

Denver 2017

Tuesday, September 5th

At 9 o'clock the day we have been waiting for has finally started; The Denver 2017 internship can begin! We meet up with the group at Brussels Airport and check in our luggage straight away. And luckily all suitcases are within the baggage allowance despite all the chocolate we packed! Our flight is at 12 o'clock, so we have some time to enjoy breakfast. Then we are ready for the flight to Washington. We board another flight in Washington to Denver. Once we have boarded this plane we are informed that we will have a 30 minute delay due to a storm. Fortunately we arrived safely! But we are a little later than we expected to be so we quickly pick up our cars and drive to the hotel. We grab a bite to eat and then get ready to sleep. We are more than ready to catch up on sleep as some of us have been awake for more than 24 hours.



Wednesday, September 6th

After breakfast in our hotel, where more Flemish people are staying, we go to our stations. At each station we receive a warm welcome from the crew. We meet our escorts for the week.

After lunch at the local Mexican restaurant we get a backstage tour of the Denver Bronco Stadium.

After this interesting visit we all go to our assigned stations. Everyone can now meet the attending firefighters and pick up the first calls. The calls are usually Medical Calls. As an exception we also help someone who is stuck in an elevator and get to see how they intervene in a traffic accident. For dinner we can taste the firemen's cooking and barbecue skills.

We still suffer from jet lag so most of us go to bed early.



Thursday, September 7th

After being introduced to the new crew on Thursday morning we are expected at station 15. We go to 911 and the shop.

In the afternoon we enjoy a delicious lunch at the airport, after which we are given an explanation of their specific material.

In the afternoon we return to the stations for ride alongs.



Friday, September 8th

At night there is a fire in an apartment building. Various stations and FireObservers are called out. It turns out the fire is not very severe, but a few FireObservers are impressed by the firefighters' discipline.

After the joint breakfast at Station 1, we go to the baseball stadium of the Colorado Rocky's, where we will have a tour. Before the next ride alongs we will have an exclusive tour of the State Capita, where we can go all the way up. After arriving in the stations we are allowed to enjoy observing the way they handle calls and delicious cuisine!



Saturday September 9th

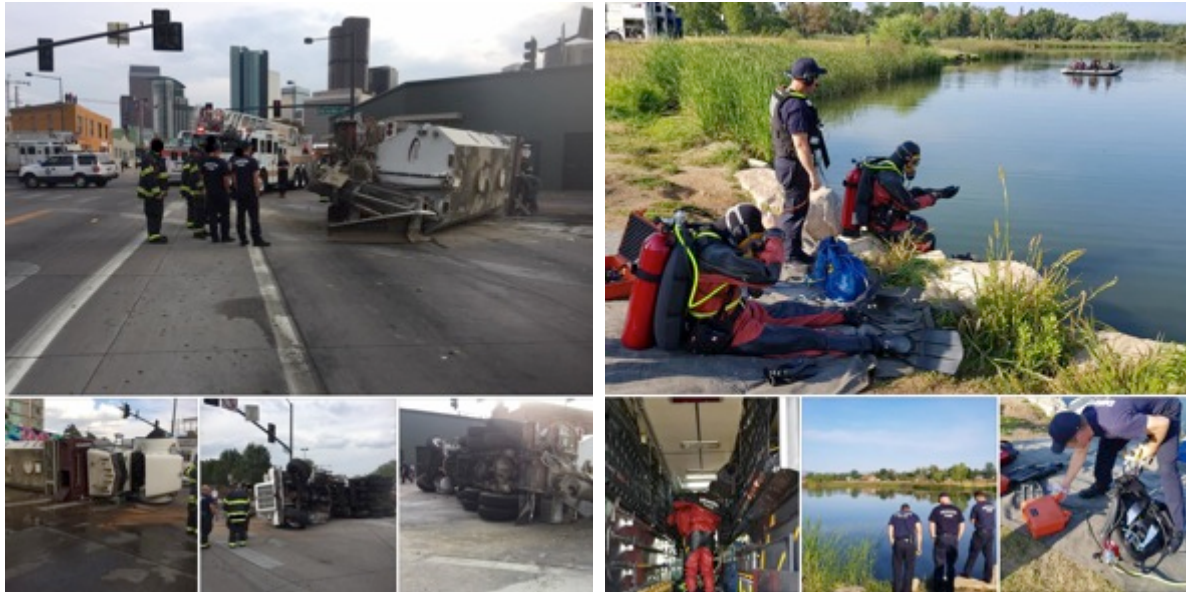
We briefly interrupted the fire department part of our trip today to enjoy the beautiful Colorado scenery, approximately 150 km from Denver. At 4500m high we enjoy the view of Pikes Peak and we also visit the Fallen Fighter Memorial, The Garden of Gods and the Airforce Academy. Beautiful!



