



Figure 104 Railroad tie fire



Figure 105 Drafting out of a drop tank

On June 4, fire department crews responded to the Point of the Mountain along the D.& R. G. Railroad tracks to put out a large pile of ties that were on fire. The fire of unknown origin burned for several hours before it was extinguished. Because of lack of water in the area the fire department used the drop tank for water storage and drafted out of it. Figure 104 and 105.

One of the many things that the Lehi Fire Department was involved in was fire safety. During the Lehi Celebration, fire department members man the Utah State Fire Marshal's Life Safety House. The Life Safety House was set up at Wine's park and children were invited with their parents into the trailer to learn about fire safety. The house was set up into different room's with everything one might find in their own home. As the kid's walk through the room's firemen explain the dangers that are there and how to avoid them. Lehi Firemen Kim Beck and Robert Stanley wait patiently for the next students. Figure 106.



Figure 106 Life Safety House

On a quarterly basis members of the Lehi Fire Department participated in mutual aid drills with neighboring fire departments. In figure 107, members from Lehi, American Fork, Pleasant Grove and Lone Peak fire departments prepare to enter a smoke-filled trailer to perform rescue drills.



Figure 107 Mutual Aid Drill

The fire department had put on the annual fireworks show at the Veterans Ball Park since 1954. Several subdivisions had been built and it had become increasingly more dangerous to shoot the fireworks in the area. It also limited the size of the firework that could be used. The fire department decided to go to Thanksgiving Point and use the vast open area. On July 4, the fire department put on another exceptional show using larger shells. In the past only four inch shells were used. This year six inch shells were used and it added a little more to an already great show.

On August 18, the fire department had its annual summer party. In 1999 several members were given awards of appreciation. Forty year service awards were given to retired firemen Stan Gordon, Max Ray, and Mike Southwick. Three firemen also retired with twenty years or more of service. Doyle Kohler, Fawn Sampson, and Jim Smith were awarded certificates. Three more firemen finished EMT training. This brings the number of EMT's on the fire department to thirteen. The usual dinner of steaks, baked potatoes, and all the fixings were present. Everyone had a good time.

Several times each year the Lehi Fire Department participates in Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (C.S.E.P.P.) drills with the Army National Guard and local law enforcement agencies. In figure 108 members of the fire



department donned special protective suits and prepared to decontaminate a victim of poisonous gas. In the past few years the fire department had trained for many hours in the wearing of special protective suits for use in hazardous conditions.

Figure 108 Firemen prepare to decontaminate a victim of gas

The fire department took possession of the new seventy five-foot Quint ladder truck in November. The truck was equipped for fighting high rise structure fires as well as a rescue truck. The truck has a six-passenger cab with air packs in each seat. It had the ability to carry large diameter hose (6") as well as 1 3/4" and 3" hose plus extrication equipment. Figure 109.



Figure 109 75' Aerial ladder truck

During 1999 the Lehi Fire Department responded to 336 calls for service. Ninety more than the previous year. Twenty two-hundred children and adults attended fire safety classes at the fire station. Another 5,000 students were involved at the schools participating in fire drills.

There were 103 business inspections, and 377 burn permits issued. Over 300 fire hydrants were tested and many repaired when they were found to be broken.

Members of the fire department continued to take advantage of all training opportunities. Under the direction of Training Officer Kim Beck most of the firemen were certified level one or two firefighter and hazmat first responder or operations. Lehi Firemen participated in several community projects as well. Contributions were made to Sub for Santa, to the University of Utah Burn Center and to a fireman from the Cedar Fort Fire Department that was critically injured in a two-car collision west of Lehi on highway 73. Members of the fire department assisted in extricating him from the wreckage. \$3,600 was contributed to his family at Christmas time.

Mike Powell was elected as president for 2000. Shyloh Muhlestein as vice-president, Calvin Urry was the secretary. Dale Ekins was the chief and Bret Hutchings was assistant chief. The board of directors was disbanded due to a change in the city's hiring practices. Members of the fire department for the year 2000 were Kevin Beck, Kim Beck, Mitch Benavides, Wade Berry, Woody Berry, Harvey Bond, Clint Carter, Ken Chamberlain, Ernie Curwen, Dale Ekins, Kerry Evans, Ricky Evans, Rick Howard, Arnie Hunt, Tim Hunt, Bret Hutchings, Jerry Lund, Shyloh Muhlestein, Kip Peterson, Mac Powell, Mark Powell, Mike Powell, Gary Smith, Michael Southwick, Robert Stanley, Calvin Urry, Kurt Walker, Scott Wilbur, Rick Worthen and Karl Zimmerman.

Jack Hammond was burning weeds and left the fire unattended. The



Figure 110 Lehi Fireman Clint Carter on the hose

wind picked up and blew the fire onto his property starting everything on fire. The property was littered with old cars, a tractor, trailers and basically a lot of junk with weeds and grass growing through it all. The fire destroyed most everything there. Firemen were able to save his house but it did sustain some damage to the roof. Damage estimates were \$26,000. Figure 110.

