



LAKE DILLON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Serving Our Community with Integrity, Compassion and Professionalism

Lake Dillon Fire Protection District

(970) 262-5100

www.ldfr.org

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A Lake Dillon firefighter gets mobbed by school children during 2013 Fire Prevention Week in October as part of the “firefighters are your friends” lesson that teaches youngsters not to hide from firefighters trying to find them inside a burning building.

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We are pleased to offer this 2013 annual report detailing how the Lake Dillon Fire Protection District (LDFPD), through our dedicated crews and staff, have served our property owners and citizens during the past year and the expectations we have going forward.

While the public generally thinks of us as a fire department, that's a bit of a misnomer: Only about two percent of our emergency calls in 2013 involved suppression of actual fires. Indeed, Lake Dillon Fire's professional staff takes pride in offering top-notch all-hazard emergency services for our community. We respond to life-threatening medical emergencies, rescue people involved in motor-vehicle crashes and other accidents, contain releases of hazardous materials, provide wildfire mitigation and suppression, deliver educational programs to the public on all matters of safety, and work on preventing fires in the first place. And, of course, we take delight in simply being your friendly good neighbors who are glad to see you in the grocery store, on a tour of one of our fire stations or while visiting schools in the fire district.

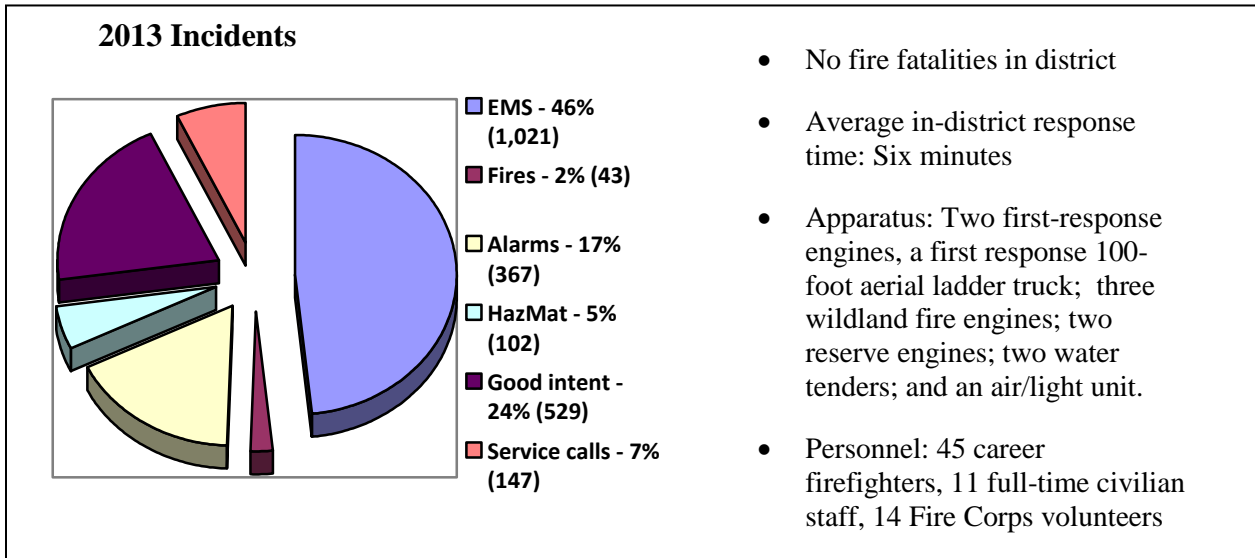
Out of our three 24/7 staffed fire stations, we responded to 2,229 calls during the year – predominantly to provide emergency medical services, which comprised 46 percent of the total call volume. We are pleased to report that fire losses within the district in 2013 were limited to \$418,406, saving property at direct risk in excess of an estimated \$13.5 million. This, coupled with our focused fire-prevention efforts, clearly demonstrates that Lake Dillon Fire provides the community with value well beyond its investment.

