

Greg,

Thank you for this important information. Also I agree I'm very thankful that Troy, Dan, and Reggie were not injured worse or as you put it, killed.

To Fire Administration:

This raises some questions that I think you owe your line Firefighters. What are you doing to keep us safe?

- August 2nd EFD is dispatched simultaneously to two structure fires. EFD is fighting two heavily involved single family two story structure fires with 14 people. Per our dispatch times, it took nearly 15 minutes to receive aid from a neighboring department who uses different terminology and tactics than EFD. Two firefighters were injured on that call; one was relieved of duty due to injuries that he sustained.
- August 11th EFD is dispatched to a structure fire in Littleton. There were multiple issues with this incident according to the senior and very experienced officers that I spoke with regarding the incident. First of all, a crew of three people responsible for a RIT operation on a third alarm fire of a multifamily occupancy is unacceptable and dangerous. Engine 21 with a crew of three people call a "Mayday" and got a slow response from command. (Thank you 5-23 for being alert and taking the initiative to self-dispatch yourself). All three firefighters were burned, one bad enough that he was sent home due to blisters and broken skin.

So I respectfully ask you, what are you doing to keep us safe? What is it going to take to get some action? These are red flags. Will it take a firefighter's death to make you notice or take action? Some of you have ignored questions from line personnel; some of you have not supported a consolidation with Denver FD or SMFRA against the wishes of the majority of the firefighters, both line and staff.

The three issues, in general, are:

- Communications
- Staffing
- Training

These are the three talking points that the Mayor, City Council, City Manager and the Fire Chief agree need to be immediately addressed. Yet here we are with five injured firefighters and a Mayday called in a period of nine days. And still there is just discussion, with no action being taken. Fire Administration is gambling with our lives and the lives of our families. The lack of action on any of these vital issues is unacceptable.

Respectfully,
Mark Burley

I strongly agree.

The 14 firefighter minimum staffing the EFD maintains is the number that is required for initial fire attack when the furniture and possessions in one(1) room have caught on fire in one(1) predictable house here in Englewood, or any city. These types of fires are not the standard any longer. [This should not be confused with the requirements of a '1st alarm.'] The Sherman fire(s) and Littleton fire demanded the effort of more than 45 personnel and took over two hours to stop and stabilize the destruction.

Were these two days of fires out of the ordinary? Only in the fact of nine days separate the fires. What is extraordinary, is the fact these fires occurred in daylight, nobody home, in mild weather, limited exposures and in structures only two stories in height. If these fires – and yes, fires do - occur in the middle of the night when people are sleeping, in the middle of winter when snow, ice and cold are added to the fight, inside or outside a multistory apartment building, the damage and destruction to life and structure would be ten times these ordinary fires.

The sad irony of the Littleton fire is that an Englewood crew of three skilled, seasoned, experienced and assertive firefighters was caught in a MAYDAY emergency - the rescue struggle to save them would have been performed by three other Englewood firefighters assigned RIT operations for an incident not even in the city of Englewood. The attack crew could have been injured beyond the injuries they took, or became trapped and died. Think ordinary fires that turn quickly into critical, life-threatening fires just don't happen here...then they do. Think it won't happen again...it will.

There has been no communication from fire administration or city management addressing the effort, the injuries, the "what the hell happened?" the "we're in this together, we need to work on..."

Englewood is experiencing an exceptional number of residential/commercial building projects and developments that will result in at least 1500 people moving to the city, resulting in an increase in the population density – people per square mile - that is already the highest density of residents in the Denver metro area. Many residents already live in multistory buildings built over 30, 40, 50 years ago. The result is the dynamics of fighting fire in Englewood are a challenge.

Serving the people of Englewood are 50 firefighters that know the city – the streets, the buildings, the homes, the schools, the businesses and, most remarkable, the people – the children, the seniors, the families, the workers. Many of us have served the citizens and the city for many years and know the demands and difficulties, and reward in responding to those who ask us to help them.

We the firefighters understand we serve the people of Englewood. In return we ask the people of Englewood to talk with us - the firefighters.

Respectfully,
John Weigel, LT

I 100% absolutely and strongly agree with Lt's Weigel and Burley. The staffing levels and equipment are no longer adequate to serve the public safely and we as a department are being forced to rely on other departments for aid and heaven forbid the closest units are not available when we need them. It is time for the city to make a decision that will put pride aside and give the citizens of Englewood the services they need in a modern era.

Respectfully,

A. Blanchard
FireMedic

Mark,

I for one would be willing to sit down with you and your executive board, and anyone else that is interested and talk about this. I feel we need to come up with a plan that takes into consideration our realistic capabilities as an organization and preserves the margin of safety all of you should expect. In both of these scenarios, all of our units were available at the time of the call - we cannot expect that to always be the case, which further emphasizes the need to take a cautious approach. Let me know if you want me to try to arrange such a meeting. Thanks for your honest and straight forward questions and challenge.

Kraig

Dick,

I know you are already aware of most of what Andy has mentioned. I agree with Andy, and I know you do as well, that these are definitely concerns that we need to address with our neighbors as tactfully as possible but with the goal in mind to resolve what appears to either be a very different approach to managing the fireground or some real issues in understanding the basics of strategy and tactics. Safety must be paramount. I know I speak for all of us that our job is difficult and dangerous enough without worrying that our people will be unnecessarily put in jeopardy. Let me know if I can do anything to help.

Also, as to the larger issues of our situation addressed by Lt.s Burley and Weigel. I think a general officers meeting may be in order to discuss and determine our approach in situations like this and also like the fire on Sherman. We are woefully short of resources, especially when we get more than one unit or building involved. We need to all agree to an approach in these situations that we can support, and reassure our people that we will not put them in a situation that is beyond the scope of our capabilities and subject them to unreasonable risk. Anyway, again let me know what I can do to help.

Kraig

Kraig Stovall
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To all,

I want to start off by saying, I wanted to hold off addressing this topic until I had time to reflect and digest what happened on the call with Littleton. I also want it understood, the things I address in this correspondence, I feel, is not a complete list of the problems we are facing as a fire Department! I agree with our officers Weigel and Burley. We are in grave danger of getting someone killed, not only us as firefighters but our citizens that we are sworn to protect! I continue to try and dissect the call we were on with Littleton. Other than Littleton performing both interior and exterior fire attack simultaneously, while interior crews are inside, (which I feel could have gotten us killed)! The one thing that sticks out is (training)! We used to be on the cutting edge of training, we were the first players in HazMat, now we can't even participate (lack of training)! We used to have live burns at least twice a month on our own as a crew, up until last year it was around six (6) years since we trained in a live burn scenario! Now we respond to Littleton, and they are using the Blue Card system, again (training we don't have)! Talking with Captain Alley, Littleton fire, they don't use RIT in the BLUE CARD SYSTEM! The crew on deck apparently is responsible for RIT! Kind of an important element in the situation we were in with Littleton!

