



COLORADO

Division of Fire Prevention & Control

Department of Public Safety

Message from Chief Brunette

We, the Fire & Life Safety Section of the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention & Control, want to share with you what we've been up to this quarter. From working to establish our "new normal" following the corona virus outbreak, to assisting several fire agencies throughout Colorado with the investigation of some of their fires, to trying to keep up with one of the busiest school construction seasons on record, we've been an active group. We hope this newsletter gives you some insight into just a little bit of what our great team is doing to help fulfill our mission to "serve and safeguard the people and protect the property, resources, environment, and quality of life in Colorado."



Investigations Unit: This month, Rattlesnake Fire Protection District hosted an FI-210-Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination class outside of Parker. In a collaboration with Rattlesnake FPD, the ATF, and BLM, several members of the DFPC team participated as trainers and assisted with burn plots.

A couple of members of DFPC attended the training and are on the way to becoming certified investigators! All students passed with flying colors, so we are going to chalk this up as a successful training, and hopefully this will be the beginning of a continuing effort.

Unfortunately, we still have not been notified of a hard date yet for Arson Dog School. We will be sure to let everyone know when that is scheduled. When Dawn returns from school, she will plan on doing a tour of the State introducing the dog and doing demonstrations.

[Read more here!](#)

Professional Development Unit Update

By: Chuck Altvater, PDU Unit Chief

The Fire and Life Section has a new unit! Well, not entirely new, but we have renamed the “Professional Standards Unit (PSU)” and now it is called the “Professional Development Unit (PDU)”. This was done to emphasize the mission of the PDU to provide support, education, and training for Fire code and Building Code Officials across Colorado. We’re here to help you make our state a safer place for people to live, work in and visit!

The PDU is still in its infancy, and we’re using this time to get our folks trained, create course content and seek out training opportunities from around the Country for the Over 500 Certified Fire Code and Building Code Officials in Colorado. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has created some obstacles for us, but we’re still hard at work, and creating new partnerships.

[Read more here!](#)



Fire Prevention Branch: Fire Prevention Branch (FPB) plan of the Fire & Life Safety Section during the Stay-at-Home and Safer-at-Home transition for plan reviews there has been some learning curves. With any change there are some ups and downs.

The downs:

- not able to stand around the water cooler and catch up with co-workers during social hour
- learning to be your own IT specialists

The ups

- roll out of bed and crawl into the office
- learning that video hangouts with co-workers is almost like the water cooler

[Read more here!](#)

Fire Safe Colorado is back on road! We postponed numerous meetings in the past few months, but we are ready to continue the regional discussions. We have several meetings on the schedule which we anticipate to be very informative and will open new communication doorways for each region. To see our most current meeting schedule please visit our Website at www.firesafecolorado.com

Help us promote our #firesafecolorado message by sharing an image of your new “office” location where you have been keeping your community safe.

[Join us on Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to learn more!



Fire Inspector Changes: Have you recently changed agencies? Do you work/volunteer for multiple agencies? We want to know! It is important for us to make sure we have the most up to date list of current Fire Inspectors for all levels. Even though certifications are good for three (3) years, we know a lot can change during that time. Adding an agency affiliation or changing agencies is easy.

Adding an Agency: Obtain an [Agency Letter](#) then use our [Online Form](#) to update your information and attach your Agency Letter.

Changing Agencies: Obtain an Agency Letter then email cdps_dfpc_suppression@state.co.us with the Agency Letter attached. Use the subject line - **Fire Inspector Agency Change**.

Any changes or additions will be processed within three (3) business days. You will not receive a new DFPC Certification Card but your information will be updated on our Website.

Questions? Give us a call at 720.315.9152



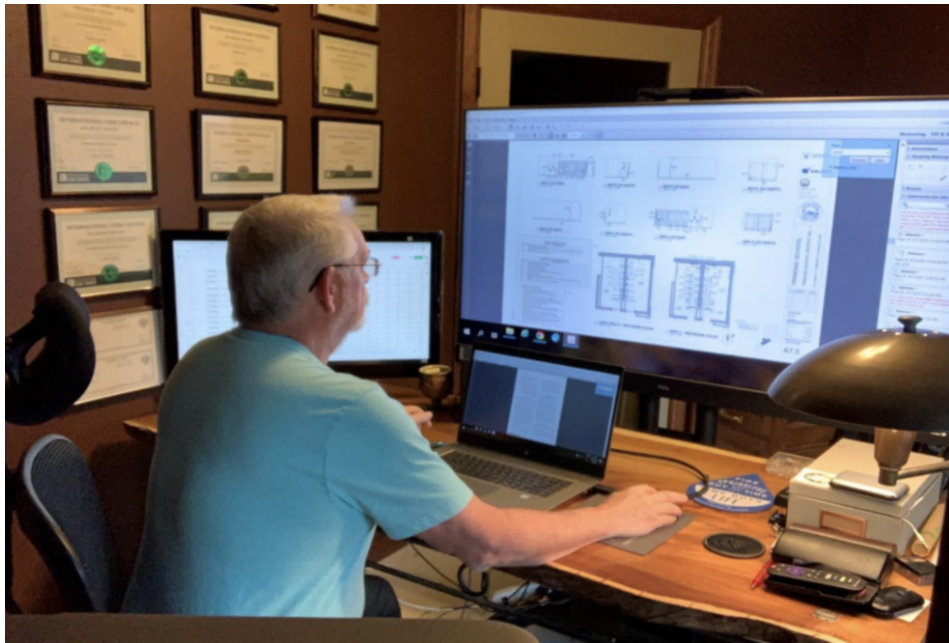
The Challenges of COVID-19

By: Scott Hixon, Fire Inspector

March started out only slightly different in 2020 compared to previous years. The annual Colorado ICC Code Conference was convening in a new city and it seemed as if little would be changing in the world of a fire inspector due to the COVID-19 virus. We all sat in packed classrooms and ate lunch shoulder-to-shoulder, almost on top of each other. All was normal except that I did notice there were additional hand sanitizer stations placed around the meeting spaces.

Just two short weeks later and all healthcare related inspections were suspended and Corona now meant something other than beer! That week I was cancelled from a multi-day survey of a hospital and two nursing home surveys. My schedule (and everyone's life) was about to be changed drastically for the foreseeable future.

[Read the full article here!](#)



Plans Examiners: During the Stay-at-Home & Safer-at Home phases we've been experiencing, The Fire & Life Safety Section have made some necessary changes to our work protocol. The plans examiners are reviewing plans while working from home.

As of June 1, 2020, there is an approximate 10 week lead time between permit application and preliminary plan review. This lead time is longer than in previous years, but it is not a result of covid-19. The primary cause is the number of permit applications we've received. Every year DFPC receives 70 - 80% of the applications for permit of public school construction projects during Spring. From January 1, 2019 through May 31, 2019 we received 391 applications. January 1, 2020 through May 31, 2020 the number of permit applications was 501.

[Read the full article here!](#)



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