



ANNUAL REPORT

2024

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

CHARLIE SCHMIDTMANN

It is my pleasure to present the Nederland Fire Protection District's Annual Report for 2024. The information inside will provide you with history, activities, incident response and other department data.

2024 was the highest demand for call response in Nederland Fires history, 503 calls. Our dedicated professionals consist of 30 Volunteer Firefighters, 3 full-time Paramedic/Firefighter Captains, Fire Marshal, Administrator and Fire Chief. Our professional firefighters respond to calls of all natures including wildland fires, medical calls, motor vehicle accidents, climbing accidents, backcountry rescues, Ice related incidents, buildings flooding, lift assists, structure fires, and mutual aid to other local departments. Our professionals also perform safety and business inspections, public education, code change, fire prevention and hazard analysis.

The districts aging fleet and buildings are slowly being addressed due to the support of the 2022 voter approved mill levy. In January of 2023 the district ordered a new fire engine to replace the 26-year-old front line engine that is currently being used. NFPD is expecting the delivery of the new engine in March of 2025. In 2023 NFPD won a grant that will pay for 1/3 of a new ambulance. In September of 2023 NFPD ordered a new ambulance that will replace its 25-year-old first due ambulance. The district expects the arrival of this ambulance in March of 2026. Finally, NFPD purchased the chassis for the replacement of one of its Brush/Wildland trucks that is 30 years old. By outfitting it in the district we will save about 50% of the cost of a fully built truck. We are excited to have these new necessary vehicles not only for the dependability on response but for the safety features for our responders.

2023 was a difficult year for NFPD, as we held several vacancies within our staff. With the hard work of our Board of Directors, Volunteers, Fire Marshal and Fire Captain we hired 2 Captain/Paramedics, our Administrator transitioned her position from part-time to full-time and the district performed a nationwide search for the Fire Chief. By the start of 2024 NFPD was fully staffed. In addition to our paid staff in September we were fortunate to have hired 6 new volunteer firefighter recruits.

I am proud and humbled to be part of this team as we strive to serve our community with our amazing group of professionals.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

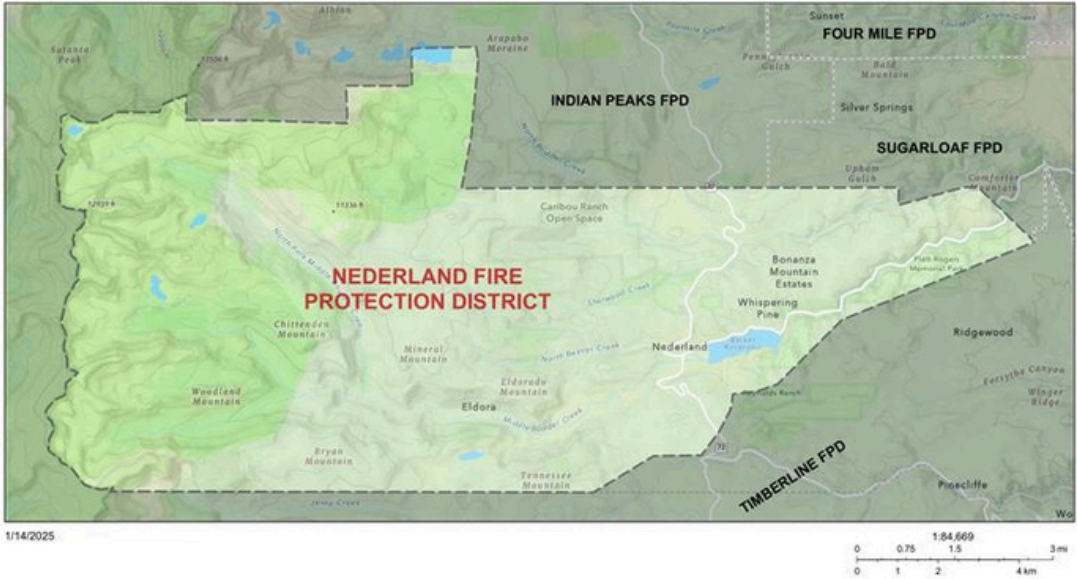
- All original carpet was replaced at Station 1
- SCBA compressor (breathing air for firefighting) was replaced, we were able to do this due to Castle Rock Fire providing us a very good deal on a used one.
- Purchase of a new chassis for a brush truck replacement.
- All the walls on the first floor of Station 1 were painted by volunteers and staff
- Replaced some office furniture
- Volunteers performed 4312 hours of in station standby hours and 1761 hours of in district standby hours
- Documented 2442 hours of training for the year
- Hosted an Emergency Medical Responder class with approximately 30 students



