



FRONT RANGE FIRE RESCUE

March 31, 2020

Good morning!

As we come to the start of April, I wanted to update you on Front Range Fire Rescue's (FRFRs) preparedness and response to COVID-19. Your firefighters continue to answer the call for help 24 hours a day, and we will continue to serve you with courage, compassion, and professionalism.

Likely you have heard the term "surge" lately. As a firefighter who worked along the east coast for many years, "surge" always referenced the flooding that occurred after a hurricane or winter storm hit. Often, it was worse than the initial stages of the storm. For COVID-19, the surge is referencing the potential impact of the next wave of critical patients that occurs after our initial patients have been infected. The fear is that the next wave potentially overwhelms the hospital system and our EMS resources. FRFR, along with our neighboring fire agencies, EMS providers, county officials, and state officials have been actively planning for the potential impact of a surge in our area. Just like a storm surge, many factors can impact severity, and we won't honestly know if our plan is solid until a surge happens. That said, we feel optimistic that we have considered all of the possibilities and are ready if our plan is implemented.

While Front Range is currently meeting our needs for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), it is an area that concerns all first responders right now. As this pandemic continues, our ability to keep firefighters safe is a concern. We are looking at scheduling a county-wide PPE drive soon to ensure we have adequate PPE to last us throughout this ordeal. We thank you in advance for any help you can provide.

Lastly, our entire leadership team is meeting almost daily to ensure that we have plans moving into the spring and summer. As temperatures warm up, we can expect more brush fires. With the monsoon season, we can expect the possibility of tornados. And with all of you sheltering in place, we can expect more accidents related to cooking and other accidents in the home. While COVID-19 is on the world's mind, every emergency is on our mind, and as an "All-Hazard" agency, we can't afford to have tunnel vision. Rest assured that we are here for you no matter what.

We would like to thank you for staying at home when possible. It helps your first responders stay healthy and minimizes the chance of spread. Each day we see examples of our citizens making the best of a bad situation. It is heartwarming to see our community pull together. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael West
Fire Chief