South Metro Firefighters Responded to Wildfires Throughout the West, Now They’re in Wine Country

Although Colorado’s Front Range survived the summer without any large wildfires, other parts of the state and nation didn’t. Yet South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) personnel still responded as part of the state and national resource mobilization systems.

Nineteen of our firefighters responded to incidents in New Mexico, Wyoming, California, Montana, Oregon and here in Colorado. A 4-person crew responded to California’s Wine Country wildfires on Oct. 16.

Deploying to other incidents is a good investment for the agency because firefighters share their experiences and lessons with their colleagues here at SMFR. For example, the fuels burning in California differ from the fuels in our district, but safety lessons and general situational awareness tips are nearly universal.

Such an investment also may have rewards as SMFR’s winter dry season threatens to start. Our firefighters typically respond to more in-district wildfires between October and April than April and October. These traveled firefighters are ready to lead their colleagues in those incidents.

For additional photos, please turn to page 2.

Cunningham, South Metro May Unite

Over the last year, South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) personnel have collaborated with neighboring fire departments to consider the benefits of unifying. Currently, we are pursuing such a unification with the Cunningham Fire Protection District (CPFD).

The Boards of Directors of both entities have expressed the desire (through formal motions) to pursue consolidation with a target date for unifying of January 1, 2018.

The final decision would occur in December with formal action at their public meetings.

Since both CFPD and SMFR are Accredited (which means they both meet international standards for service delivery), the new entity would maintain that status.

Our combined personnel will create a larger fire agency dedicated to ensuring the continued health, safety and prosperity of the citizens who live and work here. A unified district will incorporate the best practices of each agency to improve service to our communities.

Strategic Objective #5

South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) has adopted strategic objectives to guide our efforts. The 5th Strategic Objective is reflected in this newsletter: “Strong, Adaptive Infrastructure.”

Articles in this edition demonstrate how SMFR provides and maintains viable physical and technical infrastructure to support our strategic vision and operational readiness.
MetCom Hosts Tour for International Conference

Earlier this year, MetCom hosted a tour for the international conference of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO). The conference, which was in Denver, united 911 personnel from around the nation and world for professional development opportunities.

Close to 5,600 public safety communications professionals spent four days learning, trying new technology and networking. They represent organizations such as law enforcement, fire service, emergency medical services and government agencies, along with service providers and commercial vendors.

Touring a dispatch center, also known as a PSAP (Public Safety Access Point), provides attendees with examples of how training and technology unite in the field. Three agencies were selected to host the tours this year.

During the MetCom tour, participants learned about South Metro Fire Rescue’s state-of-the-art dispatch center as well as its command training center that adds dispatchers to fire-ground simulations, Incident Dispatch Team and GIS/Mapping Department. MetCom personnel also explained the benefits and challenges of their 24-hour shifts and the different needs of each of the agencies it serves.

Images from our Firefighters’ Efforts in California
The South Metro Safety Foundation is able to offer safety classes because of a $20,000 from the State Farm Good Neighbor Citizenship Program and $2,500 from the E470 Transportation Safety Foundation. Those funds assist in providing driver safety programs for adult and teen drivers living in our community.

**Youth Safety Skills**
A class on personal and home safety designed for teens aged 11 to 14 years old. Includes CPR/AED/First Aid certification, helmet safety, weather emergencies and cooking safety. Cost: $85

Class Dates: Dec. 2, Jan. 13, Feb. 10

**CPR/AED and First Aid Certification**
A one-day class perfect for coaches, parents and other concerned citizens. Meets most work requirements. Certification is valid for two years. Cost: $85

Class Dates: Nov. 18, Dec. 16, Jan. 6, Feb. 3

**Teen Crash Avoidance Driving Skills**
Teen drivers receive hands-on crash avoidance instruction in a controlled environment. Skills taught in this one-day class include skid control, emergency steering, crash avoidance techniques and threshold braking. Cost: $175

Class Dates: Dec. 2, Dec. 9, Dec. 23, Jan. 6, Feb. 3

**Super Sitter Babysitting Class**
A one-day class for teens aged 11 to 14 years old. Includes babysitting information and certification in pediatric CPR/AED/First Aid. Cost: $85

Class Dates: Dec. 17, Jan. 7, Jan. 20, Feb. 10, Feb. 25

**Leadership Development Program**
An affordable, state-approved, one-day class for teens seeking their permit between 15 ½ -16 years of age. Parents are asked to attend for the first 90 minutes. Cost: $70

