

January 2020

TechTalk

Overview

Thank you for taking a look at our latest Newsletter. I hope you find its contents worth your time. In retrospect, 2019 was a blur. The Division was extremely busy, and it is hard to believe that it is already January of 2020.

The Technical Services Division will move into 2020 with a continued focus on supporting the mission of our Department. We are dedicated to providing our Members, the Department, and the City we serve the highest level of service and support possible.

This issue will provide a snapshot of our Division's daily activities, our workload and an overview of our ongoing projects. Please read this knowing the members of the Tech Services Division, both sworn and civilian, possess the same passion for their work as our readers do for their work.

We have recently on-boarded our new Executive Assistant, Chris Marez. Please stop by the office and introduce yourself to him.

Finally, please feel free to contact our office with any comments or suggestions you may have related to the content of this issue or the way in which we support our mission.

Thank you.

-Division Chief Steve Ellis

This Issue

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Chris Marez has joined our team as the Technical Services Division's Executive Assistant. Chris was previously employed by the Colorado School of Mines as an Accounts Payable Specialist. Chris also spent over 5 years with Denver's Civil Service Commission as an HR Technician and Administrative Support Assistant. Chris is a Denver native who enjoys playing sports, cooking, and going on adventures with his 7-year-old son Liam.





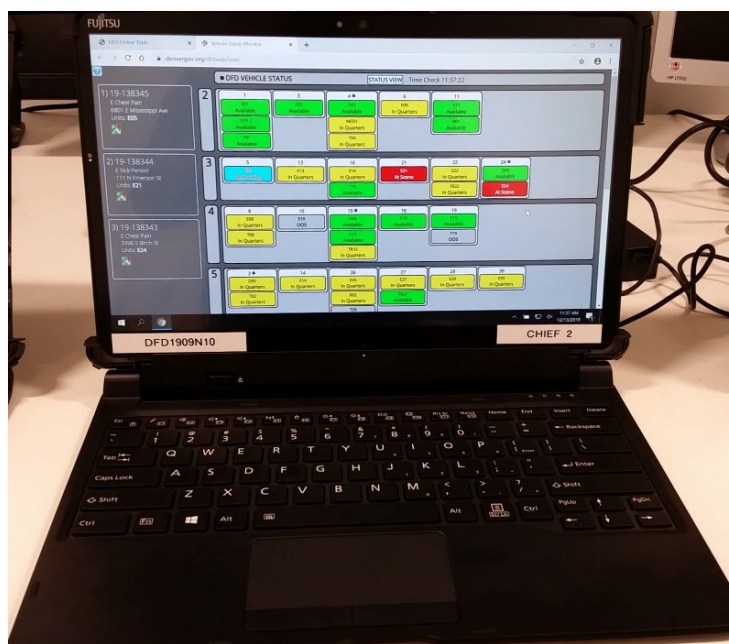
Communications/Line Shop

2019 ended as a year of great achievements for the DFD Line Shop. Notable events are the opening of a new fire station and the transition to our Motorola radio system. Early 2020 will see an upgraded radio line-up and interagency operability rolled out.

We also opened a new 911 center this year in Northeast Denver. Along with that milestone came improvements in the systems the Line Shop oversees.



Pictured here is the AES Firebox running software created by Brian Kopp from the Line Shop. The opening of the new 911 Communications Center along with the back-up site at the old center will allow us to operate with the same fail-over resiliency as nation-wide monitoring centers.



We have also begun deployment of new F-150 District Chief vehicles using a new tablet version of the MDT. The tablet can be undocked from the vehicle and brought in quarters and attached to a keyboard for use in the office. The new Fujitsu Tablets will also go in the Shift Commanders Vehicle and the Med Unit.

The Hotspot project is also under way with all equipment and hardware already purchased. Each front-line apparatus will receive a "Hotspot" capable of supporting the MDT as well as numerous Wi-Fi-enabled devices. Truck 8 and Truck 16 are currently running on the Hotspots with extremely good results.

