



FCFPD
2015 Drill
Teams in
Action

The District

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FREMONT COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



The District

July-August 2015

District Chief's Message

Wow how time flies when you are having fun! Seems like we just did this last week and yet here it is time to write another newsletter. This time of year it becomes even more difficult to draft a letter and to continue to tell you the same things. Just Be Ready and Be Alert.

Things in the District are moving forward as we have begun construction on the new fire hall in Hudson, the bid was awarded for installing a 30,000 gallon water storage tank in Atlantic City as we are finishing up the water storage tank and infrastructure in Lysite. Ft. Washakie's new engine will hopefully be going in service June 30th, we have had some issues with the parts for some of the loose equipment that we install on the unit after we receive it. The new 1221 passed through its acceptance pump test with flying colors and the shop staff have done an excellent job in mounting the equipment on it.

We have put on 3 seasonals for the summer, they will be doing maintenance work around the District as well as initial attack and going on dispatches when we get the call. So if you see unit R-42 out and about or they show up on an incident, tell them thanks for the help.

We have recently seen a small influx of volunteers joining and in some cases rejoining the District in some of the areas that we could really use them. It is nice to see some new faces and be faced with the problem of not having enough gear to go around to some of the new folks. But not to worry, we will get them outfitted and going.

Well before you think that all is well or that I am going all Pollyanna on you, while things are going well there are still issues happening in the District. From time to time I find that as leaders we forget that being a leader isn't always about making people happy it is about doing the right thing, and sometimes the right thing isn't popular. From time to time I have to make decisions for the betterment of the District that are not necessarily popular with all involved or even with myself. Sometimes leadership is more about "pissing people off at a rate that they can absorb" or "Leadership and Integrity – isn't about doing what is popular it is about doing what is right."

"Fremont County Fire District is dedicated to providing the highest quality of fire, emergency and other community related services to the residents and visitors of the District"

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

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In This Issue

- Chief's Message
- District Trainer's Message
- Chief's Message Continued
- 2015 Drill Team

District Trainer

Hey folks,

First off, I would like to congratulate the men and woman of the districts drill teams who competed in the Wyoming State Fireman's Convention, June 18 – 20 in Lander. Team 1 – Brady Hamilton, Jared Hamilton, Bub Parker, Zeke Bonella and Tyler Downing started off strong with couple of individual event trophies before having a little tough luck and falling behind. Team 2 – Rob Heatley, Dalton Sanders, Joei Sanders, Paul Downey, Bryan Potratz and myself. Though we never earned a trophy in any of the individual events we ran consistent and ended up earning 3rd place overall. Great Job guys.

Back in May, my wife and I experienced a couple of major events in our family life. Now, neither of these events are life threatening but they were definitely life altering and have caused me to reflect and evaluate my priorities. On May 17th, my daughter graduated from high school and on May 31st my 17 year old son shipped off to Army boot camp in South Carolina. Come fall my daughter will be attending the University of Wyoming and my son will be back home to complete his senior year of high school. My wife and I cannot be more proud of the two of them. However, as I said these events have made me think about my priorities and question many of my decisions over the years.

When I joined the Fire Department I was given the same speech that I give to every new recruit that walks through my door. Family, Job, Fire Department! Sound familiar, it should you were probably told the same thing when you joined. As I looked back over the last 20 years I finally began to realize how much I had missed and the sacrifices that my family had made in order for me to be a fireman. I cannot count the meals that went untouched, the plans that were ruined or the number of holidays, birthdays, anniversaries or other special occasions that I missed, because I AM A FIREMAN.

Family, Job, Fire Department! Sounds like a pretty easy priority list doesn't it? Well it's not!

The job part, yeah that's pretty easy, if you're not working, you're not making money. If you're not making money, you're not able to pay your bills. If you're not able to pay your bill, you're sleeping in a box and eating food from a trash can. Pretty simple. You can remove that one from the list.

Family and Fire Department, these are tough. For many firefighters these two are synonymous, the only difference is that one is by blood and the other is by choice. However, your responsibility to each of them is very similar. Both depend on you to be there, demand your attention and expect you to give 110%. The well-being of your family is dependent upon on you, the success of the fire department is dependent upon the sacrifices that your family is willing to make.

Being a firefighter takes time and dedication, but more importantly, it takes a supportive family that is willing to make that sacrifice.

Have you thanked them for their service?

Dan

2015 Drill Team 2

Bryan Potratz

Rob Heatley

Paul Downey

Dalton Sanders

Joei Sanders

Dan Oakley



Craig's Message Continued

But I digress. Most of you have heard me say that 90% of what I do is dealing with 10% of the things or folks that I deal with. That is a very true statement. But it isn't an anomaly, it is just the way that the world works. And when you get even a portion of that 10% taken care of there is someone or something that comes right behind it to take its place. But maybe that is what we need in our lives to keep us going and to keep our edge. The old cliché that what doesn't kill us makes us stronger may have more truth to it than we want to admit. (Even though I really don't like it).

Don't take this by any means that I do not like or enjoy my job, I love my job and the people that I work with, especially the volunteers. It is very rewarding to be surrounded by people that are able to see beyond themselves and their needs and look beyond themselves and see the greater need. It is not that often that in this age of social media and instant notification that we see that many of the good things anymore and I am truly fortunate to be around people who do the small (and sometimes great) things that make this world a better place to be. Don't get me wrong there are still those of you who know how to push the wrong button and put me in the "silence is golden" mode. But that makes my job worth it because it reminds me of the good that the rest of the folks that I work with and are out in our communities do. Those who are examples of what humanity should look like and what serving our neighbor is all about and understand who their neighbor is.

It is really nice from time to time to have someone come up to me and thank me for what you have done. And I always try to pass that on, at least to the Battalion Chiefs.

Well there you go I slipped on my rose colored glasses and went all Pollyanna on you. But I can't help it, it's who I am and what I do. So once again Thanks to all of you who are putting forth the effort and determination to help out your communities and understand and believe in what we are here for and are doing.

I hope that you all have a wonderful 4th of July celebration and remember what and why we celebrate it.

THANK YOU!

CRAIG