It’s 2012 What Do We Do Now?

My friend and author of the Secret List, Deputy Chief Billy Goldfeder recently wrote some words that I found most interesting especially on Tuesday, January 3, 2012. He wrote, “I am not aware of any fire department that’s not been hit by the economic problems, - we are losing people, training dollars and resources, and we’re losing a lot of senior firefighters who are ‘getting out’. What we’re seeing in the fire service today is an erosion of experience and training, and with it the potential quality of firefighters. Departments need to have resources to get the job done, but on the other side of the losses is the fact that we all know that many of the fires we are responding to today are burning quick-and-collapsing quicker. We know these fires are much more dangerous - or we should.”

On February 3, 2011, the Golden Fire Department will lose two experienced Chief Officers. Assistant Chief Joe Nelson is retiring after 20 dedicated years of volunteer service to the department. Joe has been a Captain and an Assistant Chief since November 1999. On Tuesday, January 3rd, we learned that Division Chief Gene Quador was retiring from the fire service after serving five years with Golden and over 20 years with the Rocky Flats Fire Department. Gene has also been an officer for approximately half of his career. Experience possessed by these two officers is not easily replaced. We owe both of them a great deal of gratitude for what they have brought and accomplished during their fire service careers. I know they have mentored and set the example for many younger members. They have both left their mark on the department and will be missed. Hopefully you will take a part of their

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wisdom and experience as I will as you continue on in your fire service career.

Recently another friend of mine who is a Fire Chief for various Naval Air Stations around the world told me the story of Mongo. Mongo is a guy with a scab on the bridge of his nose, bleeding from the fresh cut on his hand and approaches you on the fire ground. He has a proud grin as he limps along dragging his axe behind him hoping he has pleased his officers with his latest rescue attempt. You look at him, shake your head as he passes, awaiting your approval while you think about the accident paperwork you have to fill out. “Really Chief, I couldn’t help it!” he exclaims as he raises his hand for you to see his most recent injury. What you say and do from this moment on will affect the safety culture in the department and either tame Mongo or leave him wild to injure himself again.

Mongo, strives to please you. He or she is not a bad person and they want to succeed in a profession that is self-less and giving. That is why it is so hard to grade them on their safety in the department but it has to be the first thing you look at. We have industry proven standards for safety that we repeat and add to safety stand downs over and over but Mongo will not care unless he sees you truly believe in safety and will enforce the rules. Add safety requirements and standards to performance reviews and document both adherence and violations of safety policies alike with your personnel. Take a firm stance. Remember, Mongo is stubborn and thinks he is doing the right thing.

Firefighters should be getting that “fail” score from their officers when they don’t wear gloves on the emergency. Gloves, helmets and seat belts should be our mantra, chanted over and over until it is as natural as breathing.

Almost every fire department has a muster at the beginning of the shift when everyone is fresh and still healthy. Mongo is looming, waiting for the house bell to ring and staring expectantly at his radio or pager. Take five minutes with your crews whether at the beginning of a shift or a Sunday work detail and discuss a topic such as seatbelts, wearing gloves, reviewing safe driving practices, etc. Remember, Mongo is not interested in anything not related to his job. He doesn’t care about fork lift training or even OSHA. He wants to go to fires and other calls and know what is going to happen there. You may be surprised at the topics that appear that Mongo is interested in. The goal is to capture the enthusiasm Mongo has for firefighting and direct it towards firefighting safely.

Mongo needs guidance and reviewing what is written in SOG’s is showing that safety means business. All officers and firefighters should support the department SOG’s when it comes to safety. That is when people will start to correct each other and a safety culture will begin within the department at all levels where firefighters are embarrassed and not proud of being Mongo.

Stay safe and have a great 2012 with Golden Fire.
This article this month was inspired by my recent visit to Durham England to visit and watch my daughter Jessica Quador play soccer for Durham University. She is attending on a soccer scholarship while completing her master’s program in Business Management. While I was there for nine days I went by one day to the fire training headquarters to visit. I learned several amazing things about how our brothers in England operate compared to us. So here’s a little history about them and I’ll share a few items that I found to be unique.

County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (the Authority), serves the areas of Durham and Darlington. It covers an area of 1,033 square miles with an estimated population of 605,000. The Authority has a wide range of different challenges to face arising from the makeup of the area. The west of Durham is largely rural and thinly populated. Darlington is the largest urban area, undergoing extensive regeneration. Across the rest of Durham is a mixture of small towns, former mining areas and the city of Durham, a major learning and tourist centre. Just under one-third of the population live in the most deprived areas in England. These areas are mainly concentrated in East, North-West and South-West Durham.

