



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE HOLLISTER

The Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District put up signs in front of its three locations early this week to designate the department as a drop off location for the Colorado Safe Haven for Newborns.

Frederick-Firestone fire now Safe Haven site

CHRISTINE HOLLISTER

Three newborn infants were found abandoned and dead in the Denver area during a two-week period in the summer of 2004.

As a result, a number of concerned citizens formed Colorado Safe Haven for Newborns, an organization that promotes legislation that gives new parents 72 hours to give up their healthy baby to an employee at a hospital or fire station. The Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District has now been approved as a drop-off site for Colorado Safe Haven for Newborns.

"We've been working on this for over a year," Fire Marshal Dave Puccetti said. "It's not a program a lot of people are aware of. Because of our remoteness, that we're not close to any hospital, we want to make sure folks know we are a Safe Haven site.

"It provides a safe haven for kids under 72 hours old who are not unconscious – a healthy baby," he continued. "We take control of that infant at that time and contact social services."

Before 2000, Colorado experienced a number of unwanted births, Puccetti said, and since the legislation was passed that year, the Safe Haven law was used at least 20 times.

Parents are not required to give their names when dropping off their infant, in fact, according to the Colorado Safe Haven Web site, parents are asked not to give names. They are, however, welcome to fill out a medical questionnaire if they choose.

Signs have been mounted outside Frederick-Firestone fire's three locations to designate the buildings as drop-off sites.

"I want to let people know that it's there," Puccetti said. "I want people to be aware of what the sign is and what the program really is.

"There are several facets of emergency care that we provide for the community," he said.

"We want to keep people safe and make them feel like the fire district is there for them."

For information, visit www.coloradosafehavenfornewborns.org or call the toll free crisis line at 888-510-BABY.