



**Boulder Emergency Squad**



# An Historical Perspective

**Operating Continuously since 1963**

***Compiled and Updated 14-APR22***

*Inclusive of history gathered from earlier versions of history and from interviews with BES founder Bill Hughes, long-time member Brian Dillman, and other members and info sources, 1985, 1989 and 2002*

*Compiled by Andy Amalfitano, President-Chief and BES Members*

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## Introduction

Within this document is a compilation of earlier documents which generally chronicle the beginnings and highlights of Boulder Emergency Squad, Inc during its 59-year existence.

The history is not meant to be a full and complete accounting of the thousands of calls, all of the members, and hundreds of decisions or events which have shaped BES as it is today. Most certainly, this collection of information cannot possibly measure BES's greatest asset - its people, or the incredible dedication and impact the members have had on its success.

In 1989, in preparation for the 25th anniversary celebration and in order to recount the early history of the Squad, Andy conducted interviews with Bill and Palma Hughes, Keith Brown, Brian Dillman, and Bob Kopolow. The remainder of the information comes from first-hand accounts and BES records.

Subsequently, we have collected anecdotal stories, excerpts from annual reports, and more critical rescue incidents where BES members made a significant contribution to the positive outcomes.

## Who is BES?

BES is an all-volunteer rescue organization, incorporated in 1964 as a 501(c).3, non-profit entity in the county of Boulder, Colorado. The members of BES govern the operation and affairs of the agency through elected roles including President/Chief, Board of Directors, and other members.

BES provides emergency technical rescue services such as extrication, water rescue, search, firefighting and education. BES primarily responds within the County of Boulder, Colorado and is on rare occasions, called for emergencies outside the county.

BES has been successfully serving Boulder County in this capacity for more than four decades. The many officials and agencies served by BES during the past 45 years say that BES has a proven track record and is a first-rate, highly qualified search and rescue team that continually strives for excellence.

BES has had several different headquarters locations. For over 32 years, BES headquarters was located at 5048 East Pearl St., in Boulder, Colorado and was leased from the City of Boulder. This building was a 2-story all steel structure with a 3-bay vehicle garage. The building was originally owned solely by the membership of BES but became the property of Boulder County after the initial lease expired.

In May 2003, BES moved into the building at 49<sup>th</sup> and the Diagonal highway (3532 Diagonal Hwy). The new building has a footprint approximately twice the size of the old building, with 6 bays, office space, meeting rooms and living quarters. This building was custom remodeled from a machine shop owned by Wellborn (an early member of the Squad) into a state-of-the-art rescue facility.

BES has owned a number of different types of apparatus to deliver rescue services, ranging from quick response personal vehicles, rescue utility trucks, dive trailers, and water rescue craft, to off-road fire suppression and transport vehicles, water rescue vans and modern \$300K heavy rescue squads.

BES members are volunteers composed of residents from in and around Boulder County, above the age of eighteen who have undergone an extensive training program. Members come from all walks of life to make a difference in the community, help others and challenge themselves. Members must be professional at their duties and are called upon to perform all facets of conducting a successful rescue organization and business, including actual rescue and recovery, training, leadership, board of directors, public relations, fund-raising, administration, maintenance and a wide variety of other support services.

BES adheres to equal employment opportunity and non-discrimination standards as applicable to the specialized field of emergency response. Members are not discriminated against because of age, religion, race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, income, education, etc. All members capable of safely completing their assigned duties are welcome.

## **Mission**

The primary mission of BES is the preservation of life and property.

BES constantly strives to deliver effective, efficient, high quality emergency services. In addition to hundreds of hours of training each year, BES maintains open communication with other agencies.

BES provides the following technical emergency and rescue services:

1. **Extrication:**
  - Rescue people from an automobile, aircraft, or train accident when the victim is trapped in or under the vehicle
  - Animal rescue when technical skills are required
2. **Water Rescue and Recovery:**
  - Rescue from swift-water immersion and creek accidents
  - Rescue from an underwater accident (SCUBA) including ice rescue
3. **Fires Support Services**
  - Wildland fire crews
  - Structure fire support with breathable air-SCBA, Medical Rehab, Emergency power and lighting
  - County Incident Management Team
4. **Technical Rescue**
  - Up slopes, across creeks, or out of buildings and confined spaces
  - Ropes and rigging used in unique circumstances
5. **Search and Rescue**
  - Search management
  - Wide Area Search
  - Search, Missing persons
6. **Assistance to law enforcement**
  - Disaster management
  - Traffic and crowd control
  - Field Force extrication

## Vision

*“In the next decade, all search and rescue efforts that serve unincorporated Boulder County will be operationally combined into one efficient organization, centrally housed and broadly funded for continuous sustainability”*

Andy Amalfitano – 2022, Chief Boulder Emergency Squad

*"I see a future where the people of Boulder County have the safest, most efficient and effective emergency services realized through practical interagency collaboration."*

Andy Amalfitano – 2011, Chief Boulder Emergency Squad

*"...Our goal is to provide search and rescue services in Boulder county and do it as good or better than other rescue agencies in the county..."*

Bill Hughes – 1966, Chief and Founder of Boulder Emergency Squad an excerpt as told to Andy Amalfitano in 1989

## History

### The Start of BES

Bill Hughes (Chief 1964-1975, 1977-1978) started the Squad in 1963 as the 11-Meter Club, a spin-off of a CB Radio club. In 1964 it became the 11-meter Rescue Squad, and in 1966 the name was changed, and the entity was incorporated in the State of Colorado as the Boulder Emergency Squad.

In 1961, Bill moved to the Boulder area, drawn by friends already living there. When he arrived, he was surprised to see how "behind the times" the rescue services were in the Boulder area, compared to other areas of the states.

Bill recalls hearing an accident call on the radio where a teenage girl was trapped in a vehicle after a head-on collision. The only available "rescue" vehicles were the local tow truck and mortuary ambulance with little or no tools. This incident ended with 2 tow trucks pulling in opposite directions to free the 2 vehicles of the collision. Despite the good intentions, the technique left something to be desired.

Appalled by this incident, Bill and a small band of CB radio enthusiasts spun off the "11-Meter Club" in 1963. A year later the rescue squad began as the "11-Meter Rescue Squad" and began training on rescue, emergency medicine, and offered rescue services to Boulder County.

### The Early Days

In the early days finances were a problem. Convincing the "powers to be" that such a rescue service was not only necessary, but essential to saving lives was a monumental task. To this end, Bill and his crew ran a "tight ship," strived for professionalism, and

performed their duties well. Every time new public officials took office however, the squad had to sell them on the concept of a volunteer rescue service.

The Squad, at that time comprised of only six men, carried common tools such as cardboard splints, army surplus first aid kits and were called on the phone by the police dispatch when they had an emergency call. They had no emergency vehicles, virtually no money, no technical rescue equipment, no headquarters, no pagers, and no portable radios. What they did have was determination, pride and perseverance. The first pagers did not come until 1974-1975. Prior to that, in 1973, Brian Dillman (Chief four times totaling nearly 12 years) had designed a tone decoder to attach to police scanners. This was an inexpensive way to be alerted to calls via the tone system.

During the first several years of BES, Bill's house functioned as "HQ". Bill's wife, Palma Hughes was the first dispatcher by default. When the phone call from police dispatch came, Palma woke up at the same time Bill did. As Bill headed out the door, Palma initiated phone calls to other members informing them to respond to a victim in need of rescue.

Palma recalls that turbulent times led to tense calls in the early days of the Squad. The squad was deputized and on the front line in riot gear assisting the police and sheriff with quelling the crowds during the Vietnam riots. She also remembers when a major windstorm blew the roof off the neighbor's house.

One of the few times a member was injured occurred early on. Palma remembers that Max Hanks was injured on a rescue when a roof came down on his arm. To this day the squad has managed to maintain an exceptional safety record.

According to Palma, the most fun was definitely the holiday parties, dinners and summer-time picnics. It was the upbeat part of the squad. The camaraderie among members was that of the best of friends.

Bill remembers leaving his job as plumber on a construction site to go on rescues, search for missing children, or assist the police department with crime scenes. Often, he was unsure that he was doing the right thing, jeopardizing his job, income, and family security to help save lives. But he believed in what he was doing and did it anyway.

Meanwhile, Palma needed help in her duties as dispatcher and food runner. An Auxiliary group was started, comprised of some of the wives of the Squad members. These women sacrificed much of their personal time and family life to assist the men in their duties. In fact, the Auxiliary were instrumental in helping Colorado pass the good Samaritan law by attending meetings in Denver and lobbying.

