

The 2024 Beulah Fire Protection and Ambulance District Report to the Community

Chief's Report – Bryan Ware

The District saw another steady year for service in 2024 with the agency responding to 269 calls. Of those the District responded to mutual aid requests within Pueblo County 12 times and received mutual aid assistance from outside agencies on 5 occurrences. The District added 2 new members this year and hosted 1102 hours of training for our members and mutual aid partners. The District is always looking for new volunteers. If you are interested, please check out our website for more information. All initial certification training can be obtained at Beulah Fire for free.

As we have mentioned in previous annual reports the District had been pursuing a federal Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) and in 2024 was notified that the District had been 1 of the 158 award recipients. The \$7,010,750 award is going to allow 449 homes to receive free fire mitigation work 100' out in all directions from their homes. The grant is also going to allow for a shaded fuel break along Highway 78 from mile marker 1 to mile marker 12. This shaded fuel break will aid in firefighting efforts if/when a large fire develops in the San Isabel National Forest as a fire stop location in an attempt to hold the fire to one side or the other. This area will also increase the safety of those evacuating along Highway 78. The District has evaluated and identified the areas for where such work will take place and has reached out to those residents. Each individual resident will have the option to participate in this mitigation work or not. It is becoming very clear from the insurance industry that without mitigation many of these homes are at risk of losing their insurance due to fires that we see across our nation causing the insurance industry to drop many wildland urban interfaces such as ours in Beulah.

This grant is scheduled to take place over the next 5 years, wrapping up in August of 2029. The grant also allowed the District to hire 2 full-time firefighter/EMT's who are managing the grant work in the field. The District has been working diligently to get work started during the winter months and as soon as the snow melts will increase the areas that work is currently being completed in. If property owners choose not to keep the firewood for themselves, such wood will be brought to the area next to the slash pile collection site at Station 1 and is free for the taking. With the scope of work being so large, it will take time to get everyone completed. We encourage all property owners to continue doing the outstanding mitigation work they have started to keep not only your property safer, but also the community as a whole.

The District was fortunate to receive additional grants this past year to include a Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control grant in the amount of \$ 139,758 to replace firefighters SCBAs helping ensure the safety of our responders when dealing with adverse conditions. The District did upgrade these units to include a thermal imaging camera into each SCBA. The upgraded costs associated for these units were covered by the Beulah Fire Auxiliary. A Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program grant in the amount of \$ 95,000 that will allow for the expansion of the mitigation work in the Pueblo Mountain Park. San Isabel Electric Association and its partners donated \$ 35,000 allowing the District to construct a Class A Burn Box so that not only District firefighters, but also mutual aid partners, can train effectively and safely for such conditions that are experienced in a residential structure fire. Finally, the District was awarded a Ready-Set-Go grant in the amount of \$24,000 that was utilized to conduct Zone 1 and Zone 2 mitigation work on some of the homes that fell outside of the CWDG program.

Wildfire Community Mitigation Day
Saturday, April 26, 2025

9:00 am – 12:00pm

At the Beulah Fire Station 1

Come learn about how you can mitigate
around your home.

BEULAH FIRE AUXILIARY BARN DANCE
Saturday, May 10th 6p-10p Goodpasture Barn

BEULAH COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE
Friday, June 20th & Saturday, June 21st

2024 Statistics

EMS

Total EMS Responses: 175

Total Transported: 117

Types of Calls

Traumatic Incidents	26
Medical Incidents	149
Difficulty Breathing	13
Chest Pain	14
Cardiac Arrest	2
Deceased	4
Stroke	2
Other	114

FIRE

Total Fire Responses: 98

Types of Calls

Structure Fires	6
Wildland Fires	14
False Calls / Smoke Scares	8
Rescue Calls	33
Service Calls	13
Hazardous Response	8
Other / Stand By	14
Severe Weather	2

Total Number of Responses: 269

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 2024.

Treasure's Report

2024 Income		\$ 980,284	ADDRESS MARKERS Is your address properly marked at the end of your driveway? When seconds count, being able to locate your home is crucial. Reflective address markers can be purchased at Beulah Fire for \$ 25.	2024 Expenses		\$ 980,284
Pueblo County Property Tax		\$ 273,926		Professional Expenses		\$ 26,500
Building Bond		\$ 118,093		Department Expenses		\$ 196,904
EMS Billing/Fire Deploy		\$ 197,522		Building Loan		\$ 117,389
Fire Contracts		\$ 10,702		Administration		\$ 356,555
Cash Donations		\$ 14,989		Insurance		\$ 34,908
Senate Bills		\$ 46,650		Office Expenses		\$ 49,723
Grant Income		\$ 161,452		Grant Equipment		\$ 98,800
Reimbursement		\$ 42,172		Capital Projects/Reserve		\$ 15,227
Savings / Sales of Assets		\$ 10,000		Training		\$ 64,703
Other		\$ 104,778		DOLA Reserve		\$ 19,575

Living With Wildlife

Most conflicts between people and bears can be traced to human food, garbage, pet food, bird seed or other attractants. When people allow bears to find food, a bear's natural drive to eat can overcome its wariness of humans. Bears that get too comfortable around people can destroy property or even become a threat to human safety. While many of our residents enjoy the hummingbirds and other bird species, it is important to recognize that food sources for all of these birds are readily available throughout Beulah and the need to place feeders out is not necessary. Bird feeders are so appealing to bears because they are convenient calorie sources. To avoid causing problems in your neighborhood, remove all bird feeders from April-November when bears are most active.

Another common mammal in our area is Mountain Lions. While mountain lions are generally an elusive animal who avoids interaction with humans, there are some commonsense measures that can be taken to protect yourself and your pets when living in lion country. Do not attract deer to your yard, even in urban areas, as this is the mountain lions' main food source. When taking your pets outside, keep them on a leash. Be extra vigilant during mornings and evenings. Eliminate hiding places like bushes and tall grassy areas.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and Beulah Fire have created an outstanding working relationship and if you are having issues with local wildlife, you can contact either agency for assistance. As a reminder, Beulah Fire has electrical fences that can be given out to community members encountering issues with wildlife.

Visit the District's Website for more information www.beulahfireambulance.org or follow us on facebook