

WHAT WE DO

The Carbondale & Rural Fire Protection District is comprised of five elected officials, eighteen career staff and 65 community volunteers. We would like to take this opportunity to explain to our community the many facets of “what we do”.

Operations

Simply put, we put out the fires, treat and transport the sick and injured and respond to rescue emergencies in the Carbondale Fire District. Safety of our responders is our number one priority!

Medical and Trauma emergencies make up the majority of the ambulance emergencies. Medical transport calls from the local nursing home and senior living facilities account for the remainder of our EMS calls. The Emergency Medical personnel also respond to automobile accidents, swift water rescue emergencies as well as back country rescue calls.

Wildfire is the number one fire hazard in our district. The District assists other agencies with incident management of large incidents as well as out of the area wildfire calls. The District staffs an initial attack wildfire crew during the summer months each year and has prevented many small wildfires from becoming large events.

Prevention

The Fire Prevention Division of the District performs fire inspections of public buildings as well as fire sprinkler system reviews and inspections. All sub-division plans are reviewed by the district and comments made to the Garfield, Pitkin and Gunnison County planning departments.

Fire prevention classes are offered to the various schools in the district.

Hydrant inspections and water system flow tests are completed annually helping to keep insurance rates low.

Wildfire mitigation advice is available to property owners as well as help with grant requests for brush mitigation of private property. Community wildfire protection meetings are held throughout the district each year.

Training

The fire district produces both basic and advanced training for our fire fighters and emergency medical technicians. The District is a Colorado State Certified Continuing Education Training Group for EMS.

The District also provides Disaster planning and incident management classes for the Town of Carbondale.

Maintenance

District staff provides all building and grounds maintenance associated with 5 fire stations as well as all mechanical maintenance associated with 23 emergency vehicles. Additionally all portable equipment utilized by the fire department and ambulance service is maintained in-house by district staff. The maintenance staff annually tests all fire hose and fire truck pumps. Maintenance of our safety equipment plays a vital role in keeping our people safe in an inherently dangerous job.

Public Outreach

The members of the CRFPD are very active in the community all year long.

You may have seen the ambulance standing by at the RFHS football games on Friday nights or at the Carbondale Rodeo arena each Thursday night. That's our EMTs standing by in case someone gets injured.

We provide a First Aid booth and EMT coverage for the Mountain Fair, Marble Fest, Lead King Loop and many other special events in the District.

When the big bike races come through town like Ride the Rockies and the Pro Tour, our EMTs are on stand-by in case of any accidents. Hundreds of bike riders participate along Hwy 133 and Hwy 82.

Our volunteer and paid EMTs provide blood pressure clinics at the farmer's markets in Carbondale as well as City Market (we had 45 people get their B/P checked at the last weeks farmers market).

We provide EMT coverage for the Strang Ranch Sheep Dog Trials each fall as well the Strang Ranch horse trials in the summer as well as the Cedar Ridge Ranch horse shows.

Some lucky kids around town get fire truck rides at the Potato Day parade as well as the 4th of July parades in Redstone and Carbondale. Everyone loves the fire Department water fights on Redstone Blvd on the 4th.

Hundreds of kids visit the fire station each year for a tour of the fire trucks and fire station and learn things like "stop, drop and roll" from the on duty fire fighters and EMTs.

We have trained well over 100 citizens in the fire district in CPR over the past year and have provided first aid classes to the community, all free of charge.

We have placed many Automatic External Defibrillators in the Community in public places such as River Valley Ranch, Aspen Glen, Third Street Center, The Redstone Inn and The Hub in Marble. We have provided training to the staff of all the facilities that have implemented an AED program.

The Rotary Club of Carbondale uses the Fire Station training room for its meetings each Wednesday morning.

Administration

Carbondale Fire District is a Colorado Title 32 Special District and functions according to the Colorado Revised Statutes and the Emergency Medical Rules of the Colorado Department of Public Health.

Our Financial Manager administers a payroll for 18 paid employees and provides Human Resource Services to both the paid staff as well as the 65 volunteers. The District administers a 2.5 million dollar budget as well as a Volunteer Fire Fighter Pension Fund. All of our ambulance billing is done in house by a professional ambulance billing expert.

Our Facebook Page, Web-Site and Twitter page are all professionally managed and up-dated.

The District recently completed a two year planning process culminating in a 10 year master plan that is available on the District's web-site.

