

# Laramie County Fire District #10



Station #1: 88 Harriman Rd, Granite Canon, WY 82059

Station #2: 646 County Rd 102, Granite Canon, WY 82059

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

### 2021 Picnic Date Change

Date: June 26, 2021

Start Time: 12:00

Location: Harriman Station

AirLife and LifeLine Helicopters will be there at 10:00 a.m. and our Department will do some training with them before lunch. If you would like to come out and watch from the Fire Station House, you are more than welcome.

*Note:* Due to COVID Restrictions, they will not be giving rides this year. But it will be nice to see them!



### New Brush Truck Update

Let's start out with some news that has been very exciting for us at LCFD#10.

As you know, our department's yearly budget is funded through mill levy property taxes received in the county. Our budget pays for training, fuel, vehicle, radio, PPE, equipment maintenance and repair to name a few.

It's a tight budget and when we are gifted money through grants and 5<sup>th</sup> Penny Money, we work hard to put those funds where we need them the most.

received a \$410K Impact Grant from the Windfarm up on I80. With these funds we were able to purchase:

1. New quick attack vehicle
2. Medical equipment, portable extrication equipment and fire supplies for the new quick attack vehicle.
3. LUCAS Device which is an easy-to-use mechanical chest compression device that helps deliver high quality, guidelines-consistent chest compressions to sudden cardia arrest patients.
4. And we were able to put into place two full time paid employees who started working the first week in January 2020. These positions are funded through June 2021.

Training Captain Joel Anderson (for the first 12 months), Lieutenant Ty Presgrove and Medical Captain Melody Ruff work 40 hours a week, Monday through Friday or Saturday, based out of the Willadsen Fire Station.

With a paid staff, we have had quicker response time during work hours, which was highly important to the Windfarm employees. We also found that we are more organized and training has greatly improved. Even through the shutdown, with masks and temperature checks, they were able to provide one-on-one training to our volunteers.

The Windfarm not only provided funds to LCFD#10, they provided funds for other districts. The one other thing that will directly affect our district will be a radio tower on the Belvoir Ranch (which is still in the planning stages). Along with that, we were provided new handheld and mobile radios for our apparatus for better communication.

