

Durango Fire & Rescue

February 2007

Weekly Training

February 2nd, 3rd & 9th 0800 St 1
Flashover Simulator Class

February 5th 0800 St 1
Ice Rescue Class

February 13th (1830), 14th & 15th (0900) St 1
HazMat Refresher

February 20th (1830) 21st & 22nd (1000) St 1
Case Reviews

February 27th, 28th and March 1st-Station Training
Fire Awareness & Building Construction

Meeting Dates, Times & Location

Deputy/Battalion Chiefs February 1st 0730 St 1

Officers Meeting February 1st 1830 St 1

Engineers Meeting February 6th 1730 St 1

LPC Fire Chiefs February 14th 0930 St 1

Fire Investigators February 14th 1700 FPB Office

DFRA Board February 20th 0730 Admin Office

Pension Board February 20th 0815 Admin Office

EMS Committee February 20th 1730 St 1

Risk Management February 21st 0900 FP Office

Accident Review February 21st 1100 FP Office

Captain's Meeting February 22nd 0730 St 1

Animas Board February 27th 1700 Admin Office

Whispering Pines Fire ~ Well it finally happened. All the elements that we have discussed while preplanning this facility occurred on the morning of January 12th. DFRA (35+ fire fighters/medics), Upper Pine Fire (6 FF+ 2 Tankers and Fort Lewis Mesa (2 FF+ 1 Tanker) all converged on Whispering Pines and performed a fabulously skillful suppression operation. Even with the handicap of a seriously poor hydrant system (hydrants flowing less than 1/4th of what is required).

We were able to contain the fire to the first 2 sets of 5 condominiums each. This effort saved 30 other condominium homes, and contents. Estimated loss for the 10 units: structure only, \$800,000; contents another \$200,000 to \$300,000.

Briefly- A man on the 3rd floor woke up around 3 am to cook some fries. He left the stove burner on with a pot of oil heating, then went back to sleep. He awoke to the sound of a smoke detector sounding. His unit being filled quickly with smoke, he sought out the source and tried to find an extinguisher. Seeing the intensity of the flames and the inability to find an extinguisher he left his apartment. When he exited the apartment the door remained open allowing the fire to quickly progress to the open stairwell separating the two clusters of 5 condominiums. The fire quickly burned through the thin plywood ceiling and entered the attic void. In the meantime, he went door to door to wake everyone up and tell them to evacuate. All occupants did evacuate prior to DFRA's arrival, except for his neighbor across the hall. He was trapped in his unit and could not exit out of the door.

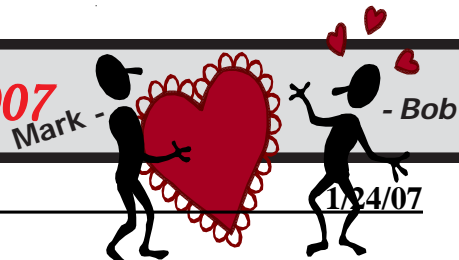
Upon DFRA's arrival (prior to the first engine), the man was found trapped on his balcony. The officer who arrived first on scene had the man hang from the balcony and jump to the next balcony below him, then do it once more until he was safely on the ground.

Initial attacks were made to slow the fire's progress as we set up to stop the advancement at the fire wall. This strategy prohibited the fire from getting into the next cluster of units. We were successful due to the entire efforts made by our officers and members!

A special thanks to those other agencies who assisted: American Red Cross who assisted displaced and distraught families, and inventoried those who occupied the homes, La Plata County Sheriff's Office whose Officers assisted with evacuation and inventory of those who occupied the homes, nearby homeowners who provided us food while we were working, Upper Pine Fire and Fort Lewis Mesa Fire who assisted with water shuttle efforts, and Tommy Tucker Insurance who worked quickly allowing DFRA to overhaul the building without placing our members in harms way or keeping us on the scene for an additional 12 to 24 hours.

