

Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association Member Update

November 26, 2008

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Thanksgiving Message from CSFCA President Dave Parmley

Each year on Thanksgiving, we gather with family and friends, neighbors and colleagues, to give thanks for all that we have and all that has been given to us. Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the events of the past year, remembering those who are no longer with us and celebrating the new lives and additions with which we are blessed. It is a time to look forward to new challenges and opportunities.



CSFCA President Dave Parmley
Fire Chief, Lake Dillon Fire Rescue

This Thanksgiving our nation is dealing with a serious financial crisis. Over the past several weeks, we have witnessed fast-moving events involving complicated financial issues that affect us all, individually and collectively. Yet, during these extraordinary times, we find particular assurance from our Thanksgiving tradition which reminds us that we always have reason to hope and trust and give thanks for all that we do have.

While Thanksgiving is a time to gather in a spirit of gratitude with family and friends, it is also an opportunity to give thanks to those whose service to our communities, state and nation prevents them from spending this time with their families.

We express our gratitude to our dedicated firefighters, EMS and law enforcement personnel, and others who will be spending this Thanksgiving away from their families – helping to keep the citizens of their communities safe. We also give thanks to the members of our Armed Forces who are serving around the world to secure our country and advance the cause of freedom, and their families for their sacrifice.

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Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association ■ 9195 East Mineral Avenue ■ Centennial, Colorado 80112

Phone: (720) 874-8116 ■ Fax: (720) 862- 2181

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3945 ■ Englewood, Colorado 80155

www.colofirechiefs.org

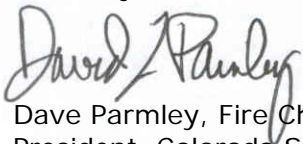
Thanksgiving Message from CSFCA President Dave Parmley

(from page 1)

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association and my family, I wish you and yours a safe and happy Thanksgiving. I encourage each of you to take time to reflect on those fortunes you possess in your life: family, friends, health, and love. In a constantly changing world and economy it is these things that never lose value.

This Thanksgiving, may we reflect upon the past year with gratefulness and look toward the future with hope. Even in the midst of the daunting challenges we face as a people and a nation, we indeed have much to be thankful for.

Sincerely,



Dave Parmley, Fire Chief, Lake Dillon Fire Rescue
President, Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association

Register Now to attend the 17th Annual Fire Leadership Challenge

The 17th Annual Fire Leadership Challenge will take place on December 4-6, 2008 at the Beaver Run Resort in Breckenridge, bringing together more than 400 fire service leaders from around the state and nation.



Sponsored by the Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association, this conference will provide valuable training and insight into the leadership challenges that every chief officer, command officer and firefighter needs to prepare for.

The theme of the conference this year will be "Changing Our Culture: Safeguarding Our Most Valuable Asset – Our Firefighters." This theme will build upon the findings of the 2007 National Firefighter Life Safety Summit related to the need to change the culture of the fire service if we are to make significant improvements in firefighter health and safety. Keynote speakers and presenters for this year's conference include J. Gordon Routley, Ronny Coleman, I. David Daniels, Rocco Forte' and Ed Buchanan.

The full schedule for the 2008 FLC has been posted on the conference website at:
<http://www.colofirechiefs.org/docs/2008FLCSCHEDULE.pdf>.

This year, 70+ vendors have registered to showcase the latest products, services, tools and innovations to help fire departments perform at top efficiency. A list of the vendors that have registered – several of them new to the conference this year – go to:
http://www.colofirechiefs.org/docs/2008_FLC_Vendors.pdf.

For more information call (720) 874-8117 or go to the Leadership Challenge Website at:
www.colofirechiefs.org/LeadershipChallenge.htm.

Company Officers - Are you Ready to take on the Next Challenge?

Then register to attend the Company Officer Leadership Symposium - Level II, presented in conjunction with the Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association's 2008 Fire Leadership Challenge in Breckenridge, Colorado - December 2-4, 2008.



The CSFCA is proud to have partnered with the IAFC to expand our educational opportunities to include 2-1/2 days of education for company officers during the Company Officer Leadership Symposium – Level II to be held in conjunction with the 17th Annual Leadership Conference. The IAFC's Company Officer Leadership Program (COLP) is to support professional growth, teach successor development and encourage networking among current and potential fire service officers through quality, timely and relevant education programs and opportunities.

Through this program discover new ways to protect your firefighters, handle personnel issues and do your job more effectively. The IAFC has put together a comprehensive program with the tools, tips and strategies necessary for today's company officers. Take home new and innovative ideas to improve your department and enhance your career.

The Company Officer Leadership Symposium – Level II offers education and networking that no other conference offers. Learn from the leaders in the fire service such as:

- Gary Briese, FEMA Region VIII Administrator and former Executive Director of IAFC
- Kelvin J. Cochran, Fire Chief, Atlanta Fire Rescue
- Kevin Brame, Deputy Fire Chief, North Las Vegas
- Jeffrey L. Boone, MD, MS, Co-director, NFL Player Care Foundation Cardiovascular Program

You will also have the opportunity to connect with both company and chief officers from around the country and share ideas and solutions which can improve your daily operations.

This program is a great opportunity for professional growth that will allow you to stay on top of current hot topics, enhance your leadership skills as a company officer and bring back new ideas that can help your department.

Also, upon completion of the IAFC's Company Officer Leadership Program you will receive a certificate of completion which will enhance your resume and better prepare you for your next promotional assessment.

For those that completed the Company Officer Leadership Symposium – Level I at FRI 2008 in Denver, this is a great opportunity to not only save money, but complete the program in less time. Take the Company Officer Leadership Symposium – Level II in Breckenridge and Level III at FRI 2009 in Dallas!

This program is presented by the Colorado State Fire Chiefs Association (CSFCA) and presented in partnership with the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). To download flyer and registration form, go to: <http://www.colofirechiefs.org/events/2008CompanyOfficer.pdf>.

NIOSH Firefighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program Releases New Reports

November 21, 2008– The NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program has recently released the following Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation Reports:

Four Career Fire Fighters Injured While Providing Interior Exposure Protection at a Row House Fire – District of Columbia (F2007-35, Oct 29, 2007)

Summary

On October 29, 2007, four male career fire fighters ranging in ages from 23 to 38 years were injured while providing interior exposure protection at a residential row house fire. The victims had advanced a 1 ½-inch handline up to the second floor of the exposure building where they encountered heavy smoke and fire in a room in the back of the structure.

Fire fighting and search activities commenced and shortly thereafter and without warning, the fire progressed up the stairwell from the first floor and up the exterior back wall temporarily trapping the victims. All four victims retreated down the stairwell and out of the building where they were met by other fire fighters who provided assistance. Each of the victims suffered burn injuries.



Incident Scene

NIOSH investigators concluded that, to minimize the risk of similar occurrences, fire departments should:

- ensure adequate size-up, including in exposure buildings, to reduce the risk of fire fighters being trapped
- ensure that fire fighters are trained on the hazards of operating on the floor above the fire without a charged hoseline, and to follow associated standard operating guidelines (SOGs)
- ensure ventilation is coordinated with the interior attack
- provide fire fighters with station/work uniforms (e.g., pants and shirts) that are compliant with NFPA 1975 and ensure the use and proper care of these garments
- ensure that fire fighters are trained on initiating Mayday radio transmissions immediately when they are in distress, and/or become lost or trapped

Although the following does not appear to have been a contributing factor in the injuries resulting from this incident, NIOSH recommends that as a good safety practice, fire departments should

- ensure all fire fighting personal protective equipment ensembles meet NFPA 1971 and are cleaned and maintained according to NFPA 1851

For a copy of the complete report, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200735.html>.

Career Fire Fighter Dies and Captain is Injured During a Civilian Rescue Attempt at a Residential Structure Fire – Georgia (F2007-16, May 28, 2007)

Summary

On May 28, 2007, a 41-year-old male career fire fighter (the victim) died after becoming disoriented and falling down a set of stairs while searching for a missing male occupant at a residential structure fire. A fire captain also received second degree burns resulting in lost-time from work. Both the victim and the captain were members of the first-responding fast attack engine company. After becoming disoriented, they were trapped and missing for several minutes before being found. The fire was reported at approximately 0449 hours. The first arriving fire fighters, including the victim, arrived on the scene at 0459 hours and were on-scene 13 minutes when the first mayday was called. The male resident also perished in the fire.

