



# CRYSTAL PARK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

## *“State of the Department”*

### February 2008

It has been one year since the Crystal Park Volunteer Fire Department (CPVFD) was formed and what a busy year it has been. Since its inception on February 18, 2007 with the Metro District’s appointment of a Fire Chief, the CPVFD has sustained its growth in manpower and capability as we recently celebrated our one year anniversary.

In one short year the CPVFD has met, and in most cases exceeded, its first year goals. The below graphic indicates the path that was set and achieved, including a resulting capability that found CPVFD firefighters as active members on the Manitou Springs Incline Fire’s West Division fire suppression crew and manning Manitou Springs Fire Department in a mutual aid capacity.



Our initial and immediate goal was to staff the Department and start to get our personnel trained and mission capable in wildfire suppression as soon as possible. In short order, the volunteers of the Department stepped up and we not only had 8 wildland firefighters and 3 apparatus engineer/drivers who were mission ready in 4 short months, but we also had 5 firefighters trained in structure firefighting capabilities. In addition, we:

- established the Department’s Mission and Vision



## Our Mission

To improve the quality of life of Crystal Park residents through the preservation and protection of life and property from the consequences of fire and/or other emergency, to promote the health and welfare of Crystal Park, and to assist other communities in times of need. Our people are the key to success.

## Our Vision

To become a rapid first response organization, providing Structure Fire, Wildland Fire, High Angle Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services to Crystal Park, and provide mutual aid to the surrounding communities.

**A Fire Department functions as a para-military organization with a chain of command, roles & responsibilities ... and the CPVFD follows this tradition.**


- responded to emergency incidents in Crystal Park and responded to more than 75 fire and medical calls in Manitou Springs
- became an active member at the El Paso County Chief's Forum
- added Crystal Park to the county's ESA emergency response plan
- developed a mature Crystal Park Evacuation Plan
- assumed oversight of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- initiated CWPP compliance including potential of acquiring a multi-use facility that is primarily a Shelter-in-Place (SIP) as recommended by the CWPP
- developed a robust communication plan and formally registered with the El Paso County Radio Communication Plan (CPVFD is the 900 Series Radio Talk Group)
- conducted Crystal Park's first Emergency Management Plan
- established a CPVFD Auxiliary with the addition of even more volunteers seeking to help and support the Department
- initiated the development of Standards Operating Procedures
- conducted monthly Department Business Meetings and Proficiency Training sessions where we also have a Department "feed" to network and enjoy each others company as a means to build camaraderie and esprit de corps
- established Water Tender, Water Storage and Wildfire Brush capability including the recent acquisition of an NFPA compliant water and foam slide-on device
- conducted joint field training involving high angle rescue with Manitou Springs and Colorado Springs Fire Departments
- supported the MSFD MDA fundraiser, October Open House and Christmas Holiday Parade
- coordinated the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual CPVFD Pancake Breakfast where the Penrose Hospital
- conducted fire extinguisher training for the residents
- distributed free smoke alarms to the residents
- provided community education by developing the "Community Safety Bulletins" which are released every quarter and posted in the mail room
- Flight for Life hosted the event and even brought their helicopter to Crystal Park as a static display for the residents and conduct training for the Department staff
- organized Ft. Carson Chinook helicopter use of our helo-pads (Landing Zone Cone and Landing Zone Lake which will be very useful in the event of an evacuation
- supported Crystal Park events such as the June Fishing Derby and the Annual Membership Meeting
- conducted two successful fundraisers for the Department (T-shirts and Cloth Shopping Bag Sales)

The list goes on and on but, with out a doubt, these successes would not have been possible had the members of the Department not stepped up to volunteer. They put in more than 1400 hours of volunteer and training time to make this Department a success.


December was a very busy month for the Department as we formalized our By Laws by a unanimous vote of all those present at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual CPVFD Christmas Dinner. These By Laws establish how the Department will function, how elections will be held, and what the duties are for elected positions.

Just a month before we approved the By Laws, on 4 November 2007, the CPVFD Auxiliary was formed and held its first meeting. This was an exciting addition to the CPVFD since its efforts contribute directly to the Department's effectiveness and readiness. Its Mission and Functions are summarized below:

**AUXILIARY MISSION**



*To support the mission of the CPVFD through the management and control of those functions and events that increase the effectiveness, preparedness, and readiness of the CPVFD firefighting capability*

 **AUXILIARY FUNCTIONS**

- Support CPVFD community relations
- Execute CPVFD operations involving information assurance and control
- Support CPVFD "Evacuation Plan" implementation
- Conduct CPVFD traffic control operations
- Successfully support the CPVFD in submitting for the first AFG Grant
- Support CPVFD fundraising activities
- Develop and maintain "Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that apply to Auxiliary activities

In February 2008, we had 3 firefighters enrolled in training. We have two firefighters in the Manitou Springs Fire Department's Basic Structure Firefighters Course and we have an additional firefighter enrolled in the El Paso County Wildland Fire training. Before the year ended, we had 4 additional volunteers step up to join the Department and the Auxiliary is almost at 10 member volunteers ... remarkable support!! By the way, you will see the Auxiliary in their distinctive "red" uniforms while the firefighters and engineers where the distinctive navy blue uniform.


