



Summit Fire & EMS Annual Report for 2018

2018 Summit Fire & EMS Annual Report



Chief Jeff Berino

To the public we proudly serve:

As we at Summit Fire & EMS close the books on 2018 and look forward to 2019, we offer this assessment of the work that we do on your behalf. Our well-trained firefighters answered nearly 3,000 incident-response calls, running the gamut of everything from medical emergencies to vehicle crashes to hazardous-materials releases to fires. Our Community Risk Division handled more than 400 permits for new construction and event fire-safety inspections as well as nearly 300 assessments for adequate wildfire “defensible space.” Our annual Fire Prevention Week safety lessons in the local schools reached more than 1,300 kids ranging from pre-school through fifth grade.

2018 Highlights

We started on January 1 formally combining Lake Dillon Fire and Copper Mountain Fire into Summit Fire & EMS. Throughout the year, we continued with our major department-wide project seeking professional accreditation, a process of self-examination and justification for all that we do, that culminated in a three-day site visit from a national peer-review team. We are scheduled for a final hearing and determination in March.

In June, we – along with our colleagues from numerous fire departments around the region and federal and state ground and air firefighting resources – successfully battled the Buffalo Mountain Fire that came within a few feet of one condominium complex and threatened the densely populated Mesa Cortina and Wilderrest subdivisions.

Later that month, we broke ground on a new administration building in the Summit County Commons to be shared with the Summit County Ambulance Service. We anticipate moving into the building in late spring.

In September, an independent, county-sponsored study recommended the merger of Summit Fire and Summit County Ambulance, a proposal that has prompted earnest discussions with county officials that are ongoing.

And in November, we were gratified that voters in the two taxing districts that make up our response area – the Lake Dillon Fire Protection District and the Copper Mountain Consolidated Metropolitan District – each overwhelmingly approved a technical ballot measure that allows Summit Fire to stop the continual downward-ratcheting effect on our operating budget due to the state constitution’s Gallagher Amendment that required diminishing revenues from residential property taxes.

In closing, I want to thank our dedicated staff members, who serve with pride every day. I also want to thank our community members for keeping safety foremost in mind.

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OPERATIONS



Summit Fire firefighters battled the tenacious Enclave condominium fire in Keystone on November 23.



**Operations Chief
Bruce Farrell**

Summit Fire & EMS operates round-the-clock fire stations in Copper Mountain, Frisco, Dillon and Keystone.

The 63 career firefighters work on a three-shift schedule, which

entails 48 hours on duty and 96 hours off. Each station has a four-person crew comprised of a company officer, a driver/engineer, a firefighter/paramedic and a firefighter/EMT.

Summit Fire operates the High Country Training Center jointly with Red, White & Blue Fire (Breckenridge) for in-house training for all hazard responses and establishing uniform practices for the

frequent times when mutual-aid collaboration is needed.

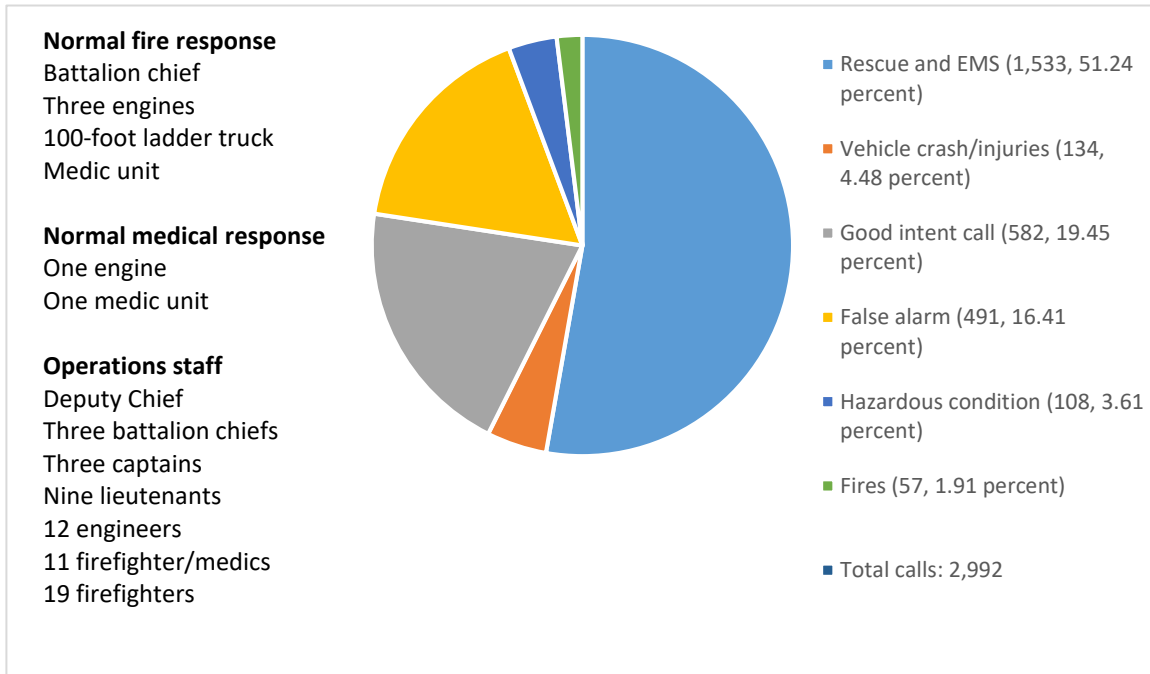
In addition to regular duties, constant technical training and emergency responses, Summit Fire firefighters participated in numerous community events in 2018 such as Fire Prevention Week in the schools, the Safe Summer Kickoff, the Summit County Library reading program, the Muscular Dystrophy Association “Fill the Boot” campaign, the Tiger Trot 5K run for the Summit Middle School, Adopt an Angel holiday program, Memorial Day and Fourth of July ceremonies, hosting the Wounded Warrior dinner and participating in the 9/11 memorial stair climb.

