



South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District

Who We Are

In 1951, a small group of caring, dedicated individuals formed the Castlewood Fire Protection District. The department was made up of eleven husband and wife teams “with three spare men”. The name “Castlewood” was chosen as the organizers all belonged to the Castlewood Grange at the time. The district covered 18 square miles and less than 100 homes. The first fire station housed one first aid wagon and a 500-gallon per minute pumper. During the first year, 24 alarms were answered. In 1964, Castlewood put its first two firefighters on the payroll, even though the fire chief was a volunteer position until 1968. In 1999, the name was changed to South Metro Fire Rescue.

The Cherry Hills Fire Protection District was the first fire protection district in the State of Colorado, formed in 1941. The district’s service area was about nine square miles. In 1964, Cherry Hills hired its first two full-time firefighters and opened their first station (previously they paid the City of Englewood to house the firefighters in an Englewood station. In 1989, the voters approved a merger with the Castlewood Fire Protection District.

In 1968, the citizens of the Town of Louviers formed the Louviers Fire Protection District, which covered approximately seven square miles and their first fire station was built to house an International/LaFrance engine with a 1000 gallon tank. In 1982, two additional stations were built. In 1999 the Boards of directors of both Louviers and South Metro Fire Rescue agreed to merge the two districts and provide 24-hour a day, seven day a week fire protection to the Town.

In January 1967, the District Court for Douglas County granted the creation of the Parker Fire Protection District, which was preceded by the Parker Volunteer Fire Department and provided protection to approximately 2,000 residents. The petition included the acquisition of a fire house, three fire trucks, a station wagon converted to ambulance use, miscellaneous hand tools and equipment, hoses, nozzles, fire-fighting helmets, clothing and masks all with an approximate value of \$45,000.

The Parker Fire Department transitioned from an all volunteer fire department to a combination department with the hiring of its first career firefighters and fire chief in 1983. In the 22 years following, Parker Fire District progressed to a career fire department with a staff of 128 employees; including 86 line firefighters, 14 uniformed support staff, and 28 civilian support staff. The population served by the Parker Fire District also increased from approximately 10,000 in 1983 to approximately 90,000 in 2005, resulting in an increase in emergency responses from 652 to more than 5,000 during the same period.

Metropolitan Area Communications Center, commonly referred to as "MetCom," was first established on January 19, 2006 to provide dispatch services for South Metro Fire Rescue. On December 20, 2007, MetCom began providing dispatch services for Parker Fire Protection District. In addition, MetCom provides dispatch services for West Douglas, Bennett, Byers and Strasburg Fire Protection Districts and Sable Altura Fire Rescue.

In 2008, South Metro Fire Rescue and the Parker Fire Protection District, operating as the South Metro Fire Rescue Authority, entered into a Creation and Pre-Inclusion Agreement authorizing to provide fire protection, ambulance and emergency medical and rescue services, enforcement of fire prevention codes, hazardous materials response, and other emergency services typically provided by a public fire department. In December of 2015, the Parker Fire Protection District and South Metro Fire Rescue amended the Creation and Pre-Inclusion Agreement to become one district in the name of South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District (referred to as South Metro Fire Rescue).

On January 1, 2018 the Cunningham Fire Protection District join the Authority. Their service area covers over 14 square miles in unincorporated Arapahoe County and portions of the City of Centennial, providing services to a mix of commercial, industrial, and residential areas.

On January 1, 2019 the Highlands Ranch Metropolitan District, Littleton Fire Protection District and City of Littleton included into the Authority.

Today, South Metro Fire Rescue serves an area of approximately 287 square miles and provides protection to more than 540,000 citizens. Coverage is provided in 12 municipalities, Centennial Airport, Denver Tech Center, Inverness, Meridian Office Park, and unincorporated areas of Arapahoe, Jefferson and Douglas counties. Twenty-nine fire stations operate on a 48/96 schedule with three shifts working on a rotational basis. In addition to the standard crews of firefighters and paramedics, special teams include: Aircraft Firefighting, Hazardous Materials, Incident Management Team, SWAT Medic, Technical Rescue, Urban Search & Rescue, Wildland Firefighting.