Fire-Rescue Administrative Division

Chief Mark Miller and Public Safety Administrative Director Renee Wheeler

May 2016 Overview -

May leadership truism: “Leaders must constantly *challenge* the process, precisely because *any* system will unconsciously conspire to maintain status quo and prevent change”.

*Highlights* of the May report include: Training Center Annexation; Training Center Master Plan; LFRA Administrative items; citizen life-saving recognition; KTF event.

Training Center Annexation -

The annexation of the new Training Center property is complete! It was a four month process, but it was final as of May 17th. Thanks to all those that assisted in this process!

Training Center Master Plan/Design -

As previously reported, we are moving forward with the Training Center Master Plan and have had several productive meetings. Currently we are working with an engineer in the burn building design process and it’s proving to be a worthwhile effort in putting together a very functional, unique burn prop tower. Additionally, we are working to eliminate the current retention pond at the Training Center to mitigate environmental issues. We will be working diligently in the coming months to redesign the entire drainage system at the site.

Administrative Matters -

The 2017 budget development work has begun. Renee and Cheryl have been meeting with program managers to hear about their program priorities for 2017 and the resources that will be required to address those priorities. The time is also invested in reviewing equipment inventories so that there are adequate equipment replacement dollars included in the ten year financial plan. The summaries and comparative analysis work will then be prepared so that the entire budget can be reviewed by executive staff to develop the recommendations that will move forward to the Budget Review subcommittee (LFRA Board Chair/Rural Board representative, City Manager and the Chair of the Fire Rescue Authority Advisory Commission) and then to the LFRA Board as a whole.

Collaboration has been occurring at the staff level for establishing the LFRA Fleet Replacement Fund and what scenarios might be available for decision making at the Board level relative to funding replacements of the oldest equipment that will become LFRA assets.

Renee Wheeler attended the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) conference. There are 16,865 active government members of the GFOA and only 505 or 3% of those members are Certified Government
Finance Officers. Renee is one of those Certified Government Finance Officers. 30 hours of continuing education credits are required annually to maintain that certification. This conference is the most efficient way to meet those requirements. She attended many sessions on financial leadership, the costing of government services, best practices in managing payroll, building a finance office, budget processes, financial resiliency through risk awareness, cash flow forecasting, capital budgeting for short term assets, managing grants, auditing, understanding how to manage a multigenerational workforce (Bruce Tulgan author of “Bridging the Soft Skills Gap: How to Teach the Missing Basics to Today’s Young Talent“), and the economic impact of the nation’s creative class (Dr. Richard Florida). It was a very beneficial conference.

**Moving Forward Tours –**

As we do each year, we hosted three (one for each fire shift) *Moving Forward Tours* over the course of the month. The Tours are akin to a State of the Department Address of sorts, in which we review the Annual Report, pass on pertinent information, share a vision of what’s coming, and wrap it up with a brief leadership lesson. This year’s *Moving Forward Tours* were May 9, 12, and 26. The leadership lesson was on “Disruptive Leadership”.

**Radio Communication Monopole Tower –**

It’s finally fully functional – as of May 25th! The old tower has been removed and we are back in business with a state of the art tower that will last for many, many tears. This has been an arduous process, but the actual construction process has gone smoothly. Thanks to all the city and outside agencies for their cooperation in bringing this project to fruition.

**Life Saving Recognition –**

On May 2, 2016, LFRA responded to a boating accident on Bodecker Lake in west Loveland. Essentially, two men were fishing at night in a canoe on the lake, and one of the men stood up in the canoe, causing it to capsize. Unfortunately one man tragically drowned, while the other frantically held on to the capsized canoe. He was yelling for help, and caught the attention of another boater on the lake, Michael Mullinix, who heard the screams for help as he was fishing nearby. Michael maneuvered his boat to the man who was holding onto the capsized canoe and was able to assist him in getting to shore. In essence, Michael’s actions saved the life of the man in the water. LFRA formally recognized Michael at the May 25th LFRA Board meeting. It was an emotional ceremony, in which the man Michael rescued was in attendance as well as the girlfriend of the man who tragically drowned.

Additionally, LFRA recognized Dispatcher Julie Garcia, who took the 911 call from Michael and stayed on the phone with him for over 10 minutes, staying calm and providing direction and guidance – outstanding job, Julie!

