



FREMONT COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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THE DISTRICT

November-December 2014

Volume 7, Issue 6

Chief's Message

Hey Folks,

With Chief Haslam on vacation, I am pulling double duty on the articles for this newsletter. Now I am nowhere near as eloquent, politically correct or touchy feely as he is but I will do my best to fill his shoes.

As I am sure everyone who receives these mailings is aware the fire service is constantly changing, adapting and evolving to meet the needs of our respective communities. Twenty years ago when I started my adventure the fire department was just that, a **fire** department. Our mission was simple. Fight fires, save lives and protect property. Since then the fire service mission has transformed into what we commonly refer to as an "All - hazards" response.

Now, many will ask how in the heck we went from fighting fires to being the catch all for handling any problems that don't require the use of a gun and a bulletproof vest. I believe that the answer to that question is simple. We are problem solvers, we thrive on the challenge, we have a never quit attitude and the public knows it. Emergency services are pretty easy for the general public to understand. If a law is broken you call the police and for everything else you call the fire department. With that being said, I personally have concerns about some of the tasks and duties that we end up with. Are we truly prepared and trained to handle many of the situations that we have given to us or are we just lucky enough that they have all gone right. If we are not properly trained to handle certain situations why are we accepting them?

I was reading through a book called "Pass It On". The book is a compilation of short stories put together by Billy Goldfeder and Fire Engineering.
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Quick Remember

**It is almost Daylight
Savings time.**

**You know what that
means! Get those
batteries in the
smoke-alarms
changed!!!**



District Trainer Dan Oakley

Hey folks,

November is upon us and it is that time of year again, time to nominate and elect the battalion officers for 2015.

With that in mind I have a couple of things to say. First, to the current officers, thank you. The leadership you provide and the additional time you invest is greatly appreciated and deserving of recognition.

For those of you who are aspiring to be officers, here are some things to think about and consider:

Q: Does seniority automatically qualify me to be an officer?

A: NO! It takes knowledge and experience as well as dedication and commitment

Q: Are there classes or training available to make me a better leader / decision maker?

A: YES. The district is dedicated to your success and will provide those courses upon request.

Q: Does being an officer mean I will have to dedicate more of my time to the department?

A: YES, you will become one of the GO TO PEOPLE when a member or citizen has a question or needs help.

Q: As a Fire Officer will I be respected?

A: There is a certain level of respect that is automatically given to the position. However, the person holding that position must earn theirs.

Q: As a Volunteer Fire Officer, can I be held liable if something goes wrong?

A: YES. Pay status doesn't matter. As a Fire Officer you can be held criminally and civilly liable for anything you do.

Q: What if I make a bad decision?

A: Welcome to the club, there isn't a fire officer around who has never screwed up. Own up to it, correct it and move on.

Q: Is there help available to me if I have problems, questions or concerns?

A: YES. All you have to do is ask.

Q: Am I ready to be an officer?

A: Only you can answer this question.

These are only a few of the hundred or more questions that will or at least should go through your head as you make the decision of whether or not you are ready to take a leadership role. If you are not nervous or maybe even a little scared about taking the step into a leadership position then the answer to that last question is easy. The answer is NO, you are not ready. Contrary to popular belief, leadership is a learned skill. Yes, there are people who are born with a certain something that draws folks to them but that alone does not make them a leader it simply makes them likable. A true leader may not necessarily be liked but their decisions will be trusted and their ability respected.

Are you ready?

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season. Thanks for your time and dedication.

Dan



Chief's message

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I came across one of the stories that really speaks to some of the issues that we face locally. The author is Lt. Ray McCormack who is a 30 year veteran with the FDNY. In it he speaks of what he calls "A Culture of Extinguishment". Simply stated the fire department is all about suppression and extinguishment. That is what we do, we are the only ones who are prepared, trained, equipped and designed to fight fire. If we get so involved with everybody else's problems our customers suffer. If we take on more duties than we can handle, our customers suffer. We also have to look at the additional burdens that are being placed on our people when we accept duties or jobs that are truly someone else's responsibility. We have always been the go-to when something was wrong or needed fixed and no one was sure who to call and we have always taken pride in that. But the simple fact of the matter is, that we have our own job to do. We have a responsibility to our community, our department, our people and to ourselves to be proficient, efficient and qualified to do the job that we signed up for! Simply put, if it is not our circus, it's not our monkey!

Remember, Cops lock up bad guys, Medics take care of the sick people and WE FIGHT FIRE!

I hope you enjoy the upcoming holiday season, thank you for the time and dedication you have given to the District and our patrons.

Deputy Chief Dan Oakley

It is Time for Battalions to Nominate the Fire Fighter of the Year!

It is also time for the battalions to identify and nominate your Firefighter of the Year. Those nominations need to be accompanied with a letter explaining why the individual is deserving of the honor and distinction of District Firefighter of the Year. Nominations need to be turned into headquarters not later than January 9th, 2015.

Trainings Mid-Winter Fire school is scheduled for January 9th – 11th. There is a list of classes available at headquarters. Many of the courses fill up quickly so getting registered early is highly recommended.

Contact Dan or Cindy soon!



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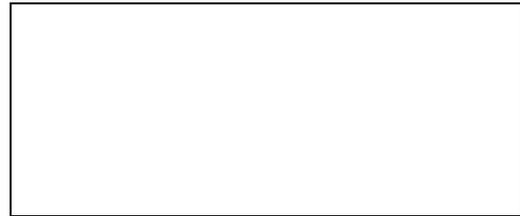
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Mission Statement

The 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.



We're on the Web at

FremontCountyFireDistrict.com

Bandana's Served Their Time

From the book: "**Stuff Every AMERICAN Should Know**" written by Denise Kiernan and Joseph D'Agnese

As most of us know from western movies we've seen; the bandana was frequently used to protect the neck from sunburn and wrapped over the nose and mouth to keep out dust; but back along the American West Trail there were many other uses for the bandana.

It of course could be used as a wash cloth, and a bandana could be used as a coffee filter. When the coffee was done the pot could be poured through the bandana and the coffee grounds discarded. A bandana may have served as the first wallet. A handful of coins could be tied into a bandana.

Of course, there were times when bandanas were used as a bandage, sling or used in making a tourniquet. Bandanas and their bright colors were used to flag down the rest of the crew. And many a time, multiple bandanas were used as trail markers.

Sometimes a bandana would serve as a slingshot by hanging a rock in the middle and with two corners held with two fingers and the other two corners with the other two fingers. Swing it overhead and release the two fingers that are on the outer corner. Some people got quite good at hitting a target with such a slingshot.

And of course, many of us have used a square piece of fabric to bundle up a group of possessions to pack them somewhere. Many travelers would create their bundle and tie it onto a stick so it could be carried over their shoulder; knapsack style.

