

Firefighter Injuries in Colorado 2005



“Toward a Fire Safe Colorado”

Colorado Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Safety
9195 East Mineral Avenue, Suite 234
Centennial, CO 80112
(720) 852-6735
www.dfs.state.co.us

May 16, 2006

[This Page is Intentionally Blank]



Firefighter Injuries in Colorado – 2005

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Executive Summary	iii
Background	2
Definition of Injury	2
Overall Results	3
Status of Firefighter When Injury Occurred	3
Activity at Time of Injury	3
Severity of the Injury	4
Primary Apparent Symptom	5
Cause of Firefighter Injury	6
Factor Contributing to Injury	6
Protective Equipment Failure	7
Improving Firefighter Safety	8
Firefighter Life Safety Initiative	8
Firefighter Safety Resources	10
APPENDIX - 2005 NFIRS Participants by Region	11



[This Page is Intentionally Blank]



Firefighter Injuries in Colorado – 2005

Executive Summary

Firefighters work in varied and complex environments that increase their risk of on-the-job death and injury. This report examines firefighter injuries in Colorado for 2005. The results are based on data collected from local fire departments through the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).

During 2005, there were no reported firefighter line-of-duty deaths in Colorado. However, there were a reported 180 firefighter on-duty injuries. Due to under-reporting and other factors, the actual number of Colorado firefighters injured in the line-of-duty during 2005 could be significantly higher. However, this report examines only the actual, reported firefighter line-of-duty injuries in Colorado during 2005.

Significant Findings

- Of the firefighters that suffered injuries during 2005, a total of 133 or 73.9% were career firefighters and 25 or 13.9% were volunteer firefighters.
- The largest share of injuries, 86 or 47.8% of all firefighter injuries in 2005, occurred during fireground operations. Actual fire suppression activities accounted for 63 or 35.0% of all firefighter injuries.
- Of the reported firefighter injuries in 2005, only 53 or 29.4% were reported to be injuries for which there was lost time.
- The major types of injuries sustained by firefighters in 2005 were strains, sprains, swelling, muscular pain, or crushing injury (33.9%).
- The major causes of injuries sustained by firefighters in 2005 were exposure to hazard (30%), followed by overexertion or strain (20%).
- Of the reported firefighter injuries in 2005, there were 13 injuries (7.3%) that were at least partially caused by a failure of equipment.
- There were 15 equipment items that failed and contributed to the reported 13 injuries. The most commonly reported pieces of equipment that failed and contributed to an injury were protective coats and gloves, for a total of 3 instances (20%) each.

As the statistics in this report and previous reports attest, fire fighting presents great risks of personal injury to firefighters. Moreover, because of the kind of work performed and the hazards of the incident scene environment, it is unlikely that all firefighter injuries can be eliminated. A risk management system and the application of existing technology, however, can reduce present injury levels and bring about corresponding reductions in lost time, and medical costs.



[This Page is Intentionally Blank]

Firefighter Injuries in Colorado – 2005

Background

Firefighters work in varied and complex environments that increase their risk of on-the-job death and injury. At the scene or on the way to a fire, a hazardous materials incident, a multiple vehicle crash, or even while training, firefighters face a relatively high chance of being injured, possibly killed. A better understanding of how these fatal accidents, nonfatal injuries, and illnesses occur can help identify corrective actions which, in turn, could help minimize the inherent risks.

This report examines firefighter injuries in Colorado for 2005. The results are based on data collected from local fire departments through the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).

Definition of Injury

The term injury in this study is inclusive of all on-duty injuries (fireground and elsewhere) and occupational illnesses, though the latter are difficult to define and count as discussed below. As noted above, firefighters not only perform basic firefighting, but also provide emergency medical service (EMS), hazardous materials incident mitigation, technical rescues, and other services that all can lead to injury or exposure to harmful substances. Transportation related injuries (in fire vehicles or personal cars) that occur during operations, injuries that occur in the fire station from training and physical fitness, or other miscellaneous duties are considered on-duty injuries as well.



The general guidelines for defining injury were as follows:

- Specific to and caused by a job-related situation, regardless of what job the injured individual was performing at the time (fireground operations; rescue – all types; extrication and accident scenes; EMS; investigations; overhaul operations; training; and so forth).
- Acute illnesses, injuries, trauma, and exposure to toxic substances or harmful physical agents.

