

Central Fire District

From the desk of the Chief

September 11, 2010

Here it is the anniversary of the attack on the World Trade Center again and I find myself examining my own life and wondering how each of us is remembering the event. I remember back to that day.....I was working for Idaho Falls Fire Department then and a fellow firefighter, Lynn Brown, and I were making plans for how to celebrate our hiring anniversary date. You see Lynn and I were both went to work for IFFD on September 11, 1978 so this was an important day for us to remember. It was while we were talking about important stuff like what type of cake and ice cream to buy that the new media began to show the events that were occurring in New York City. Obviously our party was put on hold as were the lives and events of most citizens of the U.S.

Now here we are 9 years later, there are events scheduled all around the country and right here in our immediate area to honor the 343 firefighters and over 3000 citizens who died that day. I will not be part of them for personal reasons but I will not forget and hope none of us ever do. Although we may not realize it, none of our lives will ever be the same as a result of that day. Our personal freedoms, our way of life and the way or government functions have changed and become more complicated. Many people, including some of our own CFD members, went on to military service as a result of that attack on our freedom and liberty and we owe a debt to them as well as the FF's and Police Officers who died trying to help others on Sept. 11 in New York City, Washington D.C. and the immediate area. **I WILL NOT FORGET!!!!!!!!!!**

On a second note I would like to make an observation based up a current event. For those of you who may not have heard yet, on Sept. 7th while driving my CFD vehicle I was involved in a minor vehicle accident in which I ran into the back end of a car in front of me as I was exiting Highway 20 at the North Rigby exit. I was not injured and the other parties involved did not appear to sustain serious injuries. This accident took place because I allowed my attention to be distracted from my driving by an action occurring next to me on another road. I was concerned for the driver of that vehicle and forgot to concentrate on what I was doing.

This accident made me think about how important it is for us to always focus on what we are doing and what is most important at the current time. Allowing ourselves to be distracted from what is most important right now can be life threatening for us and those around us. If you are fighting a fire and allow yourself to be distracted by unimportant things you can endanger yourself and others around you. If you are on an EMS scene and fail to focus on your patient and scene safety you may cause your patient, your partner, and/or yourself to sustain injury.

I encourage you to work to remain focused on the important things in your life. Your family should always come first. If you concentrate on the important things and place all items in proper priority you will be happier and safer in all you do.

Take care of yourself because you are important to your own family and to our CFD family.

Thanks for listening and please Be Safe out There!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Jim