Even 10 years later, there is something about the mental picture of policemen, firefighters and other first responders running into a fatally wounded skyscraper that makes men and women cry. I wanted to pass on a write up that was written about the 10th Anniversary Memorial Service Ceremony that was held at the National Fire Academy during the week I was there for a class. I had several members of my class involved in the organization and presentation of this event.
Two Jensen firefighters were among those selected to plan and carry out the National Fire Academy’s memorial service commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Firefighters from all across the country gathered in a small closed ceremony Sept. 11 in Emmitsburg, MD., to honor and remember their brothers and sisters in the fire service. Two of those firefighters were Jensen Fire Chief Todd Wallis and Assistant Chief Brett Lane.

Scheduled to attend classes for training in arson investigation at the NFA campus from Sept. 11-17, Wallis and Lane were selected along with six other firefighters from the students attending classes that week — each having different firefighting backgrounds and coming from a variety of locations — to plan the memorial service. “The challenge of bringing together all of these firefighters from Alaska to Rhode Island and from Texas to Florida to plan and execute this ceremony was intense and exciting” Wallis said.

Most of the firefighters had never met one another, but “it quickly became apparent that everyone felt the same way about our brothers and sisters killed that day and wanted to be a part of honoring them.” Lane said. Through email and phone conferences held in the weeks leading up to the anniversary the entire event was planned and responsibilities were assigned and carried out.

The planning group consisted of everyone from chiefs of large metropolitan fire departments to young firefighters from small volunteer departments. Each one had an assignment and an area of responsibility. All of the on-campus coordination was performed by the NFA staff and by Deputy Superintendent Dr. Kirby Kiefer. “None of us had ever met each other in person before (arriving at the academy),” Wallis said. “Some of the flights didn’t get in until about 8:30 p.m. (on Sept. 10), so there we all are sitting in the corner of the empty dining hall on campus at 9:30 at night meeting each other for the first time and hammering out all the last minute details. “It was pretty cool how everyone just worked together,” he added.

After the late night meeting everyone knew their roles. The ceremony was held at 10 a.m. the following day with several hundred students, staff and instructors in attendance. It lasted about 25 minutes.

Wallis, escorted by an honor guard, placed a memorial wreath near the plaque that bears the names of the firefighters killed on Sept. 11, 2001. Lane delivered the keynote speech, titled “Our new day of infamy.” “After Brett gave his speech and we had a moment of silence, the bagpipes started to play ‘Amazing Grace,’ I looked up and there was hardly a dry eye in the place,” Wallis said.

Because the campus is a secure facility, the public was not invited to the service and media was not in attendance. However, the top U.S. fire official, Fire Administration Acting Chief Glen Gaines, was there. After the service, Gaines offered to take a picture of the organizing committee and then spoke with each of the firefighters, thanking them for their work.

“He was just like any other firefighter you ever meet. I can’t really explain it, it’s just like seeing family” Wallis said. “I was the last one to shake his hand and introduce myself and we just stood and talked for about five minutes. He is a very nice guy.”

(Continued on page 3)
The class I attended was titled “Challenges for Local Training Officers”, the class started Sunday 9/11-9/16 with graduation Friday afternoon. My class had Training officers from all over the country, here’s an example from where they came from: Tennessee, North Dakota, Missouri, Wisconsin, Oregon, New Jersey, Texas, Louisiana, New Hampshire and Colorado. The major topic of the class was quality training and the’ HANDS ON’ approach. So that said, with some help from Lt. Kehoe we put together a list of the training we have had so far this year up to the end of September.

Training Department - Statistics and Resources

1/1/2011 Through 10/31/2011

TUESDAY NIGHT TRAININGS

34 Trainings

- 22 Hands-On Trainings
- 12 Classroom Trainings:
  - 5 EMS
  - 3 Wildland
  - 1 Ice Rescue
  - 1 Bldg Construction
  - 1 Required HR
  - 1 Rules of Engagement

SUNDAY TRAININGS

9 Trainings

- 9/9 Hands-on Trainings

COURSES OFFERED (All combination Hands-On and Classroom)

- Ice Rescue
- SwiftWater I
- SwiftWater II
- RIT/Mayday Mutual Aid Drill
- Firefighter II
- DO Utility
- DO Pumper
- DO Aerial