Among other highlights, the entire LDFPD staff participated in crafting a five-year strategic plan intended to guide the department, improve performance for the district and increase efficiency. As we head into 2014, we are pursuing numerous strategic goals in part to further advance our potential pursuit of international accreditation. We also will be rolling out our updated mission statement: *“Unwavering dedication to serve our community with integrity, compassion and professionalism.”* The LDFPD Board of Directors has directed that we update the department service plan this year, and we will continue to seek collaborations and improved delivery of emergency medical services in cooperation with the Summit County Ambulance Service and our neighboring fire departments.

Finally, we are pleased to report once again that there was no loss of life or serious injuries due to fires in our district, which remains our top concern. As always, we look forward to serving you, our stakeholders, and wish to express our appreciation for the confidence and trust that you have placed in us.

Dave Parmley, Fire Chief

OPERATIONS HIGHLIGHTS



OPERATIONS

LDFPD has full-time, staffed fire stations in Frisco, Dillon and Keystone.

The firefighters operate on a three-shift schedule, which entails 48 hours on duty and 96 hours off. Each station has a four-person crew comprised of a firefighter/EMT, a firefighter/paramedic, a driver/engineer and a lieutenant.

Each shift is supervised by a battalion chief who works the same 48/96 schedule. Additional chief officers work during business hours at various stations and are available during non-office hours via pager.

The apparatus at each station complements the specific needs and demands for service in that location.

All LDFPD firefighters are medically trained to the emergency medical technician basic level or above, are certified in hazardous-materials operations and have current federal wildfire “red cards.” In addition, the majority



Deputy Chief Jeff Berino

of firefighters have advanced training and certification in specialty areas such as: paramedicine hazardous materials, ice rescue, confined space rescue, trench rescue, extrication and wildfire tactics.



The “Tiltin’ Hilton,” a landmark A-Frame home in Montezuma, burned on Jan. 29, 2013. Although the cause was not determined, the fire appeared to have originated in the area of the wood stove. The structure was a complete loss.

In addition to incident response, firefighters received more than 6,022 hours of training.

Throughout the year, Lake Dillon firefighters must inspect and test more than 11,200 feet of fire hose, more than 750 feet of ladders, 41 self-contained breathing apparatus units and the water pumps on eight fire response apparatus.

LDFPD firefighters also engage in public events such as Safe Summer Kickoff, Fire Prevention Week, monthly fire drills at six schools, Ready, Set, Go programs, and a myriad of community functions.

To create a safer environment for citizens, visitors and firefighters, each of the nine engine/truck companies is responsible for fire-code inspections at businesses and multi-family dwellings. To be better prepared for an incident at selected

structures and hazards, crews perform “pre-plan” visits to a site. The information gathered is documented and can be used as a tactical and planning tool in the event of an incident.

During 2013, a bidding process for a new engine was completed. The detailed specification and ordering was performed by operations and fleet-maintenance staff. A new engine was ordered from Rosenbauer Manufacturing, and will be placed into service in March of 2014. The new engine will be located at Station 8 in Dillon. An 8-year-old Pierce Dash 4x4 engine, which was located at Station 8 in Dillon, was sold in April of 2013.

Every member of the operations division was involved to some extent in the research and development of the new LDFPD strategic plan. Strategic recommendations



A chlorine-gas leak at a swimming pool after an automated pool chlorinate exploded at the Keystone Lodge on May 22, 2013, required a hazardous-materials response. Two people were slightly injured.

were offered on training, staffing levels, mission statements, station design/layout and apparatus replacement.

In 2013, the number of structure-fire responses dropped by 28 percent, with one significant loss of the landmark “Tiltin’ Hilton” in Montezuma. A moist summer kept the number of in-county wildfire responses to a minimum.