Class Dates: Nov. 19, Dec. 3, Dec. 17, Jan. 14, Jan. 21, Feb. 4

**Adult/Senior Driving Skills**
A four-hour behind the wheel class designed to refresh and enhance driving skills for adults and seniors. Skills taught include skid control and recovery, emergency steering, crash avoidance techniques and threshold braking. Cost: $60

Class Dates: Nov. 25, Dec. 16, Jan. 27

**Driver Awareness Program**
An affordable, state-approved, one-day class for teens seeking their permit between 15 ½ -16 years of age. Parents are asked to attend for the first 90 minutes. Cost: $70

Class Dates: Nov. 19, Dec. 3, Dec. 17, Jan. 14, Jan. 21, Feb. 4

**Supported by a State Farm Grant/Scholarships Available**

**AED Sales**
We offer Automated External Defibrillators (AED) for sale and provide medical authority to end users. Call 720-989-2261

**Registration**
To register for these training opportunities or to make an appointment for a car seat inspection, visit www.SouthMetroFoundation.org or call 303-805-0228.
Firefighter Candidates in Class 2017-02 Finishing Preparations

Twenty-three men and women began their pursuit of a career at South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) in August when they embarked on their probationary fire academy.

Three of the candidates are from Cunningham Fire Protection District, but they joined our academy in anticipation of the fire districts unifying or at least maintaining their solid mutual aid relationship.

They are spending their weekdays learning the science and art of firefighting covering topics as diverse as physical and mental fitness to CPR and roof ventilation.

Upon finishing the 16-week academy, these recruit firefighters will start serving trimester rotations with engine, truck and medic companies to hone their skills.

When they finish the trio of rotations to the standards of SMFR, they will be promoted to the rank of firefighter.
Fleet Services Empowers us to Get to You Safely

The mission of South Metro Fire Rescue’s (SMFR) Fleet Services Bureau is to serve as an integral part of a team that saves lives and protects property.

Fleet provides the vehicles upon which the rest of us depend before, during and after emergencies.

Bureau Chief Brian Brown recently updated SMFR’s Executive Team about his bureau, including its vehicle replacement program.

That comprehensive program optimizes operational effectiveness for apparatus and strategically locating them to meet the district’s standards of response. Ultimately, decisions are made to maximize safety and health of SMFR’s employees and citizens.

The new apparatus in our district include five new “pump-under-cab” engines (three in 2016 and two in 2017), two new Mid-Mount 95-foot aerials (Tower 35 in 2016 and Tower 34 in 2017), and two new Type-6 wildland engines.

Additionally, Fleet purchased and outfitted a new vehicle for MetCom’s Incident Dispatch Team and remounted a pair of ambulance bodies.

“It has proven to be much more cost efficient,” Chief Brown said, to remount the ambulance body rather than purchase an entirely new vehicle. That process reduces delivery time and improves drivability as well as patient care.

The oldest units serving the district – Engines 40, 44 and 47 – are from the 2009 model year.

In terms of maintenance, Fleet’s seven mechanics and four other personnel service 154 vehicles (25 of which are from either Cunningham or Castle Rock) and support 236 pieces of ancillary equipment including extrication tools, prams and stair chairs.

Fleet Services is integral to SMFR’s commitment to a strong, adaptive infrastructure.

SMFR Earns Trophies at Parker Chili Cookoff

Amanda Silva’s Professional Red Chili won the People’s Choice Award and 3rd Place in the Red Chili Category at the annual Hometown Heroes Chili Cookoff in Parker on October 7. Helping her celebrate are Engineer Richie Fleming, PIO Eric Hurst and Firefighter Jesse Lewis.
SMFR Family Celebrates Recent Promotions

Getting pinned is an important part of the fire service. When personnel promote, a loved one, friend or mentor often is asked to pin the new badge. Here, Brian Favero receives his Engineer Badge from his daughter on September 20.

Remembering September 11 with Silence and Steps

Remembering the men and women who died on Sept. 11, 2001, as well as the men and women who responded to the terrorist attacks has become an important tradition in the fire service.

Our personnel who had deployed to Florida joined other responders to reflect. Closer to home, MetCom Dispatcher Kyler Hewes and Firefighter David Freyta participated in the Colorado 9/11 Stair Climb at Red Rocks.

Our Technicians can Check Your Child’s Car Seat

Vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among children ages 1 to 19.

After you install a proper child passenger safety seat in your vehicle(s), you should have it checked by a Child Passenger Safety Technician. South Metro Fire Rescue and the South Metro Safety Foundation offer courtesy inspections of child safety seats to families that work and live in our fire district.

