



# Four Mile Fire Department

## *Newsletter, Summer 2011*

### Fire Station Rebuild on Track

Plans for rebuilding the Salina Firehouse are moving forward with Burton Construction. On Tuesday June 21, 2011 a ground breaking ceremony was held for the new fire station; construction work has begun.

Funding for the firehouse is being provided by a combination of insurance money, volunteer labor, donations and the proceeds from the book sales of "Fourmile on Fire" and "Boulder Canyon Cooking" (second edition). Thank you one and all!

The original Salina Fire Station, that burned in the Four Mile Fire in September 2010, was built in 1980 and had a classroom/boardroom added in the early 1990's. It was a 2-bay firehouse, built as economically as possible using the appropriate materials of the time, a.k.a wood. Building a new fire station is an opportunity to create a less flammable structure, while the frame is wood - the exterior will be constructed with masonry noncombustible siding (ISO Class 4, IBC Type IIA).

The fire station signage has not been finalized but 'yes' the doors will be red. The look of the station resulted from a consultative process including representatives of the Salina Community with the aim of ensuring the firehouse was in keeping with the Salina Schoolhouse and other historic structures on Gold Run Road. Functionally the new firehouse will be deeper and more versatile. This will be the home for our new fire truck!

On July 15, The Boulder Hotel and Motel Association is holding a Silent Auction fundraising event for the FMFD in conjunction with the Millennium Harvest House during its Friday Afternoon

Club (FAC) to raise money for the station rebuild and the fire truck. Their will be live music in the Gardens featuring SOUL SCHOOL. To make a fully tax deductible contribution to the Silent Auction please download the Silent Auction Donation Form from [www.FourMileFire.org](http://www.FourMileFire.org) and fax it to the Boulder Hotel and Motel Association at 303.665.5205, or to make a donation online please visit [4milebenefit.com](http://4milebenefit.com).



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## Four Mile Fire Department

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*Emergencies call 911*

*Immediate help for*

*Non-Emergencies*

*303.441.4444*

# Plans for New Fire Truck are Under Way

There is good news for the 2000+ people, 400 homes and 10 businesses which reside in the Four Mile Fire District. Plans are under way to purchase a new fire engine to replace Engine 4 which was lost in the Four Mile Canyon Fire.

The FMFD Board authorized the purchase of the new truck at a special Board meeting on June 9; Doug Ray and Rob Beebe as FMFD Board Members signed the contract on behalf of the District.



Bret Gibson, Four Mile Fire Protection District Chief, explains that it will cost nearly \$500,000 to replace the engine and lost equipment. While insurance money alone won't cover the full cost, the community is stepping up to fill the monetary shortfall. The Boulder Hotel and Motel Association has adopted the Four Mile Fire District's new fire truck as its charity for the year.

When asked whether the new fire truck will be shiny? Chief Gibson confirmed, "Yes, the new fire engine will be very shiny and -- red".

The planned fire engine will be similar in design to the Rocky Mountain Fire District's new truck; it is being made by Pierce and distributed by Front Range Fire Apparatus. Although the new truck is off-the-shelf it will be customized based on the Chief Gibson's specifications and will be all-wheel drive, compact and designed for our roads.

Rob Beebe, added that "The new truck, which should be delivered prior to the end of this year's fire season, will be the most sophisticated piece of fire fighting equipment ever to live in Four Mile Canyon. It is a combination engine/tender, with full structure fighting capability, a 1,250 gpm pump, a 1,000 gallon water tank, and a compressed air foam (CAFS) system. That is an exhilarating combination to have on a fire. We are very excited about it and expect it to be our number one truck for many years into the future."

The race is on to complete the rebuilding of the Salina Fire Station where the new fire engine will be housed!

# Four Mile Fire District Fire Crew

If you live in the mountain community and spot the Four Mile Fire Department Hummer or Fire Crew truck parked on the side of the road, keep your eyes open for the Four Mile Fire Crew sign indicating that fire mitigation work is underway. When you see them, keep in mind that this work is only part of the big picture for the Four Mile Fire Crew.

In 2010 Chief Gibson was looking at the firefighter volunteer list and was gravely concerned when it became apparent that the number of trained firefighters in the canyon during the day, Monday-Friday had declined. At one point there were only two volunteers in the canyon on a regular basis during business hours. After some 'soul-searching' a plan was put in place to train all members of the Fire Crew as wildland firefighters and to create a team that would supplement the FMFD during these times.

