

Colorado Centre,

2019 was a very productive year for your Fire Department. I am happy to inform you of changes that not only affect our service delivery in a positive way, but also help minimize the cost to you for 2020!

**911 Responses:**

We started off 2019 with a contract renewal with the Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD). Our previous contract was for CSFD to provide service to our community for 15 years. Our renegotiated contract is for 18 years. What this means is that with every 911 call in our community, you will receive a full response from CSFD. For example, if we have a structure fire in our neighborhood, in addition to the immediate response of Colorado Centre E3410, you will get 2 CSFD engines, 2 CSFD truck companies, 2 Battalion Chiefs, 1 Rescue Company, 1 Hazmat company, 1 medical squad, and 1 medical lieutenant. This is an addition to 22 firefighters responding to that alarm with the option to request additional resources as needed. This is the best response model the local area has to offer.

**International Organization for Standards (ISO) Change:**

During 2018 and 2019, your Colorado Centre Board of Directors, Fire Department and District Manager worked diligently to upgrade our previous ISO rating which has always been a 10. An ISO of 10 means that you have very little fire protection and significantly increases your home insurance rates.

After months of hard work, we were able to change our insurance rating from an ISO 10 to an ISO 2. Much of this hard work has been done over many years by creating a water distribution system that meets the needs of district consumption while also having an effective reserve and flow rates for firefighting operations. We have also designed a fire department response model which along with your Colorado Centre firefighters, includes the full responses from CSFD mentioned above. This model allows us to get our firefighters to an emergency within minutes and CSFD resources responding to create an effective firefighting force. Your firefighters are equipped with all the necessary tools and equipment recommended by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to perform operations in situations that are immediately dangerous to life and health.

As members of the Colorado Centre community this affects you in two significant ways. First, the ISO rating of 2 should create much lower home insurance rates for you. If you have not seen a decrease in these rates, please contact your insurance company and ask them why. Second and more importantly, the design of our fire department and firefighting model is created to protect your lives and property in an effective and efficient way at the best possible cost to you.

### **Additional Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Services:**

Colorado Centre has also added positive change to our EMT services. Your firefighters now have the ability to start IV's and administer lifesaving basic life support (BLS) medications prior to the ambulance arrival. This will make a significant difference involving emergency medical calls such as diabetic emergencies, difficulty breathing emergencies, or opioid overdoses to name a few.

### **Service Plan Changes:**

We have worked diligently on service plan changes that will increase overall public safety through our local rules and regulations. See District Rules and Regulations, sections: 3.2.4.7, 3.2.4.8, 3.2.4.9, 5.1, and 5.2

### **Fire Department Fees:**

Last but not least, for 2020, you will see a decrease in your monthly Fire Department fee. It is a reduction from the 2019 fee of \$24.82/month down to \$22.00/month. With the changes mentioned above, this speaks volumes to the hard work and dedication your Board of Directors and District Manager puts into providing the District with the best resources at the best cost.

Thank you for having the trust in Colorado Centre Fire Department to respond to your emergencies. Without this trust, we would not be able to perform our duties as efficiently as possible. We are proud to be apart of this community and to serve you. Happy 2020!

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