

FREMONT COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



The District

November-December 2016

District Chief

HONOR, PRIDE, INTEGRITY, DUTY, UNITY, TRUST, RESPECT

Merely words when put on a piece of paper, on a challenge coin, or placed on a wall. Simply a bunch of letters forming words that mean absolutely nothing. Words that are often spoken and placed in front of us to extract some sort of feelings of belonging, leadership, and ownership. Words that become something when we choose to apply them in our lives.

Unfortunately, in today's world they have lost some, or perhaps all of their meaning. You do not have to look very far to see that they have been misused and trampled under. These are words that are earned and given freely of one's own admonition. They are not demanded, nor are they purchased. You cannot threaten or coerce someone and expect them to give them freely. They must be earned and nurtured to grow to a mutual benefit of all involved.

So let's take a step back for a second. Who are our leaders? Aren't we all **leaders** in our own right? Doesn't each of us have a **responsibility** to step up and take the responsibility, maybe not for others but at least for ourselves?

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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

continued

Don't we owe it at least to ourselves, if not those that depend upon us as fellow firefighters to take some of the **HONOR, PRIDE, INTEGRITY, DUTY**, and **TRUST** to create some **UNITY** and **RESPECT** at our stations and among our peers? The people that we should be calling at minimum part of OUR/YOUR team. If not friend, colleague, partner, fellow firefighter, and the list goes on. The people that we have to build that bond with so that we can accomplish the tasks and goals that are before us?

I'm not saying that you all have to be hand holding, Kum Ba Yah singing best friends. But we should at least be able to talk to one another and know what is going on. And by talking to one another I'm not talking about sharing your inner most feelings, but for crying out loud you should at least be able to tell someone when they are standing on your foot (metaphorically speaking). There are times when you should be able to tell others how you feel about something and they should be able to listen and no one should have to worry about hurting someone's feelings. At some point you may have to make a choice between hurting someone's feelings and saving their life.

I shouldn't have to repeat myself and explain to you (again) that what we do is dangerous. Each of you should know that we need to depend upon each and every member of this department and look at them as part of OUR/YOUR team. You should be able to openly and freely express your needs and concerns without feeling that you may offend someone. If you offend someone what really happens? Maybe you save their life or at least make a positive change.

There are no stupid questions or comments. Everyone needs to be part of the **team** and understand what that means. I can sit here and tell you what I believe it means, and I think I have done that in the past. But you need to figure that out for yourself and that may mean that you need to pull your boots on, stand up for yourself, and for crying out loud open your mouth and express yourself. I know that some of you have been on the receiving end of me expressing myself from time to time.

I love my job and the opportunity that I have to work with each of you. Some days I have to repeat it several times, but I do it because I love the fire service and the opportunity to work with each of you. However, there are times that you can really try my patience. I need to know from you what is going on and what I can do to fix it. I am where the buck stops, yes I have three bosses that oversee me and the District, but my job is to run the District. I take that very personally, just as I take your well-being personally. So, when there are problems I need to know so that **WE** can work them out. My door is always open and my phone is always on. If nothing else stop by to just say Hi.

Thanks for all that you do and with the **pride** and **dedication** that you do it with.

Chief Haslam

District Trainer

Hey folks,

I'm getting to old for this Sh..tuff!

I find myself saying this more and more and for many different reasons. Yes, my body lets me know when I have over done it physically with the aches, pains and stiffness. I used to laugh at the guys who carried the family size bottle of 500mg Ibuprofen with them. Now, I make sure to locate those guys as soon as I arrive on a scene.

But the physical side of the job is not what makes me mutter and mumble the most about getting to old for this Sh..tuff.

The sense of entitlement, lack of **respect** and politically correct world that we live in is destroying the fire service that I know and love.

First of all, you are not entitled to anything, just because your name is on a district roster does NOT make you a firefighter. You have to **earn** that title through **hard work, training, experience** and **dedication**. Once you have proven yourself to be worthy, a REAL FIREFIGHTER will bestow that title upon you. I have no time for wanna-be, facebook firefighters.

Respect! I was told within minutes of walking through the door of the fire department for the very first time that I was better seen than heard. If I had a question, ask it. If I had an opinion, keep it to myself. Mouth closed, eyes and ears open. Learn from the Senior Firefighters, answer questions only when asked. Don't be a smart ass, I was raised to be respectful, I have raised my kids to be respectful, I do not have the time nor the desire to raise someone else's kids. Not sure what I am talking about? Yes Sir and Yes Ma'am are a good place to start.

Would someone please tell me what happened to all of the Type A personalities that used to fill the fire halls? Everyone is so worried about hurting someone else's feeling or losing friends, that we let things slide in order to avoid the confrontation. Heaven forbid someone stand up and speak their mind. Instead we whine and complain about each other to our "buddies" which then gets spread as rumor or hear say to the other person and their "buddies". Which then quickly creates a divide within the department and has everyone pointing fingers and back stabbing each other. If you have a problem with someone or something, here is a suggestion. Man Up, Grow a Set and say what needs to be said to that person or the group.

Yep, I am definitely getting to old for this Sh..tuff!

Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Dan

Wildland Safety Officer

Something to think about.

What makes **YOU** safe?

- Good **attitude**, if you see it Say it.
- Risk verses gain
- **SA**, all day, every day!
- Base decisions on historical **values**.
- Asking questions! This is huge. Following the basics of safety and fire.
- Our **decisions** make us safe.

Rocky

Announcements

**Fire fighter of the Year nominations due
NO LATER THAN
January 6, 2017**

**Chief Haslam needs pictures for next years
calendar. Please bring them in as soon as
possible!**

**Sign up for Mid-Winter Fire School!
(see enclosed list for Approved Classes
offered)**

Contact Us

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The District

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