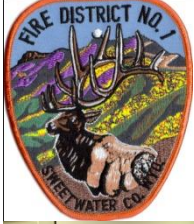




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See new tactics and updates
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Fire District #1's *dispatch* Newsletter

July '11 Issue

“Sweetwater County Fire District #1 is organized to safely and economically provide for life and property protection from threat of fires and natural and manmade disasters. This will be accomplished through planning, prevention, education, incident mitigation and appropriate application of technology.”

Be a Student of Your Profession John J. Salka Jr.

A vast amount of information is available. It's your job to study it.

We should all realize just how lucky we are to be in the fire service. Whether you are a career firefighter in a midsize department, a volunteer lieutenant in a small community or a chief officer in a large urban department, you know how fortunate you are to be in a great profession. Knowing this, simply feeling good about being a member of a fire department is not enough. I don't know if anyone has told you this, but there is a cost, an "admission fee" to this exclusive group of people called the fire service and it is this: you must become and remain a student of the job. That's it! Sounds simple, no? For some of us it is and for others it's not. So what does this mean? How can you become a student of the job? Let's take a look at several answers.

When I use the word "student", some of the bravest start to get nervous. Does this mean we have to study? Well, yes and no. What it means is you should develop and nurture a continuous state of inquiry concerning your duties as a firefighter, officer, or chief. You should be as interested in the activities and tactics that you are involved in at the firehouse as you are in major league baseball or cross country skiing. Now we all have lots of people and

Activities in our lives that are not and never will be related to the firehouse, and that's great, but we also have an obligation to ourselves and our fellow firefighters to be the best at what we do when the chips are down. Here are a few ways you can be a student of the job.

First and foremost, read! Dozens of publications are available to all of us that can explain and clarify what we are already doing as well as introduce us to new ideas that we have not been exposed to yet. This magazine (Firehouse) that this article came from has literally hundreds of new concepts and ideas, tactics and philosophies every month. And there are many other monthly magazines and periodicals that do the same thing. Some firefighters read these magazines at the firehouse and others receive them at home. Wherever it is pick it up and read it. You will find yourself making copies of some articles to distribute to your firefighters and you will also find that you can't even finish other articles because they have nothing to do with what you are interested in. That's fine, but you will never discover that until you start turning the pages.

The next activity that you need to get involved with is outside training. What I mean by "outside" is training that is being conductedContinued on page 3

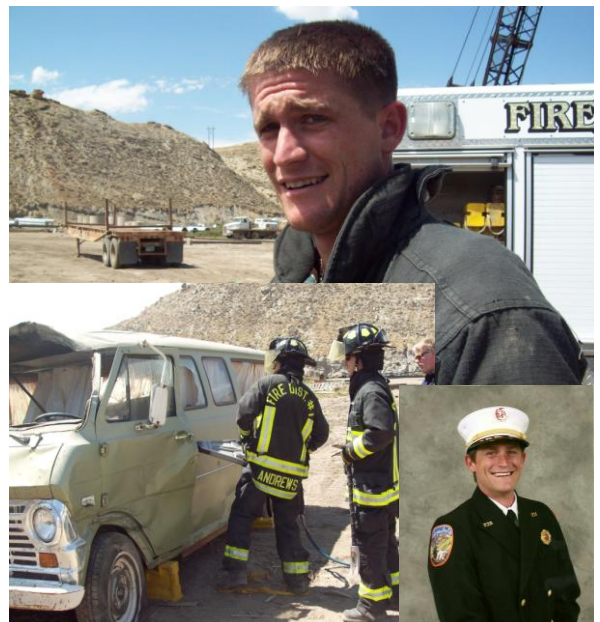
Volunteer's Corner

Brian Andrews is a volunteer Lieutenant with Fire District #1. He was born in Missouri and then moved to New Jersey a few years later. He lived in New Jersey for 18 years before moving to Laramie, WY. When he was 16 he joined the New Jersey Fire Department – a combination department – at Station 53 as a Cadet. When he turned 18 he was moved to Station 38 where he volunteered until 2002 when he moved to Wyoming.

While in Laramie, Brian attended college where he completed his Bachelor's Degree for Marketing and Finance. In 2003 he began endeavoring to complete the entry requirements for Fire District #1. He completed the requirements and received his radio in 2004. Between 2004 and 2010 Brian showed his value as a firefighter before being promoted to a Lieutenant position where he now remains a valuable asset to Fire District #1.

Brian has a wife and two children and enjoys travelling and spending time with his family.

Some words of advice from Lt. Andrews, "Stick with it and be safe. Always look out for each other on and off the scene."





