

**BEULAH FIRE PROTECTION  
& AMBULANCE DISTRICT**

**REPORT TO THE  
COMMUNITY 2017**

P.O. Box 826  
8870 Grand Ave Suite A  
Beulah CO 81023

We're on the Web and Facebook!  
[www.beulahfireambulance.org](http://www.beulahfireambulance.org)



# Emergency - Call 911

**2016 Statistics**

**EMS**

Total EMS Responses: 138

Total Transported: 103

**Types of Calls**

Traumatic Incidents	29
Medical Incidents	109
Difficulty Breathing	12
Chest Pain	15
Cardiac Arrest	3
Deceased	1
Stroke	2
Other	76

**FIRE**

Total Fire Responses: 111

**Types of Calls**

Structure Fires	15*	8 of these are from Beulah Hill
Wildland Fires	23	
False Calls / Smoke Scares	11	
Rescue Calls	18	
Service Calls	19	
Utility Problem	10	
Other / Stand By	12	
Severe Weather	3	

**Total Number of Responses: 230**

Some EMS responses require a fire response as well, generating a response count, but this does not increase the overall total number of responses counted for 2016.

**All of our member's donate many hours of their lives to protect yours. We appreciate everything that our members do for us and they appreciate the continued support that our community shows.**

**Beulah Fire Protection & Ambulance District Board**

- President Steve Douglas (Term Expiring 2018)
- Vice-President Steve McLaughlin (Term Expiring 2020)
- Secretary Kim Toman (Term Expiring 2018)
- Treasurer Joni Smith (Term Expiring 2020)
- Fundraising Coordinator Robert Thompson (Term Expiring 2018)

# The Beulah Fire Protection & Ambulance District

## Report to The Community 2017

### President's Letter - Steve Douglas

We invite you to read this *2016 Annual Report* for the Beulah Fire Protection and Ambulance District, celebrating successes, learning from experience and looking forward to a productive new year. For more details, you are encouraged to visit with us, attend our monthly Board meetings and issue-specific public meetings, as well as utilize information on our website.

### New Central Fire Station

- Three years of work on the station continues with tasks such as siting, design, water line extension, permitting, budget and fundraising.
- The plan is being revised to increase efficiency and reduce cost.
- With a vote of confidence, you approved two ballot questions in November, enabling us to secure a loan and apply for large grants to fund most of the project.
- The Sellers Family generously donated land for the new station!
- We are applying for several grants to supplement donations and tax revenues, the largest is for half-million dollars from the Colorado Division of Local Affairs (applied for on February 1<sup>st</sup>).

### Flash Flood Potential

- From past experience, we can anticipate severe flash flooding from the Beulah Hill Fire for 3-5 years and the Junkins Fire for 10-20 years. With lessons learned from the Waldo Canyon, Mason Gulch and other regional fires, we are putting plans in place to mitigate these hazards.
- There may be funding to help mitigate some flash flood potential.
- We advise homeowners to reassess their flood potential and consider flood insurance.
- Pine Drive Water Treatment Plant and San Isabel Electric sub-station are at risk, as well as some roads, bridges, culverts, driveways and homes.

### Wildland Fire Mitigation

- Living where we do, fire will always be a threat to us. There is much we can do to reduce fire potential around our homes as well as to our forests and watershed.
- Each of us should mitigate the wildland fire hazard on our properties.
- The District offers information, property evaluations and recommendations.
- Plan to have a neighborhood or Home Owner's Association representative attend the Colorado Wildland Fire Conference in Pueblo April 19-21.

### Public Education

Please log into our website ([beulahfireambulance.org](http://beulahfireambulance.org)) for details about the following:

- Fire Station plans
- Flash Flood mitigation - *Wildfire Restoration Handbook*
- - *FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program*
- Wildland Fire Mitigation - Colorado Wildland Fire Conference
- Response and Volunteer Information, and much more

In closing, Chief Ware and Board members Stephen McLaughlin, Joni Smith, Bob Thompson, Kim Toman and I thank you, the Auxiliary and our volunteers for your trust, support and fine work. We wish you all a safe, productive and enjoyable new year!

**The Flood Insurance Meeting for February 11th has been canceled. Please go to [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) or contact our office for more information.**

### Treasurer’s Report

In 2016 the District saw an increase in both income and expenses over the previous year. Cash donations were up by over \$3,000 and grant income increased significantly in 2016 with \$231,000 being secured. Donations designated to the new station “Enterprise Fund” totaled \$15,780. On the expense side, new PPE and SCBA (Personal Protective Equipment and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) were purchased using the funds obtained from the grants. An \$8,000 used ambulance from Rye Fire was funded through our Capital Reserves. Expenses related to the new fire station for surveying, consulting, engineering and recording fees totaled \$31,519. These were covered, in part, by the Enterprise Fund. \$28,000 in expenses incurred during the Beulah Hill and Junkin’s Fires along with the expenses for the District’s new side-by-side ATV are expected to be reimbursed in early 2017.

2016 Income		2016 Expenses	
	\$ 423,095		\$ 423,095
Pueblo County Property Tax	\$ 175,278	Professional Expenses	\$ 19,284
Specific Ownership Tax	\$ 14,729	Department Expenses & Supply	\$ 192,123
EMS Billing	\$ 50,414	Vehicle Repair & Maintenance	\$ 16,005
Fire Contracts	\$ 2,142	Administration	\$ 126,079
Cash Donations	\$ 10,291	Insurance	\$ 16,301
Investment Income	\$ 12	Office Expenses	\$ 27,819
Grant Income	\$ 108,012	Public Outreach / Promotional	\$ 2,053
Transfer - Prior Reserve Funds	\$ 52,217	Capital & Contingency Reserve	\$ 11,108
Enterprise Fund	\$ 10,000	Money returned to Savings	\$ 12,323

The District has an opportunity to earn credit with MarGas through their Community Incentive Program. For each gallon of propane that is purchased by homeowners from MarGas throughout our community, the District can earn credits towards our propane cost. All you need to do is send us a copy of your propane bills throughout the year and we will complete the necessary paperwork, so we can save money towards heating the fire stations.

