March 2012 is here and believe me when I tell you it is coming in like a lion. There is a tremendous amount activity going on within the department in March and throughout the next few months for Staff and Members of the Department.

We are beginning March with the final portion of the selection process for new volunteer recruits. Thank you to Engineers Ben Moline and Ryan Smith as well as Lt. Kehoe and retired Division Chief Quador for conducting 40 interviews in the last week or so. Also a huge thank you to all who assisted Lt. Kehoe in the administering of the pack test for the candidates. March will have the finalist taking physicals and doing backgrounds and before you know it Academy Class 2012-1 will be starting the first week in April. In addition, the 16 recruits from last year will complete their one year probationary period. They will need their recruit task books completed and signed off by their Captain and respective District Chief.

Another major step in March is the training that must occur prior to the implementation of the new “Emergency Reporting” software. The new software will initially be for incident reporting and fire inspections and then soon to be followed up with training records and other department data. We expect to go live with incident reporting on April 1. Executive Assistant Testroet will be leading this training and you can’t even realize the hours she has put into this project. It is going to make life so much easier for all of us concerning records management.

Continuing on is the purchase of equipment from various grants. Assistant Chief Giesick is working on pneumatic air bag replacement with State Gaming monies. We will also be getting some upgrades to our radio system in the form of six new portable radios also from gaming as well as some turnout gear. Additional turnout gear and two new thermal imagers will be purchased with funding from FEMA’s Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The AFG grant will provide an additional 18 sets of turnout gear and should bring everyone up to the new standard that we started three years ago.
Work is also continuing on the new Truck 4 after the trip to Pierce by Captain Polk, Mechanic McCreary and myself. Final inspection should occur sometime in early July and delivery shortly after that in time for Fire-Rescue International in Denver August 1 through August 4. A large amount of new equipment has been previously purchased in late 2011 and some additional equipment for this unit to be purchased such as the radio, thermal imager, 4-gas detector, etc.

The final large project, keeping my fingers crossed, is the replacement of our current SCBA’s to the NXGEN 7. We are still not sure if this is going to be 45 minute or 30 minute bottles but whichever they award will improve our ability to provide the best SCBA protection available and enhancing our safety on the emergency scenes.

As you are probably aware, Squrt 1 has left the building. It was picked up by Front Range last week as a trade-in for the new apparatus. Squrt 1 certainly was a valuable piece of apparatus during the past 23 years. It was utilized on many major fires. While it is being retired from GFD service, I am certain Front Range and/or Pierce will find a good home for it for its second life in the fire service. In the interim, Engine 2 has been placed as the second out Engine at Station 1 and the primary reserve apparatus for the City. Primary responsibility for Engine 2 remains with Lt. Gettenberg.

The final piece of information to update is that the assessment process for Training Chief occurred on March 1. There were three finalist including two in-state candidates and one out-of-state candidate. Thank you to Deputy Chief Stricker, Assistant Chief Burrell, Lt. Kehoe, Engineers Prince and Moline and Firefighter Nguyen for their assistance during this important process. A decision on the final candidate has not been determined as of this newsletter, but we will keep you informed as soon as the decision and/or selection is made. If all goes well we should have somebody on board by May 1st.

These are just a few of the projects going on within GFD this spring. The Staff, as always, appreciates your patience and cooperation during this busy time. Thank you to all of you who worked shifts and responded during the recent wind and snow storms last month. Your efforts do not go unnoticed and are greatly appreciated. You are what makes Golden Fire what it is today.
Effects of Acetylene in a Place it Should Not Have Been

Another story about an acetylene bottle in a vehicle. Remember this applies to any flammable gas. If you leave a chain saw, gasoline container, etc. in an enclosed space (your vehicle for example) and then apply any ignition source (electricity, spark, smoke, etc.) you have the makings of a bomb. Here is what the owner said: “So my time almost came to an end this morning... I'm very lucky to be alive. I had an acetylene bottle in my truck, the valve was bumped so slightly and over night the truck filled with the gas. I noticed the smell, and opened the doors to air out the truck. I drove the truck out of the garage to get some more air movement. I went to roll the pass side window down and as soon as I touched the power windows. BAM - with me in the truck. I lost all hearing out of my right ear and got a scratch on the back of my head. All things considering, I'm alive.” Pictures tell 1000 words.

