



# **ROCK SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT JULY 2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

Tradition of Service to the Community

Looking to the Future

Always Vigilant

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## A Message from the Chief

2019 marks the 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Rock Springs Fire Department – the continuation of a long history of serving Rock Springs and those who reside, work and pass through the City. The year began with the retirement of Captain Scott Wissel, who began his service to the Community in October of 1979. Captain Wissel saw many changes over the years – the construction of all three current fire stations, and the transition of the Rock Springs Fire Department into an all-hazards agency and sponsor of the Region 4 Emergency Response Team for the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security.

The tradition of service to our community still runs strong in the culture of the Rock Springs Fire Department; the members strive to meet the needs of those who we serve through training, education and response. On average, each firefighter participates in 280 hours or more of continuing education, leadership development and skills enhancement each year. These training activities range from traditional fire-ground training, to Advanced Life Support (ALS) emergency medical protocols to better ways of teaching fire safety and accident prevention to the community. On average, the members of the Rock Springs Fire Department log in excess of 10,000 total hours of training each year.

The services provided by the Rock Springs Fire Department go far beyond fire suppression. In addition to suppressing fires in buildings and vehicles, Rock Springs Fire responds to all 911 calls within the city limits of Rock Springs – these calls amounted to 2061 incident responses for 2018 and range from technical rescue such as high-angle and confined space rescue to wildland firefighting. 2018 saw the Rock Springs Fire Department's 1<sup>st</sup> wildland fire deployments, with E-463 assisting with wildland fire suppression around Wyoming and in Northern Colorado.

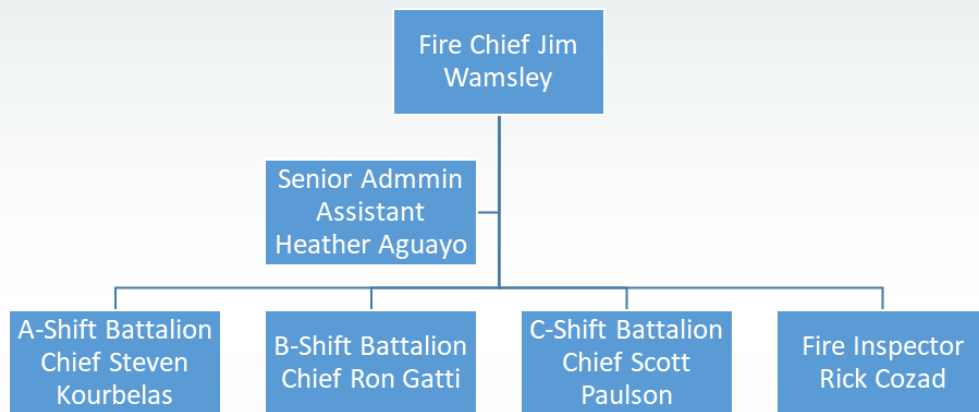
Rock Springs Fire Department is very involved in the community, attending drills at all of the schools in Rock Springs, Memorial Hospital and other entities. Fire Hydrant flow-testing, equipment & building maintenance, occupancy inspections, CPR instruction, fire extinguisher classes and cooking safety for Rock Springs High School are just a few of the many community programs which Rock Springs Fire Department is proud to offer and participate in.

The Rock Springs Fire Department is an all-hazards fire department with 35 Firefighters and Command Staff and a Senior Admin Assistant. These fine people strive to make things better each and every day, never failing to exceed expectations. It is a true honor to serve alongside this outstanding team as Fire Chief of the City of Rock Springs.

# The Rock Springs Fire Department

From the earliest days of the City, the residents of Rock Springs recognized the need for established fire protection. The Rock Springs Fire Department was established in 1904 by Rock Springs City Ordinance #46. Throughout the history of Rock Springs Fire Department, the scope of operations has progressed and evolved to continually meet the demands and needs of the community. Although the Rock Springs Fire Department began as a reactive force which addressed only the need for response to fires, the mission of the organization has evolved through the years

to encompass all-hazards response to every type and class of emergency occurring in the City. In addition to incident response, Rock Springs Fire Department spends countless hours every year educating the public about fire and accident prevention. Code enforcement, plan review and inspections of buildings under construction round out the basic mission of Rock Springs Fire.



Rock Springs Fire Department consists of 36 personnel who staff three Fire Stations around the clock seven days a week. The Fire Stations include Headquarters (600 College Drive), Fire Station-2 (2117 Hillcrest Drive), and Fire Station-3 (145 Industrial Drive).

## **Mission Statement**

The Rock Springs Fire Department is a public service organization established to provide emergency and non-emergency assistance to the community for the protection of lives, health, environment, and property through education, prevention, mitigation, and control.

