



Southern Park County Fire Protection District The FireHouse Dispatch

Fire Department Business Phone (719) 689-9479
Volume 2014 Issue 2 April 2014

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Please send your ideas or comments to the FireHouse Dispatch Editor Rita Baysinger rita@guffeyfire.net

If we pull together...



we can make our community better and accomplish even difficult goals more easily, because we are traveling on the combined energy of one another.

Welcome to Wildfire Season

When it comes to dates on your calendar, here's one to keep in mind. April 28 marks the official beginning of the 2014 wildland fire season. But Mother Nature



One of the 346 homes that burned during the Waldo Canyon Fire in 2012

doesn't always read her calendar correctly. There have already been 179 wildland fires this year in drought-ridden Arizona and Southern California. The Lower North Fork Fire which burned up 27 homes and killed three people near Conifer started at the end of March in 2012. "Due to climate change and other factors, the burn season is now 78 days longer than a few decades ago, and blazes consume double the acreage," according to a recent article in the *Arizona Republic* newspaper.

If you wonder what this has to do with you, just remember that where you live is a classic example of living where the forest meets human habitation: the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). No one can force you to mitigate your property or take the steps to make your home more wildland

fire resistant. Yes, it takes work, and yes, it might cost you some money, but that outlay will be peanuts compared to the cost, heartache, and possible loss of property and life that can occur if you find yourself in the path of a wildland fire.

Beginning with the Fourmile Canyon Fire, west of Boulder, in 2010 through the Black Forest Fire last summer, more than 1,300 homes have burned as a result of fires that devastated Colorado communities.

Fourmile Canyon 169; Lower North Fork 27; High Park 248; Waldo Canyon 346; Black Forest 511. And this is the toll just for the biggest fires in the last four years.

If you think it can't happen to you, you're living in a dream world. There are two things to remember as this fire season approaches: 1) most wildland fires are started by humans and 2) you are the only one who can take the steps to minimize your risk.

Inside this issue is a list of resources you can use to get hints on what needs to be done and how to do it. Of course, your first stop should be to SPCFPD Station 1 where you will find neighbors anxious to help you get started. Acting Chief Aaron Mandel gives you more information in his letter which starts on page 2..

by Rita Lovato Baysinger

Watch for Your Ballot

For the May 6th, 2014 upcoming election, there are seven (7) candidates (down from the original 9) running for the four (4) open positions on the Southern Park County Fire Protection District (SPCFPD) Board of Directors. Both Jim Cain's and Roberta Z. Smith's names appear on the ballot; however, they have both officially withdrawn their candidacies and any votes cast for them will not be counted.

There are five director positions on the Board. The terms of current directors Nancy Harper, Anita Long and Amy Mason are expiring and they will be leaving the Board after the election. The term of current director Jim Ivey is expiring and he is a candidate in the upcoming election. Current director Kathryn (Flip) Boetcher's term does not expire until May, 2016.

The candidates' names (in the order they will appear on the ballot) are as follows:

TWO YEAR TERM (One position open)

- Mike Parrish
- Jimmy Leon Ivey
- Roberta Z. Smith

FOUR YEAR TERM (Three positions open)

- Steve R. Wilson
- Sandy Rucker
- Kenneth C. Thomas

(continued on page 2)

911

In an emergency call 911...If there is a fire in your home or on your property call for help. Give clear directions to your property and leave immediately.

Letter from Acting Chief Aaron Mandel



In the early 1900's the United States Forest Service initiated a policy of suppressing all wildland fires no matter what values were at risk. This

policy has led to the overgrowth of our forests. It wasn't until the 1970's that scientists started looking at wildland fire as a natural and necessary process. By suppressing all wildland fires we have now altered our ecosystem in a way that has created more catastrophic fires than in years past. So what is the answer to this problem? More fuel reduction through mechanical thinning of the forests and reintroduction of fire back into our ecosystem.