Again, I look back on the call with Littleton, while there were a lot of things that could have been done better, I see things like our Battalion Chief responds with us on scene I truly believe at least someone has my back! So I go into bad places with my brothers at my side with everything I have. Believing things like, what Firefighter McTaggart saw and tried to have aborted to keep us safe doesn't happen! It's not enough that our Chief responds with us out of the city but they should be in PPE STANDING OUTSIDE (ON DECK) READY TO PUT A STOP TO A "TACTIC" WHERE ANOTHER AGENCY WANTS TO PERFORM OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE FIRE ATTACK WITH OUR CREWS INSIDE! I'm proud to have gone into battle with the crew we had that day, including Squirt and medic 23! And extra proud of DOE McTaggart for having our back! I cannot fathom the burden that would have weighed on him or that crew if the outcome would have ended gravely!

So, I also respectfully ask you Fire Administration, what are you doing to keep us safe? What is it going to take to get some action?

Sincerely and respectfully,

Dan Alley
Firefighter/Engineer "C" Shift
Englewood Fire Department

I concur. We can and do continue to cover the shortcomings of training, staffing, and communications that are placed in our lap. This speaks to our dedication to providing for the protection of the life and property of citizens. However, this burden that has been placed squarely on us is no longer bordering on dangerous. As evidenced by recent events we have waded far deeper into that pool than any of us have ever thought would be allowed by those tasked with ensuring we have what we need to operate with a "reasonable" margin of safety. The men and women who have chosen to shoulder the burden of this risk deserve a solution. More importantly, the citizens deserve a solution. Enough of the politics.

-DAN

I am in total agreement.

We work in a dangerous profession. We all knew this when we signed on. We all accept this. To not be fully trained and properly equipped is a grievous mistake. We not only have been neglecting training with neighboring departments, but our own training as well. This has been shown clearly in the events of the last few weeks.

Moreover, being short staffed (4 members gone and 2 out injured) have resulted in the increased likelihood of fire fighter casualties. These things must be addressed expeditiously to protect our citizens (including my family members that live in the city) and well as ourselves (my other family members).

My gratitude goes out to those who have stepped up to make a stand.

Engineer Michel Osgood

I too strongly agree. The time for change is here and we must not waste this opportunity to take advantage of the SMFRA or DFD proposals. There has been TOO MANY red flags in the last couple of weeks when our safety and the safety of our citizens is in danger on every fire call we respond to. These sentiments are being sent from a group of people with a tremendous amount of pride and wouldn't have taken this stance without a firm reason. The City of Englewood once had the means to effectively fund the Departments in a full service city. Those times have passed long ago, and the only safe and efficient answer to the problem has already been presented to us. This does not mean selling off our services but rather improving them with a better service at no, or very little, additional cost. There is no pride loss in a decision that includes increased safety, better services and more financial freedom. I believe that any decision other than pursuing one of the proposals is an absolute injustice to the citizens of Englewood and the providers that work for them.

Josh Frederick

I also agree to all of these statements. This goes way beyond just the past couple of weeks though, more like the past few years. We are constantly under staffed due to budget constraints, our burn building/training center has not been repaired, who knows when it will be, due to budget constraints. Opportunities to train with other departments outside of Englewood on critical tasks, such as the regional RIT training at WMFR, have been cut back due to budget constraints. Equipment reaching the end of its effective life span and not being replaced in a proper and timely manner, due to budget constraints. All of this has been mentioned numerous times in the past, not just the last couple of days. As it was said before, we all know there is a risk to this job, we know we are expected to go out and act with due diligence for our own safety and the safety of the citizens we protect. Every last member of the fire department knows this. You can't continue to send troops into battle while the support group/function is lagging further and further behind, something bad or catastrophic will eventually happen. It has been proven throughout history. We were fortunate that lives were not lost in the past couple of weeks. The sad truth is that we are living on borrowed time and it is quickly running out. These issues that have been brought up in these letters need to be addressed now. It is sad to have to come to the realization that there has been a price tag put on safety. Not only ours but the citizens of Englewood.

Jay McCann

I agree as well. I am proud to be a Englewood Firefighter for many reasons. One of those reasons is that the Firefighters here have always done what is best for the Citizens of Englewood and this situation is no different. The issues facing the department, it's personnel and the citizens are undeniable. A solution must be reached now. We can no longer standby hoping that nothing "bad" happens. The evidence is clear and our greatest fears have come to close to becoming a reality. The citizens we protect deserve nothing less than a full and sustainable solution to these issues.

Thank you to those of you that have taken a stand and have chosen to truly lead during this difficult time.

Chris Wood

Chief Stovall,

I wanted to thank you for stepping up on behalf of administration to help better our department. Also, thanks Cpt Weigle and Lt Burley for taking a stand.

I'll be frank with everyone- we are on the path of Glendale, someone will die, whether it be one of us or a citizen, then all of the sudden a merger won't be an option. My opinion is that it is time for someone in administration to tell council and the people of Englewood that we are too far gone. We are at the point that it's hardly a merger; Denver or South Metro NEEDS to save us before something serious happens!!

Chief Marsh, you told us "a merger is inevitable"; may I suggest telling council the same thing before it's too late? For the first time in my career; I am truly worried that I may not go home in the morning.

Thanks to a majority of line staff for the calls, texts and emails about my injury. I was cleared 2 days ago but am still on vaca. I am graciously humbled by your thoughts for me and my family, and thanks to whoever mowed my yard!