NIOSH investigators concluded that, in order to minimize the risk of similar occurrences, fire departments should:

- ensure that their response to structure fires provides adequate numbers of staff and apparatus to immediately respond to emergency incidents and is in accordance with recommended guidelines
- ensure that the first arriving fire unit conducts an initial size-up that includes as much information as possible to develop a quick initial plan for rescue and fire fighting strategy and tactics
- ensure that fire fighters are trained in SCBA emergency procedures and fire fighter emergency communications
- ensure that interior conditions are communicated to the Incident Commander (IC) on a regular and timely basis
- ensure that an Incident Safety Officer (ISO) is established at structure fires
- ensure that a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) is established and available
- ensure that the Incident Commander does not become directly involved in fire fighting efforts
- ensure that the Incident Commander maintains close accountability for all personnel operating on the fireground and that procedures and training for the use of a personnel accountability report (PAR) are in place
- ensure that all fire fighters wear a full array of turnout clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriate for the assigned task while participating in fire suppression and overhaul activities
- ensure that department policies and procedures for proper inspection, use, and maintenance of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) are followed to ensure they function properly when needed

Additionally, manufacturers, equipment designers, and researchers should:

- continue to develop and refine durable, easy-to-use systems to enhance verbal and radio communication in conjunction with properly worn SCBA
- continue to pursue emerging technologies for evaluating and monitoring the stability of buildings exposed to fireground conditions

Additionally, municipalities should:

- take into consideration the impact community secession and annexation can have on emergency services response, and should ensure resources are provided to support an appropriate level of community service and responder safety

For a copy of the complete report, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200716.html>.

A Volunteer Mutual Aid Captain and Fire Fighter Die in a Remodeled Residential Structure Fire - Texas (F2007-29, March 28, 2008)

Summary

On August 3, 2007, a 19 year-old male fire fighter (victim #1) and a 42 year-old male Captain (victim #2) responding from the same volunteer mutual aid department were fatally injured during a residential structure fire. At 0136 hours, dispatch reported a residential structure fire. While enroute, the fire district's Assistant Chief requested mutual aid from two neighboring departments due to dispatch updating the report to a fully involved structure fire.

At 0150 hours, the Assistant Chief (Incident Commander) arrived on scene with four other fire fighters in an engine. At 0151 hours, the first interior attack crew entered the structure with flames visible in the foyer. At 0213 hours, the initial attack crew briefed a new interior attack crew (the victims) from the second mutual aid department on the location of a few hot spots to be knocked down and the presence of light smoke. At 0216 hours, the IC requested ventilation. Horizontal and vertical ventilation was conducted and a powered positive pressure ventilation fan was utilized at the front door but little smoke was pushed out. Minutes later, heavy dark smoke pushed out of the front door. The IC made several attempts to radio the interior attack crew with no response.

Approximately 21 minutes after entry, an evacuation horn was sounded. A three member RIT team made entry and located one of the victims, but was unable to fully extricate him. Ultimately, several RIT teams were necessary to recover the victims. At 0237 hours, victim #1 was brought out. At 0248 hours, victim #2 was brought out. Both victims died of smoke inhalation and thermal injuries.

NIOSH investigators concluded that, to minimize the risk of similar occurrences, fire departments should:

- ensure that fire fighters are equipped with a radio, trained on proper radio discipline, and trained on how to initiate emergency traffic when in distress
- ensure that the IC conducts a risk-versus-gain analysis prior to committing to interior operations and continues the assessment throughout the operations
- ensure that fireground accountability is established via an Incident Command System
- ensure that proper ventilation is done to improve interior conditions and is coordinated with the interior attack
- ensure that a Rapid Intervention Team is staged and ready to initiate rescue efforts, and that team members have been trained in RIT tactics
- ensure that periodic mutual aid training is conducted

For a copy of the complete report, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200729.html>.

For more information about the NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/default.html>.

NIOSH Releases Results of National Survey of Fire Departments

NIOSH has released a report of findings from its national survey of U.S. fire departments. The goal of the study was to evaluate the impact of the NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program (FFFIPP) by engaging fire departments and frontline fire fighters across the U.S., in measuring the effects of NIOSH's investigation reports, recommendations and other documents on the knowledge, behavior, attitudes and safety practices of fire departments and fire fighters.

Key findings from the evaluation are that (1) small, volunteer departments have the greatest challenges to following safety guidelines; (2) existing resources limit safety practices; (3) gaps in knowledge and attitudes limit safety; (4) FFFIPP reports provide useful information but fire departments need additional information and in additional formats; (5) FFFIPP materials need to be better marketed and distributed; and (6) increasing awareness of FFFIPP investigations likely will improve safety practices.

To download the report "Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program (FFFIPP): Findings from a National Evaluation" go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/NIOSH/FIRE/spotlight.html>.

Safety Concerns Raised by the Firefighting Community Regarding High-Visibility Safety Apparel Result in Modification to Vest Rule

November 21, 2008 – The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) today issued an Interim Final Rule to address safety concerns raised by the firefighting community regarding high-visibility safety apparel (see Worker Visibility Final Rule - 23 CFR Part 634, below).

The Interim Final Rule:

- Revises the definition of "worker" to exclude firefighters when they are exposed to flame, fire, high heat or hazardous materials.
- Exempts firefighters from the requirement to use high-visibility safety apparel, as defined in this rule, when they are exposed to hazardous conditions where the use of such apparel may increase the risk of injury to firefighter personnel.

The Interim Final Rule is available at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-27671.htm>

Worker Visibility Final Rule - 23 CFR Part 634

A new FHWA regulation ([Worker Visibility Final Rule - 23 CFR Part 634](#)) that goes into effect on November 24, 2008 requires firefighters and other first responders responding to or working at an incident on federally funded highways to wear a retro reflective safety vest that meets the Class II or III standards of the *American National Standards Institute/International Safety Equipment Association (ANSI/ISEA) 107-2004* publication. The *ANSI/ISEA 207-2006 Public Safety Vest* standard has also been interpreted as meeting this requirement. For more information, visit ResponderSafety.com.

Three Die in Early Morning Springfield Fire

By Anthony Mestas, Pueblo Chieftain
November 21, 2008

Springfield - Three people died Friday in an early morning fire that broke out at a local restaurant.

Baca County emergency officials said the blaze broke out at 2 a.m. and destroyed the business, Hometown Burritos, at 1001 Colorado St.

The names and ages of the three victims have not been released. Authorities say it may take a long period of time to identify the bodies.

The fire also destroyed an attached residence in which a family had been living.

Baca County Coroner Robert Morrow initially confirmed that two people had died in the blaze, but reported the third fatality shortly before noon Friday. He did not estimate when the victims' identities would be established.

Morrow said he was awaiting assistance before entering the scene to determine identities.

Chris Sorensen, a spokesman for Baca County, said one person, whose name has not been released, was able to escape from the blaze. Emergency crews treated and released that person at scene for possible smoke inhalation.

No firefighters were injured, however, one truck received some damage.

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation is on the scene and has not determined the cause of the fire.

Springfield fire and emergency media services were called to the scene, and later requested assistance from fire departments in Walsh, Prichett, Campo, Two Buttes, as well as Prowers Rural Fire. Flight for Life from Pueblo also was requested, but did not transport anyone from the scene.

The fire was contained by 8 a.m. Fire crews remained on scene to mop up hot spots.

The Springfield Police Department and Baca County Coroner's Office also are assisting with the investigation.

An area one block north and south of the fire temporarily was evacuated, but residents have been allowed to return to their homes.

Betty Abshire, who lives one block away, said her family was awakened by a phone call from emergency officials at about 2 a.m., informing them that they were not in danger and that they probably would be smelling smoke.

"They told us not to call 911. My husband and son then went to the scene to see if they could help," Abshire said.



