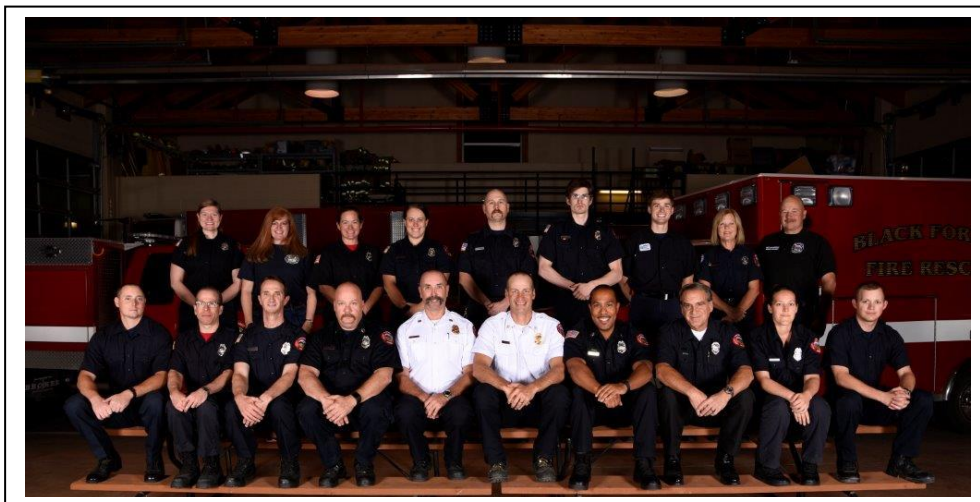




# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2016

This is an overview of district operations for the calendar year 2016 which will encompass all of our divisions and programs.



Submitted by: Bryan J. Jack, Fire Chief

## **District Overview**

The Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District (BFFR) is a mostly volunteer, combination fire department. Physically, the district serves approximately fifty square miles in Northern El Paso County, Colorado. We are an all hazards, emergency response agency that prides ourselves on providing professional, timely and fiscally responsible service to the residents and visitors of the district.

Located within the district boundaries is a resident population of approximately 10,000 individuals and 5,000 residential/commercial structures. Furthermore, the district protects the following critical infrastructure: (3) gas/oil pipelines, (3) natural gas sub-stations, (4) cellular communication sights, and an 800mhz radio tower. Historically, the district was classified as a rural area but over the course of the past several years we have seen suburban growth within our response area. This pattern of growth and development is projected to continue into the foreseeable future.

The district operates out of two fire stations which are located to provide maximum response coverage to the district.

## **Fire District Overview**

The Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District was established in 1945 and has continued to grow and dynamically change since inception. Black Forest Fire Rescue District has become a proven leader in emergency service delivery, collaboration and cooperation with adjacent emergency service agencies and surrounding communities. The district provides many services to the community, to include:

- Structural fire response and suppression
- Wildland fire response and suppression
- Emergency Medical Services first response and transport
- Hazardous Materials Response
- Rescue Operations- Vehicle Extrication and Ice Rescue
- Fire Prevention- Youth, Firewise, Ready-Set-Go
- Community outreach and safety programs that include; community education, driveway identification program, and blood pressure checks.
- Regional Training Site for cooperating agencies
- Community Room for local citizen groups

## Alarm Response

Call response for 2016 has decreased (compared to 2015) by 78 calls. Below you will find a historical look at the previous years (10 year comparison).

Table 1.1 Alarm Responses 2006-2016 (total incident count)

