COLORADO STATE FIRE CHIEFS

COMBINATION SECTION MEETING

February 19, 2016

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Colorado State Fire Chiefs - Combination Section was held at the Cunningham Fire Protection District.

The following departments were represented: Bennett Fire Rescue, Berthoud FPD, Boulder Rural Fire Rescue, Canon City FPD, Copper Mountain FD, Cunningham FPD, Elizabeth FPD, NE Teller County Fire, North-West FPD, Wellington FD, and Tom Farber.

10:00 am
Chief Mygatt, Boulder Rural Fire Rescue – Introduced Garry Briese, Executive Director Colorado State Fire Chiefs Association.

Garry Briese provided a brief update on the following items:

- Broken Arrow: Preparing for the Inevitable
    - Three years since the last major fire. Necessary to begin planning for future large-scale responses.
- 36 Hour Safe Firefighting Course
    - Ready to go to press. The document has been designed to be taught at the station by in-house trainers. The document will have everything needed for training and will focus on exterior firefighting.
- 2016 Fire Leadership Challenge: Transformational Leadership from Company Officer to Chief Officer.
    - A survey will be going out asking those participating to rank their topic preferences.
- Legislative Update
    - HB16-1088: Fire Protection District Impact Fee Collections On New Developments:
        - Currently, Fire Protection Districts do not have the authority to do this.
        - Need everyone's help. Asking for help in reaching out to Representatives from your District. Also, consider getting District Board Members involved.
        - Contact Chief Steck of Elizabeth Fire for additional information.
    - SB16-069: Community Paramedicine Regulations:
        - Colorado State Chief task force is reporting some success with this.
    - SB16-037: Public Access Digitally Stored Data Under CORA
        - Would allow the public to make record requests for all digital records about a specific incident.

Chief Mygatt continued with an introduction of Chief Gary Curmode, Copper Mountain Fire, to discuss his candidacy for 2016 IAFC 2nd Vice President. Chief Curmode briefly spoke about his platform and encouraged everyone to get out and vote.

Chief Mygatt introduced our presenter Chief Jerry Rhodes, Cunningham Fire Protection District. Chief Rhodes gave a brief description of the history of Cunningham Fire Protection District before speaking about the importance and techniques for success in Community and Government Relations. The topic went over presenting your best image, showing interest and being active in your community, and the importance of your political involvement.

Key points from the presentation:

- **Be true to the agency's Mission, Vision, and Values**. Do your people know your Mission? Who, was/is involved in planning and creating your mission? Remember that Mission Statements can change from time to time. Know the needs and wants of your team and your community.
- **Image:** Be the example for your team of how to act in public. If a person tarnishes their badge, they are tarnishing everyone in the organization.
- **Community and Relationships:** Know the financial makeup of your district. The native, newly established and religious cultures in your communities. How many languages are spoken, what is the education level of your community, how do your policies/procedures work with their cultural beliefs and traditions. Treat everyone how you want to be treated. Take every opportunity to interact with your community members. Establishing good relationships within the community are crucial because one day you may need them.
- **Show Interest:** Show up early and stay late to any event or meeting you attend. Know all topics being discussed and prepared to answer any questions. Remember that sometimes a simple conversation can lead to solutions for bigger issues.
    - 10 to 30-second rule: don't stand and chat with someone longer than 10-30 seconds. Constantly move around the room and mingle with the public.

All members have permission to use the "Techniques for Success in Community Relations" Document in future training. Chief Rhodes gave permission and encouraged anyone who wishes to use the document to remove Cunningham Fires information replacing it with your logo.

1:00 pm
Meeting was adjourned. Thanks to Cunningham Fire Protection for providing a very informative presentation and wonderful lunch.

NEXT MEETING:

April 15th, 10:00 am, Opportunities to Improve your Fire Department
Copper Mountain Fire Department
Copper Mountain, CO

PLEASE NOTICE THE NEW DATE FOR THIS MEETING. AS THE RESULT OF A CONFLICT ON APRIL 22ND WITH A STATE WIDE IMPORTANT CELEBRATION, DIRECTOR PAUL COOKE'S RETIRMENT.