## **Values**

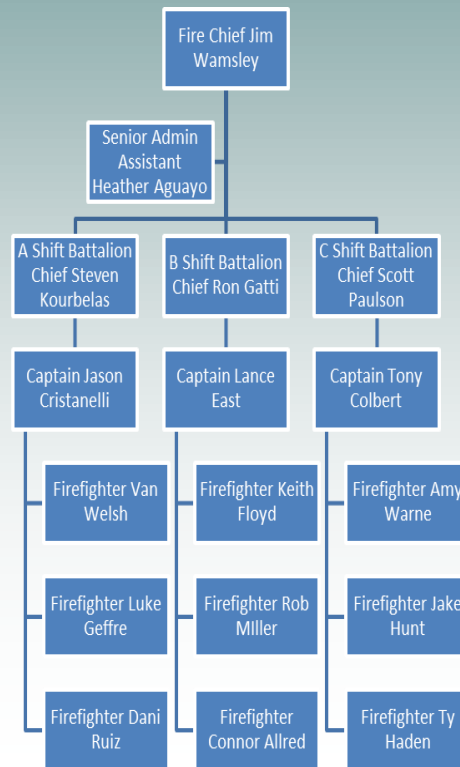
Duty – Moral Obligation; Honesty – Fairness, Sincerity, & Truth; Integrity – Moral & Intellectual Honesty

Strength – Endurance and Fortitude; Honor – Being True to One's Self

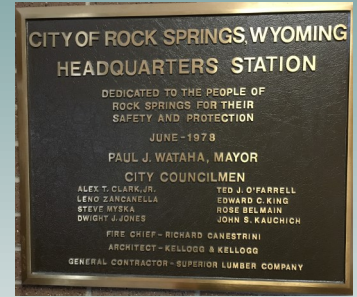
# Headquarters Fire Station— 600 College Drive



## Headquarters Personnel:



## Year of Construction:



## Apparatus:

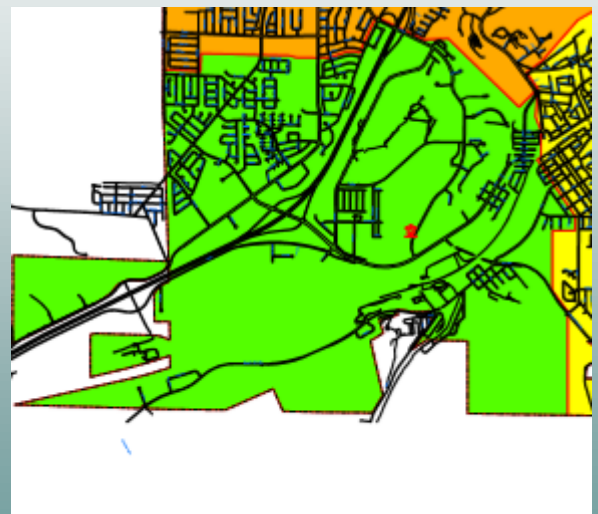
Truck-1 2017 Ferrara 100' Aerial Platform; 2000 gpm. pump; 300 gallons water

Ladder-1 1999 HME 75' Aerial Ladder; 1500 gpm. pump; 400 gallons water

Engine-1 1997 General Fire pumper; 1500 gpm. pump; 1000 gallons water (Reserve Engine)

RERT-4 Haz Mat/Emergency Response Trailer

## Headquarters Response Area:



The Headquarters Fire Station is located at the bottom of College Drive. Normal Staffing for the Headquarters Station is One Battalion Chief (Shift Commander), One Captain, and three Firefighters.

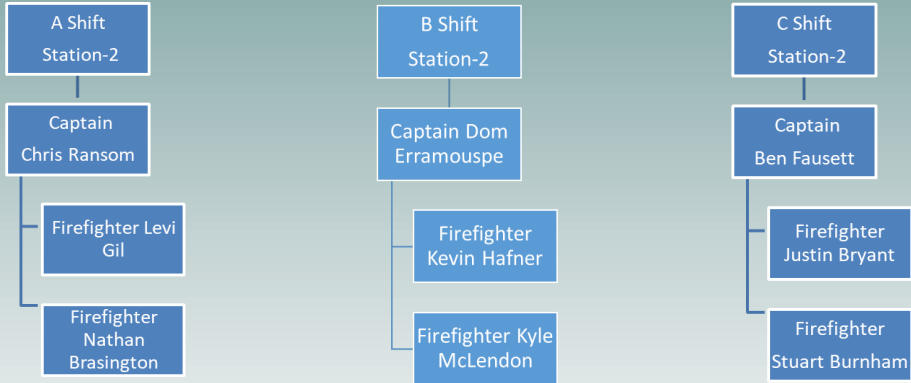
The Fire Chief and Administrative Assistant reside at Headquarters.

Regional Response Team 4 (RERT 4) and related equipment are staged at Headquarters to facilitate activations of RERT 4.



# Fire Station 2— 2117 Hillcrest Drive

## Station 2 Personnel:



## Year of Construction:



## Apparatus:

Engine-2 2008 Rosenbauer  
pumper; 1500 gpm. Pump;  
1000 gallons water

Unit-5 Chevrolet Support Unit  
with High-Angle Rescue  
Equipment



Fire Station #2 is located off of the south-side belt loop on Hillcrest Drive. Station 2 houses two Firefighters and one Captain . The Office of the Fire Inspector is also at Fire Station 2.

