

Jan-March 2012



Did you know?

- How many feet of fire hose did the department test in 2011? (answer on page 2)
- The Department ran 683 calls from October to December 2011.

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Welcome!

Welcome to the SWAC newsletter. Years ago, we began this process and were highly successful in getting the message out to our firefighters and community. In the past few years, citizens have asked for more “transparency” in government and what a great way to do it with a newsletter.

The fire department does many more things than just fight fires. In fact, today it is just a small part of what we do. We are heavily involved in not only emergency medical services but with transporting patients as well. Currently it’s probably 80% of what we do.

In addition, we have a car seat

safety program which teaches parents how to strap their child properly in their vehicle. We also provide a smoke detector program where we attempt to reach all of the areas of your district who can’t afford detectors. We have a home safety inspection program in which we will come out and inspect your home at no charge and no mandatory requirements. We review your home inside and out and make safety suggestions. This is a courtesy inspection to help citizens clean up, add smoke detectors and provide general safety tips.

Our main goal in this newsletter is to let you know what’s happening in your neighborhood.

We are part of this community and want to assist you in any way we can.

Chief George Ditolla



Residents Participate In Citizen Fire Academy

Five residents of the SWAC Fire District participated in a nine week citizens fire academy. “This was a first for the district, which is pushing for closer relationships with the people we serve,” says Lt. Tavalez, Training Officer for the district. “This was a great opportunity to meet and share knowledge about what we do, and let the citizens know about all the services we provide to them. Many citizens are unaware we provide more than simply firefighting.”

The academy met on Wednesdays from September to November, covering subjects such as:

*The history of the SWAC fire district

*The history of 911 and how a 911 call is processed. This course also took the academy on a tour of Adams County Communications Center, (ADCOM) Observing 911 dispatchers in action.

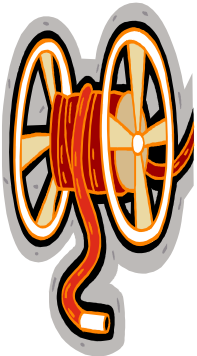
*Home fire safety and training using fire extinguishers on live fires.

*A free CPR training class.

*Training over preparation for various types of disasters, such as: tornadoes, floods, and severe weather emergencies.

This training, along with training over Community Right to Know, culminated with items to consider when preparing a 72 hour disaster kit.

The attendees of the academy were presented with certificates for their attendance at the November Fire District Board meeting. Special thanks to Ed Chasteen, Anne & Eileen Donohoue, and Maynard & Maggie King for their participation in the 2011 academy.



(Answer)
 All fire hose is tested annually by the on duty crews. In 2011, the department tested 20,000 feet, or nearly four miles of attack and supply hose!



Birthdays

JANUARY	
Thom Jeffries	3
Gary Fletcher	6
Matt Leete	13
Gary Aranda	20
Kaye Lombardi	24
FEBRUARY	
Jordan Long	13
Craig Samoy	16
Todd Stockford	25
MARCH	
Mike Tavalez	5

Get To Know: Captain Gary Fletcher



Photo: Catherine O'Hagan

Gary was born in Monte Vista, CO. He lived in Del Norte until age three before moving to Denver. Gary graduated from Lincoln High School and has completed classwork at ACC and Red Rocks Community College. Fletch married his wife, Christy, in 1971 and celebrated their 40th anniversary in 2011.

He has three children, Melinda, Travis, and Cody, as well as 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. While the house is crowded for family gatherings, he enjoys entertaining 20 people for dinners!

Before joining the fire service, Gary worked as a carpenter framer and drove a 100-foot crane in construction. Gary also worked in grocery distribution at McLane Western, supervising cooler and freezer operations.

Gary joined the Department as a volunteer in March of 1983 at the persuasion of a fellow firefighter, Rob Nemith. Fletch became a

lieutenant in 1989 and was Assistant Chief in 1990. Gary became the paid fire inspector in 1987 but continued volunteering until 1990. In 1995, Gary was promoted to Deputy Fire Marshal. He will celebrate his 29th anniversary at SWAC in March 2012.

Fletch enjoys hunting, fishing, and hanging out with his grandkids. Gary and Christy love to take their camper out on the weekends to a Colorado lake and "drink wine." In the Spring and Summer, Gary is a horticulturist at heart, working on the flowers and plants in their yard.

Get To Know: Firefighter-EMT Carie Porter

Carie was born in St. Paul, Minnesota. She was raised in the city of Minneapolis, as well as Grand Forks, Bismarck, and Fargo, North Dakota. Carie was raised by her mother, father, and at times by her older brother.

Carie completed the department's Fire Academy in 2010 and applied and was accepted to the department's reserve program in March 2010. She was hired as a full time career firefighter in July 2011 and is assigned to C-shift. She likes the fact that everyday is guaranteed to be different than

the last as a firefighter. "It's nice to have change and be able to just go with the day."

Carie is a mother of two, Tyler (13) and Mekhi (6). She moved to Highlands Ranch in 2010 with her husband, Sean, kids, and dogs in tow.