- 24 Wildland Fire packs were donated by Sunshine Fire.
- Won a grant for 128,000 for portable radio replacements.
- Won an additional grant to host the Denver Chop Shop to teach our responders advanced extrication techniques
- We welcomed 6 new recruits.
- Hosted a recruit academy
- Promoted 3 Firefighters to Lieutenant Candidate
- The pump for our primary wildland truck was replaced in-house.
- The monitors in the training room were replaced.

RESPONSE AREA

56 SQUARE MILES



Nederland Fire provides a wide range of emergency services to the Town of Nederland, the town site of Eldora, the Eldora Ski Area and a vast expanse of public lands.

Our primary directive is to protect our community, however during time of need, sending crews to endangered areas provides critical help to these communities while obtaining skills and knowledge for use in our community.

AERIAL VIEW OF THE TOWN OF NEDERLAND



BARKER RESERVIOR

STATIONS

STATION 1
650 W 4TH ST



STATION 1 APPARATUS

- 5601 1998 HME Darley pumper
- 5621 1999 Ford F450 Ambulance
- 5651 2017 Toyota Tacoma ALS response
- 5631 2019 Ford F550 wildland engine
- 5641 2004 HME 3000 gallon tender
- 5624 2016 Ford F350 Rescue
- 5644 943A2 Military 1800 gallon tender
- 5617 2005 Pierce 55 foot aerial pumper
- 5650 2022 Chevy 2500 Command

MOST UTILIZED



STATION 2
2815 RIDGE RD



STATION 2 APPARATUS

- 5602 1998 Pierce pumper
- 5642 1996 International 3000 gallon 2wd Tender
- 5622 2002 F450 Medtec Ambulance
- 5632 1999 F550 wildland engine

STATION 3 APPARATUS

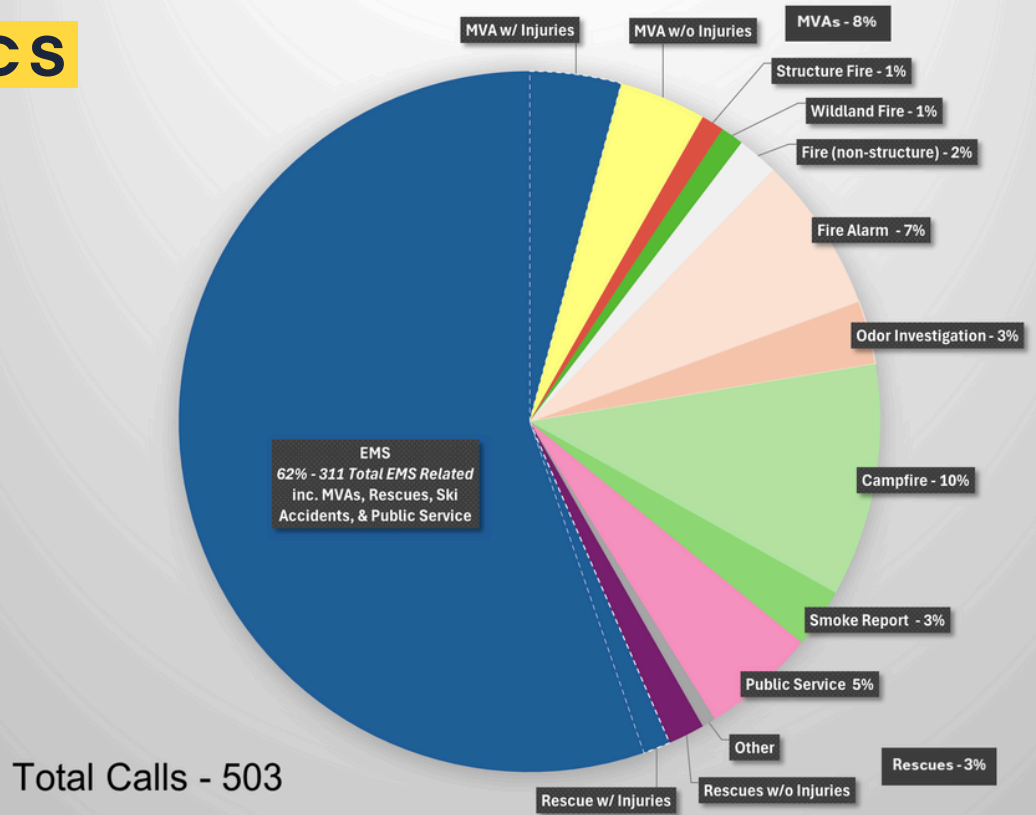
- 5603 1989 E-One 2wd pumper
- 5633 1994 GMC 3500 wildland engine
- 5640 1975 Kaiser 2-1/2 ton 900 gallon Tender

