

The Flame

News of the VFD of Big Elk

editors Leann Briggie Daugherty and Diane Briggie ldbrigglevfdbigelk@gmail.com

April 2018



Thank you to everyone who helped us *waddle* in the donations with the Rotary of Estes Park Duck Race!!

VFD of Big Elk events:

Sunday, May 27th, is our Annual Memorial Day breakfast. The buffet breakfast line with pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, and sausage, will be set up in the Guthrie Fire Station and will run from 08:00 to 10:30 am. Our Meadows Duck Race will be at 11:00 with location to be announced that morning. \$5.00 for adults, \$2.50 for children 10 and under. \$10 for each duck, with \$\$\$ prizes

Saturday, June 30th will be our Annual 4th of July FUNdraiser, auction, silent auction and bratwurst lunch. We will provide canned soda, ice tea, lemonade and water. The Guthrie Fire Station will be open at 11:00 am, silent auction tables will open at 11:00am, live auction will begin at 12:30. Please, bring all those yummy baked goods for the auction. Thank YOU! Please, no controlled substances in any of the baked good (that includes alcohol). We cannot accept or, sell an item like this. Thank you for your understanding and help. \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children 10 and under.

Saturday, July 28th there will be a special event FUNdraiser, auction in Estes Park. Please see the full page flyer that is included in this newsletter. Thank YOU!

Saturday and Sunday, September 1st and 2nd will be our annual Flea Market, held at the Guthrie Fire Station. Hours to be announced. No mattresses. No TVs. No knives. No guns. No ammunition. No controlled substances.

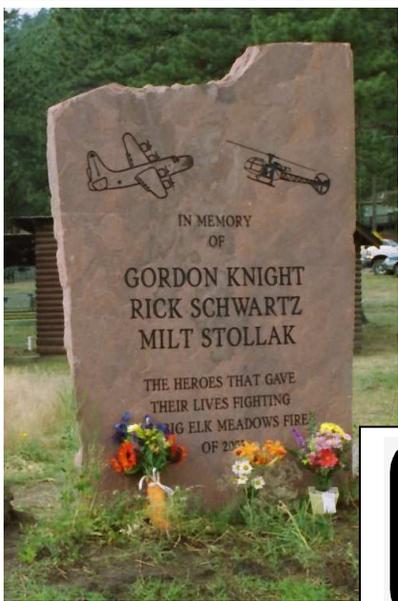
Please note that we will test our valley siren during or right before both of these events. We will be testing the emergency siren, to ensure that it is still in working condition after it's long winter nap.

* 10:00 am May 27th we will test our siren (1 hour before the duck race)

* 10:00 am June 30th we will test our siren (1 hour before lunch starts)

Thank you for your understanding.

The Flame Online: To help us save on the cost of printing and mailing, The Flame is available online in a PDF version to download or view at <https://sites.google.com/a/vfdofbigelk.org/vfd2/community/the-flame>. The Fire Department needs your permission to use your e-mail address to notify you that the next newsletter is available. We started a base list a couple years ago. Please send an email to Leann at LDBrigglevfdbigelk@gmail.com and I will add you to the newsletter list. This list will be used only for the newsletter and will never be sold or used outside of the newsletter base. Thank you! Again, <https://sites.google.com/a/vfdofbigelk.org/vfd2/community/the-flame>



Fire Reports: Fire calls and tones

Illegal fires	11
Wildland Fires	5
Structure Fires	5
Medical Events	20
Traffic accident	16
Search and Rescue	4
Ice or Technical rescue	0
Carbon Monoxide or gas	0
Other (car fire, Smoke investigation, Misc)	11
Total for the year 2017	72

Letter from the Chief

Happy Spring Big Elkers!

For the past 6 years or so we have been lucky to have had average to below average fire activity in the Big Elk area. This year we may be breaking that wet cycle. We are expecting Average to Above average wild fire potential starting in June. More info can be found here: https://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/outlooks/monthly_seasonal_outlook.pdf

Please take advantage of the next few months to get ready. Mitigate and create defensible space around your home.

We are a certified Firewise community.



