



NORTH ROUTT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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Spring/Summer 2019

Greetings to you and your family! It's been a normal, long, snowy winter, but spring is just around the corner! In an effort to keep you informed about the North Routt Fire Protection District's activities, we are providing the following:

FIRE AND EMERGENCY CALLS FOR SERVICE

Our call volume continues to increase slightly year to year, call types and numbers of each type, remain similarly close to past years.

Annual Call Volume by Incident Type

DESCRIPTION	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Structure Fires	4	3	8	2	5	3
EMS	39	29	34	45	43	45
MVA	16	17	18	12	11	10
Wildland Fires	13	5	6	8	15	15
Service Call	7	50	35	32	29	29
Rescues	6	9	6	8	2	7
False Alarms	<u>32</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>34</u>
Totals	117	139	128	153	132	143

Call volume for the 1st Quarter of 2019 is at 20 calls for service vs 15 for 2018.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Given the number of compliments received and the level of enthusiasm from the Community coupled with a gracious commitment from the Vista Verde Guest Ranch, we are planning on duplicating the BBQ Dinner and Barn Dance held last year. The event is scheduled for Friday, May 31st and as previous, a sign-up sheet will be at the Clark Store. Attendance will be limited so mark your calendars if you wish to join the party!

VOLUNTEERS AND PERSONNEL

Job Announcements have been posted on various sites describing the NRFPD's interest in hiring a full time, paid, Assistant Fire Chief and two, paid, part time, Firefighter/EMT positions. Job Descriptions accompany each announcement. We look forward to interviewing candidates and fulfilling our commitment to the residents of the District to expanding staff and which was approved in the mill levy vote in May of 2018. If you are interested in viewing the postings, they are on the NRFPD website. (www.colorado.gov/pacific/northrouttfire)

Our volunteer roster currently stands at 15 in total and includes 6 EMT's and 11 FF. 4 volunteers are currently considered probationary, and we expect they will achieve Active status in the next few months. Keep in mind that our volunteers are truly volunteers as evidenced by a partial list of the duties they perform and time they give:

- they attend weekly training sessions on Wednesday evenings on their own time
- they attend certified training classes on their own time
- they send and receive District communications on their own time . . . and typically on personal cell phones/equipment without reimbursement
- they drive to emergency medical/rescue calls on their own time . . . and often in their personal vehicles
- they provide wildfire and structure fire services on their own time
- they respond to vehicle accidents and hazardous incidents on their own time
- they service and maintain NRFPD equipment on their own time
- they service and maintain NRFPD buildings on their own time

The next time you see one of our volunteers, remember to thank them for their service!

John Twitchell announced his retirement from the District. John served the District for 12 years; John's forestry and Wildland Fire knowledge was an invaluable asset to the department. He developed training programs that helped train many new volunteers for wildland fire fighting over the years, as well as being a first responder on calls of all types for the department. Thank You for your service John, you will be truly missed by the department.

As always, the District is need of volunteers and if you or someone you know may have an interest in serving our community as a volunteer fire fighter or EMT, please contact Chief Swinsick directly.

EQUIPMENT UPDATE

The Board adopted the 2019 Budget in December, 2018; included in the budget was funding to replace our existing staff truck. This truck, a 2002, was acquired used in 2015 and is becoming expensive to operate and undependable. In January, the Board authorized developing staff truck specifications, searching the market for new and used vehicles and evaluate comparable pricing information. After a considerable amount of effort, a vehicle was located, and we are currently finalizing its purchase and the installation of ancillary equipment. The new staff truck is expected to be in service in May.

The balance of the fleet is in good working order. We are presently conducting some repair work to the ladder truck we acquired from Steamboat Springs last summer. It is important that you know that a number of our volunteers and Chief are quite talented "gear heads" as we call them and a great deal of the maintenance of our rolling stock is performed by them as volunteers.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL

As was mentioned earlier, the Board adopted in December 2018, the 2019 budget for the District. The budget projects Total Revenues \$566,566 with the major sources of revenues coming from:

Property Taxes	\$328,380 (2018 Mil Levy of 9.25)
Property Tax – Bond	\$ 94,150
Grants	\$ 69,000

The 2019 Budget is balanced. The major expense areas are:

Personnel	\$206,077 (includes full year chief wages and benefits, partial year deputy chief wages and benefits, and partial year, part time paid FF/EMT wages and benefits)
Vehicle Expense	\$ 86,600 (includes replacement staff truck)
Bond Repayment	\$ 89,450 (repays outstanding bond)

The Residential Assessment Rate (RAR) remained at the current level of 7.2% and therefore the District did not see a significant change in revenues from property taxes due to the Gallagher Amendment. Presently, Colorado Dept of Local Affairs preliminarily reported on 1/15/19 the 2019-2020 RAR will decrease to 6.95%. The final report will be issued 4/15/19.

WILDLAND FIRE PREPAREDNESS

With the amount of snow currently on the ground, it is difficult to think about wildfire season! Perhaps this year, given the levels of snow fall our exposure to wildfires may be minimal; never the less, it is important for all of us to revisit the safe guards and steps that we as residents and property owners need to take to be prepared for the wild fire season. Remember to clear under growth around and near your structures to have a good clear defensible space around it. Additionally, have a “go kit” ready in the case of a mandated evacuation in the event of a wildfire near you. There is good information and recommendations located on the NRPFD website (www.colorado.gov/pacific/northrouttfire) under the [Wildland Fire Safety](#) tab.

BURN PERMITS

Through a joint effort of the Fire District, Routt County Environmental Health, and the State Air Pollution Control Division, we continue to follow the Routt County Open Burn Plan and can issue you a permit at **no cost!** In an effort to make all pile burning safer, piles will be burned with snow on the ground only. Due to fire danger concerns, we will no longer be burning piles throughout the summer and fall months. Once the snow leaves the ground, we will be available to issue you residential campfire permits. Feel free to give us a call and we can go over all of the details.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION SYSTEM

NOTE: Are you aware that Routt County has a system in place which will notify you of special emergencies in the County? Be sure to sign up for reverse notification on Routt County Alerts web page to receive critical messages to your home telephone, cellular telephone, and email or text in the event you are ever needed to evacuate during wildfires or other disaster situations. You can find the link at

<http://www.co.routt.co.us/144/Communications>

or contact the Routt County Office of Emergency Management at (970) 870-5551.

Once again, if you have an interest in volunteering, please call Chief Mike Swinsick at the office at 970-879-6094 or his cell at 970-846-4311.

Have a great spring and summer in North Routt County!

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