

# POUDRE CANYON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## NEWSLETTER ~ SUMMER/FALL 2020

### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE ARE PAGED

Suppose it is one of those beautiful days in the canyon and you decide to meet up with some friends who are staying at the Mountain Park Campground for a picnic. Your kids and grandkids are with you. Lunch is packed and you head out. The drive is beautiful, but suddenly, the car in the on-coming lane swerves into your lane. You turn your vehicle to miss them but the gravel on the edge of the road catches your tire. You're swerving all over the road. Kids are screaming. You nearly hit another car. You find yourself airborne and your car lands in the Poudre River. (We had 4 cars land in the river this last year.) What happens? A passerby will drive to the nearest phone and call 911.



The first emergency units to arrive on scene will be your local Poudre Canyon fire and EMT volunteers. They will assess the scene and relay the accident information to the county sheriff's dispatch. State Patrol is dispatched immediately. State Patrol will call for one or two tow trucks. (It usually takes two tow trucks to get a vehicle out of the river.) UC Health ambulance is also dispatched. When a vehicle is in the water, Poudre Canyon calls for dive rescue to assist in getting you, your family and car out of the river. Larimer County Emergency Services will respond. If your accident occurs on one of the many steep drop offs to the river, Poudre Canyon will call specifically for the ropes team to assist in pulling your family up the steep drop off. If anyone's injuries are serious, Poudre Canyon will ask for the Life Line helicopter to respond and will work to safely land the helicopter and get their medical team on scene. If necessary, additional ambulances will be requested.

While all of the above is happening, Poudre Canyon is controlling traffic. They will control traffic for the entire incident. They also stage a Type 6 engine so life safety ropes can be used to get you out. If your accident occurred at night, they set up lights so all the emergency responders can see any hazards.

Throughout this time someone from Poudre Canyon VFD will be talking to you and your family. Our goal is to get you and your family out safely, and to make sure everyone involved goes home safely. Depending upon the incident, there could be anywhere from 20 to 60 people responding to help you. Once your family is out of the vehicle, Poudre Canyon EMTs will assess your injuries and relay this information to the paramedics from UC Health or Life Line helicopter. The most seriously hurt will go to the hospital by helicopter. Their injuries will be described so the hospital is prepared to help upon arrival. (That is why we encourage everyone to join AirMedCare Network.) Events like this accident take three to six hours to clear. We hope we never meet you in this type of situation.

### 2020 SUMMER OF FIRES

This year has been a year for fires in or near our district.

**2/10/2020** Pingree Park Rd at FR 135

Road and Bridge reported a body on fire. Fire had self extinguished, turned scene over to Larimer County Sheriff Office (LCSO).

**3/7/2020** 33689 Hwy 14 - Elkhorn Prescribed Fire  
Prescribed burn across from Station 2.

**3/18/2020** Arrowhead Lodge

Smoke report, investigation determined rekindle of prescribed burn within control lines.

**4/9/2020** Hwy 14 at Pingree Hill Rd

Smoke reported in vicinity of Glen Echo, nothing found.

**5/31/2020** MM 94 Hwy 14 - Salt Cabin Fire

Glacier View 18 reported smoke column along Hwy 14 east of Indian Meadows. On arrival observed smoke on top of ridge on Forest Service land. Forest Service took over incident and we supported them with equipment.

**6/5/2020** MM 108 Hwy - 14 Mishawaka Fire

Fire west of the Mishawaka. Initiated suppression activities until relieved by Larimer County Emergency Services.

**6/12/2020** 7405 Hwy 14

Paged out for smell of smoke in area. Located a neighbor who had a small fire in a fire pit.

**6/17/2020** Jacks Gulch - Jack Fire

Paged out for smoke report west of Pingree Park Road. On arrival near Jacks Gulch Campground found 5-7 acres burning. Evacuated campground, put out numerous spot fires and turned scene over to Forest Service.

**6/18/2020** MM 70 Hwy 14

Paged out for out of control bonfire near Long Draw Rd. Unable to locate, stood down.

**6-19-2020** Ben Delatour Scout Ranch

Lightning struck a tree and caught it on fire and spread to 10 x 20 space. Had to cut down the tree to get the fire out of the center of it.

**6/21/2020** Stove Prairie Road

Smoke reported just south of Hwy 14 on Stove Prairie Rd. Unable to locate fire.

**7-13-2020** FR 436

Paged out for unattended campfire on FR 436 just off Pingree Park Rd. Stood down in route due to Forest Service responding.

**7-13-2020** - Stratton Park Fire

Paged out for standby at Station 1 in support of suppression of Stratton Park fire.

**8-13-2020** - Cameron Peak Fire

Still burning as of this writing, provided support to fire management team.

**8/15/2020** MM106

Paged out for smoke report west of the Mishawaka. Unable to locate, smoke probably from Cameron Peak Fire.

