

**BEULAH FIRE PROTECTION
& AMBULANCE DISTRICT**

**REPORT TO THE
COMMUNITY 2014**

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

We're on the Web and Facebook!
www.beulahfireambulance.org



Emergency - Call 911

Statistics

EMS

Total EMS Responses: 81
Total Transported: 53

FIRE

Total Fire Responses: 77

Types of Calls

Traumatic Incidents	16
Medical Incidents	65
Difficulty Breathing	8
Chest Pain	10
Cardiac Arrest	1
Deceased	2
Stroke	3

Types of Calls

Structure Fires	3
Wildland Fires	11
False Calls / Smoke Scares	33
Rescue Calls	15
Unauthorized Burning	3
Utility Problem	2
Other / Stand By	10

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 2014)
Vice-President Patrick Stanifer (Term Expiring 2014)
Secretary Anne Moulton (Term Expiring 2014)
Treasurer Travis Allee (Term Expiring 2016)
Fundraising Coordinator, Robert Thompson (Term Expiring 2014)

The Beulah Fire Protection & Ambulance District

Report to The Community 2014

President's Letter - Steve Douglas

The Beulah Fire Protection and Ambulance District (District) just had its first anniversary as a combined fire and ambulance service provider. In this newsletter, Chief Ware reports on details of that 2013 work; Treasurer Travis Allee provides financial details; Secretary Anne Moulton reports on a wildland fire mitigation grant opportunity; and Bob Thompson reports on fund raising activities. I will highlight a few fire and finance related activities and challenges. Our emergency medical work continued to be extensive, with emergency responses supported by constant training for our responders. Chief Ware's efforts to train our fire and EMS responders has been of great value to the District.

Last year was expensive; most notable was the use of the Jimmy Armstrong Fund. That fund was transferred to the District by the Beulah Valley Volunteer Fire Department (BVVFD) and was intended for expenses related to fire protection. The BVVFD expressed an interest in using much of that fund to purchase a good used tender, to haul water for fire fighting in parts (90%) of the District that didn't have access to fire hydrants. A good used unit was not found before the end of 2012, so the District carried on that effort in 2013. We located a fine unit and purchased it within budget. Upon careful inspection of it and our other fire response vehicles and personal protective equipment, we identified and purchased equipment that was needed to meet national standards. Beyond making the vehicles and responders better equipped for responses, those expenditures will enable us to score higher on ISO ratings, which in turn should help District property owners with their insurance rates. This was a good use of the Jimmy Armstrong Fund. The BVVFD worked very hard to minimize expenditures from that fund and keep it as a financial "safety net". The 2012 voter-approved mill levy increase funded the District to add fire protection to its service plan. It enabled us to use Jimmy's Fund to purchase much needed equipment that BVVFD had been doing without for years. I thank Jimmy for his gift to the community and the BVVFD for being excellent stewards of that fund. It made a difference.

Our 2014 budget is significantly less than our 2013 expenses; in part because of the 2013 spike in fire-related expenses and partially because we will have 9% less in property tax revenue, due to decreases in assessed valuations. It is still our intent to balance expenses with revenue, and not dip into reserves for operating expenses. We continue to save for future capital expenses.

The first half of 2013 was pretty dry. By late June the wildland fire danger was as extreme as we've seen here in decades. People were careful, but the potential for accidental or lightning-caused fires was significant. The few fires we had in the District during that period were controlled quickly thanks to rapid and appropriate response, reasonable access, and good luck. Starting July 1st we went into one of the best monsoon seasons we've had in years. It washed away the extreme fire hazard we were facing; filled ponds that had been dry for years and added much needed moisture to the soil and vegetation. That's the good news. The bad news is that last year's moisture does not guarantee similar conditions this year. We have an awful lot of wildland fuels built up across the District, which leads us to the ongoing need for wildland fire mitigation. The District will continue its public education efforts regarding mitigation, 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 our fire hazard and better protect our properties. Lastly, I want to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers for their fine service to the community. We couldn't do this job without them. Thank you all.

**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.
November and December meetings are combined, with the date TBA.**

Treasurer’s Report-Travis Allee

2013 brought a lot of changes for the Beulah Fire Protection and Ambulance District. I believe it was a learning experience for all of us. Luckily we had a good base established, not only with administration but also with responders and citizens. Even with all of our additional expenses this year we were able to put money back into the District reserve. We were also able to purchase a good used truck in 2013 along with needed fire protection equipment. We were able to purchase the equipment with previous reserves and also with the funds transferred from the Beulah Valley Volunteer Fire Department. Here are some of the general numbers for this year’s budget, if you wish to see a detailed report you may request a copy from the District Office.