FIREFIGHTERS OF THE MONTH

For their actions conducted during a severe wind storm avoiding damage and potential injury on February 22, 2012.
I know that this should be where I give you all great advice on interior attacks, ventilation, or forcible entry. But I am not. I am however going to talk about something far more important to you as a proud member of this department. This article is about staying fit. The basis for my article is from something I read and posted on GFD’s Facebook page for everyone that is a member to read. I have no idea how many have read the article, so I have attached the link to this article below. The beauty of paperless web based productions. Here is the quote I found interesting.

Seatbelts and fitness standards will do more to prevent Line of Duty Deaths, than risk avoidance techniques. Consider this fact, if we never entered another burning structure, it would potentially only reduce last year’s reported deaths by 16. (with some of those 16 open to interpretation as to whether they occurred during inside fire operations) That means that 65 Line of Duty Deaths would have still occurred.

That’s some staggering information when you think about how much we do to keep everyone safe. Now, I’m not taking any of the LODD’s lightly and please don’t think that a part of me doesn’t break a little every time I hear of a fellow firefighter passing. With that said its time to face the music. We have put so much into risk avoidance (don’t get me started) while the whole time ignoring fitness. Seat belts should be a no brainer, WEAR THEM. Fitness is something that I honestly thought was a no brainer. I remember in my GFD academy someone saying “treat this as if your family member was in there” and me thinking, I’m glad I’m in good shape because we have a mountain to plow through to rescue this victim and get them to safety. I still find myself after a good fire wondering how much more poorly I would feel if I wasn’t in shape. Let’s face it, firefighting is hard work!

An article written in Fire Engineering Magazine “You Want Me To Do What?” (http below) shows what fire fighters endure during typical fire suppression activities. Basically we work near or at our maximum heart rate during these activities. I won’t bore you by repeating what the article says, you can read for yourselves. I just (Continued on page 5)
want to make a point. We need to be in great shape. We need to be ready to answer the distress calls. We also need to be able to go home and not die in our sleep after a hard days work. We need to make it to the station and the call without dying en-route. We did not sign on the dotted line to die.


**You Want Me To Do What?**
http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/print/volume-162/issue-12/features/you-want-me-to-do.html
One of our main goals in the Fire & Life Safety Division is to find hazardous situations and work toward making those occupancies safer for both the occupant(s) and GFD personnel. It is a constant challenge to keep up with the changes occurring at the School of Mines. The research being conducted at the school necessitates the use of numerous hazardous materials and processes. The most recent hazardous situation we’ve found is the use and storage of compressed flammable gasses at Alderson Hall. It was brought to our attention that the laboratories exceed the maximum allowable quantities by more than 800% in some areas of the building. This is a significant hazard to anybody in or around the building. Over the last 5 months, we have worked with the school to remedy the hazardous situation and bring the building within the code requirements.

The installation of a centralized storage gas room, gas distribution and gas detection system was completed on February 20th, 2012. In an attempt to not bore you with all of the details of the system I am going to tell you what to look for and explain how responding personnel will interact with this new system. When a gas leak is detected by the combustible gas detectors (located in 491 and 487) the gas distribution system will be shut off by pneumatic actuators and the building will go into general alarm. There is a good chance that by the time responding personnel arrives on scene the gas will have dissipated and nothing will show on our monitors. Past experience will lead us to silence and...
reset the fire alarm system. By doing this, the pneumatic actuators will re-open allowing for gas to flow through the system. What needs to be done is keep the system in alarm until the leak is found (not necessarily by us) and place the building on a fire watch. Another option is to manually shut off the individual supply bottles in the gas supply room (located in 187); this way the alarm can be reset and the building can still have general fire alarm capabilities.

