

OUR VALUES

SAFETY	<i>We provide training, equipment and leadership to our members that emphasizes safety in all aspects of operations to ensure that "Everyone Goes Home."</i>
RESPECT	<i>We encourage all members to show a high level of respect to each other and the public.</i>
PROFESSIONALISM	<i>We perform our duties with a high level of knowledge, skill and ability in accordance with current national standards of competence.</i>
INTEGRITY	<i>We serve the public with honor and the highest moral and ethical standards.</i>
HONESTY	<i>We exhibit reputable and respectable behavior at all times.</i>
RESPONSIBILITY	<i>We employ progressive policies, procedures and standards in our District's management which ensure efficient fiscal practices and effective planning for the future.</i>
ACCOUNTABILITY	<i>We are accountable to the citizens and visitors of our District, and to each other, to provide effective, caring, trustworthy service when responding to all calls for assistance.</i>



LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



I want to take the time to tell you, our constituents, how much we appreciate your support for what we do. Many times each year I hear from people on the street how much they respect and appreciate the members of our Department. The Volunteer Firefighters and Logistics Section members are tireless contributors, serving the citizens and visitors of our community. We carry out our duties adhering to four values: Service, Dedication, Leadership and Honor. Our primary goal is to be safe in all of our endeavors.

One of our accomplishments in 2017 included the Fire Safety Inspections completed for many of our businesses, schools and childcare facilities. These inspections help ensure that people who visit or work in these establishments are visiting buildings that meet fire safety standards. We instructed many high school students in the proper use of portable fire extinguishers, and hosted an Open House where visitors of all ages learned about home fire safety.



In 2017, our members responded to fourteen requests for crews and apparatus to assist in fighting wildland fires in Colorado, California, Oregon, and Wyoming. These deployments provided our personnel with experiences and training that can only be obtained on actual incidents. We hired a part-time/seasonal Engine Boss to manage our wildland fire and mitigation program. In addition to the benefits to our personnel and helping out our neighbors, the District received compensation for the crews and engines, which complements our overall department operations.

Our members participated in over 6,000 hours of training, responded to 191 calls for service and participated in numerous community activities. We pride ourselves in being a community partner, locally, as well as across the northwest region and the state. We work hard to provide professional services, working alongside the other public safety agencies. If you have time and are interested in learning more about who we are and what we do, please stop in and see us. If you would like to learn more about being a volunteer firefighter or a member of our Logistics Section, please visit our website or give us call.



One of GFPD's firefighters was a standout in 2017. In December, Joe Starika was promoted to Lieutenant and was presented with both the Fire Chief's Award and the Firefighter of the Year Award. Joe has been with the fire department since 2009, and is a certified Firefighter II and an Engine Boss with many NWCG qualifications. Joe and his crews deployed to California multiple times to assist with wildfire incidents. Congratulations Lt. Starika!



2017 Officer of the Year
Captain
Andrew "Hopper" Becker



2017 Citizen of the Year
Awarded to Firefighter Rich "Red" Kittler
by Chief Jim Kraker of the
Granby Police Department

IT'S ALL ABOUT PARTNERSHIPS...

In the Fall of 2017, Grand Fire signed an agreement with Granby Realty Holdings to conduct slash pile burning on Granby Ranch property to reduce their wildfire risk. Engine Boss Joe Starika led the project that will continue into the 2018 Open Burning Season. Private property owners can reduce their hazardous fuels by pile burning as well. The Grand County Division of Natural Resources (GCDNR) manages the open burning of slash (debris from tree removal) on all private property within Grand County. Anyone wanting to burn any pile larger than a campfire is required to have an approved burn permit. They must also call GCDNR at 970-887-0745 (7 days a week) to make sure the appropriate weather conditions are present and to be listed on the Daily Burners List. Anyone can check, in real time, for the location and amounts of pile burning: <http://co.grand.co.us/142/Open-Burning>. Click on the link that says "Daily Burners List for Fire Districts and Dispatch". To minimize the danger of wildfire, the open burning program is only operational during the winter months when permanent snow is present throughout most of Grand County. GCDNR begins issuing permits (\$20 per property) in the Fall of each year and the season "opens" once there is permanent snowpack. All permits expire on April 1 of each year but can be extended on an as needed basis if weather conditions allow.



