



# CRYSTAL PARK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT MARCH 2013 MONTHLY UPDATE

[www.crystalparkvfd.org](http://www.crystalparkvfd.org)

**1. Incidents:** We were toned out to one incident this month where CPVFD responded to a mutual aid request to MSFD for a structure fire in Cascade CO. One building was lost and another significantly damaged. 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:** This has reached a point where several FDs may not participate with this next contract. Our district is somewhat isolated since MSFD will have their own contract, Colorado Springs will also have its own, and a few other districts are going their own way. At this month's Chief's Forum, there was great tension in the room because the ESA is late with their re-compete Request for Proposal. CDR Reid requested that all districts inform him if they are in or out soon. With Colorado Springs out, and they have 72% of all the calls AMR handles, AMR is at risk (assuming they win) to lose significant call volume. They indicated that they will go from a fleet of 22 vehicles down to about 7 with Colorado Springs out. Our district is cut off from where the majority of these contractor vehicles will be staged. Manitou plans to have an ambulance in their station with their own contract which will cut our ALS response time literally in half if not more. For the upper district, the current 45 minutes will be reduced to 20-25 minutes and in the lower district, the current 20 minutes will get cut to less than 10 minutes. CPVFD recommendation is that we align with Manitou Springs based on these response times. It is response times that will save lives.

**3. Dispatch Status:** Cutover to the County Dispatch will now be 0700, 8 April 2013. We have had initial training at MSFD. Chief Hennessey worked with the County and completed the "CPVFD Response Plan (CRP)". The CRP breaks up the District into "areas" and identifies what agencies are required to be toned out for defined incidents in those areas. Chief Hennessey also conducted a tour of the district with the Dispatch supervisor and a dispatcher. We borrowed 10 additional pagers from MSFD on loan. We also will be pursuing "Active 911" iPhone and Droid dispatching. There is a cost and this will be discussed at the CPVFD business meeting on 8 April 13.

**4. Waldo Canyon Flash Flood Table Top Exercise (TTX):** CPVFD (Chief Welsch) supported a County wide flash flood exercise on 21 Mar 13 at a local defense contractor's facility. The exercise was a great success with many issues raised and discovered. For this kind of major flood in Manitou Springs, Crystal Park is at risk due to loss of power, water supply will be impacted due to loss of power, inability to leave the community due to flood waters will exist, and inability to get resources into our area. In addition, CPVFD is included in the MSFD Incident Action Plan (IAP) and will be requested to add Crystal Hills to our response area. The details of all of these plans continue to mature.



**5. New Radios Distributed:** Six 800MHZ Tait radios have been distributed to the FFs and EMTs as planned. MSFD will indeed allow us to keep the two older Motorola 3000 radios which will be placed in apparatus.

**6. Grant (AFG) Update:** VFA grant was submitted to the CO Division of Fire Prevention and Control. Equipment requested includes: water tanks, PPE, portable pump and low level strainer. This is a 50% cost share with our share being about \$3100.00. It is not known if we will get this grant as in previous years.

**7. Tender 961 Status:** Tender 961 has been put through its operational paces and works well. We now have flex draft hose on the apparatus and we will continue to train until proficient.

**8. ISO Evaluation in 2013:** NTR

**9. Letter to Manitou Springs for 10,000 Gallon Tank:** Chief Hennessey sent a letter to Manitou Springs City Council requesting a transfer of the water tank to the Metro/CPVFD when it is removed from its current location. A discussion was held with the Public Works Dept on 21 March 13 and they decided they need to keep the tank for one more year until they are sure the new tank they acquired doesn't have any issues. So we need to wait until 2014.

**10. Visit from Colorado "Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC)":** Brenda Wasielewski from the DFPC visited the CPVFD on 16 March 13 to look our equipment and our district. She had never been here before and was quite concerned about our one way in/one way out risks and topography. She will work with us on possible available State apparatus, especially in the wildfire needs we have.