

The Cedar Post

Volume 1, Issue 2

Summer 2002

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Storm Mountain Emergency Response Team, Inc.

We have a name!

Another training session was held at the end of April. Sam Jepson covered the principles of fire line building; how to work efficiently so you can do more without getting pooped; proper tools and their best use; awareness of forest fire hazards.

He told us how he personally got bowled over and rolled down by a monster burning log.

The group learned how to work together to magnify its efforts for maximum achievement.

After we practiced building a fire line around Carl's barn, Ed Hathcock demonstrated his high powered portable pump system. It is light, simple & affordable.

Any homeowners or filing groups are welcome to ask for a demonstration. Everyone is welcome to these training sessions whether or not they are interested in actually being on the team. You just might have to build one around your house some day!



Brush Patrol Truck #2

The Cedar Post recently received a letter from the Loveland Rural Fire Protection District. In part, it read, "the Rural District, the Canyon Department, and the Loveland Fire and Rescue Department would like to emphasize that they are appreciative of efforts being made by the residents in your area to provide services for each other in case of any emergency incident. On behalf of these entities, I would like to thank all of you who have expressed interest in being proactive towards emergency incidents in your area and have taken the time, effort, and necessary training."

The retired Brush Patrol 2 truck is now on the hill. We have to raise the funds to pay for it as well as the associated costs of owning and maintaining such a vehicle.

We are now a Colorado Non Profit corporation. If you would like a receipt for future tax deductible donations, send a self addressed stamped envelope to our Secretary/Treasurer,

S.M.E.R.T.
Chris Brock,
P. O. Box 73
Drake, CO 80515

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

During a recent medical emergency, our efforts of working together to make a difference certainly paid off.




Karen heard the emergency call with a Storm Mountain Drive address on her scanner. She immediately referenced the address in the Map Book and called our resident paramedic. Karen gave him the precise location and he was on his way to the scene with zero time lost.

Births

Congratulations to Jeff and Kirsten Ostrich on the birth of their daughter, Cameron Rebekkah, May 7, 2002. She weighed 7 lbs 2 oz. and was 20" long.



New Bear Regulation in Effect May 1



 A new regulation that fines property owners for failure to remove bear attractants went into effect May 1. The regulation allows Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) officers to issue tickets to people who fail to remove items that attract bears.

The regulation states: "No person shall fail to take remedial action to avoid conflicts with bears which may include the securing or removal of outdoor trash, cooking grills, pet food, bird feeders or any other similar food source or attractant, after

being notified by the DOW that bears are in the area and advised to undertake such remedial action."

Failure to comply carries a \$68 fine for each violation. DOW officers will first advise people to remove any food and trash that is attracting bears. If someone refuses to comply, the officer may issue a ticket for illegally feeding or attracting wildlife.

"It's not too much to ask people living in bear country to use secure trash containers, take in bird feeders, and work with their neighbors to develop a strategy to discourage bears from coming to an area.

High Visibility House Number Signs

During the Bobcat fire one problem that faced firefighters was the lack of identifying house numbers. To purchase a high visibility sign with your numbers call 962-2536. The cost is \$12 and they come in horizontal or vertical.

Officers

Our newly formed corporation has Roger Debenham as its President, Dennis Hudson as Vice-President and Chris Brock as Secretary/Treasurer. Roger has appointed Jim Westbrook as our Communications director.

If you have questions about radio operations send an email to Rhdebenham@debenham and we will forward to Jim.

Dear Neighbors,

The wildfire season has arrived early and with dramatic destruction. We are all nervously monitoring the situation daily. I wish to applaud your proactive steps to be prepared for the worst. It will take us all, working together, to prevent another devastating fire like 2000. I would like to offer a few helpful suggestions;

1. Activate the 911 system immediately, time is critical.
2. If calling from a cell phone, tell the operator the location, address, including Larimer County. Stay on the line if possible until location is reaffirmed! Leave a call back number. Again this helps us get dispatched quicker to the incident.
3. Have accurate information gathered for us when we arrive (size-up).
4. If possible help direct us to the best

route of arrival.

5. Keep personal vehicles clear for fire dept. access to the incident. This is another critical time factor.
6. Stay in groups for safety and accountability. Keep notes as to who is on scene and pass this information on to us.
7. Stay reasonably calm and treat each other with respect. Remember we are all working toward the same goal.
8. Continue with the defensible space program around your homes. This practice gives your home a fighting chance for survivability. Remember always, personal safety comes first!! Most deaths occur when a small fire transitions to a large fire.

