

Volunteer firefighters have protected the Estes Valley since 1907. This [#EstesValleyFirefighter](#) series will introduce you to the unique individuals who keep that tradition alive, celebrating their contributions to our fire department and the role they play in our Estes community.

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Justin Kearney grew up in this community. His family has operated several businesses that he has participated in, but in 2010 he started working for the Town of Estes Park. Today, he is the town's Streets Division Supervisor and oversees many of the operations that Estes Park citizens and visitors rely on and appreciate each day.

Justin grew up around the fire station and knew all of the members, since his father Mike served as a volunteer firefighter when Justin was young. Anyone that has volunteered as a firefighter anywhere will tell you that it's not just the member who is an important part of the organization, but the family who supports that member as they answer calls at inconvenient times.

To everyone's benefit, Justin's enthusiasm to serve our community has only grown - for the last 2 years Justin has held the position of 'top responder', answering more calls than any other member in 2016 and 2017. That honor comes on the heels of Rookie, Firefighter and Officer of the Year awards for his excellent service over the last decade since he joined in 2006. There should be no doubt about his commitment to the department, and the community.

Still an active EMT, Justin was promoted to the rank of Captain in late 2017. Captain Kearney is now the liaison for the local Explorer Post, introducing youth to the fire service in conjunction with police and ambulance services. He is a go-to resource for new and old members since he is humble about what he knows and eager to share that information on everything from basic firefighting tasks to advanced extrication skills.

Fortunately, Justin's wife and 2 young children keep him balanced and not 100% fire department, as they all enjoy hunting, fishing and camping together (family time is his #1 favorite non fire department activity). Justin is a great example of a community volunteer, choosing service to the community to fill his 'free time', for which we all benefit. He sets the standard for participation high, and challenges other members to do their best while mixing in the camaraderie that makes the Estes Valley Fire District his 'other' family.

