

West Slope Fire Marshals

May 11, 2007

Greater Eagle Fire Protection District

A meeting of the West Slope Fire Marshals Group was held on May 11, 2007, in Eagle, Colorado; hosted by the Greater Eagle Fire Protection District.

Meeting Participants

Tom Waggenlander	Greater Eagle FPD	fireprevention@eaglefiredistrict.com
Paul Cooke	Colorado State Fire Chiefs Assn.	paul@coloradofirechiefs.org
Kent Studnicka	Snowmass-Wildcat FPD	kstudnicka@swfpd.com
Carol Mulson	Eagle River FPD	cmulson@erfpd.org
Ed Van Walraven	Aspen FPD	edv@ci.aspen.co.us
Kim McDonald	Lake Dillon Fire Rescue	kmcdonald@ldfr.org
Steve Skulski	Lake Dillon Fire Rescue	sskulski@ldfr.org
Ron Biggers	Glenwood Springs FD	rbiggers@ci.glenwood-springs.co.us
Gary Gauger	Greater Eagle FPD	garygauger@juno.com
Mark Wassom	Colorado Division of Fire Safety	mark.wassom@cdps.state.co.us
Dean Smith	Colorado Division of Fire Safety	pcw@acsol.net
Frank Rudecoff	Basalt Fire Protection District	frudecoff@basaltfire.org
Gail McFarland	Eagle River FPD	gmcfarland@erfpd.org
Bill Harding	Basalt FPD	bharding@basaltfire.org
Doug Hall	Fire Marshals Assn. of Colorado	dhall@ci.westminster.co.us

Meeting Notes

Organization of West Slope Fire Marshals. There was discussion concerning organization of the West Slope Fire Marshals group and its relationship with FMAC. Carol Mulson reported that the group does not want to splinter off from FMAC, but rather to meet the needs of western slope fire marshals, many of which are one person shops, that can't afford to spend a day traveling to the front range for the FMAC meeting. It was pointed out that the group needed the same type of training sessions that are provided at FMAC meetings, but there must be another way to accomplish it.

The possibility of Colorado Mountain College as a potential host for teleconferencing with FMAC training sessions was discussed. Ron Biggers reported that SFPE is willing to do any type of training the group would like.

ICC Contractor Licensing Program. Carol Mulson reported that ICC has a Contractor Licensing Program which is available from their website.

IFC Certification Prep Course. Carol Mulson reported that FMAC is sponsoring an IFC Certification Prep Course on June 12-15, 2007 in Breckenridge. FMAC is authorized by ICC to provide training leading to ICC Fire Inspectors Certification.

Update from Last Meeting. Carol Mulson reported that the topic was put on the agenda at the request of Kevin Whelen (Rifle), but he could not be here due to the investigation of a large warehouse fire they had.

Residential Sprinklers

Residential Sprinkler Training – Carol Mulson reported that the residential sprinkler training that FMAC did at their last meeting was videotaped and she is trying to obtain copies of the DVD from FMAC.

ICC Code Hearings in Rochester. Residential sprinklers will be hotly debated. Home builders are strongly opposing moving the requirement for residential sprinklers from the IRC appendix to the body of the code. It was reported that IAFC was providing stipends to governmental voting members so they can attend the code hearings.

Public Education. There was discussion concerning the need for educating the public on the value of residential sprinklers. A regional approach was recommended along with the possibility of engaging FSEC in effort to communicate value of residential sprinklers, possibly through their Fire Prevention Week insert in the Denver Post. The need to target water purveyors for education was also discussed, as they can be a barrier to residential sprinklers. It was suggested that a major water purveyor that understood the issue (such as Scottsdale) might be of benefit in reaching the audience.

Ed Van Walraven volunteered to take the lead on the public education initiative.

NFPA/ICC Training on West Slope. Carol Mulson will be pulling together a list of available courses so the group can determine what they would like to bring out.

