10 Years Later

I don’t have to tell you that the activities of the last two weeks have been unbelievable. You all know the stories. We all grieve for those firefighters, police officers and EMS personnel who have made the supreme sacrifice. We also appreciate the efforts of those who have given so generously to the Firefighters 9-11 Disaster Relief Fund. The question now becomes, What happens now?

That was the opening paragraph of the Chief’s Corner in the October edition of Smoke Signals in 2001. Everyone remembers where they were that day and the events that transpired. The question remains although a little different. What has happened since 9-11-01 and what happens now?

The week of September 11, 2011 marks the 10th anniversary of when our country was attacked and nearly 3,000 people including 343 from FDNY were murdered, leaving behind a pain that will last for generations to come. There will be many memorial services, stair climbs, mountain climbs, and public events to remember that day. Honestly, no one has forgotten. We continually use the term, “Never Forget”. We see it in the journals, on shirts, the side of apparatus and just about anywhere you look. Never forgetting means realizing that the hazards faced by firefighters from large cities to suburbia to rural America are the same. Firefighters continue to die in the line of duty.

(Continued on page 2)
Much has been published lately about the amount of monies that have been spent to better prepare first responders through equipment, staffing and training improvements. There are a lot of opinions on both sides of this issue but the fact is, this type of funding was needed long before 9-11 and will be needed long after. There are fire agencies across this county that still do not have proper PPE or SCBA’s if they even have them at all. There are agencies that are still trying to operate on Citizen Band radios inside a burning structure. Golden Fire has been fortunate that this funding has helped us replace turnout gear and soon will replace our SCBA’s with state-of-the-art units. It has helped us in the recruitment of volunteer firefighters. But money certainly doesn’t solve all of the issues relating to keeping firefighters safe.

The final part of this article is, how do we honor those that perished on 9-11? The answer, which sounds simple, is training. Some of the best trained, heroic and legendary firefighters in the FDNY were killed on 9-11. A way we can honor them, outside of the memorial events, is to assure that our training is the best it can be. Every firefighter in the department from the newest probationary firefighter to the seasoned veteran should recommit themselves to getting better. It is time to be as focused, as gung-ho and as trained as one can possibly be. There are few better ways to “Never Forget” than to make every day a training day.

May those murdered on 9-11-01 rest in peace and may their families and friends achieve some level of peace despite their loss. And may the rest of us do our best in assuring “Everyone Goes Home.”
“Am I my Brother’s Keeper”

In keeping with my past commentaries, this month’s article again focuses on the more “intangible” aspects of being a good firefighter. Before deciding on the topic however, I went to my usual source for inspiration – Fire Engineering Magazine. I know I’ve made the pitch before, but for those of you who haven’t done so already, I highly encourage you to pick up a subscription to this or other good periodicals (e.g. “Firehouse”) for some excellent articles on both technical and personal firefighting skills. For you Company Officers (or those aspiring to such), every month has at least 2 or 3 topics that can easily be turned into trainings. Two articles in particular caught my attention in the July 2011 edition. The first was titled “Silent Bugles: When Leadership Fails”, which basically says that fire officers need to take more ownership for the discipline, morale and technical abilities of their crews, districts and departments. It starts with respect, both from the top down and the bottom up and the key is “the more you give……the more you get”. The second article basically emphasizes that “Roof Operations” should be considered as much a primary task as “Fire Attack” and “Rescue”. The article focused on fires in flat roof buildings but could easily apply to a fire in any type of structure. The main point the author was making “If you can open it up at the top, all things get better all the time”. I think we all understand this basic premise but sometimes “the devil is in the details”. I saw some excellent ventilation work at a fire we had recently as well as some great trainings organized by several of our company officers. Read the articles if you get a chance and keep up the great work!!