The Authority has its headquarters in Durham. It employs 684 staff, working from its headquarters and fifteen fire stations. Two fire stations are staffed by whole time fire fighters, six have both whole time and retained duty staff and the rest are retained duty staff only. Retained fire fighters have other occupations and are available on call for a certain number of hours per week and live or work close to their local fire station.

Now for a few items of interest I saw and heard:

- The use the Draeger PSS 100 compressed air breathing apparatus sets complete with Bodyguard II electronic monitoring systems with Draeger PSS Merlin telemetry system. "Using radio technology to continuously transmit and receive data from up to 12 individual firefighters simultaneously, it is able to remotely monitor their exact status and safety from outside the incident. As a result, and unlike traditional manual or semi-manual systems, the PSS Merlin provides Entry Control Officers with a continuously updated supply of vital information, thereby enabling them to react immediately in an emergency". Incorporating Tally Control operation, Bodyguard combines pressure indicators, temperature monitoring and distress signaling in one unit. Most importantly, this provides the wearer, (as well as the Entry Control Officer via the PSS Merlin) with an accurate calculation of remaining air time which is updated every second and is based on current air consumption. Did you get that?, they assign an officer to the role of ‘Entry Control Officer’ who monitors your air consumption and radios you to exit the structure at a pre-determined level of air in your system. Interesting!

- When someone makes a call for an emergency we call ‘911’ well over in England they call ‘999’ nice to know if you are visiting like me.

- I had been in Durham England for several days walking all over the historic town with castles and church’s, but I hadn’t seen a fire hydrant anywhere. So when I visited the fire training center/
station that was one of the first questions I asked. Well when I stopped by to ask to visit with some firefighters I ended up four hours later talking to close to 15 firefighters about our way and their way of doing business. They took me onto the drill ground and showed me their way of getting water to an Engine vs. the way we do it here in Golden and the rest of the United States.

You need these two tools to hook up to their hydrants. Remove the ground plate and look in.

Grab the ears below the elbow and push down and turn clockwise to attach to the top of hydrant.

When done right it’s about a ¼ turn clockwise to attach the hydrant pipe.

So when you need a water supply you look for the ‘H’ plaque on the buildings and on the ground close by is the metal housing that has FH on it. Take the cap off and hook up. There’s your hydrant.

To the right of the hydrant pipe you will see a hydrant nut that you put the blue valve key onto and turn counter clockwise to open hydrant. The fire hose has a quick connect that just push’s into the elbow and is connected. You push the red button to unhook the hose line when done. As you can see their supply line is metric so between 2.5 to 3 inch supply.

So to close this story out, if and when you travel look at the different and unique things that other Fire Departments do elsewhere in the world. These are only a few of the unique things they do vs. what we do. Ultimately they still get the job done. When I left that day I had made some new friends that due to being brothers in the fire service we bonded. It is one of the great memories I will have looking back on the fire service. Stay Safe.
Watching the Broncos finish their final regular season game was once again a nail biter to the end. Even though they lost, they still managed to win the AFC West (with a little help from the Oakland Raiders). What a season so far. And all throughout the season I would listen to friends and co-workers Monday morning quarterback each week, complaining about the coaches, the players, decisions that were made, who did what, why did they do that, so on and so forth. Oh how easy it is to make the correct decision once you know the final outcome. What I never realized was how many people are more qualified than the current players and coaches on the Broncos team. Unfortunately the fire service is not much different.

Far too often after a major incident I will hear members discussing the details about the incident. Usually they will be talking about what went wrong, who did or didn’t do what, how members performed poorly, question why command made the decisions that they made, etc. Usually these discussions end up being negative about the members who responded. This is easy to do when you’re given the facts and information of the incident afterwards and you know what the outcome will be.

Does this type of discussion really do anything positive for the department? Not always.

Now don’t get me wrong, I believe that discussing an incident afterwards can be a valuable component of any incident, something that we can all learn from when it is done in a constructive and positive way. When it is done correctly. When it is done incorrectly and ends up being more gossip than

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facts, it is just demoralizing and destructive to the department as a whole.