## Fire Station 2 Response Area



# Fire Station 3— 145 Industrial Drive

## Station 3 Personnel:



## Year of Construction:



## Apparatus:

Engine-3 2013 Rosenbauer pumper; 1250 gpm. Pump; 750 gallons water

Engine-463 2009 Ford F-550

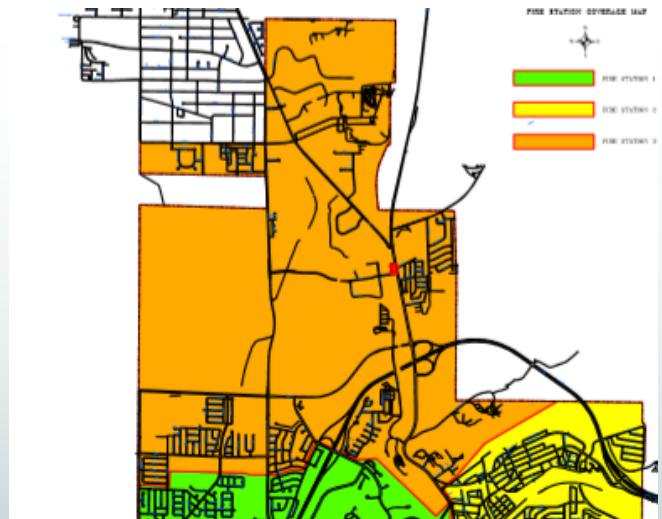


Fire Station #3 houses two Firefighters and One Captain. This Station serves the industrial area of Industrial Drive as well as the north-western area of Rock Springs.

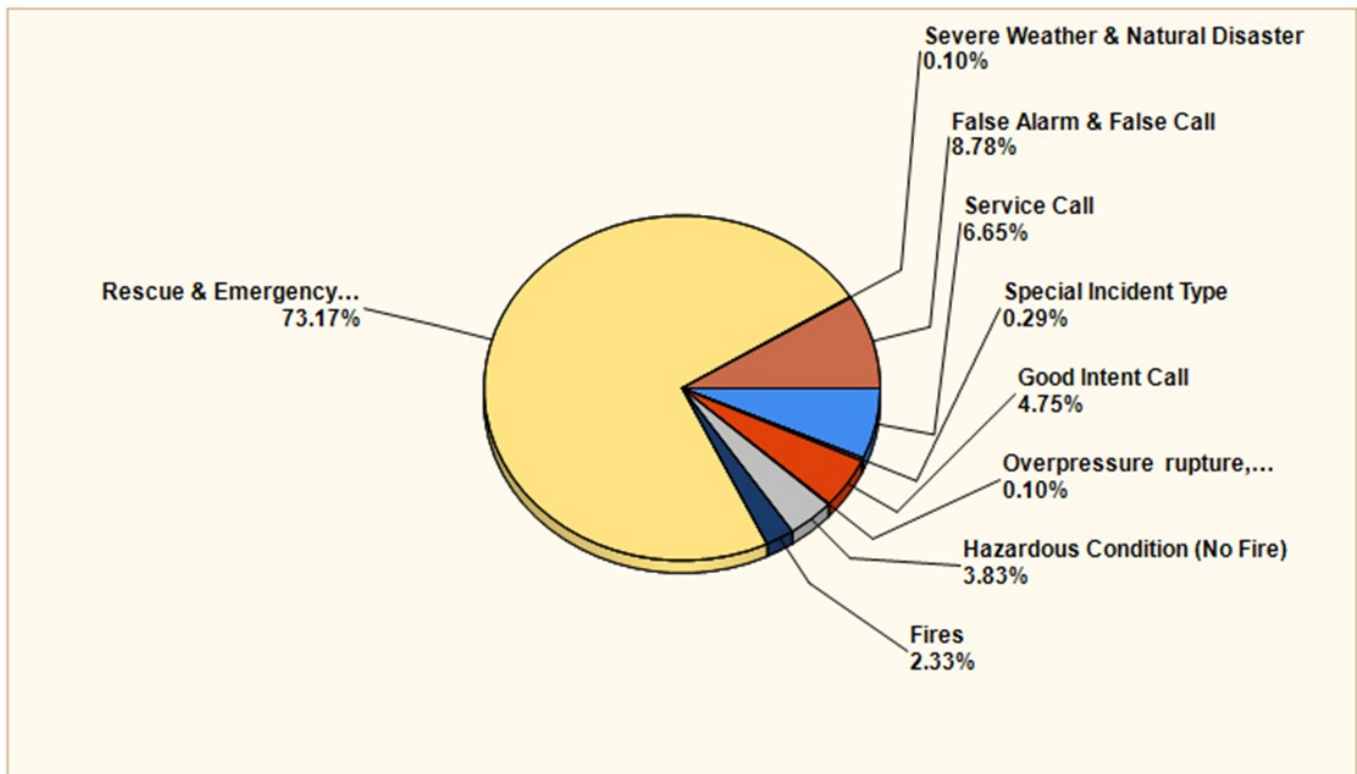
Station 3 is also home to the training grounds which consist of a four-story training tower equipped with standpipes and fire department connections (FDC) for training which represents hotels and multi-story buildings.

The burn building has three levels with a burn room in the top and bottom floors. All aspects of residential construction are present including utilities and a "scuttle-hatch" roof ventilation section in the roof to help train personnel for roof operations.

