Hey Officers and Acting Company Officers, time to change it up a bit and have some fun. Gather your crew or a group at the station around the kitchen table and work on the following scenario. A good exercise like this will be fun and generate some great ideas and at the same time provide some valuable information about your crew and probably even a little insight about yourself. So here we go.

You’ve arrived at a single family residential dwelling. As we used to say, there appears to be a “pretty good” working fire located within the garage, but it is extending due to a strong wind and the fire loading within the garage. As you might expect you can find almost anything in a garage including hazmat material including potential meth labs and even ammunition. Quite frequently there is lawn equipment as well or vehicles. As you can see from the aerial photo, this house is located within a fairly dense and common subdivision very similar to what we can encounter in Golden. All the structures are wood frame, some have asphalt architectural shingles, and others have wood shakes. There’s a hydrant right in front on the Alpha side.

So, how big of a problem do you have?

What can you expect in the way of safety concerns related to typical garage fires? i.e. fire loading, products materials, exposures, hazards, etc. In this incident what does your risk profile tell you?

Strategy and tactics; take your pick. What are the issues and how are you going to address them? What are your resources? You get 2-Engines and 2-Truck Companies to start.

Logistics, what will happen if the fire communicates to the Delta exposure and takes command of that structure? Determine the insights on command management, engine, truck and rescue operations, you make the call.

Lastly, what are the “BIG” picture issues confronting you, IF you can’t control the fire to the house of origin and the fire rapidly extends to other exposures (two or more adjacent structures due to a wind driven fire and your lack of getting ahead of the fire progress tactically). Again, look at the aerial image and determine what the operational and safety considerations are?

Enjoy and have some fun. If you are willing, I would like to sit with your crew and see what you did. Just ask.

SEE SCENARIO PHOTOS ON PAGE 2
“Its Only a Garage Fire” Scenario Photos
They say that distance makes the heart grow fonder. That was definitely the case with me. Coming back from a leave of absence has rejuvenated my passion for the Golden Fire Department, and the thing I missed the most were the people. Sometimes the Fire department is viewed as a business. We’ll use phrases like “customer service” to describe how we should treat civilians on calls. Other times it is viewed as an organization with a paramilitary structure. We’ll use phrases like “weapon choice” and refer to firefighters as “troops.” I like to view the department as a family. The experiences we have with the people that we live with, eat with, and ultimately trust our safety to is what we will remember when we look back at our time here.

Shortly after becoming a firefighter I asked an officer, who was retiring after 36 years of service, what the most important thing about the fire department was. I was expecting him to say something like attitude, or scene safety, or “don’t get complacent.” He told me, without skipping a beat, dinner. I thought he was joking, so I pressed him further but he insisted it wasn’t a joke. He said that when you eat together and spend time together, you learn about each other and you develop a bond and trust. Developing that bond and trust carries over to training and ultimately, fireground operations. It makes you work better together, operate more efficiently, and it keeps morale up amidst the worst of calls. I think that conversation really impressed upon me the importance of viewing other firefighters not as coworkers, or employees, but as family.

Sometimes it’s easy to point out the flaws with other firefighters, especially on calls. I’ve definitely made my share of mistakes… I’ve had my suspenders hanging out of my coat, accidentally dropped a bed of hose while driving, made numerous wrong turns, stumbled on the radio, dropped a ladder, pulled the wrong hose, tripped on a completely flat sidewalk, etc. and I guarantee that I’m going to make more mistakes in the future. We all screw up from time to time, but we learn from our mistakes and get better and then it’s called “experience.” If you see another firefighter getting some “experience” I encourage you to smile and laugh, and then offer a helping hand to make each other better.

After being gone for a few months, it’s good to be back, and I just wanted to say thanks again to everyone that elected me as a Captain. It’s good to be running calls again and I’m looking forward to spending even more time with my GFD family in the future.

-Phil Cordova

“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another” Proverbs 27:17
The fire is the main comfort of the camp, whether in summer or winter, and is about as ample at one season as at another. It is as well for cheerfulness as for warmth and dryness. (Henry David Thoreau)

As we come into the spring and summer months each year, the calls to GFD for illegal outdoor fires increase. Not all outdoor fires in the City of Golden are illegal, unless there is an explicit ban on all types of fires during periods of extreme fire danger. Outside of fire bans, the GFD relies on the 2012 International Fire Code (2012 IFC), adopted by the City of Golden, to define and regulate recreational fires.