Sunday September 10th

After the short break we had yesterday it's time for a full day of ride alongs. There is a diving training at Station 1 and Station 11 and Michiel, Marino, Sven and Mathias were allowed to participate. For the first time we are at the station for 24 hours and we really get to experience how it works at such a station. For example station 8 has competitions before the tasks are done. The loser must do the tasks. This does not always require technique, sometimes it comes down to pure luck. That is fair though, isn't it?

The work consists mainly of medical calls, just like it does in Belgium. Nevertheless we sometimes have traffic accidents (which are different; they do not stay to clean up), open doors (which is sometimes done in a rough manner), garbage fires, a car fire, someone stuck in a lift...



Monday, September 11th

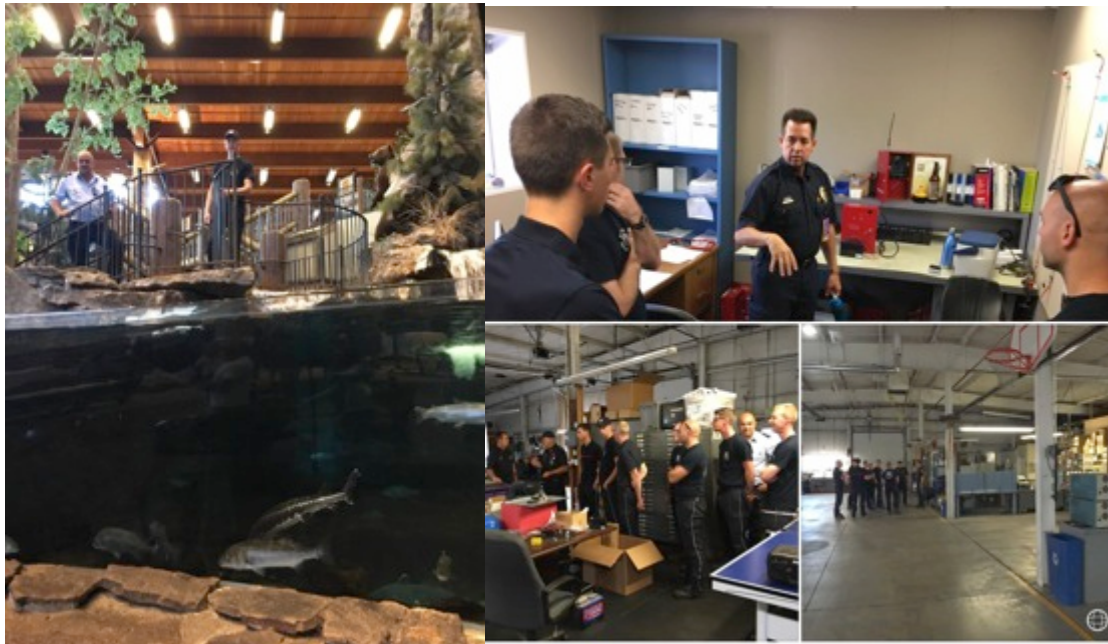
September 11th is a black day in American history. That day is also commemorated by the firefighters. In the morning we go to the Colorado 9-11 Stair Climb (Red Rock's Amphitheater), where we also do some stairs. After a picnic in the park we stay to enjoy the view – from a high rise on top of 1999 Broadway. We make a stop at the Fire Museum of Denver and then we can start with the ride alongs again.



