

ONE FIRE!

April 2010



2009 BMFPD AWARDS

Our Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District shines with winners in many categories: from Firefighters, Rookies, Medics, First Responders, Mitigation teams, and Board Members to Auxiliary and Third Arm support workers, and talented legions in the wings. At the 2009 Year-End Dinner, the following stellar individuals received awards in recognition of their winning efforts to keep BMFPD at the top of its game and at peak performance in protecting our residents:

2009 "OF THE YEAR" AWARDS



FIREFIGHTER OTY
SHAWN ROBERTS



ROOKIE OTY
COLIN SCHAFFER



MEDIC OTY
GRANT BLUE



ENGINEER OTY
STACY WADE



3RD ARM MEMBER OTY
TERRI GIANNETTI

SPECIAL AWARDS:

- Grant Blue** for performance on a medical call in Boulder Heights
- Andrew Churnside** for performance on the Pineview Structure Fire and for staging on the Olde Stage Fire
- Greg Huckabee** for staging on the Olde Stage Fire
- Barry Binns** for apparatus engineering on the Olde Stage Fire
- Stacy Wade** for apparatus engineering on the Olde Stage Fire
- Steve Lynn** for apparatus engineering on the Olde Stage Fire
- Kirk Bach** for apparatus engineering on the Olde Stage Fire and for performance on the Pineview Structure Fire
- Bob de Haas** for apparatus engineering on the Olde Stage Fire

LIFE SAVING AWARD:

- Gail Loveman** for quick thinking and decisive action in a life-threatening situation

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

- Grant Blue** for completion of First Responder Training and for Joining the Medical Team

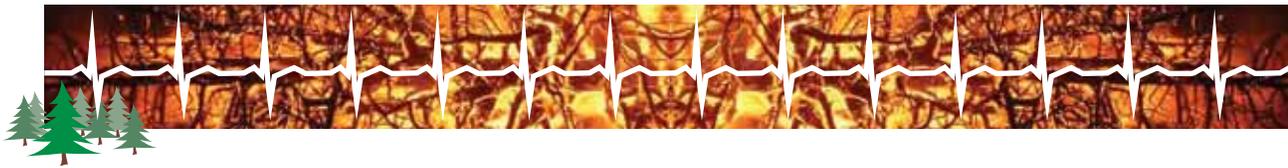
SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Firefighter II Academy Graduates

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Katy Fassett | Carl Loven |
| Dave Glasser | Bob Olliver |
| Michael Head | Mike Palamara |
| Greg Huckabee | Kevin Reed |
| David Kabal | Shawn Roberts |
| Gail Loveman | Colin Schaffer |

CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD:

- Melanie Pray** for the File of Life project; for individual neighbor support which was recognized by Boulder County and the State of Colorado



SIGNIFICANT EFFORT AWARDS:

- Barry Binns** for significant effort to become an Incident Commander
- Bob de Haas** for his tireless efforts and expertise with the new engine and station modifications
- Terri Giannetti** for managing the Third Arm Phone Tree, rosters, and for database assistance
- Dave Glasser** for his outstanding initiative and work on stations
- Greg Huckabee** for his time, efforts and results with BMF training
- Cindie Maita** for managing traffic and work on neighborhood fire drills
- Paul Munding** for significant effort to become an Incident Commander
- Diane Nicholl** for extra effort on Third Arm signs, radio training, cascade
- Bob Olliver** for significant effort to become an Incident Commander and for bringing Astro to trainings
- Shawn Roberts** for outstanding effort on engines, hose testing, DOT certifications, and pump testing
- Colin Schaffer** for his outstanding initiative and work on stations
- Kirk Webb** for extra effort on Third Arm signs, radio training, cascade

TOP CALL-RESPONSE AWARDS:

- Tim Farrell** 87% of all calls
- Bob Olliver** 69% of all calls
- Kirk Bach** 60% of all calls
- Tom Akins** 58% **David Kabal** 52%
- Melanie Pray** 58% **Steve Lynn** 50%

TOP TRAINING HOURS AWARDS:

- Tim Farrell** (319 Hours)
- Grant Blue** (202 Hours)
- David Glasser** (177 Hours)
- Colin Schaffer** 170 **Mike Palamara** 131
- Melanie Pray** 159 **Shawn Roberts** 129
- David Kabal** 159 **Mike Head** 123
- Kevin Reed** 156 **Greg Huckabee** 114
- Tom Akins** 154 **Andrew Churnside** 111
- Bob Olliver** 149 **Bruce Hertelendy** 101
- Gail Loveman** 143

5-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS:

- Don Hassler** **Carl Loven**
- Dave Kabal** **Earl Perry**
- Gail Loveman**

10-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS:

- John Covele** **Greg Huckabee**
- Tim Farrell** **Diana Waddell**

15-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS:

- Bruce Hertelendy**

20-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS:

- Tom Akins** **Matt McHaffie**
- Marcia McHaffie**

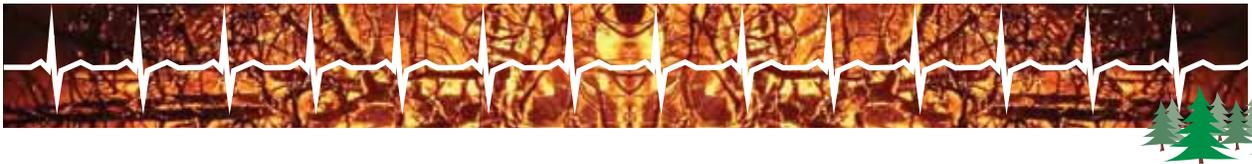
DEPARTMENT STANDARDS AWARDS:

for Call Response, Training Hours, Maintenance Sessions, and Yearly Certification were awarded to the following:

- Tom Akins** **Carl Loven**
- Cindie Baker Maita** **Steve Lynn**
- Bonnie Baker** **Pippa May**
- John Benson** **Marcia McHaffie**
- Barry Binns** **Jeff Miller**
- Grant Blue** **Paul Munding**
- Rob Bozeman** **Diane Nicholl**
- George Brandon** **Bob Olliver**
- Andrew Churnside** **Mike Palamara**
- Wyncia Clute** **Earl Perry**
- Andrew Cofelt** **Melanie Pray**
- Bob de Haas** **Kevin Reed**
- Jim Eyster** **Shawn Roberts**
- Tim Farrell** **Allen Saville**
- Terri Giannetti** **Marla Saville**
- David Glasser** **Colin Schaffer**
- Don Hassler** **Param Singh**
- Bruce Hertelendy** **Barbara Taylor**
- Mike Hupka** **John Taylor**
- Cassie Kabal** **Stacy Wade**
- Dave Kabal** **Kirk Webb**
- Scott Kohla** **Tim Wilfong**
- Bob Loveman** **Jeff Wright**
- Gail Loveman**

INSTRUCTORS FOR THE FIREFIGHTER II ACADEMY:

- Tom Akins** **Tim Farrell**
- Chief John Benson** **Nina Griffin**
- Andrew Churnside**



2009 HIGHLIGHTS

by John Benson

2009 started off with a bang, with the Olde Stage Fire. BMFPD assisted our neighboring fire departments in fighting the approximately 3,600-acre fire. Our members were on the scene for an initial sixteen hours, and then went back to assist in the mop-up phases during the next few days. After this fire, the fire departments in Boulder County were on edge, with a fire like this so early; we wondered what the rest of the season would bring us. Luckily to our delight the 2009 fire season was relatively minor. During the course of the year, BMFPD responded to only a few minor fires and smoke reports.

BMFPD was pleased to add nine new Medical First Responders to our roster. These members attended an intense 40 hour class here in Boulder County. The addition of Medical First Responders greatly increases our ability to provide prompt, professional medical care to the citizens and visitors of our district. Congratulations goes out to; Grant Blue, Katy Fassett, Tim Farrell, Michael Head, David Kabal, Gail Loveman, Kevin Reed, Param Singh, and Stacy Wade. Four of these members have already started down the path as National Registered Emergency Medical Technicians for the district. This certification is a much more intense class consisting of 212 hours of classroom, clinical, and ambulance ride along time.