As stated above the gas distribution system can be shut off in an emergency situation in numerous ways; there are yellow manual pull stations installed to shut the system off located outside of the labs (491 and 487) as well as outside of the gas distribution room (187); if these pull stations are activated outside of a lab room a yellow strobe will activate indicating which lab has reported the leak. Anytime the building is in general alarm it will shut off the gas distribution system and finally we can shut each bottle off individually.

Although the gas distribution and detection system has been installed, its capacity is not adequate to solve our problem of exceeding the maximum allowable quantities for flammable gas. This system only affects about 14% (two out of the 14) of the labs in the building, so if there is one thing that you take from this article it is that you should always be aware of what is in the building, whether we have protection systems or not. We try our best to monitor and educate the students, staff, researchers and administration at the School of Mines regarding these code violations; but we do not have the staff to continually do this. So, if you are out on a call and see something that you believe to be a hazardous situation or code violation, let us know about it so we can address the situation.

**Anniversaries**

- There are no anniversaries in March

**Birthdays**

- John Bales   03/21
- Phil Cordova   03/07
- Eric Gettenberg   03/05
- Joe Gross   03/08
- Joe Nelson   03/22
- Daniel Roozen   03/26
- Trevor Williamson   03/15
Personnel Profiles: Recruit Class 2011
Angela Baca, Firefighter

Hometown: Chillicothe, MO
Work Background: Estimator (Wood Moulding manufacturing company)
Educational Background: Currently pursuing a degree in Fire Science
Favorite Hobby: Camping, hiking, climbing, biking, hanging out with my wife and daughters
Favorite area of Firefighting: Forcible Entry
Mentor on the department: Capt. John O'Connor
I also admire all of our Academy instructors. They have, and continue to, volunteer their time to ensure our academies success. Many thanks and much respect.

Hometown: Born in Chugiak, AK and grew up in Camp Verde AZ
Work Background: System Analyst for SPS Communications
Educational Background: Westwood College AA in Computer Networking. Currently attending EMT-Basic with South Metro Fire Rescue.
Favorite Hobby: Snowboarding in the winter and racing motorcycles in the summer.
Favorite area of Firefighting: Vehicle Extrication.
Mentor on the department: Capt. John O'Connor, Ryan Smith and Joe Anderson

Hometown: Broomfield, CO
Work Background: Teller for Steele St. Bank and Trust
Educational Background: Currently pursuing a degree in Finance
Favorite Hobby: Running and Snowboarding
Favorite area of Firefighting: Technical Rescue
Mentor on the department: Mike Gonzales
Personnel Profiles: Recruit Class 2011

Angela Baca, Firefighter

**Hometown:** Anchorage, Alaska; grew up in Boulder, CO  
**Work Background:** Attorney  
**Educational Background:** Pomona College in Claremont, CA (undergrad), CU Law school  
**Favorite Hobby:** Crossfit  
**Favorite area of Firefighting:** Extrication  
**Mentor on the department:** Everyone who’s taken the time to teach me this past year, especially Captain O’Connor who has helped me so much with my rookie book.

**Hometown:** Denver, CO  
**Work Background:** Route Coordinator for Pet Scoop Services (pooper scooper company)  
**Educational Background:** AAS – Fire Science Degree, Red Rocks Community College  
**Favorite Hobby:** Baking Cakes, dancing, enjoying the sun and warm weather with anything that involves the water (beaches, lakes etc), painting, traveling, collect dolphin figurines, watch movies, etc.  
**Favorite area of Firefighting:** Extrication  
**Mentor on the department:** Lt. Phil Cordova

**Hometown:** Santa Ana, CA but raised in Denver, CO  
**Work Background:** Working at Sam’s Club while I finish school  
**Educational Background:** Graduated from Alameda High School. I currently go to Red Rocks Community College and plan on transferring to University of Colorado at Denver fall 2012.  
**Favorite Hobby:** Any outdoor recreational activity really, but I also enjoy picking up a good book from time to time.  
**Favorite area of Firefighting:** Forcible Entry  
**Mentor on the department:** I look up to Capt. O’Connor and his vast array of knowledge in all aspects of Firefighting. I have learned a lot from him while coming up on my first year as a firefighter.

