

FIRE

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LINE

Protecting Life and Property

South Metro, Littleton Fire Unifying in 2019

The South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) Board of Directors and Littleton City Council have approved unification. Starting January 1, 2019, Littleton Fire Rescue's district -- including the City of Littleton, Highlands Ranch Metro District (HRMD) and Littleton Fire Protection District (LFPD) -- will be served by SMFR.

Voters in HRMD and LFPD were asked to "include" their properties into SMFR in an election May 8. Both measures passed with 90% approval from voters. As a

result, property owners will fund SMFR directly from their property taxes and they will be able to vote for or serve on SMFR's board of directors. South Metro will begin assessing its tax of 9.25 mills on property in HRMD and LFPD in 2019 -- the same rate applied across the entire SMFR service area.

"We are extremely pleased with the outcome of the election and the voters' decision to include properties into South Metro," said Laura Simon, chair of South Metro Board of Directors. "We have

been working diligently with HRMD and LFPD over the past two years analyzing the data and ensuring that this unification will have a positive impact on the citizens."

In preparation of unifying service, Littleton Fire Rescue and SMFR removed the border for emergency response on May 1.

"Regardless of which district gets the call (SMFR or LFR), the closest unit responds," said Fire Chief Bob Baker. ■

Remembering George Burton, PVFD

While SMFR personnel train for future emergencies, plan for the district's future growth and serve its current community, they paused April 17 to remember a fallen colleague.

Thirty-five years ago, on March 25, 1983, George Burton responded to several emergencies with the Parker Volunteer Fire Department (PVFD). His day of service ended at the fire station when he experienced a heart attack. He was transported to the hospital, but never recovered. Burton died April 17.

To mark the anniversary of this line-of-duty-death,



SMFR's Honor Guard placed a wreath at the SMFR Memorial Plaza. ■

Arapahoe County Adopts CodeRED

On May 1, all 911 Centers in Arapahoe County outside of Aurora adopted a new reverse notification system called CodeRED. That's the same system Douglas County utilizes.

Although land lines are added automatically, residents of Arapahoe County need to register cell phones numbers with the system. Visit www.ArapAlert.org and click the "sign up" button near the top of the web page.

Residents also may call 800-566-9780 option 3 to register. ■



South Metro Firefighters Improve Their Safety with Grant-Funded Ballistic Vests, Helmets

Firefighters wear personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect them from environmental hazards in their workplace ranging from blood-borne pathogens to superheated smoke and from freezing water to falling debris.

Firefighters also face emergencies with active shooters.

To reduce firefighters' risk at these volatile incidents, South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) applied for and received a \$125,000 grant from the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), which is a grant program of the US Department of Homeland Security.

The UASI grant covered 79% of the costs associated with purchasing 100 sets of ballistic gear (a vest and a helmet) -- enough for each riding position on each SMFR tower, engine and medic unit.

SMFR paid the remaining 21%.

"We take this gear seriously as it may save our lives one day," said Lieutenant Dave Becker. "The world today has become a different place."

Prior to winning this grant, SMFR had purchased 20 sets of gear for the Battalion Chiefs' vehicles and 19 sets for the Safety Officers' vehicles, according to Becker. Those

additional sets will be used for extra riders in apparatus such as probationary firefighters.

Cunningham Fire Rescue had provided each of its apparatus with ballistic gear prior to unifying with SMFR.

Littleton Fire Rescue also has ballistic gear in its apparatus, but it only

allocated three sets of gear per engine and tower. ■



Firefighters practice applying a tourniquet while wearing their grant-funded ballistic gear.



South Metro Safety Foundation (SMSF), the non-profit partner of South Metro Fire Rescue has received a \$15,000 Good Neighbor Grant from State Farm Insurance. Those funds will support safe driving programs for community residents including Teen Crash Avoidance, which provides hands-on defensive driving skills to young drivers, Adult Driving Skills, which teaches winter driving skills to seniors and new Colorado residents, and License to Survive, a seminar for parents and new teen drivers on how to navigate the learn-to-drive process.