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENSE</u>	
Specific Ownership Tax Income	\$ 10,348.00	Personnel/ Administrative Expenses	\$ 96,386.00
Pueblo County Tax	\$ 172,872.00	Department Expenses and Supplies	\$124,393.00
Billing Income	\$ 33,000.00	Office Expenses	\$ 26,540.00
Cash Donations	\$ 6,743.00	Insurance	\$ 17,539.00
Investment Income	\$ 595.87	Professional Expenses	\$ 13,329.00
Grant Income	\$ 10,058.00	Savings transferred to Reserves	\$ 14,975.00

Once again I would like to thank all of the responders and citizens for your help and support making this District work and be successful.

The Beulah Fire Protection and Ambulance 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 District the Fire and EMS Department 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.

Fundraising—Bob Thompson

The District has conducted a needs analysis to determine what is needed for the District to serve the community to the best of our abilities. The top three priorities that have been identified at this point are to construct a new fire station that will house the necessary equipment and offices, to purchase personal protective equipment for our members along with updating and increasing the number of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) units, and to replace vehicles as they become outdated. Over this coming year the District will be creating a Firefighters Auxiliary which will be a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that will aid in the process of securing funding through donations, grants and foundations. As always the District appreciates all donations that you are willing to make.

Community Health Outreach

We are always looking for new ways to serve your health care and safety needs, so if you have suggestions or ideas please let us know.

We will be hosting a Community Health Fair Day on Thursday, **May 15, 2014**. The Health Fair will run from 9:00 am—12:00 noon and is a free health screening. No need to schedule ahead of time, you can just show up during the time frame. A donated new TV will be raffled off among those who participate.

Community Health Screening Topics:
Blood Pressure Check Body Mass Index Fitness Test
Blood Sugar Check Cardiovascular Risk Assessment
 Please fast for 1 hour before if you are getting a Blood Sugar check.

Community Blood Drives by Bonfils
Saturday, June 7, 2014
Saturday, August 23, 2014

Chief’s Report

The Beulah Ambulance District formally became the Beulah Fire Protection and Ambulance District on January 1, 2013. In the process, the District added fire protection services to the emergency medical services already provided, as per its amended Service Plan. That involved melding resources from the District and what was formally the Beulah Valley Volunteer Fire Department (BVVFD). When this process started the District had 5 personnel that were cross trained as firefighter/EMTs, 4 firefighter-only trained and 19 that were EMS-only trained. Our members spent a combined 1589 hours of training to increase capabilities to better serve our community and now have a total of 30 members. This is broken down into 19 members being cross trained in fire and EMS, 4 fire-only trained and 7 EMS-only trained. The certified EMS skill level includes 19 basic life support and 7 advanced life support. The skill level of our firefighters is 15 Basic Firefighters, 6 Level I Firefighters and 2 Level II Firefighters. There are currently 24 members who have also been trained and certified as wildland firefighters. The members of the District also have trained 64 citizens in CPR and First Aid.

As part of our new missions the District wanted to have an active role in reducing the wildfire risks by reducing the hazardous fuel load throughout our area. Following the Colorado State Forest Service’s Wildfire Defensible Space Guidelines and at the property owner’s request, we have conducted 49 wildland fire mitigation inspections on properties throughout our response area and have seen some significant improvements in many Beulah area properties.

One of the priorities of the BVVFD that was carried forward by the District since January has been to obtain a used 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 the District’s Board of Directors approved the committee’s spending up to \$40,000 dollars to obtain and equip this apparatus. The truck was purchased, equipped and placed into service as Tender 91 in May.

In May the District hosted a community health fair at the Beulah Community Center in conjunction with Parkview Medical Center. This health fair allowed participants to receive free health screenings and to discover the services that are available throughout Pueblo County for them. There were 16 citizens who participated in the event. The District also hosted 2 blood drives. Thanks to the gracious blood donations made by our community members, Bonfils was able to collect 33 units of blood this past year. Those 33 units may potentially save 99 lives throughout the Colorado area.

We conducted Beulah’s first ever Fire Prevention Program at the Beulah School of Natural Sciences during the first week of October and were able to educate 103 students between the grades of kindergarten and fifth grade. The District and the Pueblo County Sheriff’s Office participated in Red Ribbon Week during the last week of October, educating 144 children about the services we offer.

If there is sufficient interest from the property owners in the community, the District will apply for the **Colorado Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant which will pay for up to 50%** of your qualifying mitigation project. Part of your 50% match may be in time spent. Our submission and success in obtaining this grant depends on sufficient participation by our residents, so please tell friends and neighbors. Your letter of commitment must be in to our office by **February 7**, followed by a more specific description of your project by February 21.

Please call 485-2367 to let us know you are interested or to obtain further information and forms.