



Tech Talk

Newsletter Overview

December 2018

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Welcome to this edition of Tech Talk. Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. I cannot believe that 2018 will soon be behind us.

Reflecting on 2018, the Technical Services Division was again busy with the build-out and implementation of many projects, large and small; throughout the Division, the Department, and the City. The Division also continues to be busy supporting the day-to-day needs of our Department.

The Technical Services Division staff is devoted to serving the Department and our City. Our focus is to provide an exceptional level of customer service; communicate the “why” to those we serve; continually seek ways to streamline processes; and remain focused on fiscal responsibility.

This issue will provide a snapshot of a piece of the Division’s work which is currently underway or was completed in 2018. Several the projects mentioned in this issue will carry into 2019.

Please feel free to contact our office with any comments or suggestions you may have related to this issue, it’s content or the way in which we support our Department’s mission. We are proud to serve.

Thank you.

Steve Ellis

Fire Dispatch Communications

Staffing Changes at the Fire Dispatch Unit

A big thank you to Jackie Fehr, Rich Martin, Garret Majors and Jeff Swanson for their hard work, dedication, and professionalism during their respective tours of duty at Fire Dispatch. Jackie, Rich, Garrett, and Jeff, good luck at your new assignments, please be careful out there.

I would like to welcome these four new members and thank them in advance for helping us out:

Tech. / FF. Brian Baker

Tech. / FF. Dan Alley, Sr.

Tech. / FF. Luke Ginther

Tech. / FF. Kendall Ekstrom

New Communications Center

The new Comm. Center is located at 12025 East 45th Ave, approximately 1-mile west of Station #27. DFD Dispatch will be moving to this new building around April of 2019. The original DFD "Fire Alarm Headquarters" and current Comm. Center on Josephine Street in Congress Park will become the backup Comm. Center.

Please Help!

Please help our team with the following items:

1. One of the most important requests that our team has is that Operations Division Co.'s and Units is that you would actively listen to your radios and answer us when we call. When you don't answer, Dispatch becomes concerned about your safety, and often have to send another Co. or Chief Officer to check on your welfare.
2. Please provide updates and final dispositions of your incidents before you change your status to available, so we can enter the note. When you go available, the incident disappears off the screen and we must re-open it to add notes.
3. When you are responding Code 10, and EMS is going Code 9, please remember, we have DFD Policies we are following, which in some cases are different that the Denver Health EMS policies. Elderly Fall Victims, Pediatric Victims, Fractures, etc.
4. Please utilize your Portable A-Alpha Keypad to change your status when you're not in the rig, rather than asking our Fire Dispatch Team to complete this task.

Fire Dispatch Unit, B-Shift Team

Our Fire Dispatch Unit Team on the B-Shift consists of:

1. Lt. Jeff Windecker, 32-Years of Service
2. Tech. / FF. Tony Hernandez, 38-Years of Service
3. Tech. / FF. Doug Mangels, 37-Years of Service
4. Tech. / FF. Steve Jones, 19-Years of Service
5. Tech. / FF. Toby Trujillo, 15-Years of Service
6. Tech. / FF. Luke Ginther, 13-Years of Service

This represents a combined total of **154-Years** of Service and Experience! Thank you, B-Shift for your many years of dedicated service to our community.

At the DFD Fire Dispatch Unit, our team of professional firefighters are continually striving for:

- Consistency
- Professionalism

Sincerely,

Asst. Chief Dave McGrail and the entire DFD Fire Dispatch Unit Team

Fleet Management

With the end of the year fast approaching, we are wrapping up the 2018 approved apparatus purchase and build-out process. Three new engines are nearing completion and final inspections will be completed late in late December/early January at the factory. Delivery should occur near mid-January.

Additionally, a 107' aerial ladder is also being built and completion should be running just a few weeks behind the three Engines.

A new replacement Rescue approved for 2018 is also in process. Specialty Rescue units come with a significantly longer build time than our standard units so we're anticipating an April 2019 delivery date.

The new concept Med Unit pick-up truck arrived from the dealer and a few final up-fittings including the Line Shop radio installation was completed at the shop. That unit was deployed in early October.

We are pleased to be partnering with DPD, Public Works, FLO, and TS in a joint effort to replace our current server-based fleet management software with a web-based fleet management information system in 2019. This is an exciting opportunity to implement a software system that will have more flexibility in its ability to be tailored the needs of each end user. Over the next several months, we'll be going through an intense data clean-up process so that the migration over to the new system will go smoothly. It will be a major task to purge out the "pollution" in the old product while retaining critical vehicle life history in the new system. We're targeting a "go-live" sometime in the fall of 2019.