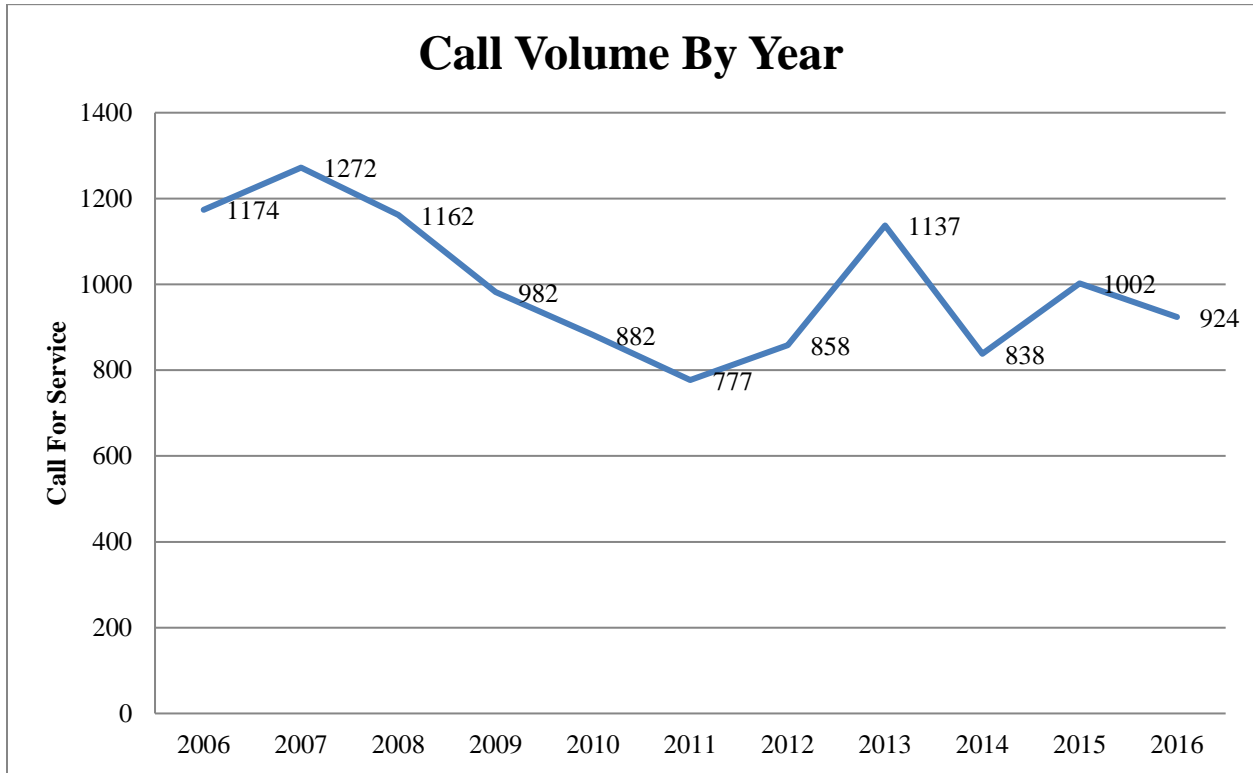
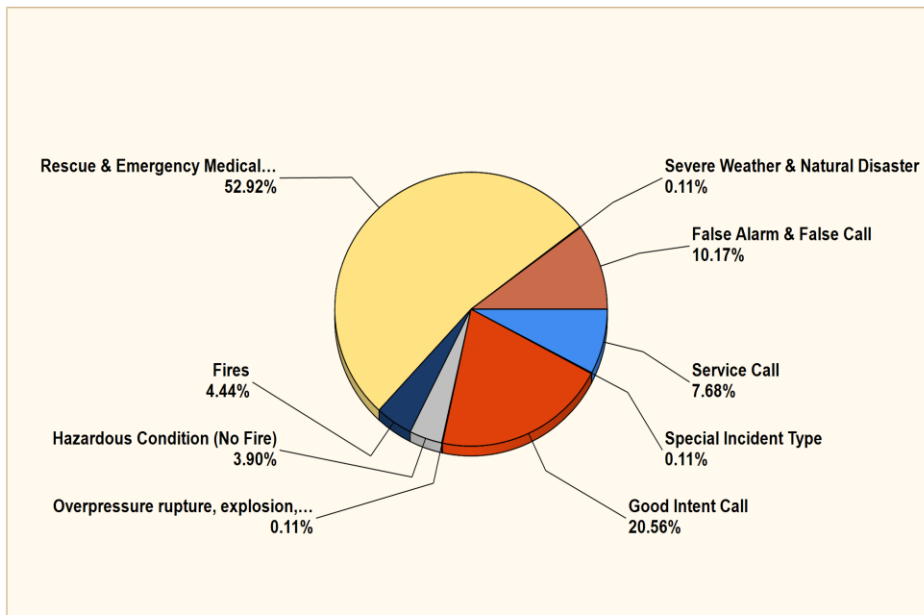