We were blessed with funds that allowed us to make much needed improvements. It was a lot of work, but your volunteers never batted an eye in getting it done.

~~~~~  
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## WE ARE SURVIVORS OF 2020

2020 is behind us now!

COVID 19 and SHUTDOWNS and MASKS and SOCIAL DISTANCING and WASHING HANDS and then WILDFIRES.

I hope 2021 is treating you all better!

I think we can all agree that even though we survived, the past year presented significant challenges we have never faced before.

We got through lockdown; then we learned how to be good at social distancing, washing our hands constantly and wearing a mask when appropriate. And just when we thought we knew everything, everything would change. Right?

And I do not know how many times I heard “I didn’t know I was a hugger”!

I know we all felt like we were in uncharted territory this past year. COVID19 certainly made me feel that way.

As your fire chief, I worked with our team to figure out how to keep operating and responding safely. I am so proud of our team because it seems we made leaps and bounds with all that going on this past year. Safely.

Besides the heart-breaking losses that many experienced, maybe the worst part for most of us was not being able to be with family, neighbors, or friends.

2020 also brought to us an overwhelming fire season due to such a dry year. Starting August 13, we began watching the Cameron Peak Fire. September 17, the Mullen Fire blew up. After a while, we learned how to deal with the daily smoke. Watching the daily updates and the

losses that were felt due to the fire by many families was heartbreaking.

But here we are, doing things a little more differently, but we are still here to meet the needs of our district.

As time goes on, I look forward to seeing you all this year.

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## Remembering Bill Newbern

We wanted to take a minute to remember an old friend. Each month when Bill would walk into the monthly board meeting, it was like watching John Wayne walk into the room.

Our friend William “Bill” R. Newbern, 71, passed away December. 1, 2019 in his favorite chair during a Wyoming blizzard at his Hiding Cow Ranch in Granite Canon.

Time has passed, but we sure miss him and think of him often. We have not had a chance to express our memories of him in our newsletter. And we felt that repeating a part of his obituary was the best way to present the life story of our friend Bill:

*“Born Oct. 1, 1948, in Abington, Pa., Bill was the third child to loving and doting parents, Thomas H. and Kathryn-Kitty (Early) Newbern II (both have preceded Bill in death). Bill was raised in the Orwigsburg, Pa., area and graduated from Valley Forge Military Academy in 1966. He attended college at Pennsylvania State College and Casper College in Wyoming following his passion to be a cowboy.*

*Bill worked for Tom Fuller and Bob Anthony at Willow Brook Farms in Catasauqua, Pa., where he rode horses by Joe Cody that were campaigned for many AQHA Honor Roll reining and performance championships. After completing his twin engine and instrument pilot rating, Bill became the pilot for Willow Brook Farms, Charlie Pishock’s Summit Trailers and regional commuter airlines.*

*In Florida, Bill owned a charter sport fishing business and a commercial fishing operation. He left Florida with the love of his life to return to Wyoming and follow his heart where he could be the cowboy he always wanted to be.*

*Bill's life was one of passions and indeed many adventures! Often taken for John Wayne because of his size, similar build and looks, Bill was a gentle and kind giant with an incredible wit that was truly loved by all who knew him. His example of a life well lived includes his many friends from the east coast to Wyoming and the West to south of the border – whether as the esteemed “Captain Bill” of his many years with his sport fishing business in Florida; as the highly respected pilot “El Grande”; to his pride as a cowboy and treasured stewardship of his Wyoming Hiding Cow Ranch. Bill and Pat had always shared the dream of having their own special place where their horses could graze with a creek running through the middle, and they were blessed to share this very dream together the past 18 years.*

*Bill simply enjoyed life, his family and friends through his love of horses and love of the land, love of music and his fiddle playing, boot scootin' around the kitchen (or anywhere). He was a talented cook and foodie extraordinaire – and with a twinkle of an “old salt sea dog” in his ocean blue eyes – is now ever riding the trail of his cowboy heart's dream.*



*Bill is survived by Pat, the love of his life; stepdaughter, Johanna (Patrick) Duzik; grandchildren, Blake and Alice of Cheyenne;*

*stepson, Benjamin (Nicole) Metcalf; grandchildren, Beckett and Cadence of Frederick, Colo.; kindred sister, Karla Warren of Cheyenne; brother, Thomas H. (JoAnn) Newbern III of Long Beach Island, N.J.; sister, Valerie Kline of Hilton Head Island, S.C.; Bill's ranching partner, Arlo the ranch doggie; and his horses, Willy and Tuffy.”*