In addition to enhancing our medical response, Barry Binns, Bob Olliver, and Paul Munding achieved Incident Commander status. Along with spending time in the classroom, these individuals spent a tremendous amount of time as Incident Command Trainees in the field. The members gained valuable experience in running an incident response, providing for the safety of the fire fighters and providing logistical support to on-scene personnel. There is a tremendous amount of stress and planning that an inci-

dent commander must face. These members have risen to that challenge. Big congratulations go to these members as well.

Last year provided BMFPD with the largest New Member (Rookie) Academy that anyone could remember. These individuals go through a 3-phase program, which includes classroom lecture, task books, hands-on evolutions, and a final written exam. Once all 3 phases have been completed, the BMFPD officers vote on the individuals for advancement to full members.

Staff and training were not the only things we enhanced. BMFPD replaced a two-wheel drive, 27-year-old engine, with a new, 2009 International Pierce structure/wildland urban interface engine. (See picture). The addition of this new engine is equipped with 1000 gallons of water, a 1250-gpm pump, four-wheel drive, and wildland firefighting capabilities. This engine greatly increases our response capabilities, especially in winter. Thanks to a comprehensive preventative maintenance and monthly service program, BMFPD can extend the useful life of our engines well beyond the normal anticipated life span. This is a credit to all of our personnel and our Apparatus Manager, Shawn Roberts.

As many of you know, BMFPD is predominately an all-volunteer department. As you continue to read this and other editions of *OnFire!*, you will quickly see that the level of dedication, professionalism, and hours spent by our firefighters is unsurpassed.

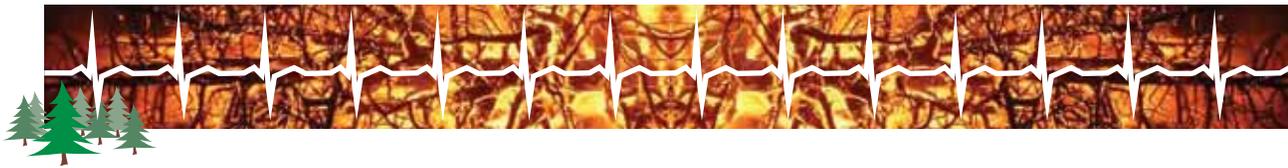


BMFPD Staff:

GREG ANDERSON
KIRK BACH
MATT BARIS
JOHN BENSON
BARRY BINNS
GRANT BLUE
ROB BOZEMAN
ANDREW CHURNSIDE
ANDREW COLFELT
JOHN COVELE
BOB DE HAAS
JIM EYSTER
TIM FARRELL
KATY FASSETT
DAVID GLASSER
NINA GRIFFIN
DON HASSLER
MIKE HEAD
BRUCE HERTELENDY
GREG HUCKABEE
MIKE HUPKA
DAVE KABAL
SCOTT KOHLA
GAIL LOVEMAN
CARL LOVEN
STEVE LYNN
LAURA McCONNELL
MARCIA McHAFFIE
MATT McHAFFIE
JEFF MILLER
PAUL MUNDINGER
BOB OLLIVER
MIKE PALAMARA
EARL PERRY
MELANIE PRAY
KEVIN REED
SHAWN ROBERTS
COLIN SCHAEFFER
PARAM SINGH
R.J. SMITH
RYAN TATE
STACY WADE
JEFF WRIGHT

Third Arm Staff:

BONNIE BAKER
SUZANNE BALOG
IRA BECKER
JOHN BENSON
GEORGE BRANDON
WYNICIA CLUTE
MARK DUVAL
TERRI GIANNETTI
GINGER HEDRICK
ALICE HENRIQUES
BRUCE HERTELENDY
CASSIE KABAL
LYNN KIMBALL
GAIL LOVEMAN
ROBERT LOVEMAN
CINDIE BAKER MAITA
PIPPA MAY
AMY MUNDINGER
DIANE NICHOLL
ALLEN SAVILLE
MARLA SAVILLE
JOHN SEWARD
BARBARA TAYLOR
JOHN TAYLOR
BARBARA THOMAS
KIRK WEBB
TIMOTHY WILFONG
CAROL ZELZER