Slash pile burning is an effective and efficient method for disposing of hazardous fuels and for mitigation of future wildfire intensity and controllability. However, we must be concerned with safe methods, regulations and air quality.



Engine Boss Paul Mintier talks to Front Range students at Snow Mountain Ranch about wildland fire investigation and how law enforcement and fire officials work together.

Grand County Sheriff Brett Schroetlin asked Grand Fire to participate in the Commerce City Police Department's annual Police Camp. The Camp is part of Commerce City PD's community services and outreach operations and seeks to develop bonds of trust between the youth of that community and the officers who police the streets. A total of 46 youths spent several days at Snow Mountain Ranch covering a wide range of police and first responder

activities. The Sheriff conducted a K-9 demonstration. Grand County EMS's Mountain Medical Response Team talked about backcountry medical operations and investigators from the Sheriff's Department delved into crime scene investigations and how they are conducted. Grand Fire's members talked to the kids about arson and fire investigations.

COOPERATION



Grand County firefighters pose for a photo as they train using SCBA during Fire Academy in March. Twenty-two new firefighters from the five districts completed the fire academy successfully!



GFPD firefighters train on extricating patients from vehicles involved in crashes. In 2017, our members spent over 6,000 hours training at the station, around the county and throughout the region and the state. Chief White attended advanced wildland training in Oregon in September.



Firefighters check life jackets at Sunset Point.

Station located at Sunset Point on Lake Granby (see photo above). Each week during the summer months our crew restocks and organizes one of the five loaner stations near Grand Lake and Lake Granby. The loaner stations provide all sizes of personal flotation devices (PFDs or life jackets) to residents and visitors who need them while they are recreating around our beautiful lakes. The Grand County Sheriff's Department and Grand Lake Fire are also involved in this successful partnership.

In 2017, GFPD filled 14 resource orders with engines and personnel. Our resources were assigned to fires in Arizona, Wyoming, California, and Oregon for about 120 days. We sent one apparatus to the Winter Valley Fire near Craig, CO as well. Again, these firefighters gained valuable experience and substantial paychecks while bringing additional income into the District. Wildfire deployments continue to assist the District with apparatus and equipment maintenance and/or replacement. We now have two engines available for assignment regionally or nationally. Of course, our community's wildfire safety will always take priority over any possible deployment.

Grand Fire has strong relationships with all of the other public safety agencies in the community as well as with the East Grand School District. We bring our apparatus to Granby Elementary, the middle school and various preschools to teach the kids about fire safety and let them "Touch-a-Truck" (see photo on right). At our annual Turkey Bingo Fundraiser, we auction off a "Firehouse Birthday Party" to the highest bidder. The kids love it....and we think the parents do too!

Grand Fire has collaborated with the Christopher Mullin Water Rescue Fund to assist in their mission of providing funds for equipment, training and public education relating to all aspects of water safety. It is their goal that every person who enjoys our lakes comes home safely. Resident firefighters visit the Life Jacket Loaner



Senior Firefighter Willa Moore helps students try on firefighting personal protective equipment and discusses firefighter health and safety at the East Grand Middle School 6th Grade Health Fair held each June.

COLLABORATION



Firefighters from around Grand County train together in S-219, Firing Operations. This course introduces the roles and responsibilities of a Firing Boss--one who fights fire with fire!



Dan Geer (GFPD) works alongside Colin Steward and Cooper Knochenmus from Grand Lake Fire to accomplish much needed hazardous tree removal near subdivisions to reduce the threat of wildfire. All three are members of the Grand County Wildland Fire Team. Twenty-four days were spent on mitigation projects in 2017.

TEAM WORK

