

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Fire Agencies in Larimer County Work Together to get to You Faster

Larimer County, CO (September 12, 2020) – Berthoud Fire Protection District (BFPD), Estes Valley Fire Protection District (EVFPD), Loveland Fire Rescue Authority (LFRA), Poudre Fire Authority (PFA), and Wellington Fire Protection District (WFPD) have signed an Interagency Governmental Agreement (IGA) to begin closest unit dispatching throughout Larimer County on September 15, 2020. Closest unit dispatching involves a dispatching system that displays to 911 dispatchers all available emergency fire department vehicles based on GPS location, and will dispatch the nearest unit to an emergency, regardless of jurisdiction.

Fire officials with these five agencies have been working closely for more than a year with Larimer County Emergency Telephone Authority (LETA-911), Estes Park Emergency Communications Center, Fort Collins 911, and Loveland Emergency Communications Center, to create a response model for emergency fire and EMS calls to improve response times and share response resources. The process for this unified response has been a complex and involved process that has required many hours from each agency to develop these new protocols. The new dispatching system will provide faster and more efficient response to the communities within Larimer County.

Residents living in BFPD, LFRA and WFPD response areas have already seen some of the changes associated with closest unit dispatching take place. The five fire agencies involved have undergone renumbering and renaming of their available units in order to display all available resources in dispatch software in a more integrated way. In conjunction with these improvements, dispatching agencies in Larimer County have updated to new software and servers to facilitate this implementation. This county-wide effort will involve joint trainings across the five fire and EMS agencies as well as aligning technical terminology for cohesive incident communications.

The involved emergency agencies will continue to operate independently. The primary change that is being made is occurring at the dispatch level where units will be dispatched to an incident based on location. Each fire service's administration and day-to-day business functions (permitting, inspections, public education, etc.) will continue to operate and serve their communities independently. Our combined efforts and work together as fire service agencies reflect our dedication to partnership and improved capabilities in order to better serve the residents and visitors of our communities.

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