Home Town Burrito restaurant fire (Special to KOAA TV, Courtesy Gloria Jean)

"We looked out the window and you could just see the smoke billowing. My husband described large flames engulfing the building and coming out the side of the front end of the eating side."

Abshire said that her son gathered several residents near the blaze to help put out embers around the area.

The building used to be Jetts Lumber and was turned into a patio Mexican restaurant a couple years ago.

"The building as it was doesn't exist anymore. The building is completely gone and there is just a chimney still standing in the middle," Sorensen said.

Springfield is located in the southeast corner of Colorado near the Kansas and Oklahoma borders, and has a population of approximately 2,500.

Update: Officials Identify Victims of Springfield Fire

Mother, Father and Son Died As a Blaze Engulfed a Restaurant

By Anthony A. Mestas, Pueblo Chieftain
November 23, 2008

Springfield – A mother, father and their 17-year-old son were identified Saturday as the family that lost their lives in an early morning fire at a local restaurant here Friday.

The victims were identified as Rocky Saldana, 56, his wife Pamela, 47, and their son Jazz, 17.

The family owned and operated Hometown Burritos, at 1001 Colorado St. The wooden building was engulfed in flames at about 2 a.m. Friday, and was completely destroyed in the fire.

The family along with Pamela's mother, Sharon Jones, had been living in a connected residence.

Jones was able to escape from the blaze. Emergency crews treated and released her at the scene for possible smoke inhalation.

Chris Sorensen, a spokesman for Baca County, said the family was in the residential area of the building when the fire broke out.

"We don't have any other information right now, but given the time of night, the family possibly could have been asleep when the fire ignited," Sorensen said.

The couple also owned the town's movie theater, and were well-known throughout the farming and cattle ranching community of about 1,500.

Penny Self, editor and publisher of the local newspaper, the Plainsman Herald, said that they were a happy family.

"I was more acquainted with Pam. I did a lot of business with her through the newspaper. They all were always pleasant people. Pam always, always, had a smile on her face and she was always the most cheerful person. If she was having a bad day, you wouldn't know it," Self said.

She said Pam was originally from Springfield and had moved back after living with Rocky for some time in Pueblo.

Leadville Mountain Diggings: A Brief History of the Leadville Fire Department

By James Michael Cole, Special to Leadville Chronicle
November 19, 2008

The history of Leadville's fire fighters begins with the inauguration of H. A. W. Tabor's volunteers in late 1877. The only supplies these men had were two horse-drawn hose carts and a hand pumper. Tabor stored this equipment in a garage at 120 East Third St., and his brigade consisted of a few hand-picked volunteers, augmented by able bodied men at the scene.

In June of 1878, Edwin Harrison's fire station was completed at 120 East Second St. and June 24, 1878, marks the first recorded history of Leadville's fire brigades, the institution of the Harrison Hook and Ladder Company Number 1. The station was constructed entirely of wood and its only alarm system was the bell tower. In a futile attempt to simplify matters, the foremen of both companies met and decided to centralize their equipment at the station on August 1 of that year. The only mistake made was that they also agreed to remain as two separate units. During the year that followed, many disputes surfaced as to which unit would cover what territory and whether or not the men could use each other's equipment. These disputes were nearly disastrous to those places in town which neither unit would cover and the people in the covered areas found themselves caught in these arguments, which was nearly as dangerous.

Seeing the futility of the situation, William Bush, Tabor's closest associate, opened his own station at 130 West Fourth St., hoping to settle some of the problems. Instead, the triad became a catalytic organization and competition seemed to be the only answer. Now, when the alarm bell rang, each company would race to the scene in an attempt to display their abilities. Needless to say, fires became a very popular spectator sport, and the brigades were rapidly becoming famous. This, in turn, brought forth politics in fire fighting, thus paving the way for John Humphrey, the incumbent mayor, to start his brigade as a bid for reelection. Humphrey kept his brigade even though he lost the election, thus making the competition fierce.

During the next two years, fires became even more popular and if one didn't start, someone started it just to see the action. The brigades became even more colorful and pageants and parades became the order of the day.

The era of Leadville's "Volunteers" ended on a tragic note when early in the morning on May 22, 1882, a fire started down near Chestnut Street. By the time the alarm was sounded and the men arrived at the scene, the fire was raging out of control. Before it could be contained, nearly the entire block lay in ruins and an unknown number of people were dead. Shocked by the tragedy, the town council held an emergency meeting at midnight and by dawn had appropriated funds for a city fire department.

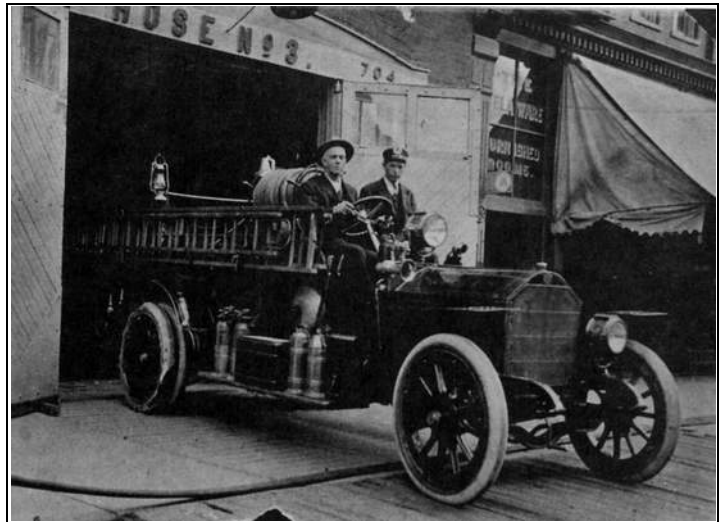


Photo courtesy of the Colorado Mountain History Collection.

On May 23, 1882, Tabor's equipment was moved to the new building on Harrison, and all the rest was consolidated at the main station on Second Street. The elections of 1883 presented the new post of fire marshal which was filled by Herman Kantzler. Kantzler's first move was to switch the brunt of the equipment to the new station while leaving only the office and an auxiliary unit on Second Street. He then used funds remaining to purchase four specially trained fire horses from Chicago. The horses, two black and two white, were quartered in respective corners of the station and when the alarm bell sounded, responded by pulling the equipment to the alarm box named by the bell code.

From this point, things moved along smoothly until 1896. At that time there was much dissent in Leadville and the miners were striking due to poor working conditions and little pay. Early one morning, the miners set fire to the Coronado Mine on Fryer Road between Sixth and Seventh Streets. The alarm was sounded and the hose company answered, led by Jeremiah O'Keefe, the duty foreman of the station.

O'Keefe had been with the department since its beginning and had lost his hearing during these 14 years of service. Undaunted by the strike and unable to hear the threats of the miners, O'Keefe went straight to work rigging his hoses. One of the men purportedly yelled to O'Keefe that he'd be a dead man if he turned on the water, which he did, and was shot to death. The department then built a station near the site in his memory, and Hose Company Number Four served the Fryer Hill Mining District until its untimely demise in 1899.

In 1905 the town officially retired the Second Street station and all of the equipment found its way to 704 Harrison Avenue.

Modernization began in 1913 with the arrival of a brand new, motorized American LaFrance fire engine. The installation of this engine caused the floor to sag, so the city had it replaced. When this engine finally wore out, the town ordered a new Ford which was custom built by the Howe Equipment Company of Anderson, Indiana.

James Michael Cole, a Colorado Mountain College student, was the winner of the 1973 Historical Essay Contest, sponsored by the Lake County Civic Center Association. This article is an excerpt from his winning essay.

Mother Found Guilty In Children's Burning Deaths

Dennis Huspeni and Carlyn Ray Mitchell, Colorado Springs Gazette
November 24, 2008

After three hours deliberation, a jury Monday convicted Deborah Nicholls of killing her three children in a fire at the family home nearly six years ago.

Jurors got the first-degree murder case against Nicholls Monday afternoon after more than six weeks of listening to testimony, viewing hundreds of pieces of evidence and hearing attorneys argue.