Summit Fire & EMS happily hosts station tours and fire-education sessions for schools, community groups and members of the public. To schedule one, please call (970) 262-5100, ext. 125.

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OPERATIONS

2018 Incidents



Summit Fire & EMS responded to 2,992 calls for assistance in 2018, essentially unchanged from the previous year.

Losses due to structure fires for the year were valued at \$202,248. Firefighters saved an additional estimated \$34,938,904 in property threatened by fires.

Summit Fire put into service a new Type 3 wildfire engine and a new Type 6 wildfire engine, both of which replaced aging apparatus. A new Type 1 front-line engine will be ordered in 2019 for anticipated delivery in 2020 to replace another aging engine.

Among the high-profile incidents to which Summit Fire responded in 2019 were the Buffalo Mountain wildfire near

Silverthorne, the Enclave condominium fire in Keystone and several large-scale crashes and vehicle fires on Interstate 70.

Summit Fire paramedics, working in partnership with Summit County Ambulance Service in a cross-staffing arrangement, were involved in 812 patient-care ambulance trips.

Summit Fire firefighters also participated cumulatively in thousands of hours of routine training in subjects such as hazardous-materials response, technical rescue, firefighting, medical care, ice and swift-water rescue, vehicle extrication and traffic safety and specialized skills. Many have obtained additional academic degrees and career-advancement education, as well.

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WILDFIRE



Firefighters from Summit Fire and across the region battled the Buffalo Mountain Fire on June 12, saving the densely populated developments of Mesa Cortina and Wilderrest in great part thanks to a U.S. Forest Service clear cut.

Every Summit Fire & EMS firefighter is certified with a “red card” for wildfire duty, and many carry advanced certification for positions such as sawyer, engine boss, crew leader, division supervisor and higher-level administrative positions.

In addition to fighting wildfires locally, crews volunteer for tours of duty on large-scale fires throughout the West, which provide invaluable on-the-ground training and assist our colleagues from other departments who may someday be called to Summit County’s aid. The expenses for those assignments are reimbursed by the fire-management overhead team, most frequently the federal government.

In 2018, some 30 Summit Fire firefighters spent 123 work days fighting wildfires

outside the district, notably the 416 Fire near Durango, the Lake Christine Fire near Basalt and several California wildfires.

Beyond providing wildfire response, Summit Fire also strongly advocates wildfire readiness. Inspectors conducted 278 compulsory inspections in 2018 to ensure adequate wildfire “defensible space” for all new construction as required under the Summit County building code.

Additionally, the Community Risk Division offers complimentary, non-binding wildfire-readiness reviews for residents, neighborhoods and homeowners’ associations that focus on both improving a home’s chances of withstanding a wildfire and personal preparedness. To schedule a free consultation, please call (970) 262-5100.

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A couple of the many notable incidents on Interstate 70: (Top) In October, a tractor-trailer carrying a load of pipes crashed into this car and spilled its load coming down from the Eisenhower Tunnel, requiring Summit Fire firefighters to extricate the driver. (Bottom left) A truck caught fire descending from the tunnel in September. (Bottom right) And a 20-vehicle pileup in November closed the interstate for hours.

