

**BEULAH FIRE PROTECTION
& AMBULANCE DISTRICT**

**REPORT TO THE
COMMUNITY 2016**

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

2015 Statistics

EMS

Total EMS Responses: 153

Total Transported: 117

Types of Calls

Traumatic Incidents	38
Medical Incidents	115
Difficulty Breathing	11
Chest Pain	12
Cardiac Arrest	0
Deceased	2
Stroke	6

FIRE

Total Fire Responses: 63

Types of Calls

Structure Fires	3
Wildland Fires	3
False Calls / Smoke Scares	10
Rescue Calls	17
Service Calls	16
Utility Problem	5
Other / Stand By	5

Total Number of Responses: 199

Some EMS responses require a fire response as well, generating a response count, but this does not increase the overall total number of responses counter for 2015.

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 2018)**
- Vice-President Patrick Stanifer (Term Expiring 2016)**
- Secretary Kim Toman (Term Expiring 2018)**
- Treasurer Joni Smith (Term Expiring 2016)**
- Fundraising Coordinator Robert Thompson (Term Expiring 2018)**

The Beulah Fire Protection & Ambulance District

Report to The Community 2016

President's Letter - Steve Douglas

It's been eight years since we voted as a community to tax ourselves and form the Beulah Ambulance District. And, it's been three years since we took the next step, forming the Beulah Fire Protection and Ambulance District (District) to combine fire and emergency medical services (EMS). We've made progress, building on the fine work of Beulah Fire and Beulah EMS volunteers. In this newsletter, Chief Bryan Ware reports on details of that work in 2015. There is also information about District equipment, finances, fund raising by the Auxiliary, and various community services. I will focus here on efforts to site, design, permit and fund a **new fire station**.

The District owns two fire stations, located on Grand Avenue (Station 1) and Waterbarrel Road (Station 2). It also owns six fire trucks, two ambulances, one staff vehicle and one support trailer; with all but two of those units being housed at the stations. The District has outgrown Station 1, which was built in 1955 and expanded in 1976. It has also outgrown the office it rents. The lack of adequate, efficient, consolidated and functional space poses issues for fire and EMS preparedness and response. This problem was identified in the 2012 District Service Plan. The mill levy the community approved to add fire service did not include funding sufficient to build a new facility, understanding that we would have to fund it through grants, donations, savings and other means if necessary. Plans for that project have been in development the past two years and are a major focus of our efforts in 2016. They include the replacement of Station 1 with a facility that also allows us to consolidate and expand office, storage, training and meeting functions now performed at the District office, and ambulance storage in a garage at the Beulah School. We are planning for both present and future needs.

The site of our current Station 1 is not suitable for significant expansion, so one step in this process has been to identify and obtain a central site in the Beulah Valley. Criteria used in that siting process included road and utility access, minimal wildland fire hazard, compatible land use, lot size and property availability. After evaluating the central part of the District in general and five different locations specifically, it was determined that the best location for the new fire station was on Central Avenue, northeast of the corner of Central Avenue and Fox Lane. The site is currently a hay field on a gentle ridgeline, free of flood-plain concerns. It is highly visible and likewise, has an excellent 360 degree view of the Beulah Valley. Mr. Dick Sellers and his family partnership own the property and plan to donate it to the District in 2016, barring unforeseen circumstances. He and the District went through Pueblo County's formal process of subdividing the property (creating the 6.2 acre fire station parcel), changing the zoning from agricultural (A-3) to Public Use (S-1) and getting land use approval to site a fire station on the property. That process is nearly complete. The approximate value of that parcel is \$50,000. That constitutes a significant contribution to the District and community by the Sellers family.

In parallel with the site work, a planning committee was formed to identify facility needs. The District then contracted with F&D International LLC ("F&D") to help organize and articulate the project needs, develop draft plans and estimate costs. An early draft of that work was presented at the District's September 10th meeting, with a copy (Proposed Fire Station) available on-line at "beulahfireambulance.org". The proposed 13,000 square foot facility includes truck bays, storage and maintenance space, offices, a combined training & meeting room, and crew quarters at an estimated cost of three million dollars. The initial nine page draft document has been expanded by F&D and the planning committee into a "**Concept Design & Funding Report**", which will be the foundation document for fund raising efforts. That document is nearly complete. It will be ready for inclusion in grant requests this March and available for your review at our website.