Nicholls, 41, was convicted of 14 of 15 felony charges in connection with the March 7, 2003, deaths of Jay, 11, Sophia, 5, and Sierra, 3. The only not guilty verdict was on a cocaine possession charge.

The defense plans to appeal, said Deputy Public Defender Jeff Schwartz.

"There was just a lot of pieces that came together," said Senior Deputy District Attorney Jeff Lindsey after the verdict. "We argued that everything together fits. You can't rely on one single piece (of evidence), you have to rely on it all together."

Prosecutors presented evidence showing Timothy and Deborah Nicholls were on the brink of financial ruin, addicted to methamphetamine, and cooked up the arson plot to defraud their insurance company. They doused the furniture with a highly flammable cleaning solution then had the children sit on the furniture before Tim Nicholls torched the house, according to prosecutors.

Nicholls' defense attorneys maintained the fire was a tragic accident, Nicholls had nothing to do with it and that she loved her children.

Much of the same evidence and witness testimony used in Tim Nicholls' trial was repeated in his wife's trial, which Lindsey said was helpful to his team in preparing to prosecute Deborah Nicholls.

"It kind of leveled the playing field, so to speak," Lindsey said.

Sitting in the courtroom waiting for the verdict, Deborah Nicholls breathed deeply while Deputy Public Defender Cindy Jones rubbed her back. Her mother, Sandra Wilson, was hyperventilating when she entered the courtroom to hear her daughter's fate.

The family declined to speak to the media afterward, with one of them saying they will make a statement at the sentencing hearing on Dec 3. Nicholls will be sentenced to life in prison without parole.

"People who commit a cold-blooded act feel nothing for those they have made suffer," said Assistant District Attorney Amy Mullaney during her closing arguments Monday.

"And these children did suffer."

Deputy Public Defender Cindy Jones told jurors that prosecutors had not presented a shred of physical evidence to tie Deborah Nicholls to the fire, and they were trying to get a conviction based on how she acted after the fire.

"They're saying 'We're not sure we like the way she reacted and her demeanor didn't seem appropriate,'" Jones said during her almost two-hour closing arguments. "That's not what we're here to decide. That's not evidence of anything."

Mullaney pointed jurors to Deborah Nicholls' writings from late 2002, found by investigators on her computer. When talking about her methamphetamine use, Nicholls wrote: "This is where I think the scaryness (sic) and the road to insaneville (sic) lies."

All Nicholls was concerned about after the fire was getting more money, Mullaney said. She got \$6,500 from American Family Insurance within days of the fire, and the community raised more than \$38,000 in three months for the children's memorial fund.

"That wasn't enough," Mullaney said. "It's all about the money."

While Mullaney told jurors the people were not asking for a conviction because Deborah Nicholls did not grieve hard enough, she said facts like not going to the children's funeral and laughing and joking just days after the fire were clues to what she was thinking and feeling.

"It's difficult to act like you're grieving if you don't feel it," Mullaney said.

Jones said Nicholls chose to do her grieving in private, not in front of investigators. There was no evidence presented of any drug debts, and Nicholls wasn't even there when the fire started, Jones argued.

"The evidence is just not there," Jones said. "These kids were her peace, passion and joy."

Lindsey admitted to jurors there was no "smoking gun" and still many unanswered questions - like exactly how the fire started.

"The road to 'insaneville' was walked by Timothy and Deborah Nicholls," Lindsey said.

"Today is the day," he urged jurors. "The considerations guiding you are the whispers of justice. So listen closely and find her guilty."

Deborah Nicholls, unlike her husband, chose not to take the stand in her defense. Timothy Nicholls was convicted in May 2007 of three counts of felony murder and is serving three life sentences.

The jury in his case deliberated for more than 30 hours over five days.

CSU Lab Maps Strategies for Fighting Wildfires

By Monte Whaley, Denver Post
November 23, 2008

Two Colorado State University researchers have written a playbook that fire agencies can use to effectively attack the massive wildfires that plague the country, particularly in the western United States.

Starfire — or Strategic Treatment Assessment Response Spectrum and Fire — is the first comprehensive guide to battling wildfires in national forests and other large areas, said Doug Rideout, one of the researchers.

Until now, local and state fire agencies have relied on hunches and past experience to guide them in placing resources for wildfire management.

Now they can consult the guidebook to manage the fires more efficiently and effectively, Rideout said.

"This is like a football game when it's fourth down and two yards to go in the fourth quarter for a winning touchdown," Rideout said. "This will give you a good solid choice of what play to call."



Firefighters spray water on a burning house in Montecito, Calif., late Thursday, Nov 13, 2008. The wind-whipped wildfire destroyed some 80 homes, injured at least four people and forced thousands to evacuate the posh community near Santa Barbara. (AP | Afton Almaraz)

Rideout and Yu Wei from CSU's Fire Economics and Management Laboratory have worked closely with the National Park Service over the past two years to produce Starfire. The program plays into federal goals of fighting fires that threaten life and property while letting fires burn that play a natural role in a forest ecosystem, Rideout said.

Nationally, federal agencies spend more than \$3 billion annually to fight wildfires.

"Starfire quantifies the risks and benefits of wildfires, enabling agencies to make more confident decisions," Rideout said.

In some situations, overly aggressive fire suppression has encouraged degradation of local ecosystems, beetle infestations and the growth of fuels that could lead to even bigger fires.

Starfire, Wei said, can help fire managers analyze factors contributing to wildfires, including fire behavior, plant species, fuels, ecosystem benefits and losses, and historic weather data as well as property and real-estate development.

Once the data surrounding a fire is compiled and assessed, maps are produced to help agencies make decisions.

"Starfire is primarily designed to provide strategic-level fire risk and benefits information used in long-term fire management and planning," Wei said. "However, after a lightning strike causes a fire, managers can also use it to do a quick prediction of the potential consequences of the specific fire."

Starfire was developed and tested at the Tehipite wildfire in Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks in California this summer. It is set for wider deployment at Yellowstone National Park next year.

Three Finalists for Loveland Fire Chief Job Will Visit Next Month

By Jon Pilsner, Loveland Reporter-Herald
November 21, 2008

The search for a new Loveland Fire and Rescue chief has entered the final stages, with the city narrowing its choices to three candidates — two of whom are fire chiefs in other states.

Randy Mirowski, battalion chief with Poudre Fire Authority in Fort Collins; Dave Bierwiler, fire chief in Medford, Ore.; and James Woydziak, chief of the Nampa, Idaho, Fire Department, will interview for the position Dec. 2 and 3.



From left: Randy Mirowski, Dave Bierwiler and James Woydziak.

City Manager Don Williams previously said he plans to hire a new chief before the end of the year.

The search for a new chief began after Mike Chard suddenly resigned at the beginning of August.

The city received 48 applications for the open position, interviewed 16 candidates by phone and gave them written exercises.

Merlin Green, the city's emergency manager, has been acting fire chief since Chard resigned.

Here's a quick look at the three finalists for the position:

James Woydziak

Current position: Fire chief, Nampa Fire Department in Nampa, Idaho — a department that covers 84 square miles and serves about 100,000 residents with five fire stations.

Job history: Chief in Nampa since July 2005; fire chief of the Manhattan, Kan., Fire Department from October 2000 to July 2005; fire chief of the Emporia, Kan., Fire Department from 1990 to 2000.

What he brings: Woydziak (WAY-jack) said his goal for both his current and previous departments has been to give his employees the ability to do their jobs without micro-managing them, but also encouraging cooperation and collaboration in the departments.

"I'm big on teamwork, and I enjoy that aspect of it. It would be something I would want to continue at Loveland," he said. "The fire chief doesn't drive the trucks, so he shouldn't be the only one making the decision about what to buy. But, he should participate in it with the people who are going to be using the trucks."

Why he's a good candidate: Because he's done a lot of things in his time in emergency services, he considers himself a well-rounded leader and encourages cooperation among a variety of diverse groups.

"I can handle a more diverse situation than just a straightforward position," he said. "If things need to be adapted, then we can come up with a plan to adapt them and work with our organization."