Firefighter Trivia

1. What are the most common wildland cutting tools?
2. What are the three elements that make up the fire triangle?
3. What is a “widow maker”?
4. What is a “snag”?
5. What are the three initial attack methods?
6. What are the five basic organizational functions of the incident command system?
7. What are the major factors that affect wildland fire behavior?
8. What are the two types of fuel moisture?
9. What is the most effective fire-suppressing agent known to firefighters?
10. What are the terms used to classify fuels as to their position on the ground or in the air?

**Answers on page 3*

Did you know?

LACES

Lookouts, Awareness, Communications, Escape Routes, Safety Zones

Think about LACES every time you lace up your boots!!

Standard Firefighting Orders

1. Keep informed on fire weather conditions and forecasts
2. Know what your fire is doing at all times
3. Base all actions on current and expected behavior of the fire
4. Identify escape routes and safety zones and make them known
5. Post lookouts when there is possible danger
6. Be alert, keep calm, think clearly, act decisively
7. Maintain prompt communications with your forces, your supervisor, and adjoining forces
8. Give clear instructions and be sure they are understood
9. Maintain control of your forces at all times
10. Fight fire aggressively, having provided for safety first

Watch out Situations

1. Fire not scouted and sized up
2. In country not seen in daylight
3. Safety zones and escape routes not identified
4. Unfamiliar with weather and local factors influencing fire behavior
5. Uninformed on strategy, tactics, and hazards
6. Instructions and assignments not clear
7. No communication link with crewmembers or supervisor
8. Constructing line without safe anchor points
9. Building fireline downhill with fire below
10. Attempting frontal assault on fire
11. Unburned fuel between you and the fire
12. Cannot see main fire; not in contact with someone who can
13. On a hillside where rolling material can ignite fuel below
14. Weather becoming hotter and drier
15. Wind increases and/or changes direction
16. Getting frequent spots across line
17. Terrain and fuels make escape to safety zones difficult
18. Taking a nap near fireline

Congratulations and a Hearty Welcome to our newest firefighters:

The Graduates of Recruit Class #111!!

Kyle Gutierrez, Sean Miller, Arron Dupape, Alex De La Torre, Michael Sommerville, Joe Wamsley, and Floyd Whiting

A Letter to a Fire Department

Dear Chief,

I am taking this opportunity to thank you for putting out the fire in my house at 366 Lincoln Street, although you will note from the address above that I do not live in the house any longer. I can see that a fire in the cellar is fairly easy to put out. You just fill it up with water. Too bad my fire wasn't in the cellar.

I was quite worried when the fire engines arrived, with all that confusion and running around. My husband said, "It's a good thing it was daylight or there might have been more accidents." I hope the man who fell off the fire engine when it lurched in front of the house is all right. The other engine, the big one, just missed running him over.

They really got the hose off the engine fast and piled it up in the middle of the road and started looking for the ends. One man pulled out one end and put a big spray nozzle on and dashed into the house. Another man found the other end and put a big nozzle on it and ran to the side of the house. Then they both shouted, "Start the water." How ingenious. I would have thought they would have had to screw the hoses onto a hydrant or truck to get water out of them!

I felt so sorry for the man with the cap on who was left with the engine. He was wringing his hands, pulling on knobs; one would have thought that he almost looked like he didn't know what else to do. He finally got into the engine and drove it down the street out of sight. I also felt sorry for the man in the white helmet who kept dropping his portable radio and waving his arms a lot. Lucky for him it was a mild day so when the water from the hose hit him, he probably didn't catch a cold. After he found his helmet, hand light, and portable radio, he began waving his arms again but, since I was so far away, I couldn't hear what he was saying. He seemed a might upset and angry.

After awhile, the smoke was getting blacker and blacker, so I thought it best that I get some of my belongings out of the house. I was putting together some of my valued possessions when two men with tanks on their backs and masks on their faces rescued me. You men are so thoughtful. They were in an excitable state and talking incoherently through the masks. One pointed to a door; I tried to warn them, but it was too late. They opened the door to the closet and both charged in. I was able to get the bigger fellow out without too much trouble but the smaller man's tank was caught in the wall. He certainly hit the wall hard, and the big man was right behind him.

Continued on next page.....

I immediately went to the window to attract attention. I know there were a lot of men outside running around and yelling. Just then the man with "Captain" on his helmet and another man with "Battalion Chief" on his helmet who were running around the house at top speed collided head on. The "Battalion Chief" was furious; the "Captain" didn't get up. It's a good thing that they moved him because that's where the big metal ladder landed when it fell over. In the excitement, someone had closed the door where the little man was trapped, and it wasn't until a little bell started ringing on the man's tank that anyone thought about him. You people certainly think of everything! Imagine a bell on you that rings when you get caught in a closet.