The main problem with the reintroduction of fire is that now we have many more communities building into the very forests that require fire to maintain their health. Depend-



Smoke from the West Fork Complex Fire looms over South Fork, CO last summer.

ing on where you live in the United States the natural fire cycle is between 2-3 years and 30

years. This is true for Park County as well as for other forested areas of the state. This means that before human intervention a fire would naturally happen during this interval burning at lower intensity and enhancing forest health. Because we have suppressed natural fire occurrence, when there is a fire it will burn with higher intensity due to the heavier concentration of fuels. These types of fires which we are seeing now and are predicted to continue into the future cause harm to the ecosystem (and private property) instead of being beneficial. Intense fires can actually sterilize the soil preventing forest regrowth for years. But we can do something to help prevent this catastrophic damage from visiting our community.

In 2012 a prescribed fire that was ignited by the Colorado State Forest Service escaped and took the lives of three people. This led to a moratorium on prescribed burning in the state. This year the Division of Fire Control and Prevention has rewritten their policies on

(Continued on page 3)

Watch for Your Ballot *(continued from page 1)*

- Marshall L. Dunn, Sr.
- J. Gordon Scott
- Jim Cain

An "eligible voter" for this election is defined as:

- A Colorado registered voter who is a resident of the District; or
- A Colorado registered voter who is the owner (or spouse/partner of the owner) of taxable real or personal property situated within the boundaries of the District, whether said person resides within the special district or not; or
- A Colorado registered voter who is obligated to pay taxes under a contract to purchase

taxable property with the District.

The Designated Election Official (DEO) for this election is **Rhonda DavisToussaint, Nemer & Coaty, P.C. 32065 Castle Court, Suite 150 Evergreen, CO 80439 (303) 674-0800 rdavis@tnclaw.com**

This election is a mail-in ballot election. Ballot packets (ballot, secrecy sleeve and return envelope) will be mailed to eligible voters between April 18th and April 21st. Instructions will be included in your packet.

If you return your ballot by mail, you must affix sufficient

postage. If you want to personally drop your ballot into a secure ballot box, you can do so at the Guffey Community Center, 1625 County Road 102, Guffey, CO on Monday, April 28th from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. An election judge will be present to accept your ballot and issue replacement ballots. Any questions or concerns should be addressed directly with the DEO at the above phone number or email address.

Information about the candidates is available on various websites including www.guffeyfire.net, www.guffeynews.com and www.defend-liberty.us.



Wildland Fire Mitigation Info For Homeowners

Find out why some houses burn in a wildfire and others don't at http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/wildfire/

Wildfire Safety Outreach Materials are available at the Fire Prevention and Public Education Exchange

http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/prevention_education/

Visit Ready, Set, Go managed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs <http://www.wildlandfirersg.org/>

May 3rd is Wildfire Community Preparedness Day. Find out more about it at Fire Adapted Communities

<http://www.fireadapted.org/>
Firewise Communities is a project of The National Fire Protection Association <http://www.firewise.org/>

Wildfire mitigation information keyed to the Colorado landscape are available at <http://csfs.colostate.edu/pages/wildfire.html>

Letter from the Acting Chief *(continued from p. 2)*

prescribed fire and our district has adopted them. This requires us to write a burn plan, have it reviewed by the state and to adhere to the guidelines of the Colorado Clean Air Act. It is our hope that by the fall of 2014 we can have burn plans in place to assist home owners with slash (waste timber and shrubs) burning at our sub stations.

The goal is to have the community bring their slash on a designated day to one of the sub stations. When we get a weather window the department would burn the piles. This will help our community reduce the amount of fuels in the area and help restore the forest to health. We also are exploring assisting home owners associations with small scale pile burns on their properties to help them manage and clean up slash created by property owners properly mitigating their land.



An escaped prescribed burn in 2012 resulted in the Lower North Fork Fire near Conifer. It killed three people.

As always the Southern Park County Fire Protection District provides free wildland fire assessments and burn permit inspections. We also have a wealth of information on proper mitigation practices and ecosystem restoration. I have worked with the Nature Conservancy for many years and am a fully qualified Type 3 Prescribed 'Fire Boss.' I have a real passion for habitat restoration and fuel reduction through mitigation and prescribed fire and would love to help you restore your property to the balance it once had. For more information contact me at the fire house Monday through Friday or stop by for a cup of coffee. And, of course, if you would like to be more involved in helping to keep our community a safer and better place to live, we'd love to add your name to our roster of dedicated SPCFPD volunteers.