Now for the main subject about “Being a Brother”. Many of you have heard the title expression and some recognize it as the lament of “Cain” when confronted by God about the mysterious disappearance of his brother “Abel”. Of course it was really no mystery at all, and God knew perfectly well that Cain had killed his brother in a case of “Sibling Rivalry” gone haywire. I chose this topic because I sometimes see “Cain-like” behavior in our own little family unit here at GFD (albeit at less deadly scale!). We seem to do fairly well when we are in the public eye providing services to our customers out in the community. Likewise, when standing before God, Cain also complied with his weekly ration of goods offered up for the required sacrifice. However, Cain failed to provide the best of his lot as did his brother Abel, and God was obviously less than pleased. If I remember the story correctly, rather than correcting his behavior, Cain first became angry that God was so demanding and then enraged at his “goody two shoes” brother Abel who embarrassed him with his superior offering. How about you? When you see your “brother” (or sister) struggling with something are you quick to offer assistance or more inclined to chuckle about how silly they look? Likewise, do you get angry and jealous when someone outperforms you or does it motivate you to do better next time? Most of us are kind and even generous to the members we like but is that really so special when even “thieves do as much” as Jesus pointed out to his apostles. No, being a “real” brother means reaching out and showing respect for even those members that we may not particularly like knowing that it can only strengthen the family bond. For you leaders, do you continue to work with the “weaker” members of your teams or do you throw up your hands in disgust and ostracize them from the group. So I ask you “Are you your brother’s keeper?” I think the answer is obviously a resounding YES. A better question is are you more like Cain (angry, plotting and jealous) or Abel (giving the best of your lot at every call to sacrifice!)?
Lt. Risch is an active retiree with the Golden Fire Department. She has been with the Golden Fire Department for 11 years (in November). Risch has lived in Golden for 12 years and is a 5th generation Texan from Dallas and San Antonio. Lt. Risch is an avid cyclist who just won the Citizens Race up Lookout Mountain on 8/27 in the Women’s 50+ division. She logs 8,000 miles a year on her bike. (Conversely she only logs about 4,500 miles a year on her truck.) She commuted to work by bicycle for 17 years, about 80% of the time year ‘round. Now that she is retired, she still uses her bike to run errands and for other utilitarian purposes, as well as for pleasure.

Risch joined the Department back in 2000. During that time, Golden had a string of fires within the City (one being a couple of blocks from her house) and she wanted to do something more to help than just donate to the Red Cross. She decided to join after seeing an article in the Informer asking for volunteers. She has been an active member ever since.

What attracts Risch to the Fire Department is the opportunity and the rewarding experience to serve her neighbors and the visitors that come to the city. There is also the experience of working as a team and getting the job done together that Risch enjoys. The best thing she enjoys about being a part of the Golden Fire Department is the feeling of family.

“A few years ago I was in a bike accident and department members were notified immediately after it had happened. GFD members were the ones who called my family out of state to tell them I was hurt, and GFD members were there to help during my recovery. My mom came up to help take care of me and I heard her on the phone one day to another family member. She said, ‘These fire department people are really something!’ I agree – Yes, we are.”

(Personnel Profiles: JJ Risch)

Angela Baca, Firefighter

**Occupation:** Retired. Previously, had 27 years with the Federal Government: 15 years with the Department of Defense as a numerical control programmer, the last 12 years with the Treasury Department in computer support

**Certifications & Teams:**
- Firefighter II
- D/O Aerial Engineer
- Technical Rescue Team
- First Responder
- HazMat Ops
- Fire Instructor I
- State Proctor

**Continued on page 5**
There are three people who have inspired Risch during her career at GFD. One was Jim Hinkle – Mr. Rescue – who taught her the Rescue truck during their time on the same work detail group. When Jim left, he gave his locker hook where he hung his helmet to Risch. She still uses that same hook in her locker today. Another was Battalion Chief Bob Burrell. Chief Burrell was the one who taught her pumping operations on the Engine. And then there is Firefighter/Engineer Matt Finley (who has been on the department for over 30 years) who taught her how to drive the Engines and Trucks. “I feel very fortunate to have had those three people as my instructors.”

Asked if or when she’d ever really retire from GFD, she says she will continue to serve as long as she is still needed and can still physically do the job.

Lieutenant Risch Posts Fastest Time in Age Bracket

Congratulations to Lieutenant Risch for having the fastest time in the Women’s 50+ age bracket at the citizens “King of the Hill” race up Lookout Mountain. She chose a start time of 9:11, figuring that was a symbolic number. JJ completed the race from the pillars to the top in 28:02 minutes. (By contrast, the professional riders rode the same route in the US Pro Cycling Challenge the next day in about 16 minutes.)
Towing a Swift Water Boat Trailer Safely

This article is part of a Lesson Learn topic that just recently occurred at Golden Fire Department with a call in the canyon on a water rescue. During the response, the trailer that had two of the water rescue boats mounted to it came off of the Water Rescue. It looks like the trailer hitch was not properly attached and secured to the trailer ball on the receiver. The safety chains were attached and did their job of preventing the trailer from traveling very far after coming off of the hitch.

Safely towing a water rescue boat trailer to the call depends on a number of things including tow vehicle ratings, safe trailer loading, and using good trailer towing technique. Many fire departments operating water rescue boats under 28 feet (8.5 meters) in length access the water by towing their boat there on a trailer. Successfully reaching the call depends on using the right hitching system, proper consideration of tow vehicle ratings, safe trailer loading, and using good trailer towing technique.