Zach Littlefield is the full time, year round Crew Boss of the Four Mile Fire Crew as well as a Sunshine Fire volunteer and resident. His crew is comprised of three full-time year-round, two full-time seasonal plus 2 seasonal on-call members. Together they have 2 trained structure firefighters, 2 Nationally Registered EMT- Basic's, 1 First Responder, 3 HAZMAT trained personnel and 1 Vehicle Extrication Specialist. All members of the Fire Crew are trained wildland firefighters.

Looking over the slash piles along Sunshine Canyon Littlefield added that "while forest health work and creating defensible space around homeowner's properties in district was more important than ever, he sees the Four Mile Fire Crews' role in supplementing and supporting the FMFD as

key to the way in which they can contribute to the community". For the Fire Crew "responding to emergencies in district is the first priority."

The Fire Crew are also uniquely positioned to take on other fire district projects – currently including fire and flood mitigation which has escalated exponentially as a result of the Four Mile Canyon Fire. State funding has contributed towards fire mitigation along Poorman and county funding for flood mitigation on sections of the creek which are at-risk for debris build-up. The Fire Crew has successfully completed flood mitigation along stretches of the creek closest to the road and in other dangerous areas from the base of Fourmile Canyon Drive to Emerson, and including Gold Run.

Since 2010 funding for the Fire Crew's emergency response, maintenance of firefighting equipment and training has been provided by a combination of the Mill Levy Tax increase, federal, state and private funds - in return the district has a team of committed, well trained members of the community, will-

ing and able to respond to calls in district during the day time, when they are needed the most.



FMFPD

## FIRE MITIGATION SERVICES

FOUR MILE FIRE CREW

Zach Littlefield, 303.444.1833

4milefiremit@gmail.com

Not-for-profit Fire Mitigation

# Farewell and Good Luck to Our Community Needs Coordinator

Tara Kimbrough a life long resident and Four Mile Fire volunteer was injured at the time the Four Mile Canyon Fire began. Determined to help despite a hand injury, Tara checked firefighters in at the Justice Center, the initial command center before being Chief Gibson's assistant throughout the duration of the fire. As the fire was brought under control the Chief then gave Tara the task of tracking down and identifying all of the organizations collecting money for the fire departments and affected residents.

So started the role of the 'Community Needs Coordinator'.

During this time Tara worked with representatives from the neighboring communities of Gold Hill and Sunshine Canyon to organize community meetings, working with Boulder County Mental Health, compiling housing options, tracking down available resources and much more. One major need that quickly emerged was the necessity for coordinated communication, as people were getting conflicting information from multiple different sources. To enhance communication a network was created in the form of an

email distribution list with updates being posted at the 'Four Mile Canyon' Google Group, along with the 'Four Mile Fire Calendar' which lists events and rebuild resources available to the community.



Tara said "Being able to help my neighbors and the foothill communities I have grown up in during this difficult time, not to mention all of the incredible people I have met along the way, has been by far the most rewarding experience of my life up to this point. However, I am sad to say that now it is time for me to say good-bye".

The Four Mile Fire District would like to thank Tara Kimbrough for all of the great her work she has performed for the community and wish her the best of luck in her endeavors at medical school.

## DONATIONS

The Four Mile Fire Protection District is a special district of the State of Colorado. As such, it is a type of government. It is not a 501(C)(3) which is a type of private organization.

Contributions to the District are fully tax deductible, just as they would be if they were made to a 501(C)(3) organization.

To make a donation online please go to:  
[www.FourMileFire.org](http://www.FourMileFire.org) or  
contact Chief Bret Gibson at 303.444.0882

## DONATIONS

# Flood Preparedness 101

The Chief and representatives of the Sheriff's office and others have been meeting once a week to finalize the details of the flood event response plan. This isn't the beginning of the conversation but has been a continuous work in progress over the years. Threat of a flood event is part of 'mountain living.

For the people living along or at the bottom of a creek, in a mountainous region there is always a risk of flooding between April - September. Snow pack melt and spring showers are an annual event which increase the risk of flooding or damage due to debris flow and the Four Mile Fire has simply increased the risk exponentially due to erosion and debris flow. This heightened risk of flood danger is being forecast for the next 3-5 years.

