



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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International Fire Service Award for Valor Bestowed on Firefighters

The International Benjamin Franklin Fire Service Award for Valor will be presented to Colorado Springs Fire Department's Truck Eight C-shift, for their rescue efforts at the seven-alarm Castle West Apartment fire on January 16, 2007. The crew includes Lieutenant Brian Moffitt, Driver Engineer Christopher Richardson, Firefighter Nicholas Chapel and Firefighter Ryan Douglas. Presentation of the award, the highest honor bestowed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, will be made at the Fire-Rescue International Conference in Atlanta, GA on August 24.

Valiant rescues made that morning were accomplished by nine crews. Truck eight accounted for twenty-one percent of the rescues. The initial attack and rescue included 107 operational personnel and another 17 in management and support roles using 27 pieces of apparatus.

"Every person involved in the Castle West rescues and fire fighting efforts served our fire department and community proudly. I wish they could all be recognized in Atlanta for what they accomplished in extreme conditions. This award represents the entire department's efforts," stated Fire Chief Manuel Navarro.

Since 1970, the award has recognized the spirit of service, courage and heroism that is a tradition among the world's fire service. Presented annually by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and Motorola, the award honors firefighters for expert training, professional service and dedication to duty displayed in the saving of a human life. It is customarily presented for lifesaving efforts above and beyond the call of duty.

In the award's thirty-seven year history, only two other Colorado fire departments have been a recipient. They include Denver in 1972 and Aurora in 1990.

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