2009 FIRE-MITIGATION WORK

by Steve Lynn

The Mitigation Department of the Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District (BMFPD) has just completed an extremely successful 2009 in terms of numbers of properties mitigated and amount of slash materials chipped. In 2009 the Mitigation Crew created or improved the defensible spaces on 93 different properties. This is a 33% increase over 2008. The breakdown of the work completed by neighborhood is 42% in Boulder Heights, 6% in Carriage Hills, 1% out of district, and 51% in Pine Brook Hills. The Mitigation Department also chipped for 179 different individuals. We estimate that we thinned 123 acres of forest and chipped 1,655 cubic yards of trees and branches (slash). All of this work was completed by the hard working Mitigation Crew lead by crew leaders Mike Palamara and Jeff Miller and composed of crew members Garrick Northrup, Ryan Tate, Kjirsten Olme, Rob Bozeman, Caitlyn Miller, Dave Kabal, and Grant Blue.

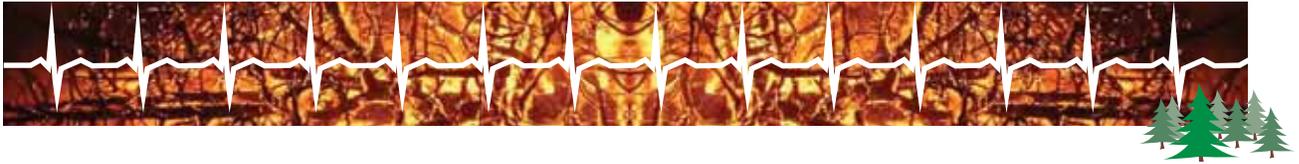
In addition to the mitigation work completed in 2009 the crew responded to 1 single tree lighting strike, which resulted in a small 10 foot by 10 foot wildfire in the district, 1 large (>20 acres) wildfire in the county, and numerous medical, rescue, and motor vehicle accidents in the district. The mitigation crew has become an integral part of the Boulder County Sheriff's Wildland Task Force, which is the initial attack rapid response force used to prevent small wildfires from turning into large property- and home-destroying catastrophes. Because we are working in the neighborhood we are one of the

very few fire districts that can provide skilled sawyers and wildland firefighters on short notice. We would like to thank all of the homeowners who supported us through utilizing BMFPD's mitigation services which allowed us to keep paid firefighters in the district and available during the day when many of our volunteers are working in the city.

The Mitigation Department of Boulder Mountain Fire has worked in 2009 and continues to complete work in 2010 on several community level thinning projects with matching funds from the forest service's Western States Wildland Urban Interface grant program, which is administered through the Colorado State Forest Service. The emphasis of this work as BMFPD designed it is to clear evacuation routes and secure ingress routes for fire-fighting equipment. These projects include installing shaded fuel breaks on Rembrandt Road, Pine View Lane, Reed Ranch Road, Linden Drive, Pine Brook Road, and West Coach Road.

The BMFPD mitigation crew is now operating year round as of 2006. The new 2010 rates are \$45/hour for each mitigation crew member and \$95/hour for chipping services, which includes 2 laborers. If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions on how we can improve our services please contact the Mitigation Coordinator, Steve Lynn, at (303) 447-9549 or email at mitigation@bouldermountainfire.org.





ELECTION NOT NEEDED THIS TIME

By Eric Ramberg

Every two years, the Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District board of directors has an election. This year, the positions of Jim Eyster (Ward D5), Kate Wilson (Ward D4), and Chris Blue (D1) are up for election. Kate and Jim have decided to run again. John Taylor of Boulder Heights has agreed to run for Chris's seat.

We published a notice of self nomination per CRS 32-1-804.1. No other nominations were submitted for the open seats, nor were there any write-in candidates, therefore, we have cancelled the (expensive) election.

So, the board members for the next 4 years will be: Jim Eyster, Kate Wilson and John Taylor. The remaining seats will come up for election in 2012. They are currently filled by Eric Ramberg, Bob Loveman, Rob Clark, and Marianne Kurtinaitis.