Scott Elmore is Firefighter of the Year



Photo by Ric Turley

Firefighter Scott Elmore was announced as the firefighter of the year at the fourth annual Guffey-based Southern Park County Fire Protection District firefighter appreciation dinner on Thursday, January 16.

About thirty firefighters, auxiliary members, board of directors and their significant others attended the dinner which was held at the Bull Moose Restaurant and Bar and sponsored by the board of directors.

After a gourmet dinner, board chairwoman Amy Mason thanked everyone for coming and said how excited she was to be a part of such a great fire department. Mason introduced Acting Fire Chief Aaron Mandel. Mandel has been with the SPCFPD for ten years and was appointed

Acting Fire Chief earlier this month.

Mandel introduced the volunteers and presented "years of service" pins to each with a small, heartfelt vignette. Mandel then announced Elmore as the volunteer of the year and presented him with a plaque.

Elmore's name will go on the large plaque at the fire station along with the others who have received the award – Jan Breslin, 2012; Jim Yoder, 2011; Joan and Larry LePage, 2010. Elmore has been with the SPCFPD for three years.



For information important to your safety and well-being, you can access the SPCFPD website at www.guffeyfire.net. You can also check out our Facebook page, at facebook.com/spcfpd and see us on Twitter, at twitter.com/spcfpd. Get news on the election, find out when the board meets, see statutory posts, read the newsletter, minutes and so much more. Thanks, Seth.

SPCFPD Board Candidates Meet with Voters Prior to Mail Ballot Election

Left: (back row L to R) Candidates Steve R. Wilson, Mike Parrish, Kenneth C. Thomas, J. Gordon Scott, Marshall L. Dunn, Sr. (front) Sandy Rucker. Right: Candidate Jimmy Leon Ivey is talking to Lawrence Epps. The meet and greet was held on April 10 at the Bull Moose.



SPOTLIGHT ON: ACTING CHIEF AARON MANDEL

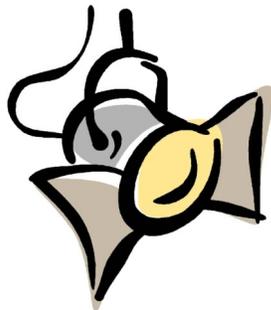
Aaron Mandel assumed the duties of Acting Fire Chief of the SPCFPD on January 3 of this year. While he was tossed into the deep end of the pool that day, it wasn't as if

he didn't already know how to swim. He has had 10 years of experience since he took his first wildland firefighting class. As part of that class, held in Carbondale in 2004, he took a hike to the site where 14 firefighters died on Strom King Mountain with one of the survivors. "As an introduction to wildland firefighting it was pretty powerful and definitely burned the thought that 'safety is number one' into my brain forever."

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In the department he has served as a Lieutenant, Training Officer, Captain, Wildland Fire Program Coordinator, Deputy Chief and now Acting Chief. He is a qualified EMT, Engine Boss and Burn Boss. He has studied wildfire working on Prescribed Fire Crews and with large fire suppression teams. In addition to his work with SPCFPD he has worked on crews for the Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Forest Service.

He's learned leadership lessons all along the way from being more experienced than some of the older firefighters he supervised, to learning the difference between leadership in the rough and tumble world of Forest Service firefighters and the world of volunteer firefighters. "With volunteers, you don't so much give orders as ask nicely." In the furor following Aaron's appointment as Acting Chief, he got to test his skills as several firefighters quit the department. "I just kept telling them, it doesn't matter who's right and who's wrong, what matters is that at two in the morning when the tone goes off in the firehouse someone shows up to help the person having the heart attack. As long as we keep our goal of providing service as our number one priority, we're on the right path."



Acting Chief Aaron Mandel and two of his favorite companions, an SPCFPD engine and his playful pup, Dillon.