So then how should an incident debriefing be performed? Unfortunately the answer isn’t a simple one. Different incidents will require different debriefings.

On a relatively minor incident, (like a single vehicle MVA with minor injuries), the debriefing can take place on scene while waiting for a tow. Take the opportunity to discuss what went well, what could have been improved upon, what would have been done if the situation were different i.e. critical patient, heavy extrication, etc.. If you clear the scene before this occurs take the time to discuss it while back enroute to the fire station. Make it a learning experience. There is also the opportunity to discuss the situation after you return to the firehouse and get cleaned up and back in service. Just make sure that it is a positive discussion. And even if something might have gone wrong, take the time to discuss it as a crew. Learn from the situation and the next time similar incidents will go better. (Officers, if an individual on your crew needs a corrective action because of a poor performance, do it privately.)

As the complexity of the situation increases, so does the need for a larger incident debrief, sometimes referred to the After Action Review or AAR.

In a typical AAR, all the crews should be brought together to discuss the incident in detail. All members in the department whether they were present or not, should be encouraged to attend so that they too can learn from the incident and have any questions answered as well.

During the AAR, an overall review of the incident should occur, the events that took place, the crews that responded, the assignments made on scene, and overall outcome of the incident. Everything that took place on scene should be laid out and discussed as it happened. Incident communications should be listened to as well (if possible) so that each member can hear what took place and how the incident evolved. Everyone should be given the opportunity to discuss what happened, the challenges that they faced, how they overcame them, mistakes that they made (and yes we all do make mistakes – just ask my wife) and the overall lessons learned from the incident. It is easy to make assumptions about what took place at an incident when it’s over-being the Monday morning quarterback. Just remember that the decisions made on scene can only be made with the information that is provided at the time of the incident. An incident commander at a major incident does not know what is going on inside the building (or on the outside if they can’t see all sides of the structure) unless there is a crew that keeps them updated on the events. The information that the incident commander has at the time of the incident is how they make their decisions.

Unfortunately though quite often an AAR never occurs. Crews
may discuss the happenings (which is better than nothing at all) but far too often it ends up being negative to those who responded. Assumptions are made and the gossip gets flowing. As it goes through the firehouse and the department, it often changes. Think of when you were in elementary school and played the game where everyone sat in the circle, the teacher whispers to one person and it is passed along through all students until it reaches the end. The end result was usually quite different from what the teacher started.

Through my years in the fire service I have overheard many discussions about incidents that occurred and the decisions that were made by members on scene. And just as in elementary school, the story and facts continued to change being passed incorrectly from one person to another with facts being added or completely left off.

My response to these types of discussions is: first off, if you have a question about a decision that was made talk directly to the person who made the decision. Don’t make assumptions or listen to what others say that may or may not have even been present at the time of the incident. Go directly to the source to get your answer. If you ask the person directly who made the decision, there is usually a good reason that a particular decision was made. Second, the incident commander or officer in charge can only make the decision with the facts that are presented at the time of the incident.

Now lets stop all this Monday morning quarterback and get back to the game.

Go Broncos!!!
I hope everyone had a happy holiday season and is looking forward to a renewed energy for the New Year. The Fire and Life Safety Division seems to have a new energy for the New Year. As we head into the New Year, we now have a newly certified Child Passenger Safety Seat Technician in Kevin Kirby. Kevin successfully completed the CPS Technician course on December 22nd and is ready to educate folks on how to properly install their child passenger safety seats. This is a popular service the citizens seem to desire so we made that one of Kevin’s priorities when he came on board.

Another priority of Kevin’s is to become certified as an IFC Fire Inspector. He has been studying that fire code along with field observation of fire inspections with Steven and me while awaiting an IFC Fire Inspector certification prep course that begins in mid January on half days a week for eight weeks, followed by some full day ICC Institute classes the first week in March. I think his preparation and OJT beforehand will help him be successful in this certification.

Meanwhile, Steven and I will also be working on implementing our new records management system for inspections as well as pre-planning information as we continue to try to catch up and keep up with our fire and life safety maintenance inspection schedule. The pre-plan information part of this system will be successful only if it is accessible and utilized by responders so as we look at this portion of the system, we will be asking for input on how to best gather and utilize this information.

There will also be several larger construction projects going on throughout the year that we will try to offer up opportunities for everyone to familiarize with as these buildings are being built. These include; Marquez Hall at CSM, Lewis Court Apartments, the Wright Student Wellness Center at CSM, the light rail parking structure as well as some smaller projects such as the new fire alarm system at the Jeffco Courts and Admin building to name a few.