COUNTY FORESTER LAUDS BMFPD BEETLE PROGRAM

Ryan Ludlow, Forestry Education and Outreach Coordinator at Boulder County Land Use, is impressed by our fire district's BeetleBuster program. BMFPD has been a leader in recognizing the connection between fire mitigation and forest health.

Ludlow has invited BeetleBuster Suzanne Adams to join him in giving talks on forest health/beetle programs to explain how the BeetleBuster program was organized and how it works. The first of these talks will be for Crestview Estates and Left Hand Canyon.

The talks are beneficial to BMFPD in at least two ways: first, the discussion strengthens the beetle battle by helping neighboring communities connect the dots between beetle mitigation and forest fire mitigation, and, second, "anything that decreases beetle infestation to the north of us can only help in our district," as Adams said.

Adams also spoke last December in Aspen at a For the Forest symposium on bark beetle issues.

CASH FOR CUTTERS

by Suzanne Adams

We live in the Red Zone, the wildland-urban interface where an overgrown forest presents serious risks from both wildfire and bark beetle epidemics. But removing trees is expensive. After Cash for Clunkers and talk of Cash for Caulkers, how about **Cash for Cutters**?

Actually, several such programs exist. BMFPD has been receiving matching grants from the Colorado State Forest Service for a number of years. The fuel breaks made possible by these grants proved their worth in two recent wildfires. But what can the individual landowner do? Fortunately, there are some programs that make fire and forest health protection more affordable for homeowners.

A new program just being developed this month is called, enigmatically, "Emergency Supplemental Grant." The title seems to recognize the desperate condition of Colorado's forests. This grant offers matching funds of \$470/acre to individual homeowners for fire mitigation work. Details of the application process are still being worked out, but interested homeowners should call Brian Baer at Colorado State Forest Service, (303) 823-5774. Additional funds will probably become available later this spring as awards are made to district forest service offices.

Also, all BMFPD residents are eligible for a tax write-off for fire mitigation work. We qualify as Coloradans in a wildland-urban interface fire district covered by a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Any work done for fire mitigation, up to a cost of \$5000, can receive a 50% tax write-off up to \$2500. The good part of this plan is that it applies not only to cutting infested trees and chipping the slash, but also to the cost of removing the woody material from the site. A homeowner can have trees cut and the branches and logs trucked to the County Sort Yards for safe disposal in an air-curtain burner. If you are part of an organized fuel break and want to take further steps to protect your property by removing the biomass that can attract beetles, here's your chance. While the tax write-off cannot be used to offset funds already matched by a government grant, additional charges related to the wildfire mitigation project would be eligible.

Information on this tax write-off is available at Station 1 (1905 Linden Drive) or from beetlebusters@gmail.com.



HELP FROM FORESTRY 'SORT YARDS'

By Ryan Ludlow, Forestry Education and Outreach Coordinator, Boulder County Land Use

Disposing of Cut Trees:

The Boulder County Forest Health Initiative is pleased to announce that the popular **Community Forestry Sort Yard** (CFSY) program will be offered again in 2010. A collaborative effort with Peak to Peak Wood, the program seeks to provide private forest landowners a free-of-charge location to dispose of trees cut from their land during forest health improvement, bark beetle, and defensible space cutting projects.

Bark beetle epidemic escalates on Front Range:

The main justification for establishing Community Forestry Sort Yards in Boulder County is to help forest landowners respond to the ever increasing bark beetle outbreak. Bark beetle populations continue to spread in Boulder County and have now hit more than 97,000 acres of forest in the county. Unfortunately, beetles are expected to continue to march out of higher elevation forests and into the lower elevation ponderosa pine belt. If the epidemic continues along its current trajectory, many of the largest pines, including lower elevation ponderosa pine, will be red and dead in the coming years. A look to Larimer County shows what may be in store for Boulder County's forests, In 2009 Larimer County saw a doubling of red, dead trees with almost 500,000 acres of forest impacted by beetles.

