



**FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**INTERNATIONALLY ACCREDITED AGENCY**

*Christopher P. Riley, MS, CFO, MIFireE*  
Fire Chief

## **2009 Annual Report**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

We will provide the highest level of Fire and Rescue services to City of Pueblo and our community following laws, safety practices, and professional standards.

### **VISION STATEMENT**

To maintain our international accreditation status and provide safe and effective leadership, training, equipment, and facilities for our members to ensure the highest level of Fire and Rescue services to the City of Pueblo and our community.

### **CORE VALUES**

Safety, Customer Service Excellence, Integrity, Dedication & Vision

### **Accomplishments in 2008, current activities, and our goals for 2009**

In 2008, the Pueblo Fire Department responded to over 14,000 incidents. This past year, our members made contact with over 15,000 community members through various fire department public education programs. In addition, we conducted over 3,000 fire inspections, approved over 2 million square feet of commercial building plans, and trained for over 30,000 hours.

- ✓ **CFAI Accreditation:** In August 2008, the City of Pueblo Fire Department officially received international accreditation status. Completing this intense self-assessment process is a landmark and monumental event for our City and the fire department's 120-year history. Accreditation Manger, Assistant Chief Joe Sena, along with over 40 fire department members devoted hundreds of hours to this accreditation process. The Pueblo Fire Department is now one of only 4 out of approximately 400 in the State of Colorado that has earned accreditation. Only 125 out of approximately 30,000 in the nation are accredited. Most importantly, reaching accreditation status will continue to improve our outstanding level of service to the City of Pueblo and community we serve.
- ✓ **Training:** This past year we had nationally recognized speakers/instructors conduct workshops on various topics that included leadership, management, emergency operations, incident command, and fire tactics/strategy. Ending the year with the "Charleston Super Sofa Fire Tragedy" session was a sober reminder of the hazards of firefighting. We continue to partner with Pueblo Community College on workshops as well as the Fire Science Degree program. This continues to

bring the Pueblo Fire Department regional, state, and national recognition. We are kicking off the New Year in 2009 with a workshop on “Rapid Intervention Team” training. The department training calendar continues to bring us diverse and state of the art training and information to our members. Training our new recruit class of 10 members will be major focus in January/February.

- ✓ Fire Prevention, Education, and Investigations- We completed over 3,000 business inspections in 2008. Quarterly classes on various aspects of conducting company inspections will continue. Public Education through our local TV cable, along with written material and on-site visits will be ongoing. Public Information Officer (PIO) and major fire investigation efforts were demonstrated throughout 2008. Major incidents included the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart steeple fire and the Branch Inn explosion. In addition, we investigated over 200 working fire incidents.



- ✓ Emergency Medical Services- EMS incidents continue to make up approximately 70% of our call volume. We worked closely with our County Medical Director, Dr. Kevin Weber, on various EMS items throughout the year. As part of our strategic plan, we will be working towards becoming a paramedic level fire department. Currently, 4 members are in the paramedic bridge program. In 2008, 4 members completed EMT-Intermediate school, accomplishing our goal of increasing the number of Advanced Life Support personnel. As of February 2009, Engine 10 has been converted to an Advanced Life Support unit. All ten fire stations/districts are now staffed with ALS personnel.

- ✓ Hazardous Materials and Specialized Rescue Operations-We are extremely fortunate to have a



full service department to handle the extraordinary and unique incidents such as haz-mat spills, river rescues, or confined space incidents. Many high profile incidents were handled in 2008 that included the Candytuft hazardous material incident, a drowning death in the Arkansas River, a plane crash, the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart steeple fire and the Branch Inn explosion.

- ✓ Homeland Security and terrorism preparedness- Throughout 2008, we worked very close with City of Pueblo Police Department and the Pueblo County Sheriff’s Office as well as state and federal agencies through training and preparedness operations. This will continue to be a focus as we best prepare ourselves for this 21<sup>st</sup> century challenge.

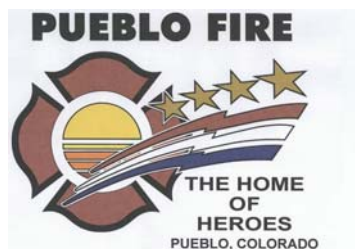
- ✓ Department Communications- Good communications at all levels has been and will continue to be a major focus. The weekly conference calls between all fire stations and staff continue to assist us in this area. In addition, members have done an outstanding job keeping City Management, City Council and other departments updated on strategic items throughout the year.

- ✓ Fire Management and Local 3 work relations- We will continue to build on this outstanding work relationship by using a collaborative and team approach to problem solving, working on department needs, and planning for the future. The attendance and active participation of our IAFF Local 3 Board President and his designee at Staff meetings continues to be invaluable.

- ✓ Explorer Post 343- This group that is chartered through the Boy Scouts of America continues to do an outstanding job and make a significant impact in the lives of our youth throughout the community. Many Department members volunteer their invaluable time to this program.
- ✓ CISD, ACOVA and Fire Chaplain Program- Chaplain Doug Cox, ACOVA, and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing personnel were called upon several times throughout 2008. These individuals did an outstanding job comforting those during critical and tragic times, and continue to be an asset to our members.
- ✓ Fire Station Relocations: Stations 4 and 9: Our Fire Station Design Committee has done outstanding work assisting with the design of our stations with the architects. Land acquisition is in progress for Station 4, and we have been awarded two DOLA grants to assist in the funding of the fire stations. Land for Station 9 has been secured near Roncalli Middle School. Our goal is to break ground and begin construction of the new fire stations in 2009.
- ✓ Apparatus, Equipment, and Capital Improvement- The delivery of the new ladder truck and engine 6 was completed in May 2008. Various station and apparatus items have been upgraded. Budget permitting, we are looking to continue upgrading each fire station with an emergency generator, thermal imaging camera, and physical agility equipment. We have upgraded to our new 800 MHZ radio systems that will no doubt improve our emergency communications, both internally and interagency wide.



- ✓ Home of Heroes-Red, White, and Blue, fund raising campaign- The new Truck 1 and Engine 6 arrived with the new color scheme, and Squad 1 was the first to be repainted to match. Engine 3 is currently in the paint shop. This is an exciting project for our department that carries a positive and symbolic message to the community about Pueblo being “Home of the Heroes.” The design honors the four hometown Medal of Honor recipients and all military personnel and veterans. The new Engine 6 was showcased at Fire Rescue International in Denver and has gained national recognition for the City of Pueblo.



- ✓ Mutual Aid, Regionalization, NIMS- We are updating current mutual aid contracts and establishing a new contract with the Colorado Springs Fire Department. Involvement in regional exercises and training will be ongoing. During this past year, the Pueblo Fire Department has been recognized as a lead agency in the South Region of Colorado.
- ✓ Recruitment and diversity- We will continue to work closely with the Human Resource Department on upcoming outreach opportunities. These interactions enhance our ability to reach future firefighter candidates that encompass a diverse and broad background.
- ✓ Community Relations- Through previously mentioned programs the Department strives to become further integrated and increasingly connected with the community it serves.
- ✓ Pueblo Community College- Our continuing collaboration with PCC will include combining the use of our facilities in the future. PCC has done an outstanding job hosting nationally recognized fire service speakers this past year. It has been noted by fire departments throughout Colorado that PCC is offering some of the best fire service workshops.



**Closing comments**

Becoming an accredited fire department has already had a positive impact on our safety, level of service, and daily operations. We will continue to maintain our accreditation status and provide safe and effective leadership, training, equipment, and facilities for our members to ensure the highest level of Fire and Rescue services to the City of Pueblo and it's citizens.

It is an honor to work with such an outstanding group of talented and highly skilled professionals. This is a great fire department and I look forward to many accomplishments in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

---

**Christopher P. Riley, MS, CFO, MIFireE**  
**Fire Chief**  
**&**  
**President, Colorado State Fire Chiefs Association**