ACADEMY

57 Members Participated

- 23 Hands-On Drill Nights and Days

Training Department - Information Resources

- On-Line Calendar
  - Published monthly in the Smoke Signals
- Toned on Monday Test Tone Message
- Monday Test Tone Message Emailed to all members
- Calendar posted in Training Room
- Calendar posted in Watch Office
- Verbal information given at each Business Meeting
- Verbal information given at most all trainings
- Email reminders sent to members for large trainings (e.g. Mutual Aid)
**Bureau Changes**

First off I want to welcome our newest Fire and Life Safety Division member. On Monday October 3rd, our now former Chaplain Kevin Kirby began his new career with GFD as the Fire and Life Safety Technician who replaced Robert Ipatenco. I am sure Kevin would like it if you stopped by when you are around the station to give him congratulations. We had five in house GFD members who applied for this position and all stacked up well against external candidates and each other.

For this month, I want to discuss fire alarm response in general. As I hope you know, I have been working and will need to continue to work on ways to reduce unwanted (false) fire alarms of all kinds. We have been working on the front end or design for new systems going in for some time and continue to try to improve on that aspect.

For the existing systems that did not have the advantage of some newer technology, or perhaps have not been maintained quite the way they should have been; these have been more challenging. We have our ongoing list of systems that need strong consideration for replacement as they are getting past their useful (and reliable) life. For example the system at the “Taj Mahal” is being replaced at a cost of about one half million dollars because it was reaching its 18th birthday and becoming problematic.

When we start running on these fire alarm systems that are becoming problematic, it is our understandable tendency to be helpful and customer friendly by often times resetting false alarms at every opportunity we can. I would suggest that as we look at ALL the customers involved, we may sometimes not be doing some of our customers a favor by enabling the continuation of operating with a problematic fire alarm system that is prone to continued unwanted alarms for a period of time that can be a disruption to the business or occupancy.

All this being said, remember that I am a phone call away if you have a situation where you feel that a system needs to remain in alarm or be taken out of service and fire watch initiated. I am happy to help keep us from running on unnecessary unwanted fire alarms. If I am not available as is the case from time-to-time, we have to avoid the temptation to take on the responsibility of the fire alarm system. If there is a situation where the system has alarmed for no apparent valid reason, have dispatch get a property representative to the premise to initiate troubleshooting or repairs. I know that on occasion circumstances dictate that we de-energize a system. This is when it is absolutely critical for a property representative to respond to the premise to initiate a repair AND fire watch that is reasonable to the situation. Again, these are instances where I can consult with you as

*(Continued on page 5)*
the IC or even respond to the premise if needed.

Finally, as a general guide to manipulating fire alarm systems, if we cannot take care of a fire alarm by the three following steps:

1. Pressing the acknowledge button.
2. Silencing with the silence button after determining there is no fire problem.
3. Resetting with the reset button after determining a cause.

We should not be manipulating the system any further and getting the responsible owner or their representative on site to fix the problem. This will help us in responding to fewer unwanted fire alarms over time, and to get the responsible parties involved in the process sooner so that they can do their part in reducing unwanted fire alarms.

**NUMBERS FOR SEPTEMBER 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Calls - 107</th>
<th>Hazardous Condition - 4</th>
<th>Mutual Aid Given - 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District # 1 - 53</td>
<td>Clear Creek Canyon - 6</td>
<td>Average Response Time - 05:43</td>
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<tr>
<td>District # 2 - 43</td>
<td>Miller Coors Property - 0</td>
<td>Average Firefighters/Call - 6.19</td>
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<td>Fire Response - 5</td>
<td>Out of City/Other - 4</td>
<td>Average Total Time/Call - 30:24</td>
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<td>Rescue/EMS - 55</td>
<td>Mutual Aid Received - 2</td>
<td>Est. Fire/Damage Loss - $11,125</td>
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**Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**Anniversaries**

No anniversaries for October

**Birthdays**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ashleigh Andrews</td>
<td>10/09</td>
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<td>Nicholas Bunting</td>
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<td>Derek Ferchau</td>
<td>10/03</td>
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<td>Damon Gentrup</td>
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<td>Aaron Giesick</td>
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<td>Kevin Milan</td>
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<td>Bruce Peters</td>
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<td>Wes Polk</td>
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<td>Colin Winter</td>
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## 2011 FIREFIGHTER II CERTIFICATION

It’s a go, here’s a reminder of dates and times for the Firefighter II class/training. Bring your IFSTA book *ESSENTIALS OF FIRE FIGHTING 5TH EDITION* to all classroom sessions and JPR practice day.

