



Spring 2011

# Smoke Signals

## Indian Hills Fire Protection District

Serving the Citizens of Indian Hills Since 1947

### Wildfire Season Starts Early!

For those of us living in the Urban-Wildlife Interface (UWI) zone, “wildfire” is a word that get should immediately get our attention. As the events of recent weeks have shown, the speed with which a wildfire can cause such utter devastation is incredible. As of this writing, over 170 of our neighbors in Boulder and Larimer counties have lost their homes in recent wildfires. And here in Indian Hills, we are not immune to a disaster like this. So what can we do to prepare?



#### Before the Fire:

Prepare your property for the possibility of wildfire. While nothing will make your home completely “fireproof,” there are certain things you can do to help us defend your home:

- Follow the Colorado State Forest Service mitigation plan around your house. Copies of this plan are available at the fire station or at <http://csfs.colostate.edu/pages/defensible-space.html>
- Keep your driveway free of obstacles to allow fire trucks better access and better egress for you!
- Clean and maintain your property to keep slash and other debris to a minimum. Indian Hills, Inter-Canyon, Elk Creek, and Evergreen Fire all hold annual slash collection days at reasonable cost.
- Pay attention to burn bans - *all of the recent fires have been human caused.*

Remember, a permit, with strict guidelines, is required to burn slash at any time of year.  
Contact the Sheriff's Office (303-277-0211) for more information.

#### In the Event of Fire:

Wildfires can start suddenly and spread with incredible speed. Your time to gather essential items and evacuate may be limited to just minutes. Have a plan for what to take, but remember: *your life is most important!* Everything else can be replaced.

- If you see smoke or fire, call 911 immediately.
- Stay tuned to local media for early notification of nearby incidents. The Sheriff's Office has the ability to make Reverse 911 calls and will do so as time permits. If you receive one of these calls, listen carefully and follow the instructions immediately.
- If evacuation is required, *get out!* Take the following items *only if time permits*:
  - Copies of important documents (insurance, real estate, vehicles, wills, etc.).
  - List of phone numbers (doctor, family, insurance company, etc.).
  - Medications.
  - Pets and supplies.
  - Photos or other keepsakes.

-If you are able to do so, leave a note on the inside of a front window to let emergency responders know that everyone has made it out safely. Leave a cell phone number, too!

#### After the Fire:

Pay attention to local media, as well as meetings set up for evacuated residents. We will try to get you back to your property as soon as possible, but we will only do so when it is safe. An extensive fire will leave many dangers even after the fire has passed. Please be patient. We live here too, and we want life to return to normal as soon as possible.

#### Additional Information:

For additional information, please contact the Jefferson County Wildfire Prevention Hotline at 303-271-8200, or visit their website at [www.co.jefferson.co.us](http://www.co.jefferson.co.us) and search “Fire Safety.” You may also contact Indian Hills Fire/Rescue directly at 303-697-4568.



*Submitted by Scott Case, a volunteer Firefighter/EMT with IHFR, Lakewood Police Officer and Indian Hills resident.*

**'Boots' Corner**

Join us - Meet new people, share your skills!

Become a Member of the "Indian Hills Fire Boots"

We are a citizen group of non-uniformed volunteers who are providing support to the Indian Hills Fire and Rescue Department. Join the Boots and help strengthen our community by supporting the Indian Hills Fire Department.

**July 4th Festivities** – We really need help running all the festivities, Pancake Breakfast, Parade, Boot Collections and hanging signs and posters throughout the Foothills Communities. This is our big community event, let's pull together to pull it off.

It is a very dry year again and that means .....the chance for wildfires is great!

**Incident Support Volunteers (ISV) will be needed.** This a group of people who are willing to help with running to get sandwiches, water, coffee or whatever else is needed during an emergency situation when our firefighters are unable to break away.

Can't make the meeting? Send an email to Emily at [emilymil@msn.com](mailto:emilymil@msn.com) to volunteer.

Meetings are held at the Fire Station on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7pm. Join us and help strengthen our community by supporting the Indian Hills Fire Department.

Help your community, Share your skills,  
Meet new people!

