

FREMONT COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



The District

May-June 2018

District Chief

A mother and her son were at the breakfast table and her son was refusing to go to work. They argued back and forth both arguing their side of the debate. "Its your responsibility to go to work and earn money." "I don't feel like it today." "You need to be accountable for yourself at work." "The people at work are mean to me." "Be the bigger person." "I want to take the day and go goof off, I deserve it." And so, it went back and forth for several minutes, tiring the mother told her son he must go and that was the end of it. The son answered back that if she gave him 2 good reasons to go he would do it. She replied, "#1 you are 44 years old. And #2 you are the fire chief of the department." OK so it might be a little different twist to the story but the point is the same.

We must each take into account the responsibilities of our actions. We are in control of our own actions and need to take responsibility for the consequences of those choices. I am all for people having the ability to do as they please when they please. If however, it does not infringe on the rights or opportunities of others to have that same right. When we act we need to take into account the ramifications of our actions on others. Even the small things that we do need to be considered for the result of those actions on others.

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Important!

Packets have been sent to you from NVFC regarding a new benefit provided by the District!

Please go online and make sure your email is correct!

**For More information
Contact
Headquarters
857-3030**

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Fremont County Fire Protection District Fleet at Red Canyon

District Chief

continued

We as firefighters take on a special responsibility when we accept the title of firefighter. We are automatically elevated to an almost heroic status. The day before you were your average Joe on the street and today you are a Firefighter. And granted you have had to work for that title and to keep it. Its not easy with all of the new standards and requirements that keep coming out. Those silly things that are meant to keep us safe and teach us to more specifically know how to put the fire out with the least amount of damage. There are new technologies and innovations that are coming out all the time. Things, thoughts, and ideas that are meant to not only help us do our job better but also keep us safer.

I recently attended the funeral of a friend and former firefighter. Bob Whitt was a fireman in Lysite for 33 years. He also was an EMT for many of those years. Bob accepted the challenges of a progressing fire service, he received his Firefighter II certification, maintained his EMT quals, was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle. He worked in the energy industry in Lysite, was a Mason, a Shriner, Veteran of the Korean war, was active in the National Guard until 1993, and very active in his community. I worked with Bob on a couple of projects that had nothing to do with the fire service but were of great value to the community.

You may wonder why I bring this up other than to honor him. I do it because He is symbolic of what it takes to be a firefighter. You have to have a desire to help out not only your community, but the people that live there. You have to understand that things change and make a conscious decision whether you can accept that change and grow with it or stand back and watch things change around you. We all have the same opportunities to either accept things as they are and grow with them or stand by and watch the world pass you by.

In the fire service, as in life, there is no such thing as standing still and maintaining the status quo. You are either growing and facing the challenges or you are falling behind. Henry Ford was quoted as saying "If I had asked my customers what they wanted, they would have said faster horses." We need to always be looking at better ways to improve ourselves and what we do. Sometimes that requires change, but with that change comes responsibility. Every new idea or technology needs to be assessed for its value. Some ideas are great and then there was the Edsel.

I guess what I am trying to say with these ramblings is that we have to take responsibility for our own actions in this world. To not fall into the traps of the world and blame everyone else for what happens and accept that what we do or do not falls on us. We may not always have the ability to control what someone may do to us, but we do control all that we do or how we react. We must continue to improve ourselves and help those around us that may have an effect on us. Think about your thoughts, actions, and muscle memory and why every year we ask you to deploy a fire shelter.

Thanks for all you do.

Craig

District Trainer

Hey folks,

It seems wildland season is upon us. Most of the time we are slowly reintroduced to grass and brush fires through a few small controlled burns that exceed the capabilities of the property owners. During the early season we are usually able to identify any issues that have arose during the off season or things that we simply forgot about. This year is one of those exception to the rule years. We have already experienced a 650-acre wind driven fire in Crowheart and a 30-acre fire in the Ft. Washakie area. I hope everyone has realized that the time to make sure your wildland trucks are ready to go and that you have all your necessary PPE has passed. If you haven't, you need too. Hopefully, the rain that we received will quicken the green up and slow things down a little.

The fire in Crowheart could have been much worse than it was. The only structure that was lost was the one that caused the fire. I would like to extend a huge thank you to all the firefighters, battalions and mutual aid agencies that responded. Without everyone's hard work, diligence and tenacity, what was a bad situation could have easily become disastrous. The cooperation and assistance we received from our neighboring agencies is top notch and beyond compare.

As we continue to prepare for what could become a crazy summer season, I would like to remind every one that might be interested in federal dispatch assignments to contact Chief Haslam, myself or Cindy and let us know. This way we can make sure that your red cards are current and up to date. We also need to verify that we have a current and accurate phone number for you. When the request for assistance comes we want to be able to contact you quickly. The general rule for dispatch is to have our trucks staffed and on the road within 2 hours. Federal dispatches require a minimum 14-day commitment, but you should plan on 17 days. As a district resource your meals and lodging will be taken care of while traveling to and from the incident. The incident will provide meals and an assortment of grass, dirt, sage and rock to sleep on while you are there. The only thing that you will need money for is to support your incidentals and bad habits. For those who have never experienced the adventure of going to a large federal fire, I can assure you it is an experience you will never forget. If you have any questions, please call the office.

So far, we have not heard any discussion about spring flooding. Spring runoff and high water is always a concern, especially for our citizens who live in flood prone areas. If any flooding occurs, you can rest assured that you will be getting a page. Even though flooding has nothing to do with fire, we will be the ones who receive the call for assistance. Battalion Chiefs and Training officers please meet with your folks and talk about swift water safety. Stay out of the water if possible, you have no idea what is in it or under it. If you have no choice, tag-lines, safety-lines and life jackets should be used when working in or around swift or high water.

Be safe and use your head,

Dan

Important Dates!

Wyoming Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial

At WFA on May 19, 2018 at 1:30 P.M.

Memorial Day

May 28, 2018– Office Closed

Wyoming State Fireman's Association Convention and Drill Team Competition

Lander Drill Field from June 14 to June 16, 2018

Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at

[www.FremontCountyFire District.com](http://www.FremontCountyFireDistrict.com)

The District

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