



Fire Department Monthly Status Report

May 10, 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

First I would like to welcome our new board members Sharon Woods and Kent Wagner. They are taking the seats that have been vacated by Greg Branch and Alec Schwartz. Greg and Alec have done an excellent job guiding Elk Creek over the years and now have reached the end of their second term as Board Members. They have been very good partners to work with and have helped guide Elk Creek into the future.

As Spring moves into our mountains, we are adjusting to our “new normal” during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have had 3 new employees start at the first of the month which brings 2 shifts to 3 and one shift to 4 fire fighters. All three firefighters were volunteers. We also had District Administrator Jayne Bales gave notice that she is moving. She was with us for almost 5 years and was a very valuable asset to the agency. She'll be working remotely until we find her replacement.

During April we had 2 firefighters out for most of the month with COVID-19. We had 5 people off of work for 2 weeks for testing to ensure the safety of firefighters and the public. We determined the testing after extensive contact tracing and working with our medical direction.

We are still in full pandemic protocols for our stations and firefighters. Most all calls involve extra PPE and we have the dedicated COVID-19 transport ambulance.

The financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are slowly starting to materialize. We have applied for several grants to offset the cost of wages, PPE and other COVID-19 related expenses.

This month is also a transition to getting back to “normal” business as the fire department. Our trainings were put on hold and nearly everything that was not COVID-19 related has slowed to halt since March. We are working on getting trainings scheduled following CDC guidelines on groups and social distancing.

With the stay at home order lifted the public lands in our area have seen record use which means we will be out as well. Traffic has increased substantially on 285 over the last few weekends and will continue to increase.

Jacob N. Ware
Fire Chief

OPERATIONS

- Volunteer firefighters had 18 hours of staffing at Station 1.
- Elk Creek Averaged 3.4 members per call.
- 16% of the calls overlapped
- Average Response Time 10:05

April - Emergency Incidents	2018	2019	2020
1. Fire	1	1	4
2. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) & Rescue	59	59	30
3. Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	2	5	3
3. Service Call	4	2	8
4. Good Intent Call	22	14	14
5. False Alarm and False Call	10	10	7
6. Special Incident	0	0	0
Total	98	91	69

April - Additional Emergency Incidents	2018	2019	2020
Automatic/Mutual Aid Emergency Responses provided to the Elk Creek by other Agencies	1	1	4

April Ambulance Transports	2018	2019	2020
	28	34	11

TRAINING

- Most of the training was online for April.
- Firefighters finished the Wildland Safety Refresher which was web based.
- Firefighters logged 946 hours of training for the month. The bulk of this was the Wildland Fire Suppression Modules 80 hours of critical training.

PREVENTION

- Fire Marshal Parker worked remotely for the month of April.
- The public meeting for Conifer Commons has been scheduled and Elk Creek has delivered a “Will Serve Letter” to Jefferson County Planning and Zoning.

WILDLAND

- There have already been several fires in the area. 2 fires have been the result of shooting and 3 have had an undetermined cause.
- The current national situation is a slower than the 10 year average for fires and acreage. The current predictions are for an average year for our area and many parts of the country are already warmer and drier than normal.
- The Wildland Fire Module is available nationally. They have the ability to be self-sufficient for 14 days.
- With all of the current COVID-19 precautions, we are going to wait to make any other resources available until there is some clear direction on interstate travel and how camps will be managed. We are setting up engines to be self-sufficient for 3 days and there is a possibility of setting up for 14-day self-sufficiency if that is the direction incidents are going to go.

FLEET, EQUIPMENT, & FACILITIES

Station 1

- The vendor has been selected for paving station 1. The project will start this summer.
- Another command truck has been ordered.
- We are currently seeking bids for painting the station.
- We are also seeking bids for the replacement of some of the bay doors.

Station 2

- There will be 2 steel Conex buildings added to the station to increase storage and work area for the wildland fire module.

Station 3

- The station has been a tagged and some community members got together with Moore Lumber and repainted the wall over all the graffiti.
- The cameras will be repaired this month and new lighting will be added.
- Jefferson County Sherriff is doing several studies before moving into the radio tower area to determine electrical needs.