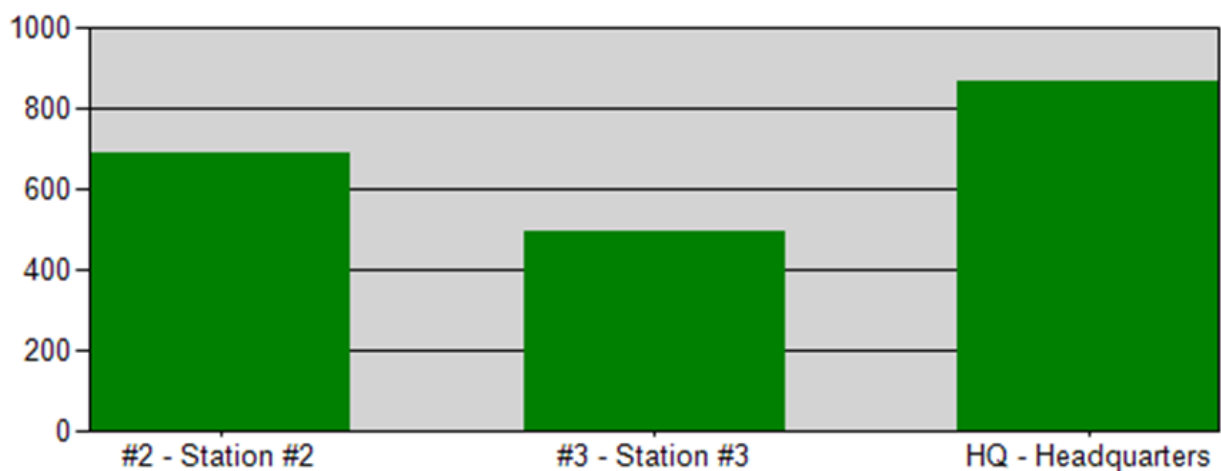
## Fire Station 3 Response Area:



## Incident Breakdown by Major Incident Type



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	48	2.33%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheating - no fire	2	0.10%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	1508	73.17%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	79	3.83%
Service Call	137	6.65%
Good Intent Call	98	4.75%
False Alarm & False Call	181	8.78%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	2	0.10%
Special Incident Type	6	0.29%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2061</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

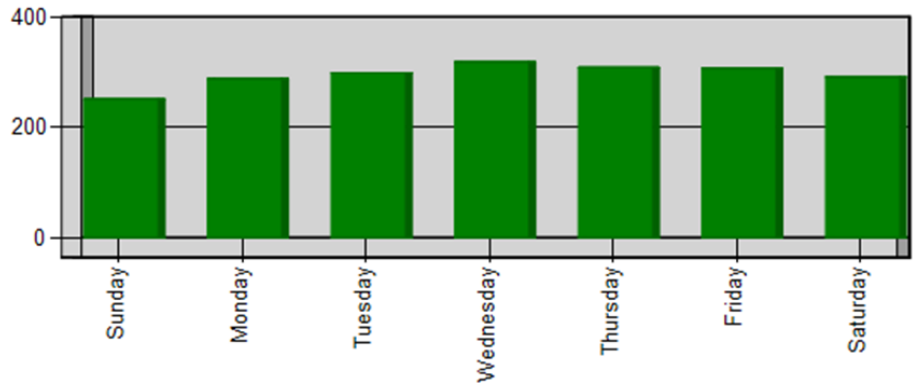




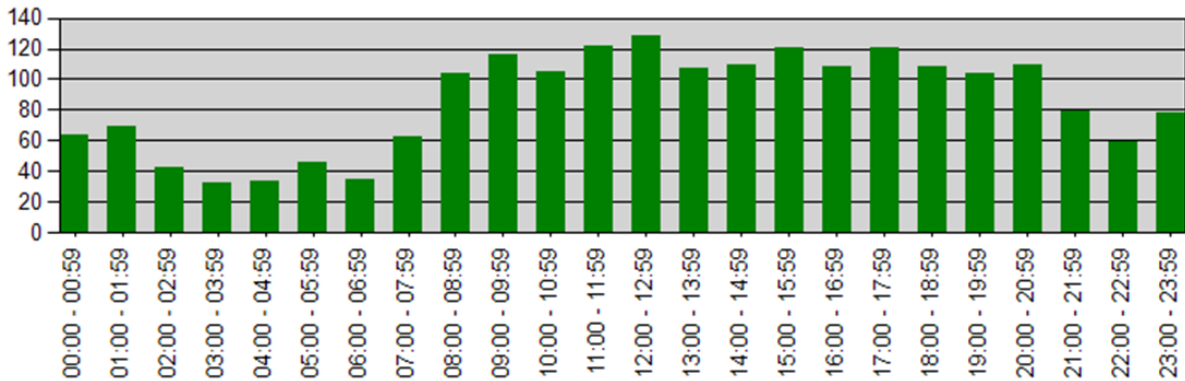
# Incidents by Time of Day, Day of Week, and Overlapping Incidents

Incident Count by Day of the Week

DAY OF THE WEEK	INCIDENTS
Sunday	251
Monday	288
Tuesday	298
Wednesday	318
Thursday	308
Friday	307
Saturday	291
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2061</b>