Please be safe everyone, y'all are a pretty good group of guys and gals,

Steve

The very fact that the injuries suffered on Monday's fire were not more significant was clearly a choice of the Almighty. This was a clean, uncluttered town home. The opportunity to become trapped, pinned down, entangled, or disoriented was far less than the majority of the occupancy's we respond to daily. Further more I was not confident in any type of Calvary coming to our aid, due to the fact that our multiple requests for ventilation and an additional hose line could not be met. There was a break in Communication, Coordination, and Safety. I humbly admit that the chilling thought playing through my head moments before the Mayday rang out was, "We are under-trained for this highly hazardous situation." What a horrible feeling to have because of cut backs in training, equipment, and personnel. Confidence in our skill and ability should never be compromised because of a lack of support from City Counsel, or the City Manager. The moment Troy fell into the bedroom screaming "collapse" was too late to try and recall the details of a bailout, self rescue, wall breach or a number of other survival tactics that haven't been visited in recent years due to an under budgeted training program. I know the responsibility falls on all of us as individuals, however we All need a progressive and forward thinking avenue to allow Safe Training, Safe Communication, and ultimately a Safe Fire Ground. This was literally a "thump on the head" for us to wake up and make a positive change at such a crucial time. Please take this into extreme consideration. Thank you,

Respectfully,

Reggie Blacke

I can't say strongly enough how much I agree with all of these statements. The past few days have been a very chilling reflection on what could have been. We are talking about injuries and 2 near misses in which we as a department are lucky that we aren't planning funerals. With the cutbacks on personnel, equipment and training we are at a "crossroads". The Crossroads which faces us is to remain as we are or look at two proposals of taking over the Englewood Fire Dept. The option to stay Englewood and hope that the City gives us the required funding we need is not viable. We in turn waiting for that to happen significantly puts the citizens of Englewood lives at risk and also our own. I feel the only way for the Citizens of Englewood to receive the Fire Department that they deserve, who can safely perform the strategy and tactics needed to aggressively and efficiently control fires and preserve lives and property is to make a serious attempt at formalizing an agreement with one of the two entities whom have put a bid in. I've heard it before, we are living on borrowed time. There is no better time than now than to proceed. Thank you.

Brian Baker
B Shift FireMedic
Englewood Fire Dept.

I also agree with all of these statements. We are at a point where we are no longer able to provide the services the citizens deserve safely and efficiently. We have an opportunity to fix many of the problems we are faced with and I believe we need to take this opportunity now before anyone else gets hurt.

John Templeton
A shift FireMedic
Englewood Fire

Today I had the opportunity to speak with Troy about the incident. I imagined being in that position, responsible for my crew in a situation that went horribly wrong. I think about how any of us would respond tonight if we were called into an equally hazardous situation to save a citizen, one of our own or even a city counsel member. We would do it without question, without a second thought because that is who we are.

We make the hard decisions and many times they are life and death decisions. I wonder if they know we would widow our spouses and orphan our children so that they could live another day. Would they do that for us? I am very much in agreement with every statement from all my brothers and sisters. Right now, this is the time before anyone else gets hurt and people are starting to get hurt. I frankly couldn't imagine carrying that heavy of a burden knowing that I was directly or indirectly responsible for the injuries or death on another when I could have done something to prevent it. I pray "they" see the light because the very last thing I want to hear are bagpipes playing for any of you.

Regards,

Larry Nylander, Lieutenant
Englewood Fire Department

Thanks to everyone who has spoken on these serious issues so far.

I sat in several different union meetings as a brand new guy just two years ago and listened to proud, seasoned, experienced EFD firefighters express how hard it was to even be considering a merger. These men and women were once part of a progressive, state of the art, 'on-top-of-it' fire department...and by the sounds of it, considered to be the best in the region. Things have changed.

These same men and women have seen the light at the end of the tunnel disappear, and for good reason are ready to take a step in another direction. When safety, the top priority in any fire department, becomes compromised due to many factors, something has to change.

With respect,

Bill Kuhn
B shift FF

As everyone else, I cannot agree more.

What is it going to take? Multiple injuries or, God forbid, a death? We can no longer 'kick the can down the road' and wait for the next chief/council/mayor/city manager to take this struggling department to where it needs to be. Lack of real training and quality equipment is a recipe for disaster. I can only hope that this recent incident will open the eyes of the people who need to make the right decision and accept a merger with SMFD or DFD.

FM Rede

I strongly agree with all the aforementioned statements and concerns that my brothers and sisters have brought up. With 2-2 alarm structure fires in the past 9 days and 5 injuries reported, 3 of which could of been career ending, because of a lack of staffing, training, and communications there is no better time than the present to consolidate The Englewood Fire Department with South Metro Fire Rescue Department.

Respectfully

Jason Hehn
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I can't echo all of these concerns enough. Our department as it currently stands is unable to safely operate outside of 1) a basic room and contents fire OR 2) 2 simultaneous medical calls. We are limited in our capabilities despite our personal abilities as firefighters. Our efforts have gotten us very far. However, the recent events (close calls, injuries and near miss mayday) makes the risk that we know is part of our job higher than it should be. Safety can be controlled. Training can be controlled. Staffing and deployment models can be controlled. The red flags are piling up and we are fortunate to have a great opportunity to align with South Metro or Denver Fire. Now is the time to strike. The city does not have the resources to fix the major problems that need to be fixed. By merging or joining with either one of these neighboring departments the problems of safety, training, staffing and various deployment models are fixed along with other issues like communications, special teams, etc. All clear signs point to merging. I have family that lives all through the city of Englewood and I believe that they as citizens would be better suited with Denver or South Metro providing fire protection. I have been in the fire service for 12 years now. I have a wife, 4 kids with one on the way and this is the first time in 12 years that I don't know if I'll go home when the tones go off. That's a discomfort that is unacceptable. It's been said that we do this job knowing that there is potential for high risk and we allow that. This is beyond that.

Respectfully,

Aron Garner.

I also agree that something has to give. We are stretched beyond our capabilities. The Sherman fire occurred with our tactical preference in mind. Daylight, all units in service, no adverse weather, a hydrant locked block, occupants awake, alert and evacuated. If this were a single structure involved we may have had a chance to effectively protect property and above that life. We ended injuring two of our own and having a near miss almost end a career.

The Lowell fire in providing aid to our neighbors could have ended three careers, lives and families. Witnessing what all have most likely seen by now was eye opening to me as a firefighter. Weather fixing our years of lack of training would have prevented this or not it's a scary situation to think of and have to worry about. Because of our different schedules, lack of training together or any other countless differences it's becoming increasingly difficult to perform our jobs effectively.

This is the first time in 12 years I have started to question making it home in the morning. We are all being overworked on a routine shift or performing overtime shifts to cover lack of personnel. Our morale has been taxed along with or family life's. All the problems that have been brought up through studies, several chiefs, outside departments, citizen tours and so forth can be fixed. For us to remain a standalone fire department would take an uphill battle the whole way, taxpayer help and support. I don't think we have this needed time to dismiss discussions with Denver or South Metro before someone else gets hurt when the studies, plans and actions have been discussed and are waiting.