## Reminder: ISO Letter for Insurance

Please find a copy of the letter from ISO to share with your insurance company at:  
[http://www.lcfd10.org/iso\\_information](http://www.lcfd10.org/iso_information)



## Fire Season Is Around the Corner!! Prepare Your Home

Over the years, we have worked with many of you on how to prepare your home in case of wildfires. As a reminder and for those new to our community, there are many risk reduction steps that can make your home safer during a wildfire

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has a ton of great information Please visit:

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Preparing-homes-for-wildfire>



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## Speaking of Fire Season

The article below was sent to us by a neighbor in our district, Karin Schubert. Last July we were called to a grass fire that was southwest of Willadsen Estates Karin lives farther behind that area and was told to evacuate. She felt compelled to share with all of you because we always think we “are” prepared or that it will never happen “me”.

### Here's her story:

Nothing prepares you for looking up from your computer and seeing flames and smoke on the mountain outside of your window. Thus began the fastest packing job of my life and three hectic days praying and hoping that the LCFD #10 firefighters could keep the fire from spreading.

This was actually my 3rd fire on Saddleback Mountain and I thought I was more prepared for it. When Fire Chief Paul Pomeroy contacted me and asked us to be ready to evacuate, I jumped to it. It was not hard to identify the belongings that meant the most to me and to pile them in the car- we all know instantly what is important and what is not. As I imagined the fire headed towards the house - the biggest lesson of my life came charging towards me instead.

I have read some Firewise publications provided to us by our Fire Department at one of the July Community picnics. I earnestly made some changes, like piling the firewood away from the house, but I did not stay on top of it and now some very un-firewise situations had developed. For example:

\*Why did we need those pallets next to the house last winter. I can't even remember, but they are still there. So is the firewood we did not burn...

\*Why did I ever think that wood chips were a great idea to brighten the walkways around the house?

\*Why did I build all my windbreaks for my yard plants out of wood when I could have used brick?

\*And, where is the extra cage for the pet finches? I have no idea...in storage?

Oh, the list goes on, but my message learned is short and to the point. Keeping your home Firewise AND fire ready is an ongoing effort throughout the year and Spring cleaning must also include Firewise cleanup outside. I was not ready and am very grateful for all of the hard work by the volunteers of the LCFD #10 and other cooperative agencies to contain and put the fire out. Without them I could have lost my home. I encourage all my neighbors and friends to visit the LCFD #10 home page to find and revisit some Firewise links and think Firewise all year long!

### **Saddleback Mountain**

Saddleback Mountain is a prominent feature three miles south of I-80 on the Harriman Road. Many residents in this area may have seen the visible fire smoke on Saddleback Mountain during the second week of July, 2020. The fire was caused by lightning on the northeastern ridge. Karin Schubert treated some of the firefighters to a tour of the teepee ring site on the mountain. It may be of interest to you that this unique feature attracted Native American people long before it was used for cattle grazing, as a sheep run and for a railroad communication tower. A University of Wyoming archeology study identified extensive and concentrated teepee rings on the eastern side of the mountain that indicate its use as an important summer hunting camp. At one time, buffalo roamed all of this area and Saddleback Mountain was a perfect location to scout the surrounding terrain in every direction. The site had everything they needed: shelter from the wind, two nearby permanent streams, a spring fed stream meandering below the campsite, wood, a wide variety of plants, plentiful wildlife and it was a defensible space with great lookouts. The teepee ring site crosses land owned by Ellie Prince and Karin Schubert. They are working to preserve the valley with the site for future generations to study and are happy to announce the fire activities did not disturb anything. It is on private property but if any LCFD #10 community members wish to see the site, contact Ellie Prince (307-630-0754) or Karin Schubert (307-701-4321) for a guided visit (by appointment only).

## Recruiting

### FREE TRAINING!

How can you help protect the lives and belongings of your family members and neighbors? Volunteer with Laramie County Fire District 10 department. What skills, knowledge, and abilities do you enjoy? We have five different ways you can join.