**The Beulah Fire Protection & Ambulance Board meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at the District Office located at 8870 Grand Ave.**

### Community Health Outreach

- Community Blood Drives by Bonfils**
- Saturday, May 13, 2017**
- Saturday, July 29, 2017**
- Saturday, September 30, 2017**

Please contact the District office if you would like to be a blood donor. Remember you can help save a life!

**Pueblo County Medical Reserve Corps**  
 The Pueblo Medical Reserve Corps is recruiting volunteers to help with community preparedness, please call Vanessa Brazee 719-583-4925 or email at [vanessa.brazee@pueblocounty.us](mailto:vanessa.brazee@pueblocounty.us)

We would be remiss if we didn’t mention the continued need for wildland fire hazard mitigation around many of the homes and along driveways and roadways in the District. The hard reality is that we have homes and entire neighborhoods that would not currently survive a major, wind-driven fire like the fires we saw this past year. That is regardless of how good a job firefighters do. Such an event would likely also do major damage to the watershed we rely on. The District will continue its public education efforts regarding wildfire hazard mitigation. We will look for grant opportunities to reduce mitigation costs. But, the real work and expense falls to all of us that live and own property in the District. Let’s work together to reduce the fire hazard and better protect our property and the environment we so enjoy.

### Chief’s Report

The District had its busiest year on record during 2016 with 230 calls for service (details on the back page). District volunteers put in a combined total of 17,266 hours between trainings and responding on calls. While we were certainly faced with challenges this past year, I am very proud that each of these emergency calls was delivered in a timely and professional manner. The District continued to keep its response and on-scene times for medical calls below the State averages.

In 2015 the District hosted an exercise to test the policies and procedures for a disaster that would result in an evacuation. These tested procedures came into play twice in 2016, first during the Beulah Hill Fire and then the Junkin’s Fire. While I realize evacuating from your home is hard, I want to thank each and every citizen who complied, as it allowed our firefighters to focus on containing and extinguishing the fires. The Beulah Hill Fire was like no fire I had ever seen before, with winds sustaining 50+ MPH. The resulting fast moving fire had so much momentum direct fire attack was not feasible. Due to the exceptional response from our agency and the mutual aid partners throughout the County during that first 24 hours, many homes were saved. and 1,948 residents were evacuated. The Pueblo County CART (large animal team) and the Pueblo County Animal Control worked diligently to assist our residents with their furry loved ones. 20 large and 17 small animals were evacuated through these services and sheltered during the fire. As a result of the Beulah Hill Fire, the Colorado Department of Transportation is evaluating its work procedures during Red Flag Days and implementing new policies to be released in April of 2017. Our office along with Representative Daneya Esgar have been involved in this process.

We were all shocked, yet still prepared, two weeks after the Beulah Hill Fire when the 3:00 AM call came to a report another fire near the Northcreek area. The Junkin’s Fire was another wind driven, high fuel load fire that burned 19,000 acres. While a large portion of the burn area is in Custer County, the residents along Northcreek were once again threatened by direct fire activity. While the Junkin’s Fire has not been officially called out yet, we are confident that the areas that continue to burn are within the “black” and will stay contained.

As a result of these fires, the residents along Northcreek, portions of Central Ave. and portions of Highway 78 are now faced with the likelihood of catastrophic flooding. On January 24th we hosted our first public meeting to discuss the anticipated floods. Of the 116 affected addresses that were notified of the meeting, only the owners of 25 of these home attended. If you live within the new flood zones you should have received notification of the meeting in the mail. I highly encourage you attend future meetings as dates are set. Although many of you have lived through flooding here before, our experts tell us to **multiply those worse floods by 10** -- that is what the new norm is going to be for some time.

As mentioned in the Treasurer’s report, the District was able to secure grant funding for new structural and wildland firefighter protective equipment, firefighting breathing apparatus (SCBA) and a side-by-side ATV unit that will allow responders a quicker response to remote areas for rescues and fires. These grants allowed the District to save \$ 231,000 in future expenses.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our citizens who shared their appreciation and support to our responders this past year. It was overwhelming to drive down into Beulah and see all of the signs along the roadways. We are proud to serve each and every one of you. Anyone interested in joining our agency please check out our website on recruitment information. Thank you again!

**PUEBLO COUNTY—NEW EMERGENCY PHONE REGISTRATION PROGRAM**

If you had registered your cell phones in the past with the Pueblo County Sheriff’s Office for emergency notifications we ask that you go to the Sheriff’s website again and re-register, as they have a new more effective system in place. If you have never registered before, this would be a great opportunity to do so allowing critical information to be passed along to your cell phones when an emergency hits. Landline phone users do not need to register their numbers as this is automatically done by your phone service provider.

1. Go to [www.sheriff.co.pueblo.co.us](http://www.sheriff.co.pueblo.co.us)
2. Click on the Emergency Telephone Registration button on the bottom right hand side of the page
3. Click on County Residents button
4. Enter your information upon creating an account
5. Complete your registration by submitting the 4 digit code that will then be emailed to you
6. If you do not have internet access, you can call our office 485-2367 to have us assist you in registering