**Hitching Systems** - The two most common systems used to tow boat trailers are weight-carrying and weight-distributing hitches. The weight a trailer tongue places on the hitch determines the type of system that should be selected. Weight-distributing or load equalizing hitches are commonly used for trailer tongue weights that exceed 250 pounds (113 kilograms) or 15% of the overall trailer weight. Hitch systems are normally bolted or welded to the tow vehicle frame, use a ball coupling device and should have provisions for using safety chains. Hints for hitch safety:

- Lubricate the hitch coupling for longer life
- Never use a ball hitch that is too small for the trailer coupling
- Ensure safety chains are long enough to allow for turns, but are not long enough to drag on the ground
- Cross safety chains under the trailer tongue. This will keep the trailer tongue from hitting the ground if the hitch becomes uncoupled

**Tow Vehicle and Trailer Weight Ratings** - Towing a boat trailer safely depends on properly matching the capability of the tow vehicle to the boat being towed and matching the capacity of the trailer to the boat being carried. These are the weight ratings that need to be considered before towing a boat trailer and are provided by manufacturers:

- Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) - This is the overall weight a vehicle can carry when fully loaded
- Trailer Weight Rating or Towing Capacity of Tow Vehicle - Tow vehicle capability is dependent on many factors. Some are engine displacement and torque, GVWR, vehicle length, and the individual ratings of components like wheels, tires, and axles. Many manufacturers provide this information and offer towing equipment packages for their vehicles.
- Gross Combination Weight Rating (GCWR) - Maximum permissible weight of the tow vehicle, trailer, boat, fuel, equipment and passengers combined
- Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR) - The maximum weight that can be carried by a single axle
- Tongue Weight - The amount of weight that the trailer tongue places on the tow vehicle

(Continued on page 7)
Safe Trailer Loading - Controlling the boat trailer during towing depends on properly distributing the weight the trailer is carrying. A few things to consider:

- Keep the center of gravity as low as possible
- Distribute weight evenly along the length of the boat trailer. Approximately 60% of the weight should be forward of the axle within tongue weight limits
- Distribute weight evenly from side to side. Side mounted fuel or water tanks can affect balance
- Tow vehicle and trailer should be parallel to the ground during movement
- The boat should be secured to the trailer with ratchet style straps at the bow and stern and the bow eye should be attached to the trailer winch

Trailer Towing Techniques - Here are a few hints on how to tow a boat trailer safely:

- Double check that the boat is secured properly to the trailer.
- Check the reservoir on the trailer's surge brakes.
- Check the trailer's connection to the hitch to make sure it is fastened properly and latched. A pin, such as a cotter pin or a bolt should be placed through the latch itself to prevent it from coming loose or being undone by vandals while the vehicle is parked.
- Check to make sure the trailer ball on your tow vehicle matches the coupler on your trailer. The three major sizes of trailer balls are: 1-7/8", 2", and 2-5/16". Make sure the ball is fastened properly to the tow vehicle and that the mounting will handle the capacity equal to or greater than the weight of the trailer and boat. If you have a receiver type hitch, make sure the insert (the bar the ball attaches to) is secured with a retaining pin and that it has a locking clevis pin on it.
- Connect the safety chains, and if equipped, attach the safety brake chain.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anniversaries</th>
<th>Birthdays</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 Years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Stricker 09/10/92</td>
<td>Michael Gonzales 09/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Richard Gonzales 09/27</td>
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<td>Tyler Hecox 09/10</td>
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<td>Jason Mulari 09/06</td>
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<td>Lee North 09/22</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jerry Stricker 09/08</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Stefanie Tannery 09/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chad Wachs 09/04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Safe Driving tips:

- Allow for more time to accelerate, pass and brake. Greater vehicle length and weight slow acceleration and increase braking distance
- Make wider turns. Corners, curbs and curves will require greater clearance for trailer wheels
- Operate at moderate speeds to reduce sway and allow for adequate reaction time
- Avoid sudden starts, stops or turns that can cause trailer instability or swaying
- When backing, place the hand on the bottom of the steering wheel and the trailer will turn in the direction of hand's movement
- Practice towing and backing a boat trailer in a vacant parking lot before nearing a launch ramp
- Do not allow passengers to ride in a boat being towed on a street or highway
- Downshift when going up or down hills
- Try to avoid parking on hills

