



COLORADO

Division of Fire Prevention & Control

Department of Public Safety

Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control
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Our Mission:

To safeguard those that live, work, learn, and play in Colorado, by reducing threats to lives, property and the environment.

A Brief History of the Division

The Division of Fire Prevention & Control (DFPC) came into being as the Division of Fire Safety within the Colorado Department of Public Safety on July 1, 1984. Its initial mission was to develop solutions to fire safety-related problems to reduce the incidence of fire, and fire-related civilian deaths, injuries, and property losses in Colorado. Over the years, the Division acquired more responsibilities and its new name.

- 1984** Firefighter Certification Program
- 1990** Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Program
- 1991** Colorado Fire Suppression System Program
- 1991** Fire Safety in Limited Gaming Establishments
- 1994** Colorado All Risk Incident Reporting System (CFIRS/NFIRS) Program
- 1994** Fireworks Licensing Program
- 2008** Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarettes Program
- 2010** Public School and Junior College Construction and Inspection Program
- 2011** Fire Safety in Waste-Tire Facilities Program
- 2012** The Colorado Division of Fire Safety is reorganized and renamed the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control
- 2012** Wildland Fire Management Program
- 2013** Health Facility Construction and Inspection Program
- 2014** Colorado Firefighting Air Corps (C-FAC) Program
- 2014** Center for Excellence for Advanced Technology Aerial Firefighting

Several of these programs and services existed in other state agencies, but were transferred to DFPC to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. Today, the Division of Fire Prevention & Control continues to provide leadership and support to Colorado communities—reducing threats to lives, property and the environment from fire.

Photo by USAF Master Sgt. Jeremy Lock

Professional Qualifications and Training

DFPC is responsible for several certification and licensing programs. Voluntary certification for fire fighters and emergency medical responders (EMR) began in 1979 in the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) and transferred to DFPC in 1984. A similar program for hazardous materials responders started in 1989. While these certification programs are voluntary, many Colorado fire departments require certification for employment and promotion. Certification ensures that the knowledge, skills and abilities possessed by firefighters, hazardous materials responders and emergency medical responders meet nationally recognized standards. DFPC's programs are accredited by both the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualification (Pro Board).

DFPCs certification, registration, and licensing programs for Fire Suppression Systems, Fire Sprinkler Fitters, Public School Fire and Life Safety Inspectors and Plan Reviewers, Public School Building Inspectors, and persons dealing with fireworks are not voluntary. Colorado law requires that people involved in these activities are certified, registered or licensed.



Photo by Stacey Meyer, DFPC

Photo by Amy Luffman



Wildland Fire Management

Wildland fire protection in Colorado requires the ability to maximize expertise and resources from local, state, federal, and tribal governments. Local fire departments or fire protection districts have primary responsibility for wildfire response and suppression. If the wildfire is outside a fire district or exceeds the capacity of local fire authorities, then the County Sheriff takes responsibility for controlling or extinguishing the fire. At the request of the County Sheriff, or when wildfires threaten to become state emergencies or disasters, DFPC assists in any necessary administrative, technical, and planning support, including supervising suppression activities.

Wildfire Information and Resource Center

The Wildfire Information and Resource Center is an on-line source of wildfire information for homeowners, wildland fire professionals, the media, and educators. The web site and Colorado Wildfire Watch mobile application includes information about:

- current wildfires in Colorado;
- how to prevent and prepare for a wildfire;
- statewide fire danger and current burning restrictions;
- current prescribed burn activity, with contact information for responsible agency;

- wildland and prescribed fire training;
- sources of funding for wildfire mitigation activities; and
- results of local, state, or national research related to wildfire.

Aviation Program

The success of Colorado's wildland fire management program depends upon quickly identifying and responding to fires that threaten

lives, property or natural resources. DFPCs aviation program uses Multi-Mission Aircraft (MMA) to locate small fires before they can become catastrophic. When local jurisdictions detect smoke, they can request that DFPC launch MMA.

The aircraft can be on site within 60 minutes,

using thermal imaging

sensors to survey the reported area. The source of fire is located and mapped, and the information is loaded in real time to the state's wildfire information management system. The local incident commander can then access a map of the fire, ingress and egress paths, fuels involved, fire behavior, resources at risk, weather forecasts, and other information needed for a successful response.

If the fire is in a remote area with difficult access, the local incident commander could then call for DFPCs helicopters and single engine air tankers (SEAT) to drop fire retardant or suppressants on the fire.



Center of Excellence for Advanced Technology Aerial Firefighting

The Center of Excellence will research, test, and evaluate existing and new technologies that support sustainable, effective, and efficient aerial firefighting capabilities.

Fire and Life Safety

Suppression Program

Fire sprinkler systems are designed to extinguish or contain fires, limiting structural damage and safeguarding people. DFPC has the duty to ensure that these systems will work when needed. It does this by registering individuals or companies that install or otherwise work on these systems and by certifying local fire suppression system inspectors to inspect and approve the installation, alteration, or repair of fire sprinkler systems. As the overall Authority Having Jurisdiction for the program, DFPC will assume these duties in jurisdictions that do not have certified inspectors.

Health Facility, Public School and Junior College Construction and Inspection Programs

DFPC is responsible for ensuring the health and safety of those who occupy or work in any of Colorado's health facilities, public schools, or junior colleges. DFPC adopts and enforces building, fire, and life safety codes for these buildings (and other facilities if requested) by reviewing construction plans, performing construction and maintenance inspections, and issuing certificates of

occupancy or compliance. DFPC also establishes standards for local jurisdictions wishing to assume some or all of these functions.

Fire Safety in Limited Gaming Establishments, Hotels and Motels, and Waste Tire Facilities

DFPC establishes minimum standards for building construction and fire protection systems in Colorado's gaming establishments and assists local jurisdictions in enforcing them. DFPC inspects fire protection systems in hotels and motels that desire certification under the Federal Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Act of 1990, confirming that their accommodations meet minimum fire and life safety standards. DFPC also assists local jurisdictions to ensure fire safety in waste tire dumps or storage facilities.

Other Programs

Fireworks Licensing, Certification, & Permitting

DFPC establishes the rules and regulations to sell, store or use fireworks in Colorado.

National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)

DFPC directs Colorado's participation in NFIRS—the national reporting system for fires, hazardous materials incidents, emergency medical services incidents, and all other incidents to which fire departments respond. Data from NFIRS helps answer questions about the nature and causes of injuries, deaths, and property loss resulting from fires. DFPC also helps fire departments develop fire reporting and analysis capability for their own use.

Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarettes (Fire Safe Cigarettes)

Cigarettes are the leading cause of residential fire fatalities in the United States, resulting in 700 to 900 deaths, approximately \$400 million in property damage, and \$4 billion in total economic loss each year. Since July 31, 2009, only reduced ignition propensity cigarettes can be sold in Colorado. Fire safe cigarettes are less likely to ignite upholstered furniture, mattresses, household furnishings or other combustible material.

