



CHENA-GOLDSTREAM FIRE & RESCUE NEWSLETTER



LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Neighbor,

This year has been very busy and as the year draws to a close, I am proud to report several exciting news items.

This summer, CGFR received two FEMA grants. The first was an equipment grant which the Department used to purchase 40 sets of firefighting clothing. The use of this grant saves the department \$72,000 and improves the safety of our responders. The second grant, aimed at recruitment and retention, allows CGFR to provide 6 university students with a two-year scholarship towards a degree in Fire Science or Emergency Medical Services. The students also receive on the job experience by living at three of our four CGFR fire stations. This greatly helps us improve response times in our out-lying areas and will maintain or improve our ISO (Insurance Services Office) standing when we test next summer.

We welcomed two new Captains to CGFR this summer – Jim Eighme and Chris Hunger. Jim Eighme, originally from Big Bear Lake California, brings 25 yrs experience to CGFR and will take charge of our training program. Chris Hunger comes to us from Sandy Oregon with 7 years of experience and has been hired to manage equipment and maintenance. These two new additions to the team have already proven to be great assets for CGFR. Though we were sad to see them go, we wish Mike Branum and Tallan Baumfalk good luck as they move on to their new departments.

I'm also proud to announce two new fire engines were added to our fleet this year. With approval from the Board & Commission, the department utilized six years of savings and a loan through the Borough to purchase the new engines. We believe we now have enough equipment to meet the ISO requirement for all four of our stations. CGFR will test with ISO next summer with the goal of changing the rating for the Goldstream area (from Ballaine Road to Fox) from an ISO rating of 8, to a 6 or better. This ISO rate change can add up to a 50% savings in insurance costs for some properties. This test only happens every 10 years. It's only through the hard work and training by our volunteers that we can make this happen. Looking ahead to future ISO tests, we will have to update the oldest apparatus in our fleet in order to keep our ratings. See the article in this newsletter.

On October 27th we held our Annual Meeting at Station 2. I gave a brief report of the past year's happenings and the Board President, Paul Delys, gave a report of the Board. A new member, Randy Hambright, was elected to the Board of Directors. Randy, a retired elementary school teacher, has been active with the department for many years as firefighter, lead medic and Captain. Two other Board Members were re-elected to their posts – Kathryn Pyne and Ron Dearborn. If you would like to see the minutes of the meeting, please visit our website or call the station to have a copy mailed to you.

Thank you for your support of CGFR and I look forward to hearing from you if you ever have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely, Chief Jack Willard

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For copies of this newsletter
please call 479-5672 or
email paul@cgfr.com

EMERGENCY VEHICLE RIGHT OF WAY



CGFR Volunteers responding to a call.

It can be frustrating and dangerous when driving a fire engine or an ambulance in response to a distress call to encounter a driver on the road who does not know what to do when approached from ahead or behind by an emergency vehicle. It can be equally intimidating for drivers to be approached by an emergency vehicle when they do not understand what to do. Here are some guidelines for what to do when you hear or see an emergency vehicle approaching:

If it is safe to do so, slow down and pull over to the right hand side of the road when being approached from either direction as noted in the Alaska Administrative Code 13 AAC 02.140: Upon the approach of an authorized emergency vehicle making use of a visual signal... the driver of every vehicle proceeding in any direction shall yield the right-of-way by slowing and pulling to the right hand edge of the roadway, clear of an intersection and stopping, to await passage of the emergency vehicle.

- Avoid creating more of a blockade – if you cannot pull over to the right hand side of the road (example: stopped at a stoplight in heavy traffic), it is best to stay where you are so the emergency vehicle can maneuver around you.
- Continue safe driving practices to avoid harming yourself or others – trying to stop quickly on an icy curve for example.
- When approached from behind on a blind or sharp curve in the road, it is best to continue driving through the curve before pulling over so the approaching emergency vehicle can safely see oncoming traffic.

Following these simple guidelines will help ensure that emergency vehicles are able to get to the person or structure quickly and that drivers and pedestrians remain safe during emergency responses.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



April Volunteer of the Month

Volunteer of the Month for April is Laura Williams. Laura took the initiative to get the department's training records up to date and into the computer. We were impressed with her enthusiasm and temporarily hired her to continue catching up with the paperwork backlog. Volunteering for the fire department is a family affair in the Williams household -- her husband also volunteers with CGFR. Laura volunteered at CGFR many years ago then took time off to start a family. We are glad to have her back with us as a valued volunteer.

May Volunteer of the Month

Lieutenant Bill Witte is the May Volunteer of the Month. Lt.

