



PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday September 12, 2011 – Golden, Colorado

Arson Training for Fairmount Fire Rescue

Four fire officers from the Fairmount Fire Protection District recently completed specialized training for determining vehicle arson fires. In the State of Colorado all fires must be investigated to determine their origin and cause. The first firefighters to arrive on the scene of a fire must make a determination if they believe the fire to be suspicious and if they need to call for additional resources to complete a detailed investigation. Vehicle fires can be especially challenging when it comes to determining if a fire appears to be accidental or suspicious in nature.

These specialized fire investigation skills were recently obtained when four fire officers from Fairmount Fire Rescue attended a three day class that was sponsored by Colorado State Patrol and instructed by Phoenix Investigations, a company that specializes in fire investigations for insurance, fire, and law enforcement agencies throughout the country. The highlight of the three day class was on the last day when nine vehicles were actually ignited and extinguished prior to being investigated by the students. Each of the nine vehicles provided a unique example of accidental or arson fire situations for the students to determine.

Fairmount Fire Rescue Lieutenant Chad Bassett stated, "This class provided me the skills I need to make a quick assessment of a car fire to determine if it is accidental or suspicious and what to look for in support of my findings". "I didn't have this training or skill before this class", added Lieutenant Bassett.

Besides the 4 fire officers from Fairmount Fire Rescue, the class was attended by 24 experienced law enforcement investigators from throughout Colorado. Fairmount Fire Rescue Battalion Chief Joe Leete commented, "This class was great because it brought both fire and law enforcement together in one class working together to figure out the answer with each of us bringing a different set of skills, perspective, and experience". "The end result is that Fairmount now has a set of trained resources that will allow them to do their jobs better than before", added Battalion Chief Leete.

The Fairmount Fire Protection District consists of three fire stations and a fire training center, twenty-one full time career firefighters, and sixty part-time volunteer firefighters, providing emergency response services for fire suppression, rescue, hazardous materials, and emergency medical services as well as fire and life safety prevention and public education for a community of approximately 17,000 people within 25 square miles of unincorporated Jefferson County, north of the City of Golden, Colorado.

Attached Photo Caption: One of several vehicles intentionally burned for local arson investigation training.

Press Release Contact:

Criswell Brewer

Battalion Chief and Public Information Officer

Fairmount Fire Protection District

O: 303-279-2928

F: 303-278-1252

C: 720-315-4453

cbrewer@fairmountfire.org

(cell or email are best means of contact)