**Hometown:** Golden, CO  
**Work Background:** Credit Union Teller  
**Educational Background:** Last semester of Fire Science Degree (hopefully starting Paramedic school in June)  
**Favorite Hobby:** Anything outside  
**Favorite area of Firefighting:** Extrication  
**Mentor on the department:** Capt. John O’Connor
Personnel Profiles: Recruit Class 2011

Angela Baca, Firefighter

Hometown: Arvada, CO
Work Background: Assistant/Helper at International Paper
Educational Background: Associate of Science
Favorite Hobby: Movies/Film
Favorite area of Firefighting: Fire Attack
Mentor on the department: Capt. John O’Connor

Hometown: Thornton, CO
Work Background: Currently working as an EMT at a retirement community and opening my own gym in the historic Lowry area. Previously in the Marines as a Amphibious Assault Crew chief.
Educational Background: Spent a year and a half as an accounting major. I hope to obtain my ACE-CPT cert because they have a certification designed just for Firefighters and Police personnel.
Favorite Hobby: I enjoy getting up in the mountains with my girl and our dog to get away from the city as much as possible.
Favorite area of Firefighting: Forcible Entry
Mentor on the department: Capt. O’Connor would be the person I look up to the most. His dedication to his firefighters by taking time out of his life to come in and train us probies is something I regard as part of being a great leader.

Hometown: San Jose, CA
Work Background: EMT with Pridemark Paramedics (Paramedic school in the summer)
Educational Background: I hold a Bachelor's Degree in History w/ an Emphasis in War, Reform and Social Change from UC San Diego.
Favorite Hobby: I am a big reader. I love to read fiction.
Favorite area of Firefighting: EMS
Mentor on the department: Lt. Jason Flickner. I appreciate his dedication to the fire service, as well as his passion for the medical side of firefighting.

Hometown: Golden, CO
Work Background: Distribution and Sales, United States Welding Inc.
Educational Background: BA in Economics, University of Colorado
Favorite Hobby: Boating
Favorite area of Firefighting: Vent Enter Search
Mentor on the department: Capt. John O’Connor
Personnel Profiles: Recruit Class 2011
Angela Baca, Firefighter

**Hometown:** Mondamin, Iowa  
**Work Background:** Internet Marketing  
**Educational Background:** Dana College  
**Favorite Hobby:** Golfing  
**Favorite area of Firefighting:** Search and Rescue  
**Mentor on the department:** Capt. John O’Connor

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**Straight Stream**
Debbie Testroet, Administrative Assistant

New Records Management Software in Place

Emergency Reporting Training is coming Tuesday, March 13th. I will be introducing the product to you and explaining a bit and how everything will look and feel. I will be handing out your login and password at this training as well. Since there are only 13 laptops available you are more than welcome to bring your own tablet or laptop to access the program through the City’s wireless network. You can also use your Smartphone but it will be a bit small but it will work as well.

Some of you are not able to make that night and that will be addressed. Over the next month or so the officers and Chiefs will be trained to “train the trainer”. If you will be on duty doing a shift please contact one of your officers or the staff ahead of time to schedule training for you and your crew. One of us will be available to help you through a report the first time. It is really pretty easy and there is a training library to walk you through the module as well. This can be part of your “other” training on shift.

Officers you should have all received your scheduled dates on either March 14th or March 15th for further training in the program. Please contact me if you have not received notification for the officer training.
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March 2012