STATION 3
555 ELDORADO AVE



STATISTICS

NFPD 2024 Incident Classification

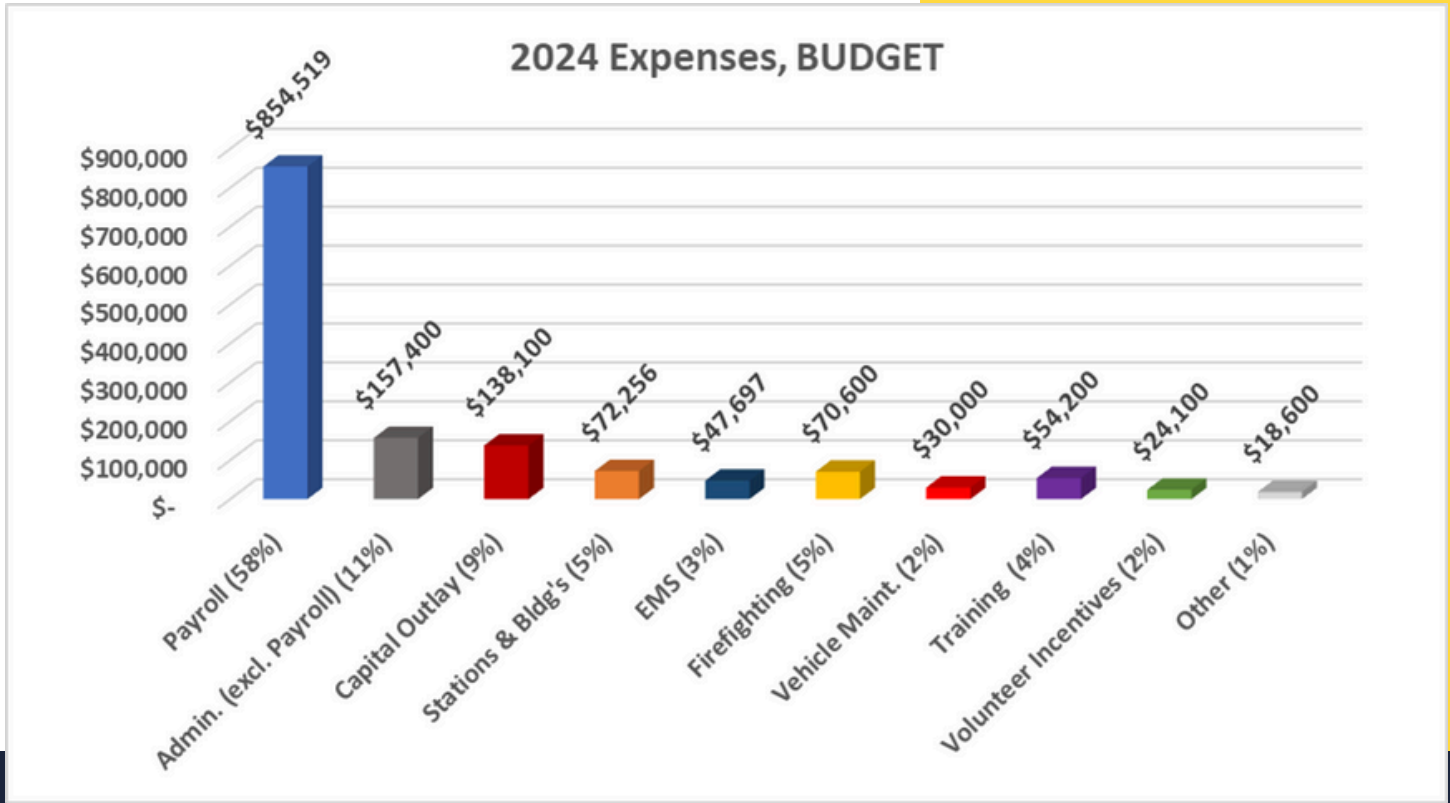


Incident Type	Number of Calls	Percent
MVA w/ Injuries	20	4.0%
MVA w/o Injuries	19	3.8%
MVA (Total)	39	7.8%
Structure Fire	5	1.0%
Structure Fire (confirmed)	3	0.6%
Wildland Fire	5	1.0%
Wildland Fire (confirmed)	2	0.4%
Fire (non-structure)	9	1.8%
Fire Alarm	34	6.8%
Odor Investigation	14	2.8%
Campfire	51	10.1%
Smoke Report	13	2.6%
Ski Incidents	8	1.6%
Public Service (medical)	13	2.6%
