



FIRE DEPARTMENT
INTERNATIONALLY ACCREDITED AGENCY

Christopher P. Riley, MS, CFO, MIFireE
Fire Chief

2010 Annual Report

CITY OF PUEBLO FIRE DEPARTMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

We will provide the highest level of Fire and Rescue services to City of Pueblo and our community following laws, safety practices, and professional standards.

VISION STATEMENT

To maintain our international accreditation status and provide safe and effective leadership, training, equipment, and facilities for our members to ensure the highest level of Fire and Rescue services to the City of Pueblo and our community.

CORE VALUES

Safety, Customer Service Excellence, Integrity, Dedication & Vision

Accomplishments in 2009, current activities, and goals for 2010

In terms of great financial news and revenue gains, our 2009 FEMA Fire Station 4 Stimulus Grant Award of \$2.75 million dollars was the single largest grant award in our department's history. In addition to this, we also were awarded two DOLA Grant awards in the amount of \$550,000 for Fire Stations 4 and 9. Our



Grant Awards for 2009 totaled over \$3.3 million dollars! Furthermore, over 5,000 fire departments in the United States applied for the Fire Station Stimulus Grant. Only 96 departments were awarded and the Pueblo Fire Department received the 19th largest grant dollar amount. To put this in proper perspective, Chicago and Los Angeles Fire Departments were awarded in the \$3.5 million range and have serve populations of several million residents. In addition, from 2006 through 2008, the Pueblo Fire Department was awarded nearly \$400,000 in grants funds that allowed us to purchase 800 MHZ radios, fire station generators, and



structural fire gear (PPE). Many of our members did an outstanding job contributing to research, grant writing, and hard work in making these much-needed grant funds a reality for the fire department.

Last year, 10 new firefighter recruits began their fire service career with our department. I am proud to announce that as of this writing, these individuals have successfully completed their one-year probationary period. Congratulations are in order for these members as they passed a

battery of intense tests and standards this past year. I would also like to thank our Training Division and the many members of our department who assisted the recruits in 2009. They have no doubt passed along to these new members the outstanding work ethic and job skills that are the foundation of our department.

In 2009 the Pueblo Fire Department responded to over 14,000 incidents. Thankfully, none of these incidents resulted in a major injury to any of our members and no civilian fire deaths. This was certainly the result of our commitment to safety, training, and fire prevention. The Fire Department made contact with over 15,000 community members through various public education programs. In addition, we conducted over approximately 3000 fire inspections, 1 million square feet of building plans, and trained over 30,000 hours.

- ✓ CFAI Accreditation: In August 2008, the City of Pueblo Fire Department officially received international accreditation status. Completing this intense self-assessment process was a landmark and monumental time for our City and the Fire Department's 121-year history. Becoming accredited was the beginning of a life-long journey for our department. I am proud to announce that in 2009, we passed our 1st Annual Compliance Report. Although not nearly as time consuming as original accreditation, completing the ACR was by no means an easy task. This is truly where the rubber meets the road in terms of maintaining the professional standards that we are committed to through accreditation. In addition, the Pueblo Fire Department is now a lead agency in the newly formed Colorado Coalition of Accredited Fire Departments. Only four fire departments in the State of Colorado (out of approximately 400) have achieved accredited status. In the United States, only 125 fire departments (out of approximately 30,000) are accredited. Most importantly, maintaining our accreditation status will ensure we continue our outstanding level of service to the City of Pueblo and community.



- ✓ Training: We continue to deliver best practices and state of the art training to our members. Simply put, our training is second to none. This includes hosting nationally recognized speakers/instructors on topics that included firefighter safety, survival, leadership, management, emergency ops, incident command, and tactics/strategy. The training division ended 2009 with



the 10-year anniversary of the Worcester Fire Tragedy Workshop, a sobering reminder of the inherent dangers and risks of firefighting. Our goals for the coming year will be the finalization of the State Firefighter I and II Certification process and completion of the State Fire Officer Certification program. We continue to partner with program. This brought the Pueblo Fire Department regional, state, and national recognition. We are kicking off the New Year in 2010

with a Gettysburg Leadership Workshop. Our 2010 training calendar is committed to delivering diverse and state of the art training to our members. We must continue to be a Safety Driven Fire Department with the attitude of "Train as if your life depends on it, because it does"!

- ✓ Fire Prevention, Education, and Investigations-As mentioned, we completed over 3,000 business inspections in 2009. Quarterly classes on various aspects of conducting company inspections will continue. In terms of Property Loss Conservation, last year we responded to fire calls with a total property and content value of \$12.3 million dollars. During fire combat operations, we were able to save \$11.2 million in property & contents, which represents saving 90.59% of this total value. In addition, our fire loss per capita continues to be less than half of the national average. These are phenomenal figures! Our local cable TV ads, along with written material and on-site visits will be ongoing. We are currently working on new Public Safety Announcements for 2010. We continue to average over 200 working fire incidents every year that involve fire investigations efforts. Our department now has line-duty fire investigators assigned to various crews that assist our Fire Prevention Bureau in fire cause determination.



- ✓ Emergency Medical Services-Medical incidents continue to make up approximately 70% of our response incidents. We continue to work closely with Pueblo County Medical Director Dr. Kevin Weber on various EMS items. As funding permits, we will continue working toward becoming a paramedic-level fire department. I would like to congratulate the 4 members who completed paramedic training in 2009. In addition, 2 members are in the process of completing EMT-Intermediate training. A main goal for us is maintaining an adequate number of ALS-trained personnel. In 2009, Engine 10 was converted to an ALS unit. This was a major accomplishment in that all ten fire stations/districts in the City of Pueblo are staffed with Advanced Life Support personnel. Lastly, AMR Ambulance continues to provide excellent service to our City and community.