They got the poor man out, but he almost suffocated when they attempted to revive him with the breathing machine. Three other people were turning knobs on the bottles and the air hose while arguing about how to use it. Fortunately, the man had enough strength to keep pushing the face mask off or he might have smothered there and then. By this time, the smoke was blanketing the neighborhood. I was almost impressed when you new ladder truck pulled up and the men raised the big ladder and chopped a hole in the roof. My neighbor still wonders why they cut a hole in his roof instead of mine but I continue to tell him that he should shut up and leave the firefighting to the professionals.

I went upstairs where it was very hot and smoky. I opened the windows and it wasn't too bad. Outside, men were struggling with a ladder, which was caught up in some electrical wires and branches. Someone had moved it and stranded a guy on the roof; they now were trying to get it back to him because he couldn't get down. They certainly were excited dancing around with that ladder! Then I heard a lot of noise coming from the stairway—hacking, coughing, and swearing. The language was awful! A man exhorting the other, "Get up there, you @*#%&#@*, get up there!" Through the smoke, I could see a man lying near the top step of the stairs. He shouted, "Hey Cap, there's a lady up here!" It must have been "Cap" who yelled back, "Give her the line, maybe she can get a shot at it, and watch your language, you @\$&x\$!"

Because of the difficulty I had getting that big hose around, I would suggest that the bigger men hold the hoses while the little guys run around with the tools. If you remember, after the fire was out, there was a rash of accidents. A man wearing a white hat and, with more bugles than the others on his collar came upstairs and berate the man with "Captain" on his hat for throwing debris out the window without checking to see if someone was below. Shortly thereafter, there were shouts to stop. The man with all the bugles had just been hit by a falling sofa while walking along the side of the building.

The officer with "Safety" on his helmet was injured and almost drowned when he fell through a hole in the floor and ended up in the flooded cellar. A chair had been placed over the hole but the man in the white hat who had gotten wet earlier made them move it because someone might have tripped over it. He then told the man with "Safety" on his helmet that he was a dopey bastard anyway! Such language! A "Capt" was making a close examination of a wall when someone struck it with a heavy tool from the other side. The "Capt" seemed okay but his helmet was wedged on his head; they couldn't get it off. He also seemed somewhat shorter.

The man with the white helmet became very pleasant, although he was still quite wet. He told me how lucky I was and pointed out to my neighbors and myself the importance of calling the fire department in case of a fire. Most big fires are the result of delayed alarms. Imagine what would have happened had I waited to call. In closing, I would like to say that we haven't had so much excitement and commotion around here since the little boy rang the false alarm and the big ladder truck rolled backward down the hill into the car with "Chief" painted on it and the bell in front. Thank you again for your efforts on my behalf and, I will try not to leave the iron on the ironing board again.

Respectfully yours,

Mildred Farquas

Prevention & Public Education

Everyone has their own perception of the fire service. Firefighters especially have an idea when they join up that they want to be that firefighter in the newspaper or on TV pulling a baby out of a fire. So what is our purpose? To save lives and protect property, right? Is it really a "good fire" if someone is injured or loses their home? Proponents of fire prevention and public education everywhere share the same desire to save lives and protect property as every probationary firefighter does. Although fire prevention is not the most respected or glorious position of a fire department, it still institutes the same level of personal gratification as does extinguishment of a fire. Consider this scenario, a firefighter rushes into a burning house and successfully rescues a ten year old boy who is then assessed by EMTs who find that he is okay except for a little bit of smoke inhalation and some superficial burns. This is a job well done for a firefighter. Now consider this, that same firefighter teaches a grade school class about the dangers of playing with matches and other things that can start fires. An eight year old boy is sitting in that class and finds himself two years down the road without any injuries, no smoke inhalation, no burns. Which scenario truly shows that the fire department performed their duty of "saving lives and protecting property"?

Take the time and be available for every fire prevention and public education event that you can.

Prevention Events

August 9 – HCP CPR

August 18 – Fire Extinguisher Class for Trona Valley

September 13 – Heartsaver CPR

*Check your department email regularly for any upcoming short notice prevention events.

Answers: 1. Axe, Pulaski, McLeod, Shovel, and Chainsaw **2.** Fuel, Heat, Oxygen **3.** A dead tree limb loose in a tree **4.** A dead or burnt out tree waiting for its time to fall **5.** Direct Attack, Parallel Attack, Indirect Attack **6.** Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics, Finance/Administration **7.** Fuel, Weather, Topography **8.** Dead Fuel Moisture, Live Fuel Moisture **9.** Water **10.** Ground Fuels, Surface Fuels, Aerial Fuels