Wildfire wisdom and safety comes from experience and ongoing training, not emotion and complacency. Our decisions will always be based on our personal safety first, please understand this.

Please call me or e-mail with any questions or concerns. We are also looking for individuals who wish to take the next step to become committed volunteer firefighters; call me for details. Wish you all well, see you this summer

Chief Ron J. Hill
Big Thompson Canyon V.F.D.
hillcanyonfire@msn.com

Earth Day Roads Clean-Up a Success!

Thanks to those who helped with the road clean up and the dump costs! We removed lots of trash from the access road and parts of Palisade Mountain Drive and Storm Mountain Drive.

Ed Haines got the prize this year. He found the matching sink to the toilet Shirley Miller found last year!



Upcoming Fundraisers



2nd Annual Independence Day Parade and Picnic

July 4, 2002

Staging@ Snow Top & Palisade 9:30 am
Step-Off 10 am

The July 4th Parade / Picnic will build the Truck/Equipment fund for the Storm Mountain Emergency Response Team, Inc.

2002 Fuel Reduction Chipper Program

The hours we are open depend upon you! We are trying to keep the site open without having someone monitor it, but if the rules are abused, we'll have to lock the gate. **We can't take stumps, logs larger than 6" diameter, or slabs**—and obviously we don't want trash.

This year we must also build the pile in rows that are 8 feet wide and about 4 feet high. This will allow the chipper to be pulled between rows making the project easier to manage.

Once the site is closed, the county will contract to have a chipper brought up. When they are done, we'll need a clean-up crew to restore the property.

The Rocky Mountain News reports "Clearing efforts help your house survive because firefighters tag houses green to save them or red to let them burn, depending on how well they are cleared."

Friends & Neighbors

Thank you to Ray Berg, George Solheim, Bob Crouch, Kathy Ball and Ben New for flagging during our recent road construction.

Wishes for speedy recovery go out to Fred Hess, Walt Railsback, Cathy Cleveland and Carl Miller.

A special thanks from Kathy Miller to everyone who is helping her cope with Carl's lengthy critical illness.



E-Mail to the Editor

I thought I'd write and tell you about the Canadian thistle we've noticed in our meadow on Green Ridge Road. They are all over. While we lived in Nederland, I participated in a community weed pull and so learned about knapweed and Canadian thistle. They take over a meadow, especially where the soil has been disturbed. What I do is pull them up by the tap root which is long and

thick. They send out lateral roots when they are big enough and by then it's almost impossible to pull them up. By pulling them up, we weaken them. They may come back, but frailer and thinner. It's an ongoing job to watch out for them and yank them out of the soil. I don't believe in pesticides, but if people have lots of acreage, they may want to hire goats. Boulder Valley had a place where

they rented out the goats. I guess I just wanted to alert people to how invasive a species they are. They will eventually crowd out the wildflowers. The community may want to become involved and attack!

Pat Maslowski

Larimer County Widens Fire Ban

The new ban prohibits open fires, contained open fires and the use of fireworks. Open fires include campfires and cooking fires. They also include welding or operating a torch with an open flame outdoors and the burning of irrigation ditches.

Contained open fires include fires in permanently constructed stationery masonry or metal fireplaces. The ban also forbids using any external- or internal-combustion engine without a spark arresting device installed—such as some chain saws. Contained open fires do not include fireplaces or wood stoves inside permanent structures.

Gas-fired stoves and grills and commercially operated grills are exempted from the ban. However, charcoal grills are banned.



Fund Raisers

Sorry we had to cancel most of our fundraisers. The Millers were going to handle the details and hold the events at their pole barn. With Carl still critically ill, we couldn't do anything else. We hope to reschedule these events soon.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who made our recent community yard sale a success.

If every owner who might be serviced by our fire truck could donate as little as \$15 we'd have enough for maintenance as well some more tools and protective gear. The home it could save may be yours!

**A Newsletter for the Storm
Mountain Community**

S.M.E.R.T. Inc.
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Fax: 970-593-1244
Email:
Rhdebenham@debenham.com

**The Cedar
Post**

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1997 Honda XR80,
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FOR SALE:
4 Big Foot Jeep Tires
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Roger 593-1091

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**Free Marquis Swamp Cooler
Come get it and it's yours!
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sorely needed.
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equipment.
Contact them @ 1-800-322-4539. Fire
truck gifts are always welcome!

WANTED
Late Model 4WD ATV
In Good Condition
360 cc & Up
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**Donations
to help defray the cost of
publishing The Cedar Post
are encouraged**