- ✓ Assessment of needs-Besides establishing benchmarks and tracking our service progress, the accreditation process also identified various needs we have in areas such as staffing and large capital items. In recent years, we have reduced our fire department staffing in fire prevention and fire suppression while at the same time our call volume and prevention demands have increased and nearly doubled. In terms of large capital needs, some of our apparatus and fire stations are aging and are in need of replacement. Obviously City



revenue and the current economic condition become problematic in terms of meeting these needs. However, we will continue to explore all necessary avenues to meet current and future staffing and capital items needs.

- ✓ Hazardous Materials and Specialized Rescue Ops- We are extremely fortunate to have a full-service department that is capable of handling the extra-ordinary and unique incidents such as a haz-mat spill, river rescue, and confined space incident. Many specialized incidents were handled in 2009 that resulted in positive and safe outcomes thanks to this specialized and highly trained group of individuals.
- ✓ Homeland Security and terrorism preparedness-We continue to work very close with City of Pueblo Police Department and Pueblo County Sheriff in training and preparedness. This will be an on-going focus as we best prepare ourselves for this 21st century challenge.

- ✓ Department Communications-Good communications at all levels has been and will continue to be a major focus. The weekly conference call between all fire stations and staff assists us in this area. In addition, members have done an outstanding job keeping City Management, Council and other departments updated on various items throughout the year. The continued use of the chain of command and appropriate communication channels allow for formal requests and resolution of departmental issues.

- ✓ Fire Management and Local 3 work relations-In 2009, we officially began a Labor/Management



Initiative forum. In addition to our monthly Staff meetings that involve management and labor, LMI will build upon our outstanding work relationship by implementing a collaborative problem-solving approach. This includes working on departmental



needs and planning for the future. The active participation between our Command Staff and IAFF Local 3 E-Board continues to be an invaluable asset in moving our department forward on many fronts.

- ✓ Explorer Post 343-This group continues to do an outstanding job and make a significant impact in the lives of our youth throughout the community. In addition, we are looking at starting an Advanced Fire Explorer Program that would cover college costs for a select number of our top explorers.

- ✓ CISD, ACOVA and Fire Chaplain Program-Fire Chaplain Doug Cox, ACOVA, and Critical



Incident Stress Debriefing personnel were called upon several times in 2009. These individuals did an outstanding job comforting those during critical and tragic times.

- ✓ New Fire Station 4 and 9: Thanks to our Fire Station Design Committee for the outstanding work they have done designing our stations with the architects. Thanks and recognition go to St. Mary Corwin Hospital and School District 60 for donating the land for fire stations 4 and 9. As previously stated, we were awarded over \$3.3 million dollars in grants funds for these fire stations. Construction has begun on fire station 9 and our goal is to complete construction on both new fire stations by the end of this year.

- ✓ Apparatus, Equipment, and Capital Improvement-Various station and apparatus items have been upgraded. Budget permitting, we are looking to continue upgrading each fire station with an emergency generator, thermal imaging camera, and physical fitness equipment. As stated, there are needs in terms of aging apparatus and fire stations. Lastly, we have officially upgraded to a new Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) System that will undoubtedly improve our overall response times.

- ✓ Recruitment and Diversity-Continue to work closely with the Human Resource Department on



upcoming outreach venues to enhance our abilities to contact future firefighter candidates encompassing a diverse and broad background. The strategic goal is to improve diversity, while at the same time hiring and maintaining a highly trained and professional workforce.

- ✓ Pueblo Community College-Continue our collaborative approach with PCC. This includes the collaborative use of our facilities. PCC has done an outstanding job hosting nationally recognized fire service speakers and maintaining a top-notch fire science program. They recently graduated their first fire academy class, and are to be congratulated for this monumental accomplishment.
- ✓ Home of Heroes/Red, White, and Blue, fund raising campaign-The new Truck 1 and Engine 6, along with Squad 1 and Engine 3 have been painted. This is an exciting project for our department that presents a positive and symbolic message to the community about Pueblo being the “Home of the Heroes”. The rigs have been showcased at Fire Rescue International in Denver and have gained national recognition for the City of Pueblo. We are hoping to raise more funds in 2010 to complete the painting of our rigs
- ✓ Mutual Aid, Regionalization, NIMS- We are updating current mutual aid contracts and are in the process of establishing a new IGA contract with the Colorado Springs FD. Involvement in regional exercises and training will be ongoing. An example of this is our participation in MMRS. The Pueblo Fire Department has established itself as a lead agency in the South Region of Colorado.
- ✓ Community Relations-Through previously mentioned programs we strive to become further integrated and connected with the community.



Closing comments

Maintaining our accreditation status has had a positive impact on our safety, level of service, and daily operations. We will continue to provide safe and effective leadership, training, equipment, and facilities for our members to ensure the highest level of Fire and Rescue services to the City of Pueblo and our community.

I am extremely proud of how we respond to the many challenges that are encountered on a daily basis. The level of talent, skills, professionalism, and dedication are truly remarkable. Day in and day out we serve the City of Pueblo and community with consistent dedication and effort. The demonstration of effort and talent has gained us recognition and respect throughout the professional fire service in Colorado and the United States.

I am honored to serve our city and work with such an outstanding group of talented and highly skilled professionals. We are a world-class fire department and I look forward to accomplishing many objectives in 2010.

Semper Vigilans

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher P. Riley
Fire Chief

