

# Crystal Lakes Volunteer Fire Department

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

October 15, 2020

Fire Department Report, YTD.

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

- **Business meetings** – Cancelled in September
- **Weekly “NW Larimer Fire Depts” Chiefs ZOOM call** every Wednesday. (Crystal Lakes, Red Feather, Poudre Canyon, Glacier View, & Livermore + **Rist Cyn**).
- **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 (**MWF**)
- **Incidents** – 8 since last report, **52 YTD 2020**
  - #45 - Cameron peak fire RFL Protection
  - #46 – Cameron peak fire RFL Protection
  - #47 – Male with heart attack symptoms
  - #48 – Cameron peak fire home mitigation on CR73C
  - #49 – Cameron peak fire home mitigation on CR73C
  - #50 – Cameron peak fire home mitigation in CL
  - #51 – Cameron peak fire home mitigation in CL
  - #52 – Cameron Peak fire attack around Belaire Lake

**No covid symptom** patients for the one medical incident

## 2. PERSONNEL:

- No new news.

## 3. TRAINING:

- **Department trainings** – Thursday training held – Wildland WUI scenario. Saturday training cancelled.

## 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. CLVFD awarded grant!
- **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. Date TBD due to Cameron Peak fire.
- **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:**

- All scheduled Community classes at the CLVFD Station held with good participation. Survey to be sent to the community for interest in additional topics for next year.

**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.
- County and State Bans expected to be extended due to extraordinarily dry and warm weather.

**REQUEST TO PURCHASE NEW BRUSH TRUCK:**

Currently, we have two Brush trucks:

- **BRUSH 1** - 1994 Ford Super Duty 2-door 4WD wildland engine capable of carrying 250 gallons of water and two firefighters and their gear.
- **BRUSH 2** - 1987 Chevy 4-door 4WD wildland engine capable of carrying 250 gallons of water and up to five firefighters and their gear.
- **Brush 2** was originally owned by the Wellington fire dept and the vehicle was in a wildland fire and burned and subsequently rebuilt and then donated to the CLVFD. The vehicle has become extremely unreliable in it's electrical system as well as the drive train and the water pumping system. Pretty much the whole truck!
- **Brush 1** can only carry 2 firefighters, but is much more reliable. It needs some work done on it, but is fairly reliable.
- Our request is to replace Brush 2. We have tried to submit many grants for a new vehicle. While we have been successful in being awarded grants for other minor equipment, getting a grant for new vehicle is extremely difficult.
- A new brush truck built by company specializing in fire equipment can run from \$140 to \$240K depending on the bells and whistles. There is another alternative. RFLVFD has successfully built a new Brush truck for themselves for right at \$100K. They pieced together the parts they need and did most of the work themselves. Here is a breakdown of the costs:

\$71,000 - Ram 5500 with utility box  
 \$15,000 - Pump skid insert with 300 gallon water tank  
 \$ 4,000 - Lights  
 \$ 1,500 - decal striping  
 \$ 5,700 - Heavy duty bumper and winch  
 \$ 600 - running boards  
 \$ 100 - mud flaps  
 -----  
 \$97,900.....or \$100K with the other incidentals

- We are asking the Board to approve an expenditure of approx \$120K +/- 10 Percent (\$12K), so up to \$132K.
- We currently have \$34K in CLFires. We have \$89K in our Capital Improvement Reserve Fund. We anticipate an additional \$30K to be added to the Reserve Fund at the end of this year. This brings the total available cash to \$154K. A Go Fund Me page was started by one of our dept members to solicit donations to replace the Brush Truck. As of today, the Go Fund Me page has a total of \$8,600 , bringing the total to \$162K. If we

spend up to the upper limit of the estimate (\$132), we will still have approx 30K in reserve, with more donations anticipated.

- If approved, work on purchasing the Brush Vehicle will begin immediately, as the lead time for an order on the new truck can be 3-6 months.

**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). Origin unknown as of today.

**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.
- 10/15 – 164,140. The fire grew approx 30,000 acres and traveled an estimated 13 **17** miles on 10/14 (yesterday), and is now the largest fire in CO history.

