



Overview of the Colorado Fire Service

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The Fire Service Promise to the Citizens of Colorado

When you don't know who else to call, call the fire department. We will come and stand between you and danger.











Today's Fire Service Responsibilities

Protection of the National Critical Infrastructure

Structural Fire Suppression

Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services

Wildland Urban Interface Fires

Hazardous Materials

Automobile Crash Extrication

Swift Water Rescue

High Angle & Below Ground Rescue

Urban Search & Rescue

Today's Fire Service Responsibilities

Fire Prevention /Education / Inspection

Fire Code Enforcement

Arson Investigation

Aircraft Rescue & Firefighting

Industrial Emergencies

All Natural Disasters

Conventional Terrorist Incidents

Weapons of Mass Destruction

**Colorado's fire service protects every community in
the state - rural, suburban & urban**

Rural communities = social hub

Suburbs = sense of community

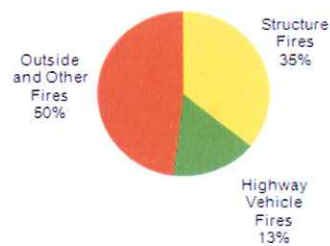
Urban = positive contact with government



Structure Fires in Colorado

- About 18,500 structure fires each year
- About 25 civilians die each year from fire
- More than 400 injured
- \$76.7 million property loss

Fires in the United States During 2012



Fire Departments

- 395 fire departments
 - 45 (11%) are fully-paid departments
 - 105 fire departments are a combination of career and volunteer
 - 245 (62%) are all-volunteer



FD Organizational Structures

- 256 (65%) operated by special districts
- 49 (12%) are municipal fire departments
- 50 (13%) are non-governmental volunteer fire departments (non-tax supported)
- 10% are fire authorities, Department of Defense (DoD) fire departments, industrial, private, or tribal fire departments.

Firefighters

- Currently, there are an estimated 14,990 firefighters in Colorado
- About 9,218 (62%) are volunteer
- 5,669 (38%) are career.



Fire, Rescue & EMS Apparatus (est)

- 1,740 engines
- 470 water tenders
- 148 aerial apparatus
- 250 wildfire engines
- 28 aircraft crash-rescue
- 150 EMS units & ambulances
- 150 boats & water rescue units
- 25 rescue units
- 1 Urban Search & Rescue TF



Stations & Apparatus

- 78% of Colorado fire departments do not have backup power for their fire stations
- 22% of the fire stations in Colorado are over 40 years old
- 7% of Colorado fire department engines are at least 30 years old.

Firefighter Safety

In Colorado since 1990

- 35 firefighters have died
- 6000+ firefighters were injured
- Does not include cancer deaths



Protecting the Firefighter's Health

- 56% of fire departments have no program to maintain basic firefighter fitness and health
- 41% have not trained their FFs for structural firefighting
- 29% do not have enough portable radios for FFs
- 36% do not have enough self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)
- 9% cannot provide emergency responders with their own personal protective clothing

The New Threat: Firefighter Cancer

- **Testicular cancer (2.2 times greater incidence)**
- **Multiple Myeloma (1.5 times)**
- **Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma (1.5 times)**
- **Skin Cancer (1.4 times)**
- **Prostrate cancer (1.2 times)**
- **Melanoma (1.3 times)**

More aggressive cancers at younger age than general population


Near Term

- **Increasing number & severity of WUI fires**
- **Unknown impact of Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act**
- **Maintaining statewide radio system**
- **Declining numbers of volunteer firefighters**
- **Strengthening the Colorado Emergency Resource Mobilization Program**
- **Firefighter Health (heart, lung & cancer)**
- **Matching service level demand to revenue**
- **Engagement of citizens in WUI mitigation**

Good Things...

- Colorado has received two DHS/FEMA fire grants for recruitment of volunteer firefighters
- We are continually improving our response to WUI fires
- Resource Mobilization Plan is working
- Reorganization of CDPS is resulting in increased efficiencies & better communications
- Division of Fire Prevention & Control is working





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