Respectfully, Dennis McTaggart

I support a merger with South Metro. The dangers we are facing have been highlighted recently but have existed for awhile. Many others have expressed these current needs and concerns. I agree we need to work realistically towards a way to facilitate the merger. We may or may not have citizen support for a tax increase so I believe we need to present this in a manner that can be paid for out of our current budget. I also think it is prudent to wait for the new administrative changes in City Hall as these choices are important and forcing an issue without good timing may not facilitate the result we want.

Laura Vetos

I STRONGLY AGREE!

I believe the time isn't now but is well passed us. We are so far behind in so many aspects: training, communication, staffing, equipment, etc. We all knew the risk of the job when we swore to an oath, but none of us thought that risk would be increased by the lack of training and support. We have been able to over come those things because of the pride we all have for what we do but it has all come to a head. Now is the time to put Pride aside and make the right decision. I am tired of hearing "We want our own fire department". What you should want is what is BEST for the citizens and the City of Englewood. The BEST service all around for the citizens and City of Englewood is to merge with South Metro or Denver. All elected officials, were elected by the people and should put aside their personal thoughts and pride and do what is right for the people. This isn't a game, its PEOPLE'S LIVES that are at stake.

Thank you to all that have expressed their concerns and thoughts. I am also grateful that we all have been able to return home to our families; I don't want to wait to do something after that isn't the case.

Respectfully,

FM Wes Nieto

After reading all the responses, I don't know how much more needs to be said! We ALL recognize the issues here. The solutions are right there. These men and women are a proud, experienced group of firefighters and do not take this idea of merging or consolidating lightly. The two other entities can offer increased service and personnel to the citizens at little to no cost above our current budget. The time to act was actually a few years ago, but we have dodged the bullet up to this point. How many more bullets can we dodge before we are in a funeral procession for one of our fallen firefighters? It's time to do the right thing for everyone. Thank You.

Don Busi

Merger or stand alone? Difficult decision? I don't think so.

After reading all the recent emails how could anyone deny better service for the citizens and a higher degree of safety for firefighters? A merger offers an excellent solutions for all problems in a timely manner. Stand alone is another Band-Aid fix that has proven not to work.

Time is of the essence the longer we sit around the higher the risk for both citizens and firefighters lives.

We need to do the right thing. Merger!

Respectfully Gregg Flor DOE

Merger is the only solution to the problem at hand! It has been more than a decade that the City of Englewood has neglected its Fire Department and its citizens. We have continued to down size the fire department while the city population and needs of its citizens as steadily increased. This negligence as come to a head in the recent weeks with the injuries to firefighters and lack of resources the citizens are use to. This will only get worse with time! The city has neither the resources or the will to fix the problem. The city of Englewood is putting the lives of its citizens and employees on the line and throwing safety to the wind. We have to merge or someone is going to die!

Michael Griffiths

Amen Brothers. Safety is number one, let's all go home after shift.

As the newest member of the Englewood FD family, and an eight year veteran of the Fire service, I have asked myself if I made the right decision in leaving my previous department to work for Englewood. The short answer is NO. Granted the crews and personnel are MUCH stronger and experienced; the pay, retirement and health benefits are comparable. This however is offset by the equipment, staffing, training, communications, and facilities which are inadequate at best and at worse dangerous. I made a choice, by joining Englewood FD, to place myself in a situation in which the risks associated with firefighting have been amplified due to lack of funding and action. By doing this I have done myself and my family a disservice. Maybe it's the other way around, maybe the department and the city have done the disservice.

Casey Keefe

As a Local 1736 Union Member with the Englewood Fire Department. I voted to pursue a merger with the South Metro Fire Rescue Authority. For several reasons previously mentioned.

Over sixteen years ago, I watched Cinderella City being torn down.

Looking back, our fire department has gone down hill too. We have a great group of firefighters!

But because of all of the, "cut backs" and "meeting the cities numbers." Safety is a concern. Our communications are outdated, staffing levels are at a minimum and we have not had quality training for a long time.

We have been patient with Fire Administration and the City Counsel. However, during the two most recent fires in Englewood (Sherman St.) and Littleton (Lowell Blvd.), five Englewood firefighters were injured. It is time to merge with The South Metro Fire Rescue Authority. We would have the manpower and resources it takes to be a strong fire department. Which would benefit both the Englewood Fire Department and the citizens it serves.

Thank you,

Ed Capalby

I have been a proud member of the Englewood fire Department for almost 20 years now and have seen our resources dwindle severely over the years. The line personnel have always had to pick up the slack and make due with what we had to work with. Because of the quality and professionalism and sheer guts of our people on line we have made it work! We have come to the obvious point that we are far past the ability to operate in a safe manner as voiced by all of my brothers and sisters in previous responses! The events of the last two fires is as close of a WAKE UP CALL that you are going to get! There could of easily been three deaths there! This merger needs to proceed with SMF! It is the most logical and immediate repair of this very broken and lacking system that we have been STRUGLING to operate with! We do not take any of this lightly and if anyone would like anymore information on this subject , PLEASE ASK !! Respectfully, Driver-Operator-Engineer, EDWARD W LEBEAU

I agree with everything that previous members have said.

Englewood Fire department is going in the wrong direction. As most of the surrounding departments have grown over the past 25 years, our department has dwindled. We have gone from a progressive department to one that, according to NFPA, can not safely fight an interior fire on our own. We are under trained, under funded, under staffed, and not supported by our city.

Our call volume has increased, as our training has decreased. We can no longer "make it work" with our aging fleet, our lack of a true aerial, our under staffing, lack of training, aging dispatching equipment, etc, etc.

If 48/96 is unsafe, then the way we operate with members on 72hr shifts (or longer) every day is outright irresponsible and DANGEROUS.

Every department has their own set of issues, and problems. However this department has more issues and problems then it has good at this point. If there are no changes in the very near future, I have no doubt in my mind that we will be putting on our Class A uniforms, listening to the bag pipes at a funeral.

Luke Ginther

Firemedic

Englewood Fire Department

Brothers and Sisters,

When this all began some 4 to 5 YEARS ago, I thought that with the correct support from City Hall and direction from the Fire Chief (whom ever that has been over this time period) that EFD could regain some, if not all, that we are lacking!!!! all things that have been listed time after time by our members. I was WRONG, the RED FLAGS have been pointed out and this appears NOT to be enough to get any movement other than another study! The events of the last 10 days on "C" shift have made it so clear as to what needs to happen. We all are aware of the inherent risks of the job when we came on..... but where we are at today ?

