

# FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

FM WEEKLY  
COMMUNICATION

October  
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Issue 80

Greetings Facilities Team,

As summer moves on and fall settles in, bringing cooler weather with it, Coloradoans must still remain vigilant about dry and windy conditions in our beautiful state. Colorado is no stranger to drought and fire conditions and this year's fire season is no different. This was made all the more real when the City of Fort Collins enacted an outdoor watering ban, effective October 1.

Many local organizations have teamed up to battle the current fire raging just up the canyon. Undoubtedly you have all heard about or even been affected by the Cameron Peak fire. You may have had ash collecting on your car or porch, or had to cancel plans in the affected areas. You may have been more directly impacted by evacuations or stand-by alerts, and perhaps had family evacuated or assisting the fire crews. What you may not be aware of is CSU's involvement in the firefighting efforts and the support that our Facilities Management team have offered. Currently there are two CSU locations assisting with the fight: Mountain Campus, and the semi-retired Christman Airfield located on the Foothills Campus.

The fire was reported on August 13 and firefighting operations began mobilizing on Aug. 14 at the airfield to battle the Cameron Peak Fire. Multiple agencies from across Colorado and the county have worked in various ways on this fire event. While the airfield is no longer a "working" airfield, it still supports fire or emergency staging operations via a yearly Intergovernmental Agreement between CSU and the U.S. Forest Service. Helicopter operations of up to six units have been continuously operated at the airfield under this agreement.

Since Aug. 14, the airfield has seen fire personnel numbers vary from 50 to 200 plus. Their operations include both ground and air, as well as daily accommodations for the crews. CSU along with many other local and state interests are communicating virtually every other day, or more if necessary. Facilities Management is working in tandem with CSU's Emergency Manager for any support resources that may be requested.

CSU's Mountain Campus has also seen activity and has at times provided overnight camping and some operational support to fire crews. The Mountain Campus was threatened earlier during this fire event after the Cameron Peak Fire quickly grew from 35,000 acres to more than 100,000 in just three days — the fire came within 1.5 miles of the campus but efforts to protect that campus are paramount. Firefighters have

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worked tirelessly to protect our Mountain Campus, one of the most important high-altitude scientific centers in the state, so that it could welcome students and community members in future semesters.

Things took another unfavorable turn for the campus in the early morning hours October 9, as conditions changed to favor fire activity. Fire behavior predicted that the fire would move through the Mountain Campus despite strong mitigation efforts. Crews staying at the campus were evacuated, and firefighters stayed to continue protecting structures using the Incident Command Center Crew's strong point protection around the campus. The mitigation plan involved a combination of fire retardants and water dispersal measures that had been established early on during this fire incident. Once again, thanks to the steadfast efforts of fire crews, the flames were kept at bay this weekend.

As President McConnell said in her email, I urge you all to send your thoughts and positive energy to the hardworking people doing all they can for our campus and community. We will keep a diligent watch on the fire activity and hope the Mountain Campus survives yet another fire.

Sincerely,



Tom Satterly, P.E.  
Associate Vice President for Facilities Management

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