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families who lost their loved one, as we pay tribute to Michael Mullinix for saving a life that night. Well Done Michael! (picture; left to right - Chief Miller, Michael Mullinix and Julie Garcia)
Kill the Flashover (KTF) –

LFRA is busy preparing for the KTF event that we are hosting June 7, 8, and 9. I will go into greater detail in next month’s report, but it’s important to mention that this is a huge event and the only one like it in the Western US. Individuals from nine states and three different countries will be participating. In essence this will be looking at modern fire behavior and research burns, all geared at making our jobs safer and more effective in regards to fire attack. Stay tuned for pictures and details next month...
May 2016

**RESPONSE**

- On the 2nd of May, LFRA responded to Boedecker Lake on a reported dive rescue incident, crews arrived on scene to find a civilian rescuer transporting a victim of a boating accident to shore. The victim and rescuer stated that another victim was missing in the water. A night dive rescue operation was conducted in an effort to locate the missing victim. Additional dive rescue personnel were requested from the Berthoud Fire District. The divers faced zero visibility and numerous entanglement hazards in the water during their search. The victim was located, but unfortunately did not survive.

- LFRA was dispatched on an auto-aid residential fire with Front Range Fire Rescue on May 20th, the first arriving FRFR crew found a well involved fire on the second floor of the home. LFRA Engine 6, Tower 6, Battalion 1 and Bureau 3 assisted with command support, overhaul and the fire investigation.

- A two vehicle accident at 10th Street and Garfield Avenue on the 23rd of May resulted in a vehicle striking a house. LFRA crews worked for approximately two hours to extricate the vehicle and shore up the structure. Fortunately there were no injuries to the driver of occupants of the house.

**READINESS**

- LFRA’s certified Aircraft Rescue Firefighters (ARFF) attended the FAA required live fire training at DIA. This training along with twelve other training subjects per year are required to maintain the ARFF certification.

- Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control’s National Fire Academy training week was held in Loveland at the Group Publishing facility during the week of May 16th. LFRA personnel instructed the majority of the week long Fire Officer 1 and 2 courses. Approximately 40 Firefighters from around the state attended the classes.

- The Special Operations Team conducted a five day Rescue School the first week of May, subjects included rope rescue, trench rescue, confined space rescue and collapse rescue.

- Four LFRA members attended a three day vehicle extrication class hosted by the Arvada Fire Protection District.

**RESOURCES**

- Crews completed construction of two training props at the Training Center, a new fire behavior burn cell was constructed utilizing a metal shipping container, this will be utilized later this year by all LFRA personnel. The wooden burn building utilized for data collection / research burns was refinished in preparation for the upcoming Kill the Flashover training event in June.

- Four members of the Canyon Battalion graduated from the Aims Firefighter I Academy, following their graduation their badges were pinned by friends and family.

- Congratulations to the new Canyon Battalion Chief Shawn Neal and a huge THANK YOU to Bill Lundquist, who served as the Canyon Battalion Chief for several years.

- The Emergency Vehicle Technicians from the City of Loveland Fleet Services conducted apparatus maintenance training for all of the crews along with the Berthoud Fire District crews.

**RELATIONSHIPS**

- The Training Center was utilized by the Aims Fire Academy, Berthoud Fire District, Front Range Fire Rescue, Front Range Fire Consortium Academy and the Loveland Police Department in May.

- LFRA recognized our Law Enforcement partners by flying the Thin Blue Line flags on our fire engines during Law Enforcement Week.

- The crew of Engine 2 and a member of the Canyon Battalion presented educational material at the Community Wildfire Preparedness Event in Drake on May 7th.
Dive Rescue – Boedecker Lake

Auto-Aid House Fire with Front Range Fire Rescue

Car vs. House Accident – North Garfield

Special Operations Team Rescue School
Update/overview of CSD, Special Events (Ned):

- 4th of July Fireworks show; fireworks, security, fencing and lighting are done. One member of the Lake Loveland RC is concerned that the closed area on the lake is private and Fire cannot exclude them from access. As an alternative, I asked City Legal (Moses) to draft a hold harmless agreement stating the area would be policed by the homeowners. The pyro-technician for the show, the rep for the LLRC and I met to review the code requirements and the LLRC was presented the draft agreement for the HOA to review. We are waiting for a reply from the LLRC.

- Review of existing pub-ed programs and creating a new direction is continuing to move forward. LFRA met with American Red Cross, LETA, TVEMS, LPD, SafeKids and R2J to continue creating a program. The last meeting currently in use, identify areas that overlap between disciplines, create a joint curriculum and develop a proposed schedule using the current school year as a template. R2J has offered to take on the scheduling of the resources for agencies.