These are a few safety tips that could be useful while towing a water rescue boat trailer. Exercising a little caution, maintaining the tow vehicle and trailer properly will eliminate most problems.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUMBERS FOR AUGUST 2011</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Calls - 148</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hazardous Condition - 7</td>
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<td>Mutual Aid Given - 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>District # 1 - 72</td>
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<td>Clear Creek Canyon - 11</td>
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<td>Average Response Time - 06:19</td>
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<td>District # 2 - 65</td>
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<td>Miller Coors Property - 0</td>
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<td>Average Firefighters/Call - 6.15</td>
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<td>Fire Response - 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Out of City/Other - 2</td>
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<td>Average Total Time/Call - 31:24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rescue/EMS - 77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mutual Aid Received - 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Est. Fire/Damage Loss - $618,370</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Sponsored by the Colorado Division of Fire Safety and Summit County Fire Authority

FIREWOMEN 2011 CONFERENCE

October 6-9, 2011
Frisco, Summit County, Colorado


Hands On Training

- Auto Extrication
- Live Fire Training
- Forcible Entry
- SCBA Confidence Course

Classroom Sessions

- Multiple Strategy & Tactics Classes
- Empower Your Radio Voice
- Leadership Action Planning
- Firefighter Fitness & Nutrition
- Gender Communication in the Firehouse
- Local Recruiting Ideas
- Animal EMT Basics
  & many more!

Pre-Conference Classes

- Creative Confrontation
- Size Up and Fireground Action Planning

Check out our website for further information on special networking events, great lodging rates, detailed class descriptions, costs and more.

Looking forward to seeing you in Summit County!

Register today! Early Bird Registration ends Friday, July 15, 2011.
Gratitude to Those Who Serve

I was in Home Depot last week and when I asked the man behind the counter about the military discount, he said “certainly, and let me say thank you because I really love the US military”. Then he told me his story that his mother was Cambodian and would have been killed by the Khmer Rouge but the US military got her out and relocated her to Colorado. He said “I would not have even been born and have the privilege of being an American if it wasn’t for the military”.

I felt very humbled listening to his story. I felt even more humbled as he thanked me for serving. I mean, I was still in grade school when all that happened. I was not a part of the military that rescued his mom. I had absolutely nothing to do with that. But I did have the honor of serving in that same military years later. I did have the honor of serving with great men and women who carried on the same proud traditions that caused men and women to put their lives on the line to save his mother.

This month we will remember the attacks that occurred on 9/11/2001. People remember the valiant and heroic efforts of the firefighters who ran into the twin towers as everyone else was running out. People remember the lives those firefighters saved while giving their own lives in the process. As they remember they will see you as a symbol of those firefighters and will take a moment to say thank you for all you do. I know it is humbling and I know that many times you don’t know what to say when they thank you. But take a moment and remember that you are a part of a very proud tradition of brave men and women who run towards danger, not because of the big pay you get as volunteers, but because of a sense of duty and a desire to help your fellow man. Although you may not have been one of those at Ground Zero, you are one of those who serve your community every day. So when they express their gratitude, just say thanks and be proud to be who you are a Golden Firefighter.

Chaplain Mark

Crazy Health Facts

Treating an injury – What NOT to do!

1. Don’t use a heat pack. It may feel good but will increase inflammation and cause more damage to fragile cells. For the first three days after an injury use ice, 15 minutes at a time as often as possible.

2. Don’t try to stretch too soon. Stretching damaged tissues will also cause more damage. Allow the strained muscles or sprained tendons to heal before stretching them.

3. Don’t try to work out before an injury is fully healed. Taking the time initially to rest will decrease recovery time and prevent re-injury.

4. Don’t mask pain with medications so you can work through it. This can cause a re-injury which may be worse than the original damage.
There is Still Time to RSVP!

Golden Fire Department Invites Retired Members To Old-timers Night To Honor Them For Their Years Of Service To The Community

When: September 17, 2011
Where: Buffalo Rose
1119 Washington Avenue
Golden, Colorado
Time: Social Hour 4 PM-5 PM Dinner 5 PM sharp
RSVP: Engineer Matt Finley 303-880-1265
RSVP by 09/07/11
This event is by invitation only
Retirees are invited to join the membership at their picnic on September 18. See below for more information

Golden Fire Department Family Picnic

We are getting back to basics. Everyone will bring something to pass (the old timers don't have to if they are from out of town) and something to drink. I bought an open container permit for beer and wine. The department will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken and the condiments and plates, etc. There won't be a balloon bender for the kids, or slide, or jumping things. People can just bring yard games and a volleyball and have fun.