Aaron is working hard to repair and re-establish good relations with neighboring agencies, hoping to create a means where multiple agencies can respond to initial attack on fires. He has offered to take the money allotted to the fire chief's salary and split it up to hire another employee and compensate on-call personnel on an 'on call/pay per response' basis as an incentive to maintain 24/7 district coverage for firefighters and EMTs." No one in a volunteer organization is ever paid what they're worth, so it's less about what you're worth and more about what you can afford. "

"A lot of the things that we are fixing right now in this department are things most people didn't know were broken. I've always wanted the community to be more involved in this department and that has happened now, though not in the way I expected. It's been tough dealing with the angry people, but it's a beautiful thing to see people,

(Continued on page 5)

Board Chair Sends Thanks to the Most Stellar Volunteer Fire Department EVER!

"PROUD" describes my feelings for the SPCFPD in just one word. I AM SO GRATEFUL

Wendy, the STELLAR volunteers, the TIRELESS auxiliary, the STEADFAST board and our new secretary. I AM SO PROUD! Everyone has done such a remarkable job. Thanks to our PIO/editor, Rita Baysinger for her efforts for getting this and every newsletter out.

all be working hard to give the new members an easy transition with training and assistance. It is extremely comforting to know the District is and will continue to be in safe hands. Our families, our children and our properties are safer now.

District, Candy Shoemaker of Southwest Teller EMS, Tim Di-east of Ute Pass Regional Ambulance District, Monte Gore of the Park County Sheriff's Department and Maria Mitchell of our Park County Communication Center for their assistance and continued support. We have found ways for our department to have full medical and fire coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

We have had quite a whirlwind of activity at our department these past few months. I am very proud and grateful to Aaron Mandel and the way he stepped up and took over the responsibilities as Chief of our District during this tumultuous time. We have successfully renewed our relationships with our neighboring mutual aid agencies. I am personally grateful to Paul Matteson of South Park Ambulance

We welcome Wendy West, EMT our newest employee. Gratefully we have Joy and Ron Oliver in EMT training now.

(continued on page 5)



**Board Chairman
Amy Mason, D.V.M.**

AND PROUD. It's not just one person; it is the entire group, the family at the SPCFPD: Aaron,

This has been quite a unique opportunity and with my final write up as Board Chair, I must say I am excited to see the light at the end of the tunnel and prepare for the transition with the new board. It is exhilarating to have three or four new vibrant people joining the board.

So as not to disrupt the workings of the Department, the current Directors on the Board will

Acting Chief Mandel *(continued from page 4)*

ple caring about it and I hope down the road we will be building bridges for a closer and more dynamic relationship with the community.

Aaron is proud to say he grew up as a human being in this department and this community, and faces the criticism some have of him head on. "Everyone knows my laundry. There is no closet to put my skeletons in. They've seen me on my worst

days; they've seen me on my best. Unfortunately some tend to remember only the low times. But the people who have been around me know the good things I've done. They've seen it and they respect it. I still have rough edges and I am still a work in progress. Everyone is. I'm still learning and I really believe that if you're not learning you're not living and if you think you've learned it all, you've lost the battle."



Engine Boss Aaron Mandel at the Indian Gulch Fire west of Golden in 2012.

SPCFPD at State Capitol for EMS Day *by Anita Long*



Anita Long and Jim Ivey with Senator Kevin Grantham

When representatives from Southern Park County Fire Protection District (SPCFPD) in Guffey, were invited to the Capitol on January 28, for EMS Day, I thought we would just be providing moral support for the EMS Chiefs and their causes. What I didn't realize was that we would gain more from the day than we gave. Representative from Guffey were SPCFPD Board members Jim Ivey, and me, Anita Long.

We had the opportunity to meet and speak with Senator

Kevin Grantham and several house representatives, an invaluable experience and a way to get the Guffey community and its concerns front and center. Perhaps even more importantly, we gained access to several resources that I had not been fully aware of before.

The Colorado Rural Health Center made a short presentation that spoke directly to some of our needs. After the presentation, I was able to speak directly with Lakesha Jones, their Grants Manager, who gave me

additional information about the CREATE grant program which could have a significant impact on our small district. She offered us her help whenever we might need it.