Continued from page 1

and hosted by organizations and fire departments other than your own. If you Google "fire service training" along with your state or city, you may be surprised by the results. Dozens of seminars and training conferences are being held in or near just about every city in America. Some have a specific theme such as firefighter survival or private dwelling fire operations, but others may have several instructors presenting programs on a variety of subjects over the course of a day. These instructors are from across the country, from both volunteer and career departments, and they know their stuff too. So call up a few of your firehouse buddies and take a road trip to the next fire training seminar in your area. Another fantastic resource for fire service training is the internet. Yes, I know this reading too, but it is a different kind of reading and a different kind of learning. Again, there are many great fire service websites and all of them have training components. You can go online at 9 o'clock some night, surf through a dozen different sites looking for information on roof cutting and collect three lesson plans, five short videos and dozens of real-life photos of roof cutting operations. All of this material, enough for a month's worth of drills at your firehouse, and it will cost you nothing. These are just three simple ways that you can start to become a "student of the job". Once you start reading and attending seminars and visiting the numerous websites, you will discover two things. First you will see that an amazing amount of information is out there about the job we do and how we can do it better. Second, you will discover that you are broadening your horizons and becoming a better, safer, and more professional member of the fire service.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND BIRTHDAYS

Bridger Crosbie – 7/30

Kody Christiansen – 8/8

Brian Andrews – 8/14

Nicole Peterson 8/22

Chad Bieber – 9/14

Steve Rech – 9/21

Ashley Cozad – 9/27



HOT SHOTS



Assistant Chief Kitchner, Battalion Chief Ribordy, Captain Hart, and Deputy Sheaman of the Sheriff's Office investigate a fire in Clearview Acres



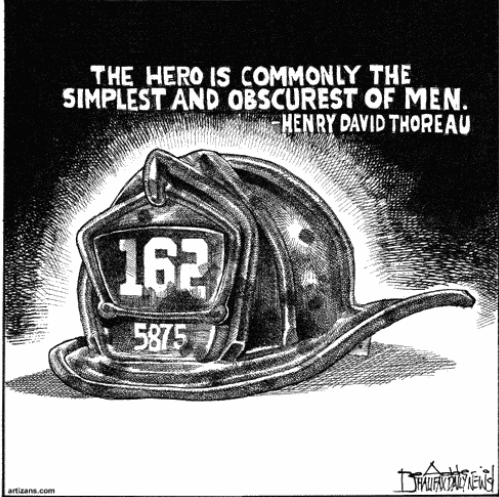
Firefighter Bieber, Captain Lopez, and Lt. Andrews working an accident on I-80



Battalion Chiefs Ribordy and Taylor posing with a cuddly little bunny they rescued.



Assistant Chief Kitchner posing with a bottle of rum he rescued. Priorities people! Priorities!



FIRE CALLS

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	YTD
20	22	13	12	13	17	99

GOOD JOB EVERYONE ON OPERATING SAFELY AND RESPONDING EFFICIENTLY!! KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!



Message from our Chief

WIFM – this is a concept presented to me while learning presentation skills. It stands for “What’s in it for me?” and is way of pointing out the benefits of a given subject to an audience. So this month I reflect on the WIFM aspect of firefighting. Often I consider the recruitment ad placed for Pony Express Riders: "Wanted: Young, skinny, wiry fellows not over eighteen. Must be expert riders, willing to risk death daily. Orphans preferred." While it is a bit of a stretch to say that orphans are preferred, or even that firefighters “risk death daily,” it is still fair to say that death could be risked daily, and also that the job can be extremely challenging.

WIF Jim? Duty – long hours working with people who embody the values which built and shaped this great nation – Duty, Pride, Honor and Integrity. Erratic hours – spent with those same individuals, performing another act in the play of despair and tragedy that haunt our neighborhoods and highways – solving problems for those who find themselves in over their head in the maelstrom of life – through their own lack of judgment, a lapse by someone else – maybe even a cruel unavoidable twist of fate. Honor – the privilege of knowing, leading, teaching, working alongside and learning from people of a selfless nature, set to a task that intimidates both the ordinary and the extraordinary. Belonging to a fraternity backed by well over 300 years of tradition – the Volunteer Fire Service. Pride – that sense of accomplishment that comes from learning, doing, and performing – and that spirit of camaraderie among the Brothers and Sisters of the firefighting community. Integrity – train, learn, do – do what you say and say what you do – each moment a reflection of the first three qualities – Duty, Pride, and Honor.

So “What’s in this for you?”

CLASSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

Assistant Chief Kitchner, Battalion Chiefs Ribordy & Taylor, Lieutenant Christiansen and Firefighter Crosbie all attend the Advanced Chemical & Biological Integrated Response Course at Dugway Proving Grounds in Utah in May and June.

Lieutenant Dever attained his Fire Service Instructor I certification.

Firefighters Tremelling, Miller, Thompson, Hutchinson, Caster, and Gutierrez attained their Wildland Red Card certification.