-Superintendent of Fire Alarm Michael Stutz



Dispatch



Staffing Changes at the Fire Dispatch Unit

Congratulations to Tech. / FF. Doug Mangels who recently retired from the DFD, and the Fire Dispatch Unit. Thank You Doug, for your nearly 40-years of service on the DFD. May you have a long, healthy, and happy retirement.

The following DFD members have joined the Fire Dispatch Unit:

Tech. / FF. Andy Raible

Tech. / FF. Jackie Fehr

Prob. FF. Sierra Kallweit

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

Also, a great big thank you for all the hard work and professional dedication from:

Tech. / FF. Brian Baker, returning to Operations, Engine Co. 1

Tech. / FF. Kendall Ekstrom, returning to Operations, Truck Co. 8

Thank You Brian and Kendall.

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Ops., Please Help!

Please help our team with the following items:

One of the most important requests that our team has is that Operations Division Co.'s and Units is to actively listen to your respective radios and answer us when we call. We realize that things get busy, loud, and hectic at an emergency scene (we've all been there ourselves). However, when you don't answer we get very concerned about your safety and must send another Co. or Chief Officer to check on your status. As a suggestion, please have another member of the Co. monitor radio Channel 1, especially when the Co. Officer needs to switch over and talk on the EMS or Police Channel.

Please give us updates and final dispositions for your incidents. Please do this before you change your status to available, so we can enter the note. When you go available, the incident closes and disappears off the screen and thus, we must re-open it to add notes.

Please don't kill the messenger. 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 than the Denver Health EMS Policies. Elderly Fall Victims, Pediatric Victims, Fractures, etc.

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.

When you make a request for EMS or Police, please give us the following information:
Code 9 or Code 10, and the Reason. These are the questions they ask of us when we make the request.

Secret Notes??? Believe us when we say, we do not have Secret Notes. What you see on your MDT Screen is what we see on our CAD Screens at Fire Dispatch. We will and do share all the information with you regarding your respective call. With that said, once we give a call to you, it is yours. Unfortunately, we do not have the staffing to monitor the development and "new" notes associated with your call. This is because we are on to new calls; building, processing, dispatching, etc. Please read and watch your notes.

Please, consistently communicate with us when you leave your first in response district. We simply need to know where you're going, and for how long. Please, pro-actively look at the map on your MDT, status of other Co.'s / Units, and act accordingly. We are trying to ensure that available resources are balanced and appropriately distributed across the city, to maximize the service to our constituents, and minimize response times. Also, the location given should be a geographical location (Bayaud Fuel Depot), rather than *"we are going for fuel"*, or *"going to the store"*. We don't know what fuel depot or store you are going to. Location (29th & Quebec) and duration (45-minutes) will help us tremendously.

Thank you, TEAM 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 and Professionalism.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Fire Dispatch Unit operations, please contact me anytime.

-Assistant Chief Dave McGrail



Facilities/Maintenance



2019 was a full year for Technical Services Facilities. The construction of Fire Station 39 was completed and had the grand opening before the June deadline. The first funds from the new General Obligation Bond were released and the design contract awarded for remodel projects at five fire stations. These projects compose of kitchen remodels at Stations 17, 19, 27 along with bathroom remodels at Stations 1, 17, and 27. Composting was introduced and implemented at the remaining fire stations to support the City and County of Denver 2020 sustainability goals. The supplemental generator project for Station 1 was completed at DFD Headquarters. New kitchen stoves arrived at Fire Stations 1, 15, 24, 26, and 27. Ductwork cleaning was completed at Fire Stations 3, 6, 11, 12, 14, 17, and 18. The kitchen remodels for Fire Stations 8 and 15 were completed with standard height counters. Several Fire Stations saw HVAC equipment upgrades and the Fire Station 23 domestic water supply upgrade project was completed. Fire Stations 10 and 16 received new roofs and design work was started for new roofing projects at Stations 8, 14, and 19. Fire Station 3 had its carpet removed and replaced with new LVT wood flooring. The Environmental Management Systems audits at Stations 10 and 15 were successful in 2019. In addition to these projects, Technical Service helped support numerous Station projects that were initiated by House Captains and completed by the crews to ensure that DFD fire stations are maintained in a way that reflects their pride in the place they call home. We now look forward to 2020 and more facility improvements that include new bay doors at Station 10, 11, 15, and 21. Carpet removal and new flooring at Station 11 and replacement of the exterior façade at Station 27.