Randy Mirowski

Current position: Battalion chief in charge of special operations, Poudre Fire Authority, Fort Collins.

Job history: Has been with Poudre Fire since March 1982; Loveland Fire Department engineer and driver from October 1979 to March 1982.

What he brings: Mirowski began as a Loveland Fire and Rescue volunteer and has been a part of Northern Colorado fire groups his entire career. He knows the important players in the area and knows a lot about what local departments face.

"There's a lot in this job about the relationships that you build," he said. "We're stronger when we're together."

In his current position, Mirowski oversees many different aspects of Poudre Fire, including hazardous material cleanup, wildland fire suppression and facilities management. He's currently leading the construction of a new fire station.

Why he's a good candidate: Mirowski's diverse responsibilities with Poudre Fire and his familiarity with the area give him a great understanding about how things work now and how to make things work well in the future.

"I have a strong interest in Loveland Fire, and it's a great organization and a great community. I love this area," Mirowski said. "I started my career in Colorado and Loveland, and I've had ties with Loveland Fire for a long time. Right now, I do a lot of things that fire chiefs tend to do."

Dave Bierwiler

Current position: Fire chief, Medford Fire Department, Medford, Ore., which is a 79-member, five-station department that serves about 100,000 residents.

Job history: Has been a part of the Medford department since July 1989.

What he brings: Bierwiler is proud that he has strong relationships not only with his current department, but also throughout Northern Colorado, including Loveland Fire and Rescue, Poudre Fire Authority and Berthoud Fire, from his years living here.

"Collaborative is the big word," Bierwiler said. "I still know a lot of people, and I would continue to be a major collaborator with what we do in sharing resources in the most cost-effective way."

Why he's a good candidate: Bierwiler knows the area, having lived in Northern Colorado for 17 years, and he said he still knows many people in the local fire departments.

"I prefer evolution rather than revolution," he said. "Any change that comes up doesn't need to be done immediately. Take it to the front end to make sure everybody is comfortable with what will happen."

Bierwiler also is familiar with how a city fire department and a rural fire district work together, having worked with an arrangement in Medford that he said is similar to Loveland's.

New Fire Training Station Opens in Vail Valley

Colorado Mountain College's Opens Facility for Vail Valley Fire Science Students

Dustin Racioppi, Vail Daily

November 23, 2008

Vail Valley — As menial as it looked Saturday while John German, a probationary firefighter with Gypsum Fire Department, hoisted a 24-foot ladder to a second-story Vail Valley window, it was an opportunity he and other local firefighters hadn't had until now, and it was a welcome one.

German and other members were training at the Robert Spuhler Emergency Services Training Tower on Saturday afternoon just before its grand-opening ceremony.

The tower is owned by Colorado Mountain College for its fire science students and is open to any of Eagle County's emergency service branches for training purposes.

It's more than just getting a ladder to a window, though. The new building is designed to simulate burning rooms, a smoke-filled confined area and can also be used for police to practice repelling down the side of a building, among other things necessary for responders to train on.

Before that, the nearest training facilities were in Rifle or at home with a book in hand.

"We wanted to have the search and rescue of live fire, and that is what this is going to do," said the building's name-sake, former college president Bob Spuhler. "(We) had heard from so many of the fire chiefs, if we had something like this, it would be such a boost for local firefighters."

Nearly \$500,000 later, it already has been of use. German, who's already been to two trainings at the tower, said he anticipates spending a lot of time at the building polishing up his skills to earn his certification.

"Training's real crucial, and they want to build this into a whole training center — which is brilliant," he said. "We all need it."

The college's fire science program coordinator, Kurt Keiser, said if taken care of properly, the building should last between 30 and 40 years. And he intends to take full advantage of the building by getting his students as close to real action as possible.

"We're just really excited about getting this tower going," he said.

But they need to be careful, Keiser said.

"Nearly eight to 10 firefighters die a year in training," he said. "We really want to be focused on safety. It's still fire, and it can get out of control."

That's why there were no pyrotechnic displays for the crowd Saturday. Instead, Keiser, Spuhler and other college employees set a small flame to a line of caution tape across one of the building's doors to mark its arrival in Gypsum.

"It's one of a kind," German said. "It's going to be amazing."

Growth Keeps Vail Valley Firefighters Very Busy

Vail Valley Firefighters Expect to Shatter One-Year Call Record

Dustin Racioppi, Vail Daily
November 23, 2008

Vail Valley — When all six of the Eagle River Fire Protection District's engines responded to calls in Colorado's Vail Valley at the same time last Christmas, it may have been a sign of things to come. So far, it has been.

As the population in the district continues to increase, so do the emergency calls. By the end of October, the district was about 150 calls short of reaching its total for 2007.

And the busiest time of the year — when snow and ice hits the valley — has yet to come, leading district officials to believe that 2008 may be the busiest ever.

"December's our busy month. I expect we'll probably run 100 calls more than we've ever run before (in a year), about 2,600, maybe 2,700," the district's deputy of chief of operations, John Willson, said. "We're at a point today that we're running more calls than any other year besides two years ago."

But if the trend of 2008 continues — with each month so far higher in call volume than in 2007 — the record 2,572 calls in 2006 will be smashed. So far, the numbers are showing that will happen.

"Our call volume has just been the highest than any other year," the district's chief, Charlie Moore, said. "Every single month we've had in 2008 has been the highest with a couple exceptions."

And there's been a boom in major calls, Moore said. The district responded to 15 structure fires and 18 wildfires over the summer, "which is something that's never happened to us before," Moore said.

With the county's population increasing each year, it's a simple equation to Moore. "More volume leads to more accidents," he said.

Crafty crews

But what's been somewhat of a new phenomenon to the district is what it saw last Christmas — calls coming in simultaneously.

"Not only are we getting more calls, we're getting more at the same time," Willson said. "We're running more calls at the same time than ever in the past. That puts a strain on our equipment and personnel."

It's not as if the district is in dire straits, though. The rotating 21-man crews are still sleeping, still getting in training hours, still responding to calls swiftly, Moore and Willson said.

Willson said the district has added nine people in the last year to compensate for the increase in calls. And using its resourcefulness, crews have packed more gear and supplies into their trucks in case several engines have to go out on simultaneous calls.

With projections showing at least another couple thousands people in the county by 2010, according to the Eagle County Web site, and the trend continuing upward, staffing and equipment are already on Moore's mind.

Like city firefighters

"Sometime in the next 10 years we'll need a lot more personnel. I just can't tell you when," Moore said. "We react when we see development approved and built."

A new station is planned in Avon, and he said there will be a need for another station in the Minturn area once the proposed Ginn resort moves in. There's also a possibility of adding a station in Wolcott.

One of the Avon department's veteran firefighter's, Bryce Hayes, said it has been interesting to watch the area and department grow since he joined the department in 2001, and for the district to be able to keep pace with it.

"We didn't have, back in 2001, the station in Cordillera staffed and we didn't have the Minturn station," he said. "It's definitely exciting to get to see it grow. As we grow bigger and bigger we're adding more people and it becomes safer for us and the public."

Hayes said he and the rest of the crews in the district are ready and willing to take on the challenges ahead —the influx of calls in December, the increased training and the continuing shift that resembles a more metropolitan-type fire district.

"It's fun. There's always something new to learn to learn out there. There's always the next thing on the horizon," he said. "We all love the excitement each day brings."

Blast Levels South Fork Home

Eric Mullens, Valley Courier
November 25, 2008

South Fork — Eight area construction workers were hospitalized Tuesday afternoon after a massive explosion at a home under construction in South Fork occurred at about 1 p.m.

The home is located in an upscale gated community in South Fork at #55 Iron Bridge Pl. and was being built for Doug Adams. Much of the home was destroyed in the blast which investigators believe may have been caused by a combination of gas buildup in the structure's basement.

"The preliminary investigation speculates the cause to be a combination of fumes and heating fuel, ignited by space heaters," said Rio Grande County Undersheriff Charles 'Chuck' Chick. "Investigations will also be completed by insurance agencies as well as OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration - a federal agency)," Chick said late Tuesday afternoon.



