

FREMONT COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



The District

May-June 2016

District Chief

Greetings all. With Dan and I's recent trip to FDIC I had a lot of opportunity to reflect on my career in the fire service and my current position as District Chief. Remembering who we are and where we come from is one of the most important things in being firefighters. There is pride in who we are and what we do. Each Battalion of our District has, or should have that pride. First and foremost we are all Members of the Fremont County Fire Protection District and with that FCFPD Firefighters. And just as the big boys of FDNY have their houses with their firefighters so do we, and each should be equally proud of who they are and their heritage. Or, to add a little local flair, the FFA is one very large organization with small chapters or the Boy Scout Troop has different Patrols. Each an organization that provides the support, guidelines and rules and yet allows for a little friendly competition, some pride and belonging, and the opportunity to excel and to coin a phrase – "Be all that you can be".

E Pluribus Unum – and just as with our Great Nation so are we. Out of many, One. We have come from 12 distinct and unique individual fire departments to make one large department that synergistically gave us so much more strength than any one of us could have imagined 23 years ago. No longer do we stand as individual departments, but we are one District department that strengthens and unifies its members and provides a coordinated effort to protect the lives and properties of those we are sworn to protect. In this District we are one department and we are the Battalion 1 Firefighters, the Lysite Firefighters, the Lander Rural Firefighters, the Missouri Valley Firefighters, the Morton/Kinnear Firefighters, the Crowheart Firefighters, the Pavillion Firefighters, the Midvale Firefighters, the Atlantic City Firefighters, the Hudson Firefighters, the North Portal Firefighters, the Ft. Washakie Firefighters, and the Shoshoni Firefighters.

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Fremont County Fire Protection District

Mission Statement

**Dedicated to
providing the
highest quality
fire,
emergency and
other
related
services to the
patrons of
this District.**

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District Chief

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168 Fremont County Fire Protection District Firefighters that work and act together not only in their individual Battalions, but also as a whole. Firefighters who work and train together, who travel to out of state dispatches together, and when called upon, serve together to provide the best possible services to those in need.

We are no longer neighboring departments as in the past. I believe that we have become much more than that. We have joined together to find strength and unity. It hasn't always been easy nor will it always be, just as growing up with siblings. You may not always agree but you will always have each other's back and nobody can mess with your brother or sister without messing with you.

At FDIC Bobby Halton described "A mosaic of the firefighter character that has sustained the fire service's reputation for courage, honor, and civility." Halton said, "For the fire service of today, it is a time of great discovery and of great debate, a time of tremendous advances and of troubling criticisms." He warned us of our High Standards being threatened and quoted Tom Brennan: "We are losing our fire service. It is time to take it back." Halton also directed us to do what George Washington has directed us to do: "Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair; the rest is in the hands of God". Raising that standard requires that we embody fairness, exemplify self-control, exhibit sympathy, and embrace duty." Quoting the Halton article, "Halton drove home his messages with riveting examples of military men and firefighters who displayed all these virtues under conditions of extreme duress. **All involved leaving no one behind, Honor Above All, Honor Ante Omnia.**"

He listed the **Mosaic of the Firefighter Character:**

Character and representing all that is good, honest, and noble.

**Honor Ante Omnia
Fairness
Sympathy
Embrace Duty**

So my friends as we progress forward on this journey I encourage you to check the Big 4 as given by Mark VonAppen as he asked, "Are you really all-in-all-the-time?"

**DO YOUR JOB
TREAT PEOPLE RIGHT
GIVE ALL YOUR EFFORT
HAVE AN ALL-IN ATTITUDE**

Do we have an all-in attitude? Do you belong to the District? Are you part of the team, or do you want to stand on the outside? We are a very inclusive team and we love to play well together. As we continually strive to gain the synergy that is the potential of **US** as a District we must be All-In. We must stand together and remember why we do what we do. It is not for selfish reasons that we joined the fire service. If you want worldly praise for what you do, please don't be disappointed when it is not given. The most that I hope for and the praise that I will give each and every one of you is a heartfelt and sincere **THANK YOU** for a job well done and from time to time some of you will be given recognition. But please don't let that be the reason that you do this job. Do it because you know that it is the right thing to do and because you get satisfaction from helping your fellow man (yes that means woman too). We have to love what we do or we would not be here. So Thanks to each and every one of you for all that you do and a job well done. I for one appreciate all that you do and I understand that it is not always easy, but I pray that you will find in your hearts that it is worth it.