The Women's Club of Boulder funded the first 'Plectron' (radio) that was installed at the Hughes residence. Palma says that the same small core of wives (herself, Maryanne Holmes, and Carole Dillman) did all the work in the early days. The Auxiliary did the

phone tree, delivered refreshments to the rescuers on long calls, organized holiday parties and banquets, and sacrificed much personal time in support of their husband-rescuers. They even raised money to buy the squad its first ladder.

Soon, core people moved away, and the Auxiliary waned after about three years. It has not been re-commissioned, though the topic comes up from time to time. These days Support members fulfill many of the functions of the old Auxiliary.

The local McDonald's restaurant, owned by Bob Charles, often donated food to the squad members on extended calls. The rescuers, especially in the middle of a long, cold nighttime operation, sincerely appreciated this.

Brian Dillman began his career as a volunteer rescuer with the 11-Meter Rescue Squad in 1964 at the age of 21. Except for a brief year and a half stint in the Navy as a communications/radar engineer, Brian has been with the Squad ever since!

In the old days, pre-1970, Brian tells us that the Fire Departments only did firefighting. Wreckers did the extrications. He remembers one of his first calls was a mutual aid assist to Loveland to help with evacuation of citizens during a tornado.

Both Bill and Brian are recognized as lifetime members of BES. Their contribution to rescue and to the citizens of Boulder County is unparalleled.

By 1965, with no money and no bank account, BES convinced the bank to lend the Squad (actually to loan on the personal signature of Bill and Ron Richards) the funds to purchase a Ford van. This was the first BES rescue vehicle. Now the squad had a place to store their tools. But they soon found that they could barely afford to put gas in the van let alone make the monthly payments. So, at weekly meetings they would "... put a hat in the middle of the floor and accept change from people's pockets" in order to keep the vehicle running for the next week! If a member left the squad, their donation/loans were repaid in full.

In 1966, (when the 11-meter Rescue Squad became Boulder Emergency Squad), Brian Phillips of the First National Bank of Boulder offered the Squad land at Walnut and Broadway to be used for a headquarters. Finally, the squad had a meeting place and garage – at least until 1969, when the bank took back the land in order to construct the present bank.

So, in 1966, Boulder Emergency Squad was incorporated, but was still being dispatched by phone. The squad once again went back to the bank and asked for a second loan, this time for a few radios. Each radio was worth nearly seven thousand dollars, so a loan was definitely in order. The squad signed the papers for a loan to purchase Korean War-vintage Motorola radios.



In 1967 the Squad purchased a Ford 750 'Cab-over' truck, found a box body, and made their first heavy-duty rescue vehicle. This vehicle remained in service until the late 1990's after having been donated to Nederland Fire department in the late 1970's.

The Public Service Company donated a 1964 GMC in 1968. It had been repainted baby blue for resale prior to PSC changing their minds and being convinced that BES needed it more than PSC needed the profits from the sale. Brian Dillman still believes this was the rescue truck with the most strength and guts off-road he has ever seen. It could go anywhere. This vehicle, known as Rescue-2, was sold for \$500 in 1986. Talk about getting your money's worth!

In 1976, another loan, this time from Arapahoe National Bank, purchased the Squad's first brand new vehicle, a 1976 Dodge 1-ton rescue vehicle. This truck carried the then newly acquired Hurst Tool (jaws of life), a setup that put BES on the map as a modern rescue squad. After 10 years of being called Rescue-1 this vehicle is now called Rescue-2 and is used only as a non-emergent reserve vehicle.

In 1979 BES purchased a 1972 Dodge pickup truck. Its primary use was to haul the cascade air system and miscellaneous equipment to dive rescue and fire scenes. This vehicle was sold in the early 90's.

It soon became evident that the squad needed a permanent place to call home. So, the members went out 3 nights a week every year for more than a year, trying to raise funds to construct a new building.

Meanwhile, the bank did not leave BES out in the cold. Brian Phillips, once again, helped negotiate with Flatirons Paving Co. to donate land at 24th and Spruce. The squad housed trucks at this location for a year and a half before it was time to move on again.

Once this arrangement concluded, Brian Phillips assisted the squad again, (for the third time in five years). He helped the squad negotiate a lease with the City of Boulder for land at 5048 E. Pearl St., near the city yards. The land cost the squad the unusual sum of one dollar per year, until the lease expired. The building on this site was an all-steel construction shell, with a poured concrete second floor on a fifty-foot square slab. Bill tells us that the members constructed the entire building, except for pouring the concrete. The building was originally owned outright by BES, but later became owned by the City of Boulder and leased back to BES for one dollar per year for the next 20 years.

When this facility was built, it was in a remote area occupied only by BES, the city yards, and grassy fields as far as the eye could see. Since then, the area has become a crowded industrial area.

The 20-year lease with the City of Boulder was up in March 1992. After that, BES rented the lot on a year-to-year basis until 2003.

## Modernizing BES, the First Time

During the mid to late 1980s there were several significant changes to the world of rescue. Heavy cumbersome 'jaws of life' gave way to new lightweight, multi-purpose tools. Vehicles started being built and outfitted by companies specializing in such apparatus. It would be another 16 years before BES would be in a financial position to take advantage of such high-end specialty apparatus.

In 1986, Andy Amalfitano (Chief 1985-1995) went back to Arapahoe National Bank once more to obtain a loan for a vehicle similar to the 1976 1-ton. Like presidents before him, Andy signed a note securing the loan. This time BES purchased a new model 1-ton Chevy. The chassis box was designed by squad members and built by O.J. Watson of Denver. Since O.J. Watson still had the original plans from the 1976 box; the two vehicles now would look much alike. As of this writing 23 years later, this same 1986 vehicle with call sign 3123, is still in service as a support vehicle.

In 1990, BES commissioned Rescue 10 (3120) to provide fire support services that were needed by the rural fire districts. This vehicle was custom designed and constructed complete with a 6-cylinder, high pressure (4500 psi) air cascade, an enclosed patient area with oxygen and first aid supplies, and a heated incident command area with fold-down table, radios, mobile telephone and map board. The enclosed area also made this ideal as a first response water rescue vehicle, providing a heated changing area for divers.

In 1996 the Squad made the decision to purchase a new Chevy Tahoe to be used as a "Quick Response Vehicle" or QRV. This vehicle is staffed by officers or members capable of arriving first on scene and carries enough equipment to begin affecting a rescue. In 2002, BES acquired another QRV, (3125) and a "Command" Vehicle (3126). The additional QRV, 3125 is generally driven by the Battalion Chief at the time, and 3124 is staffed by anyone qualified to respond as a QRV driver. The Command vehicle is usually staffed by the Chief.

Of note in 1997, the squad elected its first female Chief, Katherine (Kaki) Zeeb (Chief 1997-1998). Kaki was chief during the next and very important phase of squad history, raising a tax subsidy to someday acquire a new building.

The headquarters facility was old, without amenities, no central heat or air conditioning. BES continued operating out of the same building with a year-to-year lease extension. Despite much creative efforts, there was no luck trying to find a suitable alternative for a new headquarters. The fear was, that without a miraculous influx of funding, a new facility was not obtainable.

In 1998, member Don Walford convinced the County Commissioners to allow a sales tax initiative to be placed on the County ballot at voting time in order to raise funds for BES.

BES invited LEU to take part in this venture, and in November a sales tax increase of 0.05% was placed on the ballot with all proceeds to benefit BES and LEU. With the campaigning leadership of Kaki Zeeb and many canvassing hours by BES volunteers, the measure passed. BES and LEU would receive an estimated 4.7 million dollars to be used to secure property, buildings and capital equipment, BES's portion of that was \$2.7 million dollars distributed in 2002 and 2003.

An additional service was added in 2002, spearheaded by officer Lori Swenson. BES was approached by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and asked to provide technical rescue to animals in disasters on a national level. BES accepted the offer and is the technical rescue team for national disasters for the HSUS.

In May of 2003, BES moved into its new headquarters at 3532 Diagonal Highway. This building was an old machine shop and injection molding plant prior to being redesigned to meet the unique needs of the squad. Many members spent months providing input to the redesign and renovation of the building to make sure it would meet the needs of the squad for a long time to come.

The garage area has 6 bays with exhaust ventilation systems for each vehicle. This will allow members to safely run the vehicles indoors during inclement weather for maintenance purposes. The garage area also has built in cabinets and workbenches to assist with maintenance duties.

A cascade room holds the air compressor, and showers allow for dive gear cleaning indoors.

There are 3 operations offices occupied by the Chief, Assistant Chief and Operations Captain. There is also a library and staff office, in addition to an office occupied by Front Range Rescue Dogs.