A home under construction exploded in south central Colorado Tuesday afternoon sending eight workers to the hospital with serious burn injuries. (Valley Courier)

Rio Grande County Hospital Public Information Officer and Radiology Manager Eddie Medina said four of the blast victims were initially transported to that facility and then flown by air ambulance to University of Colorado Burn Center; and one each to St. Anthony's Central Hospital and Swedish Medical Center in the Denver metro area. Medina and RGCH Director of Nursing Beverly Martinez cited federal patient privacy laws and refused to release any information regarding the nature of the victims' injuries.

Chick said his preliminary investigation indicated some of the workers were spraying foam insulation into the home when the explosion occurred. He said the insulation material may have interacted adversely with an auxiliary heat source.

Foul play is not believed to have a role in the accident and follow-up investigations will be conducted by insurance companies and OSHA.

The DenverChannel.com quoted Chick early Tuesday afternoon saying workers were using a heater to dry drywall inside the home when fumes from the fuel pump heating system caught fire and caused the explosion.

A spokesperson for Husmann Plumbing and Heating of Alamosa told a reporter Tuesday that one of their employees was in the crawl space of the home at the time of the incident and suffered second degree burns on his face and hands. They said another employee was outside of the home working when the blast happened and he was trapped for a short period of time under a collapsed wall.

According to the DenverChannel.com, Chick said one of those transported to the hospital was the homeowner, who was also the general contractor of the project.

The NBC television affiliate in Denver, 9News say they were told by a representative of the South Fork Fire Department that workers were remodeling the home when a propane space heater began leaking gas into the basement and when another space heater was lit the gas exploded.

No official cause of the blast has been cited by law enforcement or fire officials at press time.

One witness at the scene, a construction worker at an adjoining site who wished to remain anonymous, said he saw seven injured workers, many of them with severe burns. Another witness said propane had been delivered to the home Tuesday morning before the regular construction crews arrived.

A number of emergency service agencies responded to the mutual aid call for assistance Tuesday afternoon including: Flight for Life, Airlife Denver, South Fork police, fire and ambulance, Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office, Del Norte fire, ambulance and police, Monte Vista fire and ambulance, Alamosa Police, Mineral County Sheriff's Office, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Colorado State Patrol and the CSP Hazmat Unit.

Firefighters and law enforcement personnel scrambled over the rubble of the luxury home to ensure no one was trapped and signaled the all clear at about 2:30 p.m.

Federal Government Wins Lawsuit over Hayman Fire

Associated Press
November 25, 2008

A federal judge ruled Tuesday that the federal government doesn't have to pay for damage caused by the Hayman wildfire, the worst in Colorado history.

U.S. Forest Service worker Terry Barton pleaded guilty to starting the fire in 2002 by burning a letter from her estranged husband. Insurance companies sued the government to recover the \$7 million they paid out to cover property damaged in the fire.

U.S. District Judge Wiley Daniel said the government is only liable for the actions of its employees if they are performing within the scope of their duties.

A fire ban was in effect when Barton burned the letter in a fire ring while patrolling the Pike National Forest. Daniel said she acted on her own and wasn't doing the government's work.

"When Barton violated the Fire Ban she was not doing the work assigned to her, what was necessarily incidental to that work or what was customary in the Forest Service's business," Daniel wrote in the decision.

He also said the insurance companies failed to prove that Barton or other Forest Service workers caused property damage by failing to do enough to put out the fire once it started.

Telephone messages left after hours for lawyers for Allstate and State Farm insurance companies weren't immediately returned.

The Hayman fire burned 138,000 acres, destroyed 133 homes and forced more than 8,000 people to evacuate. The fire was fueled by forests left tinder-dry by a severe drought and burned for 17 days.

Barton served six years in prison for starting the fire and was released in June.

Feds: Cigarette Caused '03 Wildfire; State Farm Pays \$300,000 in Costs

By David Montero, Rocky Mountain News
November 25, 2008

Two men who exchanged a lit cigarette in a National Forest are on the hook for \$300,000 in costs for a wildfire that scorched 120 acres south of Telluride, according to a settlement reached Tuesday with federal officials.

However, the two men - John D. Wesson and Matthew D. Allen - will have the those costs covered by their homeowners insurance through State Farm.

The fire, known as the 2003 Alta Fire in the Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre-Gunnison National Forest, started in July when the two men allegedly exchanged a lit cigarette in violation of a fire ban put in place by San Miguel County.

Forest Service officials alleged the cigarette sparks caught aspen cotton fluff floating in the air on fire and started the blaze.

Firefighters needed several days to contain the wildfire, which forced some residents to evacuate their homes.

Terry McCann, spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service, said it shows how seriously fire bans should be observed.

"We really do take fire bans seriously for obvious reasons," McCann said.

"We have seen in the past where people have not followed the fire bans, and if you get the right conditions, something as small as a lit match in a dry area can have devastating results."

Jeff Dorschner, spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's office, said a settlement was reached "because we got as much as we could possibly get out of the defendants."

Dorschner said it's "more common than one might realize" to tag individuals to cover the expenses of dousing a forest fire when the U.S. Forest Service determines culpability.

He said the settlement of the money - which was delivered to the U.S. Attorney's office Tuesday - was conditional on Wesson and Allen not having to admit guilt for starting the fire.

Jackie Parks, U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region acting deputy regional forester, issued a statement after the settlement and hoped it would send a message to people to respect fire bans.

"I am pleased that we have been able to recoup some of these taxpayer costs," Parks said. The U.S. Department of Agriculture also will recoup some of the costs agreed to in the settlement.

Emergency Managers Make It Official: They Want FEMA Out of DHS

By Daniel Fowler, Congressional Quarterly
November 19, 2008

A prominent association of emergency managers is recommending that the Obama administration pull the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) out of the Homeland Security Department and restore its leader to cabinet level status.

Larry J. Gispert, president of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) and director of Hillsborough County, Fla., Emergency Management, said this has been the IAEM's "informal position all along," but the board of directors formalized the stance at the group's annual meeting this week. IAEM announced the move Wednesday.

"They have an opportunity with the change of administration to . . . do it right, which is to have FEMA be a stand-alone agency reporting directly to the president and the administrator of FEMA sitting in the cabinet," Gispert said. "That's the James Lee Witt model."

Rep. James L. Oberstar, D-Minn., chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, endorsed the idea.

"IAEM is right. FEMA should be restored as an independent agency in the Office of the President. It never should have been included in DHS," said Oberstar. "The emergency managers are the front line of defense in disasters. They know best. Their word should count with the incoming administration. I'll work with them and the new administration to restore FEMA."

Homeland Security Chairman Bennie Thompson says FEMA should stay where it is.

"The FEMA that we knew during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita is no more," Thompson said. "FEMA has thrived within the department since its reorganization by Congress and that proof can be measured by its stellar response to the Midwest floods, wildfires, tornados and the many hurricanes this past season."

During the Clinton administration, FEMA Administrator James Lee Witt met with the cabinet. His successor in the Bush administration, Joe M. Allbaugh, did not.

"In the cabinet is where the high level decisions are made," Gispert said. "We need to have the FEMA administrator sitting in there, telling all these secretaries that I need this help from your division, I need this help from that, and he's looking directly at the person that can turn around to their agencies and say make it happen."

A 2006 law (PL 109-295) gave the FEMA administrator a more direct line to the levers of power. The administrator is now the president's principle adviser for emergency management within DHS and the president can elevate him to cabinet level status in certain circumstances, such as natural or man-made disasters or terrorist attacks.

Gispert said IAEM has been generally unhappy with the way FEMA has operated within DHS, and removing it would allow the agency to "get its act together,"

"It would permit FEMA to reach out to their stakeholders a lot easier," he said. "And when they need things, they can go directly to the president. There's no interference from a secretary or a deputy secretary."

But IAEM maintains that "crisis critical management" should be DHS' responsibility. "In other words, let's prevent the terrorists," Gispert said. "And if you fail to prevent it, then the consequence is somebody's got to pick up the pieces. And that's where FEMA and the local emergency managers come in."

