



Berthoud Fire Protection District

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“To Serve, To Care, To Support”

-PRESS RELEASE-

Subject: *“Rigging for Rescue” Rope Rescue Training*

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“Rigging for Rescue” is an extensive rope rescue technique and skills training that is taking place at Berthoud Fire Protection District (BFPD) during the week of Monday, May 14th through Friday, May 18th. Training includes six of the District’s firefighters and four Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) firefighters. The class consists of academic classroom training at Station 1 and field sessions held throughout the week at various locations. Instructor Jared Vilhauer of “Rigging for Rescue” is leading the week-long class.

These extensive ropework skills our firefighters will use during emergency rescue scenarios. This training prepares and equips our teams to use critical thinking and varied rope systems to effectively retrieve and rescue a person who may be in a situation that requires rope rescue.

Firefighters who are receiving this training include Lieutenant Dan Forbis, Lieutenant Lyle Fenderson, Engineer Monty Kitzman, Engineer Nate Aldersea, Engineer Nick Ireland, and Engineer Any Berger from BFPD. Participants from DFPC include Lead Firefighter Michael Manzo, Lead Firefighter Daniel Lowell, Firefighter James Joworoski, and Firefighter Cory Tovar.

On Monday the field sessions included rappelling off the training tower at Loveland Fire Rescue Authority’s training grounds.

Tuesday’s field sessions took place near the Carter Lake area where firefighters will practice the art of “pick-offs” which consist of lowering a rescuer to retrieve an individual stuck on the side of an incline.

Wednesday's field sessions will be located west of Loveland. Techniques being used are raising and lowering a patient litter at a moderate incline with ropes attached to raise or lower the patient.

Thursday's training will be at the same location with the skill practice of rescuing from an embankment and utilizing multiple rescuers or attendants to pull a litter with a patient out of an embankment.

Friday's training location is to be determined and will involve vertical rescue of a patient from a shaft or confined space.

The utilization of these skills is contingent on the effective and proficient use of rope techniques that involve tying a variety of knots, use of carabiners, scarab rescue tension tools, pulleys, and loops to properly rescue.

The Berthoud Fire Protection District regularly employs a variety of high-level skill training to prepare our firefighters for any emergency that may require a unique or specific skill set. Our firefighters each complete over 200 hours of training per year.