

# POUDRE CANYON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## NEWSLETTER ~ FALL 2024

WWW.POUDRECANYONFIREDISTRICT.ORG

### Mitigation Tool Lending Grant

The Tool-Lending Mitigation grant obtained by Upper Poudre Canyon Association with help from PCFPD is getting closer to completion. Community members, have spent many weekends building the tool shed. Once the building is completed, tools will be purchased and community members will be able to borrow these tools for mitigation projects. This will be especially helpful to those property owners who have limited mitigation resources. Thanks to all who have donated their time.



### SIPA Grant Award

Our grant writer supreme, Bette Blinde, has again been successful in her endeavors to help PCFPD keep up with the times and address our canyon's frustration with lack of communication in an emergency. Bette received word in September that her grant application to the Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA) was approved. This grant will be for \$46,000 to put mobile Starlink on our trucks and will provide 3 years of service. Thank you, SIPA and Bette!

### 2025 Fire Board Election

2025 is again an election year for the Fire Board of the Poudre Fire Protection District. Due to the resignations of three of the four elected officials from the 2023 election, PCFPD will have four openings on the ballot: two 2-year terms and 2 four-year terms as Dave Bliss has completed his elected term which leaves the fourth opening. A call for nominations and self-nomination forms will be made available by PCFPD in January 2025 for the election in May.

### From the Chief

So far this year, Poudre Canyon Fire Rescue has responded to 104 calls for help. The most memorable for me was a car fire in April that had become a wildland fire prior to our arrival. The wildland portion was quickly extinguished, but the magnesium engine parts burned for a long time.

We had two other wildfires this year, during a high wind event, a tree was blown onto power lines in Kings Can-

yon, starting a brush fire. Several factors made firefighting challenging: steep terrain; darkness; energized power lines. The only thing working in our favor was that the fire was in the High Park Fire burn scar and had a reduced fuel load available. The fire was extinguished and all units cleared.



Another wildland fire was much easier to resolve. Lightning ignited a tree and the duff under it on the Scout Ranch. We arrived and walked a quarter mile to the scene to find that the fire had been extinguished by Scouts camping nearby. The Scouts found another place to camp that night.

The most annoying incident was a person who left a cell phone on top of their car and drove off. That cell phone decided there had been an accident and called for help on Long Draw Road. New this year, a feature on some new model cell phones allows them to text 911 (to satellite if there is no cell service) if the phone detects an abrupt stop after traveling at speed. We received 7 of these calls this year, with 3 of them being valid needs for service. The others were phones left where they could fall out of or off a moving vehicle. The Long Draw call was such an incident and we sent 3 Engines and an Ambulance, and were met on scene by a helicopter.

In between those extremes, we had the usual assortment of motor vehicle accidents, water related calls, and medical calls.

### Snowplow for Station 2

Thanks to a very generous gift from a local resident, Engine 622 is now equipped with a snowplow. It will be used to clear snow around Station 2 and if needed, to clear snow where emergency access is needed.



### Wood Stove / Fireplace Safety

With the heating season upon us, here are some important reminders for those who use wood stoves or fireplaces for heat or comfort. Your chimney needs to be cleaned periodically, with the frequency of cleaning being dependent on factors such as type of chimney, the number and intensity of fires you had last winter, and moisture content of the wood you burn. Letting your fire die down to embers before adding more wood will accelerate creosote buildup in your chimney. You should check that your chimney cap/spark arrester has not been damaged by wind events, and that you do not have branches near your chimney. It is a good idea to have something on hand to put out a chimney fire such as Chimfex. The fire department is at least 15 minutes away and if you have a masonry flue a lot of damage can occur in that time. It is also important to make sure your ashes are cold and you set them on non-combustible surface.

### Wildfire Community Alliance Report as of October 23 , 2024

We continue to make progress with people making appointments to getting Wildfire Assessments completed. All the Ambassadors are actively making our assessment program known and there seems to be great enthusiasm for it. We have conducted 70 Wildfire Assessments. Fifty-seven of those being done since January 1, 2024. We are excited about having a drone photography to assist with pre-fire reports. We also have portable Starlink to connect to the Internet. We remain excited about this valuable program for our community. If you are interested in having an assessment done, contact Greg Venette at 970 881-2112.

### PoudreCanyonFireDistrict.org

Want to learn more about our fire district? Go to PoudreCanyonFireDistrict.org. If you would like to make a donation to the department, just click on the Support/donation page and take it for a test drive. . .

### Training in the Canyon



Our volunteers spend time training for various incidents. On the left they are working on safely carrying a patient up a low angle hill. On the right they are working on extrication skills. Cutting up cars is a fun and necessary training for our volunteers.

### Homeowner Mitigation

Property mitigation should be an annual event, but if it hasn't been done for several years there can be a lot of slash generated. In the summer, you can burn your slash in a camp fire or we can help you chip your slash, and in the winter you can burn your slash or we can help you burn it. Summer chipping involves coordinating volunteers to operate the chipper and you will be responsible for dealing with the chips. Burning requires an open space to pile the slash, minimum snow cover, and a burn permit. Upper canyon folks should contact Greg Venette 970 881-2112 and lower canyon folks should contact Paul Radman 970 221-1383.

### Fire Board Meeting Schedule

Find out more about the fire district by attending one of the board meetings. They are second Wednesdays of the every month at 7 pm. Due to the remodeling of the Lower Canyon Community Center all meetings are being held at the Station 2 training/community room until further notice. You can attend via Google Meets by using this link:

<https://meet.google.com/wms-kbjj-nrt>

Please let Hugh Collins know you will be attending remotely.

Please send us your email address. It allows us to contact you quickly in times of emergencies and saves us money because we can send this newsletter to you via email.

Please email Bette Blinde at [b.blinde@poudrecañonfiredistrict.org](mailto:b.blinde@poudrecañonfiredistrict.org) with your name, Poudre Canyon address, and email. We don't share email addresses.

### Fire Board Members:

Dave Bliss - 970 881-2209

Bette Blinde - 970 881-2902

Bob Busch - 970 372-1319

Dan Bond - 307 630-9023

Laurie Fonken - 970 237-3964