Table 1.2 Incidents by Type-2015

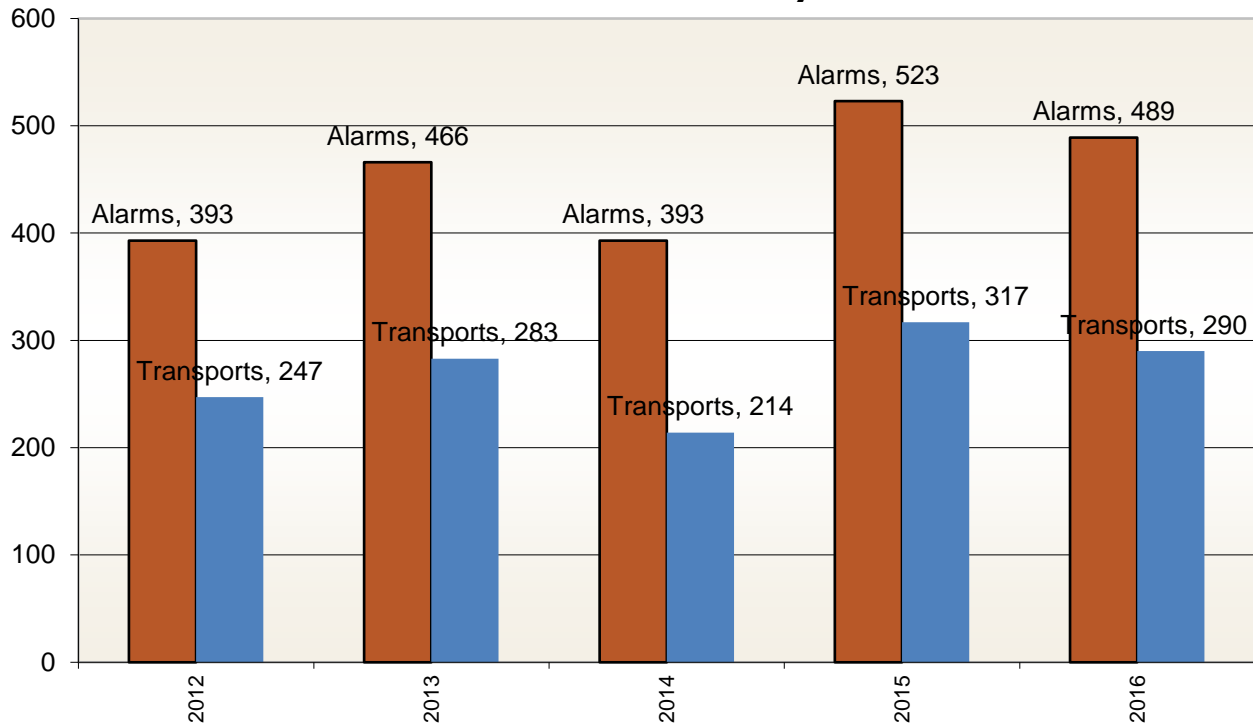


MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS
Fires	41
Overpressure, explosion	1
Rescue & EMS	489
Hazardous Condition	36
Service	71
Good Intent Call	190
False Alarm & False Call	94
Severe Weather	1
Special Incident Type	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>924</b>

## EMS Division

The Emergency Medical Services Division had a busy year. There have been several significant changes in regional response, protocol, and policies again this year. BFFRPD has been on top of these changes and has already made all necessary changes within our system. Black Forest Fire EMS personnel have maintained a high level of professionalism and quality patient care which has been recognized by our physician advisor and EMS support staff.

### EMS Activity



### Emergency Medical Services Billing Information

Total Net Collected 2016 - \$198,910.42

Total Net Collection Rate 2016 – 87.90%

### Response Times

The average response time for all apparatus for a lights and siren response (emergent) is **8:28**.

Our average turnout time for all incidents is **1:33**.

## Membership and Staffing

2016 was again a year of rebuilding for Black Forest Fire/Rescue as it pertained to recruitment and retention of volunteer membership. In 2016 Black Forest held a single new member academy which added 13 members to our roles. These members bring to the district a commitment to community and a desire to make a difference.

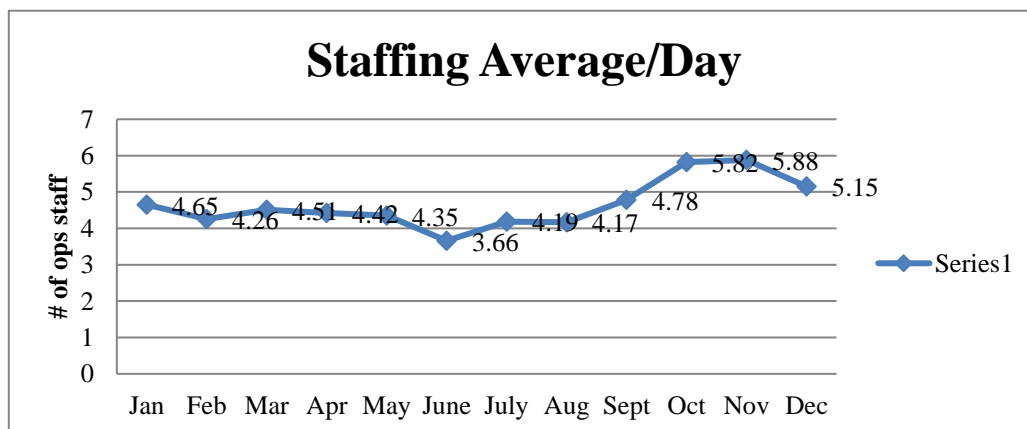
Each time we bring on a new member through an academy or individually, they go through an orientation to the fire service and the district. They also have several classes to complete which include; HIPAA, bloodborne pathogens, sexual harassment and workplace violence training, incident management system introduction, CPR, and Emergency Vehicle Operations Course or EVOC.



Each member is evaluated and given a task book that they must complete prior to the end of their 6 month probationary status. We have scheduled a FF-1 class for our new group of volunteers, which will begin in March of 2017. Additionally, all new members will complete a “Red Card” class in April 2017. All new members are current EMT’s.

The benefits to membership with this district are many. We offer all members the opportunity to become a firefighter by attending a fire I academy (free), wildland firefighter course (free), Hazardous Materials Response Operations course (free), and many other class and certifying course. A member may also choose to serve the community by becoming part of the Fire Auxiliary which is a support group for the operations division of the district. These members provide fireground support in the areas of firefighter rehab, cold zone operations, logistics, and some accountability functions. We strive to allow anyone who wants to be a valuable member of their community a chance to make a difference with Black Forest Fire Rescue.

The cooperator group, established in 2015, continued to serve in 2016. All cooperators attended a ICS and wild fire introduction class (taught in-house). This will allow for a streamlined process to utilize local citizens and their personal equipment during major incidents and events. We will continue to meet quarterly with this group.

We will continue to work towards improving our ability to staff Station #2 as personnel and finances allow. Implementing the Resident Program had an immediate and positive impact on daily staffing. Station #2 is typically occupied 24-hours per day.



		<b>Fire Chief Bryan Jack</b> <b>Assistant Fire Chief James Rebitski</b> <b>Administrative Assistant Melissa Bottorff</b>							
<b>A-Shift</b>		<b>B-Shift</b>		<b>C-shift</b>		<b>Part-Time</b>		<b>Fire Auxiliary</b>	
FF/EMT	Lt. Jamal Davis	FF/EMT	Capt. Larry Bell	FF/EMT	Lt. Rick Robirds	FF/EMT	Micah Coyle	Alyssa McClurg, PIO Anita McMorran David Bottorff Franklyn Blaha Rev. John Dally Rick Carbone	
FF/P	Jessica Wyss	FF/P	Cody Andersen	FF/P	Kelli Ehardt	FF/EMT	Mikel Gabriell		
FF/EMT	Ben Rackl	FF/EMT	David Schlingmann	FF/EMT	Chris Sulewski	FF/EMT	David Smith		
						FF/EMT	Mike Skeldum		
						FF/EMT	Grant Finley		
						FF/EMT	Drew Olsson		
						FF/EMT	Mike Cobb		
						FF/EMT	Joe Cosagrove		
						FF/EMT	Kris Mola		
						FF/EMT	Zach Tassia		
						FF/EMT	Nick Koory		
						FF/EMT	Chris Benoit		
						FF/EMT	Daniel Miller		
						FF/EMT	Dan Grodman		
						FF/EMT	Mike Cunningham		
						FF/P	Austin Pugh		
						FF/P	Elliot Linke		
						FF/P	Derek Thorne		
						FF/EMT	Shannon Balvanz		
						FF/EMT	Jeremy Bullard		
<b>Resident Program</b>									
EMT	Josh Petersen	EMT	Chris Adamson	EMT	Aaron Clymer				
EMT	Ryan Seng								