When: September 18, 2011
Where: Lions Park (West Pavilion)
Time: 10 am until 5 pm we (will eat around 11:30 am)
Contact: Captain Gustafson at 303-378-8240
e-mail tina.gustafson@millercoors.com
Retirees and their families are welcome to attend this picnic.
Personnel Profiles: Daniel Roozen

Angela Baca, Firefighter

Daniel Roozen has been a volunteer with the Golden Fire Department for three years as a non-resident. He currently lives in Arvada and is originally from Mankato, Minnesota. He has lived in Colorado since 1998. Roozen decided to move to Colorado when his girlfriend at the time got a new job here and he thought, “Colorado was a pretty cool place and I was tired of my job so I moved!”

Dan originally volunteered with the Arvada Fire Department before he got hired on with Arvada but he missed volunteering so much he decided to apply to volunteer with Golden. Having known a lot of friends who already worked for the department, it was a good fit! Dan grew up in a small town with an all-volunteer fire department. His father was a board member for years so Roozen was very familiar with the family atmosphere of a volunteer department and always wanted to get a chance to volunteer. Unfortunately, he had to wait until he moved to Arvada to live in an area that had a volunteer department since he didn’t stay in his hometown.

Dan enjoys the technical rescue calls the department gets from being so close to Clear Creek Canyon. “It was one of the draws in working for Golden Fire. The opportunity to learn and help on different types of calls that you would not normally get in other parts of the metro area.” Roozen also likes the camaraderie of working at Golden Fire. “We all have a common interest that brings us all together.”

When asked who inspires him from the department, Roozen said Training Chief Gene Quador. “He has a fun attitude and I like his enthusiasm to train others. I want to go into training one day and help new recruits like he does.”

Roozen enjoys the city of Golden because it reminds him of the small town where he grew up in Minnesota. The city has a lot to offer with things to do and the people are welcoming. Roozen is an avid skier and fly fisher. When he is not doing either, he likes to ATV or play the drums in the Arvada Fire Department Pipe and Drum band.

Dan is the type of experienced Firefighter who will always have the time to teach (no matter what the subject) and will always look to find new things to learn or try. Next on his list to learn is EOC Operations (Emergency Operations Center) with big event command type functions.

Dan plans on learning and volunteering with Golden Fire until the end of his career. Volunteering is in his blood and what he was raised around. He couldn’t imagine not doing it!

Thanks for your service to the department, Dan!

Occupation: Firefighter/Engineer/Officer with Arvada Fire Department (12 years)

Certifications & Teams:

- D/O Aerial Engineer
- Fire Officer 1
- Swiftwater 1
- HazMat Technician

- Wildland Red Carded
- Fire Inspector
- EMT-B
Academy class of 2011 completes their class project packing school supplies for the students of Valley View Church and their food bank.

Rollover crash on the City of Golden's Cemetery property requiring extensive extrication.

Single-family structure fire causing significant damage on Mesa Court. Several jurisdictions responded for mutual aid.
Committee Update

I wanted to update you all on what your Strategic Planning committee has been tasked to work on and what we have been doing over the past few months.

First, some background for those that are new on what the Strategic Planning Committee is. We are a group made up of volunteer representatives from our ranks. We have resident and shift firefighters, lieutenants, captains and a battalion chief. Some members are recently off probation and some have been with the department for decades – with a good mix in-between. We feel we represent all faces of the Golden Fire Department.

Our goal is to look to the future for the fire department and come up with strategies and ideas to keep the department in line with our mission. Strategic planning also causes us to look at the present and past to see where we have been, what has worked and what needs re-tooling. We develop solutions, recommendations and ideas and present these to the Chief and command staff. What we do not do is create SOG’s or write policy.

Starting this spring, the Chief has asked us to look into a couple of issues the department is facing. Broadly speaking, these issues revolve around a perceived lessening in response on calls by volunteers. After a number of calls with either low volunteer turn-out or where mutual aid was required for “routine” calls, we were asked to investigate this and come up with recommendations for solutions.

As a result, we have been taking a hard look at our shift program, the number of volunteers (both resident and shift), call and training attendance and requirements, and our recruitment process, to name a few. One of the results of this was the survey most of you participated in two months ago. We had over 80% of the membership take part and for that, I want to sincerely thank you for taking time to share with us your thoughts and concerns. It demonstrated to the committee that as a whole, you all care about this department and its future. We have tallied the results (see below) and read all of your comments. It took us over a month to really read and digest the large volume of comments we received from you.