Public Service (non-medical)	25	5.0%
Public Service (total)	38	7.6%
Other	3	0.6%
Rescue w/ injury	8	1.6%
Rescue w/o injury	6	1.2%
Rescue (total)	14	2.8%
Medical (dispatched as medical specific)	262	52.1%
EMS Total	311	61.8%
EMS Percentage	62%	
Total Incidents	503	100.0%

Toned for Mutual-Aid (not auto-aid)	9	
Toned for Auto-Aid	27	
Additional Aid	2	
Total Aid-Given	38	8%

Eldora Mountain Resort (on-premises)	27	5%
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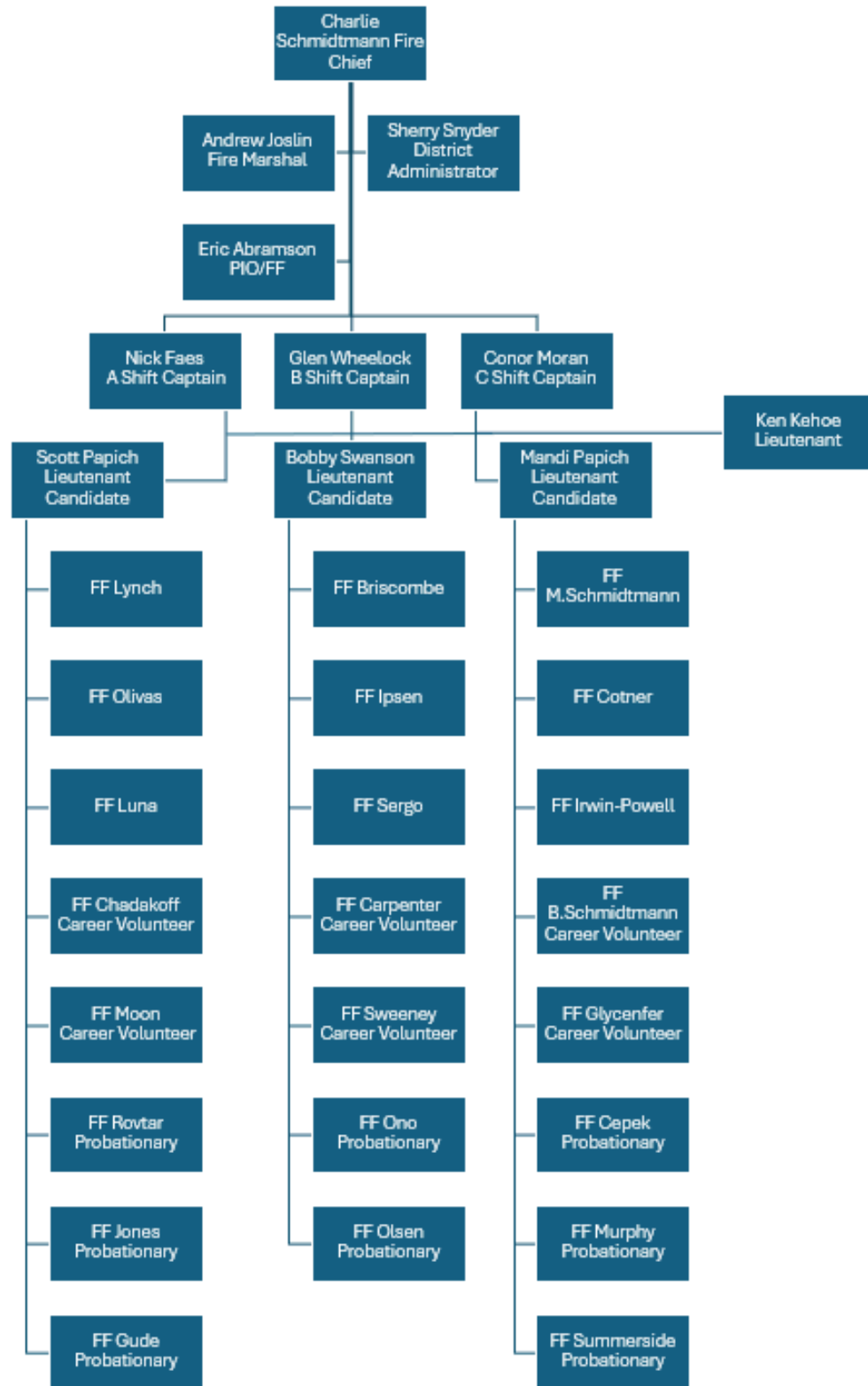
BUDGET



