

POUDRE CANYON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER ~ DECEMBER 2019

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

What do you think of when you hear the term ‘Local Government’? Our fire district is probably the most ‘local’ of your local governments. It is a special district under the laws of the State of Colorado formed to solve problems. Our district was formed in 1959 to provide fire protection services to homeowners along Highway 14. Over the years it has expanded in area and services. We now reach up along the Boy Scout Road and have an EMS team and ambulances. We respond to diverse calls including structure fires, wildland fires, smoke reports, accidents, hazmat spills and medical calls. We provide mutual aid to our neighboring departments and they provide aid to us when we call on them. We encourage homeowners to mitigate their property and help them to do so. We help homeowners with slash pile burns or we help chip their slash.



In 2008 the fire district asked the residents to increase its mill levy so it could build new, larger firehouses and upgrade equipment. Voters approved this increase overwhelmingly. What has the district done since 2008? We built a new firehouse/community center at Rustic. This facility is constantly being used by various groups in that community. We built a new firehouse in Poudre Park. Both stations were completed by 2012, just in time to serve as command centers for the High Park Fire. We purchased three type 6 engines that are heavy duty enough to carry all of our diverse equipment and have seating capacity for five volunteers. We purchased a heavy duty chipper to help homeowners chip their slash and we are in the process of building a new station on the Boy Scout Road. In the future we will need to replace the type 6 engine at Station 3, and both ambulances. Our bunker gear, protective clothing for our firefighters, is over 20 years old and will also need to

be replaced. We refinanced our buildings through a USDA low interest loan. Our goal is to pay off this loan as soon as possible.

CLPSEG HOSTS FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION DINNER

The Cache La Poudre Fire and Emergency Group (CLPSEG) hosted their 8th annual Firefighter appreciation dinner at the Mishawaka on Friday, November 22, 2019. The event recognizes our volunteers, retirees, and supporters who made significant contributions to the Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District. This year we recognized supporters Ingrams Drilling for drilling the well at Station 4 at no cost to the project, Sandra Lundt, Ralph Matzner and Ron Lonneman for their support of the Chili Cook-off. Special thanks went Kellie Falbo for coordinating several fundraisers. Thanks to the Mish for the great dinner.

FROM THE CHIEF - NEW RESPONSE TOOL

Thanks to the generosity of people attending last spring’s Chili Cook-off, the department was able to purchase a drone with thermal imaging capability. With this new tool, we no longer have to climb to the top of a ridge to check out a smoke report. The thermal image capability will let us determine the size of the fire (if any), and may allow us to assist with searching for lost or missing persons. This drone photo on the left shows Station 4 under construction.

MITIGATION GRANT

The State of Colorado offers grants for mitigation in wildland urban interface areas. All of our district falls into this category. We received one of these grants over ten years ago and used grant funds to help homeowners cover the cost of tree removal, especially of trees that might be too dangerous for homeowners to take out themselves. We were thinking that maybe we should apply to this program again. We would like to find out who might be interested in participating. It would be a 50/50 match and your labor can be used as part of the match. If you are interested in participating, please complete the webform on our website: poudrecanyonfiredistrict.org. You can find the link in the blogs at the bottom of the first page.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

You can receive our newsletter via email by signing up at our website: poudrecanyonfiredistrict.org. Go to the newsletter page and click on the link to fill out the webform. It has more pictures.

IMPACT OF GALLAGHER AMENDMENT

Every two years the Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District has experienced a decrease in potential revenues since the Gallagher amendment passed in 1982. Thankfully, due to increases in property values, we have not felt the decreases, yet. Why are rural communities negatively impacted? It is because there are fewer commercial properties to contribute to the tax base. The board is wrestling with how to make up this difference in revenue. Many departments in the 2018 election asked their residents to de-Gallagher. All of these measures passed, probably because there is no change in the tax you are currently paying for emergency service. Poudre Canyon is looking into this option. It has been recommended that our district de-Gallagher in the November election.

AMAZON

Do you shop at Amazon? If you do, you can help the fire department by switching to shopping at Amazon Smile. At this site Amazon gives a percentage of your bill back to a not-for-profit of your choice. If you choose Cache la Poudre Fire and Emergency Group, then you will be helping the fire department.

KINGS SOOPER REWARD CARDS

Our King Soopers reward program has changed. You now need to go to King Sooper's website and register your King Soopers "SooperCard" and then choose Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District as the organization you wish to support. It takes less than five minutes to sign up.

STATION 4 UPDATE

Progress on Station 4 has been very slow, much to our disappointment, but it is happening. Hopefully, it will be finished by the end of the year. If you would like to help with the interior of the new community/training room (paint, tile, trim, etc.) let us know! Many hands make light work!! We could also use cash donations to finish and equip this station.



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. Odd months are at the Lower Community Center. Even months are at the Upper Community Center.

January 8 Lower Poudre Canyon Community Building
February 12 Upper Poudre Canyon Community Building
March 11 Lower Poudre Canyon Community Building
April 8 Upper Poudre Canyon Community Building
May 13 Lower Poudre Canyon Community Building
June 10 Upper Poudre Canyon Community Building

If you have questions about what the district is doing, please come to one of our board meetings this year and visit with us. We really appreciate those of you who take an interest in what we are doing especially if you bring cookies! Don't be surprised if we try and recruit you to help your community.

POUDRE CANYON FIRE DISTRICT.ORG

Our website has a new look. Check it out by going to PoudreCanyonFireDistrict.org. The updated website is provided at no cost to special districts by the State of Colorado. If you would like to make a year end donation to the department, just click on the Support/Donation page and take it for a test drive...

FIRE BOARD MEMBERS:

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Greg Danhoff	970 881-2202
Boots Jaffee	970 495-1335