The 2012 IFC defines four kinds of outdoor fires: open burning, bonfires, recreational fires and portable outdoor fireplaces. Open burning is the burning of materials outside of an enclosed chamber. Open burning is used for vegetation or wildfire mitigation control. Bonfires are smaller than open burning fires and larger than recreational fires and are used for ceremonial purposes only. Both open burning and bonfires require permits and approval from the Golden Fire Department and the Colorado Department of Health and Environment Air Pollution Program.

Recreational fires are smaller fires where the fuel pile size is 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height. Recreational fires are not to be used to dispose of yard waste, therefore, rubbish or other vegetation cannot be used as fuel for recreational fires. Recreational fires are used for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes. Recreational fires need to be 25 feet from a structure or combustible material such as wood fences, storage sheds or firewood piles. Portable outdoor fireplaces, chimineas or ground pits covered with mesh screen are allowed and the 25 foot clearance is reduced to 15 feet.

The 2012 IFC requires that all outdoor fires be constantly attended by a competent person until the fire is extinguished. It also requires a minimum of one portable fire extinguisher or other fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck to be available for immediate utilization.

While recreational fires do not require a permit, there are some notes of regulation for these fires. These fires may be ordered to be discontinued by a GFD officer at their discretion if wind or weather conditions suggest that such burning is too dangerous, or if the atmospheric conditions make the smoke emissions objectionable or offensive to the neighborhood, or they are not in compliance with the fire code requirements as noted above.
Anniversaries

39 Years Going for a Record!
Bob Burrell 05/09/1974

13 Years
Anna Trzeciak 05/08/2000

5 Years
Ashleigh Andrews 05/06/08
Tina Balgemann 05/06/08
Jason Fritch 05/06/08
Cody McHugh 05/06/08
Jason Mulari 05/06/08
Mason Prince 05/06/08
Daniel Roozen 05/06/08
Dustin Schissler 05/06/08
Jared Stricker 05/06/08
Sean Stull 05/06/08
Joseph Vogel 05/06/08
Chad Wachs 05/06/08

4 Years
Jeff Cole 05/05/10
Case Collard 05/05/10
Brandon Daruna 05/05/10
Derek Ferchau 05/05/10

Michael Gonzales 05/05/10
Richard Gonzales 05/05/10
Jeff Hulse 05/05/10
Benjamin Moline 05/05/10
Truc Nguyen 05/05/10
Jeff Steinhoff 05/05/10
Colin Winter 05/05/10

2 Years
Steven Parker 05/02/11

Birthdays

Bob Burrell 05/09
Case Collard 05/15
Jason Flickner 05/02
Doug Holschbach 05/14
Matt Kasriel 05/12
Adam Maiers 05/29
Truc Nguyen 05/27
Dustin Schissler 05/06
Jon-Daniel Rotzoll 05/15
Marina Valenzuela 05/23
recently spoke with former GFD Training Division Chief Gene Quador, inquiring about his life of well-earned retirement living. These are the days he has worked for after 27 years of fire service: time to be with his family, go to the gym every day, fix up the house, travel, and live the good life. However, a quick moment of complacency has damped his plans. I asked Gene if I could relay his story to the membership and he readily agreed; anything to help us stay safe.

Last October Gene was outside working on his house. He was using a ladder to reach the second story windows but his neighbor, who had been footing the ladder, needed to leave. No problem, he was just going to finish one more thing so he’d be fine. Gene had 27 years of working on ladders and nothing bad ever happened before. He continued to work alone, the ladder slipped on the gutter, and Gene fell to the ground suffering a hairline fracture in one ankle and a ligament tear in the other. He could easily have been killed. Six months later, he still needs to wear a brace and has daily pain.

If Gene had been a line firefighter when this happened his career would be on hold. All because of a quick decision to disregard a basic safety standard learned years ago in his first academy – always foot the ladder. Our JPR’s, SOG’s, and NFPA Standards were written for a reason and quite frequently it is because a firefighter got hurt or killed.