The facility has 2 meeting rooms available to the general public for rental. The smaller meeting room is the conference room and will seat 28-32 people comfortably. The larger room is the training room and will host up to 44 people. Both rooms are equipped with TV's, VCR's, white boards and flip charts.

On the opposite side of the building from the offices are the living quarters and dispatch area. There is a dispatch office with two base station radios, a computer, telephones, maps, etc. The living area consists of 3 sleeping rooms, one with a double bed, a day room with TV, VCR and DVD, and a kitchen/dining room area. There are handicap accessible bathrooms and laundry facilities.

Outside is a deck for members to relax on while staffing and an enclosed extrication pad.

As a result of the aforementioned tax monies, BES took possession of 3 new rescue vehicles in 2003. The first is 3122, a Ford F550 with a custom box. This is now the primary response vehicle and carries the main extrication equipment.

A new dive van was custom made from a Grumman chassis and now in service as 3128. BES also received a heavy rescue vehicle, (3121) for vehicle extrication, trench rescue and confined space rescue. This is a large fire engine type vehicle custom made from an HME chassis.

As in previous decades, BES has been the recipient of used vehicle donations. We, in turn, often donate our older vehicles to less fortunate fire and rescue teams in rural Colorado.

## **Changing 'Landscape'**

Squad membership has changed with the ebb and tide of the times. In 1963 there was a total membership of six, while in the mid-1970's membership peaked with more than forty rescuers. In the 1980's membership was down again. beginning in the early 1990's, membership rose to 25. In 2001, BES lowered the minimum age for membership from 21 to 18 which brought in a larger number of interested candidates, many from the University of Colorado. Today, BES has about 35-40 active members.

Response areas have changed too. In the early 1960's BES covered the entire county including the cities, except for Longmont Emergency Unit's district. BES members were deputized by the City of Boulder police department and the county sheriff in order to assist with the riots on University Hill. Between 1968 and 1972, riot suppression, raids, and stakeouts were a significant part of the squad's activities.

As late as the early 1970's BES still performed rescues within the City of Boulder. With the modernization of the Boulder Fire Department, BES took on a back-up role as one of many mutual aid agencies called in to assist BFD whenever needed.

Overtime fire department became fire districts and broadened their service offerings. In the late 70's, the cities of Louisville and Lafayette began to modernize and perform much of their own rescue services. In fact, Bill Hughes taught the first official rescue classes to the Louisville Fire Department. By the early 1980's, fire districts like High Country and Coal Creek reduced their dependence on BES by expanding their training and equipment. Today, BES continues to play a role as a mutual aid agency to many of these areas and currently has mutual aid agreements with several fire protection districts throughout the County.

Education and practice have always been a critical element of BES. BES members provided the extrication session for the local EMT class, co-conducted one of the first 6-week 'Carbuster' extrication seminars (with then Cherryvale Fire Department),

provided swift-water awareness training to fire and law enforcement agencies, and later began JointFire Academy, a county-wide training coordination service. BES continues to adhere to National Fire Protection Association-NFPA standards and the National Incident Management Systems-NIMS structure.

## **Moving Forward**

### **Our Members**

Our most valuable and dear asset: OUR MEMBERS!

BES members come from all walks of life, students, skilled workers, professional careers, people with families, singles, early in their life or much later in life, all together as one TEAM.

We are fortunate that our members donate so much time and dedication to what would otherwise be seen as a full-time job. Today, that is required. Our members collectively donate over 8,000 documented hours and at least twice that in behind the scenes work. All necessary to make the BES organization tick.

### **Leadership Team**

Upon taking on the reins once again to lead BES, Chief Amalfitano recognized the large gap in skills for volunteer members most of whom had no experience managing people business or finance. Individuals join for member reasons including serving their community, being challenged, the reward of saving lives and overcoming technical rescue challenges. They don't do paper work, admin, or manage a business, yet all of this is a necessary part of making BES successful.

### **Field Officers**

Field officers lead the delivery of emergency search and rescue services to Boulder County for BES and are a critical ingredient to our mission success!

The field officers provide input and requirements to the planning team in order to ensure operational readiness. The officers provide coaching, guidance, and leadership for rescue operations during training, exercises, and on-scene at incidents. Officers manage the on-duty rotation with Quick Response Vehicles, perform reporting and documentation tasks, and ensure people, vehicles, and equipment are ready for the next call for service.

## **Board of Directors**

The BES Board of Directors is composed of four BES members and three directors from the Public-at-Large who all serve in a volunteer capacity. This structure provides a balanced perspective with valuable external business influence in business, emergency services, and finance areas. All board members are elected by the BES members for one- or two-year terms, except for the President-Chief who, by election to that position, automatically holds a seat on the board.

BES is fortunate to have had so many dozens of influential, skilled business and agency leaders who have dedicated time and talent to help guide the business side of the BES mission.

## **Functional Approach**

BES practices servant leadership with those in positions of authority or rank supporting and enabling those members delivering our emergency services.

We believe in building bench strength by cross training members to supervise over two dozen separate functional areas of the organization. The functional supervisors are responsible for budget, topical training, equipment, and SOGs.

## **Facilities Refresh**

The BES HQ building originally purchased and renovated in 2002 has been refreshed. An exterior facelift to our HQ building along with some interior improvements helped modernize and refresh the image of our home, BES headquarters. Eliminating a formal 'chief's office' allowed for more usable meeting and training space with a new executive conference room. Exterior wall repairs, removal of old stucco and fresh paint and color theme brought a bright professional image to the facility.

## **Staying Relevant**

During the period of 2011 to 2021, BES focused on adding relevance to its service offerings. Three reasons that were the catalyst for this focus: one, the fire departments became career fire districts and slowly began expanding their regular fire-rescue services, displacing some of the need for BES volunteer services; two, the members always wanting to engage in more and more interesting and impactful services, more challenging incidents; and three, the opportunity to fill gaps in the countywide emergency services.

To that end BES became the first authorized and approved unmanned aerial systems sUAS (aka drone) search team in Boulder County. Replete with over a dozen certified UAS pilots and a set of flight team members, 5 airframes, and a robust training and

safety protocol program, the service has jettisoned BES into the future of modern search and rescue capabilities.

“Plenty of steel...” is an often-heard comment from wildland fire coordinators. What they really wanted was not more trucks, but instead they wanted people who can deliver initial attack hand-crews to jump quickly on fire containment in the opening moments of a spreading wildland fire. BES responded to this need by expanding our existing hand crew efforts into a full program with squad boss, sawyers, and over two dozen red-card wildland firefighters. That’s in addition to Staging manager capabilities.

SARCOM, a symbol, a brand, a service, BES filled the niche of off-road mobile command and communications with a walk-in command post vehicle which continues to be deployed across a wide variety of incidents large and small.

After observing large scale disasters and major incidents around the country as well as large fires and floods within the county, the Boulder Sheriff Joe Pelle and his emergency services team embarked on an effort to be more prepared for future incidents. Again, tapping BES, our team in 2018 became the designated wide area search management team for Boulder County. FEMA training, equipment, and field drills continue to keep BES prepared to deploy during future major incidents.

## **Financials**

Beginning in 2014, BES engaged with a part-time grant writer who to date ( 2022) has helped secure nearly \$500,000 in grants for much needed critical use rescue equipment.

Every five years BES conducts a full third-party independent financial audit. The results have been outstanding and in 2021 BES passed the audit with no non-compliances. This review offers transparency and reliability of our books and record keeping to grantors and primary partner agencies.

## **Managing Volunteer Participation and Skills**

Managing volunteers can be a challenge. As emergency services, fire-rescue fields evolve, the role of the volunteer across the country has diminished, especially with denser populations bringing about the rise of more careers paid agencies. Nevertheless, groups like BES continue to play a vital role in delivering search-fire-rescuer services particularly in unincorporated areas of the midwest and western states.

BES instituted a participation policy in 2012. The purpose of the policy is four-fold:

- Reduce the cost of equipment being held by non-participating/non-active members
- Reduce the liability insurance coverage

- Ensure we have a quorum to conduct business
- Ensure we are aware of the average number of rescuers responding to incidents to be operationally ready.

The results of the past 8 years are that the field officers can count on the reliability of the volume of members responding to a rescue, operational costs have been reduced and the non-active members have significantly decreased allowing for more streamlined organizational management. The policy has become a general operating principle and the squad leadership supports the policy continuation.

Training is a paramount part of the BES member experience. We estimate that BES trains more times on a wider variety of skill areas than any other agency in the greater metropolitan area of Colorado. Using the new techniques informed by the science of learning, BES conducts dozens of blended learning, field exercises, and cross training to maintain and learn new skills.

