

FREMONT COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



The District

September-October 2016

District Chief

So much on my mind so little space to write, what would be current and relevant? What is new and exciting? What would grab your attention and have an impact upon you to make you do your duties safer and more effectively?

In the immortal words of Winnie the Pooh “Think, think, think, think.”

We don't have a problem telling people that “Smoke detectors save lives” and how important it is to have them in their homes and keep the batteries changed. Yet we don't always put on all of our PPE that in essence does the same thing – it protects us. We are quick to tell people the things that they need to do to protect themselves while we do not follow our own sage advice.

Safety is not something that we should take for granted; it is everyone's job to ensure not only their own safety but the safety of everyone else. It is a cultural change that needs to take place. Each of us must ensure that everyone understands their role as a safety officer, we are all safety officers. No matter if you are the newest probie or the most seasoned firefighter, if you see something that is not safe **you** need to stop or halt the operation. Everything from even the smallest of violation of the rules to the most egregious safety violation, we need to all understand that it is our responsibility to stop it from going forward and getting someone hurt, injured, or even worse. From wearing your extrication gloves to fight fire with or riding on the outside of moving apparatus and the list goes on, none of us are exempt from calling a stop to an unsafe situation

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Mission Statement

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

Contact Headquarters To sign up for Guardian Life Flight membership at our discounted rate



Lava Mountain Fire

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District Chief

continued

None of us would let another person walk into a charged power line that has fallen in front of us or allow someone to walk out of a door that the front step or deck has fallen away. We would be the first to yell at them and warn them of the danger. Then why not yell at the Fire Chief when he is entering an area that is unsafe without the proper PPE? What is the difference? The Fire Chief might grumble a little bit but he will thank you later for looking out for his safety. We need to develop our “Culture of Safety”, a culture where everyone knows that they have an obligation for the safety of others and there will be no consequences for stopping or changing unsafe practices except that “Everyone Goes Home”.

Think, think, think, think.

Dan has already expressed his thoughts for this month’s upcoming dates. I will not elaborate on them except to say to take a few moments and consider the things that have happened in the past. Remember the saying, **“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”** I remember 9/11 quite vividly and have to say that it had a significant impact on my life. My worldviews were altered and it changed me personally on several levels.

September 10th of last year was another defining moment in my life. It changed many things for me on so many different levels, as it did many people.

Neither of these incidents could have been changed through different safety guidelines, so they don’t necessarily fall into my previous thoughts. But we still must remember the events and take with them the good and the bad and remember the changes that were made in our lives and apply them and move forward always using caution.

These events taught me, even more so than before, that I must always surround myself with people that I trust and know without a shadow of a doubt that they have my back. People that I can trust to do the right thing all the time. There is no doing the right thing at the right time, there is only doing the right thing all the time. As Yoda would say, **“Do. Or do not. There is no Try.”**

One last thought.....

Another Yoda quote, “You must unlearn what you have learned.” Unfortunately, I have talked in the past about this one. If we are to change our culture and become more safety oriented then we have to unlearn some of the things that we are doing. We must commit to doing things differently than in the past and maybe following the guidance that has been put in place to help us do our job better. Maybe listening to the new guy who may just have a good idea. Maybe just maybe listening to the Chief Officers that are trying to implement changes because we have seen the differences that they can make and just maybe are looking out for your safety. Maybe this is an opportunity for you to look outside the box and make a change that is positive. Maybe lose the “this is the way we’ve always done it” attitude.

Once again, maybe I am preaching to the choir. However, my challenge to each of you is to make a positive change for all of us. I have never been, nor will ever be against listening to new and different ideas that will help us to improve our safety and ability to do our duties more effectively and efficiently. To those of you who have already been doing this thank you.

In addition, as always **“Thanks to all of you who are serving your communities, the District, and the County”**. I know that I appreciate it immensely and I am always told by the people that I have contact with how much they appreciate it. For those who helped out with the Lava Mountain Fire and for those who stayed home and protected the Homefront (Yes, all of you) **“THANKS”**.

Thank You and Be Smart

Chief Haslam

District Trainer

Hey folks,

Wow, what a summer it has been. They say time fly's when you are having fun, but this is ridiculous. As you all know it has been a busy summer and fire season started a lot earlier than usual. Luckily, it seems that we have escaped any large extended fires within our own district. (Probably shouldn't have said that)

I would like to extend my thanks to all of you, especially those of you who were unable to dispatch out federally and stayed home to make sure that our communities, citizens, friends and neighbors were protected and receiving the highest level of service available.

With being gone so much it is hard to get back into the swing of things, especially when you are not sure where you left off, what you got done or even what you completely forgot about. Lucky for me I have two amazing ladies in the office who keep me pretty well lined out.

Wheatland fire school is coming up quick, September 16-18. They are offering Haz-Mat Awareness and Ops. If you are in need of these courses and are available that weekend please let me know ASAP. I will do my best to get you in. I will also be working on the Fall/Winter training schedule to get needed and annually required classes set up. If you have a training need, please let me know.

On a final note, we are quickly approaching the anniversaries of two tragedies, one national, and one local.

9/11 marks the 15 year anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center, take a few moments and remember the dedication and the ultimate sacrifice that was made by 343 of this countries bravest.

9/10 is the one year anniversary of the Triangle Ranch Road Fire. This is a day that I wish I could forget. As I think about the events of that day, all of the; should have, would have, could have and what ifs come flooding back. The simple fact is, that none of those matter and what happened cannot be undone. All we can do is learn from this tragedy.

On this day, take the time and remember the incident. Then ask yourself:

What, within my power, can I do to ensure that this never happens again?

Am I trained well enough to handle this type of situation?

And if not, what additional training do I need?

Trust your training, trust your gut! If it doesn't feel right it probably isn't.

Dan

Calendar of Events

Labor Day

September 5th Office Closed

Wheatland Fire School

September 16-18 Contact Dan for more information

Battalion Chief/Training Officer Meeting

September 21st at Headquarters

Fire Prevention Week

October 9-15

Get your numbers of students for each grade into

Cindy by September 30th or

Sooner if Possible

Contact Us

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The District

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