Tuesday, September 12th

It's the last day at FD Denver. In the morning we go to the communication department and after that we have a meeting with the Chief. Each participant receives a certificate of participation for this observation internship. After this meeting, we visit a few stores including a uniform store.

After this we return to the stations for our last night where we are allowed to observe the calls they get.



Wednesday, September 13th

It is the end of the Denver internship. The tourist part can begin!

We leave Denver and head West. To get to the other side of Colorado, we defy the Rockies and one of the highest passes. We also include a visit to the grave of Buffalo Bill - Aspen - Fruita.



Thursday, September 14th

We are glad that we finally have a night's sleep without being woken up for a call. After the all-you-can-eat meal of last night, we drank some more pints in the room, but around 11pm everything was quiet. There are three highlights on today's programme: Colorado National Park, Dead horse point state park and Archel National Park.



Thursday, September 15th

Today we take the route from Monticello to Page; which is real cowboy and Indian country.





Friday, September 16th

The program includes the Grand Canyon.





Saturday, September 17th

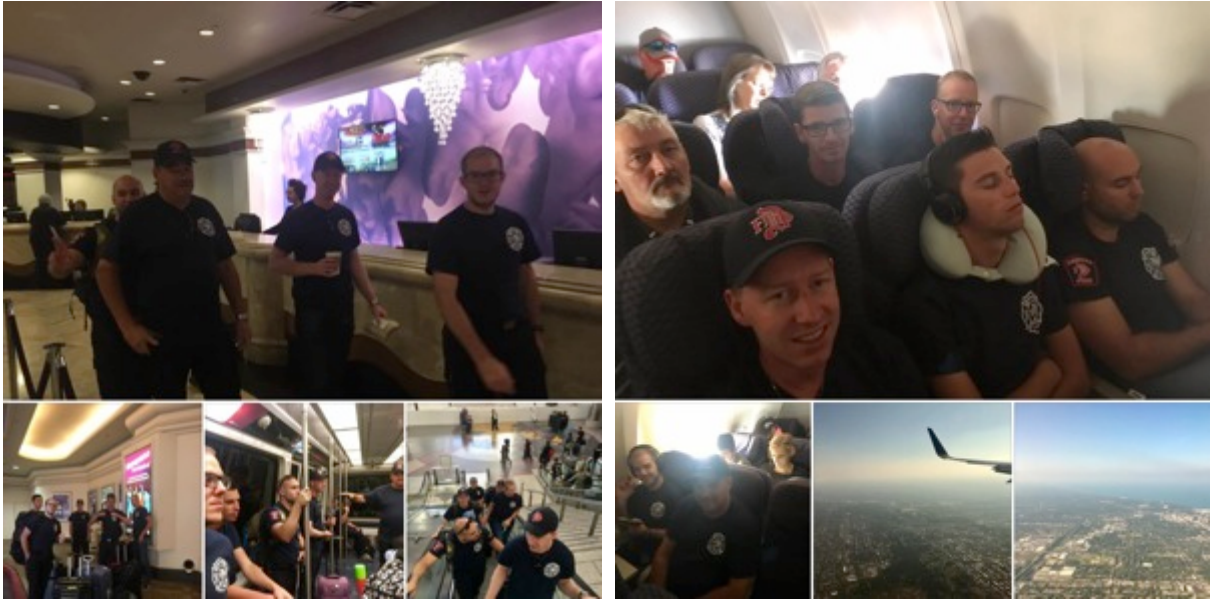
Today's route takes us from Flagstaff to Las Vegas, along Route 66 and the Hoover Dam. We stay in Las Vegas for the next 3 nights. The first evening we take a drive on the strip, and we head towards Freemont Street. We finish the evening at 320m altitude with a visit to the Stratosphere.

By day 2 and 3 everyone has visited Las Vegas at their own pace: casinos, swimming pool...



Wednesday, September 20th

The day of the return trip has arrived. We fly to Brussels via Chicago.



Thursday, September 21st

Everyone is back safely in Belgium. End of a fantastic trip!!