**Wildfire Fighter:** Control and suppress wild-land fires. Collaborate with other firefighters as a member of a crew. Extinguish flames and embers using hand tools and water pumps.

**Emergency Medical Response:** Answer emergency medical calls to provide immediate basic life support care for ill and injured.

**Basic Firefighter:** Protect the public in calamity conditions. Respond to an emergency calls such as structure fires, auto accidents, and rescue situations.

**Support Staff:** Perform minor maintenance on vehicles, inspect fire station equipment, operate fire department apparatus, assist in public education, and facilitate training.

**Auxiliary Member:** Organize efforts in fundraising, plan the annual picnic, organize the Christmas party, coordinate snacks, and manage station house keeping.

## Joel Anderson Retires from LCFD#10

Joel and his wife drove into this communitiy about five years ago or more and blessed us with his knowledge and grace.

He made it up the ranks and ended his carrier with LCFD#10 as one of our first paid staff. His military background gave him the tools as our Training Captain that we so needed. I had to make him our training captain because (as some of you may know) he would go knocking on doors recruiting for the fire department in his spare time! So with growth came the need for more in-depth training.

He has been a good friend, good neighbor and a great team member for our District.

This man left a mark and we are sure going to miss him.

We all wish him and his lovely wife Zelda the best of luck in their upcoming move and many happy new adventures!

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## 2021 LCFD#10 Update By Lew Gray, LCFD#10 Board

### SUMMARY:

The Laramie County Fire District #10 (LCFD#10) is trying to continue the employ our only two fulltime firefighters/EMTs to maintain the much higher level of service and response to the needs of our fire district. We have benefitted from the enhanced service of two fulltime employees over the last year. Their employment was for a temporary term (1.5 years) to coincide with the installation of Roundhouse Energy's 82 wind turbines within our fire district. The impact funding for those two fulltime positions expires on June 30, 2021 and LCFD#10 will not have sufficient revenue to continue their employment much past that date. Several years from now increased Ad Valorem tax revenue will enable the district to employ two full time firefighters/EMTs, but in the interim our tax revenues will fall short by about \$106,600.

### BACKGROUND:

LCFD#10 covers 168 square miles about 17.5 miles E-W and 9.5 miles N-S. Our district has a total population of less than 300 people at an average age of 60 and a median age of 65. Interstate-80 and three major east-west lines of the Union Pacific Railroad transects the district. The industries and businesses in our district are: several large wind-farms with well over 100 wind turbines, some oil & gas wells, two aggregate quarries and one gun range. There are no stores or gas stations in the district. There are about 140 homes, but only about 100 are full-time residences. The primary land use in the district is ranching. Our district is mostly rolling

grasslands with some shrubs and Ponderosa forests in the higher southern and western parts of the district.

There are two fire stations in the district, the Harriman Station in the SW corner and the Willadsen Station about mid-way on the northern portion of the district adjacent to I-80. LCFD#10 has an ISO rating of 8B within five road miles of our two stations and a 10 rating throughout the rest of our district. The Willadsen Station is also a designated Red Cross shelter. LCFD#10 has a total of 11 vehicles (2 command vehicles, 2 engines, 2 forestry trucks, 2 water tenders and 3 quick attack trucks). LCFD#10 now has 20 firefighters trained to respond. Some of our capabilities include: public education, incident stabilization, EMS basic life support, wildland firefighting, vehicle fires, auto accident extraction rescue, structural firefighting, hazmat mitigation, mutual aid and train emergencies.

While our district has very few residents and even fewer businesses, it supports two major transportation infrastructures responsible for much of the nation's east-west transportation traffic (I-80 & three east-west mainline tracks of the UPRR). I-80 traffic is responsible for about 13,000 vehicles traversing our district daily and much of that is truck traffic. This portion of I-80, east of the I-80 summit, is especially notorious for poor winter weather conditions and multi-vehicle accidents. A severe blizzard in April 2015 contributed to a 70-vehicle accident on I-80 near Harriman Road where 19 people suffered injuries. It was reported that, "Emergency responders experienced great difficulty trying to reach the pileup scene to assess the situation and care for the injured." Following that event, Laramie County built LCFD#10's Willadsen Fire Station in 2016-2018 at the Harriman Road and I-80 intersection (mile post 342). The next responding fire station west of there is at least thirty miles up over the I-80 summit and down in the town of Laramie, WY. The vast majority (57%) of LCFD#10's emergency calls are accidents and incidents associated with I-80 and over two-thirds of those calls require a medical response. An additional (5%) of incidents are related to the RR. 29% of LCFD#10's calls are for fires and

