

FREMONT COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



The District

November-December 2017

District Chief

Wow, what a world we live in. And how blessed we are to live where we do. Well that is at least my opinion. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy seeing the other parts of our great country. But in the immortal words of Dorothy, "There's no place like home." Yes, I'm happy with who I am and where I live. I enjoy my lifestyle. But for me to do my job I have to look outside of my box, redraw the lines a little, define what it is that I am trying to do, follow the guidelines of the fire service (yes there are rules that we have to follow), and try to make it a place where we can all work and grow together.

Former U.S. Navy Seal Chad Williams spoke at a conference that I was at recently. He spoke of the proud heritage and creed of the U.S. Navy Seals. He spoke to the fire service and made some very strong points and comparisons that we can all take to heart and learn from. And to put a plug in for his book, "Seal of God". I would like to share a few of those with you, and throw in some of my own thoughts along with them.

"Common man with the uncommon desire to succeed." – I believe that this is truly at the heart of every firefighter. None of us are born firefighters or leaders. There are those who have natural talents that can be developed and molded into becoming firefighters and for some, leaders, more on leaders later. But one thing that we all are is common. We all have the opportunity to rise above though. We can choose the path that we want to take, and for most of you that are reading this you have already made a decision to do something that is out of the ordinary and strive to be successful at it. It is not the common man that chooses to be a firefighter, but it is the one that has the ire to succeed at something extra-ordinary.

Continued page 2



Eric Locker –Always Smiling!

Mission Statement

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

**For Information on Classes Contact Headquarters
857-3030**

In This Issue

- Craig's Message continued
- Dan's Message
- Rocky's Message
- Announcements

District Chief

continued

“Earn your Trident every day” or for us “Earn your helmet every day”. You need to be deserving of putting on that Helmet every time that you do. You must do the things that will not only make you proficient at your job as firefighter, but you must continually strive to be the best firefighter that you can be. You have to put in the time that it takes to know and understand not only your job, but your duties as well. You need to understand that you are a firefighter not just when you put on your bunker gear and jump into that fire truck and respond to the incident. You are a firefighter 24/7. People know who you are and what you do. Being a firefighter might be the only thing that they know about you, they may not know where you work, your family dynamics, or who you are when you’re not at the fire station. But they do know that you are a firefighter and they watch you, and in today’s world if you screw up, even a little bit, they’ll probably have it on video. Most of the world will see it before you even get a chance to defend yourself. So, remember to earn that helmet every day, be representative of the fire service. When you throw something on Facebook or other social media, and yes you do have your freedom of speech, but remember that what you say or do, to the public you are still representing your brothers and sisters in the fire service. Just something to think about, especially if you are wearing something that identifies you as a firefighter.

“Remember that ego eats brains.” There is really no place in the fire service for egos. Yes, be proud of who you are and what you do. Be proud of the accomplishments that you have made in your career. Do not let them override your sense of duty or your common sense. Remember that everyone at one time or another had to start from the beginning. In the fire service anyone that has been in it very long can name at least 6 people that have helped them get where they are today. I can probably fill a whole page of names, including most of you who have made it possible to be where I am. When we let our ego override our brains and the information that we have stored there, we could be in for one heck of a ride and it probably won’t be pretty. Odds are someone could get hurt.

“Faith, Family, Friends.” On a personal note, this one I take very personally. At any time if you would like to talk about faith, as always, my door is always open. Family, I am very fortunate that I have two families. The first is my immediate or blood family. I don’t advise trying to get between me, my wife, my kids, parents, brothers, sister, and I think you get the gist. Next to my faith they are the most important thing in my life. My second family is most of you, those who have earned a place with me that I truly count you as members of my family. For some of you it is a very slight line. The fire service is a very large family and I guess short of putting you in the friends category some of you may be that 5th cousin once removed. Unfortunately, a position that you have earned. The rest of the world falls into the friends category or categories. There are many types of friends. All the way from the annoying friend that does everything in their power to piss you off. To the dear friends who are truly more like family and in some cases, better than family. We have many brothers and sisters around the world who belong to the firefighter family.

The final one that I want to mention is “Be a Servant Leader”. I hope that I can be even a small example of the world’s greatest example of a “Servant Leader” Who came to the earth not to be served but to serve. And what He did for each of us is the greatest example of being a servant leader, leading by example and caring for those that He served. Merry Christmas.

Thank you for all that you do. Remember to strive to be the best that you can be and bring those around you along with you. So that we all can work together and make this a safer place to be. It takes more than being safe out there it takes being smart. Remember that “Ego eats Brains” and we need all of us working together to make this District the best fire department there is.

Craig

District Trainer

Hey folks,

Writing a newsletter at this time of year is always a challenge. This time of year usually presents very few, if any real pressing issues to speak of. Between hunting season and the holiday season things just seem to mellow out as we glide into a new year.

Chief Haslam, myself and a few others just returned from an IAFC leadership conference where we were presented with a wide selection of ideas, opinions and things to think about.

We heard from a former Navy Seal who spoke of the value of mentorship and how his mentor worked with him and pushed him to be successful. He spoke of taking a vested interest in your new people and giving them every opportunity to succeed. Never letting someone quit or fail because you didn't do your job.

We had a lawyer who talked about the firefighters First Amendment right to Free Speech ranging from media interviews to social media postings. This presentation was a real eye opener for me as both a Fire Chief and as an employee. It was also pointed out that in the eyes of the law, a Volunteer Firefighter is considered an employee of the agency they represent.

There was a young man who talked about "Barn Boss Leadership". This presentation was about the informal leaders of the organization, the catalysts of success or failure. Every one of our battalions has at least one of these catalysts. These folks can be your greatest asset or your worst enemy when trying to implement change. As a battalion officer, you need to know who these people are and utilize them, ask them questions, get their opinions. They may very well keep you from making a huge mistake, on the other hand maybe they don't understand the reason for the change and just need a little better clarification.

There were a couple of presentations dealing with recruitment and retention as well as marketing your department. The biggest thing that I got out of these presentations was that we are always telling people "What" we do instead of "Why" we do it. Everybody knows that we drive around in "Big Red Trucks" and that we "Fight Fire". What they don't know is "Why" we risk our lives for people we don't know, "Why" we do what we do for free, "Why" do we commit ourselves to public service. What is your "Why"?

Finally, no conference is ever complete without talking about generational issues, these are always difficult for me to listen to and I can relate through personal feelings to the stereotype that is presented. I will admit that I have a very hard time understanding and comprehending the actions and thought processes of the millennial age group. Unfortunately for me, this is not their problem. It is mine. The younger generation learns differently and it is our job as older, more experienced firefighters to change our way of teaching and mentoring so that they succeed.

Enjoy the holiday season with your family. Have a great Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dan

Wildland Safety Officer

SAFETY starts at the TOP
SAFETY begins with YOU
SAFETY IS AN ATTITUDE
SAFETY Begins with Teamwork
SAFETY pays
THINK Safety First
THINK before you act
Wear your safety ear
FCFPD Safety
Rocky McWilliams

Announcements

Mid-Winter Fire School

January 12-14, 2018

**Fire Fighter of the Year nominations Due
No Later Than January 19, 2018**

Annual Banquet

February 10, 2018



The District

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)

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

PLACE
ADDRESS LABEL
HERE