## **Chronological Look at Search, Rescue, and Organizational Highlights**

### ***1964 - 1984***

BES was started in the early 1960's by Bill Hughes, our founder.

First as the 11-meter Rescue Squad and later in 1966 as the Boulder Emergency squad.

>>> call highlights coming soon .<<<....

### ***1985 - 1995***

#### ***1985 - 1987***

##### **New Water Rescue Team**

BES recreates its water rescue team of newly trained and Diver Rescue Certified swift-water rescuers. The five team expands to include members from other agencies.

##### **Mall Crawl is Born**

Peaceful Halloween kids' parties on the Pearl Street Mall grow larger, drunken, and rowdy causing disturbances to traffic, evening dinner, and the kids' fun. Over the course of the next several years, BES grew from helping the city police with traffic direction, to full traffic control during riot-like conditions.



## **Cross-rescue training**

BES reaches out to other agencies and forms quarterly county rescue drills. Agencies included Front Range Rescue Dog team, Longmont Emergency Unit, and Rocky Mountain Rescue group. Together with BES, various group drills were conducted usually involving the need for simultaneous and multiple technical rescue skills.

## ***1988 - 1989***

### **BES - A growing Team**

During the later part of the 1980s there was a big push to bring in new and talented members. Within a few years, BES boasted a member roster of nearly 28 very active members. Long time member Brian Dillman says this was reminiscent of the early days of the squad when multiple teams were fielded on shifts to provide rescue services in the county.

### **New Extrication Practices- "Carbusters"**

What the infamous extrication and rescue expert O. B. Streeper brought to the area of rescue in the 70's and 80's, members of the Orlando Fire Department brought with the new "Carbusters" extrication program. Nationally, BES was one of the early adopters of the 6-week programmed video and practical course. In concert with Cherryvale FD, BES conducted the first County class and later went on to provide modernized extrication training for many fire departments and agencies during the next 10 years.

### **BES Rescues injured spelunker from Poorman Mine**

Spring 1988- BES was called to Poorman mine for a climber trapped 80ft down a mine shaft. BES and the Gilpin County Mine Rescue Team performed the rescue by crafting an uphill tensioning rope system deep inside the mine. Rescuer Rob Altschuler was hoisted down into a narrow opening in the vertical shaft to a ledge. From there, Altschuler repelled another 50ft to the water where he found the victim suffering from injuries and hypothermia. BES evacuated the victim and delivered to the waiting ambulance. Our first successful mine rescue ever!

### **Fatal Condo Fire**

1989 – 24 members of BES responded to provide emergency mutual aid assistance to the Boulder Fire Department at a fatal winter-time structure fire. BES volunteers with one of its best turnouts ever, handled several tasks over a 16-hour period, including air cascade and shuttle of air bottles to high pressure compressors, re-warming and rehab, scene lighting, portable lighting, evacuations of deceased fire victims, refreshments, scene safety, hose rolling, and perimeter control.

### **Black Tiger Fire**

Summer 1989- BES spent nine days and hundreds of personnel and truck hours in support of the Black Tiger Fire during the heat of August 1989. The fire destroyed over 60 homes and buildings before being contained and controlled. BES volunteers left work, family and personal activities working shifts on and off for over a week providing traffic direction,

evacuation of people from burning areas, road closures, command post support, lighting, and perimeter security. Many BES members received verbal recognition from their employers and the county for spending the time to fight the fire and end the forest fire siege.

## ***1990 - 1991***

### **Search for New Headquarters Begins**

1990 BES began searching for a new home, because the City of Boulder needed land for the expansion of city facilities/yards. Andy Amalfitano, Steve Lanaghen, Mark Grayson, and Brian Dillman spent lots of time with realtors, county and city officials to no avail. In 1992, the 20-year lease of BES HQ on city land expired. BES has been allowed to stay and use the facility indefinitely until a new proper location could be found to house BES operations.

### **BES preserves property and lives during Heavy Spring Snowstorm**

Spring 1990- From 1800 6MAR90 until 0430 7MAR90, 8 BES vehicles and 15 members assisted the Colorado State Patrol in closing over a dozen intersections due to a heavy spring snowstorm. The focus of the traffic work was on Hwy 287, Rt. 36 and other locations throughout Louisville, Superior, and Lafayette. In addition to traffic and road closures, BES assisted at several car accidents and a missing person search in the snow.

### **Over 180 person hours spent by BES at Old Stage Forest Fire**

Fall 1990- BES provided over 180 person hours and 123 truck hours during the November 1990 Old Stage Forest Fire where several homes were lost. BES responded 14 members and 10 vehicles over a four-day period providing evacuations, road closures, command post support, and transportation help during all phases of the fire event.

### **Traffic Direction at War Protests**

Jan. 1991- Desert Storm War protests stopped/snarled traffic in the city of Boulder. BES was called upon by Chief Propst (PD) to help block roads and make it safe for protesters. BES received a letter of commendation from Boulder Police Chief Propst for outstanding and professional assistance.

### **Gasoline Tanker Crashes, Kills Driver, BES Shines in the Water**

May 1991- BES swift water rescue team was put to the challenge of evacuating a deceased driver of an 18-wheel gas tanker which crashed into Boulder Creek spilling fuel into the water and setting it on fire. BES rescuers had to negotiate treacherous swift water, burning fuel, and large metal truck debris in reaching and evacuating the driver. Also, BES members trained in swift water movements, figured out a way to attach the large tow truck rigging gear to the completely smashed truck tractor and tank in order to pull it safely out the water. Quite a feat!

### **Early morning Train Crash in Mountains west of Boulder**

Sept. 1991- Train crash and derailment in Pinewood Springs area of foothills southwest of Boulder. Early morning crash killed two, started forest fire, HAZMAT spill into So. Boulder Creek. Multiple agencies and BES performed extrication of victims. Long, tedious, harrowing event, all day, with Critical Incident Stress Debriefing used to defuse stress. A National Fire Academy documentary film was created with interviews of BES Chief Andy Amalfitano, Asst. Chief Steve Lanaghan and BCSO Emergency Coordinator Larry Stern describing the grueling and lengthy tasks necessary to keep rescuers safe and get the extrication and evacuation job done.

### **Boulder “Halloween Mall Crawl” endangers BES volunteers**

For over 10 years, BES volunteers provided traffic direction in and around the ever more volatile "Mall Crawl" on the Pearl St. Mall in Boulder, CO. In the early days, BES would assist Boulder Police at each intersection. As each year became rowdier, officers found themselves directing traffic less and leaving that role to BES. BES gained the trust of the law enforcement officials and BES volunteers expertly worked major intersections with no law enforcement present. There are many interesting, fun, and dangerous stories that can be told by members from that era. Fortunately, no one ever got hurt.

## ***1992 - 1993***

### **Gas Well Fire in Erie**

November 1992 – BES responded to the explosion of a gas well where one oil rigger died. BES members stayed for almost 24 hours providing air cascade support and medical rehab to fire fighters, lighting overnight, and crime scene perimeter for the Sheriff’s Department.

### **Sobriety Checkpoints call for BES Lighting**

Sobriety checkpoints became popular again and BES assisted at several of these during the year. Our role was to provide lighting and traffic direction as needed.

### **BES saves two injured climbers in Mine Rescue**

1993- BES was called to the mountains west of Boulder to rescue two injured climbers trapped down a mine shaft. BES made the news that evening by successfully performing an uphill ice scree evac from the mine shaft to waiting paramedics. This was the second live and successful mine rescue BES had performed in the most recent five years.

### **BES Firefighting Support save lives, property**

1993- Between 1989 and 1993 seven major structure fires occurred within the limits of the City of Boulder. In all cases, BES members spent hundreds of volunteer hours offering all types of services including air cascade, rehab, hose rolling, first aid, lighting, crime scene security, traffic and roadblocks, and personnel coordination and logistics. Each event was different, and all required the services of multiple agencies.

In May 1993, the elderly housing building on Portland Place went ablaze as a result of paint fumes igniting. BES sent 12 rescuers and 5 trucks for 8 hours while firefighters evacuated senior citizens and brought the fire under control.

### **Multiple Victims Rescued by BES and Boulder Rural FD**

1993 – BES responded with Boulder Rural FD to a rollover injury accident involving a moving step van and trailer with 5 victims trapped and missing in the rubble of personal belongings and furniture. The accident location was found 2.5 miles up Sunshine Canyon and was difficult and dangerous for the rescuers due to the steepness of the slope. All victims were found and successfully extricated and evacuated up the hill to waiting ambulances. This call proved to be one of the more technically challenging extrications BES has ever accomplished.

