

# Crystal Lakes Volunteer Fire Department

237 Blackfoot Rd, Red Feather Lakes, CO 80545  
(970) 881-3521

September 17, 2020

Fire Department Report, YTD.

## 1. Department Activity since the last board meeting (August 2020)

- **Business meetings** – 1 via Zoom.
- **Weekly “NW Larimer Fire Depts” Chiefs ZOOM call** every Wednesday. (Crystal Lakes, Red Feather, Poudre Canyon, Glacier View, & Livermore).
- **Twice weekly (Tues & Fri) meetings** - With Sheriff’s Emergency Services in Livermore for status updates on Cameron fire
- **Daily Cooperator’s calls** – With USFS on Cameron update
- **Incidents** – 4 since last report, **44 YTD 2020**
  - #41 - Side by side accident, possible head injury
  - #42 – Smoke at Kelly’s corner (Creedmore Lakes & 67J), illegal campfire
  - #43 – 59 YOM with abdominal pain (probable gall bladder)
  - #44 – 20 YOM fainted, possible seizure

**No covid symptom** patients for these 4 incidents

## 2. PERSONNEL:

- One new firefighter (Austin McGuire). Austin is full time in CL. Former extensive experience with USFS including sawyer and helicopter attack. Three new members this summer: Don Harlan, Nick Marouf, Austin Mc Guire

## 3. TRAINING:

- **Department trainings** – Cancelled for August due to Cameron Peak fire. Optional wildland training held for 3 newest members.

## 4. GRANTS:

- **AFG grant:** Will apply for new Brush truck, approx \$190K. Grants are usually for approx 90%. If cost is \$190K, then AFG would pay 95% (\$126, and we pay \$14K. Still under review.
- **Firefighter Safety and Disease Prevention Grant** - Submitted for 6 more SCBA bottles (\$1K ea) plus an air gas monitor (CO + flammable gas meter). Total \$7,283. Grant is 100% pay. Still under review.
- **Homeland Security grant** for 2 dual band radios was awarded and out to bid. \$5,000. We will be responsible for any excess currently estimated at \$400. Radios are in Ft Collins. We should receive radios soon.
- **County Emergency Services Grant** – Joint mountain grant developed for Crystal Lakes, Red Feather, Glacier View, Livermore and Poudre Canyon to hold external structure training academy this summer. Approximate \$4,500. Grant was awarded! Academy structure revised due to Covid. Each individual Dept will send 2 members to a train the trainer day long training at Estes Park Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Mark R and Evan going for CLVFD. No other dept member interest.
- **AFG grant 2018** – Approved for 7 sets of bunker gear. \$12,985. We bought 3 sets of bunker gear so far (\$8,283). Three additional sets planned for three new members (see above). The time to spend grant money was extended for 1 year to Sept 15, 2021.

## 5. OTHER:

### **Covid-19**

- CL and RFL response developed in accordance with State and County.

- Little change in response protocols.

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION:**

- Community classes at the CLVFD Station:
  - o 6/13 Stop the Bleed & Chainsaw Safety - COMPLETED
  - o 6/27 Fire mitigation - COMPLETED
  - o 7/10 Evacuation tips, how/when - COMPLETED
  - o 7/25 Insurance tips - COMPLETED
  - o 8/7 Stop the Bleed - COMPLETED
  - o 8/15 Evacuation tips, how/when - COMPLETED
  - o 8/29 Fire mitigation - COMPLETED

**BURN RESTRICTIONS:**

- Implemented by CLVFD for all of Crystal Lakes on August 16. End date TBD based on circumstances.
- County implemented 30 day fire ban on August 18. Ban extended to 10/31.
- State implemented 30 day fire ban on August 20, extended additional 30 days to Oct 20.

**CAMERON PEAK FIRE:** See attached

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Rode  
Fire Chief  
Crystal Lakes Volunteer Fire Department

# CAMERON PEAK FIRE:

**START DATE:** Aug 13

**START LOCATION:** Chambers lake campground area (approx 15 miles from Crystal Lakes).

**CURRENT FIRE SIZE:** 8/20 - 16, 500 ACRES, 0% contained.....9/17 – 102, 650 acres, 8% contained. The fire is the largest in Larimer County History (bigger than High Park) and the 4<sup>th</sup> largest in Colorado history. The fire only grew approx 65 acres yesterday. 1, 032 people working on fire.

**CURRENT LOCATION:** Fire was initially 15 miles from Crystal Lakes and RFL, but is now just over 6 miles from both CL and RFL.

**EVACUATION STATUS:** Both Crystal Lakes and RFL were put on Mandatory Evac on Monday 9/7, but both were de-escalated to Voluntary Evacs on Tuesday after the snow storm. Both CL and RFL are currently still on Voluntary Evacuation status with that status being re-evaluated by the LCEOC daily based on fire activity. Glacier View was taken off of Voluntary Evac status earlier this week.