- The evaluation of the Lovelander Apartments by Building and Fire will be conducted in June.

- DRT - Empowerment committee still in process and working to transition the leadership of this committee. In the meantime Planning is helping to create an email template for escalating problem projects.

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

City Building/Fire project review:

- New Thought Church – review and meetings to assist owner resolve problems with submittals.
- CoL Water treatment Plant – multiple reviews and inspections to assist the project.
- Meetings with FITs, Lt.’s & Capt.’s, BC’s and DFM Dann to discuss the FIT program and how we can continue to make it better.
- Bent Tree Church – problems with fire sprinklers that were installed and new ownership requires replacing sprinkler heads and reconfiguration of the suppression system.
- Chillers will be coming due for the liquor license and the structure has had a history of noncompliance.
- Working with the Airport to find options on the new building and fire sprinkler system.

County project review:

- Collinswood Designs – continuing process of working through the Larimer County Building Dept. and LFRA to meet wood working and spray booth requirements.
- Larimer County Humane Society – plan review process ongoing.
- Received Firehouse Storage submittal for wooden structures from Larimer County

Johnstown

- Working with Abundant Life Tabernacle to find alternative fire retardant material – structure was not built to code requirements so an alternative solution is required to permit and occupy the building.
- Scheels permit submittal received and in process.

Emergency Management

Significant events:
The Baker / Logan Simpson Team completed the draft Mitigation Master Plan main document. The MMP was presented to M-Team and to City Council for final input before it goes out to for community input and then finalization. Ecology &
Environment was selected to create the city's Disaster Recovery Plan. The Service contract was signed and the kickoff workshop was held with the project steering committee.

We have received an informal notice of approval from FEMA to install the HMP grant-funded emergency generator at the Service Center. We now await the formal notification so that we can begin work. One planning meeting was held between multiple departments to share some initial project planning ideas.

The new communications tower was installed and all communications were switched over from the old tower. The old tower was decommissioned, thus removing a major hazard from the roof.

Flood Recovery
- Attended on-going city recovery planning meetings

Operations and Maintenance
- Collaborated with IT Dept for installation of digital matrix in EOC
- Collaborated with IT Dept for EOC laptop configuration improvements
- Met with Greg G. to discuss potential space donation for OEM
- Worked with Capt. Gilbert on EOC radios and headsets
- Coordinated with ARES and Capt. Gilbert for equipment transfer to new tower
- Worked with Scott and Tina for update of Everbridge EOC activation paging group and conducted test
- Assigned Willson to manage weather radio program for remainder of 2016, program will go to city’s Safety Coordinator in 2017.
- Updated status of resources in WebEOC
- Met with Chief Miller & Chief Sparks ref: OEM program development
- Met with Cheryl and formalized OEM budget for 2017

Planning and Documentation
- Met with Community Partnership office ref: historic and environmental assessments
- Met with PIO and PAO for Emergency Communications Plan development
- Evaluated contractor proposals and interviewed 3 contractors for Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP)
- Held service contract development meeting and executed contract with DRP contractor
- Participated in DRP contractor’s pre-kickoff planning meeting
- Participated in DRP kickoff workshop
- Met with MMP contractor for project planning session
- Facilitated #2 steering committee meeting for MMP
- Completed mitigation project priority ranking
- Facilitated MMP draft presentation to M-Team
- Scheduled presentation of County HMP to City Council for 1st reading on July 5th
- Facilitation of IGA for Hazmat calls in the county in progress
- IGA for flashing signs in progress
- IGA for EM and disaster funding in progress
- COOP final draft sent to CMO for approval and signatures, adoption not required
- Met with LPD on EOC set up and needs discussion
- Attended Big T River corridor mitigation action planning
- CWPP and mitigation action planning with Capt. Carmosino, Rene M. to finalize plan
- Contacted CIAC for risk analysis of group bringing conference to Loveland

Emergency Preparedness Relationships
- Attended NEAHR meeting
- Attended quarterly Division Manager’s meeting with Mr. Cahill
- Attended Pub Ed program development meeting with partner agencies
Met with city’s safety coordinator to establish future collaborations
Attended LCEM meeting
Met with PFA’s new PIO and our PAO
Connected with student for potential internship

