

# EMERGENCY SERVICES CLEAR CREEK FIRE AUTHORITY



## CCFA TRIBUNE

Volume 1, Issue 1

FALL/WINTER 2009

### HEADLINES

#### NEW CCFA HEADQUARTERS

The new Clear Creek Fire Authority headquarters officially opened on Monday, October 26. Please feel free to call and schedule an appointment to tour our new building (303.567.4342). The new facility will offer not only more office space, but areas for both indoor and outdoor training for our CCFA members.



We at CCFA are very excited about our future and the opportunities this new facility presents for the county.

CCFA Station 1 - 681 County Road 308, Dumont, CO 80436 (the old Xcel/Public Service building)

### STATION UPDATES

Thanks to the voters of the Clear Creek Emergency Services District as they elected to "De-Bruce" the Clear Creek ESD in 2006. This did not raise the tax rate, but allows the ESD to retain revenues from growth in the county and production at the Henderson Mine. This has allowed CCFA to start working on needed capital improvements such as Station 6 on Floyd Hill, the Station 7 replacement at St. Mary's, the purchase of the Xcel building (above) and two new aerial ladder trucks.



Floyd Hill, Station 6

Station 6 on Floyd Hill has been on the ESD master plan since the approval of the Clear Creek Technology Park. Station 6 has an aerial ladder truck, tanker and an ambulance.

Station 7 in St. Mary's will replace a small garage currently used to house two trucks (a tanker/pumper and a brush truck) and will have available two rooms for housing volunteers. A \$200,000 DOLA grant was awarded to help with construction of these facilities.

In addition, a 75 and a 105 foot aerial ladder truck were acquired with a 10-year lease purchase program. These trucks are in Station 2, Idaho Springs and Station 4, Georgetown.

St. Mary's Station 7 Under Construction



St. Mary's Station 7 Under Construction



Ladder 4

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### WINTER FIRE SAFETY

#### WOOD STOVES and FIREPLACES

- Have your chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time.
- Do not use excessive amounts of paper to build roaring fires in fireplaces. It is possible to ignite creosote in the chimney by overbuilding the fire.
- Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.
- Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out. **NEVER close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace.** A closed damper will help the fire to heat up again and will force toxic carbon monoxide into the house.

Visit [www.usfa.dhs.gov](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov) for more information.

**SAFETY TIP: Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, test monthly and replace batteries yearly.**

For additional safety tips go to [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

# EMERGENCY SERVICES

## CCFA BOARD MEMBERS

### Gene Day—Chairman

Idaho Springs Representative  
PO Box 1324  
Idaho Springs, CO 80452

### Joan Drury

ESD Representative  
PO Box 419  
Georgetown, CO 80444

### Craig Abrahamson—Vice

Georgetown Representative  
PO Box 314  
Georgetown, CO 80444

### John Curtis

Idaho Springs Representative  
PO Box 1315  
Idaho Springs, CO 80452

### Wendy Koch—Treasurer

Empire Representative  
PO Box 10  
Empire, CO 80438

### Scott Shafer

Silver Plume Representative  
PO Box 1001  
Silver Plume, CO 80476

### Lee Behrens—Secretary

Georgetown Representative  
PO Box 1035  
Georgetown, CO 80444

### Tim Vogel

ESD Representative  
3669 Chicago Creek Rd.  
Idaho Springs, CO 80452

## ~ A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN ~

Facilities, why does the Fire Authority have as many facilities as we do and what are they used for? The Authority operates eight fire stations, seven of which are legacy fire departments that came together to form the Clear Creek Fire Authority.

The foundations of our fire fighting capabilities are Station Two in Idaho Springs, and Station Four in Georgetown. These two stations are located in the two population centers of the Fire Authority service area. They have traditionally provided the greatest number of volunteer firefighters, particularly during weekdays.

Outlying stations, such as the new Station Six on Floyd Hill, address ISO fire ratings. The Insurance Services Organization, or ISO, determines the risk class of property for fire insurance. The ISO rating of a residence is determined by, among other factors, the distance to the nearest fire station. For Saddleback and a few Floyd Hill property owners, Station Six can translate into a significant reduction in the cost of fire insurance.

Station Seven, in the St. Mary's Glacier area, and a core of local resident volunteers, provide an emergency response a good half an hour sooner than would be the case if first responders came from Idaho Springs or Dumont.