Meanwhile, there was a significant increase in the number and complexity of hazardous-materials responses and medical incidents. The majority of hazardous-materials responses involve hydrocarbon (gasoline/diesel) spills/releases.

The most significant spill occurred on U.S. 6 over Loveland Pass, with an estimated 5,000 gallons being released into a fragile high-elevation environment and sensitive watershed on Aug. 3, 2013.

Among the specialized advanced training courses and certifications firefighters will be

pursuing in 2014 are hazardous-materials (highway specialist), technical rescue, blue card (fire) operations, wildfire and advanced leadership concepts.

Our personnel will be directly involved with the development of a community risk analysis, evaluation of the pre-plan program, evaluation and development of standards of cover, and specifications for a new engine scheduled for delivery in 2015.

Crews in 2014 will focus on development and review of standard operating guidelines, including active-shooter response, vacant building tactical response, mid/high rise procedures, structural search and response to residential fires.

Finally, significant strides have been made in firefighter health and safety. We hope to increase the awareness, education, prevention and screening of firefighters for early detection of cancer and other occupational health risks.

FIRE PREVENTION

The Fire Prevention Division is composed of five full-time personnel and one part-time office administrator. Our primary function is fire code enforcement and public education.

Our daily operations include:

- Fire safety inspections of existing buildings within the district.
- New construction plan reviews, field inspection and testing of fire protection systems.
- Fire safety education and training for members of the general public.
- Developmental site plan reviews for new projects within the district.
- Issuing operational permits for controlled burns, special events and fire mitigation inspections.
- Fire investigation.

A big goal accomplished by the Fire Prevention Division staff was the adoption of the 2012 International Fire Code. Building and fire codes are updated nationally every three years to take advantage of new construction techniques and technology. Lake Dillon Fire and the neighboring fire departments tailored the new code to local needs and encouraged its adoption in four special districts, five towns and the Summit County government. It took effect January 1, 2014.

New construction activity picked up for the 2013 construction season. Lake Dillon Fire saw a 32 percent increase in construction permit activity over the 2012 construction season. Some of the larger projects started in 2013 season included the Villa Sierra Madre



Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Steve Skulski

Housing Project, CarQuest and the Murdoch's Home & Ranch remodel in Silverthorne; and Whole Foods Market, the Gateway Building and the Condominiums Off Main in Frisco.

In the last quarter of 2013, LDFPD saw an increase in the number of site-plan reviews for future construction. If developers and builders follow through with their plans, we anticipate the 2014 construction season being just as busy as the 2013 season.

Our public-education outreach included teaching fire-safety lessons to 1,330 students in 41 sessions at our four elementary schools, private pre-schools and a charter school during October's Fire-Prevention Week activities; innumerable courtesy defensible-space inspections of existing properties; presentations to homeowner's associations, business organizations and civic groups; and participation in community events such as Safe Summer Kickoff and our open house.



A side-by-side burn demonstration at the LDFPD open house at Station 11 in Keystone on Oct. 16, 2013, showed the effectiveness of a single sprinkler head in minimizing the spread of flames upon activation.

FIRE PREVENTION

- Every home should have at least one working smoke alarm; better to have one on every floor, in every bedroom and in the hallways outside bedrooms.
- Carbon-monoxide detectors are recommended for each residence.
- Never overload circuits or extension cords. Do not place cords and wires under rugs, over nails or in high traffic areas.
- Portable heaters need their space. Keep anything combustible at least three feet away.
- Use fireplace screens and have your wood burning chimney cleaned annually. The creosote buildup can ignite a chimney fire that could easily spread.
- Plan your escape in case of a fire. Discuss alternative exits with everyone in the family and determine a meeting place such as at a neighbor's house or a nearby landmark.

Where can I go for more information?

http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/
<http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/home-fire>



An LDFPD firefighter mops up a small blaze on Aug. 26, 2013, near the Green Mountain Reservoir. LDFPD policy is to respond to all wildfires within the district response area as quickly as possible to contain them and reduce the risk of developing into a catastrophic fire.

WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND PREPARATION

Life in the high country necessitates preparations for the threat of wildfires. The LDFPD maintains a robust program to assist businesses, property owners and visitors to prepare for wildfire. All Lake Dillon firefighters are wildfire certified and routinely deploy to assist in fighting wildfires nationwide to help others and hone their wildfire skills to ensure readiness should Summit County be threatened by fire.

LDFPD wildfire specialists are available to property owners, businesses and organizations for site-specific consultations. Lake Dillon Fire personnel can provide insights and instructions on how to prepare a property to improve wildfire defense and can assist groups, businesses and families to develop evacuation procedures. For consultations or assessment assistance, please contact pio@ldfr.org.

Lake Dillon Fire personnel also routinely engage in county-wide pre-planning activities to remain knowledgeable and vigilant about developments that affect the ability of firefighters to operate and gain access in advance of a wildfire threat. Additionally, Lake Dillon Fire specialists are available for free presentations and discussions with homeowners' associations, civic groups, business organizations and schools about preparing ourselves, our families and our homes for the event of a wildfire.



Lake Dillon Fire and other local officials, including Summit County Sheriff John Minor, left, participate in a county-wide wildfire drill on April 1, 2013.

Wildfire tips

- Prepare a wildfire emergency evacuation kit and keep it in your vehicle during the summer.
- Conduct an inventory of valuable items and make copies of important documents to be stored on the internet cloud, in a bank safety-deposit box or with a friend or relative in another community.
- Design and landscape your home with wildfire safety in mind. Select materials and plants that can help resist fire rather than fuel it. Plant fire-resistant trees and shrubs. Maintain adequate defensible space, cleared of combustible vegetation, around your home.
- Regularly clean roofs and gutters.
- Inspect woodstove and fireplace chimneys at least twice a year. Clean them once a year.
- Use 1/8-inch mesh screen beneath porches, decks, floor areas, and the home itself. Also, screen openings to floors, roof and attic to repel flying embers.
- Clear items that will burn from around the house, including wood piles, lawn furniture, barbecue grills, tarp coverings, etc. Move them outside of your defensible space.

Where can I go for more information?

- www.ldfr.org/wildfire
- <http://www.wildlandfirersg.org/>
- <http://www.co.summit.co.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/403>

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Support Services Division is tasked with supporting the functions of the fire district in the following areas:

- Building and facility maintenance
- Fleet services
- Information technology
- Communications equipment
- Bulk purchasing and supply
- Coordination of the Volunteer Fire Corps group

Support Services is primarily housed out of Station 11 in Keystone. The division is staffed by five full-time employees: the Support Services assistant chief, fleet manager, fleet services technician, systems administrator and support services technician.

In 2013, Station 8 and Station 11 saw boiler replacements in an effort to increase dependability and decrease energy costs.

Stations 2, 8, 10 and 11 were upgraded to a microwave broadband network that increased networking speed from 1.5 megabytes per second to 100 megabytes per second. The new system replaced six T-1 circuits and their monthly costs. Projected cost savings will pay for the upgrade in less than six years.

A three-year project to install station-alerting systems in the primary response stations was started late in the year. The first system was installed in Station 8 in December. The primary goals of the project are to shorten response time and improve firefighter health and wellness by employing a more gradual method to alert responders to calls, as well as eliminating the need for firefighters to depend on pagers in the



Support Services Assistant Chief Bruce Farrell

stations.

The department's Fleet Services Division continues to do an outstanding job of maintaining apparatus from LDFPD and the surrounding fire departments.

Significant projects planned for 2014 include:

- Replacing the roofing at Station 11.
- Installation of a station-alerting system at Station 11.
- Development and roll out of tablet computers to key personnel and Board members to be more efficient and reduce paper.

The all-volunteer Fire Corps has been fortunate to add some new members in recent months. In addition to supporting LDFPD operations, the group will continue to look for new opportunities to support our neighboring districts and the community in 2014.