Since 2001, Carie has worked at the University of Denver as the team coordinator and coach for the youth gymnastics team. A former gymnast herself, she enjoys snowboarding, mountain biking, and all other outdoor

activities.

Carie is excited to be a volunteer mentor for a girls after school program with her daughter. She will be helping with homework, as well as mentoring and directing young girls in the Denver area.



Photo: Catherine O'Hagan

Worker Pinned Under Vehicle Saved

On November 27, A-Shift's Medic 11 and Engines 11 & 14 responded to the King Soopers gas station at Sheridan and 64th Avenue on a report of man pinned under a vehicle.

The victim was conducting maintenance at the gas station when a large SUV ran him over, pinning him severely under the vehicle.

The victim was extricated from under the vehicle and found to be in cardiac arrest. The patient was quickly loaded into Medic 11 and transported to the new St. Anthony West Hospital in Lakewood, which is a Level I Trauma Center.

Enroute, the patient was resuscitated and soon regained pulses. Early follow ups on the patient

found him to be answering questions and tying his own shoes! The patient was being prepared for transfer to Craig Hospital for rehab.

Time of call to time of patient transport was just 14 minutes! This is just one example of the tremendous patient care and treatment the department gives on a daily basis.

Christmas Drive Helps Twelve Families

The Department's annual Christmas Food and Toy Drive was as successful as ever, helping twelve different families and a total of 48 kids.

2011 was a tough year for many families and the Department was overwhelmed with requests to make their Christmases a little more special.



The Department collects food, toys, and cash donations and assembles baskets for these needy families.

Namedropping

Congratulations to **Clinton Garner**, who was promoted to the new Captain on A-shift. Clinton was previously the Lieutenant on A-shift. The department is currently testing for a new Lieutenant and will be hiring another career firefighter.

Welcome to **Carie Porter**, Firefighter-EMT. Carie was hired in July 2011 and is working on C-shift. Carie began as a reserve firefighter.

Congratulations to our 2011 Firefighters of the Year as awarded by the Westminster Elks and Shriners Clubs.

Lieutenant Mike Tavalez
Corey Davidson, FF-Paramedic
Todd Stockford, FF-Paramedic

Award bios can be found at www.swacfire.com.

Reverse 911 and Emergency Preparedness

Although the likelihood is rare, emergency services many contact your residence to provide public safety information through a service known as reverse 911. This service is to notify persons within a very specific area of a developing situation, and what actions may be necessary for public safety. You may be given basic information of what is happening, and what additional actions to take. These instructions may be to either evacuate the area to escape a pending emergency, or take actions described as "shelter in place." Some of these actions are described in detail at the following website: <http://www.ready.gov/evacuation-guidelines>

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website has disaster preparedness information available in several languages, including Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese. This information is located at: www.ready.gov

One thing that can be done to be prepared for several types of emergencies is put together a disaster preparedness kit to handle your family's needs for at least 72 hours. The kit can be as large or as small as necessary. Some items to consider having in this kit are:

- - Water, one gallon of water per person per day, for drinking and sanitation
- - Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- - Battery-powered radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert, and extra batteries for both
- - Flashlight and extra batteries
- - First Aid kit
- - Whistle to signal for help
- - Infant formula and diapers, if you have an infant
- - Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- - Dust mask or cotton t-shirt, to help filter the air
- - Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- - Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- - Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- - Food for pets, if you own any.

More information on items to consider for a 72 hour preparedness kit is available at: <http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>



Welcome!

- © Claire Elizabeth on 10/20/11 to Mike & Sabrina Kary
- © Gavin Lance on 12/12/11 to Doug & Cindi Owens



Congratulations!
Steve and Mindi Legault,
married on November 11,
2011.

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3365 West 65th Avenue
Denver, CO 80221

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The Siren

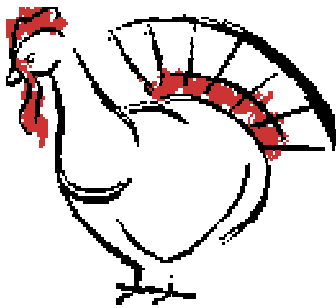
The official quarterly newsletter of
Southwest Adams County Fire Rescue.

Receiving this as a paper edition via mail? We would prefer to email you a full color, electronic copy. Please send your email address to:

tstockford@swacfire.com

We're on the Web!
www.swacfire.com

Operation Free Bird



The Department participated in Rocky's Autos eighth annual "Operation Free Bird" program in November. Rocky's provides coupons for turkeys for those in need and partners with Southwest Adams Fire Rescue and the Adams County Sheriff Department. This year, B-shift, the Bureau, and reserves gave tours of the department's smoke house and apparatus. The event gave away thousands of turkeys.



Upcoming

- District board meetings: January 19th, February 16th, and March 15th at 7:30 pm at Station 11, 3365 West 65th Avenue.
- Past board meeting minutes, district budgets, current news, and other downloads are available at www.swacfire.com