



Fire Department Monthly Status Report

February/ March 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

The world is currently experiencing a global pandemic of the COVID-19 virus. While it started in China late last year, it has started to have an effect on the Elk Creek Fire Protection District.

In the first week of March things started to ramp up in Colorado, that same week was when Elk Creek Fire Protection District shut down all public meetings, changed trainings to virtual and started preparing for COVID-19 calls.

We have now set up a dedicated COVID-19 ambulance that has been stripped of everything but essential equipment as well as the patient compartment covered in plastic and the department has implemented strict COVID-19 SOP's and guidelines response and transports.

We are doing ok on personal protective equipment. With the current state of things, we are using full PPE on all medical calls. We have had to improvise cleaning methods due to the fact that commercially available units are not available. The first is a CO2 powered sprayer to decon the back of the ambulance, an N95 mask decon oven and we are working on a UV decon device for masks. Many agencies are doing the same things with the supply chain issues with PPE and cleaning supplies.

Calls have been on the decline over the last month with the statewide stay at home order.

We do have one shift that is out with 2 positive COVID-19 cases and 3 others on isolation pending test results. We have implemented daily station decontamination as well as trying to enforce social distance and masks. We are currently trying to schedule a commercial cleaning service to come in and help decon the station.

This is an extremely dynamic situation and things are changing daily.

Jacob N. Ware
Fire Chief

OPERATIONS

- Volunteer firefighters had 133 hours of staffing for March and 370 hours in February at Station. With the current situation, many volunteers have chosen to stay at home to take care of family. They have been available for calls but not doing shift work.
- Elk Creek Averaged 3.4 members per call in March and 2.7 in February.
- 8% of the calls overlapped in March and 27% in February.
- Average Response Time 11:28 in March and 10:33 in February.

March - Emergency Incidents	2018	2019	2020
1. Fire	0	3	4
2. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) & Rescue	57	48	56
3. Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	2	2	0
3. Service Call	9	4	4
4. Good Intent Call	9	15	13
5. False Alarm and False Call	8	7	5
6. Special Incident	0	0	0
Total	85	79	82

March - Additional Emergency Incidents	2018	2019	2020
Automatic/Mutual Aid Emergency Responses provided to the Elk Creek by other Agencies	5	5	5

March Ambulance Transports	2018	2019	2020
	36	28	27

TRAINING

- The month of March has been concentrating on COVID-19 training and refreshing on a number of Hazmat skills that are applicable to dealing with virus exposure.
- Captain Yellin has also created an online wildland refresher (RT-130).
- All EMS training has been related to the COVID-19 virus.

PREVENTION

- Fire Marshal Parker has been working remotely for the month due to the COVID-19 virus.
- Fire Marshal Parker is currently working on a standard of cover document. This document will explain what we are able to currently do for fire protection and EMS coverage in the district. This document will help guide us in the future with development and planning
- The Conifer Commons development has gone to planning and zoning at the county. We did give a will serve letter to the county.
- . The Real Fire app is moving forward. We are hoping to have the program live in June, although property assessments will be limited with social distancing.

WILDLAND

- The Wildland Module was isolated for two weeks due to a possible COVID-19 exposure. The testing process was not available at the time so it was not confirmed.
- The Forest Service has not come out with a solid standard or guidance on dealing with COVID-19 for the 2020 season. As of now we are looking are not making any line resources available until there is guidance and some idea on how to keep people safe from exposure on incidents. The module is self-sufficient for 14 days without resupply. They will be available based on fire danger in district.
- So far the fire season has been below average across the county. Many of the predictions for the front range are a normal season with average temperatures and precipitation.
- We responded mutual aid to 3 fires in North Fork Fires district along the river road. The 3 fires totaled 50 acres. We responded with the module, a tender and engine.

FLEET, EQUIPMENT, & FACILITIES

Station 1

- Engine 431 had a pump cooler failure and spent the month at the vendor for repairs
- The new utility pickup is in service with a call sign of Utility 496.
- With the virus and the stay at home order most projects have been put on hold.

Station 2

- The Module is getting ready to start the 2020 season so they have been working on getting the station in order.

Station 3

- The radio project is continuing. The final use agreement with Jefferson County Sheriff is being signed tonight and hopefully work will be completed in the next 2 months.
- There has been a problem with graffiti on the station, we are getting another camera to cover the area.

Station 4

- As the weather clears up the water supply project is going to start with the cistern fill as well as the pump for filling apparatus.