

Return Service Requested

Livermore Fire Protection District  
P.O. Box 28  
Livermore, Co 80536

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Address Correction Requested

We are on the web  
[www.livermorefire.com](http://www.livermorefire.com)

LFPD is supported by District  
Taxes and your Donations. If  
you are interested in helping,  
please contact the District at  
970-472-5592

Have A Safe And Happy Holiday!

everyone worked well together from Fire Departments (paid and volunteer), Sheriff, Larimer County Emergency Services, the Salvation Army that brought us hot food, and the guy who came out with the port-potties. It was a team effort. The one thing I will always remember from this fire is that first night as I escorted people (my neighbors) with emergency lights blazing to their homes through the smoke to get animals or medications, was the range of emotions I saw from fear, to anger, to helplessness. One lady in particular sticks out in my mind as we finally arrived at her house and she stood in her driveway and started to cry. She looked at me and said, "What to do?" I told her that, "We'll get this under control. Just grab some pictures and anything that breaths." Still a little tear on her cheek, she smiled and said, "You're right. Thanks." Through everything we saw and did for that couple of days and nights responding to this fire, it will be that heartfelt "thanks" I will always remember!

By Volunteer Firefighter Ralph Payne

## Burn Permits

NOW is the time to get rid of those unwanted tree limbs and slash piles from your efforts to create defensible space around your mountain retreat. Most outdoor burning in unincorporated Larimer County requires a permit signed by both the Fire Department and the Department of Health and Environment. The fire department evaluates applications for potential fire safety issues, while the health department evaluates application for air quality issues that can impact human health.

To obtain a permit, there are three methods available that you can use:

1. Fill out online application form at [http://www.larimer.org/health/ehs/burn\\_permit.htm](http://www.larimer.org/health/ehs/burn_permit.htm)
2. Visit the Department of Health and Environment at 1525 Blue Spruce Dr., Fort Collins, 80524,

- and fill out the application there.
3. You may also contact the department of Health and Environment by phone at 498-6775 and fill out an application by phone.

Once you have your permit, please burn when there is at least three inches of snow on the ground and when there are no winds. Burning should start early in the day so the fire is totally out by dark. It is NOT necessary to call the Livermore Fire Department when you start the burn, but you MUST call Larimer County dispatch at 416-1985 and notify the dispatcher when you are starting the burn.

Please call 911 if there is an emergency, or if the fire gets out of hand!

Happy Holidays

# Livermore Fire Protection District

## Fall Newsletter

### Too Windy, Too Scary And Too Close To Home: The Granite Ridge Fire

One of the most scary and helpless things that can happen to a firefighter is to be out of the district when your pager or radio goes off, calling out for help on a fire or emergency at or near your own home. We constantly respond to people's homes or property when they are sick or hurt, but these calls are a little different. We get a brief description on our pager and some calls can make you a little more nervous than others. But, your heart leaps to your throat because this time it is your home or property!

Unfortunately, I have experienced this more than once in my years doing Fire/EMS, and I can tell you it never gets any easier. This time it was my neighbors at Bonner Peak just south of my home. The point of origin was just over the ridge a little less than a quarter mile from my place. My first panicked thought was my wife and trying to call home, but she has been a firefighter and EMT for years, and she was already on scene with little back up. She is well trained and has

worked numerous grass fires and a few sizable forest fires, but still I was scared. Driving to the fire as quickly as I could, I heard the local radio station announcing an "immediate evacuation" and names the road I live on and everything south of there. OK, drive a little faster!

We are trained as Firefighters to do a "scene size up" on every call, and we do this so often we start to get a mental picture of the scene before we even get there. So what I know at this point is where the fire started, the terrain, wind speed and direction, and that this will be a fast moving blaze that is heading into a highly populated area. It will be hard to fight if it gets off the grass and into the trees. Most importantly, I know there is only one way in and one way out. This is a big RED FLAG for me! OK, drive a little faster! I finally get on scene and see that numerous agencies have responded, and I feel a little better. I have never been more relieved than when I found our small group of Livermore Firefighters. The situation is still uncertain and grim, but I am greeted

with smiles from my buddies and told my wife was on the ridge scouting the fire for a bird's eyes size up since it was too windy to fly. I hear her on the radio as she heads back to staging.

Now it is time to go to work! I have been on many wind driven fires and in the first hours this one was what we call "rocking & rolling" and burning right next to structures. No smoke plume was visible in the air because the winds were too high. All smoke, debris, sparks and everything else was moving at ground level and moving fast. The way the land is back in there, it turned out to be a couple of fires that we flanked and fought in two divisions. For the next forty eight hours, we fought flames, wind, and cold, but we were able to get a quick containment.

Why were no structures lost? I credit a few things: Bonner Peaks residents did a great job of keeping the area clear of grass and other flammable material from around their homes; quick action from our emergency agencies; and the fact that

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LFPD welcomes donations. We would like to thank all our citizens who have donated to us over this last year. Our policy has been not to publish donors names as many people prefer confidentiality. Be that as it may, LFPD is enormously grateful to the support we have received. With the additional funds we have made improvements in our equipment and training. Thanks to all who have graciously contributed!