Congratulation to all for a job well done – over and above expectations! *Deputy Chief Dan Noonan*

Check out the new Durango Fire & Rescue Web Page at: www.durangofireandrescue.org



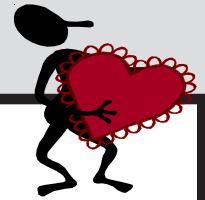
UP-COMING SPECIAL TRAINING EVENT

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>LINK</u>
2/2/07-2/3/07	ACLS class (w/Bill White)	Cortez, CO	1
2/2,3, & 9/07	Flashover Simulator training	Durango, CO	DFRA
2/5/07	Ice Rescue class	Durango, CO	DFRA
2/10/07-2/11/07	NFA Weekend	Durango, CO	DFRA
2/19/07- ?	EMT-B refresher	Hesperus, CO	1
2/22/07-2/23/07	PALS (w/Bill White)	Cortez, CO	1
2/24/07-2/25/07	PEPP-PALS class	Durango, CO	DFRA
2/25/07-3/1/07	Firehouse World Conf (REGISTRATION DEADLINE 1/20/07, MAX. 6 PEOPLE) - <u>FULL</u>	San Diego, CA	2
3/2/07-3/3/07	AMLS (w/Dennis Edgerly)	Cortez, CO.	1
3/5/07-3/7/07	Positive Pressure Attack by Chris Garcia (same class each of the 3 days)	Durango, CO	DFRA
3/5/07-7/14/07	EMT-B class (Kay Garlinghouse)	Cortez, CO	1
3/5/07-5/5/07	Driver/Operator class	Durango, CO	DFRA
3/6/07-3/10/07	EMS Today JEMS Conference & Expo (REGISTRATION DEADLINE 1/10/07, MAX. 6 PEOPLE)	Baltimore, MD	4
3/22/07-3/23/07	ACLS class (w/Bill White)	Cortez, CO.	1
3/23/07-3/24/07	Geriatric Education for EMS Providers	Cortez, CO	1
4/16/07-4/21/07	FDIC Convention & Exhibition (REGISTRATION DEADLINE 3/5/07, MAX. 6 PEOPLE)	Indianapolis, IN	3
4/26/07-4/27/07	PALS (w/Bill White)	Cortez, CO	1
5/24/07-5/25/07	ACLS class (w/Bill White)	Cortez, CO.	1
5/28/07-6/3/07	C.S.E.C.	Telluride, CO	1
6/2/07-6/8/07	Colorado Wildfire Academy	Alamosa, CO	5

LINKS:

1. bsteerman@SJBTC.EDU Bobbie Steermman @ San Juan Vo. Tech. 970-565-8457
- 2 firehouseworld.com
- 3 www.fdic.com
- 4 inquiry@emstodayexpo.com
- 5 cowildfireacademy.com

From the Training Division ~ February 2007



FEBRUARY TRAINING “PLAY-BY-PLAY”

Feb. 2, 3, 9 - Flashover Simulator training starting each of these 3 days at station 1. See below.

Feb. 6, 7, 8 - No training so all can attend Flashover Simulator training above.

Feb. 13 @ 1830, 14 @ 0900, 15 @ 0900 - Haz Mat Refresher

Feb. 20 @ 1830, 21 @ 1000, 22 @ 1000 - EMS training

Feb. 27 @ 1830, 28 @ 1000, Mar 1 @ 1000 - Station Training – Fire awareness, Building construction

FLASHOVER SIMULATOR TRAINING

We bought it, we got it, we have 5 personnel trained on it, and now it's time to use it. One of the best training props that we have, and the one that can help save your bacon in a fire is here for you to take advantage of. You will learn about reading smoke, fire attack, flashover observations, fire behavior, etc. This class is **strongly** recommended for **everyone** who is “interior” qualified. We do not get to train as much as we'd like in real fire – so please consider taking advantage of this class. The classes will be held on February 2, 3, and 9 at station 1 (as far as we know right now). The exact times depend on how many sign up. Please sign up ASAP on the training bulletin board so we can figure out the exact schedule. **IMPORTANT NOTE: We have scheduled no weekly training for the week of February 5 through 8 so that especially volunteers will have time to attend this important exercise on Saturday the 3rd. You will love it.**

SPECIAL ANNUAL TRAINING EVENTS

In general we have scheduled some great instructors to [come here to Durango](#) and teach various subjects this year. We understand it is difficult for many of you to take off the time to go to specialized trainings around the country, and to remedy that we are bringing the instruction **to you**. There are two things for you to think about. First, “*this ain't cheap*”, so please consider that we are bringing most or all of them here to include at least one weekend session to make it convenient for everyone to attend thus making it financially feasible to do this. Second, when we have these special training opportunities we usually do not schedule “weekly” training so that hopefully we are not taking you away from your “lives” anymore than is necessary. These are all very “pertinent” and “informational” classes. Please do your best to get to them.