You will need to attend all of the classroom and practical sessions unless excused by Chief Quador ahead of time. Need all personnel to take ownership in this process in order to be successful when taking the written and practical exams.

**November 2011 Firefighter II Certification Schedule (Class time: 18:00-22:00)**

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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ch. 4 Building Construction</td>
<td>Ch. 8 Rescue/Extrication</td>
<td>Ch. 12 Water Supply</td>
<td>Ch. 13 Fire Hose</td>
<td>Ch. 14 Fire Streams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ch. 15 Fire Control</td>
<td>Ch. 16 Fire Detection, Alarm and Suppression System</td>
<td>Ch. 17 Fire Control</td>
<td>Ch. 18 Protecting Fire Scene Evidence</td>
<td>Ch. 19 Fire Department Communications</td>
<td>Ch. 20 Fire Prevention &amp; Public Education</td>
<td>JPR Practice 08:00-12:00</td>
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<td>State Written Exam Option 1 10:00 State written is 100 questions with a 1.5 hour time line needing an 80% to pass.</td>
<td>State Written Exam Option 2 14:00 State written is 100 questions with a 1.5 hour time line needing an 80% to pass.</td>
<td>State Practical Exam 08:00-12:00 State practical you will be performing (5 required and 2 random), there are a total of 14 JPR’s to prepare for.</td>
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Man I love fall in Colorado. The cool temperatures make it so nice to sit out at night and just enjoy the evening. Earlier this week, I was speaking with an individual and I mentioned how I was enjoying fall and he replied, “I don’t like fall because I know after that brings winter”. All I could think was “bah humbug”. We live in one of the most beautiful places on the earth, our climate has no extremes, why should we complain about anything.

Do you know that kind of person? Maybe you are that kind of person (just joking, I know none of you reading this are like that). Why is it so easy for us to always find the bad in things and not simply enjoy all the good things around us? I do believe it is a choice.

In the movie the Rookie, Dennis Quaid plays a struggling minor league pitcher who gets caught up in all the hardships of the road and having obligations at home and is thinking about quitting. As he is thinking about this he walks by a field where a Little League game is going on and when he returns to his team he has a big smile on his face and says to his team mates, “guess what we get to do today, we get to play baseball”. He learned to enjoy where he was and take advantage of every moment.

We have that choice in life and I want to be better at choosing to enjoy the good things around me and coming up with a solution to the troubling things around me.

The apostle Paul wrote these words to the church at Philippi: “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

Chaplain Mark
Trials

Did I tell you that I have an allergy? I am allergic to pain. Every time I have it, it hurts.

There is a passage in the New Testament book of James that says, “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” To be quite honest, this is not my favorite passage. In fact, I’m not sure it is in my top ten. It is a lot like the saying, “What doesn’t kill you only makes you stronger.” I say, “What doesn’t kill me usually just really hurts.”

As much as I try to avoid pain in my life, I have to admit that the greatest growth in my life found its birth in trying times. Over the last couple of years, I have experienced a time of stripping away in my life. I was forced to face difficult realities in my vocation and my relationships. And as much as I would like to believe that I was prepared to navigate life’s hazards, I became depressed and angry. The message I received was that I didn’t have it all together like I hoped.

The trials that I faced humbled me. They took me to a place where I had to admit that I was powerless over many things and that my life had become unmanageable. It also caused me to realize that only a power greater than I could restore my life to sanity. The harder I tried to pull things together, the worse things became. I had to practice what I preached and turn my will and my life over to the care of God.

The only thing I could do was the next indicated thing—the next right thing. That reduced my life to living in the moment—not the past and not in the anxiety of the future. I could only act on what was directly in front of me which can be unnerving.

