

## Crested Butte Emergency Services Campus Training Building Frequently Asked Questions

### Why Do You Need a Training Building?

Emergency services, particularly firefighting, is an inherently dangerous activity with a limited ability to practice and gain experience in the real world. As a rural resort community utilizing modern building codes, fires in our area are relatively rare with the CBFPD responding to only 1 or 2 major fires in a typical year. Nationwide, however, there are 370,000 residential fires each year and 129,000 fires in other structures each year based on 2022 statistics from the US Fire Administration. Current building practices utilize lightweight construction techniques and composite materials including plastics and other chemicals that cause fires to burn hotter and faster than in the past. Today's firefighters must be able to quickly and safely manage fires and other emergencies which requires continuous training in a realistic environment.

### What Does the Training Building Look Like?

CBFPD has selected a training building from Fire Facilities Inc. which is headquartered in Wisconsin and has delivered hundreds of training buildings in the U.S. and around the world. Our facility will be the "Deputy Chief" model that mimics a 2-story residential structure. Information on the building can be found at: <https://www.firefacilities.com/fire-training-towers/tower-models/the-deputy-chief/>. The building is 44 feet long, 22 feet wide and 30 feet tall at the tallest point. It will have non-combustible metal siding with hinged metal panels in lieu of windows.

### What are the Features of the Building?

The building will contain two rooms for live burn training. The burn rooms must meet stringent safety standards established by the National Fire Protection Association. Required safety features include insulated panels to protect the structure, multiple exits from burn rooms, temperature monitoring, and automatic shutoff systems. There will also be a smoke generator and smoke distribution system that uses a smoke generator similar to those used in entertainment. Smoke fluid used for generation is glycol / water based and is 100% non-toxic and approved by the FDA. There will also be movable walls to simulate search and rescue procedures as well as opportunities to practice forcible entry, ventilation, rope rescue and the placement of ladders. A simulated fire standpipe and sprinkler system will also be installed.

### What Gets Burned During Live Fire Training?

The most frequently used burn room will be on the second floor. It will be a "Class B" liquid fueled burn room that utilized propane piped through a water bath. More information in the simulator can be found here: <https://symtechfire.com/products/interior-simulators/>.

Multiple interchangeable props including a bed, stove and entertainment center will be available. Propane burning does not create smoke so artificial smoke will be used. Due to the temperatures generated most propane burns will be 5 minutes or less per training evolution. This will be the most used burn area because the propane system can be shut down immediately when finished with minimal clean up.

The burn room on the first floor will be suitable for "Class A" solid fuel burning. Standards require fuels used in Class A burns be untreated and non-toxic natural materials, usually pesticide-free straw and shipping pallets made of untreated lumber. A typical burn of this type only requires a few handfuls of straw and a couple of pallets to reach suitable training size and temperatures. When this room is used it will likely create an environmental impact and smoke conditions similar to a campfire. Class A burns will likely be limited to a few times a year as the planning, personnel, resources, monitoring and cleanup are far more extensive.

#### What Hours Will the Building be Used?

As an uninhabited structure, the training building will have minimal interior and exterior lighting. As a result, most training will occur during daylight hours and will likely be limited to 2 - 4 hours in duration. The biggest impact will likely be the noise generated from the pumping equipment on our fire trucks.

#### How Much Water Will be Used?

While the extinguishment of large, well-involved building fires can require thousands of gallons of water, training fires will be limited to small spaces which are unlikely to require more than a couple hundred gallons of water to extinguish and certainly far less than the 500 - 750 gallons most of our trucks carry. The site will be designed to capture and divert runoff to our existing drainage system for the site. Nothing toxic is expected to be added to the water used during training. Furthermore, the CBFPD does not utilize any firefighting foam that contain toxic chemicals such as PFAS (perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances).

#### What Maintenance Will the Building Require Over Time?

As shown in the picture above, some discoloration and charring will likely occur above the openings of the first floor burn room. No discoloration should occur around the Class B burn room. Regular maintenance and cleaning will be required to remove soot and carbon buildup.

#### Will There Be Traffic Impacts During Training Building Use?

The training building will be located entirely on the emergency services campus site. All parking and vehicle movements necessary during training evolutions will not impact traffic on Country Road 317.

Will There Be Impacts on Nearby Properties?

We expect the sound created by equipment movement, use of fire trucks, ladders, hose lines and breathing equipment to have minimal impact to the adjoining area.

What If I Have Other Questions?

The CBFPD will be pleased to make our team members available to answer other questions. Please contact us at [office@cbfpd.org](mailto:office@cbfpd.org) or by phone at 970-349-5333 with additional questions.