



# CRYSTAL PARK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT MARCH 2011 MONTHLY UPDATE

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

**1. Incidents:** There have been five (5) incidents in the District or mutual aid requests that we supported this month. We've had eight (8) toned out calls thus far this year as compared to last year where we had zero (0) at this time. CPVFD volunteers continued to support numerous other medical, vehicle accident and fire related calls in Manitou Springs this last month to help maintain our proficiency as a **Fire•Rescue•EMS** organization.

**2. Grant (AFG, VFA, EMS) Update:** Equipment/PPE continues to trickle in. The Department attended (in person) the second round of interviews for the EMS Grant. There is one more round to go if we make it past Round 2.

**3. Two New EMS First Responders:** Last month we reported that Lt Eric Julian and Kevin Wood completed Basic Structure Firefighter training this last month giving us two additional FFs. Since that last report, we now have two new First Responders as well. Lt Julian and Deputy Chief Welsch completed First Responder training. *Congrats Eric and Paul.* The CPVFD Organization shows the current capabilities by individual relative to Department operational function. As you can see, this year our EMS capability is extremely strong with all providers being either State or National certified.



**4. Town Hall ("Wildfire Danger in Colorado"):** As everyone knows, Colorado, and El Paso and other Front Range counties, have experienced numerous wildfires with some being significant. A Wildland FF from CPVFD supported calls for deployment (e.g. Lt Julian deployed on MSFD Brush 1 to Boulder in March). We have already hit "VERY HIGH" Fire Danger in the District based on several conditions beyond simply our topography (e.g. very low rh, winds, lack of precipitation, low fuel moisture). We are planning a Town Hall on 9 April 11 at the Fire Station to let everyone know how the season appears to be shaping up. Recent data from the EPSO shows that 1000-Hour fuels are at a moisture content of 6%...this is classified as an "Extreme" rating. 10-Hour fuels are also at 6%...this is classified as "Very High" rating. Keep in mind that low fuel moisture in large heavy fuels is just one predictor of the kind of fire behavior that could be experienced should a fire occur. Fuel load, fuel density, fuel characterization all factor in to the "prediction". But when we are talking about fuel moisture levels at 6%, the risk of large timber fires increases significantly should a fire occur. Our intent is to provide the information to the residents, discuss what we learned from the Boulder 4-Mile Fire IMT brief, and answer any questions that may arise. Hopefully we can spur folks to begin implementing FIREWISE efforts around their homes. Needless to say, the Crystal Park community, with the lack of serious fuel mitigation activity, has significant risk. In addition, we have absolutely poor, or no, Safety Zones for responding resources in the event we have an incident.