### **Plan to Consolidate with Sheriff Department Declined**

April 1993, BES entered formal discussions with Sheriff George Epp to consider consolidating BES operations into a branch of the Sheriff Dept. The plan was given preliminary acceptance by the BES board of directors on the merit of keeping BES intact for fundraising purposes and as the owner of the assets, while the members would become volunteers with Boulder County Rescue. Eventually, the ideas were scrapped for the primary reason that BES could not be guaranteed a permanent home from this deal, and also, BES members did not want to lose the “fabric and magic” of the BES family and team.

## ***1994 - 1995***

### **BES wins Pikes Peak Regional Extrication Competition**

1994- BES trained and sent 6 senior rescuers to compete with other rescue and fire teams from the midwest USA. BES performed well garnering enough points to win First Place in the extrication competition. The winning team was Dan Goldan, Jim Rochester, Tony Bocci, Brian Schwallier, and Phil Lidov.

### **Emperor of Japan visits Boulder**

June 1994 – BES participated with the City of Boulder Police SWAT team and federal Secret Service officials for protecting the Emperor of Japan during his 10-day visit to the area. BES provided traffic direction and road closures to facilitate the safe egress of the motorcade.

### **Floods from heavy rains**

Summer 1994 – BES ran on several calls for assistance and rescue during the spring runoffs and heavy rains during 1994-1995. Service included swift water rescue and evacs from car accidents in swollen creeks, traffic direction and roadblocks at flooded areas, and searches for missing kayakers.

### **BES awarded Recognition by Boulder County Sheriff**

November 1994- At the annual Boulder County Sheriff banquet, BES was honored with a special plaque and recognition for the work the team had done during the past years and for significant rescue actions which brought about resolution of major events in the county.

### **BES on “Rescue 9-1-1” TV show for Lyons Water Rescue**

1995- BES assisted LEU with getting the raft out to the partially submerged vehicle and extricating the victims out of the car and into the raft to be delivered safely to shore. BES participated in a re-enactment of a swift water rescue of two ladies trapped in their car in St. Vrain Creek west of Lyons, CO. Later, the TV show instead used actual footage of the event to tell the story and very little of the 12-hour re-enactment was ever seen.

### **Tragic Accidents Claim lives of Teenagers**

1995 – BES is often called upon to provide their extrication expertise in difficult situations like when multiple victims are trapped in vehicles which have crashed. During the 1995 school year, BES and Cherryvale FD, and BES and Boulder Rural FD responded to two separate and tragic accidents involving the death and injury of teenagers. The critical personal stress placed on our volunteers during these calls was overwhelming. The extrications were tedious and difficult and yet were handled extremely well and professionally accomplished.

### **Two Swift Water Rescues are Successful!**

Summer 1995 – BES played a significant role in saving four lives in three months. The first event occurred in the St. Vrain Creek west of Lyons, CO where BES members assisted LEU in reaching and safely evacuating two elderly ladies from being trapped in their car in swollen creek waters. BES rescuer Phil Lidov and LEU dive master Mike Wasson go out in the raft to perform the rescue.

The second event occurred in the middle of the night in Boulder Creek when a white pickup truck careened off Rt. 119 into the raging waters of Boulder Creek. BES led the multi-agency rescue and successfully saved a young couple from entrapment in the vehicle. Both of these events later caught the attention of international media and were portrayed on four different rescue-type TV shows worldwide, including Australia, Great Britain, Germany, and the United States.

### **BES on “Real TV” and British “Rescue 999” shows for Boulder Creek Rescue**

1995-BES coordinated and performed a spectacular nighttime swift water rescue of a young couple trapped in their pickup truck in the swollen waters of Boulder Creek. Along with Boulder FD and LEU, BES first secured the vehicle with ropes and sent out protective gear to the patients who were hypothermic and had minor injuries. Next, a four-point raft tension system was used to send rescuers Steve Lanaghen (BES) and Lori Smith (Boulder FD) to bring out the victims to safety on shore. The actual video footage from the event along with interviews of Andy Amalfitano and Steve Lanaghen were used to create the show for “Real TV”.

A few years later, the BBC came to America to recreate the same scene for the popular British show "Rescue 999". BES members and Boulder City dive team participated in the recreation.

### **Andy Amalfitano ends decade as Chief, Steve Lanaghan elected to BES helm**

September 1995 - BES member Andy Amalfitano decided to take a break from leading the Squad and stepped down as Chief in Sept. 1995. Veteran member Steve Lanaghan was elected to continue the volunteer rescue efforts and lead BES.

### **Andy Amalfitano ends decade as Chief**

November 1995- At the annual Boulder County Sheriff banquet, past chief Andy Amalfitano is recognized with a special plaque for the work he led with BES during the past several years, for modernizing rescue services, and for "...significant actions which brought about resolution of major events in the county".

### **Chief Amalfitano awarded Recognition by Sheriff George Epp**

December 1995- At the annual Boulder Rural Fire Department banquet, past chief Andy Amalfitano was honored with a special plaque in recognition of 15 years of service and support to BRFPD.

## ***1996 – 2005***

### ***1996 - 1997***

#### **BES responds to several plane crashes, including one a lake**

June 1996 – BES responded mutual aid to the lake just west of the Boulder Airport for a plane in the lake. 10 BES dive members assisted the Boulder FD Dive team in the search and recovery of two deceased victims of a plane crash which was found submerged in a lake. The plane had collided mid-air with a glider before landing in the lake.

#### **Gruesome, somber tasks at plane crash the job of BES**

August 1996 – 12 BES rescuers had the gruesome task of extricating and recovering two dead people from a small plane that crashed into the mountains west of Boulder near Four Mile Canyon. The charred, fuel-ridden scene was investigated by the NTSB and then BES volunteer rescuers used hand tools to prior burnt wire and metal from around the remains of two people. A stress debriefing was held immediately following the incident as these types of calls take their toll on the mental and emotional attitude of rescuers.

#### **Re-institute Officer of the Year Award**

Chief Steve Lanaghan re-instituted the tradition of awarding recognition to an Officer of the Year in 1996 with Kaki Zeeb being the first recipient.

#### **Vice President Al Gore visits Boulder**

June 1997 – BES participated with the City of Boulder Police SWAT team and federal Secret Service officials for protecting the Vice President of the United States Al Gore during his brief visit to the Chautauqua Park area of Boulder. BES provided traffic direction and road closures to facilitate the safe egress of the motorcade. Members say the most interesting aspect of this assignment was the discussions that we had with Secret Service specialists who described the safety feature of the bullet-proof cars used in the procession and how to best test at the metal and extricate trapped victims.

### **Dangerous stretch of road means many rescues for BES**

August 1997 – The four mile stretch of Highway 93 between Marshall road and Rt. 128 is one of the most dangerous in the entire state of Colorado. BES' rescue and extrication services are needed regularly providing primary extrication for the Eldorado Springs FD district. In August of 1997, 12 BES rescuers provided stabilization, extrication, traffic, and crime scene support for a serious fatal accident where the car caught on fire on impact. BES continues to work closely with Eldorado Springs FD to respond quickly to accidents on this dangerous stretch of highway.

### **BES-owned QRV, Rescue 4**

In 1997, BES Chief Steve Lanaghen, with matching state grant funds, purchased and equipped a full-size Chevy Tahoe as our quick response vehicle called Rescue-4. 7 x 24 x 365 QRV duty shifts were instituted, and members began taking the vehicle to work and home to carry on the tradition of BES responding more quickly with trained senior personnel directly to rescue scenes.

### **Old Ambulance becomes our New Dive Van**

In 1997, Castlewood FD Firefighter and BES member Dan Goldan secured the donation of a 1980s used ambulance from Castlewood FD to BES. We converted the ambulance into our primary Dive Rescue 4 and retired the 25-year-old Dive trailer.

### **Kathryn Zeeb becomes BES' First Female Chief/President**

1997- Kathryn (Kaki) Zeeb was elected the squad's first female President/Chief. During her tenure, we saw BES get the 1A sales tax ballot passed and increased use of Rescue-4 with around the clock duty shift coverage.

## ***1998 - 1999***

### **Raise Funds with Sales Tax Ballot Initiative**

Ballot initiative instigated and implemented by member Don Walford and led by Chief Kaki Zeeb and Asst. Chief Brian Dillman. Don and team were able to convince the county commissioners of the merit of the initiative to raise \$4M+ for BES and LEU through a 2-year sales tax of 1/20<sup>th</sup> of a cent. Zeeb, Dillman, Swenson and a large number of BES members campaigned, handed out brochures, gave PR talks, and put-up signs which led to success. Ballot 1A passed in Nov. 1998 in Boulder County by 55%-45%.