We also met Melody Mesmer, Executive Director of our Central Mountains Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma Council. We now have another resource for assistance that we didn't know about before our visit with her.

It was an extremely worthwhile day."

Stellar *(continued from page 4)*

We are appreciative of Jan Breslin, Donna and Randy West, EMT's that give us their continued support in so many ways. The volunteers I see on a daily basis, Scott Elmore, FIRE-FIGHTER OF THE YEAR, Dave Tilton, ENGINEER and Don Cole, AUX. MEMBER, are at the Department consistently. They have continued to clean up the place following our big cleaning party on Jan 12th. It looks tremendous!!! They work hard to keep our new and older equipment, ambulances, trucks and radios ready to go at a moment's notice.

The TIRELESS Auxiliary volunteers that continue to grow in number and support our fire department family are so wonderful! Dave Baysinger, our Communications Technician is improving our radio communications and towers. As we move forward I see the growth of the heart and soul of our department,

our STELLAR volunteers - those unsung heroes on our roster, expanding with the addition of four new volunteers.

They are the ones, firefighters, medical crew, first responders and our Chaplain, that show up when it is dark, raining and cold to graciously help all of us when we are in our worst possible moments. My gratitude goes out to Seth, another behind the scenes hero, for keeping our website and Facebook pages current.

Because of Aaron the lights are on and the place is packed on continuing education days and training nights. It is inspiring to see so many of our volunteers and even those from other agencies that are fulfilling their aspirations to continue to improve their knowledge of fire fighting and medical training. Our Department can provide that training because we have such a gifted instructor. Aaron, YOU ROCK!

Most importantly, this current Board of Directors took the obligation seriously to maintain responsibility for this Department to all the people that live and travel through our District. We stood up for YOU! It was a difficult task and as we finish up our loose ends, I can tell them, our STEADFAST BOARD MEMBERS, "AWESOME JOB!!!, Anita Long, Flip Boettcher, Jim Ivey, Nancy Harper and Mike Brandt!!!"

I would personally like to thank all of our families and friends for their patience during this challenging and unique experience. With excitement and anticipation, I look forward to the new things the SPCFPD has lined up for us in the future: Aaron and Wendy providing continuing medical/fire prevention training for our community and so much more.

On a personal note, the 18 Toes 4-H Club members are

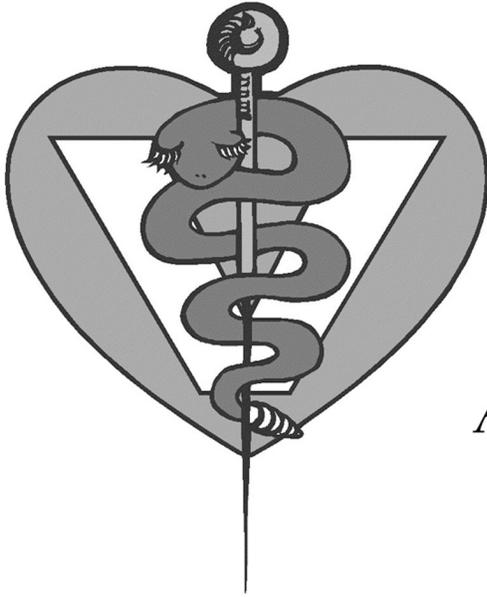
grateful for the assistance they receive from the SPCFPD and our community, which allows them to give back with an upcoming dog training class for everyone, a foster dog program and youth leadership. I am so proud to live in a community with such caring and loving people. I know I have missed thanking some of you in person -- but YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE - PLEASE KNOW MY HEART IS FILLED WITH GRATITUDE.

I hope to see you soon at one of the many community functions presented by THE MOST STELLAR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT. You can see for yourself how it shines and the entire multitude of ways it continues to support our community and YOU!

Blessings abound,
Amy Mason

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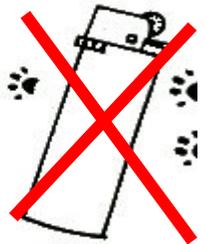
Fire Safety WORD SEARCH



If you find matches, give them to an adult. If you see kids playing with matches, go tell an adult. Find other things you shouldn't play with in the puzzle below.

G A S O L I N E U L
 O D R M P A O E L I
 O Z J E A A U S K G
 C O R D S T O V E H
 A H E W D N C Q A T
 T O A S T E R H P E
 F I R E P L A C E R
 H R V M D R H S C S
 A O U T L E T S A L
 T N A R M W J A Q Y

MATCHES IRON TOASTER
 STOVE OUTLETS FIREPLACE
 LIGHTERS CORDS GASOLINE



The volunteers listed below are on the roster of the Southern Park County Fire Protection District as of April 15, 2014. We'd like to see your name on this list. Become a volunteer. There's a membership form on the back page of the newsletter or drop by Station 1 any Tuesday evening.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Aaron Mandel | Seth Stahlman |
| Flip Boettcher | Robert Payeur |
| Jan Breslin | Ric Turley |
| Randy West | Ruth Herrera |
| Donna West | Wendy West |
| Gene Stanley | Maria Mandel |
| Bill Harper | Dale Cox |
| Don Rocksted | Will Burkhart |
| Kevin McNamara | Joy Oliver |
| Sadie Kubick | Kale Casey |
| Scott Elmore | Dave Baysinger |
| Ron Oliver | Rita Baysinger |
| Lydia Reynolds | Davis H Tilton |
| Jim Ivey | Scott Zorno |
| Bryan Breitenfeld | |

BURN NOTICE!

Before doing any outside burning check for current burn bans. Bans are posted at Station #1, 1745 CR 102, the Guffey Community Center and Library, the Freshwater, at CR 88, mm1, CR 59 at Ranger Station Rd, CR 102 at the county border and SH 9 mm33. Burn Ban Status is also available by calling Station #1 719-689-9479.

IGNORING A BURN BAN CAN RESULT IN A \$1,000 FINE!

Join your friends in the SPCFPD Auxiliary

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Rita & Dave Baysinger | Ellen Kremkus | Judy & Randy Quick |
| Mike Brandt | Joan & Larry LePage | Don & Elaine Rocksted |
| Heather Buckner | Bernie & Diane Mann | Doug Schellenger & Kathy Mikesell |
| Diane Casserly | Victor & Tess Malchsky | Mike & Elisa Simpson |
| Wanda Eppes | Amy & Barney Mason | Edna & Martin Sloan |
| Annie Fairless | Jessica, Emily & Ryan Mason | Roberta Smith |
| Rhonda Fairless | Pasha McKeough | Seth Stahlman |
| Barbara Felton | Vonne & Bruce Mohr | John & Cindy Stride |
| Susan Geiger | Joy & Ron Oliver | Dorothy Tyler |
| Bill & Nancy Harper | Mike & Linda Parrish | Nancy Vasquez |
| Emma Hutchens | Jane Pate | Barbara & Mike Walton |



Watch for a profile of a randomly selected sponsor from this newsletter in the next issue of the FireHouse Dispatch!



THANK YOU!!

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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



WE meet at the Florissant Grange Hall on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM.

WE are a community involved group, with a very supportive Auxiliary.

IF you qualify, we would be pleased to add you to our membership.

POST 11411

For information, call 719-748-5344



For More Information:
www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/focus

Wildfire Safety



Create a 30-100-foot safety zone around your home!

Photo used by permission from the National Fire Protection Association Firewise Communities Program.

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Firehouse Dispatch.



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 E-Mail: chief@guffeyfire.net



SPCFPD Board of Directors



Chairman:	Amy Mason, DVM	boardchair@guffeyfire.net	719-689-2262
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Director:	Jimmy Leon (Jim) Ivy	jim.ivey@guffeyfire.net	719-479-4012
Director:	Nancy V. Harper	nancy.harper@guffeyfire.net	719-479-4142
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Yes! I am interested in becoming a volunteer for the SPCFPD. I am interested in being:

a Firefighter an EMT an Auxiliary Member a Board Member

My Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ E-Mail: _____

I have the following experience which would be beneficial to the District: _____

After completing this form, cut it out and return it to: Chief, SPCFPD, PO Box 11, Guffey, CO 80820-0011