In March, Mike Powell resigned from the presidents position due to his assignment as training officer. His resignation was accepted and Gary Smith was voted in to take his place. All other members retained their offices.

Rick Worthen approached the fire department requesting reinstatement. The request was discussed with members of the department and it was decided to reinstate Rick as a specialist. His duties would be the photographer, and historian and he would conduct baby-sitting classes again.

The fire department responded to a house fire at 442 North Center. On arrival, firemen found that the living room was on fire. The owner said she went to the store and when she returned and opened the door the room was on fire. She said she turned the garden hose on and threw it in the living room then called 911. The fire was extinguished and the damage was confined to the room and contents. The fire started from a candle that was left unattended to close to combustibles. The fire caused \$10,000 in damage.

A fire at the Don Harris residence 1005 North 500 West only caused a small amount of damage. The fire was out when firemen arrived. The investigation showed that Mrs. Harris was using foam insulation during a remodeling job. She needed a light so she used a candle to see with. The flame ignited the foam.

*Lehi Fire Department hires its first woman firefighter* reported the Lehi Free Press.  
Amanda Hadfield was hired in May as the first woman firefighter for the Lehi Fire Department.

Amanda was firefighter one certified and had been a member of the Lehi EMS for some time. Amanda's first brush fire. Figure 111. Hired at the same time as Amanda was Jake Beck and William Loveridge both members of Lehi EMS.



Figure 111 Amanda Hadfield's first brush fire

On May 3, the fire department was called to a motor home fire on I-15. The motor home was fully engulfed in flames on arrival. Fire crews quickly extinguished the flames but not before it destroyed the vehicle. The fire started in the engine compartment and quickly spread throughout the rest of the motor home valued at \$2,500. The owner of the motor home was taking it to Salt Lake. He said he traded a television set for it so the loss wasn't that much. Figure 112.



Figure 112 Clint Carter w/o helmet cools down hot spots

A trailer house fire at 1250 North 300 West destroyed the residence of Tonya Zamora. While no one was home, a neighbor girl entered the trailer to make a phone call and accidentally turned the stove on igniting a pizza box. The fire was called in by neighbors. Firemen were able to put the fire out without any problem. Damage to the



Figure 113 Kitchen of Trailer house

home was \$30,000. Figure 113.

Members of the Lehi Fire Department don't always respond to fires. In Figure 114 firemen assisted ambulance crews with clean up of a traffic accident on I-15. A car crossed over the center lane and ran head on into this car. The injured parties were taken to the hospital. Figure 114.



Figure 114 Head on collision

Committee members from the fire Department put on another great Forth of July fireworks show. This was the second year the show had been at Thanksgiving Point. Figure 115 shows the



Figure 115 Fireworks tubes



Figure 116

fireworks tubes waiting to be set up. There were approximately 556

fireworks shot this year. The

finale included a sixteen-inch 50 pound ball of powder. The sixteen-inch firework was the largest firework in Utah and had only been used twice

before. In

figure 116,

Kerry Evans loads the tube while Bret Hutchings looks on. Figure 117 included left to right: Gary Smith, Ken Chamberlain, Jake Beck, Tim Hunt and son, Kerry Evans, Bret



Figure 117 Committee members stand next to the 16" tube

Hutchings, Arnie Hunt, and Mitch Benavides.

The fire department took possession of two new 2000 model Ford F-550 trucks. The trucks replaced the aging 1987 and 1989 Ford trucks. The new trucks were built into brush trucks by members of the fire department. Flat beds were installed on the trucks with the new slide in units consisting of a 300-gallon poly tank with foam capabilities installed on the flat beds. Besides the 200 feet of rubber hose, there were about 500 feet of one inch forestry hose on each truck. Figure 118.



Figure 118 2000 Ford Brush Truck

Crews from the Lehi Fire Department responded to the area of Allen's Ranch road and fought several fires during the year. Two that stand out are the Bismark Fire and the Ten Mile Pass fire. Both fires burned hundreds of acres. Firefighters and air crews from around the state assisted in containing the fires. Figure 119.



Figure 119 Bismark Fire

Department called on surrounding fire departments to assist in protecting their community from the Box Elder Mountain fire. Someone left a camp fire unattended when they left the area. The wind kicked up and started dry grass on fire. Fire crews spent several days on the fire before it was extinguished. Lehi fire engine 610

The Lone Peak Fire



Figure 120 Lehi Fire Engine near house

protects Alpine residences from the fire on Box Elder Mountain. Figure 120.

On August 17, fire crews drove to the top of Lake Mountain to assist the county fire department in protecting the communication towers from a fire. Because of the inaccessibility of the area, a tanker was called in to make a retardant drop. Figure 121.



