

15151 E. Alameda Parkway
Aurora, Colorado 80012
303.739.7015



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March 18, 2025

To Whom it May Concern,

RE: Letter of Support for the Flashover Simulator

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Aurora FY2026 Congressionally Directed Spending Request for Aurora Fire Department to acquire a Flashover Simulator.

A flashover simulator is a specialized training tool used in firefighting to replicate the extreme conditions of a flashover, a dangerous phenomenon where combustible materials in a space ignite almost simultaneously due to intense heat. Flashover simulation training helps firefighters better understand the dynamics of fire behavior, improving their decision-making and operational skills. Currently, there are no flashover simulators located in the Colorado Front Range.

The benefits of investing in a flashover simulator extends to the broader community and the region. As the simulator would be located at the City of Aurora Public Safety Training Center, it would be available to all fire departments in the region to receive new and updated training. The City is excited at the possibility of partnering with regional agencies to coordinate training exercises and expand firefighting capabilities.

Ultimately, flashover simulators contribute to the overall safety, resilience, and efficiency of firefighting operations, ensuring that first responders are ready to tackle increasingly complex fire situations.

Respectively,

Mike Coffman
Mayor

Steve Sundberg
Mayor Pro Tem, Ward II

Crystal Murillo
Ward I

Ruben Medina
Ward III

Stephanie Hancock
Ward IV

Angela Lawson
Ward V

Françoise Bergan
Ward VI

Alison Combs
At-Large

Curtis Gardner
At-Large

Danielle Jurinsky
At-Large

Amsalu Kassaw
At-Large

South Adams County Fire Department
6050 Syracuse Street
Commerce City, Colorado 80022



303-288-0835
FAX 303-288-5977
www.sacfd.org

The Honorable Michael Bennet
U.S. Senate
261 Russell Senate Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jason Crow
U.S. House of Representatives
1323 Longworth House Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
U.S. Senate
374 Russell Senate Building
Washington D.C. 20510

March 3, 2025

Dear Senator Bennet, Senator Hickenlooper, and Congressman Crow,

I am writing to express my strong support for the inclusion of congressionally directed funding to provide the Aurora Fire Department with funding for a Flashover Simulator. As you know, ensuring the safety of our first responders is of utmost importance, and I believe this funding will have a significant positive impact on fire safety training in our region.

The Flashover Simulator is a critical tool for firefighter training, as it simulates a life-threatening flashover situation that can occur during structure fires. This type of training is invaluable in preparing firefighters for the dangers they may face in real-world emergency scenarios. Flashover events are unpredictable and extremely hazardous, and proper training in a controlled environment is essential to improving both the skill and safety of our fire service personnel.

The Aurora Fire Department serves a large and diverse community, and their commitment to ensuring firefighter safety and preparedness is evident. By funding the purchase of a Flashover Simulator, we are not only helping to enhance the technical expertise of local fire personnel but also ensuring the safety of the public they are sworn to protect. These simulators provide firefighters with the opportunity to experience real-time fire dynamics and practice critical decision-making in high-stress environments, ultimately leading to better outcomes in emergency situations.

The importance of investing in fire service training and the tools needed to support that training cannot be overstated. With your leadership, this funding would enable the Aurora Fire Department to continue to provide exemplary service and protect both their own safety and that of the communities they serve.

I kindly ask for your consideration in directing federal funds toward this vital training tool. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. Should you require any further information or support, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Bob Olme

Fire Chief

The Honorable Michael Bennet
U.S. Senate
261 Russell Senate Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jason Crow
U.S. House of Representatives
1323 Longworth House Building
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Sincerely,



John Curtis, M.S., CPO, EMT-P
Deputy Chief - Emergency Services
Office: 720-989-2394
Mobile: 720-355-3265
john.curtis@southmetro.org



South Metro Fire Rescue
9195 E. Mineral Ave
Centennial, CO 80112
www.southmetro.org
Commission -
Fire Accreditation
International