Lieutenant Mark Stout

Thank you to everyone who is taking a stand and asking for a change.

Being a new member of the Englewood Fire Department, it's hard to point out the flaws. But over the last two years I've been here, I have seen a decline in safety, training, staffing, apparatus and all of the other points that have been mentioned several times. Now, it's hard to sit back and do nothing. Like others have said, the decision to go to South Metro has not been taken lightly. Proud men and women serve the citizens of Englewood. We must do something before there are more serious injuries or, God forbid, someone is killed. I want to show my support and stand by those who are fighting for a change.

Respectfully

Kendall Ekstrom

When Littleton approached Englewood for a merger I was against that proposal, and even more so when Denver approached us, this was due to pride I had in the Englewood Fire Department: what we stood for, what we have done and how "cutting edge" we have been. When South Metro approached us I was still frustrated because I believed in this department and I had a fantasy that we could return to who we were at one time (probably 20 years ago), but I had hopes! I have been around for almost 25 years at Englewood and I remember the pride the old timers had and the stories about how Englewood led the area; some of the first paramedics, first EMS transporting, Opticomms, 5 inch fire hose, SWAT Medics, public education and so much more. Even though we have some of the oldest worn-out stations in the area; we lack in training and equipment; and we run more calls than surrounding departments, we as members of this department have been proud to do more with less, it has kind of been a "badge of courage". What we overcame in equipment, training, and budget, we made up with guts, passion, and what is now apparent....LUCK! My ego, my background, and my pride would like to stay Englewood, but my family, my future, and my survival, as well as those of my brothers and sisters cant rely on LUCK.

The decline of this department has been slow in coming which made it nearly transparent to all of us, due to this invisibility things that should have been seen and taken care of years ago fell through the cracks, and with that so did the safety, pride, and future of the Englewood Fire Department. If the City could get the Fire Department up to that standards of today and maintain those, then we as members might feel safe, regain some pride, and be on the cutting edge again, but 10 - 20 years of decline and "bandaids" cannot be made up. What once was a "cutting edge" department is no a very dull knife that we are being forced to cut our own throats with.

Respectfully

Greg Weaver
Fire/Medic

As already stated I can't agree more. There have been several studies stating that a status quo department is not an option. Furthermore some of these studies have been funded from areas where we are deficient already (ie training/MFTC budget). We have been in limbo for years waiting for a decision for the future of EFD. These latest incidents have shown that our department is behind the times. Not long ago we could train with our neighboring departments and even know what crews we would be working alongside whether in our district or theirs. As our neighbors have changed with the new trends in the fire service (training, communications, strategies/tactics, schedules etc) we have remained unchanged due to budgetary constraints.

We all knew there was risk involved when we took our oath; however, worrying about not going home due to our deficiencies is inexcusable. The men and women of EFD have great pride in serving the citizens of this city. We have all done our part to take up the slack in the past several years; however, these times have long ago ran out. Something has to be changed quickly before a citizen of Englewood or employee is injured worse than has happened already. A merger is the only quick fix to this problem. The citizens of Englewood, the employees, and everyone's families involved deserve a state of the art, cutting edge department. There is a proposal from a nationally accredited department that offers all of this.

Respectfully,

Jesse Olson
DOE Englewood Fire

To Begin, I am not normally one to engage but I now feel that there is no other option and the only way to be heard is through one unified voice.

While I feel that the Littleton fire is the result of idiotic, careless individuals from Littleton it has brought to light some of the many concerns that have gone long ignored by the city. Someone recently asked during a briefing what has specifically changed in the last couple of years that has changed how effectively and safely we can operate as a fire department and I have this answer:

Fist is staffing. By deciding not to fill positions for months to years at a time our staffing has effectively been reduced to 16 per shift. The consequences of this have been numerous.

It is not uncommon for individuals to work for numerous days in a row. This after we were denied a schedule change because working 48s was unsafe. The lack of staffing has eliminated the wild land program. We no longer have staffing to send people to outside training. It is nearly impossible to get a day off at the line level. Special events are forcing the utilization of on duty crews that not only decreases available resources to the city but adds to the workload of the crews. The moral of the department as a whole is currently the lowest I have ever seen it.

Administration has made the decision to place administrative personnel back into line firefighting with no regard to the safety concerns that comes with placing an individual on line that has not been on a fire truck for numerous years. (No offense intended to these individuals. If I were in the same position, being asked to do something I had not done for a decade or more, it would scare me, epically in our line of work).

Second is training. Any training outside of Englewood is almost unheard of anymore. It used to be abundant. This has caused almost all of the "special teams" within Englewood to go by the wayside. We have not had an organized plan of action for short or long term training for several years now. We rely heavily on outside resources to maintain certifications. We don't have facilities in which to train. We have fallen far behind our surrounding departments in current tactics, methods, and terminology. We have not trained with our surrounding departments for years.

Third is Communications and Equipment. The recent delay in much needed back up on the Sherman fire was unacceptable. We have had numerous radio and dispatch failures, on top of the system we currently have being grossly outdated. The stations and apparatus as previously identified. New equipment delayed by months or years. Inadequate maintenance programs for said equipment. Over reliance on grants/government funds.

All this while we have seen a steady increase in demand for services. And as we prepare for a spike in demand with the numerous housing projects underway in the city.

This is the tip of the numerous problems that currently plague our department. I could go on, but I digress. Some of these have been identified by the city, but as to date nothing has been done to address them. The problem has gotten so large it is out of the city's ability to handle as a stand alone department.

It saddens me to admit this, but when I was hired, I would say to other firefighters, I work for Englewood, and they responded with reverence and admiration. Now when I say I work for Englewood the responses I get are of pity and dejection. I, like my brothers and sisters feel that the problems have gone unattended for so long that the only realistic solution would be a merger with a larger department. The time and opportunity are upon us and we are looking for our administration to lead the way.

Respectfully,

FM Jon Grimes

Thanks to Randy Pickrel and John Doyle for what they said. I talked with another officer last shift and we discussed how we end up going home very stressed under the current conditions, knowing the lives of those under us are at stake in ways they never have been before and wondering how best to deal with training, danger, politics and the stress this organization and its people are under. It weighs on me and the hard part is knowing that there are very viable solutions with either SMFR or DFD that ego and ignorance may keep us from. My first comment was not strong enough, because I get afraid in a political world that we must appease rather than speak the truth in fear of offending ego's. No reasonable person who is educated on this issue would see it different.