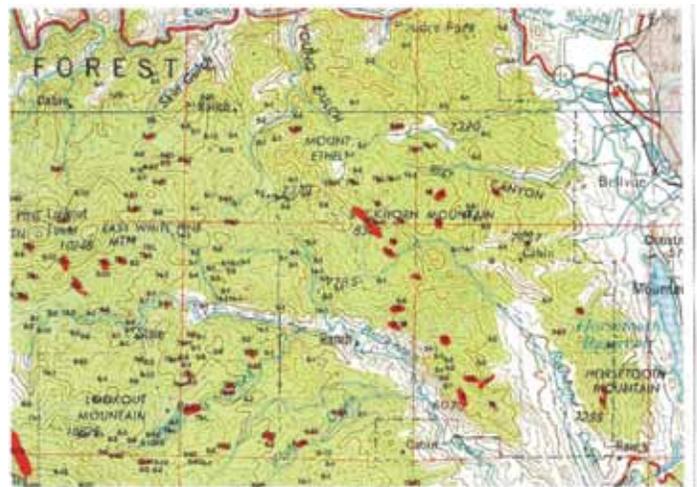
By the time this bark beetle epidemic comes to a close most Coloradoans will have felt direct or indirect impacts of bark beetles. Forest landowners and recreationists will experience the most direct impacts; however, the water that comes out of plains dweller's faucets flows from bark beetle impacted forests, and if a large wildfire starts in these forests the consequences to the Denver Metro water supply could be substantial.

Community Forestry Sort Yard 2010 operation schedule:

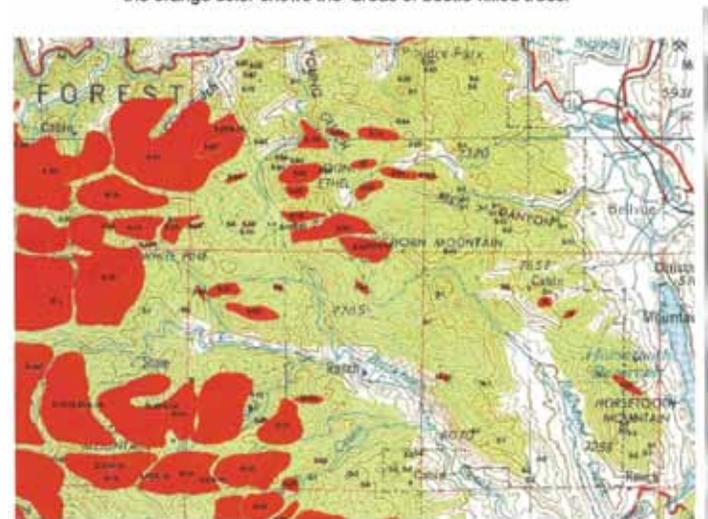
The **Meeker Park** CFSY, located on the Peak-to-Peak Highway near Meeker Park, will reopen to private forest landowners in early May and will operate until mid-July. The site, serving north Boulder County and southern Larimer County, will operate Tuesday-Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The new **Nederland** CFSY, located on Ridge Road just north of Nederland, is anticipated to open in early August and will operate into October. Hours for this site, serving southern Boulder County, have not yet been determined.

Check www.bouldercounty.org/foresthealth for the most up-to-date information. Please visit www.peak-topeakwood.org before starting your cutting projects to ensure that you cut logs to required lengths.

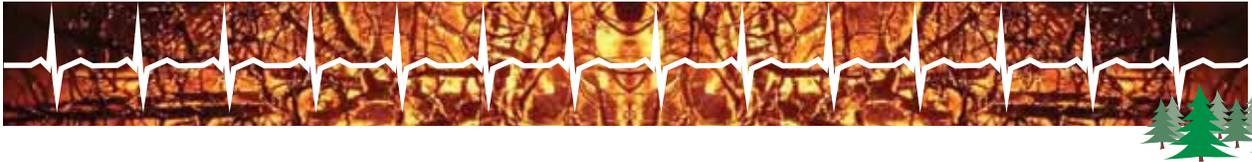


2008 Larimer County beetle infestation, where the orange color shows the areas of beetle-killed trees.



1 year later; 2009 Larimer County beetle infestation, where the orange color shows the areas of beetle-killed trees.

These two "aerial" presentations [courtesy of Ryan Ludlow] show the beetle situation in 2008 and 2009 in Larimer County (our neighbor to the north). This infestation blew up in only one year.