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Clockwise from top left: Summit Fire firefighters responded to calls for help from states throughout the West, including several in California. That provides good training for use back home, such as this brush fire along Colorado 9 north of Silverthorne. And, as always, we are buoyed by the support of the community after the Buffalo Mountain wildfire.

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FIRE PREVENTION



Conducting inspections of tents for proper weights and tie-downs is an important aspect to ensuring public safety at special events such as the weekly Dillon Farmer's Market in the summers.



**Fire Marshal
Kim McDonald**

With five full-time inspectors and a community-risk officer, the Summit Fire & EMS Community Risk Division strives to protect lives and property from

hazards through risk assessment, evaluation, mitigation and planning.

The Community Risk Division issued 444 permits in 2018 for projects such as new construction, life safety systems and business remodels. That generated \$391,196 in fees, a 34 percent increase over 2017.

Additionally, the division conducted 278 defensible-space inspections for new construction that generated \$19,360 in fees.

Summit Fire's public-education team taught fire-safety lessons to nearly 1,300 students at all four elementary schools plus private pre-schools during Fire Prevention Week, in addition to responding to requests for public education including free fire-extinguisher training for businesses, courtesy car-seat installations and inspections and fire-safety presentations to school and civic groups.

A fire department permit is required for all tenant finishes, remodels, new construction and life-safety systems.

Please call (970) 262-5100 for more information.

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HUMAN RESOURCES



**HR Manager
Matt Scheer**

Summit Fire & EMS welcomed a number of new employees in 2018, including firefighters **Darren Toro, Kevin Rathjen** and **Tyler Nelson**; executive assistant **Erin Mumma**; fire inspector **Scott Benson**; and Community Risk Division interns **Benjamin Goff** and **Patrick Foley**.

We also bid adieu to retiring/departing employees fire inspector **David Coulter**; firefighter/paramedic **Josiah Christian**; operations chief **Joe Hegenderfer**; IT systems administrator **Carlina Duggan**; and fleet technician **Jack Strong**.

Recipients of Annual Awards

Community Awards: **Mark McManus, Summit Daily News, Bill Gilchrist**

Chief's Award: Lt. **Ryan Cole**, Engineer **Bob Corcoran**

Unit Citation Award: Firefighter/medics **Adam Anderson, August Guettlein, Jim Levi, Paul Camillo**

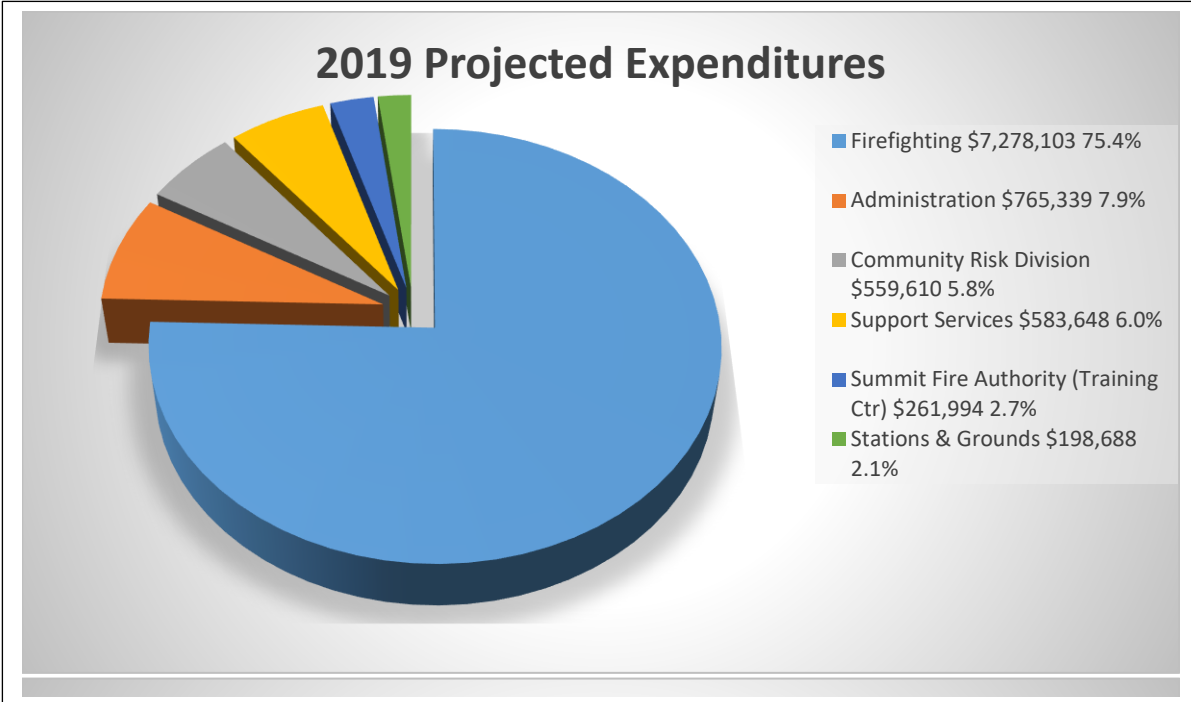
Unit Citation Award: Community Risk Division, comprised of Deputy Chief **Gary Curmode**, Assistant Chief **Steve Skulski**, Capt. **Kim McDonald**, Deputy Fire Marshal **Dan Moroz**, Inspectors **David Coulter, Mark Thomson** and **Jim Farquhar**, administrative technician **Donna Rushing** and community-resource officer **Steve Lipsher**

