

Good day!

I hope you're staying warm and are safe at home on this snowy Thursday. Today we are starting the fourth week of the "Stay at Home" order here in Colorado. It's hard to believe that it's been only six weeks since the first person in Colorado tested positive for COVID-19. A lot has happened, and even more has changed for all of us.

I wanted to take a brief minute and give you an update to Front Range Fire Rescue's (FRFR) response to the crisis. As first responders, we often describe our actions at a fire in terms of Initial Attack (IA) and Sustained Attack (SA). Occasionally we arrive at a massive fire that will last a few hours or sometimes even a few days. This is the case with large wildland fires. At times, because the information is limited and all of the firefighting assets have not yet arrived, the IA phase can be chaotic. Communication is sometimes confusing and contradictory. Each responder does their very best, yet rarely do they have enough equipment to completely control the fire. As time marches on and resources arrive, adequate logistical support is put in place, and a system is stood up to assure that the SA portion of the incident can be continued for days or weeks or even longer. To me, this describes where FRFR has evolved to in this crisis.

As I mentioned in my previous post, our plans are in place should a surge occur. Each and every day we meet, check data, and confer with other agencies and officials to stay aware of day to day changes in the number of cases. We maintain and communicate the inventory of our PPE to assure that our usage doesn't outpace its availability. We are routinely disinfecting our equipment, ambulances, and firehouses. And, like all of you, we wear non-medical masks when we are out in public. We feel that these steps continue to make a difference.

Here are a few things that you should know about -

- On May 5, our Board of Directors' election is scheduled. It is a polling place election and the polling location is at our Station 1 at 100 Telep Avenue in Johnstown. While you are very welcome to vote at the firehouse from 7 am to 7 pm on the 5th, we are encouraging citizens to request an absentee ballot. This will help us minimize exposures. Please see our webpage for complete election information and how to request a. <https://frontrangefirerescue.co/2020/04/02/may-5-2020-election-information.html>
- Our offices remain closed for non-emergency visits and our office staff is still maintaining a 50% goal of working from home. You can always have your questions answered at info@frfr.co or by calling our business line at 970.587.4464. Our social media platforms also are another way to get ahold of us. Keep in mind that we are all putting in a lot of screen time these days and sometimes it can take a little to answer all of the requests immediately.
- This week marked our first Board of Directors meeting using video conferencing. We will let you know via our webpage and social media platforms if this continues. Our next Board of Directors meeting will be held on May 19. This is an adjustment from our previously scheduled date of May 12.
- After careful consideration and discussion at our Board of Directors meeting, we have cancelled our pancake breakfast that was scheduled at Station 1 in Johnstown on June 6. This was a difficult decision and one that wasn't taken lightly. We know what a beloved tradition this event has been and if we can possibly reschedule it, we will. We are hopeful that the annual pancake breakfast at Station 2 in Milliken will still take place. If it does, all of the residents of our district are invited! It is scheduled for August 12. We will keep you all informed of any changes.
- Our firefighters continue to visit our local stores and restaurants for take out food. We are so appreciative that they are still here for us and ask all of you to support them whenever possible.

I know that these are challenging times. I can't express enough how grateful I am for your constant stream of supporting comments, phone calls, and social media posts. FRFR's crews are here to help and are so proud of all you are doing to flatten the curve and bring this pandemic to a conclusion.

Sincerely, Michael West

Fire Chief