ADMINISTRATION

The Administrative Division is made up of a finance manager, an office manager/payroll manager and an office assistant. The staff is based at Station 10 in Silverthorne.

The year started out with the preparation of the 2012 audit and financial report by the CPA firm of Crady Puca and Associates, receiving a positive review. Also in January of 2013, LDFPD converted the payroll system to an outside vendor, Amcheck. A comprehensive set of financial policies were developed and approved by the LDFPD Board of Directors.

A number of property owners outside LDFPD boundaries – but within the district’s response area – opted to join the district. In 2013, we added 15 new properties, 14 of which were located in the Lower Blue area north of Silverthorne. The other was the Uneva Lake property located between Frisco and Copper Mountain. This brings the total of included properties over the last few years to 64.

In December, longtime LDFPD director Linda St. John resigned from the board. The vacancy was filled by the appointment of Lori Miller, retired chief of the Red, White & Blue Fire Protection District. At the May 6, 2014, election, there will be three seats elected for four-year terms and one seat elected for a two-year term.

The administrative staff participated in the development process of the 2014-2019 strategic plan, coordinating the internal survey of employees, the results of which were distributed to the other committees for their use. Administrative staffers also participated on committees addressing long-term goals, the department



LDFPD Finance Director Linda Boucher

mission/vision statement, and succession planning.

During 2014, the administrative division will continue to work on assigned sections of the strategic plan, evaluation of financial policies, and coordinate a May election for new LDFPD Board members.

Chaplain Program

With the departure of longtime LDFPD Chaplain Ken Rice, the department continued to meet the needs of the community and the department through volunteer Chaplains Rick Backlund and firefighter/paramedic Mike Miller, who responded to several incidents over the course of the year, serving both internally to meet individual needs and as requested during emergency responses.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources activities in 2013 were highlighted by a low turnover rate, the rollout of a new performance-management system, advancement of the compensation and benefits packages and an excellent workplace safety record. The HR manager's time was split 50-50 with Red, White & Blue Fire Protection District throughout 2013. At the end of 2013, the intergovernmental agreement that provided the Red White & Blue FPD with HR services through the LDFPD expired. Starting in 2014, the LDFPD will have the services of a full-time HR manager.

Only five workplace injuries were reported during 2013. Continued attention to safety practices by our staff has resulted in a great experience rating and a reduction to our worker's compensation premium for 2014.

Two employees left our service in 2013, resulting in a modest 3.5 percent turnover rate. Engineer Casey Humann was promoted internally to lieutenant and firefighter Jeremy Antemesaris to driver/engineer. New firefighters Steve Wantuck and Taylor Reifschneider were hired to fill vacancies.

Also, Assistant Chief Kelly Greene retired on Jan. 1, 2014 after 32 years in the Summit County fire service, and his duties were absorbed by Deputy Chief Jeff Berino and the three battalion chiefs.

The LDFPD Compensation and Benefits Committee completed a competitive analysis in 2013 of Colorado firefighter compensation. This justified 2014 salary increases for a majority of positions, ranging from zero for chief officers to 7.5 percent for inspectors.

LDFPD rolled out high-deductible health plans to be paired with new health savings



