



# THE HIGHLANDER

A PUBLICATION OF THE HIGHLAND RESCUE TEAM AMBULANCE DISTRICT

JULY/AUG 2010

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD:

As a Board Member it is my privilege to work closely with the staff and volunteers who provide emergency medical services to our community. They are a remarkable group who spend endless hours maintaining their certifications, staffing our twelve hour shifts, training to improve response capability and helping the district plan and improve the services it offers. Because of the way they have organized themselves the Team continues to have an average 8 minute response to emergencies within our geographically diverse district. Whenever I think about writing a note for this publication I find it necessary to highlight this amazing group of people because they work without seeking recognition. They genuinely value helping people struggling with trauma or medically related problems. We are well served by them and I want to thank them for their efforts on your behalf.

I also want to thank the property tax payers who reside within our District (Foothills and Genesee Fire Districts). Your support (2 mills annually) provides about 60% of our budget. The remainder is provided by fees for services and contributions from our Foundation. Without the support of the taxpayers we could not provide the fully equipped advanced life

support ambulances, train our staff and maintain our facility. The District Board understands the importance of this support and manages the District with tight financial controls to maximize the benefit from these funds. We do not have any plans to ask the voters for an increase in our mill level. We are debt free and have a five year cycle for replacement of our ambulances. I want to thank our community for its support.

The District has undergone some significant changes in the past six months that we believe will help maintain and improve our services in the future. First of all, the Board approved the purchase of a new ambulance which was delivered several weeks ago. The team members who participated in the design committee led by Paramedic, Damon Brown need to be recognized for discovering we could reuse the "box" on the back of the ambulance and purchase a new chassis. This saved the district 33% and provided the same product. Aside from the savings, the District has a new, more powerful vehicle with fewer maintenance issues going forward.

We have had a significant change in our leadership structure as well in the past few months. Board Member, Ed Daniels, led a committee of team members charged with reviewing our administrative structure. It was

recommended to have a volunteer chief in charge of all operations supported by a part time administrative staff position. This is a significant change from our previous structure led by a paid Chief Executive Officer. We have implemented this change and are excited about the opportunities to develop leadership within our volunteer group and provide for our administrative needs with the part time position. The board is indebted to our first Chief, Dr. Ray Wells, for accepting this challenge and helping to establish the ground work to make this a viable structure for the future.

The District is involved in many other initiatives we will discuss in future publications. Our Board meetings are open to the public and occur the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at Highland Station. Please come and hear more about what your Ambulance District is doing. You may also call any Board member with questions, comments or concerns. Our names and numbers are noted in this publication. Thanks for your support.

**Robb Gair, President, Highland Rescue Team Ambulance District**

**THE TEAM: 86% VOLUNTEERS. - ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT – AROUND THE CLOCK.** The Highland Rescue Team is at full strength. Highland has 2 full time paid paramedics, 5 part-time paramedics and 2 volunteer paramedics. With 2 EMT-Intermediates, we have a total of 11 Advance Life Support (ALS) providers, ensuring that ALS is available to the residents of the District when required. In addition to ALS there are 33 EMT Basics and 6 first responders providing coverage 24/7 x 365 to the 12,500 residents of the District and those that transit the District (80,000 vehicles/day). The Team is committed to providing excellence in pre-hospital medical care. Fourteen of the Fifty Team Members live in District, seven live in the

Lookout Mountain area, six live in Genesee and one lives in Idledale.

Volunteers contribute EMS duty hours of service valued at \$250,000 each year to the District. Training and non-EMS service to the District are valued at an additional \$150,000. Thanks to all our volunteers for their service to the District.

**NEW AMBULANCE – A NEW FACE BUT FAMILIAR FEEL:** On April 12, the Team placed a new ambulance in service. The District chose to re-mount an old, but refurbished ambulance box on a new Ford 450 chassis, and saving over \$40,000 in the process.



The team has a total of three ambulances equipped with the most modern emergency medical equipment.

**BOARD 2010 MEETING SCHEDULE:** All meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at Highland Station at 6:00 p.m. All Board meetings are open to the public.

**CPR TRAINING:** The District offers CPR training at a substantially reduced cost for groups of District residents. Call the Station at 303-526-9571 for details. Classes can be offered to meet the needs of residents.

**9HEALTH FAIR:** the District recently sponsored its second annual 9Health Fair at the

Mount Vernon County Country Club. Over 250 persons attended the fair; an increase of 30% over last year.