**8-22-2020** - Lewstone Fire

Paged at 16:20 fire location unknown, staged at Ted's place, moved staging to Noosa Feed Lot where we waited with the other responding units.

**9/7/2020** Crown Point Dr. - Cameron Peak Fire

Received phone call advising fire coming over ridge behind houses on Crown Point Drive. Set up drop tanks from E241 and T321 and filled with float pump from river. Foamed some of the houses. Did structure protection and fire suppression at Archers, assisted by units from Red Feather, Glacier View, and Livermore. Patrolled the Rustic community looking for fires. Put out various spot fires.

*Enclosed in this newsletter is a form where we are collecting contact information from our residents in case we need to contact you in an emergency. Please complete and mail it back to us. Thank you.*

**NOTE:** Only district property owners who are registered to vote in Colorado can vote on issue 6C.

## VOTE YES TO DE- GALLAGHER

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 and fewer new homes being built in rural areas to contribute to the tax base. 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 going to ask you to de-Gallagher the district this November. This is what you will see on the ballot:

Ballot issue 6C: IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN ADEQUATE FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, AND ONLY IN THE EVENT THAT THE RESIDENTIAL ASSESSMENT RATE IS REDUCED BELOW THE CURRENT RATE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 3 OF ARTICLE X OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION, SHALL THE POUDE CANYON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT (DISTRICT) BE PERMITTED TO ADJUST ITS PROPERTY TAX MILL LEVY TO OFFSET ANY RESULTING DECREASE IN REVENUE CAUSED BY THE REDUCTION OF THE RESIDENTIAL ASSESSMENT RATE; AND SHALL SUCH TAX PROCEEDS BE COLLECTED AND SPENT BY THE DISTRICT AS VOTER APPROVED REVENUE AND SPENDING CHANGES IN EACH YEAR, WITHOUT REGARD TO ANY CONSTITUTIONAL OR STATUTORY SPENDING OR REVENUE LIMITATIONS CONTAINED IN ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION AND SECTION 29-1-301, COLORADO REVISED STATUTES?

A "Yes" vote on issue 6C will secure long term financial sustainability for the Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District. The Fire District provides critical fire protection, rescue, emergency medical and community outreach services to its residents. A "Yes" vote on issue 6C is not a property tax increase, issue 6C stabilizes the current residential assessment rate in order to protect the Fire District's current sources of revenue. The Fire District has proven to be responsible stewards of tax payer funds while still providing exceptional service to the community. A "Yes" vote on issue 6C will provide the District the financial means to operationally meet the growing demand for emergency services and maintain the level of service the community has come to expect.

***Voting YES to de-Gallagher will assure that the fire district maintains its current income level for years to come. It is NOT a tax increase.***

# CAMERON PEAK FIRE

If a picture is worth a 1,000 words, here's our description of the Cameron Peak Fire



## GET PREPARED . . .

As the Cameron Peak Fire ends what is left is a large area of burned ground covered in ash. When the rains come, this burned area is prone to flooding as there is nothing left to hold back the water. The downed trees can also block rivers and streams.

Even homes a long way from the fire location can see increased flooding. You may want to think about what you can do to prevent damage from possible flooding around your property.



Dutch Bros held a fund raiser for us and gave us just under \$4,000. Thank you, Dutch Bros!

## FIRE DEPARTMENT IS SEEKING FUNDS FOR RAPID RESPONSE TRUCK

PCFPD wants to obtain a rapid response vehicle to replace an old truck. This vehicle will be smaller type 6 engine that has a shorter wheel base and can carry a two-person crew. It will be set up so it can quickly respond to fires in the many back roads in our district.

## FROM THE CHIEF - HUGH COLLINS

To be eligible for federal grants for emergency response related equipment and supplies, the department, in conjunction with Larimer County has done another hazard assessment and wildfire is again our most significant hazard. Mitigating your property continues to be the best single thing you can do to protect your house against wildfires. Additional information will be provided in future newsletters.



Station 4 will soon be ready for an open house. If only COVID-19 will allow it . . . stay tuned.

If you want to see it sooner, contact a board member for a tour.

## 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.

November 11 Lower Poudre Canyon Community Building  
December 9 Upper Poudre Canyon Community Building

## POUDRE CANYON FIRE DISTRICT.ORG

Our website has a new look. Check it out by going to [PoudreCanyonFireDistrict.org](http://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. . .

## ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

You can receive our newsletter via email by signing up at our website: [PoudreCanyonFireDistrict.org](http://PoudreCanyonFireDistrict.org). Go to the newsletter page and click on the link to fill out the webform. The electronic version has more pictures.

## FIRE BOARD MEMBERS:

Gene Mericle	970 219-4700
Bette Blinde	970 881-2902
Paula Collins	970 881-2472
Greg Danhoff	970 881-2202
Boots Jaffee	970 495-1335

## DO YOU SHOP AT AMAZON OR KING SOOPERS?

If you do, consider using [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and linking your purchase to Cache la Poudre Fire and Emergency Group. Register 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.