Witte brought together the efforts of many volunteers to perform our single largest annual task -- testing every piece of fire hose in the department. With over 5 miles of fire hose to test, this is a daunting job that requires considerable commitment. For scale, that's nearly enough fire hose to run down Chena Ridge and the Parks Highway all the way to the Goldhill Store. A member since 1999, Bill is integral to our operations as a lead medic and battalion chief. Thanks, Bill, for all you do at CGFR.



June Volunteer of the Month

The June Volunteer of the Month is Michael Smith. Mike spent a great deal of time helping to get trucks back in service after several major fires this month. He was at the station until 4am one morning ensuring the apparatus was ready for the next call. Mike, a former live-in at Station 1, is a career firefighter at the Fort Wainwright Fire Department. Mike, and people like him, are the reason CGFR and all volunteer organizations can successfully undertake their missions. Thanks, Mike, for everything you do for the CGFR and the community we serve.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

July Volunteer of the Month

Captain Gordon Hill is Volunteer for July. Gordon took his own initiative, and personal leave from his job with the Fort Wainwright Fire Department, and repaired the department's ladders that had been dinged up and put out of service over the last few years. Gordon joined CGFR in 2000 hoping to turn volunteering in the fire and EMS services into a professional career. He quickly worked through our training program and became a fire fighter, EMT III/Lead Medic and an officer. He reached his employment goal when he was hired as a fire fighter at Clear Air Force Base. He has since transferred to Fort Wainwright and went to paramedic school in Colorado. Gordon continues to be one of CGFR's most active and consistent volunteers, picking up many lead medic and battalion officer shifts. He also teaches fire fighter and EMT classes for the department and elsewhere in the Borough.

Thanks, Gordon, for everything you do for CGFR.



August Volunteer of the Month

Riley Witte is the August Volunteer of the Month for all the work she does around the station. She has only been a CGFR volunteer for a short time, but pulls numerous shifts and is always available for any chores needing done. Riley's dad was the May Volunteer of the Month; this family has volunteering in their blood! Riley worked in Russia for a few years and joined CGFR upon her return. Thanks, Riley, for your efforts.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



September Volunteer of the Month

Leah Johnson is the September Volunteer of the Month. She's an ER and public health nurse in real life and quite involved with CGFR. She administered and read annual TB tests for all the volunteers this month. She's a long-time Fairbanksan who recently returned home after working on the east coast for a few years. We're very glad to have her on board at CGFR. Thanks for all you do for us and good luck with EMT I class.

October Volunteer of the Month

Hannah Harrision is the October Volunteer of the Month for the work she has been doing with the recruit classes. Hannah has only been with CGFR a short time but is moving quickly. She joined us in January 2011 and earned her EMT I certificate in May. She saw an opportunity to help with recruits this summer and jumped on board. She is a graduate student in Environmental Ethnography at UAF studying sustainable fisheries on the Kenai Peninsula. Welcome to the department, Hannah, and congratulations on your Volunteer of the Month award.



November Volunteer of the Month

Volunteer of the Month for October is Robert Collamore. Robert comes to us from Washington state where he built up four years experience volunteering as a fire fighter and medic. He also worked for a private ambulance company and bar-tended his way through college. A recent arrival to Fairbanks and CGFR, Robert has pulled many shifts and is always available to help with projects, including a recent EMT class. He enjoys helping people and likes the camaraderie and teamwork involved with volunteering at a fire department. We're very happy to have Robert on our team. Thanks Robert!

FIRE DEPARTMENT FUNDING

AN UPDATE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We would like to take a moment to update you on the status of the department and provide you with more information about our concerns for the future of CGFR. We, the Board, believe that CGFR is in pretty good shape for the short term. As the Chief mentioned in his letter, by drawing down six years of savings and borrowing money we have been able to purchase two new engines. We expect that these new engines in combination with our existing equipment and the 43,000 hours of volunteer commitment we receive each year will get us through our next ISO review. However, as we look further ahead, it is clear that we must act soon in order to maintain the insurance rating for our residents, provide adequate and safe equipment for our volunteers, and ensure that our apparatus remains operable and available when needed.

Currently, when we replace an old engine, that retiring engine is 40 years old. It is not dependable, does not meet ISO standards for water capacity or pumping volume, and when broken stays in the shop and out-of-service for a long time for lack of parts. For instance when Tanker 45 froze-up fighting a fire last December it remained out-of-service until October. Analysis of our budget shows that things will get worse if we don't act. Because of this, we have set a goal to reduce the retirement age of fire apparatus from 40 years to 25 years. Under this plan, it will take 25 years to reach the goal. This patient approach will require an increase of our tax rate by the same amount that the Board voluntarily reduced it 14 years ago. This cost replacement strategy requires that the fire service area generate an additional \$300,000 dollars per year. This amounts to approximately 0.27 mills at the estimated 2011 property evaluation or \$27 per \$100,000 of assessed value.

We have posted much more information on our website so that when this item appears on the ballot in March 2012 you can be fully informed about your vote.

