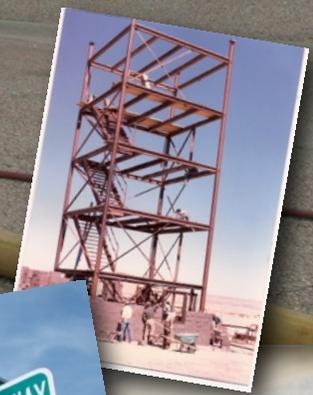


CASPER FIRE-EMS

Training Division



DRILL TOWER

“Effective training for a more capable department”

With nerves high, already shaky legs, and a “Pass or Fail” test ahead of them, a potential recruit begins his climb up 5 flights of stairs. Every Casper Firefighter starts their career in the fire service at the Regional Fire Training Facility located on the north side of the city. Over the years, it has become a widely used and valuable asset to all Natrona County Firefighters.

In an effort to create a single regional training facility that emergency responders in Natrona County could perfect their firefighting and rescue skills, the “Regional Fire Training Facility”

was created.



Made from red iron from the former drill tower at the “old” station 3, the

facility took shape and became the place to test and progress the necessary live saving skills that firefighters must be proficient.

Over the years, it has been the proving grounds for many of the new and groundbreaking tactics that has made it’s way through the fire service. Tactics such as positive pressure ventilation, positive pressure attack, offensive

hazmat response, transitional attack, thermal imaging, and RIT (Rapid Intervention Teams).

In the late 1990’s the Casper Fire Department became the home of the



World champion Combat Firefighters. For three consecutive years firefighters trained at the regional facility to place first on the world stage. The training tower evolved into the proving grounds for all Casper Firefighters when the department adopted the “Combat Test” as an annual physical requirement.

In addition to the 5 story drill tower, the burn building tests basic firefighting skills with a basement, garage, and “bi-level” split bedrooms. As one can see by simply driving by, it is obvious that this building has been well



used over the years and has successfully been the “first” fire

that many future casper



firefighters have.

The training facility also contains a variety of other props such as a confined space trainer, urban collapse trainer, MC-306 Hazmat trailer, and a propane fire simulator.

In addition to the more fixed or permanent structures and props that are found on the drill grounds, many custom projects are constructed, designed, and/or developed to help test professional



firefighters’ skills in advanced ways. Props such as the “Denver Drill”, floor collapse simulator, and positive pressure attack building.

As the years have gone by and countless training training fires have spalled and damaged the burn building, funds are being reserved to update the training grounds.

Quick History



Firefighter training is a significant part of a firefighter's career, and the City of Casper's Fire Department has consistently made an effort to provide quality instruction. The Casper Fire-EMS drill facility, located on Metro Road, used to be located just west of our former station three on 4th street (behind station one on David street before that). In the 70's and 80's, the drill tower located at our former station three was home to a regular fire school hosted by Firefighter Jim McCoy where firefighters came in from around the state and learned

modern rescue and firefighting skills, including modern pumping, Rescue, math and hydraulics.

The training tower had to be moved to make way for the Casper Recreation Center and the Iron frame was moved to Bryan Stock Trail and there it stayed on the side of the road, forgotten, and slowly being covered with sand. Recognizing that there was a strong need to continue instruction, Chiefs, like Dean Brennan campaigned and was able to convince the City to allow a new Training facility to be built on Metro Road. Chief Brennan



" We named it the Regional Training Facility so we would encourage other fire departments to our program" -- Chief Dean Brennan, (former Training Chief)

was able to recruit the Casper College Construction Training Department to donate time, equipment and students if the City paid for the fuel. Over time the facility came to be, not only by quality contractors, but the firefighters themselves, by donating their time, talent and efforts. The Casper Fire Department's formal training school doesn't currently exist, but the words "Regional" still attract area fire departments to use the drill facilities to continue the tradition of pursuing training excellence.

--Station Six
C-Platoon