Key expense categories in a fire department budget:

- Payroll:
 - Salaries for firefighters, officers, and administrative staff
 - Benefits like health insurance, retirement plans, and worker's compensation
 - Overtime pay for emergency situations
- Administrative Costs:
 - Office supplies and software
 - Insurance premiums
 - Legal fees
- Apparatus and Vehicle Maintenance:
 - Fuel costs for fire trucks and other vehicles
 - Regular maintenance and repairs
 - Replacement costs for aging vehicles
- Capital Outlay & Station Maintenance:
 - Utilities like electricity, water, heating, and cooling
 - Building repairs and upkeep
- Firefighting:
 - Firefighting gear like turnout gear, protective clothing, and breathing apparatus
 - Specialized equipment for rescue operations (e.g., extrication tools)
 - Replacement of worn-out equipment
- Training and Education:
 - Firefighter training courses and certifications
 - Continuing education for staff
 - Travel costs for training events

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



OPERATIONS

LED BY CAPTAIN NICK FAES

ASSISTED BY LIEUTENANT CANDIDATE SCOTT PAPICH

Although the response to calls for service and the subsequent actions taken on calls is what is usually what comes to mind when the word "operations" is used, there are many daily responsibilities that fall under this division that most citizens we serve are not aware of. 2024 was unlike most years in not only the increase in annual calls but large departmental projects integral to our ability to respond.

A challenge in fighting fire in the mountains is to be prepared to respond in any condition. Typically, in the winter we will need to have chains on all of our large apparatus, they break. Most often they just come off or do some paint damage, but when they broke on our large water tender it ripped out the wheel well the exhaust and damaged the body. This was fixed in house.

Our breathing air compressor was purchased in 1998 and began to have several issues and parts were no longer available. This is a life safety device and needed replacement immediately. Castle Rock Fire sold us a used compressor, still very serviceable for a fraction of the cost, and a company from Boulder donated all the electrical supplies to finish the project.

We updated those firefighters with non-complaint bunker gear with new gear.

The first floor of Station 1 was painted by staff, broken office furniture was replaced, drywall was repaired, and a new couch was purchased.

Several garage doors were showing their age and received repairs.

