



CRYSTAL PARK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT APRIL 2013 MONTHLY UPDATE

www.crystalparkvfd.org

1. Incidents: We were toned out six (6) times this month: CPVFD responded to 2 medical calls, vehicle accidents, and smoke investigations in Crystal Park. CPVFD volunteers continued to support numerous other calls in Manitou Springs this last month to help maintain our proficiency as a **Fire•Rescue•EMS** organization.

2. ESA County Ambulance Service Contract Update: MSFD continues to work through the contracting details. Chief Hennessey informed MSFD that we would prefer to go with Manitou due to the significant reduction in response times. The ambulance service is studying the numbers of calls for MSFD and CPVFD to determine if this is cost beneficial to them. MSFD is going direct with a sole source contract.

3. Dispatch Status: Cutover to the County Dispatch is complete. We continue to have issues with the tone/voice pagers. We recommend we acquire 20 alpha pagers. Risks exist now that volunteers turn off radios and pagers at night relying on cell phone texting. Alpha pagers are a County standard and will solve the problem of pagers staying "open channel" once toned out. Recommend that this be added to the Metro communications budget. Costs are as follows:

- Pagers (20 at \$85 each)--\$1700 (plus shipping not included)
- Fees (20 at \$3.50/mo/pager)--\$840...this is an annual cost similar to radio fees to PPRCN
- Programming (\$25/pager)--\$500 plus \$100 template fee

4. Several Training Events Completed: CPVFD completed several training events this last month. Fire Tower at Ft Carson, Wildland S130/190, Medical In-service, Wildland Fire Field Day, Sawyer Training (S212) and Field Day, and Pack Testing. In addition, we conducted our normal monthly training. It was a busy month to say the least.

5. 9News Health Fair: On 20 April, CPVFD members supported the 9News Health Fair. It was a great event that showcased community engagement of the CPVFD.

6. Grant Update: VFA grant was awarded for the full amount; cost share is about \$3100; equipment and PPE is in the process of being ordered. We finally have paperwork for the 2010 AFG grant to complete that process.

7. 2013 CPVFD Town Hall: On 4 May, there is a Town Hall scheduled from 1400-1600. Topics to discuss with the public are 2013 Wildfire Outlook and Flood Impacts to Crystal Park. Expected attendance is likely 40-50 residents.

8. Firewise Assessment Update: We completed another assessment in the last month. We continue to encourage residents to mitigate fuels around their home and get an assessment.

9. CPVFD a "Ready, Set, Go" Department: The CPVFD is a registered Ready Set Go department. The Program is managed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and seeks to develop and improve the dialogue between fire departments and the residents they serve. Now in its second year nationally, the program has over 500 member departments and agencies representative of 46 states. It continues to work in complementary and collaborative fashion with existing wildland fire public education efforts, like Firewise, and amplifies



their messages to individuals to better achieve the common goal of Fire Adapted Communities. Tenets for Crystal Park residents include:

- **Ready – Be Ready, Be Firewise.** *Take personal responsibility and prepare long before the threat of a wildland fire to Crystal Park so your home is ready in case of a fire. Create defensible space by clearing brush away from your home. Use fire-resistant landscaping and harden your home with fire-safe construction measures. Assemble emergency supplies and belongings in a safe place. Plan escape routes and make sure all those residing within the home know the plan of action. Contact CPVFD for Firewise evaluation.*
- **Set – Situational Awareness.** *Pack your emergency items. Stay aware of the latest news and information on the fire from local media, the CPVFD website and public safety.*
- **Go – Act Early!** *Follow your personal wildland fire action plan. Doing so will not only support your safety, but will allow CPVFD and incoming firefighters to best maneuver resources to combat the fire*