### Safety Tips For Outbuildings And Defensible Space

#### Outbuildings

Mount a working fire extinguisher in any outbuildings you have

Have tools such as a shovel, hoe, rake and bucket available for use in a wildfire emergency

Install a solid door with self-closing hinges between living areas outbuildings and garages

Dispose of oily rags in **approved metal containers.**

**Store all combustibles away from ignition sources such as water heaters**

**Disconnect electrical tools and appliances when not in use**

**Allow hot tools such as glue guns**

**and soldering irons to cool before storing**

**Properly store flammable liquids in approved containers**

#### Defensible Space

Create a "defensible space" by removing all flammable vegetation at least 30 feet from all structures

Never prune near power lines. Call your local utility company first

Landscape with fire resistant plants

On slopes or in high fire hazard areas remove flammable vegetation out to 100 feet or more

Space native trees and shrubs at

least 10 feet apart

For trees taller than 18 feet, remove lower branches within six feet of the ground

Maintain all plants by regularly watering, and by removing dead branches, leaves and needles.



#### Former Livermore Assistant Chief To Head Steamboat Fire Department

Ron Lindroth, who was a member and assistant fire chief for Livermore Fire Protection District and a Captain at Poudre Fire Authority; was selected to become the first full-time paid chief of Steamboat (Colorado) Fire Department. Ron was instrumental in many advances in our department from training to building a station and buying fire equipment. He resigned two years ago to focus on his job and family. Steamboat will have a chief with a lot of energy and skills and they are fortunate to have him lead their department. We wish Ron and his family the very best.

## Firefighter Quotes

Firefighters save hearts and homes ~ Author unknown

The funny thing about firemen is, night and day, they are always firemen. ~Gregory Widen, *Backdraft*

When a man becomes a fireman his greatest act of bravery has been accomplished. What he does after that is all in the line of work. ~Edward F. Croker

I have no ambition in this world but one, and that is to be a fireman. The position may, in the eyes of some, appear to be a lowly one; but we who know the work which the fireman has to do believe that his is a noble calling. Our proudest moment is to save lives. ~Edward F. Croker

### Fire Safe End To Holiday Season

For many folks, it's hard to let go of the holiday spirit, and taking down the Christmas tree isn't nearly as much fun as putting it up. But the longer a tree stays up, the greater a fire hazard it becomes.

It's best to discard trees within one month after purchase. The best way to dispose of your tree is to take it to a tree recycling center or have it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

If you live in the country or town where there is no tree recycling or pick-up program, contact local authorities for a recommended means of disposal.

Never burn Christmas trees (branches or needles) in a fireplace or wood stove. Firs and pines have lots of sap, which can explode. The needles burn like tinder, quickly and fiercely.

Flames can flare up out of control and

send sparks flying across a room. They can also ignite creosote deposits in the chimney and cause a fire in the chimney.

After gifts are opened, quickly discard the wrapping paper and packaging in a safe manner.

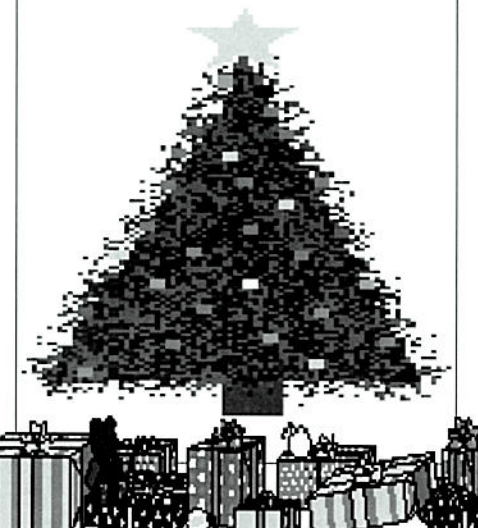
Wrapping paper is very flammable. Never burn gift wrapping in the fireplace or wood stove. It can ignite suddenly and cause a flash fire. Some gift wrapping contains material that can throw off dangerous sparks and/or cause a dangerous chemical buildup in the air of your house.

Gift wrapping burns very hot, causing large flames, which can also ignite creosote deposits in the chimney and cause a fire.

Remove outdoor lights as soon as the season is over; they are not designed

for prolonged exposure to the elements, especially in winter weather.

Careful handling of these materials will greatly reduce the chance of having a fire ruin your holiday or your home.



#### A Buck An Acre

**NO TIME TO VOLUNTEER BUT YOU STILL WANT TO HELP LFPD?**

The average landowner in the district pays about \$3 per acre/per year for fire and emergency medical services in the form of property taxes. LFPD has not raised the mill levy in over a decade and has one of the lowest mill levies in the county. Our five hundred square foot fire station #1 expansion is estimated to cost about \$94,000 above and beyond our annual budget which is completely ab-

sorbed by equipment, fuel, energy and training cost. It will allow safe and secure entry and exit of current fire apparatus and support space for firefighters to dress and maintain their equipment.

You can help the building fun by donating one additional dollar per acre directly to

LFPD,  
P.O. Box 28,  
Livermore, Co 80536.



Donate as a holiday gift to friends and family and your donation will be acknowledged by a hand made card featuring LFPD Firefighting activities mailed directly to the party that you designate. Help us improve the safety of our firefighters so that they may better help you,

**YOUR HELP CAN MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE!**

#### The 2009 Wild Fire Season: Is It Over Yet?

As promised, we will tell you what kind of wildfire season we had after its over. So, here it is:

It was a mild year, unless you were in Bonner Springs, last month.

Our first wildfire was on a windy cold night in February, less than 1/10<sup>th</sup> acre.

Not much else happened until the wind sparked a power line and

caused a fire in Bonner Springs which was about 400 acres in October.

Then there was two feet of snow that disappeared quickly.

Seven days after that storm, we responded to assist Glacier View Fire on an approximate 300 acre fire which was another wind-driven grass fire.

So, the summer months were inactive, we had a lot of rain and not much lightning.

The biggest fires were in the fall and our notable fires were all wind related events. We're thankful that no homes or buildings were lost and that no one was injured.