The SMSF also has received a \$2,500 grant from the E-470 Transportation Safety Foundation. This money will fund scholarships for the Crash Avoidance, License to Survive and Seat Belts Save Lives programs.



FOUNDATION NEWS

Safety Training for Teens, Adults

Foundation Receives Grants

The South Metro Safety Foundation is able to offer safety classes because of a \$15,000 from the State Farm Good Neighbor Citizenship Program and \$2,500 from the E470 Transportation Safety Foundation. Those funds assist in providing 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: July 6, July 15, July 27

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: June 16, July 21 & Private CPR classes are available to local businesses and groups

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: June 23, July 7, July 21, Aug. 4

Supported by a State Farm Grant/Scholarships Available

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: June 30, July 7, July 14, July 29

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: Call for Dates

Supported by a State Farm Grant

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: June 10, June 24, July 8, August 5

Supported by a State Farm Grant

AED Sales

We offer Automated External Defibrillators (AED) for sale and provide medical authority to end users. Call 720-989-2260

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.



Citizens Academy Reveals New Perspectives

The South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) Citizens Academy is an opportunity for adults living or working in the jurisdiction to learn about their fire department and its myriad roles in prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response.

Eighteen citizens began the eight-week academy in April with a presentation at the SMFR Headquarters that included a history of America’s fire service by Fire Chief Bob Baker and a tour of MetCom.

“I have been most impressed with the professionalism, passion and kindness I have



seen from the SMFR staff,” said Participant Alicia Johnson. “Every single person we have met has shown that

they truly love their job and the people they work with, and that community and public safety are top priorities.”

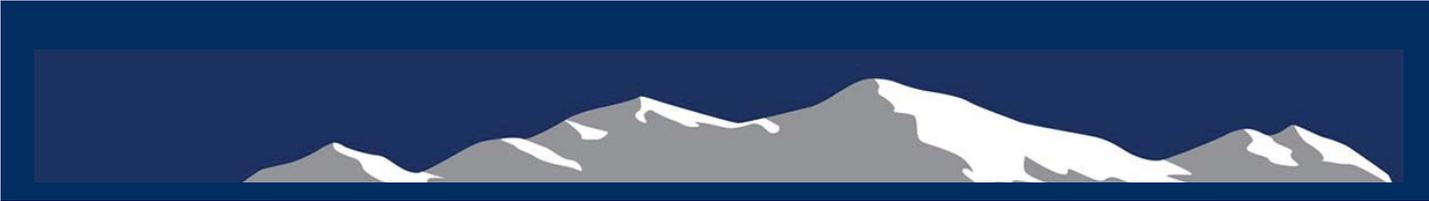
Throughout the program, participants also update their CPR skills and learn about vehicle extrication, searching burning buildings, high-

angle technical rescues, risk reduction, investigations, inspections and daily life for firefighters.

“Meeting some of the crews and having hands-on learning sessions are great,” said Jay Jackson.

The citizens academy culminates in a family night of firefighting demonstrations and the participants’ graduation ceremony. ■





Students Earn Accolades for Research into Impacts of Goat Mitigation on Local Ecosystems

After one year of browsing by goats, the density of Gambel oak decreased, according to student researchers from Rock Canyon High School.

RCHS Senior Dana Coe and Juniors Delaney Yehle and Loren Rylander also found the amount of foliage within four feet of the ground decreased noticeably.

Both results are important because they suggest goats are having an impact on the oak.

The research is part of Ready, Set, Goat!, a mitigation program that began in PineRidge four years ago and will be conducted in five Castle Pines neighborhoods this summer.

Students in the Advanced Placement Environment Studies (APES) and BioTech II programs at Rock Canyon High School joined Ready, Set, Goat! last year. While the APES students focused on collecting data, Biotech II students analyzed them.