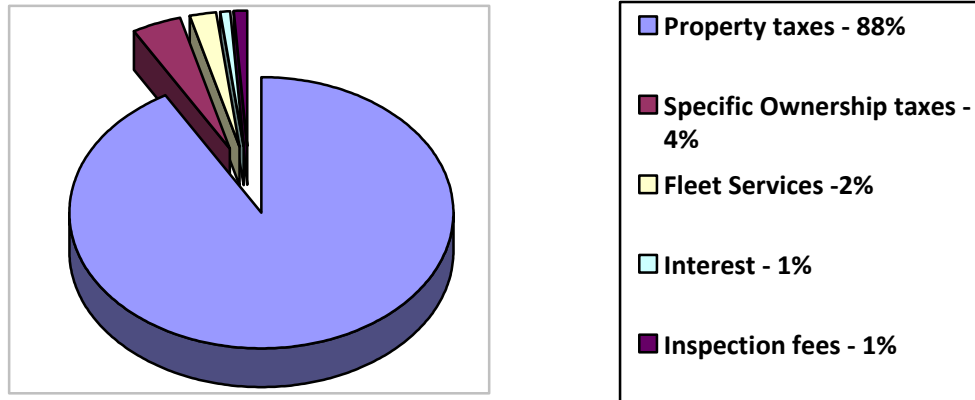
HR Director Matt Scheer

accounts. The performance record and appraisal system was rolled out to managers and staff in April of 2013. Developed internally, this system allows for a 360-degree, global opportunity to provide comments on staff performance. Controlled by each supervisor, the PRA system provides a simple way to log employee performance year-round, collect comments from others and provide a prompt yearly evaluation to the employee while promoting ongoing communication in regards to employee performance.

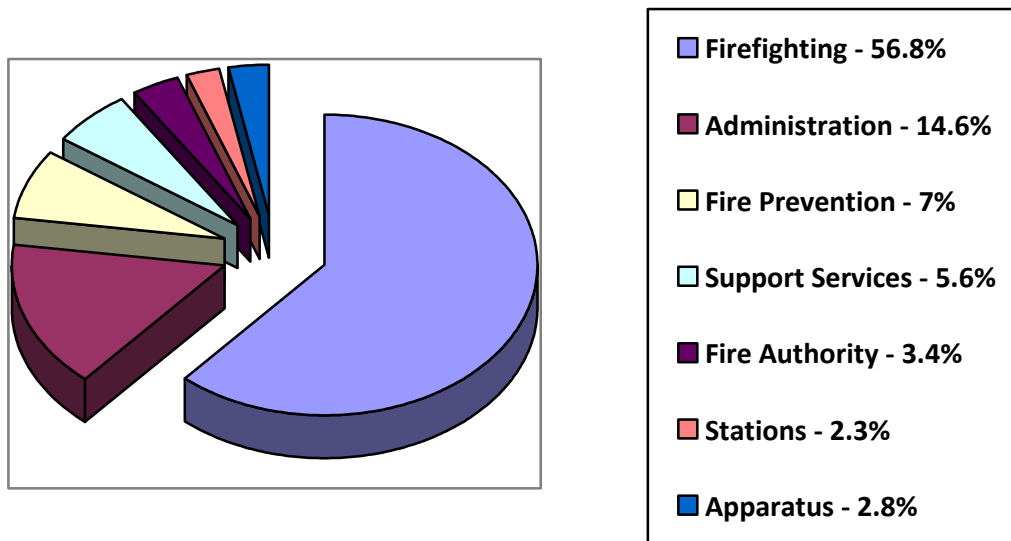
The LDFPD Health and Safety Committee will be reformed in 2014 to work in conjunction with the county-wide health and safety committee. The Compensation and Benefits Committee will look to improve Lake Dillon's certification-based compensation. Human Resources will also focus on new responsibilities involving personnel supervision and oversight of payroll and office administration.

LDFPD GENERAL FUND 2014 OPERATING BUDGET

PROJECTED INCOME: \$7,273,808



PROJECTED EXPENDITURES: \$7,165,327



BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Competitive salary adjustments averaging 4.5 percent based on surveys with similar departments were added for employees below the chief officer level
- Final payment made on a \$550,000 replacement fire engine from Rosenbauer Manufacturing, set for delivery in February of 2014
- General Fund income for 2014 reflects a 5 percent decrease from 2013
- General Fund operating expenditures reflect a 1.6 percent increase over 2013