Our most recent acquisition, the new Station One, formerly known as the Xcel Energy building in Dumont, is the administrative office for the Fire Authority staff, and of greater importance, is the center for training of the volunteers that provide emergency services.

The large fenced area provides a safe and secure area for motor vehicle extrication training. The large indoor area allows our training program to continue all year long. In the past, training suffered during the winter months because of lack of facilities.

Some of the older stations are in deteriorating condition or are simply so old and undersized that they will not hold modern trucks and equipment. On a pay as we go basis, we are planning for replacements for these facilities.

Buildings that no longer meet our needs, such as the old Dumont Firehouse and the Ambulance Building next to the Rodeo Grounds in Dumont are being transferred to other governmental entities who can utilize the building for their needs.

~ Gene Day

## CCFA ADMINISTRATION

**Fire Chief Kelly Babeon** began his career as a Georgetown Volunteer Firefighter in 1982 and has served as the CCFA Fire Chief since 2001.



Ph 303.567.4342 x123 - kb@clearcreekfire.com

**Deputy Chief Mark Abrahamson** began his career as a Georgetown Volunteer Firefighter in 1988 and has served as the CCFA Deputy Chief since 2008.



Ph 303.567.4342 x122 - marka@clearcreekfire.com

**Joleen Swanson** has served as the CCFA Administrative Assistant since 1999.

Ph 303.567.4342 x124 Fax 303.567.4739  
jrs@clearcreekfire.com



## MEET YOUR FIREFIGHTERS

### MIKE ANDERSON



Mike has been an active member of the Fire Department since 1995. He is a career firefighter and paramedic with North Metro and a paramedic with Clear Creek EMS. He is active duty with the Army National Guard as a flight medic and is currently serving in Afghanistan. Mike is certified in swift water, ice rescue, hazardous materials, wild land firefighting and Firefighter I & II.

**Thanks to Mike and all of our CCFA volunteers!**

“COURAGE IS  
NOT THE  
ABSENCE OF  
FEAR, BUT RATHER  
THE JUDGMENT  
THAT  
SOMETHING ELSE  
IS MORE  
IMPORTANT THAN  
FEAR.”



-AMBROSE REDMOON

## FROM THE CHIEF



Kelly Babeon

Hello and welcome to the first of a series of newsletters from the CCFA. Our newsletter will be published in an effort to keep the citizens of our community up to date about the many and varied activities performed by your volunteer firefighters.

For those of you who do not know, CCFA is a 100% volunteer organization composed of your neighbors who dedicate a portion of their valuable time to help protect our community.

The volunteers of CCFA are the most important part of our organization. They stand ready 24 hours a day, every day, to help those in need. They do this while putting themselves at risk, all out of concern for their community. The volunteers receive very little for their time—the occasional “thank you” from the community helps to make the sacrifice more worth it.

Be safe and thank you for your support,

**Kelly Babeon**  
Fire Chief

## Carbon Monoxide Poison Warnings

### SIGNS

- Stuffy, stale, smelly air; exhaust fume smell; unfamiliar or burning odor
- Moisture on walls and windows; lint by dryer's exterior vent; soot on appliances
- A furnace that runs constantly but heats inadequately; loose or missing furnace panels
- Appliances that shut off, activating safety devices

### SYMPTOMS

- Dizziness, ringing in ears
- Blurred vision, burning eyes
- Intoxicated appearance
- Persistent throbbing headaches
- Tightness across the forehead
- Pale skin
- Confusion, disorientation, loss of muscle control
- Fainting, unconsciousness
- Fatigue, never feeling rested, sleepiness
- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain (angina) when exercising
- Rapid heartbeat/pulse, fluttering or throbbing heart, tightening of the chest
- Sudden death

### WHAT TO DO

1. If the CO detector alarm is making an intermittent sound, check the battery.
2. If it is a steady alarm or you are not sure, leave immediately even if you do not feel symptoms. Follow your home fire escape plan.
3. Meet other family members at your safe meeting place.
4. Dial 9-1-1 or your local emergency number and seek medical attention if you have symptoms. If the alarm sounds and there are no symptoms, dial a qualified appliance technician.
5. Never re-enter the home until you are told it is safe.
6. If a CO leak is suspected or you smell gas, do not wait, call 9-1-1 from a safe location.

For more information on Carbon Monoxide (CO) contact the National Fire Safety Council, Inc. or visit [www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all\\_citizens/co/index.shtml](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all_citizens/co/index.shtml).