Incident Count by Hour

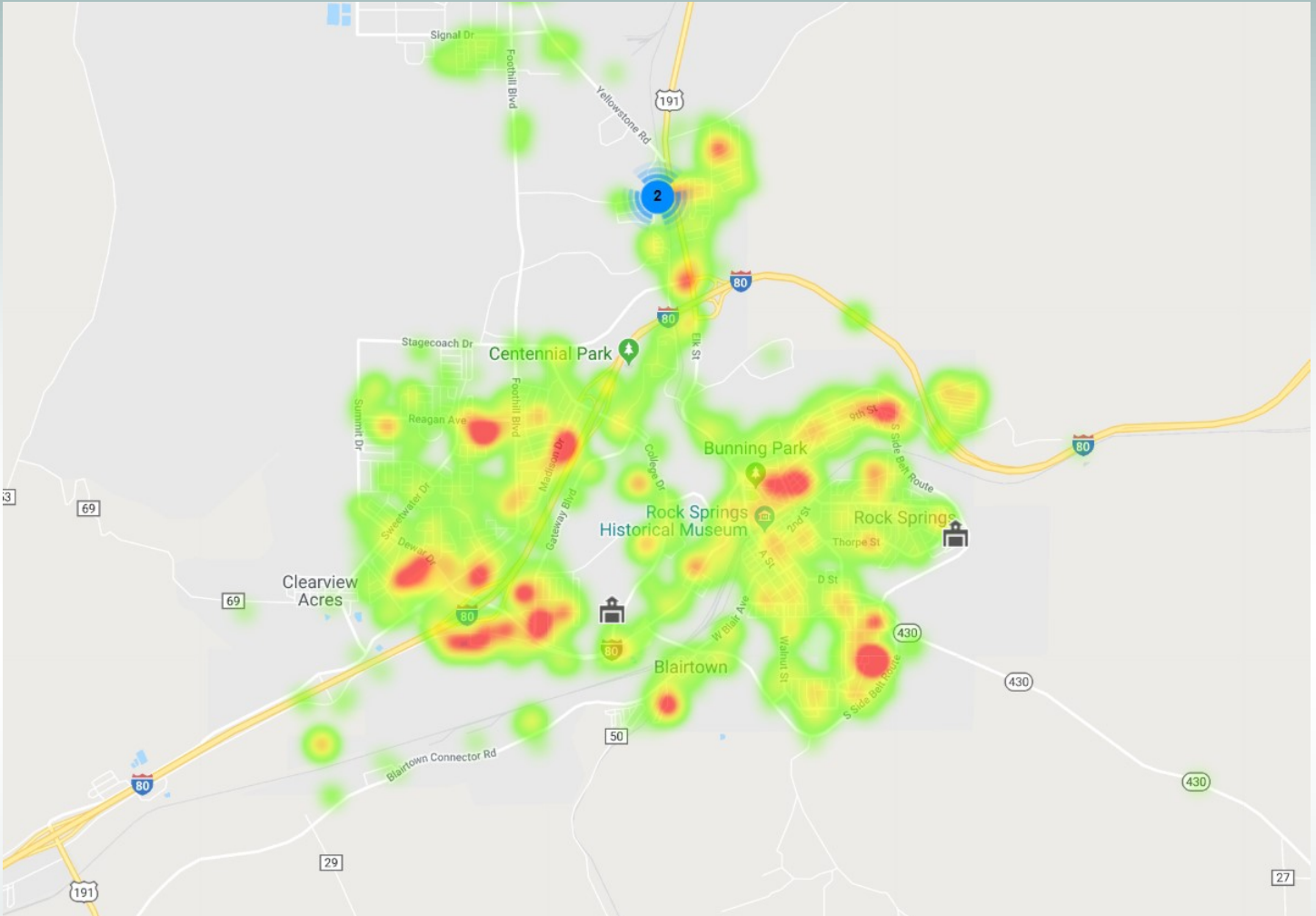


Percentage of Concurrent or Overlapping Incidents  
Almost 30% of the time there are multiple Incidents  
occurring which tie up one or more resources.

OVERLAPPING CALLS	
# OVERLAPPING	% OVERLAPPING
616	29.89

## “Heat Map” of Incidents

A “Heat Map” shows where incidents occur within a particular geographical area. Concentrations of incidents are represented by shaded areas, with green being the lightest area of repeated occurrence and red being the most concentrated.



## Community Risk Reduction

The Rock Springs Fire Department is engaged in Community Risk Reduction on many levels. At its core, Community Risk Reduction seeks to anticipate the many ways in which harm or property loss can occur and then eliminate those sources through one of several methods: Education, Engineering, Enforcement, Economic Incentive and Emergency Response.

Emergency Response is last on our list as the Rock Springs Fire Department subscribes to the philosophy of first preventing harm if at all possible.