-Captain David Tade



Fleet Management

Wrapping up 2019 – It was another very busy year at the Repair Shop. We continued to take small bites out of our giant preventative maintenance backlog while dealing with the normal everyday workload.

We had a very good year in getting new units on the street. The 2018 compliment of apparatus including a new Rescue 2 arrived just after the first of the year. Everything was upfitted and placed in service by mid-year. Additionally, we added another 27 plug-in hybrid electric units that will help us reach the Mayor's goal of 200 EV units citywide by the end of 2020. The District Chiefs also received their first four new units that are modeled on a pickup truck chassis instead of SUV's to hopefully provide better and safer storage for their gear, as well as giving them a better platform to carry out their duties.

Looking forward to 2020 – Things are not going to slow down in 2020. The 2019 purchase of three engines and an aerial platform will be arriving very early in the year. We also had a very good year with budget negotiations for planned fleet replacement. We'll be ordering two new engines, a new Truck 2 (w/pump) and even were able to squeeze a replacement for Rescue 1 into the mix. We'll also be able to fill out the last two front line District Chiefs into new pickups, as well as order some other administrative and support units.

We're finally seeing some movement happening with regards to charging infrastructure for the electric vehicles that we've been purchasing for the last three budget cycles. Groundwork for the electrical upgrades has begun on the Roslyn campus. With any luck, we may even be able to order some full battery electric vehicles for 2020 for some of the Roslyn assignments. Additional upgrades should start taking shape mid-year at DFD HQ, which will allow us to take better advantage of some of the plug-in hybrid units that we've been assigning there over the last couple of years. And by 2021, we may be able to start utilizing all electric vehicles out of that location.

Last but certainly not least, 2020 is going to bring a major change to life as we know it at the Repair Shop. The Assistant Master Mechanic Floyd Schiller is going to retire mid-year. Floyd has been a fixture in that position for roughly 17 years since 2003! Speaking personally, I will miss him a great deal. He's been a good friend, a dedicated colleague, and he's absolutely committed to making DFD a better place.

Most people are unaware of the workload placed upon the Assistant Master Mechanic. Floyd's day begins like a multi-alarm event. Multiple phone calls, each with some type of pressing problem or request for service. Each one must be triaged and assigned appropriately to a finite number of mechanics. There are no additional resources to call in when things grow out of control. While dealing with that, he also must try to get the normally scheduled work out the door. It's a daunting task to say the least. Try to imagine doing it for 17 years, while also being on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It's not a job for the faint of heart.

My hat is off to Floyd for his years of dedicated service. I hope everyone gets a chance to stop by and wish him well in the coming months before he opens the next chapter in his life.
Wishing everyone a happy and successful New Year!

-Master Mechanic Daniel Freix



Warehouse Operations



INNOTEX PPE

The department currently has 200 sets of gear on the streets through active members and new recruits. The reception of the new PPE has been positive. Fittings being done at the warehouse on the 1st three Wednesdays of the month has allowed most members, with the assistance of Command Staff to be able to come on duty for the fittings.

Warehouse

James and Scott finished the inventory hard count for the warehouse and have begun preparing for the new year. New items and needs are being identified and researched for possible incorporation in the new year. Items include cleaning supplies, some clothing items, utility tools, and flashlights. The ordering process for firehouse supplies continues to be streamlined with the assistance of DFD Members and the Warehouse Quartermaster. As always both James and Scott are dedicated to providing the members with the best service and products that they can.

-Captain Marc Wiederrich
Quartermaster