

## Beulah Fire Protection & Ambulance District 2013 Community Update

With 6 months under our belts after adding fire protection to our services as the Beulah Fire Protection & Ambulance District (District), we wanted to reach out to those we serve with an update. Since January 1<sup>st</sup> we have seen tremendous growth within our organization with the addition of new personnel, new equipment, a new (used) vehicle, ongoing maintenance of existing vehicles and extensive training. The District's volunteers have completed 609 hours of training this year, including completion of the basic firefighter and the basic fire responder courses. We now have a total number of 30 responders, of which 3 are fire trained only, 7 are EMS trained only, and 20 are cross-trained as firefighters and EMS providers with varying degrees of experience. A current roster of our members, their training levels and officer responsibilities can be found by visiting the District website at [www.beulahfireambulance.org](http://www.beulahfireambulance.org). The members of the District continue to train and expand their skills and knowledge base so that we can better serve the community.

One of the priorities of the Beulah Valley Volunteer Fire Department that was carried forward by the District since January has been to obtain a fire tender (a truck able to carry a water load greater than 1000 gallons to the many locations without fire hydrants). A committee was formed and lead by Fire Captain Kurt Thompson to research the needs of the District and locate an apparatus that would meet those needs. After months of research and many leads, a truck was located in Brainard, New York. In March of this year the District's Board of Directors approved the committee's spending up to \$40,000 dollars to obtain and equip this apparatus, including the travel of 2 personnel to inspect and bring the unit back to our District. The money approved by the Board for the purchase of this apparatus came from the remainder of the Jimmy Armstrong Fund that was transferred to the District by the Beulah Valley Volunteer Fire Department. An offer was made to the Tsatsawassa Fire Department in the amount of \$30,000 to purchase a 1991 International Fire Tender. That offer was accepted. The truck began its journey back to Beulah May 10<sup>th</sup> and arrived here on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The truck was then outfitted with the appropriate equipment and placed into service as Tender 91. The District Board also approved the purchase of \$18,000 worth of equipment needed to bring all of our fire apparatus up to national standards. This second project also was funded through the Jimmy Armstrong account, which brought that account to a zero balance. Some additional expenses were funded out of uncommitted District reserves. Tender 91 was put to good service in fighting a lightning-caused wildland fire up North Creek June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Currently all of unincorporated Pueblo County is under **Stage 2 Fire Restrictions**. The Pueblo County Sheriff along with the area Fire Chiefs are watching fire conditions daily and evaluating what level of fire restrictions are needed to help ensure the safety of our communities. When a Fire Restriction is initiated, an announcement is placed in the Pueblo Chieftain, and the Beulah Crawl, posted at the fire stations and on the Beulah General Store Community Board. Stage 2 Fire Restrictions prohibit the following:

- Outdoor smoking except within an enclosed vehicle or building.
- Operating or using any internal combustion engine on public lands without a spark arresting device properly installed, maintained, and in effective working order.
- Outdoor welding.
- Recreational burning (to include enclosed fires such as backyard fireplaces, barrels, or pits)
- Charcoal grills (propane grilling is still permitted)
- Campfires or agricultural burns
- Fireworks sale or use.

Controlled Burns will not be permitted during our current fire ban. Once the fire ban is lifted and we are able to return to our normal policy, please follow the simple rules posted on our website and available at the District office.

We are all aware of the great concern for fire safety in Colorado's drought challenged forested communities. As part of the District's public education program, we hosted two community meetings in April to discuss creation of wildfire defensible space around homes, and evacuation plans and preparedness. As follow-up to that training, District personnel have been asked to perform over 30 inspections to help property owners in their fire mitigation decision making. To date, 22 of those have been completed and the remainders are to be scheduled. We strongly encourage you to allow us to assist you with that decision making, if needed. In the meantime, we encourage all property owners in the District to continue removing ladder fuels within a minimum of 100 feet around your homes. The State has produced an excellent brochure describing the creation and maintenance of wildland fire defensible space. The full text of that brochure is available on our website under "Public Education", or in hard copy at the District office. Thank you to all those currently improving our whole community's fire safety.



P.O. Box 826  
Beulah, CO 81023

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL

#### UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

**There is an opportunity for the District to apply for major funding to assist our residents in their fire mitigation efforts.** As with past grants, this is a 50:50 matching grant, with the match coming from the property owner. The grant application is due July 17th. To help us determine our community's funding needs and interest in this grant, please attend the **Community Meeting July 9, 7:00 PM at the Beulah Community Center**, and encourage your neighbors to do likewise. We will also review evacuation plans and preparedness at that meeting. Please join us.

**Community Blood Drive—Saturday, August 24, 2013 from 8:30-12:30**  
Please help save a life by donating blood through Bonfils at the Beulah Fire Protection & Ambulance District Office (8870 Grand Ave). Please call and schedule your donation time today at 485-2367.

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

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*

**LOCAL 81023  
POSTAL CUSTOMER**