

**BEULAH FIRE PROTECTION  
& AMBULANCE DISTRICT**

**REPORT TO THE  
COMMUNITY 2018**

P.O. Box 826  
8505 Highway 78 W  
Beulah CO 81023

We're on the Web and Facebook!  
[www.beulahfireambulance.org](http://www.beulahfireambulance.org)



# Emergency - Call 911

**Total Number of Responses: 208**

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 2017

**2017 Statistics**

**EMS**

Total EMS Responses: 133

Total Transported: 99

**Types of Calls**

Traumatic Incidents	18
Medical Incidents	115
Difficulty Breathing	11
Chest Pain	26
Cardiac Arrest	1
Deceased	3
Stroke	2
Other	72

**FIRE**

Total Fire Responses: 84

**Types of Calls**

Structure Fires	2
Wildland Fires	5
False Calls / Smoke Scares	18
Rescue Calls	8
Service Calls	22
Utility Problem	5
Other / Stand By	8
Severe Weather	16

**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 Steve McLaughlin (Term Expiring 2020)**
- Secretary Kim Toman (Term Expiring 2018)**
- Treasurer Joni Smith (Term Expiring 2020)**
- Fundraising Coordinator Robert Thompson (Term Expiring 2018)**

# The Beulah Fire Protection & Ambulance District

## Report to The Community 2018

### President's Letter - Steve Douglas

Sometimes we need to put the proverbial "stake in the ground" to mark progress. It has been 10 years since the Beulah Ambulance District began working on behalf of this community. Five years ago we added fire protection to the services provided by the District. We've had a total of 1,462 emergency responses in those 10 years, with the annual number growing almost every year. In all, we are building on over half a century of fine service to the community by dedicated volunteer fire and emergency medical responders. We still rely on volunteer responders, but we also depend on community-wide involvement in the form of new volunteers (responders, Auxiliary and Board), hazard mitigation, donations, property taxes and input. We also benefit from the fine efforts of our Chief, Bryan Ware, who has been with us through the last 7 1/2 years of this process. As a friend of ours has said to us many times ... "It takes a village". He's right!

#### New Central Fire Station

- Four years of work on the station continues, including finding ways to increase efficiency and reduce costs. Using plans developed for us by F&D International (our design & project management firm), we ordered the station's custom steel building June 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is scheduled for delivery January 29<sup>th</sup>. Acting on your ballot approval in 2016 and a community-oriented effort on the bank's part, on August 1<sup>st</sup> we secured a low interest 25-year loan from the Bank of the San Juans for just under two million dollars. We were awarded federal, state and local grants, and given donations totaling \$210,600. We are applying for \$300,000 more.
- We held the station's ground breaking ceremony August 11<sup>th</sup> on the property donated by the Dick Sellers Family. The following week we began excavation work, utilizing equipment loaned to us by 4 Rivers Equipment and United Rentals, and operated by our volunteers ... saving us approximately \$87,000.
- We put the construction project out to bid October 27<sup>th</sup>, closed the bid process November 29<sup>th</sup>, received bids from four fine construction firms (all based in Pueblo County), and tentatively selected H.E. Whitlock Construction as our preferred bidder December 7<sup>th</sup>. We are in final negotiations with them and hope to formally award the contract soon. Construction may be complete in September, 2018.
- The site was annexed into the Beulah Water Works District November 21<sup>st</sup>, laying the legal foundation for providing water to the facility. We plan to go out to bid for water line installation soon.

#### Flash Flood Potential

- We were cautioned to anticipating severe flash flooding off of burn scars from the Beulah Hill Fire for 3-5 years and the Junkins Fire for 10-20 years. With lessons learned by others, we and other Pueblo County response agencies developed a flash flood Incident Action Plan and presented it to the community in a meeting May 9<sup>th</sup>. We experienced significant rain and flash flooding May 10<sup>th</sup>, and implemented the plan. (No, we don't have a crystal ball ... it just worked out that way!)
- There has been some grant funding for flash flood mitigation, but it is very limited and is mostly focused on public warning. The Pine Drive Water Treatment Plant and San Isabel Electric Sub-station are at risk, as are some roads, bridges, culverts, driveways and homes. We advise homeowners to reassess their flood hazard and consider purchasing flood insurance. The good news is that the rains we received helped immensely to reduce the flash flood hazard by supporting the natural regrowth of grass and shrubs on the burn scars.

#### Wildland Fire Mitigation

- Living where we do, wildland fire will always be a threat to us. There is much we can do to reduce fire potential around our homes as well as in our forests and watersheds.
- The Colorado Wildland Fire Conference was held in Pueblo April 19-21. It was well attended and offered good information for property owners, responders, planners and elected officials. The District continues to provide information, property evaluations and recommendations for reducing your wildland fire hazard.

#### Closing Comments

You are encouraged to visit with us, attend our monthly Board meetings and issue-specific public meetings, as well as utilize information on our website ([beulahfireambulance.org](http://beulahfireambulance.org)) such as fire station plans; wildland fire and flash flood mitigation; response and volunteer data; District Board activities; and much more. Chief Ware and all of us on the District Board thank you, the Auxiliary and our volunteers for your trust, support and fine work. We wish you all a safe, productive and enjoyable new year!