Giving FEMA its independence could be of particular importance as it pertains to budgets, Gispert suggested, and Oberstar concurred.

"At the very outset, personnel and funds were siphoned from FEMA to serve other agencies within DHS," Oberstar said, "leaving FEMA understaffed, underfunded and without seasoned personnel. It has taken years to rebuild FEMA,"

Obama's transition team declined to comment for this story.

Angels Fire Still 'Very Emotional'

By Fran Spielman, Chicago Sun Times
November 20, 2008

Fifty years ago next month, 92 children and three nuns from Our Lady of the Angels School died in a fire so deadly, Chicago's fire code was rewritten to prevent a tragic repeat.

Like Sept. 11 and the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., every living Chicagoan remembers where they were and what they were doing when they heard the breathtaking news.

On Wednesday, the City Council relived the nightmare, then approved a resolution urging public and private schools to observe a moment of silence on the Dec. 1 anniversary and public buildings to lower their flags to half-staff.

Mayor Daley recalled that one of his teachers at De La Salle High School lost his sister in the fire. And his father, Mayor Richard J. Daley, was never quite the same.

"My father recalled when [Fire Department officials] Bob Quinn and Tim O'Connor asked him to come out there to go from one classroom to another. I don't think my father could even talk about it for months," Daley recalled.

"It was really a tragedy that, even today, you look back and think about the 92 children, all the classrooms, the smoke inhalation. It's very emotional, very sad. It had a huge effect upon my father. It was something he said constantly about the children there. We have to recall this tragedy and pray for their families and pray for all of the firemen and first responders who were there as well. It directly affected those people who saw" the devastation.



A fireman carries a child down the ladder during the Our Lady of the Angels fire in 1958. (Sun-Times file)

Ald. Edward M. Burke (14th), a high school sophomore at the time, said the searing memories of "this horrific Chicago tragedy . . . are still telescoped for me" 50 years later.

After introducing the resolution, Burke recalled that Richard J. Daley was "so moved" by the tragedy, he spearheaded a massive rewrite of Chicago's fire code.

"Every school was hot-wired for direct fire alarm. The tragedy that occurred here and the response that it provoked -- led by Mayor Daley to make sure that nothing like that could ever happen again -- spread across the entire nation," Burke said. "So these poor souls didn't die in vain."

Ald. Bernard Stone (50th) joined Burke in calling for a permanent memorial to victims of the Our Lady of the Angels fire.

"The tragedy of this fire was felt by every single person who lived in Chicago. As we saw the bodies laid out, it was felt so deeply inside by every Chicagoan, it was just hard to comprehend. I can't describe the tragedy of that day," Stone said.

National Fire Academy (NFA) Training Opportunities

(as of November 20, 2008)

Vacancies exist in the following NFA courses at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland. You may refer to the internet at www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa for more information, or contact the Admissions Office via email netc-admissions@dhs.gov or by phone at (301) 447-1035. Completed FEMA Form 75-5 applications may be faxed to (301) 447-1441.

If interested, apply immediately!

Note: The NFA policy of only 1 stipend-supported trip per fiscal year remains. However, a qualified individual may seek to participate without stipend assistance. please indicate with your application that you are aware of this restriction when you apply for the course.

1st Semester FY2009:

R149 EMS: Mgmt of Community Health Risk
2/2/09-2/13/09 8 vacancies

R335 Administration of Public Assistance For Community Recovery
1/25/09-1/30/09 2 vacancies

R359 Discovering the Road to High-Risk Audiences
2/1/09-2/6/09 5 vacancies

R491 NFIRS: Program Manager
2/1/09-2/6/09 10 vacancies

Don't forget! The second semester FY2009 application period is open now through December 31, 2008!

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Cole + Russell Architects is a full-service architecture firm specialized in the planning, design and innovation of fire, emergency and public safety facilities nationwide, as well as housing, education, commercial, hospitality and retail projects.

Collins, Cockrel and Cole, P.C.

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Collins Cockrel and Cole continues, as it has for over 25 years, to provide a wide range of legal services to local governments throughout Colorado. The Firm serves as general counsel to over 140 Colorado Special Districts and Municipalities, dealing with all transactional matters, related litigation and intergovernmental relationships.

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Sponsorship Level

Banner (NEW)

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Disaster Restoration, Inc. (DRI)

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Disaster Restoration, Inc. (DRI) is the Rocky Mountain Region's premier sole-focus disaster restoration company. Since its inception in 1987, DRI has focused on state-wide restoration and security of damage caused by fire, smoke, water, vandalism, earthquake, terrorism, and environmental (mold, mildew, and hazardous materials) disasters. The company provides full service restoration from emergency board-up through complete reconstruction. DRI fulfills the need for 24 hour, seven-day-a-week instant response and full in-house service and expertise in all areas of disaster restoration services.

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Banner

Emergency Reporting delivers web-based Fire, EMS & Risk Assessment reporting and records management to first responders. The system is fast and easy to use, cost-effective, HIPPA compliant/NEMSIS Silver Certified and accessible anywhere via internet 24/7. Perfect solution for career/volunteer fire departments. Free access to online demo account. Call toll-free 866-773-7678 or email: info@emergencyreporting.com.

Emergency Service Insurance Program (ESIP)

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Since 1989, McNeil & Company has been proudly serving the unique needs of fire and rescue service organizations and providing a real choice in a limited marketplace. Our Emergency Services Insurance Program (ESIP) is one of the most innovative and comprehensive insurance programs available today, with coverage that is continually enhanced in response to current claim scenarios and state-specific issues.

Emergency Services Consulting inc. (ESCi)

Bronze

Emergency Services Consulting inc. (ESCi) is a national firm providing specialized, high quality fire, police, communications, and EMS consulting services to organizations throughout the United States and Canada. Since 1976, ESCi has been meeting the needs of emergency services agencies providing consulting services to municipalities, districts, nonprofit organizations, and the industrial and commercial community.

Fire and Police Pension Association

Basic

The Fire and Police Pension Association of Colorado was established January 1, 1980 and administers a statewide multiple employer public employee retirement system providing defined benefit plan coverage as well as death and disability coverage for police officers and firefighters throughout the State of Colorado. FPPA also administers the assets of affiliated local government pension plans, volunteer firefighter plans, and deferred comp plans for firefighters and police officers throughout the state.

Front Range Fire Apparatus

Banner

Front Range Fire Apparatus is proud to be the exclusive dealer of Pierce Fire Apparatus and Medtec Ambulances for Colorado and Wyoming. We also represent a wide array of fire equipment manufacturers including Akron Brass, Mine Safety Appliances and FireGear ... to name a few. Our service facility, located in Boulder, Colorado employs highly trained and certified technicians. We service all makes and models of fire apparatus and build custom brush trucks and tankers to your specification.

Gregory & Associates, Inc.

Gold

Gregory & Associates, Inc. provides employee benefits for groups. We also offer financial services such as financial planning and retirement planning. We have provided services for the Special District Association (SDA) since 1984. We are currently offering a product for the new Length of Service Program (LOSAP), which was enacted by the Colorado Legislature in February, 2007. We have been in the financial industry in Colorado since 1969.

Infra-Red Radiant, Inc.

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Bronze

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Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, P.C.

Banner

Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, P.C. ("ISPP") has extensive experience and expertise as both general counsel and special counsel to dozens of fire districts throughout the State of Colorado. ISPP attorney's Dino A. Ross, Michelle B. Ferguson, and Brian L. Martin specialize in fire code enforcement, construction contracts, real property leases, equipment purchases and rental or lease-purchase agreements, financing mechanisms, employment and personnel issues, collective bargaining, administrative EEOC proceedings, civil service hearings, special district related litigation, TABOR issues, elections, inclusions and exclusions. We also are experienced in board meeting procedures, Open Records Act, Colorado Sunshine Law, annual budget and auditing requirements, fees, charges and assessments, mutual aid and automatic aid agreements, other intergovernmental agreements, the Governmental Immunity Act, and pension matters.

KINSCO, LLC.