about a quarter of those are associated with I-80 and the UPRR.

Volunteers that live in or near our district are hard to come by because of our tiny resident population and their elevated age. Good weekday emergency response services are further restricted because many of our volunteers are working outside our district during weekdays and cannot responding to emergency calls in a timely manner if at all.

In late 2019 till mid 2020 Roundhouse Energy built 82 wind turbines on the east half of LCFD#10's district as a part of their "Phase I" development. Impact funds for this project afforded LCFD#10 the ability to acquire a quick attack "brush" truck and hire two fulltime EMT qualified firefighters, to cover weekdays, for the duration of the expected construction period (ending in mid 2021). Prior to 2020 LCFD#10 had been an all volunteer fire department with very limited emergency medical expertise (1-EMT).

#### **IMPACT ON DAILY OPERATIONS:**

By having fulltime emergency response personnel covering weekdays, LCFD#10's weekday response times have been reduced by 30 minutes and the number of calls answered in 2020 vs. the prior two years increased by 31%. Targeting the weekday hours between 08:00 and 16:00 (23.8% of all hours in a week) enabled LCFD#10 to respond 30 minutes faster on 30.4% of all calls in 2020. The other 76.2% of the hours in a week our volunteers are more readily available to promptly respond to calls. This has enabled LCFD#10 to be the first EMT/firefighter responder throughout our district and in an additional 32 square miles to the west and southwest of our district. LCFD#10's paid staff are the first responders covering a twenty mile stretch of both I-80 and the three UPRR mainline tracks through and on west of our district, a geographic response area of over 200 square miles. Having fulltime employees has the added benefit of keeping our emergency response vehicles and equipment more reliable and available. The two fulltime firefighters/EMTs have also increased our training and recruiting of existing and additional volunteer firefighters and EMTs. During this time the department has

grown from 13 to 20 total members and from one EMT to four. The increased EMT qualified members are much better suited to answer the medical response calls in our geographic response area (56% of all calls and 68% of all I-80 calls require a medical response). In 2020 LCFD#10 was able to qualify thirteen firefighters in wildland firefighting and three firefighters in advanced wildland firefighting; in 2019 we only had eight wildland firefighters and zero advanced wildland firefighters trained and qualified.

If LCFD#10 is unable to maintain our two fulltime firefighters/EMTs we fully expect our weekday response times will be 30 minutes longer and our ability to respond to emergency calls will drop to previous levels (31% lower). Our equipment availability, recruiting and training/qualifications will likewise suffer.

#### **FINANCIAL NEED:**

The existing impact funding for our two fulltime EMT/firefighters is temporary and will expire on June 30, 2021, while increased tax revenue from the wind turbines will only start to increase beginning in 2022. This revenue shortfall is further exacerbated by a \$7,248 annual reduction from our historical tax revenue over the next four years due to crediting back overpayments made by Martin Marietta's Granite Canyon Quarry operation.

The Corriedale Wind Energy Project built an additional 21 wind turbines in our district late in 2020 and more projects are planned in 2022, but these smaller wind turbine projects are not required to pay any impact monies. Future additional Ad Valorem tax revenue will be available to LCFD#10, but that will ramp up over the next several years.

LCFD#10 has two mutual assistance agreements with adjacent fire districts, outside our County/State, where LCFD#10 is able to respond before they do (examples: Livermore Fire District in Larimer County CO. and Albany County WY.) LCFD#10 provides and receives mutual aid with the other fire districts in Laramie County WY. None of these agreements have any monetary compensation, just mutual aid like a good neighbor's help in times of need.

We have seen the increased benefits of serving our area's people and infrastructure needs while simultaneously incurring additional infrastructure to serve and protect. Those increased benefits are not sustainable, because we are forecasting a short-term (three year) reduction in revenue; reduced short-term historical Ad Valorem tax revenue and delayed increased Ad Valorem tax revenue that also coincides with the loss of the Roundhouse Energy impact funding that afforded paying the two fulltime emergency response personnel on a temporary basis (1.5 years).

