,

Ella Lederman
St. John’s Elementary

Loveland Fire Rescue Authority
410 East 5th Street
Loveland, CO 80537

Dear LFRA:

Please accept our enclosed personal check #426 in the amount of $150.00 (one hundred fifty dollars) as a gift in grateful appreciation for the exceptional professionalism and kindness of the crews at Fire Station 5.

They assisted in a non-emergency matter on an early Sunday morning with a faulty smoke detector in our hard-wired home system, and on Monday, graciously installed all new smoke detectors, which we provided. They also helped us understand our system with maintenance tips and timing for battery replacement, since the previous owners had left no instructions.

We want to pass forward the kindness shown to us by helping the LFRA in their continuing community service to provide smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to those in need.

Thank you again to all our brave firefighters in Loveland for their continuing support for our community, both in non-emergency public service matters, and of course in critical emergency situations where we are all so dependent on their quick response and training.

We are very proud to be new residents of Loveland.

Cordially,

Ellen B. & Jorge Fernandez

Loveland, CO 80538-5664
October 24, 2017