There is enough money to go to another department with our current budget. "I am in awe" of the City Management leadership that has let us get here with a story that gives us the bad reputation. I pray for us, my children and yours, and those who make these decisions moving forward. I want change now.

Laura

I started my career in firefighting 41 years ago with a two-station department in southeast Arapahoe County. While at Castlewood Fire Protection District (where I often worked in a house by myself due to Kelly days), I saw Englewood open its cutting edge main station (one of four then). I watched as they and LFR brought paramedicine to the state modeled after L.A. county. Englewood forged ahead of everyone else with Opticom, 5" supply line and a reputation for being aggressive interior firefighters. When I left CFPD for biblical studies in California, I always thought that if I returned to my career I would like it to be at EFD.

When I returned after two years, the two-station department I left was now a growing multi-station agency with a bright future (SMFRA). But their bright future did not appeal to as much as Englewood's proud past and reputation as being the finest in the trade. By God's grace, I hired on in 1978 and was extremely proud to be a member of what was then the flag ship department in the metroplex.

With that background, you can understand my frustration and disappointment at watching the slow death of a great department. Blame-finding might include economics, demographics, shrinking budgets, etc. But in my mind, the largest contributor is the lack of priority over the years by City leadership (administrative and elected) to fund and properly maintain a top-run fire department. Our low priority has reduced us to begging hand-to-mouth (via grant after grant) for basic needs and even consider buying a 16 year old used aerial! Really? One only has to walk through our third-world stations to see the lack of priority besetting us. We often feel like the red-headed step-children of the City. Our stations get furnished with hand-me-down furniture, used library carpet and the like.

The remedy is not to be found in more money only. Rather it is to be found in turning over the money and control to those who know how to provide such an essential service. The platitudes of civic pride in their fire department by many on the Council ring hollow when year after year we end up sucking hind teat and then stretching ourselves to make up the difference.

The time for stretching is over. Decisions have to be made. If the City is unwilling to do the right thing and relinquish control to a competent provider (DFD or SMFRA), the membership must put the City on notice that they will no longer be able to provide the extraordinary service they have uber-hazarded their lives to provide. If the City is content to remain as they are where we don't even meet NFPA recommendations for a single room and contents fire, they deserve to end up with a response commensurate with the resources available- enough to protect the homes next to the involved structure but not enough to properly attack the involved. Because I know the core of the corp of the men and women on our force, this would be most difficult for them to do. But for their families' sake, I urge them to do so.

As the oldest member on our department and second in seniority only to our Deputy Chief, I can't stand the thought that after my leaving in two years my brothers and sisters will be mired in the death trap that has become our fire department. I entreat fire administration, city management and the City Council to muster their collective efforts and accomplish the much needed contract of services

I don't have much to add to what has been eloquently said by others. However, I will say this.

While I believe that humans have the ability to endure and overcome great difficulties, if the difficulties persist long enough, a tipping point will be reached. History is littered with stories of battles where the loser was not outfought, but was overcome through superior equipment, training and logistics. A leader, any leader, cannot ignore these factors.

We have all taken an oath and I believe every Englewood firefighter will always do their duty. In exchange for taking this solemn oath, it is not unreasonable to expect adequate training, communications, and equipment, commensurate with the dedication that the firefighters bring to the job. For the last 15 years we have been slowly starved of resources. We are now trying to persuade the city that we need a training officer. We are a fire department without a training officer!!! Let that sink in.

We have seen years of payments postponed and an unmanageable bill has come due. We are at the tipping point.

I agree!!!
Fuller

As an officer on the department I would like to focus my e-mail on 2 points. One, I work with some of the finest people to wear firefighter uniforms, and I have always been proud to be a member of the Englewood Fire Department with them. Secondly I completely agree with all the well written e-mails that have circulated since the near catastrophic fire in Littleton.

The Firefighters I mentioned have always had the fortitude and ingenuity to overcome the budgeting obstacles presented to them over the last 25 years. For the citizens they have made the cities "more for less" policies work. Now however the degradation of the training, communications and staffing have reached a previously mentioned tipping point. These Firefighters who are willing to risk all for the Englewood citizens now need some reciprocity from those who sit safely in offices behind desks.

We on the street are not just numbers to be placed on ledger sheets, nor should we be viewed as statistics to be thrown around. We are fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, neighbors with families and children. To allow the current risk level to continue due to ego, ease, or ignorance is indefensible.

To the decision makers, the answers have been presented and are currently in front of the you, as should be the faces (burned or otherwise) of the men and women who vowed to protect the safety of our citizens. You have been given a unique opportunity to make a huge difference for the Fire Department and those we serve. Do not let this chance slip through your hands, now is the time to do the right thing.

Respectfully
John Svejcar
Lt Englewood Fire Department

I have seen all the e-mails and every time I wanted to make a point or statement someone bets me to it. I agree with everything that has been said. I grew up in Englewood most of you know and I'm proud to be an Englewood firefighter. Over the almost 20 yrs I've been here there has been a decline in our budget. This means there has been a decline in our staffing, training, apparatus, equipment and stations. Its not the responsibility of the fire department to run the city just like its not the city managements responsibility to respond to our 911 calls. I have seen the fire union come up with possible solutions to problems that we knew were coming. Ways of saving money, head tax, property tax increase and now even a merger with two departments that can take on the load and handle the money. Every time the city has not acted. The city management would tell the citizens the fire department is good! Look at all the services they can provide, Hazardous materials team, Tech rescue team, extrication team, Pub Ed team, Car seat team. We don't need more staffing we can use our neighboring departments for help. The truth is this is all an illusion. It looks good on paper but its not a fact. The fact is we have no training budget . We have no training officer. We get low bid apparatus or even used apparatus, and if we get equipment its on a grant or low bid. I wont talk about the stations because that is low on my list of importance. Way behind Safety and being able to do our jobs efficiently. The time is now for the city to make a change.

Thank you
Troy Nicholson

I too concur with my brothers and sisters.

I have been very vocal in my concern for the safety of my fellow fire fighters in our recent Chief briefings. In said meetings, I voiced that my main concern was that we have neglected our training and equipment to the point that it has become "a safety issue". In light of the recent events it has rung true. I TOLD YOU SO!!!!!! THANK GOD IT WASN'T WORSE.