Finally, personnel changes will be happening in the coming year! We have one planned retirement position and are working with Civil Service to hopefully fill the position from the current active list. George Bannister successfully completed his probation period earlier this fall and Tim Giles is just weeks away from wrapping up his 12-month probation as well.

Thank you,

Dan Freix and everyone at DFD Fleet

Facility Management

2019 has been an eventful year for facilities. The annual station inspections reflected the effort that DFD firefighters put not only into their work but the stations that house them. Crews built workbenches, added doors for more privacy in crew quarters, replaced broken faucets, and even installed a window. FIT projects added new interior doors to apparatus bays, new boilers, new chillers and air handling units.

The end of the Purpose 5 Bond projects concluded with kitchen remodels at Stations 8 and 15. The kitchens were long awaited and brought several new challenges with them. The challenge that will be carried into the future General Obligation Bond projects is ADA compliance. It took several additional months to get clarification of the ADA counter height requirements for fire stations. The good news is that a Department of Justice interpretation supports standard 36" counters for emergency responders and the upcoming GO Bond kitchen projects. The initial design and scope walkthroughs were completed for the first set of funded GO Bond fire station bathroom and kitchen projects that will start in 2019.

Environmental management and sustainability efforts continue as we move closer to the City's 2020 goals. Energy conservation will continue to be a priority for DFD facilities and as temperatures drop stations will need to be aware that bay heaters aren't heating the great outdoors. On the sustainability front the DFD brought its total number for fire stations composting to 20 fire stations. The Fire Department has committed to 100% participation in the CCD composting program by the end of the 2019.

Last but not least, Fire Station 39 started construction and is well on its way. It currently has all the superstructure completed and all the interior concrete flooring. Framing and exterior insulation has been finished for the crew quarters and exterior brick work will be starting before the first of the year. The planned opening of Station 39 is June 1, 2019 and will house two companies on day 1. We look forward to watching this newest addition to the Denver Fire Department coming to life over next few months.

Thank you,

David Tade and the Facilities staff

Line Shop

2108 continues to be an extremely busy year of projects and accomplishments for the Lineshop.

RADIOS: The Dept's move to Motorola radios has achieved several milestones already. The FCC has granted new repeater frequencies to facilitate our needs for incident communications throughout the city. New in-vehicle repeaters will offer enhanced functionality allowing emergency button activation to be passed through to the system. A taller tower has been constructed at Station 2 to handle coverage in the Northeast portion of the city as well. Mobile radios have already been installed in chief cars and non-frontline rigs utilizing a bridge from the new Motorola system to the current Harris system. Installs in frontline apparatus will begin the week of November 26th. Installations will continue into January with a go live date in late April 2019 in conjunction with the opening of our new Communications Center.

GOGOGATES: Remote door controls called "Gogogates" have been installed in every Station and several support facilities to allow viewing of door status and operation remotely. Dispatch can close a door left open after a run or open a door for a vendor without the need for someone to be physically present. Cameras provide verification that only authorized personnel are allowed access.

MDT: The new "image" is being deployed on our MDT's. The new image is a Windows 10 version that operates much like the station desktop. Access to the DFD Web, City provided sites, and the internet are now available on the MDT's. Officers can also check the status of their doors via the Gogogate devices.

DFD Web: Work continues migrating content from our current DFD Web server to a new virtual server hosted by TS. Many applications are running there already and most of the transition will be seamless. One advantage of moving to the new server is the potential to make the DFD Web viewable from anywhere without the use of a VPN.

NEW COMM CENTER: Denver's new Comm. Center located at 12025 E. 45th Ave. has been completely renovated from a corporate call center to a state of the art 911 call center. Equipment is now being installed at the facility with an opening date to coincide with the Motorola go live date in April.

Thank you,

Mike Stutz and the Line Shop staff

Warehouse

Members will notice several changes within the upcoming 2019 Warehouse catalog. Several new items have been added from body soap, brushes for grill cleaning, as well as new composting bags have all been added.

Currently all Fire Stations are receiving a modification to update the QuikMix dispensers to accommodate the newly acquired purple degreaser. Upon completion, each station will have either a locking cabinet or a wire racks to keep the chemicals off the floor to avoid spills. This update will be completed by the 1st of December.

All members in Operations should have noticed by now the quick turnaround time for laundering PPE. This process has changed dramatically over the last year. Turnaround times are averaging 3-4 days. This ensures that members can send PPE in for laundry after fires to rid their PPE of potential carcinogens, while always having a clean second set readily available.

Finally, the RFP for the new Particulate Hoods should go out for bid in December. The plan will be to issue each member in Operations two (2) Hoods each assigned by serial # to the specific individual. This should help streamline the current Hood laundering process.

Thank you again for your continued patience, as we continue to improve products used by the Department.

Sincerely,

Captain Dan Peyrouse