



**COLORADO
DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

Division of Fire Safety
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12 June 2011

The Honorable Frank McNulty
Speaker of the House
Colorado House of Representatives
200 East Colfax
Denver CO 80203

The Honorable Brandon Shaffer
President of the Senate
Colorado State Senate
200 East Colfax
Denver CO 80203

Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

Pursuant to 24-33.5-1212, C.R.S. (SB08-039, training for directors of fire protection districts), I am writing to report on the Division of Fire Safety's progress in implementing a pilot program to provide training courses to directors of fire protection districts whose territory includes wildland-urban interface areas.

SB08-039 directed the Division to develop a pilot training program that includes, at a minimum, strategic planning and community education in wildland urban interface issues. The program is for directors of fire protection districts whose territory includes wildland-urban interface areas.

While SB08-039 included an appropriation, funding for the appropriation was limited to grants, gifts and donations and implementation of the program was conditional upon the receipt of sufficient funds. The Division of Fire Safety actively pursued grant funding for the program. The Division applied for grants through both the Fire Prevention and Safety grant program (administered by the U.S. Fire Administration) and the State Homeland Security Grant Program. Unfortunately, neither of these grant applications were approved.

In 2009, the Colorado Healthy Forests and Vibrant Communities Act of 2009 (HB09-1199) provided a contingent funding mechanism for the program. The funding was contingent upon the appropriation decisions made by the General Assembly concerning the operational account of the Severance Tax Trust Fund (39-29-109.3, C.R.S.). In FY 09-10, funding for the program was received.

Once the funding was received, the Division pursued forming the Advisory Board specified in 24-33.5-1212, C.R.S. The Advisory Board's duties are to advise the Division on the curricula and implementation of the training courses. The statute specifies that the membership of the Advisory Board have representatives from specific stakeholders. The Division requested nominations for Board members from the specified stakeholder and received the final nomination from the specified organizations and received the final nomination in May of 2010. The Director then made the following appointments to the Advisory Board:

John Hickenlooper
GOVERNOR
James H. Davis
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Colorado State
Patrol
Colorado Bureau
of Investigation
Division of
Criminal Justice
Office of Preparedness and
Security
Division of Fire Safety



- Pete Blume, representing the Colorado State Forest Service
- Tim McSherry, representing the County Sheriffs of Colorado
- Richard Graeber, representing the Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association
- Dave Parmley, representing the Special District Association of Colorado
- Chuck Vale, representing the Colorado Division of Emergency Management

On 3 June 2010, the Advisory Board met with the Division to develop requirements for the curricula and a strategy for delivering the program. The Advisory Board's recommended curricula included the following:

- 1) Introduction to SB08-039 and HB09-1199
 - a) Strategic planning in the wildland-urban interface
 - b) Community outreach in the wildland-urban interface
 - c) The role of the Advisory Board
- 2) Wildland fires
 - a) What the risks are
 - b) What is unique about the wildland-urban interface
 - i) Red Zone maps
 - c) Risk management
 - d) Roles and responsibilities of different entities that prevent, mitigate and respond to wildland fires
 - i) Response systems
 - ii) Annual operating plans
 - iii) Activities to take before a fire starts
 - iv) Community Wildfire Protection Plans
 - (1) Engage new developments in the need for Fire Safe Communities
 - (2) Engage existing developments and retrofit them to Fire Safe Communities
- 3) Fire protection district roles and responsibilities
 - a) Title 32
 - i) What is your role as a director?
 - ii) Primary responsibility is to create policy that Insures firefighter safety
 - iii) Understand who your customers are and take care of them
 - iv) Understand the Role of the Board, the Chief and those who work for you.
 - v) Creating Team Environment
 - vi) Understanding your fiduciary responsibilities
 - b) SB08-020
 - i) Incident management teams
 - (1) Delegation AGREEMENTS
 - c) Governmental Immunity Act

- 4) Strategic planning
 - a) Why plan?
 - b) What is a Strategic Plan?
 - c) Elements of strategic planning
 - d) The Strategic Plan as a living document
- 5) Mitigation
 - a) Community outreach
 - i) Examples of successful programs
 - (1) FireWise™
 - (2) Ready, Set, Go!™
 - b) Wildland-Urban Interface Code
- 6) Resources
 - a) Grants
 - i) Volunteer Fire Assistance and Rural Fire Assistance
 - ii) FIRE Act
 - b) Colorado Division of Fire Safety
 - c) Colorado State Forest Service
 - d) Federal land management agencies

After developing the curricula outline, the Division contracted with the Far View Group, LLC to further develop the curricula and deliver the training.

