

# SMOKE SIGNALS

## STATION #55 SERVING THE TIMBERLAKE RANCH COMMUNITY



### Important Numbers

**911: Ask for Station 55**

**Capt: Julie Farrell  
(602) 920-1384**

**McKinley Co. Dispatch  
(505) 722-2231**

**Cibola Co. Dispatch  
(505) 876-2040**

### Resources:

[\\*Watch Duty](#)

[\\*Drought Info](#)

[\\*Evacuation Plan](#)

[\\*Evacuation Check-List](#)

### Siren Test Dates

The first day of every month at 1:00 pm starting March 1st

### *Captain's Corner* BY CAPTAIN JULIE FARRELL

Dear community,

As the new year has begun and winter is about to end, I can proudly report that our department responded to 60 emergency calls in 2025, 90% of which were EMS. A small percentage of EMS incidents can be prevented simply by staying hydrated all day long, all season long, all year long.

I'd also like to publicly recognize Mark Reynolds for recently completing coursework in wildland firefighting and advanced chainsaw operation. Thankfully, as Mark continues to grow, so does every member of our team.

As our IT man-in-the-field, Frank Beissel has raised Timberlake Ranch to model volunteer fire department status. Thanks to Frank, we enjoy wifi, full communication capability and functional drone use in the most remote and forested locations.

Now Tom Abbott! Very simply, Tom is our lead trainer and man of all trades. He is someone we all lean on!

Thanks, of course, to the HOA Board for its assistance on many matters, such as leveling the remaining ash from the burn pile.

And I'd like to personally thank our community for its support. It means more to me (us) than you'll ever know.

Very sincerely and respectfully,

Captain Julie Farrell

### **Burn Pile:**

The burn pile was ignited on January 9th (with approximately four inches of snow on the ground), and leveled and rendered extinguished on February 11th. This "burn" was the safest and most successful in many years. All went according to plan and without incident. Captain Farrell and department members followed all county protocols. The area was monitored multiple times daily, both personally (department members and HOA staff) and remotely (ranch house cameras), and regular contact was maintained with Chief Berry throughout the entire process.

The area will re-open on March 1st for yard trimmings. Please refrain from including building materials and metals, as they present a danger to machinery and users alike.

### **Smokey the Bear:**

Fire danger levels and drought determinations are made by the state and based on overall state conditions. Therefore, rain and snowfall in Timberlake, for instance, may have little or no impact on statewide mandates. New Mexico remains in "extreme drought" until further notice.

### **Wildland Fires:**

As half of Timberlake Ranch is situated within Cibola County, we've also been in conversation with Chief Middleton. He is very concerned about the upcoming summer fire season and lightning strikes. We are asking residents from both counties to report (dial 911; request station 55) smoke sightings and the very distinctive odor of wildfire.

Also, please consider downloading the free "Watch Duty" App (see sidebar). Among other highlights, Watch Duty alerts residents to nearby fire activity, with precise mapping features.

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## STATION #55 SERVING THE TIMBERLAKE RANCH COMMUNITY

### Training:

- Tuesday mornings: In the field and classroom (station).
- 3/7,8,9/26: Multi-agency wildland firefighting training at Timberlake.
- 12/2/25: MVA (motor vehicle accident) rescue/extraction drill. Thank you Kandy and Craig (as well as our beloved rescue Randy)
- 10/21/25: Mock wildland fire location training. Drones help us to locate the fire or injured person(s). The CALTOPO mapping app shows us how to get there. Starlink "mini" provides wifi anywhere under the sun, which gives Captain Julie real-time access to all firefighters' locations, among other things. Again, under Frank's leadership, we are the only volunteer department in the county to combine all such technologies.
- Trucks and SCBAs (self-contained breathing apparatus) inspected monthly; pumphouse inspected daily.
- All members are certified in CPR and first aid.
- Station 55 (that's us) earned highest marks from state inspectors for the second straight year.
- Upon request, we would be glad to visit your property to discuss safe access planning in the event of emergency.



### Community Testimonials:

Under Julie's leadership with Timberlake Fire Dept. we noticed an increase in training & activities. She gets the volunteers busy learning at all times with the latest procedures in order to keep us safe here at Timberlake. Her dedication along with the other volunteers are very much appreciated.

Shirl and Michael Henderson

Julie: It is an honor and a privilege to be a part of the Timberlake Volunteer Fire Department serving under your direction and leadership. It is to be noted, that since Julie has taken on this role of Captain, there have been no turnovers in the fire department personnel roster. This is a byproduct of great leadership, as well as, those individuals willing to not only sacrifice, but volunteering, unselfishly for the safety of others. Community is everything!! Thank you for everything you do!!

Frank Beissel  
TRLA Communications Director

I want to give a special thanks to our TRLA volunteer fire department. Their care, patience, and support were much needed and appreciated during a very difficult time for Nancy and me. On November 11th, Nancy started having major difficulty in walking, getting up and down from sitting, and getting in and out of bed. By November 16th I knew I was going to need help soon. The next day Nancy became more despondent. I called Julie for some assistance. Boy did we get assistance. She brought her whole crew. Julie took Nancy's vitals and her crew assisted getting Nancy ready and into bed. She also provided us with a much-needed wheelchair. That allowed me to more easily maneuver Nancy around during the day and evening. Julie and crew came over for the next two nights to assist getting Nancy ready and into bed. They would have continued coming over, but my daughter, my daughter-in-law, and granddaughter came up from Tucson to assist me and get all of us prepared to head down to Tucson and get Nancy in a care facility. When we were ready to leave on November 22nd, Julie and crew came over. Julie took Nancy's vitals to ensure she could make the trip. Then her crew took Nancy downstairs in a "stair chair" and assisted in getting Nancy in our Suburban for the trip to Tucson. I don't know how we would have survived those six days without the assistance of the TRLA volunteer fire department. So again, I want to thank our local fire department for all their care, patience, and support.

Steven Wills