**CALL STATISTICS:**

<b>2010 TOTAL CALLS</b> 280	<b>JULY CALLS</b> 29	<b>GENESEE CALLS</b> 63	<b>FOOT- HILLS CALLS</b> 106	<b>I-70 CALLS</b> 111
<b>TRAUMA CALLS</b> 139	<b>MEDICAL CALLS</b> 75	<b>FIRE ASSIST CALLS</b> 63	<b>CITIZEN ASSIST CALLS</b> 3	<b>OTHERS</b>

**THREE HIGHLAND MEMBERS ATTEND PARAMEDIC SCHOOL:** Alan Feldman is in the Denver Health Paramedic Class of the summer of 2010. Matt Davidson has completed the first semester of Paramedic School at Community College of Aurora. Arthur Bruck has been accepted at Denver Health for the class starting in September. All will be providing Advance Life Support (ALS) service to the District in 2011.

**ELECTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS:** The District had a total of three vacant positions available in the winter. Three Board members filed their nomination for an additional term and in the absence of other candidates were sworn into office for a new term at the Board Meeting on May 12. Robert Gair of Genesee, and Ed Daniels of Lookout Mountain will serve a 4 year

term and Annette “Nettie” Calvi of Idledale will serve a two year term. Patrick Smith and James Espy, both of the Lookout Mountain area continue to serve their terms.

**HRTAD ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES:**

The District Administrator resigned in October, 2009 and the Board asked the Chief, Raymond B. Wells, Ph.D., NREMT-B, of the El Rancho area, who had been named Chief in August to assume the additional duties. A part-time Administrator, Trisha Beaudin, was hired in May. Trisha is in the office daily between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Ron Quaife, NREMT-P, RN, M.S. continues to serve as Assistant Chief. Ron just completed his Masters Degree in Emergency Management.

Captain Damon Brown continues as the Operations Officer and Captain Chris Walling continues as the Personnel and Training Officer for the team. Five new Lieutenants have been appointed. Jan Keating of Genesee leads the First Responders, Sara Walling of Lookout Mountain serves as assistant Training Coordinator, Taylor Gray leads the Wildland Fire Team, Alan Feldman leads the Rope Rescue Team and Chuck Bauman leads the EMTs working on advance medical training. Training Officer Paul Belanger, Ph.D, of Lookout Mountain leads the other EMTs and Training Officer Lori McClintock leads our Community Outreach efforts.

**WILDLAND TEAM:** Highland Rescue Team has 10 wildland Fire Fighters who provide EMS on the wildland fire lines and assist the firefighters of Foothills Fire Protection District and Genesee Fire Protection District when a wildland fire threatens the District or the neighboring Fire Protection Districts. The Highland members on the team receive the same wildland fire safety and fire behavior training as other firefighters and have the same personnel protection equipment as firefighters from the Fire Protection Dis-



tricts. The teams from the three Districts train together to ensure that fire line operations are seamless.

Specialized medical packs are available to the Highland Team members to ensure that they are equipped for any emergency on a wildland fire line. The picture below is the team training.



Members of the team were recently deployed to a wildland fire in Indian Hills after receiving a mutual aid request for EMS support.

**ROPE RESCUE TEAM:** In the fall 2009, Highland Rescue Team, Genesee Fire and Foothills Fire undertook a joint effort to train additional members in rope rescue techniques. Chief John Kilpatrick of Foothills and Captain Damon Brown led the training assisted by Lieutenant Alan Feldman of HRT. A total of 15 members of the three departments completed the training.



**A DIVIDEND RETURNED:** Shortly after completing the training, the team was activated

for an incident in Genesee where an 11 year old plunged into a ravine while snow sledding. The team deployed over 350 feet of rope to retrieve the young man and transfer him to a helicopter for a flight to Children's Hospital. The young man made a complete recovery.

### **OUTSTANDING RECENT RESPONSES:**

#### **HELICOPTER DOWN ON MT. MORRISON**

Easter Sunday, at approximately 7:45 a.m. a small helicopter crashed on the peak of Mt. Morrison. Highland Rescue Team and Foothills Fire Protection District personnel, Bob Exerison and Nettie Calvi responded from Idledale and were the first on scene and assisted the pilot and his trainee down from the mountain and to EMS personnel who evaluated, treated and transported the injured to the hospital.



**CHOPPER GO – IDLEDALE:** Board Member and First Responder Nettie Calvi responded to an incident involving a roll over vehicle accident just east of Idledale. The patient was trapped upside down in the vehicle and had a partially obstructed airway. Nettie assessed the situation and immediately called for a helicopter to be sent to the area. Highland personnel working with Foothills Firefighters extricated the patient and used the helicopter to transport the patient to Saint Anthony's Hospital.

**HIGHLAND GOES GREEN – A SOLAR SYSTEM INSTALLED AT HIGHLAND STATION:** This spring a Solar system was installed

at Highland Station. This system, installed as a result of generosity of a District resident, and at no cost to the District is a small step toward helping the environment. Since it was installed in April, the system has generated 1579 kWhs of electricity and saved 2685 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub>.