Inspections are offered weekly at the following locations:

1st and 3rd Wednesdays
Fire Station #45 (16801 Northgate Drive, Parker).

2nd and 4th Wednesdays
Fire Station #34 (8871 Maximus Drive, Lone Tree).

Make an appointment at SouthMetroFoundation.org
Cooking is the leading cause of residential fires in both our district and the nation as a whole. Nationwide, cooking also is the leading cause of home fire injuries, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

To prevent cooking fires, move anything that could catch fire (oven mitts, wooden utensils, wrappers and towels) away from the stovetop. If a fire starts, you need to act quickly.

For an oven fire, turn off the oven. By removing the external heat source, the burning food will slowly self-extinguish. Keep the door closed. If you open the oven door, the fresh air may breathe life into the fire. Remember, it’s an oven. A bit of extra heat shouldn’t damage it.

For a fire in a microwave oven, turn off the heat with the “Stop” button rather than the “Open Door” button. Again, you want to cut the heat without introducing new oxygen to the fire.

For a pan or wok fire, put a lid on it. Wear an oven mitt, hold the lid or baking sheet like a shield and slide the lid or sheet over the pan or wok. That cover will block the oxygen. Next, turn off the heat and let the container cool before trying to clean your mess.

If you stand by your pan, you can prevent the fire from starting in the first place or catch it when it’s still small.

Congratulations
August
15 Years of Service
Firefighter/Medic Matt Gallagher
Engineer Chris Macklin
Firefighter Dave Reid
Firefighter Mark Sole
Firefighter Craig Spader

10 Years of Service
Firefighter/Medic Shawn Todd
Engineer Matt Bovee
Engineer Jon Schreiner
Firefighter Robert Baker
Firefighter Ryan Blanchfield
Firefighter Brian Favero
Firefighter Kent Hegwood
Firefighter Steve Howard
Firefighter Jarrett Mahoney
Firefighter Joe Sims
Firefighter Aaron Zimmerman

5 Years of Service
Firefighter/Medic Jeff Hulley
Firefighter/Medic Paul Scrabeck
Engineer Chris Neill
Firefighter Aaron Blackwell
Firefighter Aaron Crossett
Firefighter Chris Phipps
Firefighter Taylor Phipps
Firefighter Ryan Specht
Firefighter Corey Sutton
Firefighter Matt Talafuse
Board Member Bill Shriver

1 Year of Service
Physical Therapist Joy Anderson
Wellness Asst. Kent Bultemeier
Fire Inspector Jim Chaney
Fire Inspector Dan Russell

Hired
Fire Inspector Ryan Haywood
Recruit Firefighters
Nicholas Belz
Christopher Chawula
Marshall Cloud
Pearce Connelly
Nicholas Dunn
Jonah Falconer
Sixteen personnel from South Metro Fire Rescue deployed initially to Texas and later Florida in August and September as part of Colorado Task Force 1 to help communities respond to and recover from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

Task Force members checked buildings for damage and, more importantly, for residents, some of whom needed food, water or medicine.

In the photos at right, a crew approaches a waterfront home looking for survivors and SMFR’s John Bolger checks his equipment one more time before traveling.

Because of the generosity of our district’s residents, South Metro Fire Rescue collected over $105,000 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in the annual Fill the Boot campaign over Labor Day Weekend.
Some Recent Rescue, Fire Incidents

After assisting with the planned demolition of the Jones Building in Centennial on October 7, our Technical Rescue Team had an opportunity to practice its skills in the rubble. At right, Captain Scott Richardson shares some safety concerns with team member. Below, Probationary Firefighter Tristan Deboli practices using a circular saw while Captain Richardson practices using a jackhammer.

Above, firefighters use hydraulic tools to extricate a patient from a truck crash September 27.

Above, SMFR firefighters assisted Castle Rock with a fire in the Castlegate Apartment Complex in September.

Congratulations

10 Years of Service
Assistant Chief Kevin Milan

Promotions
EMS Supervisor Sean Fontaine
EMS Supervisor Shawn Todd

Retirements/Resignations
Fred James
Deb Lawler
Darren Richardson

October
30 Years of Service
Lieutenant Sheryl West

20 Years of Service
Lieutenant Jason Camper

10 Years of Service
Dispatch Supr. CJ Bailes

5 Years of Service
Dispatcher Matt Whipple

Eagle Awards
For employees who complete college degrees
Shawn Todd, Bachelor’s