While diseases and illnesses that develop over time (e.g., emphysema, cancer, and heart disease) are included in the definition of injury, these are rarely ever reported by fire departments through the NFIRS. This is also true of illnesses that result from exposure to pathogens, such as Hepatitis or HIV infection resulting from exposure to the blood of an EMS patient. Exceptions to this general rule are those illnesses that result in an acute event while on-duty, such as a heart attack or stroke.



The term injury also includes psychological disorders, especially if they require treatment or cause lost time from work. Most fire service personnel today are aware of critical incident stress syndrome, and recognize when firefighters are symptomatic, especially following difficult incidents (e.g., those involving the death of a child or another firefighter, mass casualty incidents, and so forth). As with diseases and illnesses that develop over time, psychological injuries are generally not reported through the NFIRS, unless there is an acute event while on-duty.

Overall Results

During 2005, there were no reported firefighter line-of-duty deaths in Colorado. However, there were a reported 180 firefighter on-duty injuries.¹ While the number of injuries is significant, three factors contribute to the conclusion that this number is understated:

- (1) Not all fire departments in Colorado participate in the NFIRS. As of the date of this report, a total of 170 fire departments, which protect approximately 88% of Colorado's resident population, have submitted 2005 data to the Division of Fire Safety.
- (2) Some of the fire departments that participate in NFIRS do not report their firefighter casualties.
- (3) Some of the fire departments that participate in NFIRS do not treat certain types of reportable events, such as injuries sustained performing station duty or exposures as firefighter injuries. Thus, these are not reported.

Profile of the Colorado Fire Service

There are a reported 395 fire departments in Colorado, 245 or 62% of which are all-volunteer.

There are a reported 14,990 firefighters in Colorado, of which approximately 9,450 (63%) are volunteer and 5,540 (36%) are career.

As a result, it is estimated that the actual number of Colorado firefighters injured in the line-of-duty during 2005 could be significantly higher. However, this report examines only the actual, reported firefighter line-of-duty injuries in Colorado during 2005.

Status of Firefighter When Injury Occurred

Of the firefighters that suffered injuries during 2005, a total of 133 or 73.9% were career firefighters and 25 or 13.9% were volunteer firefighters. The status of 22 firefighters (12.2%) was not reported.

Activity at Time of Injury

Table 1 displays firefighter injuries by the activity being performed at the time the injury was sustained. It is not surprising that the largest share of injuries occur during fireground operations: 86 or 47.8% of all firefighter injuries in 2005.

¹ A total of 170 fire departments which protect approximately 88% of Colorado's resident population have submitted their 2005 NFIRS data to the Division.



Actual fire suppression activities accounted for 63 or 35.0% of all firefighter injuries. This does not include injuries sustained gaining access to or other incident scene activities, which are recorded separately.

Table 1
Activity at Time of Injury

Activity	Number	Percent of Total
Driving or Riding Vehicle	13	7.2%
Operating Fire Department Apparatus	4	2.2%
Extinguishing Fire or Neutralizing Incident	44	24.4%
Suppression Support	19	10.6%
Gaining Access or Egress	9	5.0%
EMS or Rescue	40	22.2%
Other Incident Scene Activity	13	7.2%
Station Activity	23	12.8%
Other Activity	15	8.3%
Total	180	100.0%

The activity that resulted in the next largest number of firefighter injuries in 2005 was EMS or rescue activities, which is also not surprising given the fact that EMS and rescue calls accounted for 65.6% of all incidents responded to during 2005. EMS or rescue activities accounted for 40 or 22.2 of all firefighter injuries in 2005. A total of 32 of these injuries (80%) were suffered during patient care and all but one of these injuries was identified as an exposure to hazard (i.e. blood borne pathogen, etc.).

Of the 23 injuries sustained during station activities in 2005, a total of 10 or 43.5% of these were injuries as a result of physical fitness activities.

Severity of the Injury

Firefighter injuries are recorded as to the relative severity or seriousness of the injury based on a scale ranging from "report only" to "death", according to the following coding structure and descriptions:

- 1 – Report only. Includes exposures to toxic substances or harmful physical agents through any route of entry into the body (e.g. inhalation, ingestion, skin absorption, direct contact).
- 2 – First aid only.
- 3 – Treated by physician, not a lost-time injury.
- 4 – Moderate severity, lost-time injury. There is little danger of death or permanent disability.
- 5 – Severe, lost-time injury. The situation is potentially life threatening if the condition remains uncontrolled.
- 6 – Life threatening, lost-time injury. Death is imminent; body processes and vital signs are not normal.
- 7 – Death.



