OVERVIEW

July Leadership Truism

“Rest, vacation, balance – it is as indispensable to the brain as oxygen is to the body...it is paradoxically necessary to getting any work done.”

ADMINISTRATIVE & HR MATTERS

- HR Manager Andrea Wright, has been immersed in learning and eventually educating staff on the new Ulti-Pro HR Management System.
- Additionally, LFRA just completed a full compensation study (managed by Andrea), and we have identified positions/pay ranges that will need adjustments to stay competitive with our surrounding regional fire departments. A proposal for salary adjustments will be taken to the LFRA Board late summer or early fall.
- New member: LFRA introduced one new face this month to fill a vacancy created when we moved Lt. Randy Stuart to fill a crucial training role with the Front Range Fire Consortium. Please help us welcome new LFRA firefighter, Brandon Gleditsch. Brandon was a volunteer with the Canyon Battalion and also a reserve firefighter with Wellington Fire Protection District. Brandon is currently completing his firefighter academy and will be on shift in mid-August. Welcome Brandon!
- Chief Miller presented a DRAFT 2019 budget to the LFRA Budget sub-committee on June 18th, and we will present the final budget to the Board on August 29th.

4TH OF JULY - VARIABLE MESSAGE BOARDS (VMB)

- As mentioned in last month’s report, beginning June 25th through July 4th, LFRA and Loveland Police partnered to arrange for seven electronic VMB signs throughout the community to get the word out about illegal fireworks. The signs rotated the following messages:

  - Be a good neighbor – only use legal fireworks. 
  - Legal fireworks don’t leave the ground or explode. 
  - Illegal fireworks – up to $1,000 fine and jail.

We are still looking at data, but anecdotaly, Police and Fire believe the signs made a significant difference in thwarting the use of illegal fireworks. However, there were still hundreds of complaints that came into the 4th of July “hotline”, regarding the use of illegal fireworks throughout the community. We will continue to get the word out that illegal fireworks will not be tolerated. Several citations were issued, and those individuals will face a $1000 fine and/or jail time. While the signs deterred at least some of the illegal activity related to fireworks, we still rely heavily on neighbors and the community to come alongside officials in this effort to eliminate illegal fireworks. Thanks for your support!

Brandon Gleditsch, Firefighter

July 2018 Incident Count

LFRA Responded to:

753 Incidents
FIRE OPERATIONS DIVISION
by Division Chief Greg Ward

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT RESPONSES

July 2, 2018
LFRA and Thompson Valley EMS was dispatched to a dive rescue incident at North Lake Park, initial units arrived on scene within two minutes of being dispatched. The witnesses on scene reported that one male had gone under water approximately 50 feet from the shore. A rescue diver was readied and into the water within six minutes of arriving on scene. The victim was located within three minutes of the diver being in the water. The victim was transported by ambulance to McKee Medical Center. Sadly the young man did not survive.

July 6, 2018
Engine 4 was deployed to the Lake Christine Fire that was threatening homes near the town of Basalt. The crew was assigned structural protection, mop up and fire protection for the local natural gas repair company during this three day assignment.

July 10, 2018
A crew of three personnel deployed to the Skunk Creek fire near Craig. The crew worked on containment and mop up operations with several other engine crews. This assignment was cut short after a significant rain came through the area and assisted with controlling the fire. Engine 61’s crew worked the fire for three days before being demobilized.

July 18, 2018
A wildland fire threatening a structure was reported in the 1000 block of West Highway 34 in the Big Thompson Canyon. Initial arriving crews located the fire directly behind a house, access was made from the backyard and a small power-line road above the fire. A second alarm was initiated, which called for additional LFRA resources along with mutual aid from Berthoud Fire District, Poudre Fire Authority and Estes Valley Fire District. Crews were able to protect the structures and contain the fire within twenty five minutes of arriving on scene.
July 24, 2018

Crews were dispatched the Palmer Gardens complex on an active fire alarm. The first arriving engine and battalion chief observed smoke coming from the building as well as a fire sprinkler activation signal, the assignment was upgraded to a commercial structure fire which brought additional LFRA companies to the scene. Crews located a small fire in a closet and ceiling area that had been extinguished by the sprinkler system. Crews checked for additional fire extension, ventilated the structure and performed salvage operations before clearing scene.

July 29, 2018

Engine 2 had just cleared the scene of a medical response and was enroute to the hospital to pick up a firefighter that had assisted the EMS crew with transport was first on scene of a garage fire, they arrived on scene within two and a half minutes of the dispatch page. The two-person crew began attacking the fully involved garage and protecting the nearby exposures. Additional resources quickly arrived on scene and assisted with extinguishment and overhaul operations. Damage was limited to the garage, the back porch awning on the house, a fence and an ATV that was parked near the garage.

COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION

by Division Chief Ned Sparks

FIRE PREVENTION

• City of Loveland Fireworks Show – Significant time was spent on the planning, and creating site security of the event. Including the setup, inspection/permitting and launch of the show. Contract with the BEC completed. Continued work on the Fire Sprinkler program in the DDA with Economic Development and Development Services.
• Code Enforcement – VRBO discussion with Larimer County and various agencies that interact with Development Services – feedback from citizens is the next step. Various Special Events planning for the Art Festivals and Downtown events.
• Plan Review – High profile projects; The Foundry final inspections for building 1 have been completed, final inspection of the Lovelander Apts., Barton Solvents in process, AKA Kitchen completed.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

• The focus this month was on resource management during emergencies. This process including the evaluation and purchase of a credentialing and resource management system for the EOC, called Salamander. With the information provided by all other city departments, we are building a single, citywide personnel and resource database to make Salamander functional. This particular effort will take us several months to complete. When we take delivery, the Salamander System is expected to provide us with many benefits such as:
  • Making dept. ID badges
  • Making just-in-time ID cards for personnel working in the EOC
  • Scanning in/out personnel at the EOC, the Disaster Assistance Center, etc.
  • Producing real time resource status reports
  • Producing real time finance costs reports

• The “2019 Larimer U.N.I.T.E. Exercise (Urban Neighborhood Inter-Agency Training & Execution)” will test and evaluate reunification, inter-agency coordination, communications systems, and a Regional EOC approach. The Planning team is currently developing the draft version of a reunification plan that will be the subject of the 2018 tabletop exercise.
• Lenny and Gina participated in an Animal Evacuation Exercise. Lenny also participated in a tabletop exercise held by the Bureau of Reclamation for testing a Dam Emergency Plan.
• We are collaborating with Larimer County in the delivery of facility risk assessments in order to develop critical infrastructure improvement recommendations. Several members from the county, the city, and Fort Collins serve as a team to conduct site-specific assessments and to share the data for the purpose of enhanced infrastructure protection.
COMMUNITY KUDOS

Chief Miller,

I would like to thank firefighters Pfeiffer, Aldridge, Schuetz and McGrath from Station 8 for their attendance at the Mariana Butte Community Night Out on June 20, 2018. Our community loved meeting the firefighters, asking them questions and learning about their truck and gear! Your firefighters helped make our night out successful.

Thank you and your department for serving our community and keeping us safe!

Sincerely,

Paul Moser commented on City of Loveland, Colorado - Government's video.

Paul Moser
July 3 at 10:37 AM

Thanks to all the staff that put together one heck of a fireworks show. Awesome!!! Shout out to our emergency services for keeping us safe last night. What a great 4th of July!