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Livermore Fire Protection District Newsletter

Training Report

Joel Meeter, Assistant Chief of Training

The volunteers of the Livermore Fire Protection District respond to a variety of emergencies including medical emergencies of all types, motor vehicle accidents with extrication or fire, searches; all types of fires including vehicle fires, structure fires, and wildland fires; along with a host of other miscellaneous emergencies that people need help with. This variety of incidents requires constant training to maintain readiness.

We regularly train at least twice a month, and often attend special classes put on by outside organizations or guest instructors. Some of the topics that we trained on last year were emergency medical continuing education, auto extrication, electric vehicle fire suppression, and new firefighter orientation.

Through a Colorado State EMS grant, we were able to acquire battery operated auto extrication equipment to supplement our current gas-powered equipment. The new battery-oper-



ated tools have some advantages. They are more portable because they don't have a separate power unit attached by hydraulic hoses. They are also quieter, so rescuers have an easier time communicating. These new tools can even be used underwater.

Through generous donations, we were able to acquire vehicles to use for training with these new tools. We used these vehicles to practice rescue scenarios. Firefighters performed door and roof removals, spreading a dashboard, and other extrication techniques. These tools are now in service on our vehicles and have already been used at emergencies. If you have an old or inoperable car that you would like to donate for us to train on, please contact us.

Electric vehicles (EV's) were once rare to come across but today we see them everywhere. Some estimates are that by 2035 they will make up a quarter of all sales and 13% of all cars on the road. While EV's have many advantages, they can present challenges if involved in a fire or accident. If the batteries are involved in fire, they may experience "thermal runaway" and require enormous amounts of water to extinguish. If an EV is involved in an accident requiring extrication, responders need to be aware of the location of high voltage cables so as not to accidentally cut one. Last year we conducted EV fire and extrication training to learn about how to deal with these



challenges. This is a topic that we will revisit as the fire service gains experience with these types of emergencies and our response tactics evolve.

We are fortunate to have some new members join our department. New firefighters get several orientation sessions covering our policies, requirements, operational responses, as well as being issued and trained on their protective gear. They are then put on as recruits for one year of evaluation and on the job training. After a year of responding to calls and attending training, they are considered for full membership on the department. They must also become certified in at least one discipline: EMS, wildland firefighting, or structural firefighting. Many of our members have certifications in at least two disciplines.

Some of the training that we have coming up are our annual wildland refresher training and pack test, a wildland specific fire pump operators' course, and in service training for a used structure engine that we will be adding to our fleet. We will also be focusing a lot of our training on structural firefighting.

Looking beyond this year into the future, our goals are to continue training our members for the essential skills they need, to maintain our proficiency, and to stay current on new challenges and techniques as they evolve. Whatever the future holds, we will continue to train and be ready.

Chief's Message:

By Jim Herrington

"Thank you!"

The Livermore Fire Protection District recently asked for and received a raise in your property tax mill levy, yet we still have one of the lowest mill levies in Larimer county and the state. LFPD is, in fact, YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT. Most all the engines, equipment and buildings have come from your taxes and donations over the years. As an ALL-VOLUNTEER fire/rescue/medical agency, our responsibility is to all you friends and neighbors, and anyone travelling through our district. In order to maintain a high level of expertise for "all hazards", we give up a lot of personal time attending trainings and seminars, in addition to many hours day and night responding to emergencies.

This increased revenue will allow us to move forward with several projects. We have obtained a new/used structure fire engine so our current 1991 engine will be placed in "reserve" status. The new engine (pictured below) carries more water, is four-wheel drive, and can "pump-and-roll" allowing wildland firefighting while driving the vehicle. Arriving this fall will be a new wildland fire engine that will greatly increase our effectiveness attacking wildfires and

also see use on structure and vehicle fires. We will retire an older wildland engine as we shuffle the smaller "Type 6" engines to strategic locations in the district. Funds are also being saved for future new stations in the Red Mountain and Virginia Dale areas. Even with the bump in our income we will continue applying for grants to improve equipment and training. We want to do a great job and we thank you for your support.



Our new Primary Type 1 engine

Remembering Gaius Reynolds

LFPD would like to take a moment to remember a long time member of the Livermore community who served with the fire department from July 1995 to January 2013. Gaius Reynolds was a firefighter/

EMT with the department. He served as chief from July 2011 to January 2013. He was also a very active member of the community, the Livermore Community Church, and was a guiding force in the national

Fellowship of Christian Firefighters. Gay always had a big smile, warm handshake, and a funny quip or two for everyone. Gay passed in February, 2023. Everyone knew and appreciated him as a friend, cohort, and leader.

Never forget - 19 died in Yarnell Fire - Granite Mountain Hotshots; Prescott, AZ., June 30, 2013.



Gay and his three grandsons. - courtesy

Annual Boot Drive

The annual Boot Drive is coming up soon in July. It is the same day as the fireworks in Red Feather. Folks have been very generous, and this has allowed us to provide additional training, upgrade equipment for our

personnel, and helped to make the 2 current stations equipped and available to the community in case of a widespread disaster. Come join us and tour the new engine, and the other equipment. This is YOUR department!



The annual Boot Drive, DATE HERE ???

