



COLORADO

Division of Fire Prevention & Control

Department of Public Safety

FIRE & LIFE SAFETY

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Section Chief Brunette's Message: Where'd the Time Go?

I am often asked “what’s the hardest part about being a Section Chief?” Regrettably, the answer always comes back to battling one of my many character flaws – impatience. Not necessarily impatience, but the desire to want to see everything come to fruition now. There is so much good to be accomplished out there and so many great initiatives to be part of. I want to see us doing them all; but more than that, doing them and being successful in them now. Most of all, though, making a positive difference everywhere we can- I want this so much so for us, our communities, and for Colorado, that I think I often ask far too much of our team here.

In spite of this, every time I ask, every time I push, this awesome team continues to deliver beyond my expectations. This group of women and men that I get the opportunity to work with do amazing things and I am so grateful that I get a front row seat, to see them accomplish all that they do.

We’ve got a bit of an update for you this quarter, however, everything you’ll read here just scratches the surface of everything this team is doing to help make Colorado a safer place to live, work, and play. Additionally, we are honored to have had several people join our team this quarter, as well as one non-person (you’ll have to read on to understand).

As for my impatience, I’ve started telling myself that I’m not going to see everything we embark on come to fruition. Much like planting trees, there are some things we may never enjoy the “shade” of, but we know it’s going to benefit someone, somewhere down the road. It’s something I’ll have to keep working on. But in the meantime, I’ll just continue to enjoy seeing everything this great group of folks accomplishes each and every day. I hope everyone reading this will see the value in all they do as well.

Thanks, everyone, it’s truly an honor to get to serve you,

Chris Brunette
Section Chief, Fire and Life Safety



New Arson K-9 for the State? Check!

DFPC has a new member who has a very keen sense of smell and will be a valuable resource to Fire and Law Enforcement Agencies across the state. Lead Investigator Dawn Tollis spent four weeks in New Hampshire training with her new partner, Jo-Jo, graduating from the State Farm Arson Dog Training Program. They have met the testing standards to be a Certified Canine Accelerant Detection Team by the Maine State Police.

According to NFPA, an estimated 280,000 fires are reported each year as intentional, resulting in 420 civilian deaths, 1,360 civilian injuries, and \$1.3 billion in direct property damage. Arson dogs played a key role in helping to determine the cause of many of these fires.

K9 JoJo is the fourth arson dog in active service in Colorado trained through the State Farm program. CDFPC Lead Fire Investigator Tollis and K9 JoJo have scheduled a month-long demonstration tour for fire and law enforcement agencies showcasing JoJo's exceptional accelerant detection abilities.

Their first stop is Colorado Springs and other fire agencies following. There will be time for interviews and photos along the way. The schedule can be found online at dfpc.colorado.gov/FireInvestigations

New Faces at DFPC!

The Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) Building Code Branch (BCB) has added a new inspector. Mark Remy comes to DFPC from the Boulder Building Department where he was a combination inspector for the last 3 years. Prior to that, Mark (deleted) was the owner/general contractor of Premier Home Improvement in Denver where he worked on residential and commercial projects. In his free time Mark and his wife, Kimberly, who also works in code enforcement, enjoy caring for their elderly neighbors and working with hospice along with their medical alert service dog, Otis, a Yorkshire terrier.



In October Jim Riddell started as a fire inspector for the Division of Fire Prevention and Control. Previously Jim worked as a fire inspector for the Pueblo City Fire Department for 5 years. Prior to that he was an Emergency Medical Officer. In order to join DFPC, Jim retired after over 14 years of service and membership with the International Association of Fire Fighters Local #3 in Pueblo, CO. Jim began his career in 1997 as a paramedic with Careflite in Dallas, Texas. He has also worked for American Medical Response and Parkview Medical Center. Jim has been married for 21 years and has three children (one girl and two boys) aged 17, 14, and 9. He enjoys music, nature, cooking, and spending time with his family. As is evident from his work experience, Jim also has a real passion for public safety, which is why he joined our ranks in the first place. In his own words, "I wanted to be among the best in the business, and I am extremely honored to work with the team I am a part of each and every day. They consistently challenge and amaze me with every project that we encounter. I have never felt so blessed."

This May DFPC welcomed our most recent addition, a fire inspector, Chris Davis. Chris joins DFPC from the Crested Butte Fire Protection District where he had worked as a firefighter/engineer and more recently a fire inspector since 2015. Prior to joining Crested Butte Fire, Chris spent 10 years as a Senior ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) Pilot and Commercial Air/Mixed Gas Diver. Jim married the love of his life, Tina, 20 years ago and they have two sons aged 18 and 20. His oldest is a sophomore at CU Denver and his youngest will soon be a senior in high school. Nine months ago, they also welcomed a German shepherd into the family who has quickly claimed Chris as his favorite, much to his wife's dismay. Chris chose to join DFPC because he wanted to work with a group of professionals that really enjoy what they do and share a passion for doing a great job. He is honored to be a part of the team and excited about what the future holds for him and his family.