### Treasurer’s Report—Joni Smith

Most notable in the 2017 Treasurer’s Report is the increase of \$117,996 in property tax revenue. This is a result of the mil levy increase that went into effect in 2016 and was paid to the District in 2017. These funds are designated to the annual construction loan payments for the new fire station. Specific Ownership Tax (what we all pay when we register a vehicle) increased by \$12,161 from the previous year’s collection. The \$78,485 in Grant Income was used to purchase fire equipment, firefighter protective clothing, and a commercial laundry gear extractor for the new station. Expenses related to the new fire station totaled \$119,013 which included the \$ 117,996 towards the annual loan payment. The District continues to work to secure grants and donations to aid in the funding of the overall cost for the construction of the new fire station.

2017 Income	\$ 456,757	2017 Expenses	\$ 456,757
Pueblo County Property Tax	\$ 294,527	Professional Expenses	\$ 15,321
Specific Ownership Tax	\$ 26,890	Department Expenses & Supply	\$ 122,505
EMS Billing	\$ 48,347	New Station	\$ 119,013
Fire Contracts	\$ 3,066	Vehicle Repair & Maintenance	\$ 11,115
Cash Donations	\$ 5,430	Administration	\$ 116,550
Investment Income	\$ 12	Insurance	\$ 15,789
Grant Income	\$ 78,485	Office Expenses	\$ 26,916
		Public Outreach / Promotional	\$ 2,846
		Capital & Contingency Reserve	\$ 15,517
		Money returned to Savings	\$ 11,185

### Community Health Outreach

#### Community Blood Drives by Bonfils

Saturday, July 21, 2018

Saturday, September 22, 2018

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

**The Beulah Fire Protection & Ambulance Board meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Beulah Community Center**

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.

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 fires we saw in 2016. That is regardless of how good a job firefighters 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.

### Chief’s Report—Bryan Ware

The District saw many new faces join our organization in 2017. We brought on 8 new members who have completed their fire and EMS certifications and are now helping protect our community. We also had two members Kenny Montoya and Mike Smith retire after 7 years of service with us. They will be greatly missed and their dedication to our community was truly appreciated. The District will be hosting another recruitment class in the Fall of 2018 to include Fire and EMS certification training.

While 2017 was a calmer year in regards to wildland fires, we still felt the effects of the 2016 fires by handling flash flood responses. Since the fires of 2016, the District along with the other response agencies throughout Pueblo County have worked to create an Incident Action Plan specific to areas on and below the burn scars. Over the course of the spring and summer the District responded to 24 flash flood alerts as issued by the National Weather Service. These alerts required a multitude of personnel to staff the specific locations to minimize the number of citizens in potential danger zones. As a result of these alerts and the longevity of potential flash floods from these burn scars, the District along with the Pueblo County Sheriff’s Office Emergency Services Bureau requested emergency funding from the State of Colorado for an emergency notification system.

The State awarded Pueblo County with funding in the late summer of 2017 to install 6 flash flood warning sirens along North Creek so that our citizens and visitors to the area can be warned in a timely manner of when a potential flash flood is developing. We know that over the next few years many of the burned trees will begin to fall. During heavy rains they can become projectiles downstream; with the potential to create log jams that can store water until breached. The results would be a secondary flash flood. Along with the sirens we will also be installing 3 automated road closure gates to warn those coming into these zones of the possibly threat. While we have not finalized the work plan, our goal is to have these units installed by early spring. We will be having a community meeting once all of the particulars are finalized so that our citizens are aware of the project and how to respond when flash flood warnings are activated.

In early 2018 the Beulah Fire Auxiliary will be purchasing a drone for the District so that when the need arises for “eyes” to areas for fires, floods, or other emergencies that are limited due to lack of access will be obtainable. This new asset will aid in the District being able to identify smaller fires quicker to place resources on them before they have the opportunity to grow into something larger. We saw the value of drone use during the Spring 2017 floods on North Creek. Captain Marsh has completed his FAA training for safe and legal operation of the drone.

As always, I would like to thank all of our citizens for all the continued support. Completing my seventh year here I have truly amazed by all that we as a community have accomplished. I look forward to 2018 and wish everyone a safe and joyful year.

#### Living with Wildlife Safely

Today, bears are sharing space with a growing human population. Curious, intelligent, and very resourceful, black bears will explore all possible food sources. If they find food near homes, campgrounds, vehicles, or communities, they’ll come back for more. Bears will work hard to get the calories they need, and can easily damage property, vehicles, and homes. Bears that become aggressive in their pursuit of an easy meal must often be destroyed.

Every time we’re forced to destroy a bear, it’s not just the bear that loses. We all lose a little piece of the wildness that makes Colorado so special. Following some of these simple tips will help keep you safe and our bears in their natural habitat.

- Many bears that enter homes do so through an unlocked or open window or door.
- Keep garage doors and windows closed and locked at night and when you’re not home. Don’t leave your garage door standing open when you’re not outside.
- Bears are great climbers — remove any tree limbs that might provide access to upper levels
- Bears follow their super-sensitive noses to anything that smells like food, and can follow scents from up to five miles away. Don’t leave anything with an odor outside, near open windows, this includes scented candles, air fresheners, soaps and lotions
- Don’t leave trash out overnight unless it’s in a bear-proof enclosure or container. Obey all local regulations.