To enhance the information available about the levels of rain falling throughout the district, a network of weather spotters has been established in different sections of the burn area. The aim is to get true, on the ground weather information otherwise known as "ground truthing". The term can apply to cartography, meteorology, analysis of aerial photographs, satellite imagery and a range of other remote sensing techniques in which data are gathered at a distance. Ground truth refers to information that is collected "on location." For more information on ground truthing please visit [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ground\\_truth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ground_truth).

The weather spotters, of which there are 40, are volunteers and local citizens who live in the Four Mile burn area. They attended training on how to identify different types of weather and weather patterns in addition to the use of weather spotting equipment including rain gauges.

Their role is to accurately identify levels of rain fall and to recognize when it is appropriate for this information to be reported. The reporting procedure is to inform the emergency operations center based at Airport Road when levels of rainfall reach a certain threshold. The Office of Emergency Management then uses this on the ground information along with the National Weather Service to make informed decisions on when to issue alerts and evacuations along with the local fire districts.

The weather spotters have been activated and their information has been invaluable.

## BOULDER COUNTY 911 ALERTS

[www.boco911alert.com](http://www.boco911alert.com)

Sign up to receive emails, phone calls or text messages

Download from the website:

Mountain Communities Preparedness Guide  
[www.boulderoem.com](http://www.boulderoem.com)

Be Aware:

Promptly notify the Boulder County of potential roadway flooding or debris issues  
Road Maintenance Division:

**303.441.3962**

or in an emergency 9-1-1

Other Resources:

[www.readycolorado.com](http://www.readycolorado.com)

## SO WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Now is the time to get ready, be prepared, stay informed and plan your escape routes to safer ground. If you haven't already, read the "Mountain Communities Preparedness Guide" which can be found at: <http://bcn.boulder.co.us/emergency/fourmile/floodprep.shtml> or email [four-mileinfo@gmail.com](mailto:four-mileinfo@gmail.com) if you need a copy sent to you. This is the guide that was available at the flood event meetings at Salina School House and other locations through the district.

### Planning Tips:

- ☆ Plan an escape route - understand how a disaster may affect you
- ☆ Be self-sufficient for 3 – 5 days; food, water, medicine and plan for your pet's needs
- ☆ Talk with your neighbors and family about how you will communicate during a disaster.

### Preparing your property:

- ☆ Remove debris and sediment from drainage channels near your property
- ☆ Look into flood insurance and determine whether your home or property is in the flood zone. Please note: there is a 30 day grace period before coverage becomes effective

Promptly notify the Boulder County Road Maintenance Division at 303.441.3962, or in an emergency 9-1-1, if you see potential for roadway flooding or debris issues. If you would like further assistance in emergency planning, or if you have questions please contact [fourmileinfo@gmail.com](mailto:fourmileinfo@gmail.com).

# The FMFD Public Information Officer

In the wake of the fire the need for communication within the District is still essential to the Four Mile community. Karen Walker-Bannon, a Four Mile resident and fire department volunteer is the new public information contact for Four Mile Canyon. Details of resources from Boulder County, Foothills United Way and a host of other District resources are relayed to the FM Public Information Officer for dissemination through the Four Mile Email List.



To be notified of upcoming workshops, events and community news contact Karen at [four-mileinfo@gmail.com](mailto:four-mileinfo@gmail.com) and ask to be added to the Four Mile email list. Karen is also a good contact to inform of community events in the district, including bake sales, yoga classes, fund raisers, ground breaking parties anything whereby you'd like to notify members of the Four Mile Fire District.

*Please note: The Four Mile email list is private and is not accessible to other members. It is used discreetly with the sole intention of informing members of community of events relevant to the needs of the Four Mile Fire District. Use of the email list is sanctioned and monitored by the Four Mile Fire Department.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 7/14 Roadmap to Recovery Workshop: Legal Issues, Boulder County Courthouse
- 7/15 Salina Firehouse and Fire Truck Silent Auction, Millennium Harvest Hotel

## FOUR MILE FIRE TRAINING SCHEDULE:

*You are invited to join any training session, come along and learn more about the Four Mile Fire Department!*

- 7/9 Water Moving Practical 0900 (SUNSHINE)
- 7/28 ICS/Radio Programming Classroom 1900 (GOLDHILL)
- 8/13 Live Burn/Burn Trailer 0900 (GOLDHILL)
- 8/25 Structure Skills Classroom 1900 (FOURMILE)
- 9/10 Structure Skills Practical At BRFTC 0900 (FOURMILE)

For the complete schedule please visit:

[www.FourMileFire.org](http://www.FourMileFire.org)

# A Community Rebuilding

## WELCOME HOME!

To our friends and neighbors that have been rebuilding their homes. For the folks still deciding whether to rebuild here are some resources for you:

## REFOURM

A builder's co-op offering discounts for people rebuilding after the fire and to provide information regarding the rebuilding process.