The first opportunity is through education in the schools of Sweetwater County School District #1. Through an excellent partnership between the Rock Springs Fire and Police Departments and School Superintendent Kelly McGovern, crews from Rock Springs Fire department attend a drill at each facility in the District once per month. The adoption of the Standard Response Protocol paved the way for this cooperative effort. The Drills vary in nature and include Fire Drills, Lock-Down Drills, Lock-Out Drills and Reunification Drills. Crews evaluate the effectiveness of the evacuation during Fire Drills and assist Rock Springs Police and School-Resource Officers in evaluating the lock-down/lock-out effectiveness and help refine procedures for reunification should any building require complete evacuation due to fire or other tragedy.

**School Drills and Safety Meetings attended in 2018: 122      Hours engaged in School Drills: 159**

Annual Safety Inspections for the public spaces in the City of Rock Springs is an activity that ensures that each venue meets the requirements outlined in the International Fire Code. Items checked include storage of hazardous materials, clear access and egress paths and other factors which help prevent fires and emergencies and maintain safe means for exiting the building during emergencies. These inspections not only help validate compliance with the Fire Code, they also help ensure the safety of the residents and visitors to Rock Springs and help limit liability for businesses when disaster strikes.

In 2018 the Rock Springs Fire Department made the switch to electronic inspection forms through the Emergency Reporting System records management program. The integration into an electronic cloud-based system sends an email of the inspection results as soon as the inspection is completed. The system also provides for immediate scheduling of follow up inspections when needed to ensure that safety concerns are addressed in a timely manner.

**Number of public occupancies in Rock Springs: 793**

**Inspections conducted for reporting period: 535   Average time per inspection: 34 minutes**

Plan review and inspection during building construction and renovation is administered by Fire Inspector Rick Cozad. When plans for new construction or renovation are submitted to the Building Department, they are also referred to Inspector Cozad for review to make sure that all aspects of the process adhere to the requirements of the International Fire Code. The fire suppression systems are reviewed, as are the several other aspects of the Fire Code. Inspector Cozad works closely with Chief Building Inspector Jeff Tuttle to validate the Occupancy Load (number of people the building can safely accommodate), access and egress (safe entry and exit) and other factors such as adequate fire lanes and access during emergency operations by the Fire Department.

Inspector Cozad also conducts annual inspections of Pre-School and Child-care facilities in compliance with Wyoming Statutes.

# Community Risk Reduction— Fire Prevention

Week

Prevention Week is observed annually by fire departments across the nation. Fire Prevention Day was instituted in 1920 to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire. The event became Fire Prevention Week in 1922 and occurs in the Sunday through Saturday week during which the 9th of October falls. The Fire Prevention Week Team coordinates the school presentations with Sweetwater County School District #1 in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week each year.



Rock Springs Fire Department's Fire Prevention week team:

Amy Warne, aka Halley the Fire Clown.

Lance East, puppeteer

Nathan Brasington, puppeteer

Tony Colbert—too many roles to list, most recently as the renown Gameshow Host Antonius!

Kelly Mathis—lighting, sound and special effects

Steve Casey—Sparky, logistics



The Fire Prevention Team puts in many hours of preparation each year in advance of Fire Prevention Week. A new play is written each year that references the safety message and slogan of Fire Prevention Week. New sets are created each year to reflect the play and the Team practices for many hours to ensure that the message is being presented in a fashion that will be understood by the children and equally as important, taken home to be shared with their families. Many parents have commented on how their children came home from a Fire Prevention Week presentation and asked about home fire drills and exit plans.

The presentation is given at each elementary school in the City of Rock Springs as well as Head Start and the Child Development center—10 Schools, all in the space of one week!



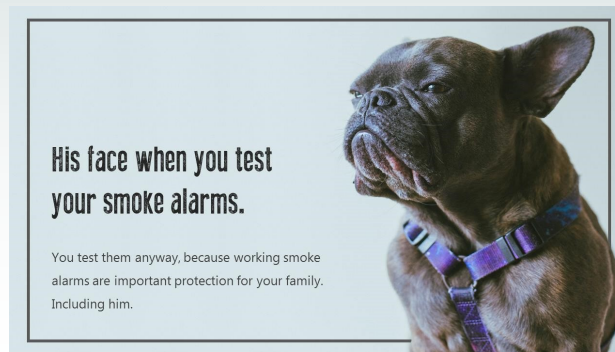


## Community Risk Reduction—Additional Programs

**Smoke Alarms & CO Detectors:** Rock Springs Fire Department has had a program to ensure that every home in the City of Rock Springs has a working smoke alarm for many years. Working smoke detectors save lives by alerting the occupants of a home to the presence of smoke before the fire can grow and prevent a safe exit of the home. Early detection also allows the occupants to call 911 quicker and get the appropriate resources on scene faster.



**Carbon-Monoxide (CO) detectors** alert home occupants to the presence of CO and prevent accidental death and illness from CO poisoning. CO alarms are provided on an as-needed basis.