This means:

We all need to spend at least 2 hours a year on mitigation. Guidelines specific to the meadows are on the Fire Department web site at <http://www.vfdofbigelk.org/firewise>. We will have information available at the BEMA annual meeting and in a mailbox at the Fire Station.

Also, talk to your neighbors and help them out if you can. A big threat to your home in a wildfire is your neighbor's home.

If you can volunteer to help out on the Firewise team or would like an evaluation of your property contact us at chief@vfdofbigelk.org.

Here are a few more general resources for mitigation of your property. Thank you for your help. www.firewise.org
www.readyforwildfire.org and www.DisasterSafety.org/wildfire

Chief Isenhart

*** **Notice of Disclaimer:** This newsletter is distributed as a service to the community and is paid for through donations. Statements and opinions published in this newsletter are those of the editor and/or the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of VFD's Board of Directors. ***

2002 Big Elk Fire



Upper left: Fire in Big Elk Meadows, July 2002.
Burn out above Aspen Drive

Center right: Mobile supply cache in the park

Bottom left: Dedication of the Guthrie Fire
Station summer of 2003

Colorado Could Face the Worst Wildfire Season since 2012, 2013

Governor Hickenlooper has warned residents to do their part to prevent wildfires, earlier this month during his State Wildfire Outlook address. Colorado has been under red flag warnings, and battling wildfires non-stop, since the start of this year. We have had a very mild winter, with minimal moisture and lots of wind. An abnormally dry winter has left the statewide snow pack at 68 percent of average, across the state, with some areas being even lower. Conditions in the northern mountains are better than the southern mountains. Hickenlooper warned that people should not think small bursts of moisture would ease the fire danger. He urged people to follow fire restrictions. This message was then echoed by the director of the Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Mike Morgan.

"We're all in this together. We live in the most beautiful state, in my opinion, in the nation, and we have to all do our part to protect that, and the quality of life that we enjoy here," Morgan said

By mid April the US Drought Monitor classified conditions as a severe or extreme drought. Those are the third and fourth categories in a five step scale used by the Drought Monitor. This is the second consecutive year for the cooling of the central Pacific, known as La Nina. This weather phenomenon tilts the odds to over all dry conditions.

Warm weather early this year caused most of the snow at lower mountain elevations to melt earlier this year. Which could potentially lead to an steep increase of fire danger, as a large percentage of wildfires occur in these regions

Which brings concerns for how tinder dry our neighborhood, and the forest around us, has already become. So now is the time to look over your property and see what dangers lurk there. Are trees actually touching your house? Are your gutters full of pine needles and other tree parts and pieces? Please clean up your yard, help us protect you.

Please visit the web sites listed in the Chief's Letter for information to help you in making crucial decisions on mitigation, and clean-up. Nelson Renouf is our Fire Mitigation Officer, and a valuable resource for mitigation questions. Please leave a message at the Fire Station, with your contact information, if you have questions. (303)823-5717

The next few months, even into winter, look to be extremely high for wildfire danger. Please follow all fire restrictions and bans.

Volunteer Fire Department of Big Elk
42 Willow Dr
Lyons, CO 80540

A heart-felt Thank You is extended to each of you that have chosen to donate through the ColoradoGives website. Donations may be made online at www.ColoradoGive.org. When you enter the website, look for VFD of Big Elk on the list of charities that you can contribute to. Anyone may donate at any time of the year. The next BIG ColoradoGives day has not been set yet for 2018. Visit www.ColoradoGives.org/VFDofBigElk for photographs, updates, goals and the option to donate. From the ColoradoGives website: "ColoradoGives.org is a year-round, online giving website featuring over 1,600 Colorado nonprofit organizations. Made possible by Community First Foundation since 2007, ColoradoGives.org encourages charitable giving by providing comprehensive, objective and up-to-date information about Colorado nonprofits and an easy way to support them online".

AmazonSmile program

Are you a regular Amazon shopper? The **Volunteer Fire Department of Big Elk** is participating in the AmazonSmile program. Every little bit helps, so please look in to it.

Remember, if you want Amazon to donate to Volunteer Fire Department Of Big Elk, you need to start each shopping session at the URL <http://smile.amazon.com>, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your **eligible** purchases.