Figure 121 Retardant drop

On September 10, the fire department received a call that the old Train Depot Warehouse was on fire. The old depot warehouse located at 200 East State was in the process of being restored for a museum, under the direction of Richard Van Wagoner and was about 90 percent complete, when the fire broke out. Fire department personnel contained the fire and saved the structure from being destroyed. This was the third time that Lehi firemen had put out a fire in the building since it was built. Workers using a power sander caused the fire when they over sanded, heating up the old nails that were used in the wood. Damage estimates were \$45,000. Figure 122.



Figure 122 Tim Hunt views the damage

On September 20, the inevitable occurred. After many months of discussion the City of Lehi combined the Lehi Fire Department under the direction of Chief Dale Ekins and the Lehi Emergency Medical Services association under the direction of Captain Mark Loveridge. The new body would be known as the Lehi Fire/EMS Department. Many of the firemen had been certified

as Emergency Medical Technicians and many of the E.M.T.'s had been cross trained as firefighter one. Earlier in 2000, the job of extrication had been taken over by the fire department to enable the E.M.T.'s to better perform the task of patient care. The extrication equipment was placed on the rescue ladder truck, and the truck had since responded to many automobile accidents to assist medical personnel in patient removal and patient care.

Kip Peterson retired from the fire department on October 1, 2000. Kip had been with the fire department for twenty years. Kip had held many positions including president, vice-president, a member of the board of directors and assistant fire chief under Ned Wilson.

Ricky Evans was hired as a full time city employee October 23, to assume the duties as Emergency Medical Services Captain for Lehi City replacing Mark Loveridge. Mark would remain on the department as a Firefighter/E.M.T.

Members of the fire department responded to 1,384 calls for service in the year 2000, an increase of 174. Of those calls 1,021 were for medical. There were 363 fire calls, an increase of 27 from 1999. There was over 3,000 kids that visited the fire station for fire safety education and over 5,000 that participated in school fire drills. Fire and EMS members donated to sub for Santa and/ or visited children in need, again this year.

Gary Smith continued his duties as president for 2001. Shyloh Muhlestein as vice-president and Calvin Urry was secretary. The party committee chairman was Clint Carter. Tim Hunt was fireworks chairman and the fund-raising committee chair was Sharon Clegg. 2001 was the One Hundred Year Anniversary of the Lehi Fire Department. Kim Beck was the chairman and headed up a committee of current and retired fire department personnel. A celebration was scheduled for June.

Dale Ekins was the chief and Bret Hutchings was assistant chief. Members of the fire department for the year 2001 were Jake Beck training officer, Kevin Beck captain, Kim Beck training officer, Mitch Benavides safety officer, Ron Berendson, Wade Berry, Woody Berry, Harvey Bond, Tamie Brems, Clint Carter captain, Ken Chamberlain assistant fire marshal, Sharon Clegg, Ernie Curwen training officer, Dale Ekins, Rebecca Ethington, Kerry Evans fire marshal, Ricky Evans EMS captain, Amanda Hadfield, Rick Howard training officer, Arnie Hunt captain, Tim Hunt assistant fire marshal, Bret Hutchings, Janette Kirkham, Mark Loveridge, William Loveridge, Jerry Lund, Shyloh Muhlestein, Burdette Powell, Mark Powell, Mike Powell, Tim Robinson, Gary Smith, Dale Snyder, Lily Southwick liaison officer, Michael Southwick, Robert Stanley, Calvin Urry secretary, Kurt Walker, Randy Wells, Scott Wilbur, and Karl Zimmerman. There were two part time members, Jeff Smith and Steve Berendsen.

In February the fire department responded to the first major house fire of the year. An improperly installed flue pipe caused hot gases to leak into the chimney area and catch the wall on fire. The fire went into the roof and vented out the top. The home owner said he could smell smoke then experienced an electrical short and discovered the fire. Damage estimates were more than \$65,000.

The department was called to the Lehi High School on March 15, to extinguish a fire in the wood shop. Damage was minimal but could have been worse if the janitor had not discovered it when he did. The fire cause was finishing rags



Figure 123 Fire in the finishing room

spontaneously combusting and starting cans of wood finish on fire. Figure 123.

On March 21, the fire department was called to the Glen Gilbert residence at 610 East State for a house fire. The upstairs was engulfed in flames on arrival. The upstairs occupant apparently blew out a candle before he went to bed. He woke up later to find three foot high flames next to his bed. The fire was fueled by an



Figure 124 Gilbert fire

oxygen tank next to the bed. The hundred-year-old house was destroyed in the fire. Figure 124.

Lehi fire crews were dispatched to the old Sage Hill egg farm now owned by Lehi City on 600 East for a fire that involved brush, vehicles and a structure.

The operator of the tractor in figure 125 called 911 to report the fire after the tractors fuel line ruptured and started the fire. He was unable to move the tractor and the eighty-one year-old farmer wasn't able to put the fire out. The fire burned several old trucks



Figure 125 Tractor involved in the fire

and started the roof of the old farm house on fire. Crews were able to save the rest of the house. This was the fourth major fire at this same location. Two chicken coop fires and two house fires at the same location. Damage from the fire was more than \$30,000.