Grants
- Received approval from NEAHR to apply 2016 SHSG funds to EOC IT or comms. projects
- Provided significant information to Chris Carlson’s CDBG-DR round 4 application
- Processed CDBG-DR service contract and invoices
- Began processing SHSG and purchases for EOC radio upgrades and headsets

Training and Public Outreach
- Attended outreach program steering committee meeting

Training Received
- Completed 1 City University course: empowering followers
- Participated in ARES quarterly communications equipment tests

Exercises
- Attended 2016 Airport exercise development meeting
- Attended 2016 “Blizzaster” exercise development meeting

Other
- Completed all JPRs for Fire Officer 2 certification, exam yet to be scheduled
- Participated in mid-year evaluations with subordinate and with supervisor
- Completed multi-year training record list for entry into ETI

EMPG Grant-Required Work Plan Items
- EMF 1 –
- EMF 2 – CWPP in review
- EMF 2 - IGA for Hazmat calls in the county – in progress
- EMF 3 - Local THIRA completed as part of HMP update; in review by FEMA
- EMF 4 - Mitigation Master Plan on schedule; presented to Management and Council for input
- EMF 4 - Met with Community Partnership office ref: historic and environmental assessments
- EMF 5 – FM has current version of LEOP
- EMF 6 – COOP final draft sent to city management and Fire Board for approval
- EMF 6 – Disaster Recovery Plan kickoff workshop conducted
- EMF 6 - Attended 2013 Flood Recovery meetings
- EMF 7 – On-going implementation of training as outlined in the 2016 TEP
- EMF 7 – NIMS training on-going; current city-wide compliance is 83%
- EMF 7 – TEP sent to FM
- EMF 8 - On-going implementation of exercise as outlined in the 2016 TEP
- EMF 8 – 2016 Airport FSE under development
- EMF 8 – “Blizzaster” exercise under development
- EMF 9 – LCEM and LCEHC meetings held in Q1
- EMF 10 – ARES communications test conducted May 7, 2016
- EMF 11 - Collaborated with IT Dept for installation of digital matrix in EOC
- EMF 11 - Collaborated with IT Dept for EOC laptop configuration improvements
- EMF 11 - Coordinated with ARES and Capt. Gilbert for equipment transfer to new tower
- EMF 11 – updated and tested Everbridge paging group for EOC activations
- EMF 11 – Final draft of COOP sent out for approval
- EMF 12 - IGAs for Hazmat calls in the county, flashing sign maintenance – in progress
- EMF 13 – updated status of resources in WebEOC
- EMF 14 – EOC technology and communications upgrades - in progress
- EMF 15 – Draft ESF 15, JIS/JIC emergency communications plans – in progress

**PIO, Website & Public Education (Scott):**
- PIO duties and press release for Boedecker Lake incident
- Photos for PIO use at SOT Rescue School Week and DFPC NFA Week classes
- Numerous LFRA social media posts
- Numerous LFRA website updates
- BNSF First Responder Express appreciation event planning
- 2 Thompson Safety Education Coalition meetings
- EF 15 meeting with Pat Mialy and Lisa Schwartz
- Site visit at Nordson Medical for tornado shelter evaluation, evacuations planning, and COOP discussion
- Follow up on emergency planning and related topics with Cardinal Glass
- Worked on Everbridge update project
- 3 County Blizzaster Exercise planning meeting
- Airport Exercise planning meeting
- Meeting with TSD Fire Alarm Specialist about future planning once that position is eliminated
- Attended Emergency Management Academy in Centennial (24 hours)
- EMS trainings (3 hours)
- Completed 2 City of Loveland University training sessions (0.5 hours)
- Distributed alarms and pub ed supplies to fire stations
- 1 school fire safety compliance visits (re-inspection)
- 5 car seat inspection/installations
- 1 bike helmet fitting/donation
- 1 youth firesetting family intervention session
- Scheduling and follow-up on other Youth Firesetting Intervention cases
- 1 BEC event standby
- Various CSD staff meetings

**ISO, Accreditation, Fracking, Inspections, Investigations (Ty):**
Worked with Barbara Woolf to develop updated maps of our new ISO PPC rating. She is still working to develop an interactive version for the website. In the meantime, Scott has loaded the PDF onto the website.