Coe, Yehle and Rylander shared their analysis at the regional and state science fairs this spring.

At the Colorado State Science Fair they placed 1st in the Environmental Science Category, earned \$1,000 scholarships to Colorado State University and earned awards



Rock Canyon High students Dana Coe, Loren Rylander and Delaney Yehle impressed the judges at the Colorado State Science Fair in April with their analysis of Goat Browsing as a form of Wildfire Mitigation.

from the National Biology Teacher Association. They also earned Fort Collins Conservation Awards.

“We’re so proud of our team,” said Jenny Sickle, one of their teachers at Rock Canyon High and sponsor of the Ready, Set, Goat! Team.

They also presented their research to their community. The first presentation was at SMFR’s Headquarters on April 26. Residents of Castle Pines and firefighters from Station 36 were among the audience. A second presentation occurred at Rock Canyon High School this month.

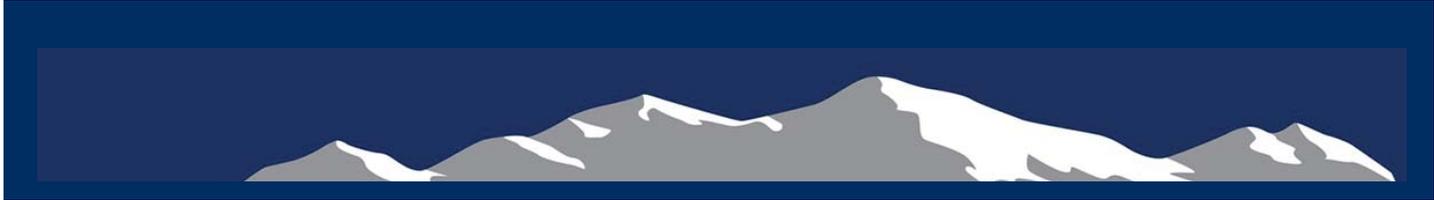
“This research is significant because we need more than before-and-after photos to reveal the impact of mitigation,” said Risk Reduction Specialist Einar Jensen. “Oak growth impacts fire behavior, which impacts firefighter safety and tactics, which impact resident safety. Ultimately, we need to know if mitigation works long-term.”

The students also analyzed phosphorous, nitrogen and potassium levels in the soil as well as the amount of organic matter.

None of their findings can be isolated to goat browsing yet, but they cautioned the audience that the research is in its infancy.

Going forward they also want to measure the amount of gallotannin in the soil. That chemical, which is a combination of gallic and tannic acids that comes from fallen oak leaves, changes soil chemistry to be too harsh for non-oak plants.

Rock Canyon students will continue monitoring and analyzing this mitigation program into the future because, as Teachers Sickle and Shawndra Fordham note, Ready, Set, Goat! provides a field project that is making a difference for the students’ communities. ■



South Metro Fire Rescue, Tri-County Health Hosting a Household Chemical Roundup May 19

Many common products found in your home, such as oil-based paint, gasoline, degreasers, and garden chemicals may be hazardous to you, your family and our environment if used or disposed of improperly. They're also dangerous for firefighters if they have to respond to your home.

Tri-County Health Department organizes annual Household Chemical Roundups for Adams and Douglas Counties. Events for Arapahoe County are organized by individual cities, which should be contacted for information.

These community events help dispose of chemical waste properly, prevent pollution and protect the people handling your garbage.

Last year, 4,493 households



from Adams County and Douglas County participated in the roundups, disposing of and recycling over 515,118 pounds of household hazardous waste.

Materials that are accepted include: paint and paint products, motor oil, antifreeze, automotive fluids, vehicle and household batteries, solvents, garden chemicals, fluorescent light bulbs, compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), cleaning supplies,

items containing mercury, propane tanks and passenger vehicle and pickup truck tires off the rim

South Metro Fire Rescue is hosting a Roundup on May 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at its training facility (17801 Plaza Drive in Parker). Note that no electronic waste is accepted at these events. ■

Is Your Child's Car Seat Safe?