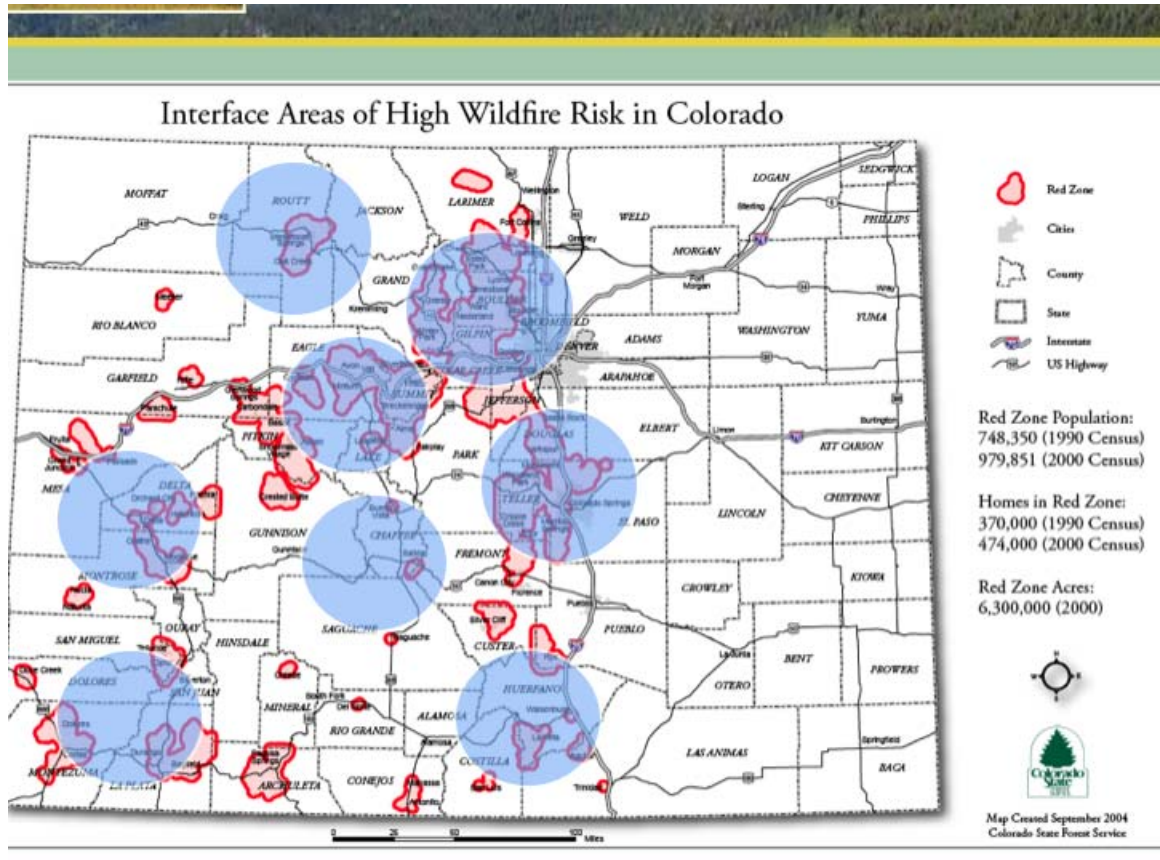
The Far View Group developed a pilot course to be delivered in conjunction with the Fire Leadership Challenge in December of 2010. (The Fire Leadership Challenge is an annual fire department leadership conference that is held in Keystone.) Directors were recruited through the membership of the Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association.

The pilot program was delivered and evaluated by the participants. Based upon feedback from the participants in the pilot program, the program was modified to be shorter and focus more on roles and responsibilities of directors. Participants in the pilot program also suggested that it would be valuable to have the Fire Chief participate with the attending directors.

Eight regional deliveries were then scheduled from 10 March to 19 May 2011. Participants were recruited through the Division and the Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association. The regional deliveries were held at locations that encompassed large wildland-urban interface areas ("Red Zones", see Figure 1). The courses were held at the following locations:

- Keystone Conference Center, Dillon, Colorado, Dec. 3, 2010
- Delores Fire Station 1, Dolores, Colorado, March 4, 2011
- Trinidad Fire Training Center, Trinidad, Colorado, March 17, 2011
- Salida Hampton Inn, Salida, Colorado, March 18, 2011
- Montrose Holiday Inn, Montrose, Colorado, May 16, 2011
- Rifle Fire Station 1, Rifle, Colorado, May 17, 2011
- Boulder Regional Fire Training Center, Boulder, Colorado, May 18, 2011
- Colorado Springs Fire Station 8, Colorado Springs, Colorado, May 19, 2011

Figure 1, Red Zones and Course Locations



92 Fire protection district board members from 46 different districts participated in the program. In addition, 25 fire chiefs and seven other people (emergency Managers, CSFS employees and sheriffs) attended the training.

At the end of each training session, participants were asked to complete a questionnaire about the efficacy of the course. The results of the questionnaire follow:

Time in Position:

1-5 Years	49%
5-10 Years	24%
More than 10 years	26%

I have received training as a board member:

Never -	81%
From SDA -	12%
Other Source -	5%

This training session was worthwhile:

Very Worthwhile -	85%
Some Value -	12%
No Value -	0%

The presentation material was:

Very Worthwhile -	72%
Some Value -	28%
No Value -	0%

The instructors were:

Knowledgeable and good presenters	96%
Average -	4%
Not so good -	0%

Would you be interested in more Board Training?

Yes -	95%
No -	5%

Participants were also asked for suggestions to improve the course. These suggestions include:

- Expand to annual training or multiple opportunities
- Add new board member training
- Develop a simple and clear handbook defining roles and expectations
- Offer periodic classes covering board duties, responsibilities, and organization
- More training explaining the rules, especially fiduciary roles-what does it mean
- Would like to see the content spread out over more than one session
- Expand the class to include municipal departments
- Include city council participants
- Include content for legal issues and budgeting
- More Fire District Board training for using planning tools, provide samples
- Develop handouts, user guides, and handbook
- Allow some time during the class for round table discussion for off topic discussion. Focus on the topics
- Provide a basic class for 1-2 hours for volunteers, because there is need to know how a fire district board is supposed to work
- Expand content on how to inform and present to public in the district
- Developing mutual aide agreements, contracts, and resolution of issues involved with combination departments and FLSA issues
- More training to inform members of how the board, fire service, and state work together
- Discuss long term issues, problems, programs, etc., coming our way

In summary, I believe the program was useful and appreciated by the course participants. I also believe the State should look for opportunities to continue the program as funding becomes available.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kevin R. Klein, Director

cc: Legislative Council
The Honorable Mike Kopp, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Sal Pace, House Minority Leader