We are not aware of any source that will totally fund this project, so we will seek funding from state and federal grants, local and regional foundations, donations from local businesses and from you, the public we serve. We believe the project is needed. The plans are reasonable and although it is a large project for us, it will only get more expensive with time and inflation. The land donation by the Sellers Family is an important start and counts towards overall project costs. To facilitate cash donations, the District has created a capital project fund (an "Enterprise Fund"), dedicated to this project. I will not ask others to do something I am not willing to do myself, so I have made a donation to that fund. If you wish to make a tax deductible donation to the fund, in any amount, it will be greatly appreciated. You will certainly have questions, so please bring them to me, the rest of the District Board (Pat, Kim, Joni and Bob) and Chief Ware.

Lastly, I want 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 ... volunteers, residents and property owners alike. Have a safe and enjoyable new year.

We would be remiss if we didn't mention the continued need for wildland fire hazard mitigation around many of the homes and along driveways and roadways in the District. The hard reality is that we have homes and entire neighborhoods that would not currently survive a major, wind-driven fire like the Mason Gulch Fire in 2005. That is regardless of how good a job fire-fighters do. Such an event would likely also do major damage to the watershed we rely on. The District will continue its public education efforts regarding wildfire hazard mitigation. We will look for grant opportunities to reduce mitigation costs. 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 the fire hazard and better protect our property and the environment we so enjoy.

Treasurer’s Report

The District retired 2 vehicles late in 2015 – a 1996 Chevy Tahoe (donated by the Pueblo CO Sheriff’s office to the District in 2010) and a 1994 Chevy (acquired through BVVFD) that served as Brush 72. With 247,418 miles on the Tahoe, a drive shaft that fell off and electrical problems, and a new engine needed in Brush 72, the cost of repairs to these vehicles exceeded their value. The Chevy pickup was given back to the Ron Jones family, who had donated the vehicle to the BVVFD years ago. The slip on pump will be transferred to the new Brush truck. After salvageable parts are sold, the Tahoe will be scrapped. Discounted State Purchase Pricing enabled us to replace the vehicles with a 2016 Chevy Tahoe and a 2015 Dodge Ram for \$ 84,859. A total cost of \$100,000 for these 2 vehicles is being spent to include outfitting the new apparatuses, which is being funded over years by Capital Reserves and donations from the Beulah Fire Auxiliary.

2015 Income		2015 Expenses	
Pueblo County Property Tax	\$ 166,993	Professional Expenses	\$ 11,691
Specific Ownership Tax	\$ 13,005	Department Expenses & Supply	\$ 94,336
EMS Billing	\$ 50,991	Vehicle Repair & Maintenance	\$ 15,626
Fire Contracts	\$ 1,758	Administration	\$ 104,460
Cash Donations	\$ 7,222	Insurance	\$ 15,547
Investment Income	\$ 7	Office Expenses	\$ 27,666
Grant Income	\$ 53,327	Public Outreach	\$ 1,373
Transfer - Prior Reserve Funds	\$ 18,009	Capital & Contingency Reserve	\$ 31,546
		Money returned to Savings	\$ 9,067

The 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 community, the District 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.

Beulah Fire Auxiliary

The auxiliary is in its second year and we are proud to be able to assist the Beulah Fire Protection and Ambulance District through fundraising and participation in community events.

Thanks to the Beulah Community and several Pueblo Businesses, this year the Auxiliary raised a total of \$15,960.97 through fundraisers such as The Taste of Beulah, Cowboy Poetry, Garage Sale and miscellaneous donations.

In 2015, we were able to purchase high visibility Search and Rescue T-Shirts, Personal Protective Equipment and a generator for the Fire Rescue Apparatus along with helping outfit the new vehicles.

The Auxiliary also keeps a freezer stocked with food to feed responders during an extended emergency response and for training sessions. Community volunteers help with all these events and food preparations. We could not do this without all their help and we are very grateful to them.

The Auxiliary board meets on the First Monday of each month at 7:00pm at the District Office and all are welcome to attend.

Community Health Outreach

Community Blood Drives by Bonfils

Saturday, June 4, 2016

Saturday, August 13, 2016

Please contact the District office if you would like to be a blood donor. Remember you can help save a life!