As a result, we are now working on creating recommendations that we feel can be implemented in the short, medium and long term to help solve some of our response issues as well as continue to make the department one of the best volunteer departments in the country. Some examples of these recommendations include:

- Implementing an engineer and officer development program that can be completed largely on shift
- Creating a new resident recruitment program that better addresses the benefits of volunteering to Golden residents
- Working with the city on improving the benefits to volunteer firefighters

(Continued on page 15)
• Creating incentives for exceeding call / training requirements
• Creating different or flexible options for shift hours
• Using better technology to alert all volunteers to incidents and staffing
• Create a residency program with a re-model of Station 4

Many of these ideas are fed from the feedback received from you on the survey. Two other common themes we read were morale issues and the desire to have paid positions. On morale, as a committee, we take those comments to heart and are working on ideas, though we certainly welcome your thoughts. In terms of paid positions, this is a topic largely beyond the scope of our committee but I can tell you that this is not a foreign concept to city council. They know how lucky they are to have a volunteer department serve a city the size of Golden. They understand the issues an all volunteer line creates and know this may not last forever. They will make the decisions that serve the citizens while balancing the economic impacts. While some form of a combination department may be included in our recommendations, if or when that ever happens is beyond the reach or purpose of the committee.

Our job as a committee is to represent the membership and develop plans with your desires in mind as well as the needs of the department and community we serve. Your input is very important to us. If you have any comments, ideas or just want to have your voice heard, please take a moment to contact any of the members of the committee: Angie Baca, Jason Fritch, Aaron Giesick, Tina Gustafson, Jeanette Kehoe, Gerard Lutz, John O’Connor, Adam Phipps, JJ Risch, Rocco Snart, or Chad Wachs.

As a reminder, the minutes to all of our meetings are available for your review in the watch office.

### Answers to the Survey Questions

1) If it were available, how interested would you be in doing a 6 hour shift on a Saturday or Sunday day? The shift would run from 6 am to 12 pm or 12 pm to 6 pm and would count as a 1/2 shift credit and 1 call. (45 responses)

2) How important is it to have more resident firefighters? (49 responses)
Answers to the Survey Questions

3) Should GFD give preference to residents in the next academy process? (49 responses)

4) If it were available and voluntary would you sign up for a 6 hour stand by shift to help let the shift crews know you will be available to respond? (45 responses)

5) Should all emergency calls become "All Calls" regardless of district and time of day? (47 responses)

6) If the staff sent out a text message when there was a night shift on at Station 1 or Station 4 and noted how many were on and what positions we needed (ie engineer, officer, FF) would you be more likely to respond to the station? (43 responses)

7) If you had a digital pager that would alert you to the calls (or alert your cell phone), how often do you think you would be in or close enough to Golden to actually respond to a station (i.e. when you are not on shift)? For resident firefighters, please select your pager preference only. (54 responses)
Over the past two years I have spoken with several professional money managers, investment consultants and bankers who all agree that we are in unprecedented times with the stock market and the economy.

There has been talk of big funding cuts for fiscal year 2012 for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs. These are just two programs set for national cuts that are going to happen over the next years. Also, homes are dropping in value creating less property tax and sales tax revenues generally rise and fall with the economy affecting jurisdictions’ revenues. With that in mind, considering local, state and federal budgets being cut or at best conservative, volunteer and combination departments will need creative solutions to provide the utmost quality, all hazards response to those we serve.

The main focus of the Mutual Aid System is to make a large number of resources available in a pre-arranged, organized fashion at no additional cost to the town, district or municipality requiring assistance during a large-scale emergency situation. As fire departments face tight budgets and less personnel resources mutual aid response is required for more than large-scale emergencies. The Golden Fire Department presently participates in a countywide mutual aid system. This includes surrounding departments such as Golden Gate, Fairmount, Pleasant View and others. Although small-scale incidents requiring mutual aid are becoming more commonplace due to staffing levels, we only mutually train with our neighboring departments once or twice a year. Green Bay Packers coaching legend Vince Lombardi once said, “perfect practice, makes perfect.” It seems as though we can all benefit with more mutual aid trainings. All neighboring fire departments have qualified training programs and personnel. We all individually provide our personnel department training on Tuesday nights. It seems logical to me that maybe once a month or at least every other month each department host a mutual aid training inviting our neighboring departments. I feel that mutual aid trainings more frequently would not only improve interdepartmental training but also morale and comradery as well. Each individual agency has its “specialties” that could be shared as training topics. Three times a year create a mutual aid response scenario in each jurisdiction to make sure that all systems work well together.

Each department has outstanding apparatus and equipment. Nevertheless, the apparatus may not be the same manufacturer and the placement of equipment on the apparatus made vary. Better familiarization with our neighboring departments’ apparatus and equipment is certainly another benefit of mutual aid trainings. To actually utilize others apparatus and equipment will provide better familiarization in a controlled training environment. Thus training mutually would give us the opportunity to utilize other agencies’ equipment and apparatus prior to an incident.