Leadership Award: Capt. **John Wilkerson**

Firefighter of the Year Award: Engineer **Kyle Iseminger** (pictured above)

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FINANCE



**Finance Manager
Mary Hartley**

Summit Fire & EMS is funded predominantly through property taxes designated for the Lake Dillon Fire Protection District and the Copper Mountain

Consolidated Metropolitan District. The property-tax assessment dedicated to fire protection is based on an 80/20 percentage split. For 2019, Lake Dillon taxpayers will contribute \$7.6 million, and Copper Mountain taxpayers will contribute \$1.9 million.

The Summit Fire operating budget for 2019 is projected to be \$9.8 million, a 3.6 percent increase over the previous year.

In its first year of the two districts operating jointly, Summit Fire ended 2018 financially sound, under budget in operating expenses and with no debt incurred. The department's capital-fund reserve is \$1.6 million, or 16 percent of total expenditures. The 2019 operating budget is projected to be \$9.8 million, a three percent increase over 2018.

The Lake Dillon Fire Protection District received the 2017 Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the second year in a row from the Government Finance Officers Association. Summit Fire & EMS – reflecting the inclusion of Copper Mountain Fire – will be filing its first Comprehensive Annual Financial Report in 2019 for 2018 financial records.

The fire department's 67 percent contribution to the new joint administration building, to be shared with the Summit County Ambulance Service, will be an estimated \$2.8 million.

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SUPPORT SERVICES



Groundbreaking on the new \$4.2 million administration building in the Summit County Commons near Frisco, to be shared with the Summit County Ambulance Service, occurred on June 29.



**Deputy Chief
Garv Curmode**

The Summit Fire & EMS Support Services division is tasked with overseeing the Community Risk Division, building and facility maintenance, fleet services, information

technology, communications equipment, bulk purchasing and supply and coordination of the volunteer Fire Corps.

Among the Support Services highlights in 2018:

- Digitized the printed blueprints of all commercial buildings in the fire district
- Established a new computer-aided dispatch system with the

Summit County Communications Center, which includes automatic vehicle locating to ensure the closest response crew is sent to emergencies

- Outsourced many information-technology services and established most records on the internet cloud
- Broke ground on a new \$4.2 million administration building, to be shared with the Summit County Ambulance Service, in the Summit County Commons near Frisco
- The in-house Snake River Fleet Services performed vehicle maintenance and repairs 189 times on department vehicles for 650 hours of labor, and another 125 times, resulting in 851 hours of labor on vehicles from other organizations.

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SUMMIT FIRE & EMS IN THE COMMUNITY



Summit Fire participates in many community events throughout the year. Clockwise from top left: Tykes from a local pre-school get a station tour. Getting a ride home from school on a fire engine is a thrill for any kid – and a great PTA fundraiser. Firefighters lead “story hour” at the North Branch Library in Silverthorne. And the Frisco Family Fun Fest is a great time to meet our fire crews each summer.

Summit Fire & EMS is governed by a five-person publicly elected board of directors. Three representatives come from the Lake Dillon Fire Protection District: President Jim Cox, Treasurer Lori Miller and Jim Lee. Two representatives come from Copper Mountain: Vice President Dave Steele and Ben Broughton.



Cox



Steele



Miller



Lee



Broughton