**Accreditation**
April 17th-21st: Traveled to Morrisville (NC) as a peer assessor to verify and validate the agency’s application to become accredited.
Completed a data analysis project for Lt Willson (for his Fire Officer II JPRs).
Completed monthly response performance analysis for BTCVFD and TVEMS.
Completed LFRA monthly incident summary and response performance.
Met w/ DC Sparks re strategic plan update process.
Created notebooks and resource materials for all folks who get to write performance indicators for our upcoming self-assessment process.

**Assist Operations**
Delivered public education supplies to Station 4 for last-minute large group visiting
5/2 – D/O on Ladder 6 (0730-1700)
5/2 – Respond to dive rescue at Boedecker Lake
5/5 – Acting Lt on E1 (0730-1700)
5/6 – Acting Lt on E5 (1700-0730)
5/15 – Acting FIT2 (1830-0730)
Swapped digital cameras w/ FIT2 to troubleshoot theirs
Placed newer digital camera on Rescue 2
**Inspections**
Reviewed and approved 9 burn permit, denied 2 burn permits
Updated Knox box keys at 3 businesses
Help Blue Ocean Aviation trouble-shoot siren-activated gate and electronic Knox key gate
Consulted with IME re site plan issues at new construction project
Inspected 1 tent permit
Reviewed Tier II info from Larimer LEPC
Met w/ citizen interested in fire service careers and got him signed up for ride-along program
Carter Lake Marina – HazMat permit and general inspection
Mountain Aviation – HazMat permit and general inspection
Bohemian Air – HazMat permit and general inspection
Peloar Properties – HazMat permit and general inspection
West Shore Automotive – observe contractor remove 3 underground storage tanks

**Investigations**
Met w/ Detective Dean re vehicle fire arson investigation and possible suspects
Met w/ Berthoud Fire Department re new investigator training
Provide aid to investigating a structure fire – 16 hours.

**Training**
Recertified HazMat Ops
Lead instructor for FRFC Academy – Flashover/Advanced Fire Behavior (8 hrs)
Attend RMTTA Rescue Task Force training (16 hrs)
Attend Denver Fire Dept Advanced Fire Investigation seminar (36 hrs)
EMS CME – pediatrics/OB (2 hrs)
Peer Support Team meeting (1 hr)
Without that NFPA grant sponsored by State Farm, we would never have attempted a Drake Wildfire Preparedness picnic for our community. I am proud of the amount of planning and organization that went into it, how various community members stepped up to help, and the participation of representatives of key agencies for our area. There is not a single thing I would do differently; the only things about it that I didn't like were out of my control - the weather, and that people who RSVP'd didn't show up (probably because of the weather). And that we didn't take pictures of ourselves with the firemen.

We had a decent turnout, and it was great to meet several of our We Survived the Flood - Now What? Facebook group members in person to strengthen our bond. Neighbors met neighbors for the first time, and the most important takeaway for me is that we CAN accomplish this sort of thing in our spread-out community.

The attached photos show some of our community members with their color-coded name tags indicating which part of the canyon they are from. It allowed people to identify their neighbors and go introduce themselves.

Thanks again to everyone who made this possible. It's too soon to say 'let's do this again,' but I wouldn't rule it out sometime in the future.

Pat Mialy, please forward this to the Fire District folks, thanks.

Laura Emerson
173 Brown Trout Ln
Drake, CO 80515
970-586-3267
Good morning Mark,

Michael and I want to thank you and your staff for the nice recognition ceremony for Michael. It really meant a lot to him and he told me that it helped him with dealing with what happened, a closure thing I suppose. Having Matt and Casandra there was important to keeping it very personal and not just an event that happened. He also really loved meeting Julie Garcia who helped him stay calm and focused.

Your staff was really nice and helpful, please thank all of them. His award certificate is now beautifully framed and hanging on his wall next to his “challenge coin”. Thanks to you Mark for all of the nice words spoken, I’m sure he will never forget them.

Thank you Mark,

Ralph Mullinix

Sent from my iPad
Good morning Chief,

I wanted to send you a quick note to express my great appreciation for your staff’s response, service, coordination, and professionalism. Yesterday we had a fuel spill at the Airport and through the efforts of everyone led by your team including Eric Klass, Tim Smith, Greg Ward, and Ned Sparks, we were able to work together to contain the hazard and ensure the safety of those surrounding the event. Chief Smith did an outstanding job working with all emergency responders including Airport and JetCenter staff. Command staff was well organized, and mutual aid responders seemed very well choreographed. You lead a very professional team and should feel a sense of pride in knowing that.

Regards,

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