VIDEO- TELE-CONFERENCE

Most of you are aware that we now have a “video-tele-conferencing” system set up for stations 1, 2, and 15. This allows a class to be taught at any of these stations (usually station 1) and be broadcast to the other 2 stations. This leads me to two points. First, look at your attached training calendar. You will find the abbreviation VTC adjacent to trainings which will be video-tele-conferenced to these stations. Second, if you see the VTC on a training date and there is a reason you can't make it to station 1 – please go to the next closest station to your location. For instance, you “way north” people can gather at station 15 instead of coming to town. Any questions?

Dive Rescue International ICE RESCUE CLASS Monday, February 5, 2007 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Durango Fire and Rescue will host this one day “hands on” certification course. This course will specifically address patient rescue scenarios in a variety of flat water ice settings. The course will consist of a combination of classroom and hands-on field application in safely responding to and solving an ice rescue accident. The class is open to any DFRA member. Class size is limited to 12 students, so sign up early.

Please Sign-up with the DFR Training Division @ Station 1. Please contact **Leo Lloyd** for additional information. All equipment will be provided.

Sprinklers douse townhouse fire with minor damage - BY ROBERT P. MADER OF CONTRACTORS STAFF

DURANGO, COLO. — Former firefighter Gretchen Schmeisser watched in disbelief as flames from her overheated van threatened to destroy her three-level Colorado townhouse. Her shock soon turned to excitement as she realized that two of the home's fire sprinklers had activated and were helping control the heat and flames.

"If we did not have sprinklers in this garage, the entire townhome building — all seven homes — would have been lost to this fire," said Jerry Pope, partner of Timberline Builders and one of the developers of the 71-unit community, located in southwest Colorado. Pope credits Doug Lenberg, president of Fire Safe Homes and a fire protection industry consultant, with identifying an affordable and efficient solution. Pope, Lenberg and plumbing contractor Bradford P. Blake of Blake Mechanical selected a combination fire sprinkler and domestic cold-water system.

At the time of the installation, Lenberg was working for plumbing wholesaler Dahl Plumbing.

The municipality asked Timberline to install sprinklers in all rear-facing units, or about half the development, since firetrucks and equipment could not easily access these homes.

A multipurpose system, such as the one Lenberg recommended, combines the cold-water plumbing and the fire sprinkler system into one. Water continually circulates to the fire sprinklers each time an occupant uses a cold-water plumbing fixture. This ensures fresh water is always available. These combination systems can cost as much as 15% less than stand-alone systems because of the reduced labor, a systems manufacturer said. Since these systems are fed by a home's domestic water supply, there is no need for check valves, backflow preventers or a separate water meter, further cutting installation time and costs.

Blake said he learned about combination systems supplied by Uponor in 2001. He went to Apple Valley, Minn., for the factory training session, installed a system in his own home and has been installing them ever since. "We probably do 50 of those a year and depending on whether we do a big project we may even do up to a 100 a year," Blake said.

Once the developer saw that the sprinkler system was affordable and installed easily, Pope and business partner Emil Wanatka decided to incorporate fire protection in each of Parkside Terrace's 71 units.

To install a combination system, Blake runs the service line into the home to manifolds on each occupied floor of a dwelling. The vast majority of services lines are 1 in., he said, although a handful might be 3/4 in. Branch lines run from the manifolds to the sprinkler heads. Blake noted that Uponor has a patent on the four-port sprinkler so each sprinkler has water going in or out from four sides with 1D2-in. PEX tubing. The PEX lines are installed in the ceilings, he explained, and when he needs to supply water to a fixture, he pulls a 1D2-in. PEX line from one of the four ports of a sprinkler. One sprinkler can supply just one toilet, sink, shower or other water-consuming fixture.

"There's no shortage of lines to use," Blake said.

He installed 1,300 linear ft. of 1D2-in. pipe in each unit at the townhouse development. Blake did the Parkside Terrace job for \$1.25/sq. ft., but he's now charging \$1.50/sq. ft. because his costs for practically everything have gone up.

Blake noted that many subdivisions in his area, including his own, now require residential sprinklers, either because they're remote or Colorado winter weather makes it difficult for firetrucks to get to them on time.

Blake Mechanical also installed all the bathrooms. Most units, typically 1,600 to 1,800 sq. ft., have 2 1/2 baths with a powder room. The contractor installed Moen and Kohler products. Most water heaters are 50-gal. gas-fired State Industries products, although a few homeowners opted for electric water heaters.