Table 2 displays firefighter injuries by the severity of the injury. Of the reported firefighter injuries in 2005, only 53 or 29.4% were reported to be injuries for which there was lost time.

**Table 2
Severity of the Injury**

Severity	Number	Percent of Total
Report Only, Including Exposure	44	24.4%
First Aid Only	23	12.8%
Treated by a Physician, No Lost Time	60	33.3%
Lost Time Injury, Moderate Severity	51	28.3%
Lost Time Injury, Severe	2	1.1%
Total	180	100.0%

Primary Apparent Symptom

The primary apparent symptom in conjunction with other related information can improve the understanding of the nature and cause of firefighter injuries and can aid in improving firefighter equipment and training needs.

**Table 3
Primary Apparent Symptom**

Primary Apparent Symptom	Number	Percent of Total
Smoke or Gas Inhalation	5	2.8%
Burns (Fire, Electrical, Chemical)	12	6.7%
Wound, Cut, Bleeding, Bruise	30	16.7%
Dislocation or Fracture	8	4.4%
Strain, Sprain, Pain, Swelling, Crushing	61	33.9%
Cardiac Symptoms, Breathing Difficulty	4	2.2%
Nausea, Dehydration	2	1.1%
Electric Shock	3	1.7%
None, Including Exposure	17	9.4%
Other Symptom	21	11.7%
Undetermined	17	9.4%
Total	180	100.0%

Table 3 indicates that the major types of injuries sustained by firefighters in 2005 were strains, sprains, swelling, muscular pain, or crushing injury (33.9%). Wounds, cuts, bleeding, and bruises accounted for 16.7% of all injuries, and burns accounted for 6.7%.

During 2005, there was only 1 firefighter with reported cardiac symptoms (0.5%) and 5 that reportedly suffered smoke or gas inhalation (2.8%).



Cause of Firefighter Injury

Table 4 displays firefighter injuries by the cause of the injury. The definition of cause is the action or lack of action that directly resulted in the injury. An analysis of this information provides a better understanding of the conditions causing firefighter injuries.

Table 4
Cause of Firefighter Injury

Cause of Injury	Number	Percent of Total
Fall	14	7.8%
Slip, Trip	13	7.2%
Exposure to Hazard	54	30.0%
Struck or Assaulted By	11	6.1%
Contact with Object	19	10.6%
Overexertion/Strain	36	20.0%
Other Cause	17	9.4%
Undetermined	16	8.9%
Total	180	100.0%

Table 4 indicates that the major causes of injuries sustained by firefighters in 2005 was exposure to hazard (30%), followed by overexertion or strain (20%).

Factor Contributing to Injury

Table 5 displays firefighter injuries by the most significant factor contributing to the injury. There was no contributing factor identified for 45 (25%) of the reported injuries. Thus, only those firefighter injuries that had a contributing factor are listed (a total of 135 injuries).

Table 5
Factor Contributing to Injury

Factor Contributing	Number	Percent of Total
Collapse or Falling Object	13	9.6%
Fire Development	11	8.1%
Lost, Caught, Trapped, or Confined	2	1.5%
Holes	3	2.2%
Slippery or Uneven Surfaces	26	19.3%
Vehicle or Apparatus	11	8.1%
Hostile Acts	3	2.2%
Other Factor Contributing	36	26.7%
Undetermined	30	22.2%
Total	135	100.0%



Table 5 indicates that, for the injuries where there was a factor contributing, the most significant factor (26.7%) was something other than that listed in the NFIRS coding structure. Unfortunately, the coding of this data element as “other factor contributing” adds little to our understanding of the events causing the injury. The next highest factor contributing is “undetermined”, which accounted for 30 injuries (22.2%). However, this likewise yields no additional information on how these injuries occurred.

Slippery or uneven surfaces contributed to 26 (19.3%) of the reported firefighter injuries in 2005; a fact that helps to explain the relatively high number of strains and sprains.

Protective Equipment Failure

Information on whether firefighter equipment failed and contributed to the injury is collected through NFIRS. Of the reported firefighter injuries in 2005, there were 13 injuries (7.3%) that were at least partially caused by a failure of equipment.