VISIBLE ADDRESS SIGNS

by John Benson

I want everyone to stop what you are doing, walk out to your driveway, and check to see if your address marker is visible and reflective.

What would happen if, in the middle of the night, a member of your family were having a heart attack or a major medical emergency, and the emergency personnel responding were to have trouble finding your home? This is a scenario that I want to avoid.

As I drive the district, I still see addresses that are broken, missing, or not visible, even in the daylight hours.

I congratulate those of you who have replaced your old worn out or missing signs, but we still have a long way to go. McGuckin Hardware has these very same house-number signs for sale here in Boulder. I strongly urge everyone in need of a sign to purchase one and mount it so it is visible from the street. Time is of the essence when we are responding to any emergency.

Think about your loved ones or guests in their time of need.

THIRD ARM'S PROGRESS AND PLANS

By Robert Loveman

The Third Arm's significant achievement for 2009 was having completed Neighborhood Fire Drills for the entire community. The cooperation of many residents and our ability to test the County's new and improved Reverse 911 System was the key to their success.

We will be focusing in 2010 on expansion of awareness of the Third Arm's animal evacuation techniques, which will include encouraging the formation of small neighborhood groups ("pods") to assist each

other in assuring that all pets/animals are accounted for in evacuation emergencies.

Additionally, we have begun training for traffic management during nighttime emergencies. The January 2009 Olde Stage fire involved a night evacuation in Boulder Heights, so we have included extensive plans for more nighttime evacuation training in 2010.

Also, in 2010, we need to expand the number of Third Arm volunteers—neighbors who have a few hours to help with Phone Tree notifications, volunteer recruitment, and also traffic management. Details of this expansion will be communicated in group meetings later.

MUTUAL AID IN FIREFIGHTING

On March 10, Boulder Rural Fire Protection District issued a call to neighboring fire districts to help fight a large house fire on Yarmouth. BMFPD and others quickly answered the call. BMFPD brought three pieces of fire-fighting apparatus and 13 people to help battle the blaze. They drove tenders with water and provided support in fighting the fire within the structure. The cooperative effort and mutual firefighting aid saved adjacent homes. There were no injuries.



BMFPD Officers:

John Benson
Chief

Grant Blue
Assistant Chief

Andrew Churnside
Operations Captain

Bob Olliver
Logistics Captain

Nina Griffin
Medical Captain

Marcia McHaffie
Safety

Greg Huckabee
Training Lieutenant

Shawn Roberts
Apparatus

Steve Lynn
Wildland / Mitigation

Tim Farrell
Stations / PPE / SCBA

Paul Mundinger
Communications

BMFPD Board:

Eric Ramberg
Chair

Chris Blue

Rob Clark

Jim Eyster

Kate Wilson

Maryanne Kurtinaitis

Robert Loveman

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OUR BIGGEST GARAGE SALE EVER?

By Susan Maxwell

The Auxiliary would like everyone in the District to know that there are lots of ways to participate in their annual spring fundraiser – the Garage Sale **May 21, 22, 23** – the weekend before Memorial Day weekend – from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Station 1, otherwise known as the Pine Brook Hills Community Center at 1905 Linden.

First of all, we hope you will donate lots of terrific stuff – useful items that you just don’t need anymore. They can be dropped off at Station 1 on four days: **May 8, 9, 15 and 16** between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Second, why not volunteer to help? There are lots of options – unpacking and sorting on the drop-off days listed above, pricing items May 17 through 20, working at the sale itself May 21-23 and/or clean-up May 23. All the options are fun and the Auxiliary will greatly appreciate you. Contact Art and Babette Markey to sign up (303) 440-6132.

Third, please come and shop! There will be fantastic bargains and 100% of the sales directly benefit the wonderful volunteer firefighters of BMFPD.

Every year we strive for the biggest sale yet – help us get there in 2010 – THANKS!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

by John Benson

Looking for a new challenge? BMFPD is currently seeking applications for volunteers to join our highly trained and professional department. Please contact John Benson at (303) 440-0235 or by email chief@bouldermountainfire.org to learn more details.

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- Our Biggest Garage Sale Ever?
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