**2011Big Chili Cook-Off**

*2011 marks the Tenth Anniversary of the Big Chili Cook-off Music and Arts Festival. When we gather for all of the usual fun on Sunday, September 11th we will also be commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the terrorist attacks on our country. When the towers fell in New York City, 343 firefighters lost their lives, and after ten years we want their families and our country to know that the mountain communities have not forgotten the lives that were lost, while trying to save others.*

*Join us for this bigger than life, better than ever celebration to honor those who have given so much, and to tell our own fire and rescue teams that we are proud of the work they do and honored to have them living in our midst. Thank you Elk Creek, Evergreen, Indian Hills, Inter Canyon, North Fork and Platte Canyon Fire and Rescue for all you do to make our way of life possible.*



**Indian Hills Fire Rescue now offers the community a higher level of  
Emergency Medical Service.**

Recently, three members of the department became state and nationally certified as Emergency Medical Technician –Intermediate (EMT-I). This level of certification allows them to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) with the capability to assess and treat a wider range of medical conditions with advanced airway management techniques, cardiac and drug therapies. The education and skills development process required over a year of classroom and field internship, all on their own time as volunteers.

Congratulations to ***Captain Bob Fager, FF/EMT Jason Gagnier and EMT Aaron Ratke.***

Thanks for your commitment and dedication.

**CAN WE FIND YOU IN AN EMERGENCY?**

**STANDARDIZED REFLECTIVE HOUSE NUMBER SIGNS ARE FOR SALE**

**Help local emergency service personnel find your home faster. This standard numbering program will make finding houses easier for everyone. The last thing you need to worry about during an emergency, when seconds may count, is if rescuers will be able to locate your home. The signs are made of rust free aluminum with a blue reflective background and white numbers. They are one sided and horizontally oriented and may be ordered by mailing the attached order form to Indian Hills Fire Department. Signs should be mounted next to your driveway, along the road, not on the house.**

**Signs are \$15.00. If you have any questions or would like to place an order please call 303-697-4568.**

**Thanks for helping us help you!**

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Return this completed form with your check made payable to: Indian Hills Fire Dept.

Mail to: PO Box 750, Indian Hills, CO 80454

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Numbers on Sign:

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Please check your preference of a horizontal \_\_\_\_\_ or vertical \_\_\_\_\_ layout.



**Indian Hills Fire/Rescue**

**P.O. Box 750**

**4476 Parmalee Gulch Road**

**Indian Hills, Co. 80454**

**Phone: 303-697-4568**

**Fax: 303-697-1029**

**Email: [chief@ihfr.org](mailto:chief@ihfr.org)**

**[officemanager@ihfr.org](mailto:officemanager@ihfr.org)**

**INDIAN HILLS RESIDENT**

**INDIAN HILLS, CO.80454**

***SMOKE SIGNALS* is a publication of the Indian Hills Fire Protection District.**

**CHIEF'S NOTE-** The spring edition of Smoke Signals is dedicated to addressing the most critical of all hazards that affect our community; Wildfires. As this edition of Smoke Signals goes to print, there have already been several wildland fires along the front range, several of those in our neighboring districts. To date, most of these fires have been human caused, as were most of the serious fires last season, which means they could have been prevented. It's important to remember that we live in a semi-arid climate that is currently experiencing extremely dry conditions due, in large part, to the mild winter, lack of snowfall and frequent drying winds. Any fire in our community, no matter how small, can become a wildland fire and if conditions are right, the spread of fire can be rapid. Historically, Indian Hills has experienced an average of three wildland fires per year. In 2010 we fought three fires that burned over 22 acres in the district. Two of those fires were human caused; one by an improperly discarded cigarette. Indian Hills Firefighters are well trained and equipped to fight wildland and structure fires, but we need your help. Our Firefighters and EMT's are volunteers that give their time and safety to benefit the community. However, the best results come from prevention *not* response. Everyone can help ensure that the community remains safe by being prepared, mitigating your property and having a plan to evacuate in case the worse happens. Also, remember that the county has slash collection sites available each year for our benefit. Please take advantage of those and help keep the fuel load that a fire would need to a minimum. Information on those dates will be available soon. Until then, be safe!