Banner

Kinsco carries uniforms and equipment for fire, EMS and police. We are a full-line 5.11 Tactical Dealer. Located east of Longmont, we service agencies throughout Colorado and Wyoming. We are in the process of updating and enlarging our fire section to better serve our customers. We are working hard to make it a one stop shop.

Kroenke Sports Enterprises

Basic

Kroenke Sports Enterprises is the Rocky Mountain West's leading provider of live sports and entertainment events. Kroenke Sports Enterprises is the home of the Denver Nuggets, Colorado Avalanche, Colorado Crush, Colorado Mammoth, Colorado Rapids, NDP Lacrosse, and Pepsi Center.

LN Curtis and Sons

Gold

LN Curtis and Sons provides emergency responder and firefighting equipment. LN Curtis and Sons is a company whose principal product is service, whose principal resource is people, and whose principal purpose is to be a distinguished leader in the field of supplying emergency responder and firefighting equipment since 1929.

Max Fire Apparatus, Inc

Bronze & Sponsor of 5 VFD's

Max Fire Apparatus, representing Rosenbauer and Braun Ambulances, provides departments in Colorado and Wyoming with products that have innovative design, superior manufacturing and proven technology. Our EVT certified technicians are committed to serving the needs of our customers at our full service maintenance facility or on-site with our fully equipped mobile service vehicles.

Motorola, Inc.

Bronze

Delivering critical information seamlessly to the fingertips of first responders when and where they need it - across agencies, borders, networks, devices.

Mountain States Employers Council, Inc.

Basic

Mountain States Employers Council (MSEC), Inc. is a non-profit membership organization, founded in 1939, designed to partner with employers to maintain effective employer/employee relationships. MSEC is a "one-stop shopping" resource for members in the areas of human resource management, employment law, surveys and training.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

Basic

Established in 1896, NFPA serves as the world's leading advocate of fire prevention and is an authoritative source on public safety. In fact, NFPA's 300 codes and standards influence every building, process, service, design, and installation in the United States, as well as many of those used in other countries.

Pinnacol Assurance

Basic

Corporate Sponsor

We are Colorado's leading Workers' Compensation company. We support our customers with the finest in accident prevention programs, quick and accurate claims management, and valuable Return-to-Work programs. It's all just part of what makes us the most trusted Workers' Compensation company in the state.

Sponsorship Level

Public Safety Solutions

Basic

Public Safety Solutions provides fire department and ambulance service problem solving.

Rockwest Technology Group

Bronze

Rockwest is the largest integrator of photo ID, credential issuance and electronic security. Rockwest is a member of the Identification Systems Group which provides national sales and service for Datacard Group and Salamander Technologies. More information can be found on the website at www.rockwesttech.com.

ServiceMaster Central

Basic

ServiceMaster Central is a full-service fire and restoration company that has been in business locally since 1989. We also do full reconstruction and asbestos abatement.

Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. (SEH)

Gold (NEW)

SEH is a full service architecture and engineering firm specializing in the design of public facilities, including fire stations. Our extensive array of professional services and individually tailored, single-source teams take you from pre-project work through construction completion. Those services include architecture, civil engineering, transportation, environmental, and municipal engineering.

Spartan Chassis, Inc.

Bronze

Spartan Chassis, Inc. is a leading developer of custom chassis for recreational vehicles, fire trucks, and specialty vehicles. Contact Tim Johnson, Central Regional Sales Manager at 970-567-7560 or Email: tjohnson@spartanchassis.com.

Summit Emergency Equipment

Banner Advertiser

Summit Emergency Equipment answers the call to the fire and EMS communities, representing the most sought after names in the industry. We can also assist your department with emergency vehicle parts and service for any make of fire apparatus or ambulance.

Super Vac Manufacturing Co., Inc.

Gold

Super Vac manufactures fans, trucks, and light towers in Loveland, CO. We also have a complete refurb and repair facility for all fire service vehicles.

T. Charles Wilson Insurance Service

Gold

Provider of Property, Liability, Malpractice, Directors & Officers, Workers Compensation, Accident and Sickness, Group Life and other insurance products to fire districts and other special districts and private businesses.

VFIS of Colorado

Gold

VFIS of Colorado, insuring non-profit emergency service organizations since 1982 and the recognized "Standard of Excellence" that is built upon a foundation of trust. VFIS offers a progressive portfolio of insurance coverages, including property and casualty, accident and sickness, group life insurance, group long term disability, and volunteer pension plans. VFIS of Colorado offers education and training programs, and risk management resources, as an added value service.

Wheatland Fire Equipment

Banner Advertiser

Since 1983, we have been in the fire equipment distribution business. We are committed to giving our customers the best customer service with our knowledge, experience and integrity. Our customers deserve the best and safest equipment on the market, so we only sell premium personal protective equipment. We also have a mobile service center and technician able to do Scott service, TNT service, compressor service, fit-testing, hydrostatic testing, and more.

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COLORADO STATE FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

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Lake Dillon Fire Rescue
P.O. Box 4428
Dillon, CO 80435
970-513-4110

Vice President

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Pueblo Fire Department
1551 Bonforte Boulevard
Pueblo, CO 81001
719-553-2830

Combination Fire Chiefs' Section

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Boulder Rural Fire Protection District
5075 Jay Road
Boulder, CO 80301
303-530-9575

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Rifle, CO 81650
970-625-1243

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2400 W. 90th Avenue
Federal Heights, CO 80260
303-427-7209

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Alamosa County Fire Protection District
902 Weber
Alamosa, CO 81101
719-589-2596 x 23

Northeast Region

Warren Jones, Fire Chief
Evans Fire Department
1100 37th Street
Evans, CO 80620
970-475-1108

Northwest Region

Bob Struble, Fire Chief
Steamboat Springs Fire Department
PO Box 775088
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477
970-879-4518

Fire Marshals Association of Colorado

Rob Geislinger, Fire Marshal
Parker Fire Protection District
10235 Parkglenn Way
Parker, CO 80138
(720) 274-3704

San Luis Valley Region

Don Chapman, Fire Chief
Alamosa County Fire Protection District
902 Weber
Alamosa, CO 81101
719-589-2596 x 23

South Region

Chris Riley, Fire Chief
Pueblo Fire Department
1551 Bonforte Boulevard
Pueblo, CO 81001
719-553-2830

Fire Training Officers Association

Kevin Milan, Spec. Ops Captain
Parker Fire Protection District
17801 E. Plaza Dr.
Parker, CO 80134
720-274-3813

South Central Region

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Black Forest Fire Protection District
11445 Teachout Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80908
719-495-4300

Southeast Region

Aaron Eveatt, Fire Chief
La Junta Rural Fire Protection District
601 Colorado Avenue/P.O. Box 1066
La Junta, CO 81050
719-384-2323

Fire & Life Safety Educators

Tracey Taylor, Safety Educator
Parker Fire Protection District
10235 Parkglenn Way
Parker, CO 80138
720-274-3709

Southwest Region

Larry Behrens, Fire Chief
Los Pinos Fire Protection District
P.O. Box 319
Ignacio, CO 81137
970-563-9550

West Region

Bob Pistor, Fire Chief
Montrose Fire Protection District
441 S. Uncompahgre Avenue
Montrose, CO 81401
970-249-9181

Colorado Fire Mechanics Association

Chris Nelson
Red, White & Blue Fire Prot. Dist.
316 N. Main Street/P.O. Box 710
Breckenridge, CO 80424
970-453-2474

Denver Metro Fire Chiefs

Steven J. Pischke, Deputy Chief - Ops
Mountain View Fire Protection Dist.
9119 E. County Line Rd
Longmont, CO 80501
303-772-0710

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Windsor/Severance Fire Prot. Dist.
10056 County Road 76 ½
Windsor, CO 80550-2700
970-420-9132

Immediate Past President (Ex-Officio)

Daniel Qualman, Fire Chief
Parker Fire Protection District
10235 Parkglenn Way
Parker, CO 80138
(303) 841-2608

Note: The Email Address for all CSFCA Board Members is their first initial of their first name, followed by their last name @colofirechiefs.org; for example: dparmley@colofirechiefs.org.