DISTRICT-WIDE ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Lake Dillon firefighters, administrators and fire-prevention staff conducted more than **40 complimentary wildfire-preparation discussions** with homeowners' groups, community organizations and in public forums.
- Another **15 property owners** in the unincorporated area north of Silverthorne elected to join the Lake Dillon Fire Protection District.
- Lake Dillon Fire conducted more than **400 life-safety inspections** of existing properties.
- Lake Dillon Fire's Fire Prevention Division issued **287 permits** for fire-protection systems, new construction, renovations and special events, generating **\$160,765 in fees**.
- For the fifth year in a row, Lake Dillon Fire hosted the Colorado State Fire Chiefs' annual Fire Leadership Challenge conference, attracting **300 attendees** to Keystone.
- Lake Dillon firefighters participated in more than **6,000 hours** of fire and EMS training.
- Emergency response calls rose by **10 percent** in 2013 over 2012.
- Lake Dillon wildfire crews assisted other departments in battling the **East Fork Fire** in Gunnison County; the **Log Gulch, Ward Gulch and Brush Creek fires** in Garfield County; the **Citadel Fire** in Moffat County; the **Black Forest Fire** in El Paso County; and the **Tank and Rockport fires** in Utah. Additionally, LDFPD sent personnel to assist on the **Front Range floods**.
- 2013 revenues **exceeded budget by 4 percent**; expenses ended **3 percent under budget**.
- LDFPD staff and Board crafted a new **five-year strategic plan**, gaining valuable input from external stakeholders in the community who participated on an advisory committee, including Silverthorne Police Chief **Mark Hanschmidt**, Summit Daily News Editor **Ben Trollinger**, Frisco Town Manager **Bill Efting**, Summit County 9-1-1 Director **Bill Pessemier**, American Red Cross area manager **Jody Acres**, Summit County Commissioner **Thomas Davidson** and residents **Deborah Mitchell, Ward Jackson** and **Scott Lemne**.
- Capital reserves remain at healthy levels, allowing for acquisition of major items such as a new engine without incurring any additional debt; in addition, LDFPD is expected to be entirely debt-free by the end of 2015.
- LDFPD Board member **Jerry "Doc" Peterson** was recognized for **50 years of service** to Summit County firefighting. Board member **Linda St. John** stepped down after nearly **10 years of volunteer service** on the board of directors.
- The Fire Prevention Division conducted **69 defensible-space inspections and reviews**.



LDFPD GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Our Number 1 priority is to ensure that there are no firefighter or citizen fatalities due to fire.
- The citizens of the Lake Dillon Fire Protection District will be educated and prepared to increase fire survivability, prevent fires and reduce fire loss.
- All members of the community who receive emergency and support services from Lake Dillon Fire-Rescue will be able to communicate and interact effectively with representatives of the department.
- The citizens of the Lake Dillon Fire Protection District will be served by firefighters who are physically fit, fully prepared, trained and equipped to provide all emergency and support services to the highest standards.

Lake Dillon Fire Protection District Board of Directors: President Jerry Peterson, Vice-President Jim Cox, Treasurer Robert Sollenberger, Directors Larry Gilliland and Lori Miller.

Command and Senior Staff: Chief Dave Parmley, Deputy Chief Jeff Berino, Fire Prevention Division Assistant Chief and Fire Marshal Steve Skulski, Support Services Assistant Chief Bruce Farrell, Finance Manager Linda Boucher and Human Resources Director Matt Scheer.

<u>Station 2</u> 301 S. Eighth Ave. Frisco, CO 80443	<u>Station 8</u> 225 Lake Dillon Drive Dillon, CO 80435	<u>Station 10 Administration</u> 401 Blue River Parkway Silverthorne, CO 80498	<u>Station 11</u> 22393 U.S. 6 Keystone, CO 80435
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For more information about the Lake Dillon Fire Protection District, contact Public Information Officer Steve Lipsher at (970) 262-5100 or at pio@ldfr.org.

For EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE - CALL 9-1-1