

COLORADO STATE FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
COMBINATION SECTION MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2009

MEETING MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order on December 3, 2009 at 1540 by Chief Bruce Mygatt, Boulder Rural FPD. The following Departments were present: Bennett FPD, Burning Mountain Fire, Boulder Mountain FPD, Boulder Rural FPD, Canon City FPD, Carbondale RFPD, Chaffee Co. FPD, East Grand FPD, Eaton Fire, Elizabeth FPD, Estes Park FPD, Evans Fire, Falcon FPD, Federal Heights Fire, Golden Fire, Jackson FPD, Johnstown FPD, Los Pinos Fire, Louisville FPD, Milliken FPD, North Routt FPD, North West FPD, Oak Creek FPD, Rifle FPD, Rock Creek Vol. FD, Routt County OEM, Steamboat Fire Rescue, Upper Pine River FPD, VFIS of Colorado, and Windsor-Severance Fire.
2. The goal of our annual check-in meeting was to create a learning opportunity for each department present to discuss what they have been working on over the last year, identify what has worked, what has not worked, and projects they have planned for the coming year. It is our hope that other organizations with similar challenges will benefit from these discussions.
3. Each member present was also asked to suggest future meeting discussion topics and to recommend speakers for our future meetings. Leading topics mentioned were ISO, Non-Entry Firefighter Academy, Loans and Grants, CML and SDA discussions, Consolidations and Mergers, Budget Cuts, Personnel and Legal Issues with Dino Ross, State Training Certification and Firefighter Fitness and Wellness. In January a group will meet to discuss our 2010 meeting topics, speakers and locations. If you would like to participate in this annual event, please contact me by January 18, 2010.
4. In my effort to coordinate the meeting, attempt to record each Departments comments, and to write faster than some people communicate, I am sure I failed to record all of the comments. Please accept my apology if I misinterpreted your comments or totally missed others.
 - Northwest Fire – Experiencing the aftermath of an ISO evaluation.
 - Boulder Mountain Fire – ISO evaluation with good outcome, Mitigation crews dealing with beetle kill and assisting on First Response on daytime calls.
 - Steamboat Springs Fire – New Chief settling in, Welcome! Grants to assist with beetle kill and mitigation, air quality issues, working within budget cuts, in-house training programs, 800 MGH working well.
 - Upper Pine Fire – ISO evaluation, new part time members.

- Jackson 105 Fire – New part-time members, looking for a Firefighter “Lite” Academy for non- entry members.
- Elizabeth Fire – Successful mill levy election, part time paid paramedics to fill void.
- Estes Park Fire - New Fire Protection District status, mostly volunteers, initiated LOSAP, survived major downtown fire.
- North Routt Fire – Looking at grants for volunteer fire departments. How to retain volunteers.
- Oak Creek Fire – Hired a Training Officer, grant from USFS to complete CWPP, received good return on wildland call-outs, station additions, started residential program, personnel issues between volunteers and career members, has a good PowerPoint presentation to manage a Combination Department.
- Bennett Fire – Working on maintaining high morale with all embers.
- East Grand County Fire – Health insurance for volunteers, beetle kill management a major concern, air quality control issues.
- VFIS – Volunteer health insurance, diversity issues.
- Chaffee County Fire – Exploring consolidation opportunities, 5th station opened, paid for call of dollars for volunteers, added a Training Officer and new firefighters, USFS grants, possible new combined public safety building.
- Golden Fire – Volunteer recruiting and retention greatly improved with the addition of a new Coordinator, adjusted shift assignments to improve response, dealing with Combination Department training challenges.
- Louisville Fire – Mostly volunteer, added new career members and ALS Transport, updating strategic plans, goals and objectives, out-reach to community and better connections with customers.
- Burning Mountain Fire – All volunteer, starting 911 transport program.
- Carbondale Fire – Working on EMS –Fire issues.
- Rifle Fire – Practicing flexible needs of up and down economy, all volunteers on shifts, new Deputy Chief and station, good company officer training program, very active CPAT and Fitness programs. All members trained to similar levels with new training programs.

- Grand Valley Fire – Growth opportunities, updating facilities preparing for economy slowdown and decreased revenues, preparing to deal with Combination Department culture and legal issues, wants to add diversity to membership, stipends to volunteers.
 - Federal Heights Fire – All sales tax funded, part of a municipal revenue sharing system, potential tax on admission fees at city events.
 - Pueblo Fire – Downturn in sales tax collection affecting Fire Department programs, very successful grant awards for new stations, Billy Goldfeather plus many other quality speakers coming in 2010, anxious to help other departments with Accreditation and Chief Officer programs.
 - Falcon Fire – Working with neighboring Departments on joint projects, i.e. ISO, upgrading from all volunteer to a Combination Department, difficult transition. CPAT and Fitness programs, new station planned.
 - Milliken Fire – Young department, new culture and morale challenges for new Fire Chief, Welcome!, working on new Automatic Mutual Aid Agreements, exploring closer relationships with Johnstown Fire.
 - Johnstown Fire – All volunteer, lots of growing and learning opportunities, small commercial and residential-based system.
 - Eaton Fire – Single station with combination membership, culture changing, working on retaining members, acquisition of Quint helped raise morale along with in-house training programs, lots of new non-local members, all respond from on-duty shifts, looking to add two engineers on duty seven-days twenty-four hours.
 - Evans Fire – Work hard to retain trained volunteers, switching to all on-duty shift response, hope to be awarded Safer Grant, aware of grant money downsides, free money is not free!
 - Boulder Rural Fire – Strong combination system, seamless environment between all members, exploring sharing resources with neighboring Departments, very good results from two significant ESCi studies promoting mergers, hoping to establish a multi-Department Training Davison with neighbors, finally a new station is on its way.
5. Thanks to all of you for your support and participation in the IAFC, VCOS, CSFCA and the Combination Section in 2009. We look forward to new and exciting opportunities and activities with you all in 2010. Our 2010 meeting schedule will be announced in early February with our first meeting on Friday, February 19, 2010.