



## Dedication, open house today for new Sandy fire station

by DAN DILLON

In the 1930's the city of Sandy bought a Model T Ford, outfitted as a chemical truck, and made it available for anyone to use whenever the fire whistle blew.

There was one problem, however. The chemical truck leaked so badly at the seams that the clothes of the firefighters would be full of holes from chemical burns.

Times have changed since then. Today, Sandy Fire District 72 is cutting the ribbon on a \$460,464 addition to its main fire station that will have the capacity of housing up to 13 pieces of firefighting apparatus, providing sleeping space for 10 firefighters and holding classes for up to 50 persons.

Ribbon cutting is at 2 p.m. at the station. An open house will follow until after the Sandy Mountain Festival parade.

A major feature of the building will

be the sleeping quarters, which will eventually provide space for 10 firefighters. Now the building accommodates four and a sleeper program with two firefighters staying at the station on weekends will begin in less than a month.

That move should improve district response times and lengthen the time the fire district can rely on volunteers for alarm response.

The space not currently used for sleeping quarters has been turned over to the volunteers as a recreation area.

The classroom has a folding partition which divides it into two separate rooms, each with a rear-projection screen for video presentations. In addition, the Board meeting room and the Library may be used for smaller classes to enable the volunteers and community to learn first-aid and emergency situation skills.

The amount of parking space in the

bay is doubled. While it has the capability of holding up to 13 trucks, the ideal would be 11 in order to maintain adequate shop space, Sandy Fire Chief Bob Rathke said.

A "tap out" allows the firefighters to turn off all appliances, open a door and sound the siren at the touch of one button when an alarm sounds.

The two and one-half story tower in front holds a double pleasure for the district. For the first time the district has a hose drying tower — a feature which will lengthen the life of the hoses.

The outside of the tower will be used for practice will ladders and get the volunteers used to climbing into a window from a ladder when they suited up in their "turnouts."

And just like on television, the Sandy Fire Station now has a pole, two in fact, for the firefighters to slide down when the alarm sounds.



The expanded facilities of the new Sandy Fire Department station include a video screen for public presentations, used by chief Bob Rathke (top); the new station (middle) has two stories now and twice as much bay space for storage, holding up to 13 vehicles; another new feature is the sliding pole (left) as Wayne Taylor shows how to get from the second floor to the bay; the new station is a far cry from the facilities of 1913 (pictured at right).

Photo courtesy of Sandy Fire District

photos by Mark Floyd