



Serving the communities of Centennial, Castle Pines North, Cherry Hills Village, Foxfield, Greenwood Village, Lone Tree, Louviers, Parker, and unincorporated Arapahoe and Douglas Counties

South Metro Fire Rescue Authority  
Protecting Life and Property

Fall 2008

# Merger Update

When a big fire or other emergency happens, communication experts will tell you there are three basic things the public wants to know: what happened; what does it mean to me; and what are you (the government) doing about it now? Those questions are also a good starting point when telling you about the merger of South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) and the Parker Fire District that is now taking place.

## What happened?

Most recently, our board of directors decided to name our new agency the South Metro Fire Rescue Authority. After surveying our employees and careful consideration of the costs and other issues associated with a name, the board decided "South Metro" was representative of the area we serve, as well as already being established in our communities. So, for some of you, especially in the Parker area, you'll be seeing a new name on fire engines and ambulances. Rest assured our service, and the smiling faces providing it, have not changed.

Going back a few months, last fall South Metro was about to conduct a national search for a new fire chief. Instead, the SMFR Board of Directors asked Parker Fire Chief Dan Qualman to take on additional duties as interim chief at SMFR while the prospect of a merger was studied. This spring, the results of that study (online at [www.southmetro.org](http://www.southmetro.org)) indicated that a merger was feasible and could result in significant tax savings in the years

ahead. With the approval of both the SMFR and Parker Fire board, the two agencies began joint operations on May 1.

## What does it mean to you?

On a day-to-day basis you may not notice any difference at all. Because of the name change you will see new names and markings on our equipment (as well as a new numbering scheme for our fire stations). In the short term the two separate legal entities will continue to exist and the name on your property tax bill won't change. More importantly, you continue to get the same quality emergency medical and fire services, with an even greater depth of resources and personnel.

## What are we doing (about it) now?

We are now finalizing our first joint budget (for 2009) and are in the process of moving most of our administrative staff into one building. As we integrate two departments into one we are continuing the process we began last year - examining our plans and procedures to find the best, most cost-effective way to bring you the emergency services our communities have relied on for more than fifty years. We intend to keep you informed of our progress. Watch for newsletters like this four times a year, or check us out online at [southmetro.org](http://southmetro.org) or [parkerfire.org](http://parkerfire.org).

South Metro -  
Parker Fire Merger  
New Name - Same  
Great Service

## Inside This Issue

What's going on with the merger

Prevent Home Fires

Get to know your Safety Foundation

## Coming Up

Station 36 Service Area  
Public Hearing  
When: Oct. 15 at 6:30 p.m.  
Where: Douglas County  
Montessori School  
311 Castle Pines Parkway

Halloween with Horses  
When: Oct. 18  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Where: Colorado Horse  
Park  
7522 S. Pinery Drive  
Parker, Colo.

Visit Our Safety Booth!

## Thank You!

Thanks to you, our fire boots runneth over. Our annual "fill the boot" campaign over the Labor Day weekend raised over \$92,500 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). "Every single penny collected is going towards making a

difference in people's lives that are affected by all forms of Muscular Dystrophy and ALS," says firefighter Randy Brighton, the fire authority's MDA coordinator. "Without the generosity of our citizens, such a successful event would not be possible."



South Metro Fire Rescue Authority firefighters and paramedics deliver a pram full of money to the MDA telethon hosts KWGN-TV 2

# Prevent Home Fires

October 5th through 11th is Fire Prevention Week and this year's focus is on preventing home fires. Home fires are the most common type of fire and often are easy to prevent. The top causes of home fires are cooking, electrical, heating, smoking and burning candles. Here a few tips to avoid these types of fires. More can be found on our Web site at [www.southmetro.org](http://www.southmetro.org).

## Cooking with Care

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period time, turn off the stove.

- Keep anything that can catch fire - potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags - away from



your stovetop.

- Wear short, close fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle onto stove burners and catch fire.

- Always keep an oven mitt and lid handy. If a small fire starts in a pan on the stove, put on the oven mitt and smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Don't remove the lid until it is completely cool.

*Courtesy of the National Fire Protection Association*

Fireline is produced by the South Metro Fire Rescue Authority  
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## Foundation News

South Metro Safety Foundation ...

Our mission is to provide education for the general public in life safety, fire and accident prevention with the objective of reducing injuries, loss of life, and property damage.



South Metro Safety Foundation, also known as the Miller Safety Center and the Parker Fire Safety Foundation; was recently renamed to reflect the new Fire Rescue Authority.

The Miller Safety Center has its origins dating back to a dairy farm about 5 miles east of Parker. It was there, that Adam Miller, from Elizabeth, and Dorothy Miller, a teacher from Lakewood, made their home.

The Millers left a portion of their estate to the Parker Fire District in 1983. In 1985, the Parker Fire Protection District dedicated these

funds to creating a safer community through prevention education.

The Adam and Dorothy Miller Lifesafety Education Center, Inc. (a.k.a. the Miller Safety Center) is a nonprofit organization started by the Parker Fire District Board of Directors in 1991.

The non-profit agency has been providing safety education programs since 1986 to all members of our community. These programs include:

- ⇒ Babysitting
- ⇒ CPR/First Aid (for citizens and businesses)
- ⇒ AEDs (Automatic External Defibrillators)
- ⇒ Teen Crash Avoidance Classes
- ⇒ Driver Awareness Program (for teens wanting to obtain a driver's permit)
- ⇒ Winter Driving Classes (adults only)

The Foundation also accepts funds to place AEDs into our schools and has already placed 45 units in schools in Arapahoe, Douglas, and Elbert counties. Our goal is to provide units to all schools in our target areas. If you are interested in helping with this project please contact us.

For information please call (303) 805-0228 or (720) 274-3708 or check us out at

[www.southmetrofoundation.org](http://www.southmetrofoundation.org)



## News from your fire department



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 Lifesafety Education Center, Inc.  
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 Parker, Colorado 80138

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