Table 6 identifies the protective equipment item that failed and contributed to the 13 firefighter injuries in 2005.

Table 6
Protective Equipment Item

Protective Equipment Item	Number	Percent of Total
Head or Face Protection	3	20.0%
Coat, Shirt, or Trousers	6	40.0%
Boots or Shoes	1	6.7%
Respiratory Protection	1	6.7%
Hand Protection	3	20.0%
Special Equipment	1	6.7%
Total	15	100.0%

Table 6 indicates that there were 15 equipment items that failed and contributed to the reported 13 injuries. The most commonly reported pieces of equipment that failed and contributed to an injury were protective coats and gloves, for a total of 3 instances (20%) each.

The most predominate problem (33.3% of the instances) with equipment that caused it to fail was an object that fell in or onto the equipment item.



Improving Firefighter Safety ²

As the statistics in this report and previous reports attest, fire fighting presents great risks of personal injury to firefighters. Moreover, because of the kind of work performed and the hazards of the incident scene environment, it is unlikely that all firefighter injuries can be eliminated. A risk management system and the application of existing technology, however, can reduce present injury levels and bring about corresponding reductions in lost time, and medical costs.

The following are some examples of proactive actions taken at the local level that can reduce injury rates:

- Commitment on the part of top fire service management to reducing injuries
- Establishment of a safety committee headed by a safety officer to recommend a safety policy and the means of implementing it. The policy should include a thorough investigation of all time loss injuries
- Provision of appropriate protective equipment and a mandate to use it
- Development and enforcement of a program on the use and maintenance of SCBA
- Development and enforcement of policies on safe practices for drivers and passengers of fire apparatus
- Development of procedures to ensure response of sufficient personnel for both fire fighting and overhaul duties.
- Implementation of regular medical examinations and a physical fitness program
- Adoption and implementation of an incident management system.
- Training and education for all members related to emergency operations.
- Implementation of programs for the installation of private fire protection systems, so that fires are discovered at an earlier stage, exposing the firefighter to a less hostile environment
- Increased efforts in the area of fire safety education programs, so that citizens are made aware of measures to prevent fires and of correct reactions to the fire situation

Efforts need to be made to recognize that firefighter injuries can be reduced. By addressing the priorities listed above, fire service organizations can make significant strides towards reducing the number and impact of such injuries.

Every fire service organization needs to make a commitment to reduce firefighter injuries. Practically all of the priorities listed above are components of NFPA Standard 1500, "Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program", which provides a framework for a safety and health program. It is a good place to begin when developing programs for the reduction of firefighter injuries.

Firefighter Life Safety Initiative

On March 10, 2004, the first ever National Fire Fighter Life Safety Summit was convened in Tampa, Florida. The purpose of this unprecedented gathering was to bring the leadership of the fire service together to focus all of their attention on the troubling question of how to prevent line-of-duty deaths.

² These recommendations are excerpted from "U.S. Firefighter Injuries – 2004", published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Quincy, MA, November 2005.



The Initial Report of the Firefighter Life Safety Summit identified and provided additional background on the 16 initiatives that were formulated by the participants. The initiatives are:

1. Define and advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety; incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility.
2. Enhance the personal and organizational accountability for health and safety throughout the fire service.
3. Focus greater attention on the integration of risk management with incident management at all levels, including strategic, tactical, and planning responsibilities.
4. All firefighters must be empowered to stop unsafe practices.
5. Develop and implement national standards for training, qualifications, and certification (including regular recertification) that are equally applicable to all firefighters based on the duties they are expected to perform.
6. Develop and implement national medical and physical fitness standards that are equally applicable to all firefighters, based on the duties they are expected to perform.
7. Create a national research agenda and data collection system that relates to the initiatives.
8. Utilize available technology wherever it can produce higher levels of health and safety.
9. Thoroughly investigate all firefighter fatalities, injuries, and near misses.
10. Grant programs should support the implementation of safe practices and/or mandate safe practices as an eligibility requirement.
11. National standards for emergency response policies and procedures should be developed and championed.
12. National protocols for response to violent incidents should be developed and championed.
13. Firefighters and their families must have access to counseling and psychological support.
14. Public education must receive more resources and be championed as a critical fire and life safety program.
15. Advocacy must be strengthened for the enforcement of codes and the installation of home fire sprinklers.
16. Safety must be a primary consideration in the design of apparatus and equipment.