It is time to fix the dispatch and training issues we have right now, TODAY. After reading the two recent studies it is obvious to me, (and should be obvious to anyone) that our department and city do not have the monetary resources to affect this change. We have had two departments with the resources (computer aided dispatching, and training divisions) that can implement these needed changes right now, TODAY. Both have offered to take on this burden at our current or near current budget. PICK ONE!!!! This is the only viable solution. Please improve (RESTORE) the fire department to the services we and the citizens deserve.

Respectfully
Rodney A Barringer
Englewood Fire Dept

Chief Petau

Dear Chief,

As I stated before, I was on vacation during the Littleton fire incident that affected our Engine 21 crew so dramatically, but I wanted the opportunity to voice my concerns for our department's future. I believe that our members have expressed very clearly our dedication to Englewood Fire Department in

its endeavor to provide the best possible Fire and Emergency Medical service to the citizens of Englewood. The idea was instilled in me 22 years ago as a new member of Englewood Fire Department that we work for the citizens first and foremost and that they deserve the best that we have to offer. During my 22 years the department has been in a slow and steady decline. Our staffing levels have been reduced to below the NFPA recommendation for "room and contents" fires. Our training opportunities have been reduced to the point that it has become difficult if not impossible to maintain current certification levels. The loss of our Aerial apparatus is a significant reduction in equipment alone, but as technology advances our opportunities to improve our service have been hindered. Organizationally, I believe our department has lost much of its unified direction between the shifts. This steady decline has been born on the shoulders of our line personnel as we've attempted to compensate by doing more with less. All of these reductions have culminated in a dramatic reduction in morale and a growing concern for our personal safety.

As discussions of mergers began, we firefighters always wanted what was best for the citizens that we serve. Status quo had become an unacceptable option. As City Council became more informed of our situation there was a hope that the decline would be thwarted and that we might have their support to again have the ability to safely perform our duties. Recent decisions indicate that we have not gained that support. The recent, near tragic, incident involving our crews working with Littleton Fire Department graphically illustrates the importance of training in regards to our personal safety. Please express to City Council that we cannot continue in this direction and thank you for representing us there.

Respectfully,

Mark Jacobson

My two cents,

As a 30 year veteran Of the Englewood Fire Dept. I feel compelled to voice my opinion of our current situation. Never in those 30 years have I seen morale amongst the members as low. Many things have led to this, and the reasons have been well stated in this thread. The bottom line is that since the demise of Cinderella City, the City has failed in it's attempts to shore up the lost revenue once enjoyed by the presence of the "Golden Goose". The net effect has been the slow and steady decline of the Englewood Fire Dept. What was once a progressive, forward thinking and thriving entity when I hired on, is now an inadequate force barely able to manage a room and contents fire.

For better or worse, and to the credit of the dedicated members of this Department, the citizens of this city are unaware of the current situation. Given the well documented recent events, the time has come to stop "kicking the can down the road" and to bring back the service that the citizens of Englewood expect and deserve. Since I am of age to retire, I really don't have a dog in this fight, but it is my strong desire to see some stability for our younger members. For these reasons, I see a merger with South Metro Fire as a viable solution to the shortcomings of the current organization.

Sincerely and Respectfully,

Sean Hillis

Member since 06/04/1984

Chief Petau,

There is not much that I can add that has not already been said.

This response is intended for city council.

When I hired on in January 1983, 'Englewood Fire' was the best that a city could ask for. We were recognized as the top dept in the whole area. We were even considered better than Denver. We had the respect from everyone.

Over the years YOU {CITY COUNCIL} and Gary Sears and the past councils have destroyed the very department that Englewood was known for. You have continually cut and cut til we can no longer exist. It is a PITIFUL thought that our department is where it is. It is DISGUSTING you have allowed this to happen.

I moved to Englewood 10 years ago and was proud to live where I work (I had commuted for 20 yrs). Currently I am the only Firefighter that lives in the city. And I am ashamed to say that I still live here due to the what you council have created. The whole city has been mismanaged by people who don't have a clue what is needed.

I am going to end this here as I could go on for pages. But it is time that you make a well informed decision (GOD KNOWS THERE HAVE BEEN PLENTY OF STUDIES) and do what is best for the citizens and the EMPLOYEES. If you keep riding the fence you will get someone KILLED. You cannot keep putting this off.

All of this has been going on since 1990--- so Make a decision or give up your term as council members and I as a citizen will get people in the office to give what the citizens expect.

Delvin

Englewood firefighters have a long tradition of being among the best at what they do. They also have a long history of making do with what is available.

In the early days of hazardous materials response, the firefighters took an old, used panel truck and transformed it into a progressively thought out response vehicle, one of the first in the region. Later, these same people took an old, used snack delivery truck and transformed it into an advanced countywide response vehicle, a breakthrough concept in the way the apparatus was equipped and how it was used.

Firefighters have rebuilt or reconditioned their front-line apparatus, prolonging the life of the apparatus well beyond an expected or reasonable lifespan. They did this in-house, with their own tools and expertise.

Firefighters have remodeled, painted, repaired and maintained fire stations and the grounds surrounding them, when the City would not fund the work. A fire station is home to a firefighter; they spend a third of their life there and they take ownership in that home and its condition.

The Englewood Fire Department has contracted from four stations to three; in fact, I was on the crew manning Federal Station the day it was finally closed. The fire station was converted to a glass shop for a member of the city council, one who was quite vocal about the desirability of closing the station in the interest of saving money. I have seen apparatus "shut down", or not staffed, in the interest of cutting costs, reducing the response capability of the Fire Department. I

have seen the administrative staff cut in half, while maintaining the same or greater output, making up the difference by putting in long days and uncompensated overtime hours.

The City of Englewood bills individuals for ambulance transports. This is the norm in the region and not wrong to do. The charges are considerably lower than a comparable private ambulance transport. What is wrong is that, while the Fire Department is responsible for the treatment, transport and billing of the patients, it pays out of its operating budget for the costs of the billing process, commits considerable staff time to managing the billing process and sees none of the revenue from the transport fees collected returned to its operating budget.

The Fire Department puts money aside every month to have funds available to replace aging apparatus reaching the end of its service life. The department maintains three ambulances, two front-line and one in reserve. The reserve apparatus is as vital as the others, since it is pressed into service at any time the others need routine maintenance or mechanical problems. The City spent that savings account, specifically identified for apparatus replacement, and the money set aside for years was no longer available to the department.