**CURRENT LOCATION:** Fire was initially 15 miles from Crystal Lakes and RFL, but is now just over 5 miles from CL and ½ mile from RFL.

**EVACUATION STATUS:** Both CL and RFL are currently on Voluntary Evacuation status after 3 long weeks of mandatory evacuation.

**CURRENT STATUS (10/15/20):**

- 56% contained, due primarily to the very rough and steep terrain and lack of structures.
- FIRE LINES:
  - Primary lines are Deadman (CR86) and Pearl-Beaver Road (CR169) south and west of CL
  - Secondary lines include 60 Ft fire lines 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.
  - Dozer line was cut along the lower CL filing near Chiricahua and Tesque to the south and then east to CR73C, effectively putting a line around the lower filing.
  - Line from Erie Lake to Creedmore Lakes road (outside of CL heading towards Creedmore lakes)
  - TO DO: Dozer line protection for the North West side of CL. Worked with all four teams so far, but no solution yet. Current team still working on it.
- CLVFD performed two days of home mitigation on the two lower filings. Mitigation included removal of flammable furniture from decks, removal of firewood from decks and removal of propane tanks from cook grills. Pine needles and other forest debris were raked from under decks and wood and other flammable items were also removed. Performed weed-whacking as needed. No chainsaw work was done. Focus on mitigation was for the homes that lined the outer edges (south and west) of the two lower filings. RFLVFD helped one day with the mitigation. In total, 84 homes were mitigated.
- Right after first mandatory evac, CLVFD Task Force (IC, Engine 1, Tender 1, Brush 1, and Office Logistics) worked on CR74E corridor prepping homes for 3 days and checking sprinklers and port-a-tanks (pumpkins) along side of USFS.
- CLVFD marked Creedmore lakes road (CR73c) escape route to CR67J to 80C with flagging tape.
- Got USFS to grade Creedmore lakes road escape route. Pretty nice now!
- CLVFD Accompanied Sheriff's for first voluntary evacuation notice to ALL CL residents.

- Fire behavior increased this week as fuels continued to dry and weather stayed warm with above average temperatures and several days of high winds combining into consecutive days of red flag warnings.
- The Northern area of the fire (closest to us) is now considered to be “under containment”, and has experienced very little growth in the past week. There are many areas of unburned fuel in the containment area (“islands”) that will continue to ignite and burn for several months. With the past several days of high winds, including 70 mph winds yesterday, the area around Bellaire lake camp ground re-ignited and blew-up, causing a 6 acre very intense spot fire. With all of the USFS structure protection moved to the southern side of the fire, crews from RFLVFD, CLVFD, Glacier View VFD and Poudre Canyon VFD were deployed at 0230 am the night of 10/14 (Wednesday). The main task for the crews was to monitor and patrol Manhattan road to ensure blowing embers did not cross over to the eastern side of Manhattan, potentially starting new fires on the unburned eastern side of Manhattan and making a run towards Glacier View and possibly RFL. Volunteer crews worked through the night and USFS crews arrived around daylight to provide additional support. RFLVFD and CLVFD crews then proceeded with direct line attack on the spot fire until bull dozers arrived around noon. Bull dozers were able to cut a large line around the east side of the fire boxing it in. Wind speed continued to increase and both RFLVFD and CLVFD provided protection for fire advancement towards Manhattan road until 1700. At this time, the temps fell and the fire began to lay down. USFS crews monitored the fire through the night. It was a very long 15 hours!
- Challenges to the fire now are primarily on the southern portion of the fire, which has seen significant fire growth in the past couple of weeks, including the very large growth yesterday with the wind events.

#### **UPDATES:**

- Twice daily updates from the USFS (AM and PM) via facebook and website
- Twice weekly in person mtgs with LCEOC on evac status.
- Multiple ongoing email notifications from CLVFD to the Community on status. Asst Chief Marian Kelly named as the official CLVFD Public Information Officer (PIO)

#### **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