### **Rowdy Crowds on Hill need traffic direction by BES**

January 1998 – Reminiscent of the Halloween mall crawl, BES members are often called upon by the City of Boulder Police Department to assist during riots, and unruly crowds. BES' primary role is to block roads, direction traffic, and on some occasions, provide interior medical support for injured people. On Jan. 26, 1998, following the Denver Broncos Super Bowl win, CU students had a riot on the hill and 11 BES members spent 4 hour each providing traffic direction at several locations.

### **BES helps firefighters fight blaze on Christmas Eve**

1998 – BES responded eight rescuers to a fully involved structure fire at Valmont and Foothills Pkwy. and had to fight snow and cold weather while directing traffic, providing air cascade support, and rehab.

### **Jim Corbin, Dan Goldan put BES online**

In 1999, [www.BES-rescue.org](http://www.BES-rescue.org) became the BES connection to the internet. Potential members start to learn about BES and seek to join through the internet connection. By 2001, duty shift schedules were online and accessible for all members convenience.

### **Brian Dillman becomes Chief for 4<sup>th</sup> time in 35 years!**

The longest active member in BES history, Brian Dillman was elected Chief/President for his 5<sup>th</sup> term. Brian, the first member to receive the William R. Hughes Founders award, once again agreed to dedicate himself to leading BES by guiding us into the new millennium.

### **BES performs several extrications during windstorms**

April 1999 – The second week of April brought severe wind over 120mph to Boulder County causing several accidents. BES rescuers responded and successfully performed difficult extrications at three separate truck accidents in a 24-hour period. The most difficult part of each rescue scene was being able to stand vertically and securing rigging to the heavy vehicles.

## ***2000 - 2001***

### **HQ Renovation Brings on duty crews**

Spring 2000- In anticipation of a lengthy search for a new HQ for BES using 1A funds, BES BOD approved the expenditure of \$5,000 to renovate the upstairs of the BES garage. Led by Rich Billings and a small crew of dedicated volunteers, the remaining 2/3 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of BES HQ was made into a formal crew base complete with crew quarters, day room/lounge, kitchen, bath and shower facility and expanded meeting and office rooms. The area continues to be used for on-duty crews from Friday evening at 1900 until Sunday at 1900 as first response to calls within our jurisdiction, and particularly for automatic mutual aid response with Boulder Rural FPD.

### **BES Selected for Automatic Mutual Aid with Boulder Rural FPD**



Beginning July 1, 2000, BES began receiving automatic tone alerts through the BRCC CAD dispatch to respond with Boulder Rural to a variety of rescue calls. The original BES command page alert frequency was modified to become the Group One Tone for response with Boulder Rural. The general page became Group Two for a full response. The BES name and tones 'vote up' on the CAD system to respond immediately as first response to any Boulder Rural structure fire and all motor vehicle accidents. In addition, Rescue-4 (3124) also responds directly to the scene. Response times decreased and improved rescue service was provided to the citizens.

### **Boulder County signs contract for new HQ on behalf of BES**

Chief Brian Dillman, after 1.5 years of effort, negotiations, and politicking, successfully convinced the County of Boulder to enter into a contract to purchase private land and building on Rt. 119 the diagonal for BES future HQ. The road to occupancy is a long one, requiring EPA studies, architectural design approval, special use permit zoning, and actual renovation of the machine shop into a usable crew quarters, garage, and meeting facility. The funding comes from the recently ended Sales Tax initiative approved by voters in 1998 and collected during the subsequent two-year period.

### **Dive team excels in evidence search**

Dec. 2000- Lafayette PD knew of BES' reputation for professionalism and technical competency and therefore called on us to help search for critical evidence for an ongoing investigation. BES divers under adverse weather conditions dove under the ice and retrieved two of the three weapons used in the crime. A great accomplishment considering the dangerous and cold conditions the day of the search.

### **BES Sets Record for number of Rescue Calls in 2000**

2000- By running automatic tones with Boulder Rural FD and responding to a large increase in traffic related events along with several other rescues, BES recorded over 200 calls during the calendar year 2000. This was the greatest number of calls ever run by the team in its 36-year history. The caveat is that many of these calls were canceled due to the nature of incidents and this factor led to slightly reduced morale.

## ***2001 - 2005***

**>>> call highlights coming soon .<<<**

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## ***2006 - 2011***

## **Fourmile Wildland Fire - 2010**

BES provided staging management, Type-3 Incident Management Team support, citizen evacuations, and perimeter control throughout the first four days of this devastating fire.

>>> call highlights coming soon .<<<....

## ***2012 - 2015***

### ***2012***

BES responded to 107 calls for service. Squad members donated approximately 9000 hours, and membership increased by 4%.

BES engaged to accomplish four key initiatives for 2012:

- A. **“Voice of the Customer” program.** This program was initiated by the chief as a county-wide interview process to solicit feedback and input from law enforcement, fire departments and other rescue groups. Face to face and phone meetings were conducted during the first 10 months. (See Appendix E for details.)
- B. **Water Rescue Group.** 2012 brought much growth and depth to the Water Rescue Group. By building a robust water training schedule including bringing in external experts to add to our internal instructor pool, we have increased the number of qualified and certified public safety divers, equipment technicians, and swift water rescuers. (see appendix x for details and further accomplishments). As part of a Sheriff’s office strategy to adequately deliver emergency water rescue service, BES was asked to begin providing all dive rescue leadership and take on increased responsibility across the entire county.
- C. **Traffic Direction Service change.** In an effort to reduce the taxing burden of responding to non-emergency traffic direction calls, we renegotiated our contract for that service with the Sheriff’s Office. Effective in 2013, BES will be compensated by Boulder County for all traffic control services provided beginning at the four-hour mark in a call. This compensation will be in addition to the current county contract subsidy.
- D. **Wildland Firefighting Service enhancement.** BES invested in the Wildland team this year by purchasing new PPE and packs for the team to expand our ability to field up to 10 members. We sent six members to S130/190 initial wildland training in 2012.

BES volunteers donated approximately 9,000 hours to rescuer response, meetings, corporate tasks, training, maintenance, and other activities critical to the successful

operation of the organization.

We began the task of updating our standard operating guidelines-SOGs and procedures, refreshing our policies, and including the members in that process.

We moved to a performance-based reward and recognition system for our volunteers, while acknowledging the entire group for contributing as much as they can reasonably for BES and the County.

Thursday, June 21, 2012

BES was called for a major traffic incident at 95th and Arapahoe; It lasted 6 hours total with 5 members. BES worked with Lafayette PD, CSP, and CDOT to manage an extended traffic control assignment.

February 22, 2012

An unheard of 4 call outs on the same day - An MVA extrication, a traffic control incident, and a wildland fire.

14:21 High winds took down power poles and power lines blocked multiple roads throughout the county. BES was called to assist with roadblocks and traffic control.

15:04 While enroute, BES was toned at the request of Boulder Rural FD for a pinned injury accident rollover on Hwy 119 south of Jay Rd.

A wildland fire.....?

## ***2013 – 50<sup>th</sup> Year!***

BES celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year serving the people of Boulder County as volunteer technical rescue professionals. To honor our 50th Anniversary we marked it with a celebration at the annual awards dinner, creation of 50th anniversary logo, new personal BES/50th marked clothing and vehicles emblems. To honor our founder, Bill Hughes, we invited and had as our guest Bill's daughter, invited guests including Sheriff Joe Pelle and others. A plaque was presented to Bill's daughter in honor of his memory and vision of BES as a volunteer rescue team in Boulder County.

The total number of calls 170 (a 55% increase over 2012) pales in comparison to the fact that BES rescued 22 people from floodwaters. That feat, accomplished over about a 48-hour period, is unprecedented in BES' 50-year history. It is probably BES' most important accomplishment of the past 50 years.

BES accomplished these initiatives in 2013:

1. **Apparatus:** Specified and acquired a new All-Hazards Utility Vehicle-3151 with a primary purpose of personnel transport, in addition to special service as a wildland crew and equipment carrier and as a smaller four-wheel drive vehicle to access remote locations.

2. **Water Rescue:** Obtained specialty training, conducted combined rescue agency training and response, updated county standards, and advanced the level of one-team response readiness.
3. **Candidate Academy:** Created and conducted two sessions advancing 12 individuals through the training process.
4. **FundRaising/Grant program:** Realized a net donation income of approximately \$6,500 by focusing on grants from foundations instead of only private donations.

