



**Crystal Park Volunteer Fire Department
#2 Waterfall Loop Road
Manitou Springs, CO 80829**



7 November 2007

To: Crystal Park Metro District

Subject: Recent CPVFD Emergency Calls.

Town Hall meeting (3 Nov):

The first annual CPVFD Town Hall was a success. Starting at 0830hrs and running until 100hrs; we had over 20 citizens, 11 firefighters and 16 kids. The pancake breakfast by "Flight for Life" was great and will probably mark an annual event on our department calendar. Flight for Life sent a nurse practitioner who helped with the breakfast, set up a display and answered questions. Flight for life also donated the pancakes and juice for the breakfast. Following a Q&A period from the citizens, Flight for Life landed an aeromedical evacuation helicopter and gave an orientation on the aircraft, its capabilities and their response time to Crystal Park. (5 Mins flight time.) Finally, each citizen participated in a hands-on home fire extinguisher demonstration in which they learned the proper technique to put out a real fire.

Medical Call Saturday Night (3 Nov):

At 1920hrs Saturday night, tones went out over the dispatch pager system to alert the CPVFD. It was a call for CPVFD/MSFD Medical support in Crystal Park at 810 Crystal Park Road. This was for resident Archie Wilson, who had a female guest with breathing issues. Archie, his wife, and son drove from their house (at the top) down the mountain to meet the FD as close to the bottom as they could. Upon hearing the call, Chief Hennessey immediately left his house enroute to the scene. While driving down the mountain, Chief Hennessey radioed MSFD Engine 1 and the MSFD paramedics to determine their arrival status.

1924hrs. Engine 1 cleared the Crystal Park gate and drove up the mountain to the scene. They were met by Archie at 812 CP Rd. They stopped there and immediately began basic life support care on the female patient.

1940hrs. Chief Hennessey arrived at the bottom of the mountain and assisted MSFD personnel by documenting vitals in the patient care log. Traffic was blocked below and above Eng 1 which was parked right in the middle of the road. AMR arrives at the same time Chief Hennessey did.

(Note: The AMR requirement is 20 minutes and they met that requirement)

Approximately 10-15 minutes after Chief Hennessey arrived the call was terminated and Archie declined AMR transport and decided to take the patient to Memorial Hospital by POV. The patient signed a Transport Refusal document per normal ops for MSFD

Summary: This emergency call happened the way it should with MSFD taking the lead on all medicals. The contract with MSFD that the MD has in place enable their quick pass through the gate and to arrive with all the specialized medical equipment.

Subject: Recent CPVFD Emergency Calls (Cont.)

Fire Investigation Monday Night (5 Nov) at Neon Moon and Oakridge:

At 1710hrs, 911 receives a call from Crystal Park Resident reporting smoke vicinity Neon Moon.

1715hrs. MSFD dispatch called Chief Hennessey to ask if he was aware of open flames in the area of Neon Moon and Oakridge. Chief Hennessey said that he was not aware of any flames (cookouts, Bar-b-ques, etc...) and then tones went out for CPVFD and MSFD to conduct fire investigation.

1717hrs. Dispatch sends alert tones to the MSFD department and the pagers carried by each CPVFD firefighter. Tones are accompanied by a verbal description of the alert.

1718hrs. Chief Hennessey leaves work and notifies dispatch he is enroute from work and calls Chief Welsch. Chief Welsch, already hearing tones via pager system, initiates CPVFD Recall Roster and heads to the Station to roll Tender 960 to the scene.

(Note: During late fall, winter and Spring....CPVFD only has Tender 960 for water transport. We have no other capability to transport tools, personnel and equipment.)

1725hrs. MSFD Tender 1 and Brush 1 arrive on scene at Neon Moon and the subsequent investigation yields no flames, smoke or issues. They notify dispatch there is nothing showing and clear the scene returning to quarters.

(Note: The fast response by MSFD was enhanced by the Tender 1 and Brush 1 returning from a Smoke Investigation at Barr Trail at 1610hrs. In fact, the MSFD SOP for responding to calls in Crystal Park is that they do not leave the station until FFs muster there to man the equipment. This is not how it works for a Manitou Fire investigation where they take their POVs directly to the scene. As you can imagine....the potential for a fast response is hindered by their ability to muster.)

1735hrs. Chief Hennessey comes through the gate and meets Tender 1 and Brush 1 leaving the park. Six FFs from MSFD had responded. At this stage CPVFD has 7 FFs also in route who Chief W and Chief H decide to let keep coming to validate response time.

1740-1745hrs. Within 5 minutes, five CPVFD FFs including Tender 960 arrive on scene. Two FFs were released by Chief Hennessey. With only the tender, we would have initiated water ferry SOPs at this point to supply MSFD Engine 1. *(This was within 25 mins of tones going out over the pager system.)*

1745hrs. Chief Hennessey Terminated validation of response timelines

(A quick discussion of procedures ensued...and revealed that without another vehicle – only limited firefighting equipment is available on Tender 960. All other equipment was still at the maintenance shop at the top of the park.)

Summary: Good Lessons Learned. Again we coordinated the response with MSFD and Dispatch well. Communications is vital and we are ordering two additional handheld radios. We also need a landline at the CPVFD station to communicate with other FF's still arriving, coordination of equipment, etc...

Bottom Line: The CPVFD department **continues to answer calls within the park and meet our obligation to deliver water** to responding MSFD apparatus. However, because we share equipment with the park's maintenance crew – **our ability to react to incidents within the park is severely limited**. Manitou Springs sent its Brush Truck to California to help fight wildfires. Since winter has been late in arriving, **the wildfire threat to Crystal Park remains high** – but we do not have the equipment to respond. If this same call had happened last week, there would have been no wildland fire capability.

Submitted by: Paul Welsch, D-Chief CPVFD