We need to be aggressive, thinking firefighters while always remembering the basics of safety. Don’t become a statistic. Don’t risk your career because of an attitude of “Nothing bad has ever happened before” or “It won’t happen to me”. Firefighters do get hurt and killed, careers lost, families left to suffer. Be aggressive but think and be safe.
Happy Spring everybody! While it doesn’t look like Spring at times lately it definitely is May already. The office staff took most of the morning today and proved it was Spring in the good ole’ fashioned way – we cleaned out the copier/storage room in Admin. Now I have the bug. Look out! I am definitely in the mood to move stuff and throw stuff away and rearrange the furniture. My poor husband.

I wanted to take a few paragraphs to let you know what is new and coming for Golden Fire. Since the implementation of the Emergency Reporting last April (Yes it has been one year now) we are well on our way with NFIRS reporting and the like. We are working on the Maintenance Module which will be tracking work orders, maintenance requests and out-of-service items. On June 18th I will be hosting a Tuesday night training called “All things Technical” to explain how to use the new maintenance module and how you can track the items you mark for repairs. I will be going in depth on programs like Active911 and I Am Responding and how we are using them. I also understand there will be an awesome raffle that night too so be sure and show up. If you have your own iPad, or Smartphone be sure to bring them so we can all follow along or go over any questions you may have as to how the programs work.

We will also begin work on building the Training Module this month as well. This may take us a few months to get things totally set up but it has the potential to virtually eliminate the huge paper trail to include training rosters and work detail sheets. I will begin working with the Training Division to build the training and work detail templates and begin to project when we will roll out the new Training Module. We will go from filling out a paper training roster to taking attendance on an iPad and being completed right then and there. No paper trail. This will truly be a “one-write” system when it is completed.

I will keep you updated as to when all these changes take place via email. If you have any questions don’t hesitate to ask. If you haven’t signed up for Active 911 please get with Lt. Chad Wachs or I so you can have the latest and greatest technology GFD has to offer. Thanks for your time. I would also like to say thank you for all the Starbucks that show up on my desk from time to time. You all are awesome.

Who can answer this bit of trivia we discussed with the crew today? Where did the term Kelly Day originate? Send me your thoughts or ideas on the origination of a Kelly Day and I will put it all together in my next article. It is interesting to say the least.

### NUMBERS FOR APRIL 2013

<table>
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<th>Total Calls - 100</th>
<th>Hazardous Condition - 2</th>
<th>Mutual Aid Given - 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District # 1 - 41</td>
<td>Clear Creek Canyon - 7</td>
<td>Average Response Time - 04:28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District # 2 - 48</td>
<td>Miller Coors Property - 1</td>
<td>Average Firefighters/Call - 5.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Response - 2</td>
<td>Out of City/Other - 1</td>
<td>Average Total Time/Call - 40:47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rescue/EMS - 60</td>
<td>Mutual Aid Received - 3</td>
<td>Est. Fire/Damage Loss - $13000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Firefighters of the Month

For their lifesaving efforts of a 13-year-old COR-0 on April 5, 2013

Derek Ferchau
Firefighter

Ryan Masica
Firefighter

Mitchell Sturm
Firefighter

www.EveryoneGoesHome.com
On The Scene With The Golden Fire Department

Academy Class 2013
Practical Test at the Fairmount Fire Protection District Training Facility.
Congratulations Recruits!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Wildland 18:00 Station 31</td>
<td>2. Wildland 18:00 Station 31</td>
<td>3. Wildland 18:00 Station 31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Work Detail Battalion 23</td>
<td>6.</td>
<td>7. Business Meeting 19:00 Station 21</td>
<td>8. Wildland 18:00 Station 31</td>
<td>9. Wildland 18:00 Station 31</td>
<td>10.</td>
<td>11. Wildland 08:00-17:00 Field</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Work Detail Battalion 21 Wildland 08:00-17:00 Field</td>
<td>13.</td>
<td>14. EMS In service 18:30 Station 21</td>
<td>15. Hazardous Materials Operations 18:00 Station 21</td>
<td>16. Hazardous Materials Operations 18:00 Station 21</td>
<td>17.</td>
<td>18. Hazardous Materials Operations 08:00-17:00 Station 21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chemical leak forces evacuation in Golden

Fireman Frank Leek waits to get his oxygen mask changed before he goes back into a shed to help control a chemical leak that forced the evacuation of an area in Golden. Five people were hospitalized. STORY, PAGE 6.