**Other accomplishments:**

- **Training:** The Squad provides over 80 annual training opportunities, at an estimated value of over \$4,000, which are free to all members and visiting citizens.
- **Open meetings:** Attendance at open meetings grew this year; and the participation of regular members in leadership, officer, and planning meetings has positively contributed to the increased member team spirit.
- **Fitness discount:** We continue to offer a group discount for a fitness center membership.
- **Candidate Academy:** Two successful Candidate academies were conducted, one in February and one in December
- **Hybrid Vehicle Extrication:** During the year we continued our initiative to modernize extrication by reviewing the Tesla hybrid and electric car videos, conducting multiple extrication scenarios, and bringing in outside experts to instruct some hands-on exercises.
- **Teacher Training:** We provided an enhanced train-the-trainer session to assist members who are interested in honing their teaching skills.

>>> call highlights coming soon .<<<

*2014*

BES responded to 118 calls, which is an 11% decrease from the 132 received in 2013 (excluding the flood response) and a 10% increase over the 107 calls received in 2012, which is more reflective of historical averages. Part of the year over year decrease from 2013 to 2014 can be explained by BES working with fire districts to be removed from the initial tone on structure fires and only be toned during a second alarm. This change resulted in 13 fewer (42% less) structure fire tones in 2014 from 2013.

**Water Rescue:** BES obtained specialty training, conducted combined rescue agency training and response, and advanced the level of one-team response readiness. Gear upgrades included 2 full dive rigs including 2 each of buoyancy compensator devices (BCD vests), backup air source, regulator and hoses, computer console and full-face mask, 4 Whites-brand diving dry suits, bags, under gear, fins and knives (Med.4, Lg7, XLg1, XLg3), 200' underwater communication rope. This 6<sup>th</sup> rope in our inventory now allows us to run two separate dive ops simultaneously.

**Emergency Driver Training:** Driving rescue apparatus and quick response vehicles in an emergency means that lights and siren are used to request clearing of traffic. This activity is often a potentially dangerous situation. In 2014, BES embarked on a heightened level of training and regiment around how to qualify and who is authorized to drive our vehicles in an emergency response mode.

**Candidate Academy:** Created and conducted one session, advancing 3 individuals through the training process. This program was revamped two years ago, and the candidate students indicated that the learning process is very useful for onboarding at BES.

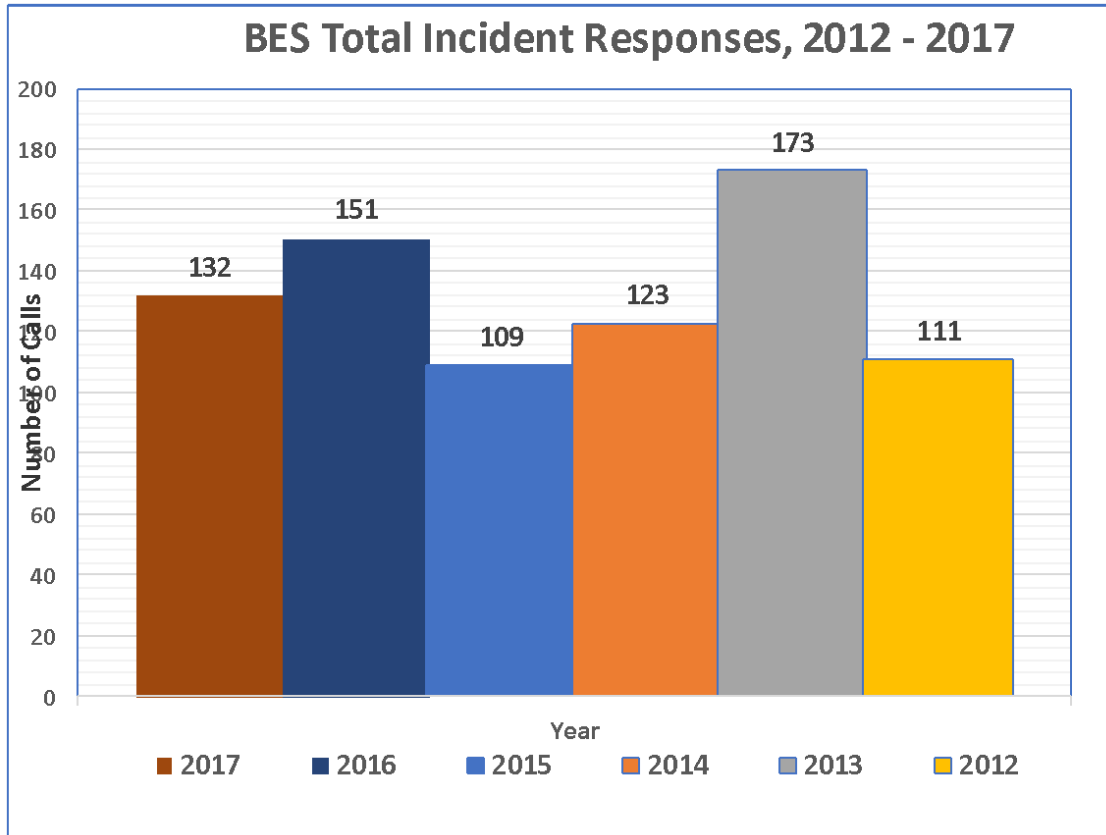
**FundRaising/Grant program:** Realized a net donation income of approximately \$53,000 by focusing on grants from foundations instead of only private donations. This program is in its second full year and has proved fruitful. Our method is the contracting of a grant expert who has demonstrated strong capabilities to connect BES with opportunities and secure wins.

**Officer Candidate Program:** In 2014, we instituted a renewed effort to bolster the field officer team by providing a formal officer training program. Two officer candidates completed the program in 2014 and were promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. In 2015, we expect to repeat this program.

>>> call highlights coming soon .<<<

**2015**

In 2013, the total number of calls 170 (a 55% increase over 2012) pales in comparison to the fact that BES rescued 22 people from floodwaters. That feat, accomplished over about a 48-hour period, is unprecedented in BES' 50-year history. It is probably BES' most important accomplishment of the past 50 years.



## ***2016-2021***

### ***2016***

- BES volunteers donated over 9,000 hours; the average number of members responding to a rescue incident average about eight-(8) which is sufficient for the vast number of call outs; BES volunteers responded to 109 calls representing a slight decrease from 2014. Members conducted 95 training exercises including 10 in conjunction with other emergency response agencies.
- The organization realized a 17% increase in financial grants (\$62,200, largest single year in Squad's history), and maintained a \$100,000 budgeted contingency and

emergency fund.

- Three key initiatives were accomplished in 2015 that focused on water rescue, fundraising, and our UAS program.

>>> call highlights coming soon .<<<

## *2017*

- We successfully specified, designed, built, and delivered the newest apparatus to our fleet of vehicles: SARCOM (#3155). This walk-in vehicle is built on a Ford F550 chassis with a custom box built by TriVan, Inc. SARCOM provides a mobile search and rescue communications and operations command vehicle complete with A/C, generator, seating for 6-8, a complement of radios on all necessary bands including aircraft, TV monitors with chromecast and Apple TV capability, Wi-Fi with cell signals from both ATT and Verizon. The vehicle will also serve as a mobile county dispatch center in support of both law and fire incidents.
- Volunteers responded to 132 calls representing a 5% decrease from 2016. Members conducted 115 training exercises including 21 in conjunction with other emergency response agencies,
- In 2017, BES spent \$198,099 to maintain its operations on income of 217,046 including grants/donations in the amount of \$55,666. Overall, BES operated 4.5% below its budget.

>>> call highlights coming soon .<<<

## *2018*

As one of the key objectives of Chief Amalfitano we have focused on **quality and value** over quantity. The strategy to accomplish these objectives was/is to stop interrupting the lives of our members with mundane, canceled calls on incidents that can be handled more quickly by other agencies (for the good of the patient or situation), and simultaneously ensuring BES relevance by expanding our service offerings. Since 2012, we have reduced 'the nuisance factor' (tone alerts where 99% of the time we were canceled) by about 50 calls per year on average and now our completion rate on 'real need' calls are up.

Here's how we have and continue to accomplish this objective:

1. 2011 - Eliminate auto response to smoke reports resulting in an average decrease of 22 cancellations per year. Instead, we respond with our hand crew to confirmed wildland fires.
2. 2012 - Eliminate auto response to all structure fires showed an average decrease of 18 cancellations per year. Instead, respond to mutual aid calls for assistance at actual working fires to provide needed air cascade, UAS, lighting etc.
3. 2012 – Reduce the number of call outs for traffic direction in the county by these three strategies:
  - a. negotiating with the Sheriff a fee for service after 3 hours on any incident. This has served as a deterrent to keeping the volunteers out for extended periods in the County
  - b. arranging and obtaining support from CSP to call out CDOT more quickly to replace BES volunteers on protracted incidents
  - c. changing the nature of traffic calls to which BES responds in the City of Boulder

Together, these strategies have resulted in a decrease in traffic call outs by 48% since 2013 and a reduction in average on-scene time. In addition, BES has realized a small additional annual income for being on scene after the third hour.