We owe a special thanks to the Metropolitan District and HOA Boards for their support. In addition, we must thank the Manitou Springs Fire Department for all their support, training, leadership, coaching and mentorship in the last year. It must be said that without their support and expertise, we would not have had the successful first year we had. They have stood by us all along allowing us to engage in their department activities, events and incidents providing us with invaluable insight into how a fire department should run.

So, without question, the state of the Crystal Park Volunteer Fire Department is very strong and getting stronger by the day.

As we look forward to our second year, we have a lot to do such as completing the design and installation of a dry fire hydrant at the lake, applying for our first grant with FEMA, getting

addition firefighters training, hosting and participating in Crystal Park community events, continuing support to Manitou Springs Fire Department, etc...

Our 2008 Goals have been established and are as shown below. They by no means are the only goals but, they are those that when accomplished, will again result in a much more improved and responsive Department.




## **2008 CPVFD GOALS**

- 1. Two (2) additionally trained Basic Firefighters**
- 2. 100% Wildland Fire Shelters for all S130-190 Trained Firefighters**
- 3. 100% Recertification of Wildland Firefighters (Recert Training and Pack test)**
- 4. Successfully submit Assistance to Firefighters Grant**
- 5. Successfully launch the CPVFD "Auxiliary"**
- 6. Dry Hydrant installation at the Lake**
- 7. Two (2) additional Active or Associate volunteers**
- 8. Mission Ready "Blue Trailer" functional as "941"**
- 9. Mount the Port-a-Tank on Tender 960**
- 10. Gridded Crystal Park Map with Street Addresses and Cistern Numbers**

In addition, we will be completing our Emergency Management Plan which will identify for us our "gaps" in capability and help us prioritize where our energies should be placed. We also expect to have our first members training is "1<sup>st</sup> Responder" medical training and if we push ourselves, we may even have one or two members that are Emergency Medical Technician – Basic (EMT-B) trained and a few High Angle Rescue qualified.

We also have been making great strides in building relationships with other Fire Departments across the county. To that end, we may have our very own apparatus (Type III/IV) fire truck donated to us this coming year at no cost to Crystal Park. This continues the trend of fire service professionals helping fellow firefighters succeed in their mission.

Training will continue with much intensity this coming year as the old plank-holders (an old Naval term referring to the first crew to take a new ship to sea) seek to increase their capabilities and skills and new CPVFD volunteers take initial training. The below matrix shows just how many volunteers are part of this Department and what their training capabilities are. This matrix changes almost every month due to the dedication of the Department's members.

 CPVFD Capabilities Roster	BASIC FF COURSE	FF 1	WILDLAND S130/190	RED CARDS	Wildland Urban Interface S215	HIGH ANGLE RESCUE	HAZMAT OPS	NIMS CERTS	CPR	1ST RESPONDER	EMT-B
<b>Firefighters</b>											
CHIEF JOHN HENNESSEY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
DEPUTY CHIEF PAUL WELSCH	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓			
FF SEAN COLLINS	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓	Wilderness Only	
FF DAVE GREENHALGH			✓	✓				✓			
FF STEVE LEANDER	✓							✓			
FF VALARIE DAY	✓										
FF ERIC JULIAN			✓	✓							<b>FUTURE TRAINING</b>
FF FLOYD O'NIEL											
FF JIM MESIROW			✓	✓				✓			
FF PHIL DAY	✓							✓			
FF ADAM SAND			✓	✓				✓	✓		
FF CHARLES DAVIS	✓		✓	✓				✓			
<b>Associate Volunteers</b>											
ENG MIKE DOUGHTY								✓			
ENG JIM TERBUSH								✓			
ENG DICK O'BRIEN								✓			
<b>AUXILIARY</b>											
MICHELE ANGELO JOAN POWERS CAPRICE TEMPLE DOUGHTY ANN CAMPBELL JONI SEXAUER LEIGH TERBUSH BARBARA LANDGRAF KERI MESIROW JACQUE JULIAN BETH ENNIS DIANA UNRUH	<b>AUXILIARY TRAINING WILL FOCUS ON TRAFFIC CONTROL AND EVACUATION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION</b>										

In closing, as we close out this first year, we have much to grateful for living in Crystal Park. So when you see a CPVFD volunteer, stop and say hello and ask us how things are going. We have a passion for our community and want to preserve it and so odds are you will hear about many things we have undertaken and plan to take on.

Crystal Park Volunteer Fire Department