The cause of the Parkside Terrace fire is still undetermined, but Durango Fire Marshal Tom Kaufman believes the fire stemmed from the 1990 Volkswagen Westfalia van's engine overheating in the desert climate.

"The fire originated in the van's engine, but we were not able to determine the exact cause since the engine compartment was totally destroyed," said Kaufman, a 29-year firefighting veteran. "Damage to the home was limited to the garage, thanks in large part to the fire sprinklers, which controlled the flames before they could build deadly heat and smoke, typical of a gasoline fire."

Kaufman said the fire in Schmeisser's 1,600-sq.-ft., two-bedroom townhouse burned so hot that the outline of a clothes hanger was imprinted on the metal garage door leading into the house.

During reconstruction following the fire, Pope was amazed to discover that the wiring above the garage did not melt from the heat, nor did the insulation catch fire.

To reduce the likelihood of extending a fire's reach to adjacent rooms or floors, the sprinklers worked with another fire-protection code: the requirement of 5D8-in. Sheetrock on all the townhouse's ceilings and common walls instead of the standard 1D2 in.

While there was light smoke damage to the upper two floors of the unit, Kaufman noted that there was no heat damage. Amazingly, Schmeisser slept in her home that very same evening.



Left: Parkside Terrace Fire Above: Whispering Pines Fire



“The Tale of Two Fires”

~On 11-3-05 the Parkside Townhome development had a fire that originated in the garage. Two sprinkler heads helped contain the fire and the damage was limited to a couple thousand dollars!

~On 1-12-07 the Whispering Pines development had a fire that originated in the kitchen. No sprinklers were required when they built in the early 1970’s. The damage estimates are exceeding \$1,000,000.00 for the 10 condo’s destroyed.

Actively embracing fire prevention and technology will reduce fire loss and loss of life as well as make all of our jobs in the fire service safer. The only “good fire” is a small fire that is contained before we arrive.

I would like to thank DFRA for giving me the opportunity to serve as one of their officers. Station 9 is a great station to be Lieutenant, I'm certain Jeff Titus will do an outstanding job.

Thanks Again, Scott Headley

Thank you Scott for your leadership at Station 9 over the years..DFRA appreciates everything you have done as Lieutenant. It's nice to know you won't be gone though, we can still count on you to "save lives and property" as a volunteer in District 9.

Reminder: There will be a **PEPP** class on February 24 & 25 0800-1700 Station 1. Pre-registration is required by Friday, February 2nd. Please email Pat Wilson at wilsonpc@ci.durango.co.us to let her know you are interested in the class and also stop by the training division to fill out an Outside Training Request form.

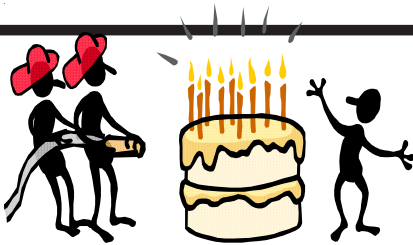
From the Chief

You don't hear from me often in the Newsletter, but believe me there is something important that I need to bring up to you this month.

I would like to address the Letter to the Editor in the Durango Herald, dated Monday January 1, 2007. The letter was in reference to a coffee cup being thrown from one of our fire trucks traveling on 11th Street. I verbally argued to several people — and knew in my heart — that none of the DFRA members would do this, only to find out that in fact it did occur. In the process of trying to find out the facts, the person who threw the cup from the truck had tried to contact the gentleman who had written the letter, but with no success. I also tried to contact him, with no success. Ultimately, I have since met with the employee and his supervisor, and the issue has been resolved.

My point in bringing this to your attention has nothing to do with the fact that I have met with the employee, but rather that you, as a member of Durango Fire and Rescue, are looked up to and observed by the public at all times. Another thing to remember is those of you who have Firefighter license plates and/or DFRA stickers on your vehicles are also under the same scrutiny as if you were in a department vehicle. The same pertains to anyone else who drives your personal vehicle.

The public holds us to a higher standard because of who we are. I believe that fire and EMS personnel are and should be the ones to set an example for those we serve and protect. So whether you are in a DFRA fire/EMS apparatus or driving your personal vehicle, remember that you are always being looked up to by those around you, and because of that trust they have in us, we owe it to them to meet their expectations.



Happy February Birthday!

