



CHIEF'S CHAT

Hello Fire Corps

Happy Fourth of July! I was blessed to spend much of June traveling around England and France and must say that while I had a wonderful time, and saw some beautiful places, I am most grateful to live in this wonderful country of ours. Happy Birthday America!

STATISTICS

FIREFIIGHTERS

In 2015

1,160,450 local firefighters

29,727 departments/districts

30 % Career

70% Volunteers

FIRE CORPS IN U.S.

1,695 programs

22,672 volunteers

48 states

A partner program under

Citizen Corps of FEMA

GREEN VALLEY FIRE CORPS

2012 National Fire Corps Award of Excellence Recipient.

LET'S DO IT AGAIN!

Well, in my last Chief's chat I mentioned that things should start to slow down for the summer. What do I know? We continue to be busy with alarms and batteries, as well as our regular routine. I want to thank all of you who are picking up extra shifts and chipping in to carry the extra weight. You are amazing, and your efforts make a big difference. Thank you.

I would also like to give a little shout out to our Admin. volunteers who work diligently to stay on top of all of the Admin. tasks associated with our program. LT cannot say enough about how much you mean to him and the program. Keep up the good work.

Wildland season is upon us, and as you all know, we are ripe for another exciting and challenging year. Should the need arise, we will call on our FC volunteers to help support logistics with fires in our area. Last year, this was a tremendous help. Please let LT know if you are willing to help with this type of support.

Try and stay cool, and be safe.

Chief

Chief Wunder





SNAKE NEWS

They can be found in very interesting places. Just recently homeowners reached for a pool noodle and out comes one. Inside were some babies.

According to Steven Beaupré, Biology professor of University of Arkansas, "venomous snakes, such as rattlesnakes, and cobras" retain their brain biting reflex hours after the snake dies. This is stronger in venomous snakes than other carnivores. It has also been in the news lately as close as Tucson last summer. A father hiking with his children protected them from a rattlesnake and then wanted to show them the snake. Several days in the hospital receiving anti-venom was the price he paid.

A recent study in South Dakota shows rattlesnakes are losing their tail muscles and thus the ability to shake their rattles. This is thought to be a genetic defect. But, those are the snakes that are surviving and producing more.

BASEBALL, NBA, FIRE CORPS

SOCCER, NFL, AFL

What do all of these have in common?

TEAMWORK!

*Well, maybe sportsmanship!
(Wouldn't GVFD FIRE CORPS
be considered a sport? 😊)*



*Some would say the most important component to teamwork
is **COMMUNICATION.***

*Sister Jean Dolores-Schmidt,
98, chaplain of the NCAA
Tournament darlings Loyola-
Chicago states*

*"Things turn out well when you
work as a team, when you share
the ball and when you're so kind
to each other"*



*Thank You team members for keeping the lines of
communication open. The more information a member has,
the better they perform.*

*Karen Knoll has been working tirelessly to get the schedule
together. She sends out the reminders about submitting
wants and wishes. Please give her as much information as
possible; when you can vs can't work, AM's vs. PM's. This
allows more flexibility in the schedule for all. Wants and
wishes are due by the 1st of the month prior to the month
being scheduled. Hearing from everyone means less time
Karen has to use trying to get information and being able to
direct her attention to the schedule itself. Thank you for
being the team member that communicates.*

UTE PARK FIRE

I must admit, I never found a lot that was exciting about New Mexico while traveling along I-10 or I-40 during my many travels. The only exception was a trip to the San Juan River this May to do some fly fishing. However, after returning home for a week after that wonderful fishing trip, I got the call to deploy to the Ute Park Fire just north of Angel Fire, NM. This area is part of what the locals call the “Enchanted Loop.” The Fire had been ignited near the small community of Ute Park and quickly grew to a Type I incident burning over 12,000 acres in less than 18 hours.



The important values at risk for this wildfire was the Philmont Boy Scout Camp, (largest Scout Camp in the world), and it’s 1,100 employees getting ready to except the season’s first scout troop arrivals. This area is also important as the water shed for Cimarron, Eagle Nest, Angel Fire and Ute Park communities.

Within 36 hours, the fire had grown to 32,000 acres burning primarily on the Philmont property closing Highway 64 and the normal vacationer traffic through the area. My Incident

Management Team set up the command center in the town of Eagle Nest, on the banks of the Eagle Nest Lake. On the third day of the deployment the rains came in to make a significant impact on the fire’s forward progress. This blessing enabled firefighters the opportunity to attack the fire directly in several key locations that facilitated the chance to contain the fire at just over 37,000 acres. Only a few out-building structures were lost, and a couple of internal wooden bridges were destroyed. The damage to the forest will create a flooding potential in the months to come and the rock slides off the barren hillsides will close the highway a few more times but all in all, New Mexico dodged a great big bullet.



On the lighter side of my adventures, I truly was amazed at the beauty of the area with the high mountain peaks all around the camp. It is a wonderful scenic area and I encourage any of you travelers to take a trip and enjoy what this part of New Mexico has to offer. There’s even some excellent fishing waters to experience if that is something you enjoy. (Of Course, I speak of this hypothetically! 😊)



It’s great to be home, but I’m sure the fire season is not over yet as the temperatures continue to rise and the rains haven’t come in earnest to the southwest yet.

Your Summer Camper,

LT



SOCIAL INFORMATION:
I didn't receive any information about fire corps member travels or special social events.

Since the last newsletter, the Gaslight Theater dinner was a big success.



***** HUMMINGBIRD BABY PHOTOS by Candy Plumlee *****