Oh Yeah and one last one- Remember that it is only funny if **NO ONE** gets hurt.

Thanks

Chief Haslam

District Trainer

Hey folks,

Well it has definitely been a Wyoming spring. With all the recent moisture things have definitely slowed down and green up should come quick. Enjoy it while you can, come July and August we may be paying for it.

Chief Haslam and I just returned from FDIC in Indianapolis. As usual, it was well worth the trip. Attending these large conferences allows us a chance to reflect on where we came from, evaluate where we are and provides direction and guidance of where we want to take this Department. But more importantly, it provides a reality check as to what is truly the most important part of the job, the people. I am not talking about our citizens, without a doubt they are important. However, you, the firefighter are the single most important part of the job.

Now, I know that there are people within this district who truly believe that the Chief and I have lost sight of what it is like to be a volunteer. That we do not understand the hardships that it can cause on a family and the commitment that being a volunteer requires. I can tell you with 100% certainty, we do understand the hardships, the commitment and the sacrifices that you make. We have been there, we are still there, ours, are just a little different. The one thing that I would say we are out of touch with is what you as volunteers want. Now, I am not talking about new trucks or stations or equipment. I am talking about the little things. The things that make you feel like part of the family, the things that give you the pride and ownership that you should have by being part of the department, the Fremont County Fire Department. I would say that the Chief and I have failed or at least fallen very short of providing you the opportunity to truly feel that you belong. This was never out intent, unfortunately it is a byproduct of having too many irons in the fire both personally and professionally and not truly realizing that pride and ownership of the organization by you, the members, is far more important than million dollar stations and half million dollar trucks. Without you the stations sit empty and trucks don't roll.

As I look around the district it is obvious that you have pride and ownership within your own houses. I see tee shirts, hats, sweat-shirts, patches and badges representing departments that haven't existed in 23 years instead of the stations they are today. I fully understand representing where you come from, I personally have never been a fan of Battalion this or Battalion that. You are who you are, not just a number. We are no different than a large metropolitan department in the fact that we are all part of one department with multiple stations usually represented by a mascot or saying that reflects their 1st due area.

There is a fine line between Individuality and segregation.

My question to you, and yes I would like to hear your thoughts. How or what do we as the leaders of this department need to do to provide you with that sense of Pride and Ownership?

A firefighters badge must be earned! If you want a trophy just for signing up, join a softball league.

Dan

Wildland Safety Officer

Recommended Practices for Wildland Fire Fighters Wildland fire presents unique challenges and WFFs must understand how to best protect their health and safety while fighting fires. Wildland fire fighters should:

- Maintain situational awareness: Establish, update and be familiar with Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes and Safety Zones (LCES)
- Know the Fire Orders and Watch Out Situations: Understand the 10 Standard Fire Orders and 18 Watch Out Situations and use the Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG) to understand and mitigate hazards.
- Stay healthy: Maintain good physical fitness; exercise regularly, eat properly, don't smoke, and get the recommended amount of sleep.
- Take breaks: When necessary, stop working, rest in cool areas and stay hydrated.
- Drive safely: Always wear seatbelts and modify driving based on road conditions. Never drive when tired or impaired and follow your agency requirements.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE): Always wear wildland fire specific PPE and carry a fire shelter.
- Report injuries, illnesses and hazards: Report all work-related injuries, hazards and unsafe working conditions to supervisors, safety officers or to the appropriate reporting system.
- Be aware of increased risks of heat-related illness and rhabdomyolysis:

Both conditions are potentially life threatening. If you think you are affected by these conditions, stop work and seek medical treatment immediately.

Heat-related illness: Can result in heat rash, cramps, exhaustion or heat stroke. It is important to understand your risk, the symptoms of heat-related illness, and how to prevent and treat heat-related illness.

Rhabdomyolysis: A serious medical condition that results from the breakdown of damaged muscle tissue and can cause permanent disability or death.

Rocky

Upcoming Events

May 6-7 at the Fire Academy

S200-ICT4

June 16-18 in Riverton

Wyoming State Fireman's
Association Convention and
Drill Team Competition

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The District

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