Today, I sit in my new office at Station 1, writing my final article as chaplain. My life is still filled with challenges, but it is also filled with hope. I awoke today with the hope of a deeper faith, of stronger relationships and a new vocational adventure. I also stepped in a cold puddle of dog pee this morning. That’s why I start my mornings with the serenity prayer before I even step out of bed. It goes like this.

“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change and the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.” In other words, “God, what is the next right thing to do?”
Sound the Alarm!
FIREFIGHTING IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

An interactive exhibit including kids’ activities, the brotherhood of firefighting and even a 1920s fire truck!

AUGUST 2-DECEMBER 30, 2011
RADIUS GALLERY
LAKEWOOD’S HERITAGE CENTER

Be sure to check out this exhibit as the GFD is well represented!
Mutual Aid RIT Training

On September 23 through 25th Golden Fire participated in a Mutual Aid RIT Training with Arvada, Fairmount, West Metro and Wheat Ridge Fire Departments. The purpose of the training was to test out several issues. What if there is a major fire and we have to use another department as our RIT team and what if that RIT team is activated? Are their RIT packs compatible and if not will they know how to use ours if they go in to rescue one of our own? Do we know how to use their packs in the same scenario if we are called in to act as their RIT team? And what about communications? Will we be able to talk to each other and if we can are we using the same language? These are all issues that were explored during the recent training drill.

Before the actual drill the department members met and each explained their RIT packs and how they were set up. They were very similar but also had some interesting differences. Wheat Ridge keeps their mask, regulator and hose all connected in the pack and Arvada keeps each piece separate. We keep our regulator attached to the mask but not to the hose. One department has the rope bag attached directly on the RIT pack and another puts a knot and ring each 25’ pre-tied on the rope for large area searches and to orient yourself when determining how far into the building you are. Wheat Ridge carries a heavy duty piece of webbing material with a loop on one end and a carabineer on the other for a variety of uses. One would be to use this to secure an SCBA by looping the webbing between the victim’s legs and securing it to the SCBA belt rather than removing the belt and reattaching in the case of a victim drag. Another department carries three strobe lights to be placed at strategic points such as a door exit, at the stairs or with the victim in case the team has to retreat.

Golden Fire participated with three different crews over the three days. The scenario included a very well simulated roof collapse with multiple victims trapped. The deployment of the RIT teams, placement of ladders, and victim extrication went very well for all our crews. The main concerns that seemed to occur were regarding radio issues. On two of the days there were significant problems with coverage on Red NW. Communications cut in and out and at one point and a relay had to be set up because while those next to the building could pick up the traffic Command, only a short distance away, had no reception. When in doubt, face-to-face communications were used. These are problems with the system that will be looked at further thanks to this drill.

(Continued on page 11)
Most crews practiced the tactic of keeping the RIT crew on the original call channel and having operations move to a secondary channel. While this worked well for the crews because of the decrease in traffic, it was a challenge for the IC’s as they tried to monitor and respond to both channels. There were numerous opinions as to whether it is better to keep all traffic on one channel or move operations over. Again, a drill such as this exposes potential problems that can then be worked out and hopefully improved upon before we actually need to use it.

We can all take pride in the fact that Golden Fire is constantly evolving and improving what we already have and know. We hope to have more of this type of training in the future. Stay tuned.

(Continued from page 10)

Crazy Health Facts

Taking care of your mental health is as important as managing your physical health. The demands of first response activities place significant stress on first responders. Factors such as lack of sleep, time demands, and dealing with the crisis situations they have witnessed can increase this stress. First responders need to know how to manage the stress in their lives and the department needs to provide a support system that helps their members deal with behavioral health issues such as stress. Create a culture within the department that makes behavioral health a priority and fosters positive behavioral health practices.
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<td>Work Detail Battalion 1</td>
<td>Business Meeting 19:00 Station 1</td>
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<td>Deadline to RSVP to Chief Quador for Live Burn Day</td>
<td>Ladders 18:30 Station 1</td>
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<td>Work Detail Battalion 2</td>
<td>Ladders 18:30 Station 1</td>
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<td>Live Burn Day 08:00-11:30 12:30-16:00 RSVP to Chief Quador by 10/17/11</td>
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October 2011