Pueblo County Sheriff & Beulah Fire Live Training
 The District has been donated a structure on Lake Ave in Beulah for training purposes. The Pueblo County SWAT Team will be at this location training on Wednesday, February 3rd and the District will be conducting live fire trainings on Saturday, February 6th between 9:00a-4:00p. The fire session will give not only our agency a valuable training opportunity but we will also be joined by members of the Rye Fire District and students from the Pueblo Community College Fire Academy. Citizens are welcome to come out and see your firefighters in action as a section of the property will be marked for your convenience.

Pueblo County Medical Reserve Corps

The Pueblo County Health Department is building a medical reserve corps to aid the citizens in an disaster. Those with and without medical training looking to volunteer, please contact Lisa

Chief’s Report

The District had its busiest year on record during 2015 with 199 calls for service, details on the back page. While we had a nice wet summer which kept a lot of fire activity at bay, the need for EMS services drastically rose. This increase in calls of service in-turn required a higher use of supplies and fuel, along with creating a higher demand for our volunteer responders. I am very proud to say that each call was met with a timely and professional response by our members who help staff each day of the year by placing a minimum crew of 2 on call. While the District was faced with the loss of 6 members during the 2015 year, either due to retirement or moving out of our community, the District stayed strong with the 21 remaining members who together have completed 967 hours of continuing education over the year.

The District was honored to host an exercise in June that along with a cooperative group of emergency managers and key players in disaster management from the Southwest Region conducted a tabletop exercise at the Beulah School of Natural Sciences. It allowed the policies and procedures for a disaster that would result in an evacuation to be tested. This session allowed 5 counties to participate, which lead to some changes in the policies that had been set prior to this event. This exercise allowed new procedures to be put into place that ultimately will assist the citizens and visitors of our area in the event of a large scale emergency. The June exercise was the precursor to the large functional exercise that we then held in late September. The scenario for this exercise was based on a wildland fire that had grown in size and complexity, forcing an evacuation of a portion of our District. The event brought in 151 responders from the area to work together with the citizens of Beulah to sharpen our abilities to work together in a disaster.

There are currently no plans to conduct another exercise in the Beulah Valley during 2016. We are working to build off of the initial scenario we created for the 2015 exercises, and will test the Emergency Operations Center of Pueblo County in conjunction with the same participating members from the 2015 events. This next functional exercise is planned for late fall in 2016 and will include the responders of our District and some residences on the Eastern portion of Highway 78. More details on that will be made public as the exercise is developed.

As mentioned in the Treasurer’s report, the District was required to replace 2 of our outdated apparatus, yet even with the purchase of these apparatus we were still left with one more Type 6 (pickup style firetruck) Wildland Brush Truck to replace from our retirement of the 1973 brush truck back in 2014. A request was put out to the State of Colorado’s Division of Fire Safety for a loaner Type 6 which was filled in October with the agreement that we could house and utilize the State truck till March of 2016. The District will be putting in another request with the State to extend the loaner agreement as we currently can’t afford to replace a third truck in the near future.

2016 is already shaping up to be another busy year for us and we have some large scale projects on our plate. We always welcome citizen’s suggestions on how to effectively and efficiently accomplish our tasks and invite any of you to stop by the office and share your thoughts or to take a look at our proposed fire station plans once they are completed in early Spring. As always we appreciate your support and wish everyone a safe and healthy 2016.

PUEBLO COUNTY—NEW EMERGENCY PHONE REGISTRATION PROGRAM

If you had registered your cell phones in the past with the Pueblo County Sheriff’s Office for emergency notifications we ask that you go to the Sheriff’s website again and re-register, as they have a new more effective system in place as of date. If you have never registered before, this would be a great opportunity to do so allowing critical information to be passed along to your cell phones when an emergency hits. Landline phone users do not need to register their numbers as this is automatically done by your phone service provider.

1. www.sheriff.co.pueblo.co.us
2. Click on the Emergency Telephone Registration button on the bottom right hand side of the page
3. Click on County Residents button
4. Enter your information upon creating an account
5. Complete your registration by submitting the 4 digit code that will then be emailed to you
6. If you do not have internet access, you can call 583-6250 to have them assist you in registering your cell.

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.