It is never too early to plan. We have scheduled what will be our third annual Safety and Preparedness Day with University of Colorado Hospital Burn Unit and the Mile Hi Red Cross for September 29th at GFD station #1. We can always use help for this event and I would encourage you to put it on your calendar as one of the several approved work detail opportunities we will have.

Finally, we will continue to keep everyone updated on information follow up as best we can concerning everything from problematic fire alarms to street closures. However, we sometimes do not know about these things so if you have a question or concern about an issue you find, feel free to check with us so we can provide information or follow up.
Stop a Cold in its Tracks

There is no “cure” for the common cold but years of research has shown that the following can help decrease the duration and severity of most cold symptoms:

- **Vitamin C**: 1,000 to 3,000 mg spread out over 24 hours has been shown to decrease the symptoms of a cold by 30% to 80%. Vitamin C is a strong anti-oxidant that will build the immune system.

- **Echinacea**: 100 to 300 mg 3x/day of this common herb will decrease the severity and duration of a cold, especially if taken when the symptoms first appear.

- **Zinc**: 13 mg 4 to 8 times per day with food has been shown to increase the white blood cell count to help fight acute and chronic infections.

The old adage, “Get rest and drink plenty of fluids” holds true. The rest gives your body the energy to fight the cold and the fluids help flush your system of the toxins produced and keep the lungs and mucous membranes healthy.

**Prevention** is always the best: Wash your hands regularly especially if you’re around someone who is in the early stages of a cold. Eat healthy and regularly. Exercise and stay hydrated.

Reference: Journal of Manipulative and Physiologic Therapeutics, 1999 October.

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**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**Anniversaries**

- **5 Years**
  - Gene Quador 01/29/2007

**Birthdays**

- Jonathan Ashford 01/26
- Angela Baca 01/11
- Matt Finley 01/31
- Jordan Houser 01/06
- Kent McCreary 01/13
- Adam Phipps 01/13
- Jeff Steinhoff 01/17
- Craig Weimer 01/13
On December 8, 2011 at the Capitol Grill Firefighter Chad Wachs and Denver Fire Department Captain, Steve Bales delivered a check to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Director of Fire Service Programs Victor Stagnaro from the recent 14'er climb on September 11, 2011.

On Sunday, December 11, 2011 at 09:22 Golden Fire Department was dispatched to a reported structure fire at 1110 Cheyenne St. Upon arrival Chief Burrell noticed smoke coming from the roof. The fire was contained to the attic space. It was determined that an overloaded electrical circuit was the cause of the fire.

On December 21, 2011 10 members of the Golden Fire Department delivered gifts and meals to two Golden families. The families were a part of the Adopt-a-Family program in Golden. Santa rode along with the firefighters to bring special Christmas joy to the families. Thank you to all of the firefighters that helped. A special thanks to Stephanie Tannery for shopping for the gifts and Marina Valenzuela for wrapping the presents.
**January 2012**

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| Work Detail Battalion 2 | | EMT Annual Skills Evaluation Training 18:30 Station 1 | | | | |

| 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| Work Detail Battalion 2 | | Ice Rescue Classroom 18:30 Station 1 | | | | Ice Rescue Practical AM or PM Station 1 |

| 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| Work Detail Battalion 3 | | Rope Skills 18:30 Station 1 | | | | |

| 29  | 30  | 31  |
| Work Detail Battalion 3 | | Safety Stand Down Topics 18:30 Station 1 |
A Glance Back in to the 1970s

Golden Fire Department personnel were introduced to the community by short biographies and photos. These articles appeared in the Golden Transcript.

Meet your fireman

Paul G. Rice, 30, is a captain on the Golden Volunteer Fire Department. He has been on the force three years.

Rice, his wife Karan, and three children, Ricky, Jimmy, and Christy, live at 816 Sunshine Parkway. He works in excavation and his hobby is woodworking.

Meet your fireman

Clyde C. Streweeler, 46, has been a fireman with the Golden Volunteer Fire Department for nine years. He and his wife Maxine live at 2137 Vernon Drive. They have three children, Nick, 23, Wauneta, 34, and Angela, 6.

Streweeler, a Mountain Bell employee, enjoys yard work and tropical fish.

Golden Fire Department
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