Crashes are the leading cause of death among kids aged 1-19.

After you install a proper child passenger safety seat in your vehicle(s), you should have it checked by a Child Passenger Safety Technician. SMFR 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:

May 15, June 6, July 3

Fire Station #45 (16801 Northgate Drive, Parker).

May 23, June 13, June 27

Fire Station #34 (8871 Maximus Drive, Lone Tree).

May 30, June 20, July 25

Fire Station #62 (16758 E. Smoky Hill Road, Aurora)

Make an appointment at SouthMetroFoundation.org

Connect with SMFR on Social Media

South Metro Fire Rescue has a robust presence on social media. Please join us on any of the following free platforms:



www.facebook.com/SouthMetroFireRescue



When you register, sign up for alerts from South Metro Fire Rescue



[@southmetropio](https://twitter.com/southmetropio)



www.broadcastify.com/listen/feed/23085



Sign up based on your neighborhood



www.southmetro.photography

Station 32 Taking Shape at the Corner of Quebec, Orchard

Except for a couple of days with high winds, construction of SMFR's new Fire Station 32 is progressing. As the image at right suggests, steel framework and masonry are allowing the modern fire station to take shape where there had only been a large hole.



Do You Have a Home Inventory in Case of Fire, Flooding Losses?

It comes in many forms, but a Home Inventory Checklist can help you determine the value of your personal property if disaster strikes your home.

As you compile your inventory, supplement it with receipts indicating the date of purchase and purchase price. Also consider photographing or videoing the major items. Your inventory should be updated on an annual basis, or at the very least, whenever you purchase a large appliance or item of furniture, according to insurance companies and survivors of major disasters.

To complete a home inventory, go through each room of your house, listing every piece of furniture

and fixture within it. Items such as sofas, tables, beds, TVs, refrigerators, and lawn mowers should be included. Yet don't forget the smaller items such as house ware, clothing, toys, books, jewelry and contents of drawers.

One way to tackle this project is to inventory one room per weekend. Be sure to store the inventory, photographs and videos in a safe place away from your home, such as in a safe deposit box, in the home of a friend or relative, or in the cloud.

Your home insurance company probably has a form or app to assist you in this process. ■

Congratulations

February

20 Years of Service

Paramedic Trent Arguello

15 Years of Service

Fleet Parts Mgr. Tony Schenck

1 Year of Service

Mechanic Thomas Brown

Hired

Dispatcher Michelle Warsop

Promotions

Lead Mechanic John Frank

Training Lieut. Fred Halazon

Training Engineer Chris Folse

Resignations/Retirements

Casey Foster

March

25 Years of Service

Firefighter Robert Hanson

20 Years of Service

Captain Paul Slater

Lieutenant Heidi Simon

Firefighter Lisa Dighton

Firefighter William Frieling

Firefighter Ben O'Brien

15 Years of Service

Paramedic Drew Mayers

Paramedic Brian McCoy

Paramedic Matthew Rogers

Paramedic Luke Smith

Engineer Jennifer Dines

Engineer William Rainalter

5 Years of Service

Firefighter David Freyta

Firefighter Travis McConnell

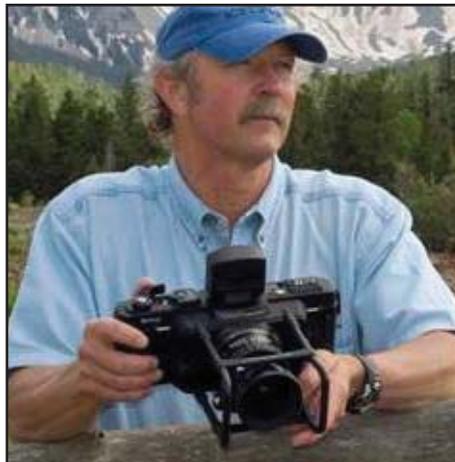
Engineer Haines still Active After Retiring from South Metro

Gary Haines served our community as a firefighter/engineer, initially with Castlewood Fire Department and then with South Metro Fire Rescue, for 32 years. Like many of our former firefighters, retirement didn't mark the end of his community service.