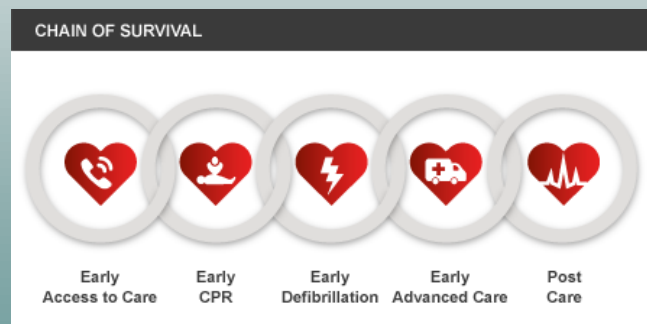
**Child Safety Seats:** Rock Springs Fire Department teaches parent and guardians how to properly install child safety seats. Seats can also be obtained through a donation program if the family doesn't have a child safety seat or if the seat has been damaged or is out of date. This program is coordinated by Firefighter Amy Warne through the Safe Kids Worldwide © certification curriculum.



**Car Seat Technicians** in the Rock Springs Fire Department include: Amy Warne, Seth Lancaster, Ben Fausett, and Rob Miller

**CPR & 1st Aid:** The Rock Springs Fire Department conducts twice-monthly courses for American Heart Association Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and 1st Aid. Captain Lee Reese and Firefighter Keith Floyd coordinate the program. CPR for Healthcare Providers (BLS) and Heartsaver CPR/1st Aid are taught.

Heartsaver CPR is for the general public and teaches what to do in case of sudden cardiac arrest—truly a life-saving skill. BLS is an advanced CPR course for Healthcare providers such as nurses, EMT's and other professional rescuers.



# Fire Department Training

Training is an important part of any fire department and the Rock Springs Fire Department is no exception. Fire Training categories include Facilities Training, Company Training, Emergency Vehicle Operations, Recruit Training for new-hire firefighters, Officer Training and Hazardous Materials. Emergency Medical Training requires minimum hours for each member based on their level of certification.; EMS Certification levels include: Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Basic (EMT-B); Advanced AEMT); Intermediate EMT-I) and Paramedic (EMT-P). The requirements for initial and continuing education are outlined below for the several certifications maintained by Rock Springs Fire Department personnel:

Initial Recruit Training (1st Year) - 240 hours

Facilities Training— 18 hours/member per year

New Driver Training—60 hours

Existing Driver Training—12 hours/member per year

Company Training—192 hours/member per year

Officer Training— 12 hours/Officer per year

Haz Mat Technician Training—80 hours initial

Haz Mat Technician Annual—12 hours/member per year

EMT-B— 180 hours of classroom and clinical experience and skills verification

EMT-B Recertification Requirements— 55 unit-hours of topic-specific training and skills verification every two (2) years

AEMT—Successful completion of EMT-B (180 hrs.) and 240 hours of classroom and clinical experience and skills verification (420 hours total)

AEMT Recertification Requirements—119 unit-hours of topic-specific training and skills verification every two (2) years

EMT-I—Successful completion of EMT-B (180 hrs.), AEMT (240 hrs.) and 230 additional hours of classroom and clinical experience and skills verification (650 hours total)

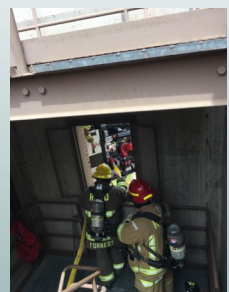
EMT-I Recertification Requirements— 155 unit-hours of topic-specific training and skills verification every two (2) years

EMT-P—Successful completion of EMT-B and one year experience practice as an EMT-B and 1200-1800 hours of classroom and clinical experience and skills verification (1380-1900 hours total)

EMT-P Recertification Requirements—191 unit-hours of topic-specific training and skills verification every two (2) years

**Total Initial Training per Firefighter = 580 hours within the 1st 24 months**

**Total Yearly Training Required = 244-380 hours depending on Rank and EMS Level**



## Firemarks

In the early days of the Fire Service, a metal plaque with a specific insurance company logo “marked” the buildings and businesses protected by a fire company. This section is devoted to the members of the Rock Springs Fire Department who achieved specific milestones in their career with the Rock Springs Fire Department.

### Retirement

Captain Scott Wissel retired from the Rock Springs Fire Department in February having served more than 39 years with the Department. Captain Wissel saw many changes throughout his career—including the completion of the current City Hall and all three of the existing fire stations. Firefighter Wissel worked out of the old City Hall as well as the old Fire Station #2 on M Street.

Senior Admin Assistant Vicki Holdredge retired after 30 years with the City of Rock Springs. 15 of those years were spent with the Fire Department. (no picture available)

Thank you Captain Wissel & Vicki for all your years of service!



### New Hires

Connor Allred—February of 2018



Eric Daniel Ruiz—August of 2018





# Firemarks

## Promotions

Battalion Chief Rick Cozad accepted the position of Battalion Chief/Fire Inspector in June of 2018

Congratulations Chief Cozad!

Firefighter Jason Cristanelli was promoted to Captain in August of 2018

Congratulations Captain Cristanelli!



Captain Steven Kourbelas was promoted to Battalion Chief in October of 2018

Congratulations Chief Kourbelas!



Paramedic Certifications: Firefighters Keith Floyd, Seth Lancaster and Ty Haden completed their Paramedic Certifications and licensure through the Paramedic Program at Laramie County Community College. Time was blocked out to accommodate their schedule as possible; however, they individually carried the cost of the coursework and used benefit time for a significant amount of the curriculum.