Excellent communication is the key to successfully mitigating any emergency. The Golden Fire Department as well as our surrounding departments utilizes the Incident Command System (ICS). The ICS provides common phrases and incident management concepts allowing for interoperability across agencies and jurisdictions. However, outside of the ICS, radio communications jargon may differ between jurisdictions. Mutual aid training will bring to light any communication differences prior to an incident.

Each day our fire department responds to numerous emergencies. Most often, these incidents are managed effectively at the local level. However, there are some incidents that may require a collaborative approach that includes personnel and equipment from multiple jurisdictions. This may be because of the size of the incident or a lack of adequate staffing. Mutual aid training provides the foundation needed to ensure that we can work together when our communities need us the most. Training together more often leads towards “perfect practice, makes perfect”; when the incident requires a perfect response we are all well prepared.
Fire and Life Safety
Steven Parker, Fire Inspector

Fire Prevention Bureau Updates

As the summer is coming to a conclusion and the CSM campus is filling up with students and faculty, construction projects are coming to an end. Throughout the summer there were four major projects that were in high gear: Weaver Towers renovation, Brown Hall addition and renovation, Maple Plaza, and Maple Residence Hall. There are a few components of each project that I would like to point out.

Weaver Tower

At the Weaver Towers (1801 18th Street) a full renovation and small addition began in early May 2011 and will be a three phased project. Phase I consisted of demolition of the link between the two towers and a top to bottom renovation of the West Tower. Phase I was complete the first week in August and is now occupied by students. The main components to point out for this building are the following: First, the temporary location for the Knox Box is on a column at the entrance to the tower off of 18th Street. Directly adjacent to this column (to the West) the FDC and Stand Pipe connection is located on the building. This is a significant detail; prior to this location the towers had four different locations for standpipe connections in addition to the FDC. Finally, the fire alarm remote annunciator is located at the temporary exit. Phase II of this project consists of completing the East Tower and the link between the two towers, which should be complete by the end of 2011. And Phase III will be finish work in the West Tower renovating all of the bathrooms.

Maple Residence Hall

The new Maple Residence Hall (1733 Maple Street) is a new structure that was completed in early July. The main aspects of this building I would like to point out are the FDC/Standpipe location as well as the location of the fire alarm control panel and riser room. The fire alarm control panel, sprinkler riser room and Knox Box are located on the North East corner of the building, off of 17th Street between Maple Street and Illinois Street [PICTURE 3]. The FDC/Standpipe is located on the North side of the building off of 17th Street [PICTURE 4]. The standpipe in this building is a Class I – Wet system.
Brown Hall

Brown Hall (1610 Illinois Street) completed its addition and renovation to the existing building on August 22, 2011. There are a few intricacies that are beneficial to point out. First, the East entrance of the building along Illinois Street is the first floor and the entrance on the West side of the building along the new Maple Plaza is the second floor. Second, due to the size of the building (essentially a square city block) an additional Knox Box was added at the corner of 17th and Maple Street. Also at this location an additional graphic map was added with another remote annunciator to soon follow. The standpipe in this building is a Class I – Wet system.

Maple Plaza

Maple Plaza is a pedestrian walk way that will double as a fire department access road. This plaza has mountable curbs at 16th and Illinois Street. 17th and Maple Street, and once complete West Campus and Maple Street. Maple Street from 16th to West Campus should be complete by the end of October 2011.

See page 16 for a map of all of the CSM construction updates.
The following map indicates all of the Colorado School of Mines construction updates as described on pages 14 and 15:
Safety

Is what we’re doing safe or not? As a company officer this question is constantly in the back of my mind on every call I respond to. Sometimes the answer can be vague though, after all, being a firefighter means being in an “inherently dangerous” environment. So what does being “safe” really mean? If I was going to build a car to be as safe as possible it would be 3 times as heavy, the wheels would extend well beyond the body, it would be loaded with airbags, rollover protection, and a speed governor, and it would cost 5 times as much. While it would be the safest vehicle on the road, it would be nearly impossible to operate. The turning radius would be horrible, acceleration and top speed would be something to laugh at, and costs to operate would be high. The point I’m trying to make is if our only focus when making policies and decisions is safety, we will be completely ineffective in our operations. Unfortunately, no matter how much we try to minimize it, there will ALWAYS be risk. So again, what does being “safe” really mean? The answer is: it depends. But that’s not good enough. In order to set policy and make guidelines, we need something more definitive than “it depends.” Can we quantify how much we are willing to risk? We can start by looking at statistics. Here are some notable statistics from the US Fire Administration:

- An average of 100 firefighters die annually
- The leading nature of fatal injuries to firefighters is heart attacks (44 percent)
- Approximately 60 percent of all firefighter fatalities were over the age of 40
- Of those firefighters killed while en route to an incident, 85 percent were volunteers
- One quarter of firefighters who died in MVCs were killed in private/personally owned vehicles (POVs).
- More firefighters are killed in tanker collisions than in engines and ladders combined.

