



Cedar Post E-Zine

FIRE ON STORM MOUNTAIN - TUESDAY, 9/20/05

by Karen Debenham

My scanner picked up the call around 2:00 pm. SMERT's fire chief was first on scene and gauged it at about 4 acres. Our ETA (Emergency Traffic Assistance) personnel were called up and directed traffic at key intersections until almost 4:00 p.m. One family arrived at the scene with 300 gallons of water on the back of their truck. SMERT was immediately replaced by crews from Loveland Rural, Big Thompson, Rocky Mountain National Park, Larimer County Sheriffs Office, and Roosevelt National Forest. "We are setting records for extreme fire conditions so we're hitting hard with all available resources", said Lt. Dave Legits.

We do not know the cause of this fire. It is half on private land and half on Forest Service land. It is believed to be one of the properties on the southwest side of Elk Way, but don't know the specific lot. The fire was called "contained" at around 7:30 p.m. at 6 acres.

Earlier in the day, a reverse 911 went into effect to alert homeowners living in a 5 mile radius of the fire. As many homeowners in the area only have cell phones, Roger also called the cell phone numbers that SMERT has on file for 3rd & 4th filings. Other filings would have been alerted if it looked like the fire would head there. SMERT was ready and available for any residents who asked for structure protection assistance.

One thing to note, when the agency crews were doing structure triage, one was flagged RED and one was flagged YELLOW. Red means do not defend, and Yellow means it may be defended, but is not the safest. Homeowners need to be aware that fire mitigation is very important if they want their home to be triaged GREEN and therefore, defended from a fire.

NEW SMERT FIRE CHIEF

by Bill Powers

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Bill Powers. My wife, Kim, and I have lived on the mountain for 5 years and we have an 11-month-old son, named Thomas. I recently took over the reigns as the SMERT Chief. As one of the "founding fathers" of SMERT, I have a vested interest in seeing SMERT keep our mountain community safe. With 18+ years of Emergency Services experience, I hope to be a tremendous asset to our team and our mountain. Following is a brief summary of my experience:

- **Paramedic** 10+ years

Currently at Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins

Previously served several years as a Special Operations Division Paramedic/Hazardous Materials Technician for New York City Fire Dept's Counter-Terrorism Task Force

- **Firefighter** 14+ years
Both as a volunteer and a paid professional, with strong emphasis on Heavy/Technical Rescue
- **Team Leader** for Poudre Valley Hospital Special Operations Response Team
- **Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Coordinator** for Poudre Valley Hospital Emergency Medical Services
- **President/CEO** of an Emergency Response Training/Consulting firm.
- “Life long” **college student** with emphasis on Emergency Management Domestic Preparedness and Counter-Terrorism Response

Gregg Cooper (SMERT’s Assistant Chief) and I will develop an emergency response plan with objectives and strategize ways to meet those objectives.

Some short-term goals for SMERT are:

- Retain current members - the top priority!
- Recruit new members
- Establish a command structure for emergency situations by utilizing the Incident Command System
- Maintain a close working relationship with Big Thompson Canyon Fire Dept
- Train our Initial Responders in all facets of emergency response
- Obtain more equipment
“Beg” for used fire equipment from Colorado Fire Departments
Write grant proposals for new equipment

We are fortunate that our SMERT members are extremely talented and experienced with many skills and occupations. Together, we will build an organization that can handle a small emergency situation without it escalating into a major disaster. Thanks for your time and **stay safe** out there.

Bill Powers FF/NREMT-P
Chief, Storm Mountain Emergency Response Team, Inc.
Phone: (970) 667-1754
E-mail: SMERTChief@aol.com

VOLUNTEER FACTS

by Karen Dilka

I’m not sure that Storm Mountain residents know just how many times SMERT is called out and how much they aid the community. SMERT personnel do not get paid and they donate their time not only performing fire & rescue operations, but also spending countless hours is training so that they will be prepared to meet any situation that may arise.

The purpose of S.M.E.R.T. is to provide fire suppression and other emergency/ non-emergency services to the wildland urban interface communities on Storm Mountain.

Following is a listing of the positions performed by SMERT volunteers:

Dispatch

Karen Debenham maintains constant communication via a scanner.

Initial Attack Team

The “seek & destroy” people. They find the fire & fight it until the Fire Dept crews get there.

ETA (Emergency Traffic Assist)

They direct emergency traffic at each of the intersections so valuable time is not lost.

Medical Team

They respond to medical emergencies.

Telephone Tree

1 person assigned to each of the 11 filings. Their job is to call the phone numbers that SMERT has on file to warn of an emergency.

Storm Mountain Mapping

The original map is being upgraded by Deb Green who is the Natl Graphic Information System Coordinator for US Fish & Wildlife.

Communications

We hope to put out a monthly email newsletter and a twice-yearly hard copy newsletter.

If any of these tasks interest you, SMERT is holding an informational meeting on Saturday, October 1. More information is provided at the end of this newsletter.

Many of our neighbors are not e-mailers. E-mail, however, is the only way we can provide current timely and critical neighborhood information without incurring major expenses. Please print out a few extra copies of your Cedar Post or SMERT Alert Email for your not so connected neighbors.

SMERT NEEDS YOUR HELP!

SMERT needs your help now. The fire engine, the pumps, and the equipment will all be needing more gas. Tuesday’s fire could have gone much differently if we had not been prepared. This year was the 5th anniversary of the Bobcat fire and we do not want to see another occurrence of that.

We are only asking for a small donation. Your donation will be tax deductible as SMERT is a registered non-profit. It’s easy to make a donation.

Go to www.smert.com

Click on “Make Donation Now”

That will allow you to pay using Paypal or a credit card.

Or you can send a check to: **SMERT
P O Box 73
Drake, CO 80515**

We are Neighbors helping Neighbors... **The Storm Mountain Emergency Response Team, Inc.**

**SMERT is actively recruiting new members!
Come join us for an informational open house on
Saturday, Oct. 1, 2005 from 2pm—8pm at
340 Badger Court.**

**Meet the new SMERT Chief Bill Powers and current
SMERT members, view our equipment, and ask
questions! So bring the families- food will be provided,
just bring your own beverages.**

Nothing can be more satisfying than helping someone in a time of need. SMERT is in need of members to provide initial response to emergencies and help those in crisis situations. Benefits include:

- Personal satisfaction
- Building relationships with neighbors
- Free “in-house” training
- Minimum time requirements

No Experience Necessary! Join Today– E-mail a letter of interest to SMERTChief@aol.com

SMERT
PO Box 73
Drake, CO 80515

Questions?
Call Bill Powers at 667-1754
Or Roger Debenham at 593-1091
Or e-mail SMERTChief@aol.com

SMERT is in dire need of donations. Help us to help you in the event of an emergency or disaster situation. Your contribution is tax deductible!
Please send your checks, payable to SMERT, to
SMERT, PO Box 73, Drake, CO 80515
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