



## CRYSTAL PARK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

### JULY 2010 MONTHLY UPDATE

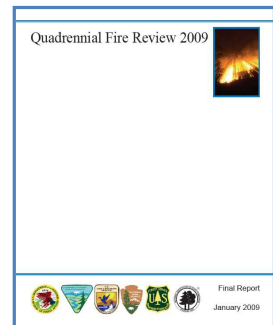
[www.crystalparkvfd.org](http://www.crystalparkvfd.org)

**1. Incidents:** There were three incidents in the District this last month. One involved a fire investigation in the lower park on Oakridge Rd. and the other was a 911 call regarding what hikers thought was a person down near Big Bear Rd....both were unfounded. Of particular note was the mutual aid call where we provided support to the El Paso County SAR Team as they searched for 2 lost hikers. This mutual aid call comes just two days after we met with the Fire Marshall and the SAR Operations Director regarding what role CPVFD can play in supporting SAR operations that occur within the District. We will be looking to train with the SAR team in the future. The CPVFD volunteers continued to support numerous other medical and fire related calls in Manitou Springs this last month to help maintain our proficiency as a **Fire•Rescue•EMS** organization.

**2. Cookbook Fundraiser:** In July, the CPVFD Auxiliary continued with the "Cooking with Fire" cookbook fundraiser. These funds will help the CPVFD sustain Department operations and maintain equipment. There are over 200 recipes in the cookbook from Crystal Park residents, members, friends and family. Folks can sign up in the mailroom or contact the CPVFD Auxiliary at [auxiliary@crystalparkvfd.org](mailto:auxiliary@crystalparkvfd.org).



**3. Fuel Mitigation in the Crystal Park District:** The Crystal Park District we protect exceeds 3 square miles and is actually larger than Manitou Springs. We recently reviewed the Quadrennial Fire Review ([www.nifc.gov/QFR/QFR2009Final.pdf](http://www.nifc.gov/QFR/QFR2009Final.pdf)) (QFR) conducted by the five major government agencies that manage and oversee wildfire response across the nation: The QFR identified a new emphasis focused on achieving "fire adapted communities". The major thrust is that local communities, along with states, are fulfilling their responsibilities in land-use planning and regulation (i.e. adopting building codes and ordinances); ensuring communities have a robust suppression response capability; and establishing fire management planning and wildfire protection plans. At the core of this, as it affects us, is the creation of alliances and relationships with the larger community. Most everyone knows the CPVFD has worked very hard within our County to build these relationships. Despite the hard work by many folks in ensuring the CPVFD is ready to support any "emergency" through preparation, prevention, response, and suppression/stabilization of an incident in Crystal Park, several concerns immediately arise. Our biggest concern has always been wildfire and for all practical purposes, we really have not been doing fuels mitigation. For many months in the recent past, we have even been prevented from doing so. What this means is we need a new approach. The QFR has three strategy elements. One in particular recommends the development of defensible space but added creation of "fuel reduction zones". We are recommending the next CWPP for Crystal Park includes all the elements recommended in the QFR such that Crystal Park becomes a "fire adapted community". In the coming months, we will be making several recommendations to move in this direction and become a safer community. The end state, if we adopt a strategy of constructing fuel reduction zones, is to lower Crystal Park's high probability (as it stands today based on fuel loading) of exposure to major damage from wildfire.



This is not something that the HOA Forestry Committee, which is primarily responsible for forest management (not wildfire fuels mitigation as was discussed at the recent HOA meeting), is alone capable of despite receiving a grant every two years. There will be more to come on this and we just wanted to introduce the topic.

**4. El Paso County CWPP Meeting:** We attended a public meeting on 15 July 2010 regarding the establishment of an El Paso County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). We were invited because Crystal Park was one of the first communities in the County to have a CWPP. Over the next few months, this will continue to be evolving and Crystal Park will be factored in since we are in the unincorporated areas of El Paso County. That said, our CWPP is woefully outdated, missing key elements and will need to be revised to align with the County's CWPP. We are in no way obligated to wait for the County. It is not clear to us who should take the lead on this but since Crystal Park is private

property, one would assume the Forestry Committee. But, since it is the District that is protected by the CPVFD, it could be argued the CPVFD take this on. It is not clear to us, but this is a topic for the new HOA Board when they are elected and the Metro District.

**5. “Squad 16” and El Paso County Search & Rescue Visit**

**Crystal Park:** On Sunday, July 18th, Crystal Park Volunteer Fire Department worked with El Paso County Search and Rescue (SAR) and “Squad 16” (a high tech communications vehicle) to provide communications for a scheduled race on Barr Trail. During this visit, CPVFD worked with the Squad 16 team in scouting locations within Crystal Park that could be useful in supporting possible future incidents/communications needs within El Paso County, and more importantly, within the Crystal Park District. We also scouted various areas with the County SAR communications volunteers to assess several areas within the District and in the Pike National Forest for deployment of a communication “Repeater” that would improve radio communications for emergency responders.



**6. Apparatus Update:** Brush 941 is back in a mission ready status. Thanks to the Metro District for making the request. We had recently removed this apparatus from our inventory since we didn't think it would be available. Along with Brush 940, it provides us a rapid response capability that can gain access to every area within the District. Thanks again!!

**7. 4th Annual Pancake Breakfast Date Set:** The CPVFD will be holding its “4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pancake Breakfast” on 25 September 2010 from 0900-1100. This event is open to the entire community and is our way of saying thank you for all your support. Location is at the Club House. Spread the word!!