4. 2018 – Eliminate auto aid to Fourmile FD for “unknown if injury” MVAs resulting in an average decrease of 13 cancellations per year. Instead, respond mutual aid when requested. Originally, following the devastating Fourmile Fire of 2010, residents moved out and many were on the FD. Now that Fourmile has replenished their members, BES does not need to cover their district like we once did.
5. Expanding our value to the county by expanding services:
  - a. 2018 – SARCOM, Search and Rescue Command and Communications Vehicle: for search, wildland fire, law support and other incidents
  - b. 2015 - Search Management, urban and interface search services
  - c. 2015 – UAS, aerial search for all applications and now including nighttime capabilities
  - d. 2014 - Wildland fire hand crew readiness (3151, equipment, go-packs and crew)



<b>LIFE-SAVING RESCUES</b>	<b>2018</b>
<p><b>March 2018</b>  <b>BES toned to a victim trapped in a rollover accident</b></p> <p><b>Late morning a fully loaded dump truck slid off a high mountain dirt road and tumbled down approximately 100ft coming to rest on its side with the driver injured and trapped</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A long drive to get there and then four-wheel drive on a steep dirt road into the incident</li> <li>• Multiple agency coordination</li> <li>• Quick size up of seriously injured and trapped victim</li> <li>• Stabilization of the dump truck, a ropes and rigging system to get equipment down to the vehicle and another haul system to evacuate the victim up the hill</li> </ul> <p>Report from the team at the ED was serious head injuries, broken bones and internal bleeding. Any longer in the field and this patient may not have made it out alive.</p> <p>BES and the fire rescue teams worked together to save this life!</p>
<p><b>June 2018</b>  <b>BES toned to a swiftwater incident of an injured man stuck on a rock becoming hypothermic</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A quick response by BES and the City of Boulder Dive team to just up Boulder Canyon</li> <li>• Victim was found stranded out on a rock in the fast-moving water unable to move from a leg injury and becoming very cold and hypothermic</li> <li>• Multiple agency coordination</li> <li>• Deployed a water rescue craft tethered with our rigging system out to the victim</li> <li>• Performed immediate first aid and safely evacuated the victim to shore and the waiting ambulance</li> </ul> <p>BES and the fire rescue teams worked together to save this life!</p>

>>>  
call

highlights coming soon .<<<

## **2019**

### **Life Saving Rescues in 2020**

Lifesaving rescue in the context of BES services can be defined as the physical rescue of a seriously injured patient from a trapped or precarious situation and/or an incident where BES performs a service that stops or prevents further injury and retrieves the victim back to a safe environment. In 2019, BES performed a successful extrication of a seriously injured trapped patient from an overturned truck in Boulder Canyon; and the nighttime rescue of two hypothermic patients across St. Vrain Creek west of Lyons. These incidents demonstrated BES's skills in helping rescue people and reduce their pain and suffering.

### **Remote Staffing Program at Fourmile FD**

Due to the major road construction project, BES partnered with the Fourmile Fire Protection District and provided two-rescuer staffing with our medium duty 3122 apparatus. While very few calls were run (which was unexpected) the program did further build our relationship with another agency. We did this by cross-training and responding to incidents together. Other programs like this will be considered in the future.

### **SARCOM Deployment**

The apparatus #3155 had a busy year doing exactly what we designed it to do, providing a mobile command post and central communications hub for protracted incidents including missing person searches, swat calls, and documentation at MVAs.

### **Duty Officer Coverage**

In 2019, BES had nearly 95% scheduled duty officer coverage thanks to an expanded officer staff and the start of a formal program along with an app to track it all.

In 2019, we responded to 149 incidents up a huge 59% from 94 in 2018. Excluding 15 of the 18 surface ice rescues incidents (which were canceled and a CAD program error), calls were up 42% year over year. Members rose to the challenge of increased call load and now the average number of members responding per call is up at 10-12. Completed calls were down 6% (attributable to same ice calls) while emergency vs routine remained nearly the same.

### **Complex Vehicle Extrication of Pinned Driver in Boulder Canyon**

Incident #BCFD190209-001437 MAACCR-Major/Pinned Accident 15:34 Sat 9th Feb 2019

BES was toned at the request of Fourmile FD to a pickup truck on its side leaning precariously against a tree with the driver pinned. Stabilization was put in place on both the clean and dirty sides before the cut team could attempt to free the patient. Both of the patient's legs were pinned but it was unclear by what mechanism so the first step was removing the vehicle's roof to expose the passenger compartment. Rescuers then found

that the bench seat had slid forward trapping the driver against the dashboard injuring his legs and trapping his feet at the control pedals. This necessitated removing the back of the bench seat, part of the steering wheel and using both spreaders and rams to free the patient from the dashboard. Finally, while working in tight quarters and using only the force of one rescuer the brake pedal was bent out of position and the patient was free for removal and transport.

### **Rescue of Hikers Stranded by South Saint Vrain Creek During High Runoff**

Incident #BCFD190623-007100 RETECCR-Swiftwater Rescue 20:33 Sun 23rd Jun. 2019

BES responded to the vicinity of Lyons to assist with the evacuation of two hikers stranded on the far side of South Saint Vrain creek. Lyons FD swiftwater rescuers were reluctant to execute this after dark rescue during a June high flow event. BES was asked, and accepted, to take charge of swiftwater rescue operations. After establishing contact with the patients, setting downstream safeties and beginning the deployment of the Rapid Deployment Craft (RDC), two in-water certified rescuers swam to the far side to evaluate the patients and prepare them for rescue. The RDC with an additional BES rescuer was deployed with a four-line tether system, maneuvered to the far shore and systematically ferried patients, then their gear and then finally BES personnel back to the near shore. The patients were helped to the roadside, evaluated for injuries and released to local authorities.

## **2020**

### **Lifesaving Rescues in 2020**

Each year there seems to be a handful of calls that set BES apart from other agencies where we provide a unique and impactful search-rescue-fire service. In 2020, the BES team using rigging and swiftwater skills rescued a stranded dog from across a mountain creek deep in the forest, deployed UAS to assist in safety and fire spotting during a small wildland fire and fielded a dozen wildland firefighters as a hand crew on the devastating Calwood fire. Other notable responses included UAS swat support, missing person searches and recoveries, structure fire support and several swiftwater search and rescues.

### **Duty Officer Coverage**

In 2020, BES had nearly 98% duty officer coverage thanks to an expanded officer staff and the start of a formal program along with an app to track it all. This is an all-volunteer commitment by our trained field officer staff to make a difference in reducing response time and bringing qualified knowledge to an emergency incident earlier in the event.

**>>> call highlights coming soon .<<<**

In 2020, we responded to 120 incidents, a decrease of 19% from 140 in 2019. This is mostly attributable to the COVID pandemic and a decrease in citizens out and about during the year. Members attendance despite the pandemic continued at a very manageable average

responding per call at 10-12. Completed calls were up 12% while emergency responses were up slightly from 2019.

Calwood Fire October 2020

***2021***

**>>> call highlights coming soon .<<<**

Marshall Fire Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021

***2022***

**>>> call highlights coming soon .<<<**

## President-Chief Roster

The President of the Squad is elected and recruited by the Board of Directors who then present a slate of qualified nominees to the members. The members then vote for the President of the corporation for a three-year term in odd-numbered years. Before 2016 the term was two years. The president by bylaw is also the Chief.

President-Chief role has been filled by these members of Boulder Emergency Squad:

#	Chief	Years	No. Years
1	Bill Hughes	1964-1975	11
2	Brian Dillman	1975-1977	2
3	Bill Hughes	1977-1978	1
4	Brian Dillman	1978-1979	1
5	Keith Brown	1979-1980	1
6	Fred Schlegel	1980-1983	3
7	Brian Dillman	1983-1985	2
8	Andy Amalfitano	1985-1995	10
9	Steve Lanaghen	1995-1996	1.5
10	Dan Goldan	1997-1997	0.5
11	Katherine Zeeb	1997-1998	1.5
12	Brian Dillman	1999-2005	6.5
13	Dan Eamon	2005-2009	4
14	Andrew Moschetti	2009-2011	2
15	Andy Amalfitano	2011-present	11