

# **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **NORTH AREA FIRE DEPARTMENTS TEAM UP FOR FIREFIGHTER TRAINING ACADEMY**

**Broomfield/Northglenn, CO** – North Metro Fire Rescue District will host a combined firefighter training academy with neighboring agencies Adams County Fire Protection District, Thornton Fire Department and Westminster Fire Department.

The combined North Area Fire Academy will train 24 new firefighters from the area beginning on Sept. 8 at North Metro Fire’s Training Center Complex in Northglenn.

While each agency has held separate training academies in the past, this will be the third North Area Fire Academy hosted in recent years. The combined fire academy will enhance collaboration, sharing of resources, relationship building and provide a way for the agencies to standardize emergency practices and procedures. The academy will also help agencies provide a more unified approach when responding together to accidents and emergencies.

“Coming together to train new firefighters not only provides a cost savings to our citizens, it also is a great way to improve our ability to work together on major incidents,” said North Metro Fire Division Chief Dave Anderson.

Students in the academy will spend the next 12 weeks learning not only firefighting skills, but also engaging in hazardous materials response, technical rescue training, auto extrication and other emergency procedures.

Each organization has committed staff to facilitate the process and maintain accountability. Thornton Fire Department’s Assistant Chief Lee Whitner will serve as the Fire Academy Chief while the Thornton’s Captain Rusty Richardson will serve as the Lead Instructor. Other academy training officers include Westminster Fire’s Lieutenant Steven Bennett, Adams County Fire’s Lieutenant Eric Davis, Greater Brighton Fire’s Lieutenant Brycen Garrison, Thornton Firefighter Roy Girton and North Metro Fire’s Lieutenant Harold Osborn.

Media are invited to join the fire academy during one of their training drills. Drills involving live burns will begin in October. Graduation for the North Area Fire Academy will be Nov. 26.

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**About North Area Fire Chiefs**

North Area Fire Chiefs have brought their agencies together to better support each agency's approach to emergency response. Agencies involved are North Metro Fire Rescue District, Adams County Fire Protection District, Federal Heights Fire Department, Westminster Fire Department, South Adams County Fire Protection District, Thornton Fire Department, Greater Brighton Fire Protection District, Arvada Fire Protection District, Lafayette Fire Department and Sable Altura Fire Rescue.

**North Metro Fire Rescue District**

North Metro Fire Rescue District is dedicated to providing quality service to its residents through fire protection, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, specialized rescue, and fire prevention and education. Formed in 1946, the district now covers 63 square miles with a population of approximately 111,000 people including the City and County of Broomfield, the City of Northglenn and unincorporated areas of Boulder, Adams, Weld and Jefferson Counties.