**SECURITY SYSTEMS INSTALLED:** As you might have read in the paper, or seen on several TV news shows, there was a rash of narcotic thefts in the Denver Metro Area from ambulances and Fire Stations. Accordingly, Highland evaluated its own security and decided that an upgrade was in order. Video surveillance was added to the storeroom and ambulances bays, new safes were installed for narcotics in the storeroom and all three ambulances and new door locks were added which work on proximity locks and are integrated with the Identification System the District uses.

### **HIGHLAND CONSIDERS EXPANSION OF THE STATION:**

The Team has been evaluating the station and how well it meets today's and future requirements. The answer was NOT very well! Thus a working group was charged with looking at how best to meet those requirements. No alternatives have been ignored. We have looked at other buildings in the District and considered an expansion of the station.

The original station, built in the early 80's was just a small office and two ambulance bays. A small expansion was added in the early 90's and provided for storage, a training room and some sleeping quarters. Our "dorm" sleeping quarters are now inadequate and we have only one bathroom. Training space was not designed for a 24/7 operation with a staff of 50. Day room and office space is totally inadequate. What worked well for a non-profit ambulance service for many years, no longer meets the needs of a modern Ambulance District with staff at the Station 24/7. One alternative would add approximately 1800 square feet to the existing building and significantly enhance the quality of life for our volunteers.

### **COMMUNICATION WITH DISTRICT RESIDENTS**

It is our goal to increase our communication with the residents of our District. We would love to have a direct way to communicate with you. The most obvious way (besides direct mail) would be electronically. We are asking for your primary e-mail address so that we can stay in communication with you and keep you updated on any news happening with us and within your District. Please know that your email will not be shared with any other organization. Send your email address to [contact@highlandrescue.org](mailto:contact@highlandrescue.org)

**First Aid, CPR and AED Courses:** Highland will be offering District residents American Heart Association's Heartsaver First Aid, CPR and AED courses at a nominal charge. Residents will be provided the text book, four hours of instruction and a CPR pocket mask. The charge will be \$10.00. The course normally cost \$65.00, including the text book and the pocket mask is a \$12.00 value. Call the station for dates and class times.

**Support for EMT Training:** Highland Rescue Team supports in-District residents who want to attend EMT school; tuition and books are covered (a value of about \$1400). In exchange for the support, residents are asked to volunteer for a minimum of two years. Highland volunteers are expected to work three twelve hour shifts a month, and are permitted to respond from their home during their shifts. Typically shifts are from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. or from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Also, in-District volunteers are eligible for complete first responder supplies, such as oxygen kits; medical supplies, a communication radio, and in some cases an AED. Please contact Highland Station at 303-526-9571 if interested in volunteering and attending EMT school.

**Representative Cheri Gerou:** (House District 25 – Evergreen) attended the Foothills Fire Protection District Annual Pancake Breakfast on June 6th. Representative Gerou lives in Evergreen where she is a practicing architect. Thanks to Representative Gerou for supporting our firefighters.



**BE CAREFUL:** Recently there was an accident while trimming trees. A tree top landed on a power distribution line. While attempting to remove the errant tree limb, the individual received a severe electrical shock resulting in be-

ing rendered unconscious for a time and receiving severe burns to the hands and thighs. Be careful when working outside!!



**Our Trails:** The District is blessed with numerous trails. While a blessing, the trails can contribute to various types of accidents, such as twisted ankles, injuries resulting from biking accidents, lightning strikes and stress illnesses, such as heart attacks, dehydration and other things. Highland and Foothills members have been conducting familiarization hikes to ensure that each team knows the access points and routes to ensure that quick response can be provided to those requiring assistance when an emergency arises. Pictured below are Highland and Foothills volunteers before starting down a trail.



**THANK YOU TO OUR DISTRICT RESIDENTS:**

Your generosity last year was deeply appreciated. In a tough economic year, the residents of the District opened their hearts and wallets to provide support to the Highland Rescue Team Foundation. From all of us a heart-felt *thank you* !

Highland Rescue Team Ambulance District (303-526-9571) [www.highlandrescue.org](http://www.highlandrescue.org)

Board of Directors: Robb Gair (303-526-1758), Ed Daniels (303-526-9651), Jim Espy (303-526-0507)

Nettie Calvi (303-697-4036), Pat Smith (303-526-0649)

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**HIGHLAND RESCUE TEAM FOUNDATION**

**DONATIONS**

Amount (Please circle one): \$50    \$100    \$250    \$500    \$1000

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the “Highland Rescue Team Foundation.” All donations are tax deductible. The Highland Rescue Team Foundation is a charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

**Highland Rescue Team Ambulance District**

**317 S. Lookout Mountain Rd**

**Golden, CO 80401**

