

**Fire Department  
Internationally Accredited Agency**

**STATE OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT  
2014**

**Introduction**

This was the first time in the history of the Pueblo Fire Department that fire personnel responded to nearly 20,000 calls for service to render medical aide, fire response and assistance to the citizens of Pueblo and surrounding areas. A notable fire on June 4<sup>th</sup> saw the destruction of several businesses in the downtown district, including the renowned Johnson Hardware building which has been a mainstay in the community for more than half a century.

We hired a total of 13 new firefighters to fill vacancies created by retirements. We also promoted Fire Captains, Emergency Medical Officers and Fire Engineers. Seven of these new recruits, were hired and trained under a 1.2 million dollar FEMA grant that the department was a recipient of. Grants also played a pivotal role in our ability to acquire and replace thirty seven SCBA (self contained breathing apparatus) bottles for firefighters and laptop computers for our fire engines.

As a department we have implemented better technology and programs to benefit the City of Pueblo and its citizens. The video conferencing program was launched in 2014 with the assistance of the I.T department. This will provide the opportunity to train personnel in their stations, keeping them more readily available to provide emergency response. In addition, this system will provide a cost savings in both fuel and vehicle maintenance while allowing us to maintain rapid response times. The number of personnel on the FEMA Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Colorado Task Force 1 increased to a total of six members. These individuals can be deployed anywhere in the state, country, or United States controlled territories to aid in the time of disaster. Having active members on the USAR team provides invaluable training and disaster preparedness in the case of a catastrophe. We continue to maintain an active wildland firefighting force, which provides mutual aid in case of wildfire by either responding to assist in land preservation or by refilling air tankers at the Pueblo airport. As well as continuing to maintain our hazardous materials and response team for the City and the County when assistance is needed.

The department finished its 2014 compliance reports to the Board of Public Safety Excellence. Several members of the department have obtained individual accreditation at the levels of Fire Officer and Chief Fire Officer.

The Pueblo Fire Department continues to provide a high quality and level of service to the citizens of Pueblo. It is our goal to continue to grow as a department, not only for the citizens, but our partners in both the City and County governments.



## **Fire Department Internationally Accredited Agency**

### **Emergency Medical Services Division**

In addition to maintaining EMT certifications for all members of the Pueblo Fire Department, and working closely with the Purchasing Department to create cost savings, the Emergency Medical Services area saw several technological advancements which will allow them to provide advanced patient care.

There is now a total of ten Physio-Control LP 15 cardiac monitors that have 12 lead capabilities, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and oxygen level reading capabilities. This will now allow the same cardiac monitor to be used on a patient all the way to the hospital for complete patient care without a need to change monitors mid transport to the ambulance. These monitors can now download all patient care information into the patient care reports, which allows for a more factual and accurate patient care report. This communication is now possible due to a complete Record Management System upgrade that was completed and implemented in 2014. The monitor portion was accomplished through a State of Colorado Provider Grant at a 50% match. It was necessary to replace all of the lap top computers in the fire apparatus since they were no longer serviceable due to the operating system. A State of Colorado Emergency Provider Grant placed all new lap top computers on our fire equipment at a 10% match, and also provided a 50% grant match for the department to acquire a new computerized Advanced Life Support Mannequin and a new computerized Basic Life Support Mannequin. Both of these mannequins allow us to provide a more life-like scenario in the medical education setting.

### **Training Division**

In 2014, the Training Division logged over 43,000 person-hours of training for the department. This training includes fire suppression topics and evolutions, emergency medical training, hazardous materials training and specialized rescue training. Two recruit academies are included in these hours, each academy accounts for 288 hours of instruction per recruit trained. The two academies trained thirteen new employees.

In addition, the Training Division has maintained the training of wildland firefighting personnel and maintained the wildland team's qualifications for deployment to fires on the state and federal level. While the teams were not deployed this year, the department will continue to train and maintain deployable teams in this area.

Another area of specialized training the division oversees is the Federal Aviation Administration's requirement for airport firefighters. This training is required for the airport to provide passenger service. This year the airport firefighters were able to travel to Denver



## **Fire Department Internationally Accredited Agency**

International Airport to perform their annual live burns for this required training. By going to Denver International Airport, the fire personnel received a more realistic experience enhancing their ability to handle emergencies on the airfield.

In 2014 the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) changed the grading schedule for fire departments, this change included changes to the required hours and subjects for training of fire personnel. The 2015 training program is written to reflect these changes. By following these changes, the department will be able to maintain and possibly improve its rating with ISO.

Through the assistance of many of the station crews, the training props located at the training tower were rebuilt and repaired. New props were also constructed so each firefighter has the ability to train in a more realistic fashion.

The training division remains active in the preparation for the yearly Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program. In addition to this drill, the division supports numerous other drills throughout the year including drills with the Sheriff's Office and Department of Corrections.

### **Bureau of Fire Prevention and Life Safety Education Division**

Due to promotions and reassignments, it was necessary to promote and train qualified a Fire Inspector within the first six months of 2014. Despite this apparent setback, the Bureau of Fire Prevention and Life Safety Education Division met its goals set forth last January.

The Bureau, with the assistance of all response personnel, is responsible for over 3,800 commercial and multi-family residential building inspections within the city limits, including the Airport and Southgate Industrial Parks, as well as both Vestas and the Comanche Power Plant, for an area of several million square feet. The Bureau is assigned to conduct the annual site inspection of all public accommodation (hotels and B&B's) facilities, nursing and group assisted living facilities, three correctional facilities at the CMHIP, and approximately 322 new storefront businesses to date.

The Bureau reviewed 230 sets of new development and existing building improvement plans as well as fire alarm and fire protection system installation and alteration plans that were submitted for approval. Upon plan approval, the Bureau conducted 241 worksite visits to ensure all construction met both National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and International Code Council International Fire Code (IFC) standards, before final approval. By far the most extensive project in 2014 was the 176,402 square foot Dennis Maes Pueblo Judicial Building.



## **Fire Department Internationally Accredited Agency**

Along with the permanent building inspections, the Bureau was entrusted with the Life Safety Program for the numerous visitors that attended our public festivals and events throughout the year. The temporary tents, road closures, chili roasters, firework stand and displays, haunted houses, parades, and school bonfires each require a site inspection and must meet IFC safety standards before being issued a permit to operate. The Life Safety Program is closely associated with the public education that the Bureau conducts. In 2014, we continued the long tradition of tried and true programs in the attempt to meet the needs of the public. These programs focused on four primary target groups, such as, adolescents, family units, adults in the workplace, and the elderly. Education was conducted through school visits, fire station tours, fire extinguisher and safety presentations, fire drills, and seasonal public service announcements. It is estimated that we spoke directly with approximately 24,513 adults and children throughout the year.

During the last quarter of 2014, a Life Safety Educational Task Force was formed to enhance our existing education program. A revision of outgoing message content, with increased frequency and progressive promotion and development of an improved public feedback forum in 2015 will, we hope, result in the diminishment of residential fire related emergencies in the City of Pueblo.

