Summer 2025 Vol 1, Issue 1

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

Captain's Corner

By Captain Julie Farrell

I can't believe the summer is flying by...only 1 more 3-day weekend!

I wanted to let you guys know you are doing a GREAT job keeping hydrated! Our EMS calls are down to 12 for the summer and drinking plenty of water seems to be the key!

Our very own Mark Reynolds successfully completed the very difficult Fire 1 & 2 + HazMat trainings. Great job, Mark!

Tom Abbott's leadership in our trainings has been a huge asset to our team.

I am very proud of this fire department.

Wildland Fires:

We responded to and extinguished four lightning caused, wildland fires (right here in Timberlake). Thank you for honoring the burn ban during this very serious period of drought. The burn ban, incidentally, was instituted at the county level. We highly recommend downloading the free Watch Duty App. (see link in side column) It maps and will even send notifications of wildfires in your particular area.

Burn Pile

A number of community members expressed concern about why the "burn pile" was not burned this past winter. The very short and simple answer is that there was no snow on the ground. Ideally, we are wanting six inches of snow to insure a safe burn. The decision not to burn was decided after careful collaboration between the McKinley County Fire Chief, Captain Julie Farrell and fire department staff, who are charged with attending to the burn 24-hours-a-day until it is deemed safe to smolder alone. And yes, should we not be able to burn again this winter, we would consider starting a second pile.

Smokey the Bear:

The Smokey Bear fire danger sign levels are determined by the State.

Training(s):

We train as a team at least weekly, and individual fire department members attend hands-on classes regularly, such as: CPR, propane safety, leadership, etc. In addition, we would be happy to inspect your driveway, for instance, to determine if and how our trucks would access your property in case of emergency. Last year our station earned an A+ from state inspectors, and we feel equally confident about this year.

Lastly, we are thankful for the community's wonderful show of support at the recent "open house."

Community Testimonials:

"I had a fire start in my backyard today and still have no idea how it started, but the fire department answered so quickly and came and took care of it quickly that I still have a house. Everyone who was here was fantastic, professional, and very caring, putting my mind at ease. I have no words other than praise and gratitude for our Timberlake and other local Fire Departments. I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for doing what you did for me today and saving my property. God bless you all and again thank you."

-Bara Dordoni

"Our volunteers are amazing people. We see them hard at work during an emergency, what we don't see is all of the countless hours they devote to training, cleaning, assisting other agencies, on call 24/7 and that is just what they do with the Fire Department. Many are also very active in other volunteer activities for our community. I am very proud of them and their commitment to serve us....thank you all....Timberlake would not be what it is without you." -Wade Aubuchon