Fike System Presentation. Scott Mishler of American Protection Systems and Jeff Diamond of Fike Corporation made a presentation on the Fike CyberCat fire alarm system. For more information visit the Fike website at: http://www.fike.com/cybercat_products.html or contact Jeff Diamond at jeff.diamond@fike.com or Scott Mishler at 970-928-7601.

Fire Marshals of Colorado – Doug Hall, FMAC President

Doug thanked the group for allowing him the opportunity to meet with them. He expressed his concern about FMAC becoming fractured by creation of other fire marshals groups in the state, i.e. Northern Colorado Fire Marshals Group, Western Slope Fire Marshals, etc., that are not affiliated with FMAC. He wondered if this was occurring because FMAC is not doing a good job meeting the needs of its members.

There was discussion concerning the reason that the Western Slope Fire Marshals group was created. The region is dealing with significant growth issues, and they share a lot of common issues, same contractors, etc. It was expressed that the group doesn't want to splinter off from FMAC, but rather to provide a forum to meet the needs of the western slope fire marshals – many of whom can't afford to spend a day traveling to the front range for the FMAC meeting.

Doug reported that FMAC is looking at possibility of structuring along the lines of the State Fire Chiefs, with regions and regional representatives. He distributed copies of the FMAC Bylaws and Annual Report.

Residential Sprinkler Training – Doug distributed copies of the DVD from the residential sprinkler training that FMAC did at their last meeting and videotaped.

ICC Customer Service Committee. Doug serves on an ICC “customer service” committee which has the goal of making ICC more customer service friendly and addressing member needs. Anyone with concerns related to ICC customer service can contact him.

Implementation of HB 06-1158. Doug reported that FMAC recently sent a letter to Dick Piper of the Division of Oil and Public Safety regarding their inaction on implementing the provisions of last years’ School Safety Inspection Bill. FMAC will be working with the State Fire Chiefs and Division of Fire Safety to follow-up on this matter.

FMAC is looking at developing an IFC overview course for school district personnel (maintenance personnel).

Training/Plans Examiner Certification. The issue was raised concerning returning the two-day trainings coming back to western slope and providing plans examiner classes. Doug reported that at the 2008 ICC Institute in March they will have 2006 code overview and are looking at possibility of courses specific to fire alarm and sprinkler plans examiner. There was discussion of the possibility of “piloting” select courses that are to be given at the ICC Institute on the Western Slope. Doug distributed copies of the IFC Course Brochure, relating that as a Chapter, Colorado gets to host one course and he would rather not use it in conjunction with the ICC Institute.

FMAC Website. Doug reported that the FMAC website is currently being redesigned so that it is more useful and customer friendly for members.

2007 CSFCA Leadership Conference – Doug reported that FMAC is looking at breakout session on Legal Aspects of Fire Code Enforcement at the Leadership Conference. FMAC is also looking at the possibility of bringing out representatives of the Rhode Island Attorney General’s Office legal issues surrounding Station Nightclub Fire either at the conference or a standalone seminar.

IFC Certification Prep Course. Doug reported that only 9 people have signed up for course so far (anticipated 50 based on interest survey). There was discussion that Breckenridge is not very convenient for some of the western slope departments. Doug indicated that he could look into moving it, if group feels it should. It was suggested that this particular session should be left where it is, but maybe next year one could be held further west.

E-85 Coalition. Most of focus is on retail dispensing and large bulk plants. Folks are looking at manufacturing in garages.

CSFCA General Membership Meeting. Paul Cooke reported that the Next CSFCA General Membership Meeting is June 1st in Glenwood Springs. There would be a presentation on School Safety and Youth Violence Prevention with a guest speaker from Wisconsin’s Center for School, Youth and Citizen Preparedness.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the West Slope Fire Marshals group will be September 14th. Location TBD. Doug Hall will be looking into whether the FMAC board would like to hold their next board meeting in conjunction with the Western Slope Fire Marshals meeting.