To obtain a copy of the Firefighter Life Safety Summit Initial Report, go to:
<http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/SummitReports.asp>



It should go without saying that if we take these steps to reduce firefighter line-of-duty deaths, we will also be addressing our firefighter injury problem. Unfortunately, the initiative that would seemingly have the greatest impact on firefighter injuries and deaths, is probably the one most difficult to institutionalize: "Define and advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety . . ."

To quote J. Gordon Routley, Project Director for the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program, "If we are going to stop killing firefighters we are going to have to stop doing things the same way we have been doing them for as long as we can remember. Small adjustments are not going to make a big difference in the firefighter death rate. The time has come to address this issue head-on and to make some serious changes."

Firefighter Safety Resources

Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program

<http://www.everyonegoeshome.com>

IAFC Stand Down For Firefighter Safety Website

<http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=307>

National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System

<http://www.firefighternearmiss.com/home.do>

Firefighter Close Calls

<http://www.FirefighterCloseCalls.com>

Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Task Force

<http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=13>

IAFF Firefighter Safety Website

<http://www.iaff.org/safe/health.html>

US Fire Administration Firefighter Health & Safety Website

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/subjects/health>

NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/>

Fire Department Safety Officers Association

<http://www.fdsoa.org/home/index.html?baseURL=true>

Fire Rescue Magazine (FireRescue1) – Firefighter Safety Section

<http://www.firerescue1.com/firefightersafety>

Firehouse Magazine – Firefighter Safety Section

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/section/content.jsp?sectionId=10>



APPENDIX
2005 NFIRS Participants by Region



2005 NFIRS Participants by Region

(Through May 14, 2006)

The Division of Fire Safety would like to acknowledge the below listed fire departments that are participating in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and have submitted their 2005 NFIRS data for inclusion in the state and national fire database.

North Central Region

Arvada Fire Department	Jackson 105 Fire Protection District
Aurora Fire Department	Jamestown Volunteer Fire Department
Bennett Fire Protection District	Kiowa Fire Protection District
Black Hawk Fire Department	Lafayette Fire Department
Boulder Rural Fire Protection District	Littleton Fire Rescue
Castle Rock Fire & Rescue Department.	Longmont Fire Department
Central City Fire Department	Lyons Fire Protection District
City of Boulder Fire Department	Nederland Fire Protection District
Coal Creek Canyon Fire Protection District	North Washington Fire Protection District
Colorado Sierra Fire Department	North Metro Fire Rescue District
Cunningham Fire Protection District	Parker Fire Protection District
Deer Trail Fire Protection District	Sable-Altura Fire Department
Denver Fire Department	Sheridan Fire Department
Edgewater Fire Department	Skyline Fire Protection District
Elizabeth Fire Protection District	South Adams County Fire Protection District
Englewood Fire Division	South Metro Fire Rescue
Fairmount Fire Protection District	Southwest Adams County Fire Department
Federal Heights Fire Department	Sugar Loaf Fire Protection District
Foothills Fire Protection District	Sunshine Fire Protection District
Franktown Fire Department	Thornton Fire Department
Genesee Fire Rescue	West Douglas County Fire Protection District
Golden Fire Department	West Metro Fire Protection District
Golden Gate Fire Protection District	Westminster Fire Department
Indian Hill Fire Rescue	Wheat Ridge Fire Department

Northeast Region

Akron Volunteer Fire Dept	Johnstown Fire Rescue
Ault-Pierce Fire Department	Julesburg Volunteer Fire Department
Berthoud Fire Protection District	La Salle Fire Protection District
Big Elk Meadows Fire Department	Livermore Fire Protection District
Brush Fire Department	Loveland Fire & Rescue (City)
Eaton Fire Protection District	Loveland Rural Fire Protection District
Estes Park Volunteer Fire Dept	Merino Fire Department
Evans Fire Department	Milliken Fire Protection District
Fort Lupton Fire Protection District	Peetz Volunteer Fire Department
Fort Morgan Fire Department	Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District
Glacier View Fire Protection District	Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department
Greater Brighton Fire Protection District	Sterling Fire Department
Haxtun Fire Department	Union Colony Fire/Rescue Authority