That fund depletion is the “poster child” of the failure of the City to maintain the critical infrastructure of the Fire Department. Over 75% of the calls for service are EMS related, but when it came time to replace the apparatus, already past their designated service life, there was no money in the savings account. The two most recent apparatus were purchased with the assistance of grant money, not because it was helpful to the City budget, although it was, but because there was no other way to fund the purchases.

The Fire Department has transitioned from a supported, vital City department to an underfunded albatross around the neck of the City. The carpet in the stations is used carpet from City Hall, torn up when new carpeting was installed there. Depressingly, it was considerably better than what was in the stations at the time, and the members of the department were grateful for the “upgrade”.

The Department has been forced to purchase “low bid”, even though that meant purchasing sub-par apparatus that are unlikely to provide a full measure of the service life they are expected to maintain. It has been said that reserve apparatus do not need to be replaced as they “aren’t used much”. The Department has been forced to transition from using grants to enhance progressive initiatives to using grants to maintain basic, essential, operational functions.

The City is facing a debate of whether or not to maintain its own fire department. I would offer that the City made that decision many years ago, when it decided not to fund the essential infrastructure of the department.

The lack of support of the basic infrastructure of the Fire Department has dragged the department from the forefront of fire, rescue and EMS services, a model agency admired across the region, to a group of unsupported individuals struggling to maintain the minimum standards of their profession without the tools, training or support of the jurisdiction they are sworn to serve. It is very much a one-way agreement; the members of the Fire Department continue to serve to the highest level possible, while receiving minimalist support from the City.

Now, the City is faced with either the very expensive option of bringing the Department back from decades of neglect or outsourcing its fire and EMS services. South Metro Fire Rescue has a plan, well thought out from a business perspective and viable from an emergency services perspective. The City, through years of discussion and costly studies, has not even been able to decide to make a decision how to proceed, much less take the initiative to start the recover process.

I have been proud to be an Englewood firefighter for many years, but that standing has long since lost its meaning. At one time, there was a line of people from other departments wanting to join our ranks. Now, there is a line of our members looking elsewhere. They have families to care for, lives to live. No one can blame them for seeking stability and jurisdictional support in their chosen, yet dangerous, profession.

The services South Metro Fire Rescue provide their citizens are similar to, but of a wider scope, than those provided by Englewood Fire. Their department is on much more stable financial footing than that of Englewood Fire. Their infrastructure is decades more up to date than that of Englewood Fire. The initial and long-term cash outlay would be lower and the improvements much more rapid than if the City were to try to rapidly recover from the decades of neglect. The most effective way the City can ensure fire, life-safety and EMS services to its citizens is to contract with South Metro Fire Rescue.

All of us in fire administration are committed to providing everyone on the line with the resources you need to perform your job effectively and to ensure your safety. Certainly, two recent critical incidents and the effects of longstanding budget constraints have placed a sharp focus on our effectiveness and safety.

With regard to the Sherman Street Fire on August 2, Chief Petau, Chief Ertle and Fire Marshal Herblan responded to this call along with the on-duty shift. Clearly, there were problems with dispatch communications on this incident, including delays in receiving aid from our neighboring departments and in notifying command staff. Chief Stovall will be conducting a critique of this incident that will include addressing these delays and the injuries sustained by two of our firefighters.

With regard to the Littleton Fire on August 11, Chiefs Petau and Ertle responded to this call along with the on-duty shift and are communicating with their Littleton counterparts regarding the multiple, serious issues involved with this incident, especially the mayday event involving three of our firefighters. We have reviewed the video and audio from the incident and are meeting with each shift to discuss what we know so far. Today, Chief Petau sent a memo to the Littleton Operations and Training Chiefs expressing our specific concerns and requesting a reply.

In the meantime, we will be sending a medic unit and battalion chief along with our fire apparatus on any structure fire dispatch into Littleton. Chief Petau will receive an administrative notification as well. We in fire administration trust you and will back you in your decisions whether to accept a particular assignment based on your risk assessment.

We are hearing your concerns and taking them to heart. We are all in this together.

Chief

All,

Following are several updates:

- The critique for the Sherman Street Fire is scheduled for Wednesday, August 27 at 0930 hours in the Ellie Room. Regarding the injuries, Fire Medic Snyder was cleared for full duty on August 13, and Firefighter Garner was treated by a physician with no lost work time.
- Deputy Chief Petau, Assistant Chief Ertle and I will be meeting on Monday with our Littleton counterparts concerning the Lowell Boulevard Fire in Littleton. Regarding the injuries, Lieutenant Troy Nicholson was cleared for full duty on August 21, and DOE Alley and Firefighter Blacke were treated and released at the scene.
- Our Safety Review Team (SRT) will be reviewing these injuries at its next meeting on Wednesday.

Thanks for all you do within the limitations of the resources provided. We will keep you updated.

Chief

All,

Deputy Chief Petau, Assistant Chief Ertle and I have met with Littleton Fire Rescue Chief Armstrong, Division Chief Ruoff and Division Chief Tasker regarding our concerns with the structure fire on Littleton Boulevard in Littleton on August 11. The issues discussed included situational awareness, tactics, risk analysis, communications (Blue Card), and training. We agreed on the importance and necessity of continuing to maintain and improve a good working relationship as we strive to provide the best possible service and ensure the safety of our personnel.

Specifically, we will have representatives at the upcoming critique that Littleton will conduct of the fire incident (date to be determined). Additionally, we are forming a joint task force from our departments to conduct a separate, detailed review of the mayday event that occurred and to issue a report of findings and lessons learned.

Secondly, we agreed to expedite the plan for Blue Card training for our personnel so that it will commence this fall. We will be scheduling in-service training for all of our personnel to provide an introduction and overview of the Blue Card system and to facilitate smoother operations with Littleton and South Metro in the short term. We will also begin this fall the on-line Blue Card training for our officers and acting officers.

Finally, we agreed that the minimum initial response to our neighboring departments on automatic/mutual aid requests for structure fires will be an engine, medic and Battalion Chief. The Operations Chief or his designee will also be notified.

We will keep you updated as additional information becomes available. If you have questions in the meantime, please let us know.

Chief

All,

A critique of the Sherman Street fire on August 2 was held with C-Shift on Wednesday. We will be sharing the information from the critique with the other shifts, along with a timely and relevant training video that was just released based on current research for fire attack using the SLICE-RS approach.

Have a safe holiday weekend, and good luck with Fill-the-Boot!

Chief