Megan Schilthuis 2/1, Cherie Morris 2/2, Dave Hall 2/2, Steve Harris 2/8, Jon Wolf 2/12,
Chip Jewell 2/12, Randy Black (you funny little Valentine) 2/14, Tom Walsh 2/18,
Mike Jones 2/23, Bill Ekstrom 2/23, Daniel Debesis 2/23, Robert Waters 2/25

~Reminder to pay your 2007 Firefighter Fund dues:

\$10 for Volunteers, \$20 for Administration, \$25 for Reservists and \$30 for Career.

*Can be paid to Michele Baker, Randy Baker, Cherie Morris, Steve Bumpus, Leo Lloyd, Craig Fishser, Bryan Hyer, Brandon Day, or myself. Or there is also payroll deduction!

Make checks payable to: DFRA FF Fund.



REWARD !!!

For information on Blue Bags

Contact your station EMS rep and let them know if you have a blue bag and you will receive a **FREE** hand suction unit for your bag.

Please contact your rep as soon as possible!

EMS COMMITTEE

**FOR
SALE**

For Sale

Jayco Kiwi Hybrid

Bumper pull camp trailer

21 foot

Dual pop outs

AC/Heat, microwave, refrigerator, stereo, awning,
solar battery charger

\$8,000

Contact Cherie Morris 749-5332

PROJECT MERRY CHRISTMAS

P.O. Box 422 Durango, CO 81302 247-2944

Food • Toys for Tots
Angel and Bell Trees • Adoptions



January, 2007

Fire Chief Mike Dunaway
Durango Fire & Rescue Authority
142 Sheppard Drive
Durango, CO 81303

Dear Chief Dunaway,

Project Merry Christmas has again successfully completed its Christmas outreach to many families in our county. This year we have provided a more joyous Christmas for approximately 1,360 people who are members of 384 families. We work with the area schools, social services, senior services and others in connecting with our recipients. Providing children with new toys and clothing as well as a good Christmas meal for the family is the focus of our operation. Without generous donations from members of our community this would not be possible.

Please extend our thanks to all who helped deliver gifts to our recipients. We appreciate their taking the time to do so.

If you have questions regarding Project Merry Christmas or would like additional information please contact us at 247-2944.

Sincerely,

Anna Marie Bishop, Secretary
Board of Directors

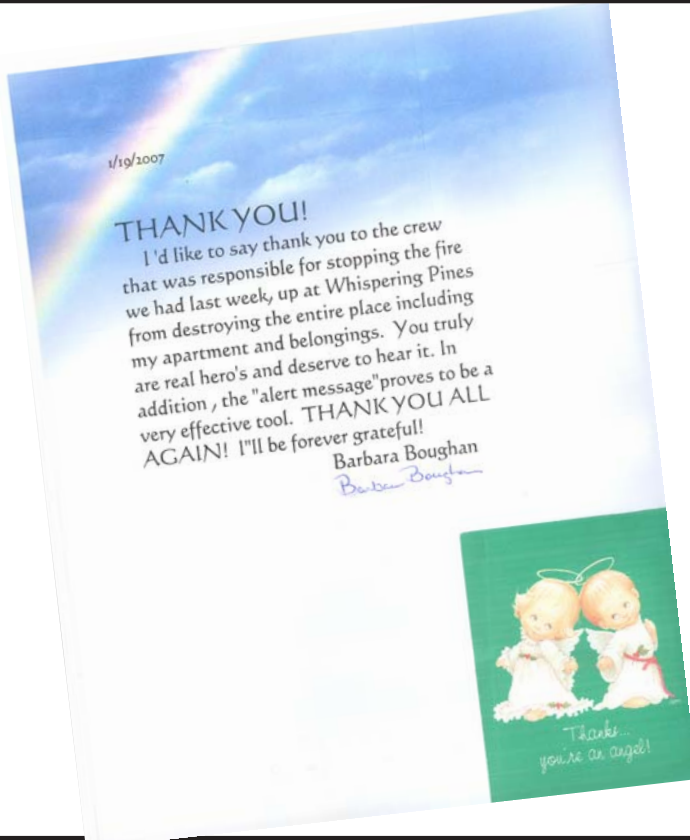
Thank you to all who helped

Chief Dunaway



TO the Durango 1/22/07
FIRE and Rescue
Thank-you for putting out
the fire at Whispering
Pines, we want to thank
the entire crew that helped.

Sincerely
Cecily M. Parkin
resident at Whispering Pines



Merci