

CSFCA  
COMBINATION SECTION  
FEBRUARY 20, 2009

MEETING MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 1005 by Chief Bruce Mygatt, Boulder Rural FPD. The following Departments were present: Aspen Fire FPD, Bennett Fire, Black Forest Fire-Rescue, Boulder Mountain Fire, Boulder Rural FPD, CSFCA, East Grand FPD, Eaton Fire, Estes FD, Evans Fire, Evans Finance Dept., Evergreen FR, Fairmount Fire, Federal Heights, Golden Fire Department, Grand Lake Fire, IRS, Ireland Stapleton, Johnstown FD, North Routt FPD, North Washington FPD, Oak Creek FPD, Pueblo FD, Steamboat Springs FR, Stratmoor Hills FPD, SWAC Fire, TCW Insurance, and VFIS.
2. Chief George Ditolla, SWAC FPD, welcomed us and our guests to their Headquarters Station.
3. Jerry Ward, VFIS, led our group in a five minutes safety briefing and the importance of current and accurate Personnel Manuals.
  - Should be short and concise enough to read, but long enough to cover the pertinent details and guidelines of the Department
  - Update every two to three years
  - Involve your human resource people and attorney
  - Don't make promises or expectations that you can't live up to
4. Chief Chris Riley, Pueblo FD and our President of the CSFCA, was introduced and had a short discussion with us about his goals and expectations and those of the CSFCA in 2009.
  - Chief Riley is the administrator for a very successful IAFC/CFAI sponsored Mentoring and Coaching Program.
  - He plans to present several high level leadership trainings this year and looks forward to meeting and talking with as many people as possible as he travels throughout the State.
5. Chuck Sandoval, IRS Revenue Agent in Colorado, conducted an excellent discussion on pertinent IRS-related policies, guidelines, and issues that pertain to both volunteer and career members in the Fire Service.
  - Employee vs. independent contractor stipulations
  - Volunteer Firefighters are considered employees of the Fire Department as the FD has the right to direct and control the worker performing their services.
  - "Emergency Workers" are only serving temporarily.
  - Firefighters who work on a recurring basis are not considered "emergency workers" and are therefore not exempt from Social Security and Medicare taxes.
  - You must have an Accountable Plan in order for allowances, reimbursements, and advances to be non-taxable.

- The Accountable Plan must meet three rules: be business connected, have adequate accounting, and have excess returned on a timely basis.
  - Discussion on uniforms, private and Department owned vehicle uses, and meals took place.
  - The new Section 139B Plan which describes firefighters and emergency medical responders benefits provided to volunteers was discussed.
  - There were several very good and detailed handouts provided by Chuck at our meeting. You can ask for a copy of these documents by contacting Chuck at: [Chuck.j.Sandoval@irs.gov](mailto:Chuck.j.Sandoval@irs.gov).
6. Paul Cooke, CSFCA Director, gave us an update on several activities that our Association is actively involved in.
- The current status of this year's pertinent legislation to the Fire Service was reviewed.
  - Paul can use all the help he can get from us as he almost single handedly is processing more bills at this time than he dealt with all of last year.
  - He welcomes your participation and will be glad to introduce you to the daily activities of the Legislative Session and its players. Please call Paul ahead of your visits so that he can plan to meet up with you.
  - Our next Quarterly Membership Meeting will be on Friday, March 6 at 0930 at the FEMA Region VIII Office in Lakewood. Please check our website at [www.coloradofirechief.org](http://www.coloradofirechief.org) for details and directions. RSVPs are requested for this event.
7. Many thanks to Chief George Ditolla and his crew at Southwest Adams County FPD for their hospitality and very generous snacks and lunch.

**REMINDER: OUR NEXT COMBINATION SECTION MEETING WILL BE ON FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2009 AT 1000 AT THE EVANS FIRE DEPARTMENT WITH A DISCUSSION ON OSHA STANDARDS FOR THE FIRE SERVICE.**