Nederland Fire received a grant from Boulder County 1b ballot of approximately 128K to acquire new portable radios. Pre-build meeting in Bradenton Florida at the Pierce factory finalizing the layout and equipment for the new fire engine. We expect arrival of the engine in March of 2025.

The purchase of a new wildland engine chassis which will be built in house.

While some of these projects are budgeted for and planned, countless others arise throughout the year via breakages, normal wear and tear or necessity.

"OUR ABILITY TO MANAGE AND MITIGATE REPAIRS IS ONLY POSSIBLE BY THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MEMBERS OF THE AGENCY."



MEDICAL

LED BY CAPTAIN CONOR MORAN

ASSISTED BY LIEUTENANT CANDIDATE MANDI PAPICH

Challenges Faced

- Nationwide Drug Shortages - A significant challenge this year was navigating the nationwide drug shortages that affected essential supplies, including IV fluids. Our team adapted by implementing strategies to optimize the use of available resources while maintaining patient care standards (alternative concentrations, creative ordering/sourcing, medical direction approved extensions of expiry dates).

Training and Education

- Continuing Education: The division completed at a minimum 6 hours a month of medical continuing education meeting the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician requirements for recertification for EMRs, EMTs, and Paramedics. This included training sessions led by local EMS experts, such as Pam Howes, who provided valuable insights and skills to enhance our EMS capabilities. Training was also led by shift captains and PRN paramedics on medical emergencies, trauma scenarios, and equipment familiarization.
- PRN Paramedic: We interviewed, tested, hired and trained a new PRN Paramedic, Mike Techentin, who has been an active participant in NFPD and is attending Fire Academy in 2025
- Newly certified: FF Moon is now a certified paramedic, FF M.Schmidtman is now an EMT, and FF Cepek is now an EMR.
- Critical Care: All full-time ALS staff attended a weeklong training course in April led by Impact EMS. This training is geared at preparing paramedics for more advanced level care including Rapid Sequence Intubation (RSI), managing intubated and mechanically ventilated patients, and chest tube placement and maintenance. These advanced level skills are speculated to be added to the Paramedic scope in the next update. In talks with our medical director, Dr. Sovndal will endorse NFPD paramedics to practice these advanced level skills once Critical Care certified or after the state updates the acts allowed.
- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) Class: We successfully conducted an Emergency Medical Responder class this year. 28 students attended the class including 4 NFPD volunteers. The program achieved a high first-time National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) pass rate (95%) reflecting the effectiveness of our training approach and the dedication of our participants.

Equipment and Technology Updates

- New Video Laryngoscopes and Suction Units: This year, we ordered and placed into service new video laryngoscopes and suction units. These tools have significantly enhanced our ability to manage airways and provide ALS care in the field.
- Maintenance and replacement: NFPD has a plan to replace and maintain equipment and hard goods. A new maintenance agreement has been formed at a lower cost than previous agreements allowing for regular upkeep of our medical hard goods and an extended certification/repair/indemnification period than offered by the distributor at a cost savings. This is a smaller locally owned company with a very engaged rep.



MEDICAL CONTINUED...

Equipment and Technology Updates

- Streamlined ALS Kit: A new, streamlined Advanced Life Support (ALS) kit was introduced, improving efficiency and accessibility for our responders. This kit has been well-received and has contributed to more effective patient care. This will be rolled out in 5621 this month.
- Backcountry Medical Kit: Recognizing the unique demands of backcountry rescues, we developed a purpose-built backcountry kit. This kit enables a high level of medical care while allowing volunteers to carry their own equipment. Its design balances functionality and portability, addressing the specific needs of remote rescue operations.
- Avalanche Safety and Response Tools: We received a generous donation of 4 avalanche safety and response tools. These additions bolster our preparedness and capability to respond effectively to avalanche incidents, ensuring the safety of both responders and victims.
- First Due- The EPCR (Electronic Patient Care Reports) glitch hunt and back build has been a great learning experience and has far fewer issues at time of going live that at the beginning, far more labor intensive that anticipated.



