

POUDRE CANYON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER ~ SPRING 2024

WWW.POUDRECANYONFIREDISTRICT.ORG



Photo by Karl Brown

The first call of the new year was a logging truck that turned over in the Lower Poudre Canyon. No one was hurt.

From the Chief

I had thought that 2023 was a quiet year for the Fire Department as we only responded to 81 calls compared to a ten-year average of 94 calls per year. But when I did a summary of our year, I realized we responded to 6 fire calls, including 3 wildland fires (Arrowhead, Stove Prairie, and Ouzel). 84% of our calls required a medical response, including those resulting from motor vehicle accidents with injuries. Two of those calls were very serious, an ATV rollover in the Swamp Creek area with 3 injuries, one requiring a tourniquet, and a converted school bus rollover on the Pingree Park road with 5 injuries, two fatal.

Our district runs for 41 miles along Highway 14, up Pingree Hill, and along Manhattan Creek. We are frequently asked by the Sheriff's office to respond to people needing help outside of our district because we are the closest agency. Last year, 25% of our calls required us to travel beyond our district boundaries, including the CSU Mountain Campus and Chambers Lake Campground.

While the district was organized in 1959 to protect the residents of the canyon, we don't ask for IDs before rendering aid. With fifteen National Forest Campgrounds, six resorts, numerous disbursed camping areas, trailheads, and the river as recreation draws, most of the population in the canyon is visitors. Last year, 75% of our calls were to assist non-residents.

There is no way to predict what 2024 has in store for us, but it may be busy. Our 10- year average for January calls is 3, and we met that mark on January 11.



Current fire board from left to right: Dan Bond, Paul McGraw, Dave Bliss, Bette Blinde and Bob Busch.

Fire Board Update

The 2023 mail-ballot election for directors for the Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District went off without a hitch and directors Pat Conway, Bette Blinde, Bryan Maddox and Paul McGraw were elected to join David Bliss on the board in May. Since that time, two of the newly elected directors have turned in their resignations. To fill these positions, the board has appointed Dan Bond and Robert Busch, both of whom ran on the 2023 ballot, to the board. Many thanks to all who helped with the 2023 election and to PCFPD directors, past and present for your service. Election 2025 will now have three vacancies to be filled instead of two.



What is the Poudre Canyon Wildfire Community Alliance?

This is an initiative the fire district is coordinating. The PCWCA is made up of residents of Poudre Canyon. These Wildfire Safety Ambassadors are your friends, your neighbors, and your local volunteer firefighters that are

dedicated to empowering the Poudre Canyon community to take strategic action to make our homes more wildfire resilient.

Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District is affiliating with Larimer County to conduct Wildfire Mitigation Assessments of the properties within our fire district.

This program will benefit both property owners and the fire district. Property owners will be provided information at no charge, on their wildfire risk assessment and what tax credits are available for conducting mitigation work. It will help the fire district meet objectives set out in our Community Wildfire Protection Plan. It helps us know what grants to apply for that will benefit residents. It helps us better understand specific risks at a given property BEFORE we go out there on a call.

If a property owner acts upon the suggestions in their report, they can request a follow-up assessment where they could earn a certificate of completion from the Larimer County Wildfire Partners Program. The property owner could then use that certificate as a value-added resource if he or she were to ever sell their property. Property owners could also use their certificate of completion and the included Homeowner's Insurance Conversation Guides to discuss coverage options with their agent BEFORE a fire occurs.

This program is an educational experience that will empower homeowners to take strategic action to make their homes more wildfire resilient. Home Ignition Zone Reports are not shared with any insurance company or unaffiliated 3rd party, unless the homeowner chooses to share their own report. As a property owner, you will need to invite the ambassador onto your property. We will be doing outreach programs and events to encourage property owners to invite us to do assessments. For more information, please contact Greg Venette at 970 881-2112.

When was the last time your water well was tested?

If you would like to have your water tested, please contact Dave Bliss at 970 881-2209 for a bottle and the paperwork. You will find more information on our website: poudrecanyonfiredistrict.org.



We encourage Homeowners to Mitigate their Property

So you have mitigated your property, trimmed limbs and shrubs. What do you do with all the slash? You can burn it in the winter, but you need a burn permit from the county. Or you could contact the fire department. We have a 6 inch chipper and we can help you chip your piles. Call Hugh: 881-2472.

Do you shop at King Soopers?

If you do, consider registering your King Soopers "SooperCard" and then choose Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District as the organization you wish to support. Then a percentage of your purchase will be donated to the fire department.

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/xbt-jttu-itz>

The dates for the next board meetings are:

March 13th

April 10th

May 8th

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. . .

FIRE BOARD MEMBERS:

Dave Bliss	970 881-2209
Bette Blinde	970 881-2902
Bob Busch	970 372-1319
Dan Bond	307 630-9023
Paul McGraw	970 881-2614

Spaghetti Dinner at the Mish

Join us for a Spaghetti Dinner at the Mish on Monday, March 4th, 5:30pm. Cost \$18 - does not include tip or drinks. It's a fundraiser for Cache la Poudre Fire & Emergency Group.