May is Building Safety Month

Buildings are the core of our modern world, they continually protect us from dangers on a daily basis. The built world reduces the dangers imposed on us, but not all dangers can be eliminated. Building safety is a broad message with deep meaning that stretches far from water quality to natural disasters. The campaign reinforces the need for modern building codes that address the modern building safety issues and concerns. With modern building codes we can push forward into the future with a safer and more sustainable built environment.

“For the last 41 years, we have celebrated advances in constructing safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient buildings and homes. The ongoing support of Building Safety Month and the important role code officials play in public safety in the built environment has come from U.S. presidents, governors, mayors, county executives, other government officials and construction industry professionals.” - International Code Council Look back on the videos published this month, and join us in celebrating the rest of Building Safety Month, all of May.



DFPC Website Update

On February 10, 2021 our website got a brand new look and a new URL! You can now access the website at dfpc.colorado.gov. Although our old website will re-route you to the main page of the new URL indefinitely, we encourage you to bookmark the new URL.

The Fire and Life Safety Section has cut down on the amount of information displayed in the main navigation menu and added hyperlinks to the pages that receive the most views. We have created a short tutorial which is available on the DFPC YouTube Channel or you can visit the FLS Main Page to view the video. If you still aren't finding what you are looking for on the website or need to speak with someone from our Section you can always find email and phone information in the Contact Us section, we are here to help!



Fire Safe Colorado

By: Professional Development Unit Chief, Chuck Altvater

Fire Safe Colorado is the statewide community risk reduction outreach program from DFPC, and it's mission is to be a collaboration of fire and life safety professionals across Colorado. It focuses on the collection, analysis and application of data by local jurisdictions to prevent, mitigate, and recover from emergencies by employing the CRR Cycle.

The CRR Cycle is a six-step process which identifies and prioritizes local risks, followed by the strategic use of resources to prevent, mitigate or respond to emergencies. This is accomplished through several strategies, often referred to as the "5 E's" of Risk Reduction. These are: Education, Engineering, Enforcement, Economic Incentive, and Emergency Response. Once a program is established to address the risks identified, using one or more of the 5 E's (the most successful risk reduction programs use multiple E strategies, the program must be evaluated for success, and areas that need to be improved should be improved, and the program continues.

An example of a good multi-strategy program to reduce risk in a fire district's area is to adopt a fire code and inspection program. By using the Engineering that the Fire Code represents, the enforcement through inspections and permits, educating businesses of the code, including its limitation and the benefits that come with it, business owners can realize the economic benefits that come from code adoption and enforcement for them. Other risk reduction programs may include smoke/CO alarm campaigns, fire and life safety education for kids, parents, and vulnerable populations, and wildfire mitigation events.

As things start to return to normal, we'll be holding more Fire Safe Colorado meetings. Come on out, have some coffee with us, and make your region of Colorado a safer community, together.

For more information about the Professional Development Unit, contact the Unit Chief, Chuck Altvater at chuck.altvater@state.co.us, or 303-912-9569.

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The Role of the Local Fire Department in School Construction Plan Reviews

By: Professional Development Unit Chief, Chuck Altvater

In Colorado, DFPC is the authority having jurisdiction for public school construction and maintenance, fire inspections. When a local jurisdiction has the qualified personnel to conduct plan reviews and inspections within their jurisdiction, that authority is delegated automatically to that Fire Department or Fire Protection District. It can be a little more complicated in some cases, but that is the gist of it.

When a Fire Department doesn't have the qualified personnel to conduct plans reviews, DFPC does the fire plans review and conducts the construction inspections necessary for the project.

But did you know that under the International Fire Code, section 501.3, there are items that the responding Fire Department is required to review?

Sometimes small fire jurisdictions ask DFPC to review these as well, through an *Advanced Technical Services Agreement* (ATSA), but in this case, the local jurisdiction is far better qualified to review these items than DFPC is.

These items all concern the responding Fire Department's access to the premises. Items such as fire apparatus access, the location of fire lanes, and security gates across fire apparatus roads; as well as the construction documents and hydraulic calculations for the hydrant systems serving the location. DFPC also defers to the local jurisdiction for the location of any key lock boxes on the project.

These items are all about how your crews will gain access to the property during a response, and how much water they will have for firefighting, and the responding fire department is in the best position to answer those questions. Since you know what apparatus you have and you know how much water you need to fight fire with the equipment you have. The responding fire department will be the people who have to open gates and doors during a response and will have to position their apparatus.

If you need assistance working through the hydraulic calculations, or any other requirements in Section 501.3 of the Fire Code, the Professional Development Unit is here to assist you with that.

DFPC 2021 Code Adoption and Sprinkler Fitters - How Will It Affect You?

