



# GOLDEN GATE

## Fire Department

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Kyle Kociemba-Benson, Fire Chief  
CC: Membership  
DATE: March 23, 2024  
SUBJECT: **March 2024 Chief's Report**

## Regional/County

The mountain chiefs group continues to work on the final details regarding the wildland and all hazards agreements with Jefferson County Emergency Management. We have reviewed the final drafts from Jefferson County, and we expect to have the final copy for board signature by May.

## Administration

ESO implementation is still in progress, and we expect to be holding line level education and implementation in the next month to 6 weeks.

GGFPD's change to fueling with Jefferson County is in full swing. After a few small technical glitches in our start up, the transition to county fuel went very smoothly. The feedback from the firefighters during this change has been positive. We are looking forward to both the economic and the operational efficiency that this agreement will bring to GGFPD.

GGFPD was awarded a full request for \$20,000 of bunker gear from DFPC's Firefighter Safety and Disease grant! The award of this grant will allow us to complete the process of replacing our aging front line bunker gear. Between this grant award and the direct distribution grant award in the fall of 2023, GGFPD will have replaced ALL off our aging front line bunker gear. This achievement has three very important significances to the district. The first is that all our firefighters will be outfitted in modern PPE that meets, or exceeds, current standards of protection. The second is that our firefighters will now be able to allow our firefighters a second set of "backup" gear that will allow them to run calls or participate in training while their primary gear is being cleaned from an exposure. The third, is with a full fresh slate of gear, GGFPD can now accurately forecast and budget for the capital replacement cost for structural PPE on a rolling annual basis. This will prevent the district from running into the issue of mass PPE expiration in the future. As a final note, all GGFPD bunker gear will now say "GGFPD" across the back, along with the firefighters name on a removable name plate. With the majority of our current bunker gear being donated from other departments, it is not labeled, and has no way of displaying a firefighters name. This upgrade should help us with identification and personnel accountability on emergency scenes, as well as during training.

GGFPD is also the recipient of a donation of 4 additional Scott SCBA packs and bottles from a neighboring agency who has switched SCBA manufacturers. This is a significant donation to us as we have been struggling to provide enough packs to both cover the district as well as training

needs. These packs are the same make and model that we currently use, which are all reaching the end of their scheduled functional life; however, they will help us bridge the gap until we are able to secure funding for district wide SCBA replacement.

Our station 82 Firefighters, Led by Resident FF McDaniel, have been hard at work re-configuring station 82's bay to accommodate new built in training props and a cohesive work shop. This crew has also begun the process of building the gym at station 82. They have been working very hard on this project and we are looking forward to providing a quality work out facility for our firefighters within the district to better facilitate firefighter fitness.

## Operations

The district continues with our expected seasonal lull with 17 calls to date as of the submission of this report. However, we experienced several very high acuity calls during the last month, mostly concentrated around the snowstorm on March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. During this time GGFPD firefighters responded to multiple significant automobile accidents and traumatic injuries. Of significant note, GGFPD firefighters and Stadium Medical EMS providers where able to deploy a newly implemented lifesaving tool to GGFPD, a SAM pelvic binder, during one of these calls. We implemented this tool to GGFPD's EMS stock only a few months ago, and we

This volume of snow we experienced during this event highlighted several operational inefficiencies within our own district, as well as on a regional level. GGFPD participated in a regional AAR to discuss regional opportunities for improvement, and we will look to implement future operational enhancements based off our findings and discussions.

During this storm, we again experienced a mapping re-route issue for I-70 traffic. This re-route led to multiple tractor trailer incidents on Golden Gate Canyon Rd, that blocked the canyon. These incidents, coupled with Gilpin County's Emergency Declaration caused us to close Golden Gate Canyon Rd for approximately 18 hours during the storm. A big thank you to all for your understanding as I know road closures can cause frustration, however it allowed us to keep the road safe until it was properly plowed.

## Personnel

We currently have 23 operational members and 4 support services members currently on the roster. We continue to have two additional firefighters on LOA.

We are incredibly proud to have brought two new lateral firefighters into GGFPD in the last month:

Engineer Eric Herber. Eric is a station 83 volunteer, who is also a career Firefighter in Vail. Eric has over 8 years of volunteer fire service experience and brings a host of training, as well as leadership experience to GGFPD. Based off of his experience and certification, Eric will be filling

the lateral position of Engineer, which is a first for the district! Engineer Herber will be reporting to Lt. 83- Brian Gockel

BC Lori Brill. We are incredibly excited to welcome Lori officially back into the GGFPD family! Lori previously served the GG community for many years before spending 5 years as a volunteer firefighter for Golden FD. Lori is also a Battalion Chief in DFPC's training division. Based off her experience and certification, Lori will be filling the lateral position of Battalion Chief of Training and Safety for GGFPD, which is another first for GGFPD! Chief Brill will be a direct report to Chief Benson

Please join me in welcoming Engineer Herber and BC Brill!

## Training

The GGFPD FFI academy continues to progress well. We have unfortunately experienced two delays in Saturday trainings due to snow impacting the clear creek training center. The academy will be wrapping up the didactic portion of FF-I in the next few weeks, and will then be moving into a joint Hazmat Academy with Pleasant View Fire. At the completion of Hazmat Academy we will be re-engaging with the FF-I skills portion of Academy with a scheduled completion in mid-summer.

Probationary FF Drew Kenyon has completed IV training and is now certified as an EMTI-IV.

FF Nick Meyer continues to do very well in EMT school at Red Rocks CC.

Probationary FF Chris Creech continues to progress quickly through the Hybrid Denver Health EMT program and is doing very well.

Several GGFPD FF/EMTS attended a free joint cadaver lab with other local agencies and had a fantastic learning experience. This opportunity will be available for our FFs again in the future and we hope to engage other providers in this very useful training.

Chief Enright and Chief Benson attended a 3 day S-215 class at Evergreen Fire focused on urban interface fire operations. This class was a fantastic opportunity for us to hone our command decision making during urban interface fires.

Finally, with the appointment of Chief Brill to the position of Training and Safety BC, she will begin to take the reins of the training division. Chief Benson will remain in the position of oversight, support, and collaboration for the training division; however, Chief Brill has a robust vision for the future of GGFPD's training and we are in full support of the execution of that vision.

## Station Update Project- Station 81

The station 81 project is progressing well! The snowstorms did slow work slightly for about a week, however our project volunteers are back to working hard! The bathroom remodel is largely complete, and we expect to begin the process of re-texturing and painting next week. The LVP flooring that will be replacing all the flooring surfaces in the station has been ordered and should arrive next week as well.

We continue to be on track with our budget for the remodel thanks to those who have volunteered to assist with this project! A huge thank you to them!

## Likely Future Actions/Events

### 3 Month horizon

- FF-I academy
- ESO transition
- Station 81 Completion
- Mutual Aid and Automatic aid agreement updates
- Presentation of the update GGFPD website

### 6 Month Horizon

- Station updates
- CWPP update
- Community slash chipping event
- Community Wildfire Mitigation & Education initiative
- FF-I academy graduation

## Strategic Concepts and Visions

- Community responder program/special teams- Wildland/Backcountry
- Defensible space home assessment program
- 5 Year strategic plan

## Attachments:

1. Incident Statistics (2024)
2. Minor Incident Types by Month (2024)
3. Incident Type Count per Station for Date Range (2024)
4. Personnel Count per Incident for Date Range (2024)