Wyoming's and Laramie County's ability to help LCFD#10 through this financial hardship is compromised by their significant loss of revenue from coal, oil & gas production and Covid-19's decreased revenue impact.

LCFD#10's normal community fundraising activities (usually several thousand dollars per year) were completely shut down during all of 2020 due to Covid-19 constraints.

LCFD#10 is seeking other revenue sources to bridge our short-term revenue shortfall. Future increasing Ad Valorem tax revenue, from all the added wind turbines, will enable LCFD#10 to afford these two fulltime employees well into the foreseeable future. (See LCFD#10's Budget Projection Table below.)

#### **COST:**

The full cost (salary, benefit costs, taxes and insurance) for LCFD#10 to have two fulltime emergency response personnel covering weekdays is \$110,000 per year. LCFD#10's historical operations revenue from Laramie County has been \$106,000 per year for an all volunteer fire department. This current budget year Laramie County support was reduced to about \$100,900 vs. our budgeted \$106,000. LCFD#10 is budgeted to receive \$109,000 to support payment for fulltime employees from the Roundhouse Energy Project impact fund. Increased Ad Valorem taxes are based upon the Roundhouse Energy permit application estimates. Actual numbers will not be available till May or June of 2021 (per Laramie County's Tax Assessor's Office). This financial support, that enabled LCFD#10 to hire fulltime firefighters/EMTs for the duration of the

Roundhouse Energy Project, will cease on June 30, 2021. LCFD#10's projected operations revenue shortfall is estimated to be \$60,165 for the second half of 2021 if we are to continue with two fulltime emergency response personnel. LCFD#10's projected operating revenue surplus/shortfalls over the next three budget years are estimated as follows:

	BUDGET YEAR 1		BUDGET YEAR 2		BUDGET YEAR 3	
	2021 2nd 1/2	2022 1st 1/2	2022 2nd 1/2	2023 1st 1/2	2023 2nd 1/2	2024 1st 1/2
Historical Operating Revenue	\$54,060	\$54,060	\$54,060	\$54,060	\$54,060	\$54,060
Additional Turbine Revenue		48,679	48,679	47,693	47,693	61,693
Quarry Revenue Adjustment	(3,624)	(3,624)	(3,624)	(3,624)	(3,624)	(3,624)
Wages, Benefits, Taxes	(57,600)	(57,600)	(57,600)	(57,600)	(57,600)	(57,600)
Estimated Operating Cost	(53,000)	(53,000)	(53,000)	(53,000)	(53,000)	(53,000)

Our large area, but sparsely populated fire district has the add burden of taking care of a large number of people that traverse through our district daily. This significantly large service demand is combined with a meager tax revenue base and very limited other means of raising funds. Over the past two years LCFD#10 has received two grants totaling \$25,000 for equipment (mostly PPE equipment). An additional grant of \$5,000 for PPE equipment for our new volunteers was awarded for 2021; last year this grant amount was for \$10,000, but was cut in half due to funding constraints.

**BENEFIT:**

LCFD#10 is diligently searching for ways to financially ensure the continued fast response of EMT/firefighters to emergency calls in LCFD#10's district and geographic response area (includes a twenty mile stretch of I-80 that is notorious for multi-vehicle accidents due to fog, black ice, high winds and blizzard conditions and a similar length of triple mainline east-west tracks of the UPRR). A thirty minute reduction in a medical call response time can easily mean the difference between life or death. Likewise, a thirty minute faster response to a wildland fire in our service area, renowned for its persistent high wind speeds, can make the difference between a small wildland fire extinguished with one brush truck and a large wildland fire requiring several fire districts to respond to avoid multiple structural fires.

**Advertise in our Next Newsletter**

Deadline for the fall newsletter is August 15, 2021.

Please submit to: [wanda.pomeroy@lcf10.org](mailto:wanda.pomeroy@lcf10.org)

Business Ads (size and customer rates):

- Half page - \$75
- Quarter page - \$50
- Business Card - \$25
- Please submit business ads and images in pdf format

Community News

- Non-business

**Notary**

**Our local notary is Ms. Ellie Prince.  
If anyone needs anything notarized,  
please contact Ellie at 307-632-7954.**

**“Like” Our Official  
Facebook Page!**  
<https://www.facebook.com/LCFD10>

**LCFD#10 Website:**  
[www.lcf10.org](http://www.lcf10.org)

**LCFD#10 Aluminum Can  
Recycling Program**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CAN DONATIONS!

Now you can help raise funds for the many important projects the Auxiliary participates in all year long. Please contribute your aluminum cans to the LCFD #10 Aluminum Can Recycling Program. It's easy and convenient – a special bin has been placed at the entrance to the Harriman Station. Please – no glass or plastic.