Sincerely,
The CGFR Board of Directors



Engine #41 was purchased new in 1987 and fails to meet many current safety standards. In the background is Tanker #45, donated to us by Chugiak Volunteer Fire Department, which has severe mechanical problems.

WINTER FIRE SAFETY

Winter is upon us and the threat of summer forest fires is gone, however, there are still some important things to keep in mind to ensure the safety of ourselves, our loved ones, and our homes.

Brush Burning

Though the dangers are greatly diminished with the cool, snowy, it is still important to get a burn permit during the winter. You can apply for a burn permit at Chena Goldstream Station 2 on Chena Ridge Road or on the Department of Forestry website (<http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>). The permits are free and are valid for three fire seasons (April 1 – August 31).

If you are burning during the fire season (April 1 - August 31) and have a burn permit, please remember to call in to the Division of Forestry at the number printed on your burn permit. During the rest of the year, it is still required to follow the guidelines of the burn permit. Information about the guidelines for burning can be found on the Alaska Department of Forestry website.

Wood and Wood Stoves

Wood stoves are a wonderful way to heat your home or augment other heating devices in your home. It provides a cozy atmosphere and can be a cost effective alternative. Wood stoves, like any heating device, can be dangerous if used improperly. Over the past 5 years, Chena Goldstream Fire and Rescue has responded to 31 chimney fires that ranged from minor damage to total loss of the house. Don't put your home at risk! Take some simple steps to ensure the safety of your home and family.

Here are some tips to help ensure that you keep your home and family safe this winter:

- Thoroughly clean your wood stove stack with the appropriate size wire chimney brush. It is best to clean your chimney several times a year, especially if it is your primary source of heat.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start fires
- Do not overload stove or fireplace
- Use approved screen or glass cover for fireplace
- Follow woodstove and chimney manufacturers clearance recommendations
- Cut wood to stove length and split before storing
- Stack and cover top (not sides) of wood pile to protect from rain
- Burn dry wood that has been seasoned for a minimum of 6 months
- Clean stove and chimney regularly
- Put ashes in a metal bucket and soak with water before disposal

For more detailed information about burning wood, you can check out this document on the State Fire Prevention website, <http://www.dps.state.ak.us/fire/TEB/docs/woodstovesafety.pdf>, or visit the Borough sponsored website, Air Quality Fairbanks at <http://www.aqfairbanks.com/burnwise/>.

WINTER FIRE SAFETY

Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Alarms

You can't see or smell carbon monoxide (CO), but at high levels it can kill a person in minutes. CO is produced when fuels such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal are burned. Appliances that burn fuels are usually not hazardous when maintained and installed properly. In order to keep you and your family safe, it is important to install a CO detector in your home. Below are some examples of products that we have found to have a better detection level (takes less CO to cause the alarm goes off) and other features we recommend.

Smoke alarms are an important safety device to have in any home. There are many different types and brands available, but it is important to note a few features. Generally smoke alarms fall under two basic types of sensors: ionization and photoelectric. Some smoke alarms have both types of sensors. It is recommended that every home and bedroom have either one of each type of sensor or a dual sensor smoke alarm.

For more information about carbon monoxide and smoke alarms, visit the US Fire Administration website <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/>.



A CGFR Volunteer enjoys the Aurora on a fall evening outside Station 2.

Kids Corner

Word Search

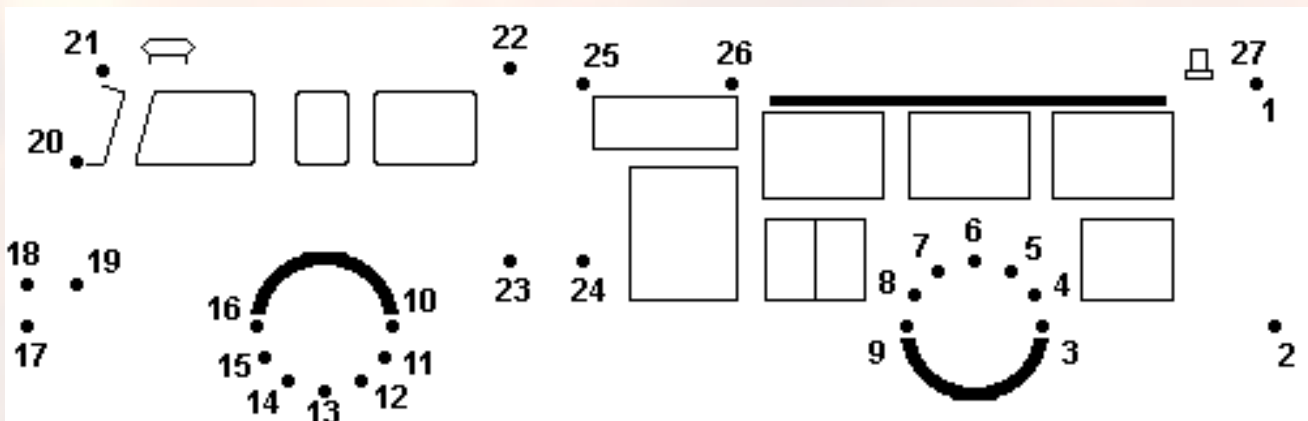
Circle the following words in the word search below:
(note: words may be in any direction)