Turning these statistics into simplified probabilities: (NFPA estimates that there were approximately 1,148,100 firefighters in the U.S. in 2009.)

Deaths: 100/1,148,100 or .0087%.
Heart Attacks: 44/1,148,100 or .0038%
Motor Vehicle Accidents (2010): 11/1,148,100 or .000958%

Comparing those to every-day activities (US census bureau estimated the 2010 population at: 312,140,088, with 85 million cyclists)

Cycling Deaths: 630/85,000,000 or .0074%
Motor Vehicle Accidents: 40,000/312,140,088 or .013%
Auto- Ped deaths: 5000/312,140,088 or .0016%
Stair-related deaths: 12,000/312,140,088 or .0038%

(Continued on page 22)
What this means is that we are 13.6 times more likely to die as soon as we get out of the fire truck, get into our personal vehicle and drive home. It means that in order to prevent firefighter deaths, by far the most significant place to focus is on deaths occurring from over-exertion (especially in firefighters older than 40) resulting in heart-attacks. It means we are as likely to die using stairs as we are in a fire.

While these statistics are interesting, risk is meaningless without benefit. It’s in doing a “risk/benefit analysis” that we can put meaning to our risk. Unfortunately “risk a lot to save a lot, risk a little to save a little” is, again, too vague. Here are some beneficial benchmarks we can quantify.

**Regarding CPR**
“Each additional five seconds of delay reduced the chance of survival to hospital discharge by 18%” ([Journal of the American Heart Association](https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/10.1161/JAHA.111.100061) Published June 20th, 2011 regarding delaying CPR and defibrillation)

**Regarding Hypoxia**
After not breathing for less than 5 minutes, brain cells begin to die.

**Regarding Fires**
Every 30 seconds a fire doubles in size.

**Regarding Flashover**
Flashover in new construction averages 4 minutes 11 seconds from initial flame, which is down from 6 minutes 30 seconds on construction built 30 years ago.

**Regarding Building Construction**
Gusset plate trusses fail within 15 minutes of direct flame impingement.

What this means is that regardless of the call we get, whether medical or fire related, the best way to save someone’s life is to respond very quickly and take action. In fact, as studies have shown, as little as 5 seconds difference in pre-hospital care makes a significant difference in outcomes. For those arguing that 15 seconds is not a big deal, statistics show otherwise.

By pointing out some of these facts, I want to make it very clear that I’m not promoting unsafe practices with a “that will never happen to me” attitude. I want to make sure firefighters are very aware of the dangers that exist, and that while we’ve only discussed deaths, many more injuries occur. However, I don’t want firefighters to be ineffective because they are either afraid to do their job or just complacent. People aren’t afraid to climb stairs, therefore, statistically speaking, trained firefighters shouldn’t be any more worried about putting out a fire, or driving to an incident.

So let’s get to the punch line. Life safety doesn’t just refer to the lives of the firefighters, we also need to include the safety of the people we are responding to and statistics show the best way to increase their safety is to respond quickly with adequate manpower. The best way to keep firefighters safe is to work smarter not harder. Before we “play it safe” by pulling a 2 ½” with limited manpower, let’s not forget that the number one killer of firefighters is heart-attacks. With all of the changes that have happened on the department in the last few years, and with all of the new guidelines and practices we have seen, I want to remind everyone: let’s not out-think our common sense. When we think about safety and make policies/guidelines, let’s look beyond our own and ask the question: is what we’re doing best for the citizens?
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Golden Fire Department personnel were introduced to the community by short biographies and photos. These articles appeared in the Golden Transcript.

Meet your fireman

Bob Nelson, 42, has been a member of the Golden Volunteer Fire Department for four years. He and his wife Sharon live at 17033 W. 16th Place with their children Matt, 9, and Lara, 6. Nelson, an engineer at Coors brewery, enjoys skiing and hiking.

Meet your fireman

Larry Pracht, 39, has been with the Golden Volunteer Fire Department for six years. He and his family live at 15864 W. Third Place. His wife is the former Theresa Marie Collette, and the couple has six children—Sandra, 17; Kathy, 16; Randy, 15; Michelle, 13; Bonnie, 12 and Robby, 10. Pracht enjoys fishing, camping, hunting and sports.

Golden Fire Department
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