**CARBON MONOXIDE  
DETECTORS ARE NOT  
SUBSTITUTES FOR SMOKE ALARMS!**

## CLEAR CREEK EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

### A LETTER FROM JAMIE KAVANAUGH

~ AMBULANCE DEPUTY DIRECTOR ~

A 65 year old man in Idaho Springs experiences chest pains while watching TV with his wife. She calls 911 and an Advanced Life Support ambulance arrives within three minutes of her call. The crew rapidly and carefully assesses the patient and attaches a 12-Lead cardiac monitor to his chest. The cardiac monitor EKG tracing, which is the same diagnostic tool used in the hospital, tells the crew that the patient may be having a heart attack. They work quickly, providing Oxygen, other medications and intravenous fluids (IVs) to prevent the clot that is blocking the patient's artery from completely shutting off blood supply to the heart. A paramedic calls the receiving hospital with all of the necessary information to bypass the emergency room and take the patient directly to the Catheterization Lab. Here, a Cardiologist is able to read the EKG provided by the ambulance crew and determine which artery is blocked causing a heart attack. The Cardiologist then threads a specially shaped catheter through the femoral artery and into the blocked artery, breaking up the clot. A stent is placed to keep the artery open and oxygen rich blood is once again able to flow freely to the affected part of the heart.

before. In the worst case, the patient would have died from complications of a heart attack. In this case, the patient will return to home and to the activities he enjoys.

Providing lifesaving medical care as in the preceding story is a big part of the daily reality for Clear Creek EMS. We staff two ambulances, 24 hours a day, one in Georgetown and one in Idaho Springs. There is at least one Paramedic on each ambulance that provides Advanced Life Support or ALS care. Clear Creek Ambulances carry over 30 life saving medications and therapies, and the crews are highly trained in their use. Many of the men and women who work on the ambulance are residents of Clear Creek County and have dedicated their careers to providing excellent care to the sick and injured in their community.

In addition, CCEMS provides numerous community outreach programs designed to enhance health and well-being. These include Flight of Life, CPR/AED and basic first aid training, the 9 Health Fair and “get to know us” visits to area schools.

In the best case scenario, without pre-hospital treatment, this patient's heart would not have functioned as well as

**For more information on CCEMS  
visit [www.clearcreekems.com](http://www.clearcreekems.com).**



Clear Creek Fire Authority  
PO Box 507  
Dumont, CO 80436  
[www.clearcreekfire.com](http://www.clearcreekfire.com)

Ph: 303.567.4342  
Fax: 303.567.4739  
E-mail:  
[jrs@clearcreekfire.com](mailto:jrs@clearcreekfire.com)

Clear Creek Fire Authority  
PO Box 507  
Dumont, CO 80436

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
IDAHO SPRINGS, COLORADO  
PERMIT NO. 4

**\*\* ECRWSS \*\***  
**BOXHOLDER**

## BURN PERMITS

Open Burning is the burning of a bonfire, rubbish fire or other fire in an outdoor location where fuel being burned is not contained in an approved incinerator, outdoor fireplace, or barbeque pit. Prior to commencement of Open Burning, a permit must be obtained from the Clear Creek Fire Authority (303.567.4342) office. The Clear Creek County Sheriff dispatch (303.679.2393) shall be notified of start and finish times each day burning is to take place. You can download a burn permit from our website at [www.clearcreekfire.com](http://www.clearcreekfire.com).

## DO YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

The Clear Creek Fire Authority is staffed by an average of 50 volunteer members that answer more than 1100 calls for service annually. Calls vary from highway accidents to medical assistance to rope rescue and structure fires. The firefighters of the CCFA are required to have a minimum of 50 training hours per year, although in a typical year well over 4500 hours of training are amassed by the volunteers. Along with fire department training, members are involved in community events throughout Clear Creek County.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter with CCFA please call 303.567.4342 or visit [www.clearcreekfire.com](http://www.clearcreekfire.com).

## CCFA MISSION STATEMENT



It is the mission of the Clear Creek Fire Authority to respond in a safe and professional manner to emergencies within the boundaries of the Fire Authority. In cooperation with other agencies we will help citizens deal with natural and man-made emergencies. With the available resources, and keeping the safety of the CCFA members and the public paramount, the Authority will work to the best of its ability to limit loss of life, damage to the environment and loss of property.