

# FREMONT COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



The District

July-August 2017

## *District Chief*

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY

Well it is that time of year again. Campouts, campfires, BBQs, and getting out in the great outdoors. That is the main reason that most of us live in Fremont County. We enjoy the freedoms that have been granted to us because of the people that have preceded us and saw the future and what it could be. Some of them even laying down their lives so that we can enjoy the Freedoms that we have. Independence Day is more than a holiday, it, like Memorial Day, Veteran's Day, Pearl Harbor Day, and the list goes on, should be observed with some solemnity and reverence. However, I think that I am preaching to the choir. Most of you have stepped up to serve your communities in a way that most people cannot or will not and for that Thank You. Moreover, some of you not only serve your communities today, but served or are serving your nation in the military, Thank You.

As I travel about the State I get to see and observe people in many situations and visit different retail outlets (we will leave it at that). When I first started working one of the first lessons I was taught is that the customer is always right. What the heck happened there? Most of the stores that you go into, barring a few of the locally owned and operated businesses, there is no such thing as service. Let alone customer service and assistance.

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**Thank you  
For attending  
The  
Wyoming  
Fallen  
Firefighter  
Memorial  
On  
May 13, 2017  
To Honor  
Speed Hartbank!**



Hyle Miller named Wyoming State Fireman of the Year!



Photo Credit-Linda Miller

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However, I think that is something that we still provide. Yeah we still have the adrenalin junkies and the young people (not age but experience) who are just figuring it out. We have some of the most compassionate, care-giving people in the business. Sure, we are all tough on the outside and talk rough but I have seen the care that is given when our friends, neighbors and communities need the help. We may go forward a little begrudgingly at times but we still do it and do it with the right intentions. And even those that test our medal are still given the courtesy and respect that they deserve if for no other reason than being human. The way that I look at it is everyone out there is someone's son or daughter, and no matter how much I may disagree with them and maybe even feel that they might be wasting oxygen, I have to step back and remember that.

I don't know why, but I have my opinion, we have gone so far away from treating one another in this world so badly. Why we have to use the shock factor daily to be noticed. Nevertheless, I guess at least if everyone gets their trophy that is all that matters (sarcasm intended). Where has common decency and mutual respect disappeared to?

Thank goodness that we seemed to have captured that little corner of the world and gleaned onto it. We (the fire service) are not perfect by any means. We too have our faults and have shown our weaknesses from time to time. We just need to remember that instead of saying "Are you Freaking kidding me" or "Are you really that stupid", just simply as "Is everyone OK?" or "What can I do to help?" and simply leave it at that and do our jobs ensuring that we all get to go back home and be with our families and friends.

Every day of my life I try to learn something new, and that doesn't mean the new ways that people come up with to endanger their lives and the lives of others. What it means is that we need to strive to better ourselves and thereby improving the world around us. To be the better person, most of you are doing that by helping others by being firefighters and some of you by helping other emergency services. It is not just what we do, it is who we are. And for that I am proud to call you my friends and part of my fire family.

Thanks for all you do, the service that you provide, and for helping others. Going the extra mile to train, attend meetings, respond to calls and dedicate part of your time and talents to help others.  
**You are all Hero's in my book.**

Craig

# ***District Trainer***

Hey folks,

Well, here we are, July 1<sup>st</sup> and very little to talk about as far as wildland/grass fires are concerned. The light flashy fuels are thick and curing. With the warmer temperatures that we have been getting it is only a matter of time before we are off and running.

It seems lately that we have had an unusually high number of vehicle accidents and with tourist season in full swing that has a high probability to continue. Remember your highway safety, use the rigs to block traffic from your work area and wear your traffic vests when possible and appropriate.

Our membership numbers have been holding steady, we have added a few new members and luckily haven't lost any. With that being said, we are experiencing man power shortages on most calls throughout the district and in all battalions. The reason I mention this, is not to point fingers, place blame or make people feel guilty. Time is a precious commodity, family and job come first and those two priorities dictate one's availability to respond to calls. This is why, as I am sure most of you have noticed, Division Chief Wempen and/or myself have been responding pretty regularly to calls throughout the district. Our response, contrary to popular belief, has nothing to do with micro-managing or a lack of trust in your capabilities. Our job is to assist you any way we can, we are responding with the sole purpose of providing you with additional support and man power. We also have our seasonal/summer help available to assist with calls if needed. Keep up the good work and if we can help you in any way don't hesitate to call.

**I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable 4<sup>th</sup> of July.**

Dan

# ***Wildland Safety Officer***

## **Major Hazards and Risks:**

One hour fuels

Urban interface

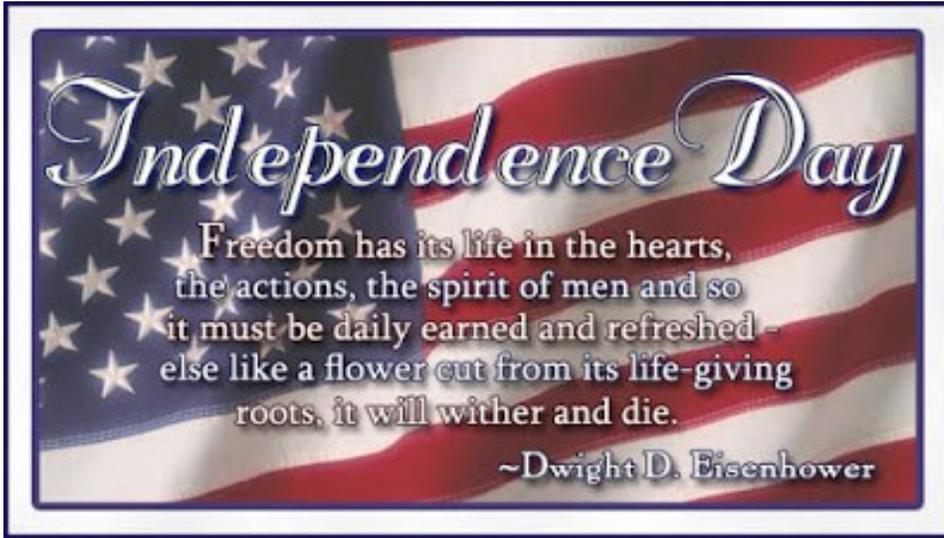
Fire fighters this has been a very different spring season than a lot of you have ever seen. I would like to bring your attention to the one hour fuels that have grown because of the wet spring. The large amount of cheat grass that has come up in different areas. If you look and pay attention you will see the red and purple that shows the cheat grass is curing out. Cheat grass is one of the most volatile 1 hour fuels that we have in this area. Once it cures it can burn very quick and hot, so please pay attention when you are paged to an outside grass brush or tree fire.

I am seeing a lot of it in the urban interface areas where the ground has been disturbed from landscaping and building of roads. It also is the first grass that grows in the spring, because it germinates in the fall wet weather. With the wet spring this year it has grown very high and dense in places and some very large patches of it.

So remember your situational awareness.

**Lookouts   Communications   Escape Routes Safety Zones**

**Safety Officer: *Rocky E McWilliams***



## Announcements

**July 3, 2017 - 4th of July Celebration!**  
**At the Pavillion Community Center**

The District

Fremont County Fire Protection District  
305 South Smith Road  
Riverton, WY 82501

## Contact Us

Fremont County Fire  
Protection District

**305 South Smith Road**  
Riverton, WY 82501

(307) 857-3030

FAX (307) 856-2648

Email:

fremontfirehq@wyoming.com

Visit us on the web at

[www.FremontCountyFire  
District.com](http://www.FremontCountyFireDistrict.com)

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ADDRESS LABEL  
HERE