**Congratulations Keith Floyd—Seth Lancaster and Ty Haden!**



# Wildland Fire Season

The Rock Springs Fire Department began Wildland Fire deployments in 2017 on the Pole Creek Fire. Firefighter Justin Bryant deployed as part of a multi-agency engine crew to aid in suppression and control of the fire.

Since that time, Firefighter Bryant, along with Captain Jason Cristanelli and Firefighter Keith Floyd have developed a program which enables the members of the Rock Springs Fire Department to deploy on wildland incidents in the intermountain region through the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS). The benefits of this program are two-fold—generating revenue as well as increasing the incident management capabilities of the Fire Department. Crews are activated through a national network to deploy on active fire incidents of great complexity—Type-1 and Type-2 incidents. The incident management practices, techniques and experiences gained through these deployments would take more than most firefighters' careers to obtain at the local level. These personnel return to the City of Rock Springs with a much greater knowledge of complex incident management. Although Rock Springs enjoys relative freedom from many natural disasters, the very real potential exists for flooding, hazardous materials spills, and other complex emergencies. When disaster strikes and the higher skills of complex incident management are required, the wildland fire program will have provided the opportunity for those important capabilities to be present within our City.

The Wildland Core Team consists of a Team Lead for each Crew and core team members who have committed their time to the development and sustainment of the program. The members are as follows:

A-Crew Coordinator: Captain Jason Cristanelli

A-Crew Core Team Members: Firefighter Levi Gil, Firefighter Van Welsh

B-Crew Coordinator: Firefighter Keith Floyd

B-Crew Core Team Members: Kyle McLendon

C-Crew and over all Program Coordinator: Firefighter Justin Bryant

C-Crew Core Team Members: Firefighter Stuart Burnham, Firefighter Ty Haden, Firefighter Jake Hunt

# Wildland Fire Season

## 2018 Achieves 1<sup>st</sup> Assignment with E-463

This wildland season witnessed many firsts for the Rock Springs Wildland Program. The season started with a quick assignment for one member in June with a local partner agency, Sweetwater County Fire Department. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July was less eventful than 2017 but still challenging while applying lessons learned from previous years. This 4<sup>th</sup> had multiple fires started by Fireworks within County jurisdiction and involved all local agencies working together. We were fortunate to have two members detail with the Green River Hand Crew, a BLM 20 person crew, providing extensive knowledge and experience for those members. The highlight of 2018 finally came to fruition August 21<sup>st</sup> as E-463 was selected to conduct a severity assignment with our local BLM. This enabled our 3 core functions of furthering partnerships with local agencies, gaining Incident Command experience, and providing revenue through the program. E-463 would be selected for assignment three more times in Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado before season end while even assisting in our backyard at the Bender Fire near Dutch John in the 3 corners area.



E-463 during Mutual Aid Operations at the Greasewood Fire in Little Firehole area

## Wildland Fire Season

2018 Rock Springs Wildland Incidents out of Jurisdiction				
Incident	Location	Complexity	Size in Acres	Dates Assigned
Badger Creek	Saratoga, WY	2	21,310	6/12-17
Earnest Butte	Sweetwater Co	4	4	6/22
Purple Fire	Sweetwater Co	4	13	6/23
Big Firehole	Sweetwater Co	4	2	7/4-5
Greasewood Canyon	Sweetwater Co	4	8	7/8
Wood Canyon	UT	3	2,021	7/17-19
Big Ridge	Sweetwater Co	5	205	7/28
Cove Creek	UT	4	2,620	7/20-8/1
Basin	Sweetwater Co	5	.1	8/21-23
Prospect	Sweetwater Co	4	1.3	8/23-24
Britania Mountain	Wheatland, WY	2	32,000	8/28-9/2
Bender	Dutch John, UT	3	4,116	9/3-6
Silver Creek	Kremmling, CO	2	21,120	9/18-9/27

Highlights from the above assignments include furthering our partnership with the Sweetwater County Fire Department on assignment at Badger Creek on an SCFD Engine. We also worked hand in hand with SCFD during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, prepositioning E-463 for an extended night of fire attack that ranged into the 5<sup>th</sup>. All Sweetwater County fires allowed our personnel to work with both Fire District #1 and the BLM High Desert District. Wood Canyon and Cove Creek was the start of a partnership with the BLM to allow our members to detail with a Type 2 Hand Crew as a critical component of wildland fire professional development. Lastly E-463 was assigned to the last 5 fires listed allowing the wildland program to be self-sustaining earning revenue for maintenance, training, equipment, and PPE.



## Wildland Fire Season

From August 21<sup>st</sup>, E-463 would receive 4 resource orders and bill out 322.5 hours traveling to and working on incidents in the region. Apart from normal fuel expenses and routine maintenance the revenue gained from the resource is solely net gain.

Overall, the Rock Springs Fire Department Wildland Division would generate a gross revenue of \$110,774.12 with a total expense of \$80,473.49. (Fig.4) The net gain of \$30,300.63, (Fig.4) provides a significant benchmark in the early development of the wildland program with a promising future ahead. The addition of qualifications that set the Rock Springs Fire Department as a stand-alone single resource on the national level as well as continued cooperation between regional and local agencies future revenues are sure to grow.

