

Denver Fire Department Museum

Denver Fire Department Museum
Tremont Place, Denver
Friday September 20th, 2013 (overnight)

Present:

Dale Ary (BRFD)
Cole Van Epps (Summit County FD/EMS)
Richard Estep (BRFD/BCPRS)
Charlie Stiffler (Rural Metro paramedics)
Kira Woodmansee (BCPRS)
Seth Woodmansee (BCPRS)

The Denver Fire Department museum, originally the old fire station one, was dedicated on March 31, 1978. Museum staff report paranormal activity of varying types, and regularly run ghost tours/fundraiser investigations on the premises. Other paranormal research teams have investigated this facility beforehand, the most recent being AAPI.

Our original investigation with ten investigators was forcibly rescheduled because of the flooding crisis earlier in September. The rescheduled date only allowed for a smaller number of investigators due to their personal schedules.

Our team assembled by 19:00 with daylight remaining, and performed a 360° assessment of the building exterior. The main road was designated division Alpha, rotating clockwise through divisional facings Bravo, Charlie, and Delta.

The Bravo side directly adjoins a private residence. The Charlie side backs onto a narrow alleyway. The Delta side is composed of an open wall adjoining a parking lot. Utilities enter the structure on the Charlie side.

A volunteer member of staff kindly directed us on a guided walk-through of the building. At our request, she focused purely on the non-paranormal aspects. Command Ops was established in a designated room with stadium-style bench seating that abuts the Charlie-side exterior wall, as it already contained A/V equipment.

Baselining began promptly after the establishment of an operations center. The opportunity was used to train newer personnel on techniques and equipment, so therefore proceeded more slowly than normal. The majority of EMF abnormalities were tracked down to electrical equipment and wiring. One significant exception was the second floor, which can perhaps best be described as an “EMS soup.”

Fluctuating electromagnetic readings abound through the second floor, alternating between high and

low spots at the same location at different times throughout the night. Attempting to baseline the second floor was basically futile, as reading remained in a constant state of flux with no apparent rhyme or reason. A grid measurement pattern was established by investigators, but we were unable to provide consistent baseline readings on that particular level. Temperature and background radiation readings were primarily normal, with one or two exceptions that appear statistically insignificant.

In addition to the use of EMF meters and temperature probes, multiple digital voice recorders were employed for experimentation purposes. Seth Woodmansee acted as the primary still photographer. Richard Estep wore a helmet-mounted 1080p camera throughout the need, recording a significant volume of high-definition video footage and accompanying audio. Control objects were placed in several locations throughout the structure.

Subjective experiences were reported by three investigators, and are detailed here in their own words:

(sourced from the official log):

20:33 Delta wall junk storage wall, hair on back of neck stood up chill down back. - Charlie

20:34 Delta wall junk storage, noticed a slight shift in pressure increasing around my head. - Seth

Delta wall storage area, asked to walk into room and felt a slightly heavier feeling upon entering, particularly near back wall. Felt lighter, "normal" sensation upon exit. - Kira

By mutual consensus, audio experimentation focused on several specific areas: the Captain's quarters on the second floor (Bravo side); the firehouse kitchen on the second floor; the junk room on the second floor (Delta side); "Dan's Workshop" on the ground floor (Charlie side); and the basement. Firefighters Ary, Estep, and Van Epps changed into firefighting bunker gear for much of the audio experimentation. Our rationale was to attempt to stimulate an emotional trigger of some kind if at all possible. The greatest respect was shown during the audio experimentation phase, encouraging any former firefighter to attempt to communicate with us. A firehouse "bull session" was held in the kitchen, with some entertaining anecdotes and tall tales being spun by the firefighters involving some of our most interesting 911 calls. Our hope was that we might attract some sort of response by generating positive energy in this way.

No activity occurred over the course of the investigation that could not best be explained by mundane causes, such as the structure settling with the onset of evening temperatures. It is fair to say that this was one of the quietest investigations I have attended in the past seventeen years. Our attempts to stimulate any kind of response were apparently unsuccessful.

At the closure of our investigation, we were told by the volunteer who accompanied us about a ghost who is said to haunt a specific room in the basement, and shown various photographs taken by another team which appear to depict a figure of some kind in motion on the ground floor, along with other reported auditory and visual phenomena. Unfortunately, no activity of this kind manifested

during our investigation at the museum.

A review of the digital audio files revealed nothing more than minor background noises which can be easily explained away with the application of Ockham's Razor. Careful scrutiny of the high-definition video footage also revealed nothing of apparent import.

It was a privilege and pleasure to investigate this fascinating piece of Denver Fire Department history. I would like to extend my thanks to the staff of the DFD museum for allowing our visit and enabling us to spend the night there.

Richard Estep
Director, BCPRS