## **CURRENT STATUS:**

- 8% contained, due primarily to the very rough and steep terrain and lack of structures. Some of these lines are directly along the fire's edge and some are indirect, depending on the terrain, the fuels, and the difficulty of reaching certain areas.
- 60 Ft fire lines have been cut above Beaver Meadows and behind Pearl creek that extended to FR178 and west to CR169 (Pearl Beaver Rd). An additional 60' line was cut South from Beaver Meadows along Tiny Bob that intersects with a line off of Tiny Bob that crosses Jenny Creek and goes all the way to Deadman.
- The fire was dampened substantially with the snow last week. However fire behavior increased this week as fuels continued to dry and weather stayed warm with above average temperatures. We did see an increase in smoke and fire activity Monday with the expected winds, but no significant changes to the fire area occurred. Fire growth will be fuels and terrain driven for the most part throughout the week. Over the weekend, there is some concern with a storm from the pacific northwest moving into the area that may bring winds from 20-30 mph. However, Saturday may also be another opportunity for rainfall over the fire.
- The northeast section of the finger of fire that spread in our direction (which fire managers are calling the "thumb") is not yet nailed down and was fairly active yesterday. They were able to put in dozer line around the western and northwestern perimeter of the thumb, but hit a point where the terrain made it impossible for their equipment to continue working in the area. A hotshot crew is currently looking for containment options accessible to hand crews. Five helicopters spent the last 3 days putting water and retardant on where this section was flaring up and managed to keep it mostly where it was for now. It's still on the opposite side of the Killpecker containment line from us, and they're also working on beefing up the Deadman and Manhattan lines in case the fire becomes wind-driven again and crosses Killpecker. Much of the thumb section is burning in rough terrain and heavy fuels, which is making direct attack in some areas difficult to impossible; however, firefighters are putting significant effort into trying to either stop that section of the fire or create more than one containment line to increase the chances of stopping it if it makes a run towards our area. The "Thumb" is currently the USFS #1 priority.
- Challenges are resources due to 4-5 other very large fires in Colorado. Additionally, there have been a least a dozen or more "small" fires in Colorado that have been attacked. Air assets are in high demand by all of

the fires. Fixed wing aircraft are being shared by the various fires. Dedicated helicopters have been dropping water. USFS resources are being stretched very thin with significant fire in Oregon and California.

**USFS PROJECTS:** The USFS lower level mgmt has been very aggressive in identifying projects for indirect protection of the fire but not very successful in getting upper level mgmt approval for implementation:

- Large scale home mitigation, starting on the anticipated fire leading edges (West and South West of CL). This project was cancelled due to liability concerns.
- Burning of the slash pile on CR73C. Cancelled, same as above.
- The fire break line from Deadman down across Jenny creek, up along Tiny Bob to Beaver Meadows, over to Pearl Creek, up to FR178 and west to CR169 (Pearl Beaver). This project was VERY successfully implemented and completed. If the fire gets past the Killpecker and Deadman fire breaks, this will be a substantial help in protecting both RFL and CL. If the fire does not make it here, this line will be a great future fire protection for the community.

**UPDATES:**

- Twice daily updates from the USFS (AM and PM) via facebook and website
- Twice weekly in person mtgs with LCEOC on evac status. Latest status was Tuesday and estimate for voluntary evacs was pushed out due to favorable circumstances with weather
- Multiple ongoing email notifications from CLVFD to the Community on status.
- Current message to the Community of both Crystal and Red Feather is if you do not have to be here, go away. If you have stuff you need to take (I.E. RVs, trailers, atvs, equipment, etc), taken them away now.

**CLVFD STATUS:**

- All equipment and members ready for action.
- Members have been self-preparing their own homes in prep for possible evacuations.
- "Task Force" in place for immediate deployment includes Incident Command, Operations Command, Brush 1, Engine 1 and Tender 1. Various support members at the ready.

**CHIEF'S ASSESSMENT OF THE DEPT:**

- We are ready. There are bits and pieces of things that we continually think of and take care of.
- Members are starting to exhibit some anxiousness and irritability, which is natural. We have discussed as a team and are aware and will not let it affect our cohesiveness or effectiveness.
- Once the USFS comes in and the fire is imminent, the USFS will take over. We will take whatever direction they give us and provide whatever information and help they request. Previous engagements by members with USFS have been as involved as full structure protection and fire attack to as little involvement as get out of the way and let them do their thing. We will see what happens with this USFS team.
- But in any case, I believe we are fully ready when/if the time comes.

**W & S:** Water Truck ½ full due to water purity concerns.

**R & R:** Keys to:

- Fuel tanks
- Water truck
- Front end loader