Hillrose Snyder Fire Department
Hugo Volunteer Fire Dept

Wellington Fire Department

Northwest Region

Artesia Volunteer Fire Department
Aspen Fire Protection District
Basalt and Rural Fire Protection District
Burning Mountain Fire Protection District
Carbondale & Rural Fire Protection District
Central Orchard Mesa Vol. Fire Department
Clifton Fire Protection District
Copper Mountain Fire Department
Eagle River Fire Protection District
East Grand County Fire Protection District
Glenwood Springs Fire Department
Grand Fire Protection District #1
Grand Junction Fire Department
Grand Lake Fire Protection District
Grand Valley Fire Protection District
Greater Eagle Fire Protection District

Kremmling Fire Protection District
Lake Dillon Fire Protection District
Lands End Fire Protection District
Lower Valley Fire Protection District
North Park Fire Rescue
North Routt Fire Protection District
Oak Creek Fire Protection District
Palisade Fire Department
Plateau Valley Fire Protection District
Rangely Rural Fire Protection District
Red, White & Blue Fire Protection District
Rio Blanco Fire Prot. Dist. (Meeker Fire Dept.)
Snake River Fire Protection District
Steamboat Springs Fire Department
West Routt Fire Protection District
Yampa Valley Regional Airport Fire Dept.

West Region

Delta County FPD #2 – Paonia FD
Delta County FPD #4 - Hotchkiss
Delta County FPD #5 - Crawford FD
Gunnison Fire Department

Log Hill Mesa Fire Protection District
Montrose Fire Protection District
Pitkin Volunteer Fire Department
Telluride Fire Protection District

South Region

Fisher's Peak Fire Protection District
Beulah Valley Volunteer Fire Department
Boncarbo Fire Department
Hoehne Fire Protection District
Huerfano County Fire Protection District
La Veta Fire Department
Pueblo Depot Chemical Activity Fire Department

Pueblo Fire Department
Pueblo Rural Fire Protection District
Rye Fire Protection District
San Isabel Volunteer Fire Fighters
Stonewall Fire Protection District
Trinidad Fire Department

South Central Region

Black Forest Fire Rescue
Chaffee County Fire Protection District
Cimarron Hills Fire Protection District
Colorado Springs Fire Department
Cripple Creek Emergency Services
Divide Fire Protection District
Donald-Wescott Fire Protection District
Ellicott Volunteer Fire Department
Falcon Fire Protection District

Hartsel Fire Protection District
Leadville Lake County Fire Rescue
Manitou Springs Fire Department
Northeast Teller County Fire Prot. Dist.
Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department
Salida Fire Department
Security Fire Protection District
South Arkansas Fire Protection District
Stratmoor Hills Fire Protection District



Florissant Fire Protection District
Fountain Fire Department
Four Mile Fire Protection District

Tri-Lakes Fire Protection District
Victor Volunteer Fire Department

San Luis Valley Region

Alamosa Fire Department
Baca Grande Volunteer Fire Dept.

Blanca Volunteer Fire Department

Southwest Region

Cortez Fire Protection District
Durango Fire Rescue Authority
Los Pinos Fire Protection District

Pagosa Fire Protection District
Pleasant View Fire Protection District
Upper Pine River Fire Protection District

Southeast Region

Eads Fire Department
Granada Volunteer Fire Department
Haswell Fire Department
La Junta Rural Fire Protection District

Lamar Fire Department
Manzanola Rural Fire Protection District
Springfield Volunteer Fire Department
Walsh Fire Department

About the Division of Fire Safety

The mission of the Division of Fire Safety is to develop solutions to fire safety-related problems in order to reduce the incidence of fire, fire-related civilian deaths, injuries, and property losses, and the subsequent effects of fire on the political, social, medical, legal and economic systems in Colorado.

To achieve this mission, the Division assists units of local government in coordinating their fire safety related activities with the responsible state or federal agencies; encourages and assists in cooperative efforts among local fire departments to solve common problems; provides technical assistance in developing solutions to local fire safety problems; serves as a clearinghouse for fire safety related information; and advises the governor and general assembly regarding the problems of fire safety in Colorado.

The Division of Fire Safety also administers several statutory programs, including: Emergency Services Responder Education and Training Program; Firefighter and EMS First Responder Certification Program; Hazardous Materials Responder Certification Program; Colorado All-Risk Incident Reporting System (National Fire Incident Reporting System); and the Colorado State Emergency Resource Mobilization Program. The Division also regulates the fire suppression system industry, the fireworks industry, and oversees fire and life safety in gaming establishments.