For details contact:

**Amy Hardy, Fire Recovery Coordinator, at Foothills United Way on 303.444.4013 or [AHardy@unitedwayfoothills.org](mailto:AHardy@unitedwayfoothills.org).**

## OVERVIEW:

- ✱ 34 building permits have been issued for homes
- ✱ 10 building permits for homes are under review
- ✱ The Land Use Department has assigned case managers to 100 property owners
- ✱ Over 85% of property owners have removed the ash/debris from their properties

## CASE MANAGER

The Boulder Office of Emergency Management will assign home owners or folks who might not decide to rebuild, a case manager to be a single point of contact.

For more information contact:

**Gary Sanfacon, Four Mile Canyon Fire Recovery Manager, at [gsanfacon@bouldercounty.org](mailto:gsanfacon@bouldercounty.org) or 720.564.2642.**

# Who are the Four Mile Fire Volunteers?

Introducing Lou Ann Shirley, the FMFD Quartermaster (affectionately referred to by other volunteers as “Q”) has been building relationships with vendors and procuring fire fighting equipment for 30+ years. The Quartermaster’s network of vendors and tenacity has stretched each dollar to keep the district’s fire fighters equipped for emergency response.

When asked how Lou Ann came to join as a volunteer, she explained that she and husband Jon thought, “If we live here we should have some idea of what to do in case of fire”. So in 1980 they went to the fire department training held at the fire station on Logan Mill.

She jokes that the Fire Chief then, Margaret Hansen, took one look at her digging a fire line and found something else for her to do. In actuality Chief Hansen waited until the end of the day to ask Lou Ann whether she would be willing to order fire fighting gear like shirts and shovels.

Lou Ann enjoys learning the new technology as the equipment evolves. As the department continued to grow Lou Ann’s role became more focused on ordering equipment. After the Fire while Lou Ann was on the phone replenishing supplies she found herself constantly reassuring caring folks she had worked with over the years with, “Yes, I still have a house”.

In addition to being the Quartermaster Lou Ann acts as “BASE”. The Four Mile Base covers a multitude of tasks: reading maps to aid faster response,

verifying the location of trucks, tenders and other resources, and providing extra communication when needed. She can provide local knowledge gained from living over 50 years in our community. She can answer questions about, “Who’s house is it?”, and she can let family members know when their fire fighting spouse will be home.

This responsibility is so useful to our district that Lou Ann coordinates with other Four Mile Base stations to ensure there is almost always cover.



*Message from ‘Q’:  
“If you would like to be a fireman, we need you. If you have different skills and interests, we need you. Five stations to be swept. Trucks need to be maintained. Phone calls need to be made. Equipment needs to be organized and repaired. We have big jobs, small jobs, short jobs, long jobs. We need you”.*

# Call for Four Mile Fire Department Volunteers

Four Mile Fire Department (FMFD) is an all-volunteer organization that provides professional fire and medical first response to our community. We respond to around 80 calls (via 911) per year. Our department has 45 rostered volunteers, and about half of those respond regularly. We have four stations which house a total of seven emergency response vehicles: three engines, three water tenders, and one Hummer brush truck.

FMFD provides frequent in-house training sessions covering basic incident operations such as driving fire trucks, running pumps, structure fire safety, medical evacuations, traffic control, and digging fire line. Once a level of commitment is demonstrated by a

volunteer, the department encourages and supports additional formal training including such as:

- ☆ Wildland fire training: S-190/S-130, a 36 hour course that provides the first level 'red card' certification, and many more courses offered by the county and state
- ☆ Fire Fighter Academy: (4 month structure fire fighting course)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification courses
- ☆ And much more!

Not everyone needs to be on the front lines holding the hose. The important thing to remember is that just about everyone has something to offer. **Without volunteers, there would be no fire**

**department.** There are a many ways you can participate.  
**INTERESTED?**

For more information visit **FourMileFire.org** or contact Chief Bret Gibson at 303.444.0882

**YOUR  
COMMUNITY  
NEEDS YOU.**

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