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PRESS RELEASE

MEDIA ADVISORY-PHOTO/VIDEO OPPORTUNITIES

**Date: 9-29-10
Time: 1530 hours**

CONTACT: Patrick Love

TITLE: WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE EXERCISE

Fort Collins, CO – Poudre Fire Authority along with local first responders will hold a Full Scale Exercise (FSE) involving an emerging Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fire in Redstone Canyon, west of Fort Collins. The exercise will be this Saturday, October 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to about 1:00 p.m. The scenario, focusing on initial attack operations and tactics, is designed to evaluate PFA's response capabilities and those of participating agencies. There will be NO live fire involved. This FSE has been in the planning process for over a year and is the third in a series of similar interagency events over the last three years in Larimer County in which all have focused primarily on WUI fire scenarios.

Primary objectives of the exercise will focus on urban interface tactics, Incident Command System utilization, communications and participant education. The education component can not be stressed enough. This is one the best ways for the participating organizations to work together outside of an actual emergency and gives them all an opportunity to sharpen skills under much less stressful situations.

Funding for the exercise is being provided by a 50/50 matching grant through State of Colorado, Division of Emergency Management. PFA's half of the grant monies are being provided from our Wildland Program budget. However, the value of this exercise is considered to be well worth the cost.

Last year's exercise was hosted by the Loveland Fire Department in the very same area as the Reservoir Road Fire. Many of the same agencies that participated in last year's exercise were the ones who responded to this year's real fire. Their experience the year before proved invaluable in rapidly accessing, assessing and engaging on that incident. The exercise follows national standards (Department of Homeland Security) for exercise development and execution and will help PFA to continue to improve its response capabilities which are already very high.

*NOTE: If you would like to take part in this exercise or just report on it, please contact Patrick Love. Initial Staging Area is PFA Fire Station 9, 4914 Shoreline Dr. Fort Collins, CO 80526.

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