On July 1, 2021 The Division of Fire Prevention and Control will adopt the 2021 International Fire Code (IFC), 2019 NFPA 13 and 13D and the 2018 NFPA 13R which will affect the Exam requirements for Sprinkler Fitters. According to 8 CCR 1507-11 5.2.7 each applicant must pass a Division approved examination that encompasses the Divisions current Code Adoption.

The following Exams are approved for compliance:

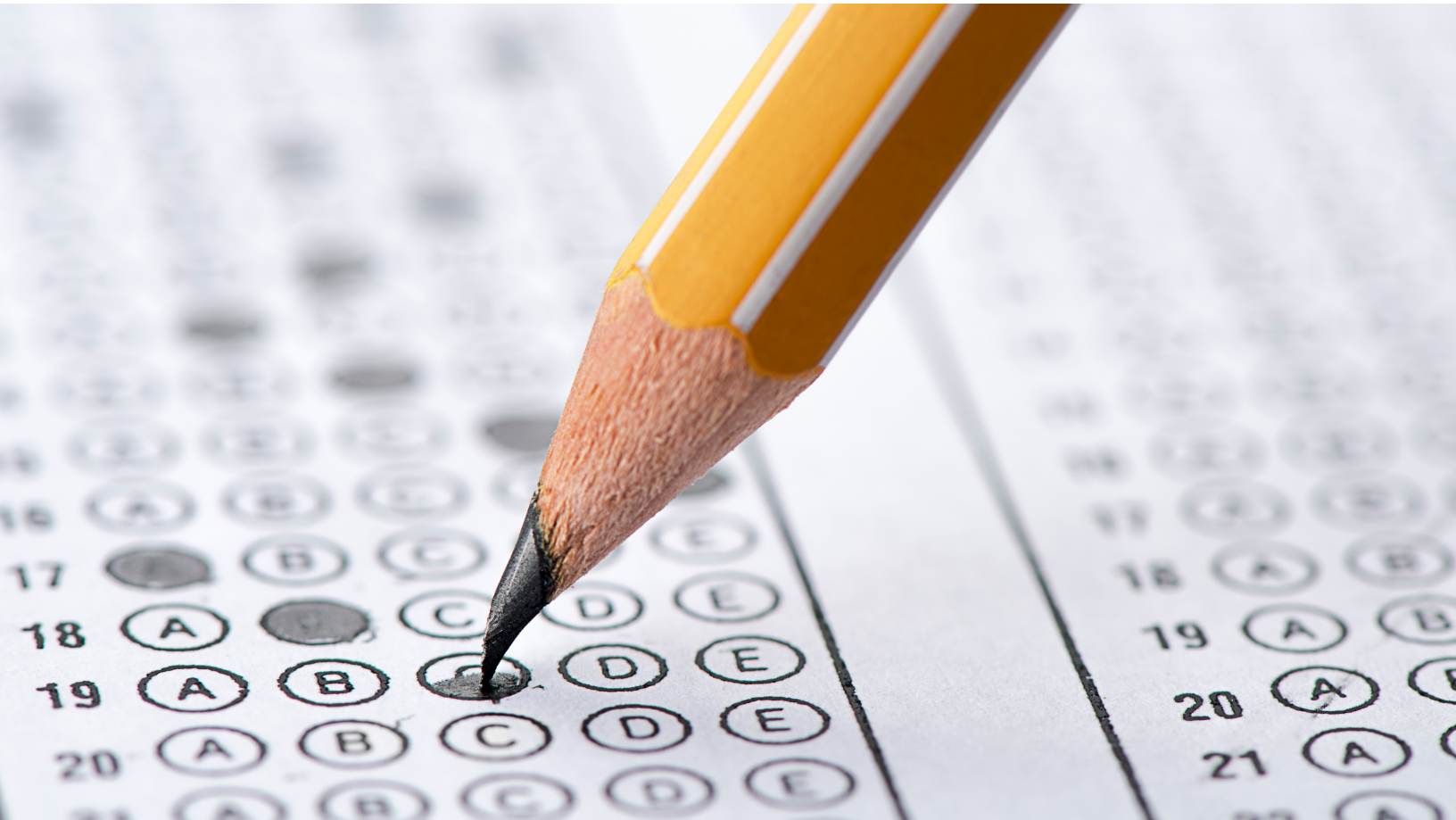
STAR Fire Sprinkler Fitter Mastery Exam

CSA Sprinkler Commercial On-site Competent Person Exam (ASCR2)

City of Denver's Fire Sprinkler Systems Installer Examination

Complete applications received between 5.15.2021 and 6.30.2021 can include Exams taken prior to the 2021 Code Adoption which will give the applicant an additional year to take and pass their Exam of choice for the 2022 registration year.

Applications received on or after 7.1.2021 will have to provide proof of a current 2021 Exam.



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