After retiring in April 2007, Haines dedicated much of his time to his passion for photography. He is best known for his images of landscapes, wildlife and vignettes of Colorado although he traveled throughout the world.

His fine art prints can be found at Grizzly Creek Gallery, which he opened 20 years ago in the Historic District of Georgetown, Colorado. His gallery also offers custom printing and framing.

Unlike many of his counterparts in the



photography world, Haines refuses to manipulate or enhance his images digitally. Instead, he uses patience and knowledge to combine light and combination into serene masterpieces.

Although he left South Metro Fire Rescue, he hasn't left the fire service. He now serves Clear Creek Fire Authority as a volunteer firefighter and instructor in his hometown of Georgetown.

"The most fun I had," he said of his time with SMFR, "was all the camaraderie," which is part of why he joined the CCFA.

Haines also joined the Park County Regulators, which is an Old West re-enactment team based in Bailey.

Haines typically joins the crew when they do mock train robberies at the Georgetown Loop Railroad during the summer. In the image at left, he's standing in the middle of the back row. ■



Congrats, cont'd

1 Year of Service

Risk Reduction Spec. Dave Reid
HR Generalist Tia Tashiro
Wellness Asst. Chris Sheckler

Hired

Receptionist Desarae Hundley
P/T Dispatcher Brian Zales
Temp. Support Courtney Miller

Promotions

Captain Jason Camper
Captain Shane Druckenmiller
Captain Sheryl West
Lieutenant Rick Peterson
Lieutenant Janes Richter
Lieutenant Thomas Rogers
Lieutenant Chris Smith
Lieutenant Rodney Zehren-Thomas

Resignations/Retirements

Jim Burke

April

1 Year of Service

Paramedic David Bush
Paramedic Michael Fisher
Paramedic Cory Hollingshead
Paramedic Tyson Klar
Paramedic Erik Krantz
Paramedic Christine Lindh
Paramedic Noah Massin
Paramedic Travis Moberg
Paramedic Andrew Morray
Firefighter Sean Cassin
Firefighter Tristan Deboli
Firefighter Casey Garvey
Firefighter Ryan Hammack
Firefighter Dustin King
Firefighter Ryan Nelson
Firefighter Vincent Pratt
Firefighter Matthew Rodgers
Firefighter Devin Smith
Firefighter Jake Steffens

Recent Incidents



Above, Probationary Firefighter Ryan Hammack attacks a vehicle fire on Cottontail Lane in April.

At right, SMFR firefighters responded to a request for mutual aid in April when several homes caught fire in Castle Rock this spring. The wind-driven structure fire eventually destroyed two homes and damaged many others.



At left, Probationary Firefighter Noah Massin uses a chainsaw to overhaul the parapet of a commercial building in Greenwood Village in early May. During overhaul, firefighters check for fire extension to verify they extinguished all of the heat.

Congrats, cont'd

Programmer Abner Campuzano
Seasonal Maint. Tech. Greg James

Hired

Dispatcher Luke Hildebrandt
Dispatcher Stephins Smith III
Fire Inspector Mark Allen
Fire Inspector Callan Sheesley
Accela Developer Jimmy Moya

May

30 Years of Service

Bureau Chief Brian Brown

10 Years of Service

Dep. Fire Marshal Richard Conroy
Fire Inspector Don Titzler

1 Year of Service

Mechanic Lance Aksamit

Resignations/Retirements

Rob Hinsberg
Kevin Sweeney

Re-Elected to the Board

Hank Eng



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Commission on
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