AMBULANCE
CGFR
CHIEF
EMT
ENGINE
FIREFIGHTER
FIRESTATION
HOSE
LADDER
SAFETY
SMOKE
TURNOUT GEAR
VOLUNTEER
WATER

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

Connect the Dots

Follow the numbers to connect the dots and watch a fire engine appear!



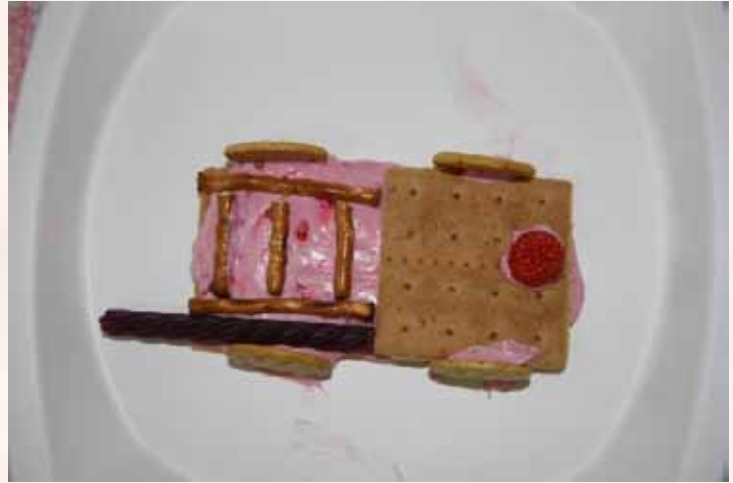
Kids Corner

Graham Cracker Fire Engine

Adapted from EnchantedLearning.com

Materials:

Graham crackers
Miniature Ritz crackers or tiny cookies
Pretzel sticks
Licorice
Frosting or cream cheese
Red food coloring or berries
Red, round candy



Instructions:

1. Mix the food coloring or red berries into the frosting.
2. Lay out one long graham cracker and spread the red frosting or cream cheese over it.
3. Place a square graham cracker over one half of the frosted larger graham cracker (this is the cab).
4. With a little more frosting/cream cheese, affix the red candy to the top of the "cab" portion of the square graham cracker.
5. Affix four Ritz crackers (wheels) to the sides of the engine/graham crackers using some of the frosting/cream cheese.
6. On the back of the engine, affix two pretzel sticks length wise to make the sides of a ladder. Place a few broken pieces in between the two long places to make ladder rungs.
7. Next to the ladder, place a licorice stick (hose).

**Chena-Goldstream
Fire & Rescue**

Jack Willard, Chief
Brad Paulson, Asst Chief
Bill Witte, District Chief
Gordon Hill, District Chief
Dianne Young, Admin Assist

Executive Board

Paul Delys, President
Kathy Leitgeb, VP
Robert Ragar, Secretary
Janet Daley, Treasurer

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Ron Dearborn
Randy Hambright
Kathryn Pyne
Anna Sorensen
Earl Voorhis

Commissioners

Mike Gho
Don Kirk
Grant Matheke

Station 2

716 Chena Ridge Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907) 479-5672
Office Hours:
8am - 5pm
Monday - Friday

Station 1

3210 Murphy Dome Rd

Station 3

1300 Goldstream Rd

Station 4

3805 Potter Rd

For copies of this newsletter
please call 479-5672 or
email paul@cgfr.com

WANT TO JOIN CGFR???

CGFR is recruiting for volunteer Fire and Emergency Medical responders. Whether your are interested in helping the community or looking to begin a career, we would like to talk to you.

Call 479-5672 or email volunteer@cgfr.com for information on how to join.

RECRUIT CLASSES ARE GOING ON NOW!!

Chena-Goldstream Fire & Rescue is also looking for individuals who can volunteer to help the department with:

- Administrative tasks
- Technical / Computer challenges
- Events - prevention education and fire safety
- Provide food and warm drinks for volunteers out on a call

To learn more contact Linda Hill at lhill@cgfr.com or 479-5672.

CGFR MISSION STATEMENT

TO PROVIDE THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF PRESERVATION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY AT A REASONABLE COST;
TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY, GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT FOR DEPARTMENT MEMBERS; AND
TO PROVIDE EDUCATION AND SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC.