



Summer 2013

Smoke Signals

Indian Hills Fire Protection District

Serving the Citizens of Indian Hills Since 1947

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FOURTH OF JULY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Once again, Indian Hills Fire Rescue will host a traditional Fourth of July celebration. The day-long event celebrates our nation's birthday beginning with a pancake breakfast, followed by an Air Life helicopter fly-in and display, a traditional parade, food vendors including a beer garden, and live musical entertainment beginning in the late afternoon and culminating in one of the best and largest fireworks displays (weather permitting) in the entire mountain area. With the exception of the pancake breakfast, food vendors, and beer garden, all events are free to the public. Come join us for a fun day!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST	7:00 am – 11:00 am
AIR LIFE HELICOPTER FLY-IN	10:00 am – 11:00 am
PARADE	11:00 am – 1:00 pm
FOOD VENDORS	4:00 pm – dusk
BEER GARDEN	4:00 pm – 8:30 pm
LIVE MUSIC FEATURING AUSTIN YOUNG	4:00 pm – dusk
FIREWORKS (weather permitting)	9:20 pm

All events will be held at or adjacent to Indian Hills Fire Station 1 at 4476 Parmalee Gulch Rd. and across the street at Arrowhead Park. The day's events are organized and conducted by members of the Indian Hills Fire Rescue & Fire Boots and the local community who graciously volunteer hundreds of hours to ensure that the celebration is a success.

**Donations to help cover the cost of the day's activities
are greatly appreciated!**

Please note that Parmalee Gulch Road will be closed on Thursday, July 4 from approximately 10:45 am – 1 pm between Parmalee Elementary School and the Indian Hills Post Office in order to accommodate the annual Fourth of July parade. Please plan your transportation accordingly.

NEW TENDER ON ORDER

The Indian Hills Fire Protection District will soon have a new truck in its fleet. A 3,000-gallon tender has been ordered, with an estimated delivery date of late 2013.

The tender will round out the District's fleet of firefighting apparatus and have water shuttling as well as firefighting capabilities. The six wheel drive Mack tender is being built to replace our aging 1974 Autocar tender.

FIRE BANS/RESTRICTIONS

It's that time of year again when residents need to pay attention to fire bans/restrictions that are put in place when the weather becomes dry. Here are some guidelines for what is allowable when the County implements a fire ban or restriction.

The following are prohibited during a Stage 1 fire restriction:

- Any fire or campfire that is not within a permanently constructed fire grate in a developed park, campground, private residence, or picnic area.
- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area of at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all combustible material.

The following are prohibited during a Stage 2 fire ban:

- Anything that produces an open flame that is not liquid or gas fueled. This includes charcoal grills at any location.
- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area of at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all combustible material.
- Using any fire to burn trash, debris, or vegetation.
- Any campfire or charcoal grill.
- Use of any apparatus that has an explosive initiation system without following proper guidelines as outlined on the Jefferson County website.

If in doubt, visit the Jefferson County website to check current fire restrictions. And make sure you register with the County's CodeRed system to receive important emergency notifications via telephone, text, and email. Thank you for taking the time to stay informed and for following the rules in place to keep our community safe.



Charity Golf Tournament

Time to swing the clubs to help raise funds for Indian Hills Fire Rescue

The 2013 charity event, which is sponsored by Sit n Bull and organized by Paul and Cindy Lowrey, has been scheduled for Saturday, July 13 at Deer Creek Golf Club at 8135 Shaffer Pkwy. in Littleton.

The 18-hole tournament will be a scramble event with a shotgun start at 8 am. Prizes will be awarded during a buffet lunch at Sit n Bull Saloon.

The \$120 cost per golfer includes 18 holes of golf with cart, bucket of balls, breakfast at the golf club, lunch at Sit n Bull, and a donation to Indian Hills Fire Rescue. Transportation to Deer Creek Golf Club is also provided on the Sit n Bull bus leaving at 6:30 am and returning after the tournament.

Sign up individually or as a team by July 4 with a check payable to Sit n Bull Saloon and mailed to Paul Lowrey at PO Box 521, Indian Hills, CO 80454. Questions? Call 303-697-5309.

Please join us for a wonderful day and to support a good cause!

CONTACT US

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Visit our website at ihfr.org.

FIREWISE COMMUNITY PROJECT

Wildfire season has started this year, and one of the first fires of the season burned earlier this month in Evergreen just seven miles from Indian Hills. On a dry day with winds blowing in our direction, that fire could have reached us in two or three hours. Last year's fire season was a dramatic demonstration that we are terribly vulnerable to a fire disaster. While fire is a natural part of the alpine forest ecosystem, suburban-style human habitation in this ecosystem is not. And these two factors do not mix well.



Because so many of us have moved into this environment in the last hundred years we have had to confront the natural tendencies of the ecosystem to burn in order to protect our lives and property. We have done this by putting out every fire as soon as we can. While we have protected our lives and property for the most part, we have created an enormous problem: The forests are overgrown, unhealthy, and more prone to catastrophic fire than they were before we interrupted the natural cycle of forest thinning by fire and re-growth after the fire. To complicate this situation, global climate change is making the planet dryer, warmer, and windier than it has historically been; all factors that make fire more dangerous. So what can we do in the face of this serious problem? We cannot allow fire back into our environment; there is simply too much that would be lost. Nor can we simply do nothing and hope for the best. In our situation, it is not a question of whether fire will come to Indian Hills, but rather *when* it will come. Clearly, something must be done.

In the Waldo Canyon fire, and indeed in all of the fires in the western United States in the last 40 years, one single factor has improved the chances for the survival of lives and property: how much mitigation has been done. Mitigation is comprised of two elements: 1) fuels reduction to simulate the effects of natural fires and 2) fire-resistant construction and maintenance of structures built in a natural fire environment.

While many of the residents of Indian Hills have done an adequate job of maintaining their homes and outbuildings, most of us find it difficult to keep the growth of vegetation under control. The biggest problem with this is getting rid of the trees, limbs, shrubs, and grasses once they have been cut or trimmed. Slash collection events have been intermittent and often far distant from Indian Hills.

To address the serious impediment of reducing the fuel load in our community, a committee has been formed and has been meeting on the third Monday of every month to find an easy and inexpensive way for Indian Hills residents to get rid of the excess vegetation on their property. The committee has approached the Board of Directors of the Indian Hills Fire Protection District and asked for funding for local slash removal, and the board has granted such funding for an event later this summer. Details concerning the date and collection route will be published on the fire department's website as well as posted at the Post Office. Also recognizing that many residents of Indian Hills may not be physically able to do mitigation work themselves, the committee is working to organize crews to provide help to those residents who need it.

To make coordination of the Firewise project more manageable, the committee has assigned leaders to and divided the community into the following six neighborhoods: Lower Indian Hills/Hwy. 285, Taos Basin, Bear Mountain/Lower Mt. Falcon, Inca Basin, Alpine Village, and Upper Mt. Falcon.

The Firewise project will be a multi-year effort to accomplish the goal of reducing the fuel load in Indian Hills to an acceptable level and then there will be the ongoing work of keeping our community safe by maintaining a healthy forest around us. The task may seem to be too big to tackle right now, but many communities across the country who have faced a similar problem have been able to get the job done. We can do it, too: one property at a time, one neighborhood at a time, and before we know it Indian Hills will be transformed into a Firewise Community, one that is much safer from the threat of catastrophic wildfire.

The next Firewise meeting will be July 15 at 7 pm at the fire station. Come join us!

Jefferson County slash collection will be held at Inter-Canyon Fire Station #3 at 8445 S. Hwy. 285 in Conifer on August 10-11 between the hours of 8:30 am – 3:30 pm.



Indian Hills Fire Rescue

P.O. Box 750

Indian Hills, CO 80454

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INDIAN HILLS, CO 80454



Chief's Corner

With the Fourth of July rapidly approaching, we are busy planning our annual celebration for everyone to enjoy the day in Indian Hills. This year we have several exciting additions to the schedule of events.

First, we will be featuring the hottest blues band in the area: Austin Young and No Difference. Also, we will be adding a beer garden. Both the band and beer garden will be at Arrowhead Park across the street from the fire station and will begin in the late afternoon. Please note that in order to ensure that everyone has a fun and safe time, we will be strictly enforcing a three-drink limit per person and will require that EVERYONE present an ID in order to be served.

In news around town, we have started a community Firewise program that we hope many of you will be a part of. Much of the vegetation in Indian Hills needs to be thinned to not only create a healthier forest but also to help the fire department in case a wildfire would break out. If everyone in Indian Hills could start mitigation efforts around their houses, it would be a great first step in protecting our community. A number of resources are available to help you with mitigation efforts, including a personal visit from our Fire Marshal at no charge to you. And to help you get rid of slash on your property, we are planning a local slash collection date for later this summer.

We look forward to seeing many of you on the Fourth. And please remember to bring some extra cash for the fire boot donation to help defray the cost of this wonderful event.

Emery Carson, Chief