LOOKING AHEAD

The EMS division remains committed to advancing our capabilities, enhancing responder safety, and providing exceptional care to our community above and beyond best standards and practice. As we plan for the coming year, our focus will include addressing ongoing challenges, expanding training opportunities, with any eye toward budget and inventory control that First Due should and allow. NFPD has a reputation of delivering high quality medical training to Western Boulder County and we hope to continue this in 2025.

"WE EXTEND OUR GRATITUDE TO THE BOARD FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND TO OUR DEDICATED RESPONDERS FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND PERSEVERANCE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR."

TRAINING

LED BY CAPTAIN GLEN WHEELOCK

ASSISTED BY LIEUTENANT CANDIDATE BOBBY SWANSON



Our mission is to ensure the safety and well-being of our community by providing an "All-Hazard" response to a diverse range of emergencies and disasters. This commitment requires our personnel to remain prepared through ongoing, multidisciplinary training.

The cornerstone of our preparedness strategy is continuous professional development.

In 2024, NFPD personnel completed 2,865 hours of training in critical response areas, including:

- Structural Firefighting: Enhancing our capacity to combat building and infrastructure fires effectively.
- Wildland Firefighting: Developing specialized skills for managing and mitigating wildland and forest fire incidents.
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS): Advancing life-saving medical interventions for emergency scenarios.
- Ice Rescue and Swiftwater Rescue: Preparing for water-related emergencies, ensuring rapid and safe victim recovery.
- Technical and Backcountry Rescue: Addressing complex rescue operations in challenging terrain.
- Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT): Equipping personnel to manage and neutralize chemical, biological, and other hazardous threats.
- Equipment Use and Maintenance: Ensuring operational readiness through the proper handling and upkeep of critical tools and machinery.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we progress into 2025, NFPD remains dedicated to expanding our training hours and incorporating innovative methods to adapt to evolving challenges.

**"OUR COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE
ENSURES THAT OUR COMMUNITY RECEIVES
THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF EMERGENCY
RESPONSE SERVICES."**



FIRE PREVENTION

LED BY FIRE MARSHAL ANDREW JOSLIN



Prevention is typically the unsung hero of the fire service. There are many things that fall under the prevention category. Included in this division is public education, business inspections both annually and for initial opening, egress route design, residential sprinkler review and inspections, CWPP creation, map developments, I.T. and software management.

2024 was a busy year for our prevention division. Marshal Joslin has made great strides to make online permitting applications very easy through an online program. He also was able to create methods to pay for permits, make donations and pay for classes through an online portal. Marshal Joslin was instrumental in implementing a program called First Due which can be used to perform fire safety inspections, electronic patient care reports that need to be submitted to the state as well as fire reports that need to be entered in the National Fire Incident Reporting System.

2024 was the largest year in Nederland Fire's permitting for remodel and new builds. Fire Prevention processed 80 permits since May. These permits will typically require code review and often rough and final inspections. Among the permits that were issued prevention also performs annual business inspections. Fire prevention performed approximately 100 inspections in 2024 and over 50 hours of public outreach and education.

In efforts to stay up to date on code change Marshal Joslin finished a 2-year program at the Fire Marshal Symposium and received his state pin. He also attended the National Fire Academy in Loveland to learn about current and new code change. Finally, he won the Randy Rudloff Scholarship Award for the Colorado Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators to attend the annual fire investigation training conference in Vail.

2024 Nederland Fire and Timberline Fire were able to finalize the communities CWPP. Fire Marshal Joslin was able to use historic knowledge of the area, challenges used during inspections and mapping to assist getting the CWPP completed with the Ember Alliance. With the relationships that were created with the Ember Alliance, they were willing to donate their time to help us create a map book referred to as the Wildfire Atlas. The Wildfire Atlas breaks down areas of our district into small divisions that squads, engines or divisions would protect in the event of a wildland fire. This will help outside agencies that come to our aid in the event of a large incident. In conjunction with the atlas the wildfire job aid was also created. This job aid is used by initial responders on an incident and acts like a checklist, it helps ensure evacuations, incoming units have staging areas, specific radio channels are utilized etc.

Prevention works closely with the Colorado Department of Fire Prevention and Control, again with the relationships created we were able to coordinate a large donation of fire investigation supplies used on fire incidents.