## Apparatus and Equipment

In 2016 Black Forest Fire Rescue we took stock of all current apparatus, to identify what apparatus we really need to accomplish our mission. Essentially, we identified that we need to maintain the following primary response vehicles: (2) pumpers, (2) tenders, (2) brush trucks and (2) ambulances. In 2016 we sold (2) older reserve engines. This allowed us to reduce the amount expended annually on insurance and maintenance of the fleet. The proceeds for the sale of the identified assets were placed into the capital improvement/replacement account. We received quotes to re-chassis two of our three ambulances the price per unit \$139,000-142,000. Additionally, we received quotes to purchase new ambulances \$173,000-190,000. We intend to delay re-chassis or new purchase until the FY 2018 and apply for a State 50% matching grant.

We also have identified that we need to downsize the number of utility vehicles, operated by the district. At present we have 4 utility/command units. The Assistant Chief vehicle was slated for replacement in 2017 but due to fiscal restraints that have been proposed state-wide we will postpone replacement for the near future. We have identified the need to replace the F-150 utility truck and we intend to trade it and the Excursion in for a certified, pre-owned vehicle.

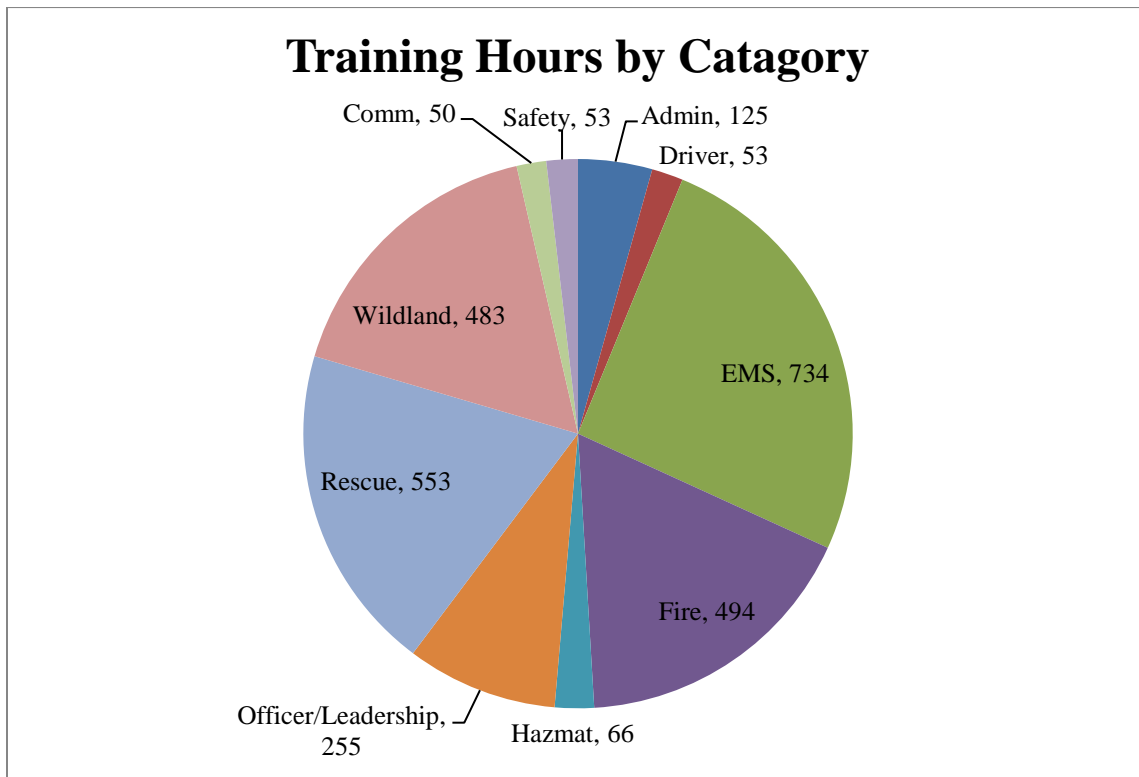
## Training

With our continued dedication to maintaining our proficient and professional membership, in 2016 we were able to focus on growing our people by offering a diverse array of training opportunities.

We sent our three operations fire officers to TEEX Fire Academy, there they were able to obtain their Fire Officer I certification. With a state grant we had four members attend the EMS conference in Keystone. Locally we continued our North Group partnership with EMS and Fire training conducted at Black Forest

Station 2. In the summer, we held a firefighter I academy that was attended by 4 of our members and 7 from other area fire departments. With the help of Centura, Black Forest hosted an Intravenous therapy class with 18 participants 4 being from Black Forest.

In Wildland we continued to host Doctor Hurtado's wildland EMS class. Several members attended the wildland fire academy that is held at UCCS. In house we held a S212 (power saws) class.



In 2016 there were 2866 class hours presented for members to attend.

## Facilities and Grounds

---

### Station 1

In 2016, Station #1 suffered no major damage, repairs or upgrades. The focus for this facility was routine in nature and we completed the following: repaired and replaced all exterior lights, serviced and repaired all bay heaters.

Station #1 has also seen an increase in demand/usage from outside agencies. We realize that the residents ultimately own our facilities, so we will continue to support outside agency usage, unless it starts to negatively impact district operations, training or safety.

### **Station 2 Training Facility**

Station #2 has been dedicated to housing our Resident Firefighter program. We made minor living accommodation improvements in May of 2016 (we turned the TV room into an additional bedroom) at Station #2. This allows the station to accommodate both part-time employees and the residents.

As part of a collaborative effort to unify all of the north group entities, the North Group Chiefs decided that Black Forest Station #2 would be a great place to hold trainings as this would be closer for all districts, this continued through 2016. By doing this we are able to utilize the facility and also make travel time less for our area districts which also ensures that their response time back to their districts is faster, in the event they have a big incident. Both Station #1 and #2 continue to be major regional training facilities. We will continue to expand their utilization.

---

### **Community Programs, Events and Accomplishments**

Black Forest has always been dedicated to community programs and events around the area. The membership, whether a community member or resident elsewhere, has devoted many hours to all of the projects and events here in the Black Forest. Below you will find a breakdown of events, projects and accomplishments for 2016.

➤ **BFFR Firewise Program**

This program provides our community and surrounding communities through inter-department relationships, assessments and mitigation assistance. This provides our community with valuable information for keeping their home and family as safe as possible. Within this program we also provide Ready, Set, Go, a program that prepares homeowners and families for an evacuation during any kind of natural disaster. This program is administered by the membership as a whole utilizing career and Volunteer members of the department.

We were recognized by the IAFC for our innovative and strong commitment to the Ready-Set-Go program. We were featured in their 2016 Calendar.

➤ **Home Identification Program**

The Home Identification Program utilizes commercial high impact composite sign posts with highly reflective numbers to aid firefighters in finding homes in the Black Forest. The fire department provides these signs at cost to the public and will install them at no cost. The signs themselves can be seen from several hundred yards away which reduces the chance of passing an address in the dark. As a community project the department has installed these signs at no charge for homeowners that had their home damaged or destroyed by the fire. This will be a permanent program here at Black Forest, just call the station for more information or go to the website to sign up.



- Annual Easter Egg Hunt
 

The Easter egg hunt went very well this year with over 1200 eggs boiled and dyed for the children. Each year the department sponsors this event and secures donations of the eggs through local and regional vendors. This year we approximately 200 children attend the event and retrieve eggs.
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Open House
 

This was the fourth annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July event, the first being in 2013 after the fire. This event was developed for the community to come out and meet their Firefighters, see the facilities and see some of the things we do on a daily basis. The event has things for all ages. This year we had participation from several surrounding fire districts, county wildland and Search and Rescue. We estimate that over 400 people came out to the station.
- Black Forest Festival and Parade
 

The Black Forest Festival is always a great time for the community. This year we had a great turnout for the parade, we had several vehicles on display.
- Halloween Event at LaForet
 

Black Forest Fire helps LaForet every year with their Halloween event. This year was no expectation. We provided parking support for the guests utilizing department members to provide this service. One of our new volunteers played the role of the Great Pumpkin.
- Outside Agency Cooperation
 

In early 2016 we continued our support with local cooperating agencies.

  - We continued our relationship with the Elbert County OEM and we now participate in their monthly trainings.
  - We have maintained our participation and commitment to the North Group from both training and planning perspective.
  - We are serving as the lead agency to help establish a County wide Type-3 Incident Management Team.
  - We played a major role in the redesign of the Pike Peak Fire Chiefs Association to the Pikes Peak Fire Chiefs Council.
  - We improved our relationship with the El Paso County Wildland Fire Team and assisted with their annual refresher trainings.
  - We established a new relationship with the El Paso County OEM and Served as a lead agency in planning a full scale, county-wide exercise for 2016.
- Four Miles in the Forest
 

We held the second annual outreach event this year, which was a huge success. This event was a run/hike, held at Section 16 (County open space/trail). The intent of the event was to promote wildfire awareness and preparation. Based on the success of our first two years we plan on making this an annual event. We are in discussion with the Land Shark's running group, who would like to sponsor the event this year.
- CWPP
 

We worked diligently with our partner Black Forest Together on several projects, one being an update to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The plan was finally approved by the State of Colorado in late 2016. Our plan was so comprehensively revised that the State classified it as a new plan as opposed to an update. Additionally, we completed a fuel mitigation project of approximately 25 acres in conjunction with BFT.

➤ Federal Wildland Deployments

This year we continued our Federal wildland deployment program. Our Type-6 Engines were deployed several times during the summer fire season. These deployments provided an outstanding training opportunity for several of our members.

➤ Tree Lighting Ceremony

The annual tree lighting ceremony is always a lot of fun and Black Forest Fire once again delivered Santa on engine 711. Each year the members decorate 711 with lights and deliver Santa to the community club. This year the membership did a great job decorating as usual and delivered Santa with lights and siren.

### 2016 Goals

- Establish and implement a Resident Firefighter program, to augment district staffing. (Complete)
- Complete the review and release the updated District Policy Manual (Complete)
- Draft and release a Member Handbook (Draft Complete, not released yet)
- Update the SOG Manual (Complete/On-going)
- Improve average turnout time from 1:45 min. to 1:30 min. (Improved to 1:33)
- Improve average response time from 8:39 to 8:00, 90% of the time. (Improved to 8:28)
- Improve Station #2 staffing from 72.3% to 80% (Discuss)
- Review and update the Capital Equipment Replacement plan. (Needs further funding discussion)
- Ensure that all new members obtain FF-1 and Red Card Certification. (All new 2016 volunteers/residents (12) )
- Certify 3 additional members to the NWCG Engine Boss Level (Complete)
- Complete the Fire Officer 1 certification process for current line officers. (Complete)
- Continue to provide outstanding service to our citizens while remaining fiscally responsible (Only you and the Public can determine)

### 2017 Goals

- Maintain Resident Firefighter Program
- Develop a comprehensive Impact Fee Program
- Release Member Handbook
- Improve average turnout time to 1:30 min.
- Improve average response time to 8:15 90% of the time
- Improve daily staffing to an average of 6 ops staff
- Have all new volunteers (13) obtain FF-1 and Red Card.
- Establish a Firefighter/Paramedic hiring list
- Certify 3 additional members to the NWCG Squad Boss and ICT-4 level
- Continue to provide outstanding service to our citizens while remaining fiscally responsible