



Desert Hills Fire District

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Desert Hills Fire District Board Meeting Minutes Regular Meeting, September 17, 2025

1. **Call to order**

Board Member Roger called to order the Desert Hills Fire District Board meeting at **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 17, 2025**, at the Desert Hills Fire Station Si-Mock Room located at 3983 London Bridge Road, Lake Havasu City, AZ.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Pledge of Allegiance commenced by Board Member Roger

3. **Roll Call**

The following Board Members were present:

Tom Roger
Curtis Schafer
Rich Fountain - absent
Dana VanLeuven
Linda Hanks

Also, in attendance:

Battalion Chief Stanec
Battalion Chief Bunn
Administrative Specialist Harrison

4. **Call to the Public:** Pinion Pine Fire District thanks us for the truck donation.

5. **Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for August 17, 2025:** Board Member Schafer motioned to accept meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Board Member Hanks, all in favor.

6. Swearing in and badge for Engineer Fowler. Firefighter Fowler started with DHFD in 2012 and has promoted to Engineer. Battalion Chief Stanec swore in Engineer Fowler. Pinning by Trina Fowler.

7. **Reports:**

a) **Fire Administration Report:** Battalion Chief Stanec reports the following;

- **Staffing Update:** At the last Board Meeting I reported we were down one Firefighter. We offered the job to a nice young man, he grew up in Havasu, still lives here, worked out at Peach Springs for two and half years. He starts his orientation on Monday. He is schedule to start on B shift September 30th. His name is Brandon Edler.

- Physicals: It's the time of year we do our annual 1582 physicals. Last week and this week we're sending our fire fighters to LHCFD station 2. A company out of Las Vegas comes out and gives LHCFD and DHFD our physicals.
- We'd like to thank Jay Robinson a talented Firefighter and Paramedic; he's also a good photographer. He took over the mission of updating our photos on our website. Our website looks much more professional.

b) **Fire Operation Report:** Battalion Chief Bunn reports the following;

- Call stats: Currently at 554 calls a difference of 60 calls from last month.
- Training Update: Fire School was a great success. Captain Reeder, Captain Young, Firefighter Robinson & Engineer Nelson all reported classes were awesome and networking was good also.

My trip to Maryland, to National Fire Academy, this class was leadership and program management skills. It was one of the better classes I have taken. What I took away from this class was above any class I've taken.

A surprise and good news for me. I finally got into the Instructor Portal. I've been working on this for a couple of years. I'm working on becoming an instructor back in Maryland. It's going to take me about six months to get through the process but once I do that, I'll be a sole government contractor and go back there and teach whenever I want. Pretty exciting for this little district to have someone go back there and teach. After I get the student teaching done in Maryland, I can teach anywhere they have classes.

- New Engine update: Manufacturer reports we are still on track to receive the engine on time. The chassis is expected to arrive this month. They already have the boxes built, so they will pull the chassis in, do the plumbing and install the boxes and add the items we wanted.
- Brush Engine 1526, our new rig, we took it to Vegas about two weeks ago to get some warranty work done. We're going to pick it up tomorrow. Once here Engineer Lawrence has some final touch to put on it, then it will be ready.

8. New Business:

a.) **Discussion and possible action re: Approval of monthly Financial Report.** Administrative Specialist Harrison states that the Grant Savings Account is \$4,123.15, Payroll Account \$56,099.29, Special Revenue Checking Account \$15,270.84, Special Revenue Savings Account \$360,564.15, Warrant Account \$1,537,483.23, Petty Cash \$127.57, with a total balance of \$1,973,668.23. Motioned by Board Member Schafer to approve the financial report as presented, seconded by Board Member Hanks, all in favor.

b.) **Discussion and possible action re: For Communication Project.** BC Stanec states he's going to give a little history on where we're at, what we've done and what we're looking to present today. As you recall we had major issues the last couple years, our equipment was located on Ram which is south of Havasu Heights, it was analog equipment. Our main problem was we had no legal access to that site, so we weren't able to do maintenance and make repairs. The system was operating but it was failing. At that time Chief Bunn and I did our research and tied in to our friends at Mohave Valley FD who actually worked ahead of us and were working on the product a couple years. They were able to secure ARPA Funding and they invested district money into their project. What they deployed was five sites, three channels, P25 digital trunked system. At the time we started our communication project it was a huge investment to go to that type of system. What we could afford at that time was a simulcast system. We ended up securing sites so we have a repeater and microwave on Crossman, a microwave at this station, a repeater on Goat. As we were working on the Havasu Heights station project, we had some gaps out north of our district. Mohave Valley FD stepped in and used part of their grant, which we

were named in also as a recipient and put equipment out our Station 2 to improve coverage. Our long-term goal not just for Desert Hills but countywide, all the districts have been meeting and talking about the deploying the system where we can piggy back. Every district chip in and does their part, puts their infrastructure in their district but we tie the equipment in together, so let's say out on I40 where we still have dead zones Golden Shores tower that they deployed will cover that area. We'll be getting signals from two different directions instead of one direction. We will have other sites, Oatman, Arco, etc. that will serve our district as well.

I've invited Chief McShea and Mark Lowry from Mohave Valley FD for any technical questions you may have.

We would like to move the equipment off Crossman Peak, that site is very high and the signal is shooting over us. Chief Stanec asked Mark Lowry to elaborate on this. Mark states that what happens is there is too much power for Crossman Peak. The goal is to bring sites a little lower to get a little more penetration. The weakest link in any system is the handheld. To address this, is by bringing the repeaters lower. Any given day one of those repeaters is 100 watts, you can talk for 100's of miles. When its too far away it hinders the handheld radio. Firefighters are in the worst position for radios; we are on the ground so we lose a lot of the power. By bring the sites lower will help us.

Chief Stanec continues with we are looking to remove the Crossman Peak site and adding it to either the Goat site or station 2, purchasing more equipment and tying into their trucked system where we will have dedicated talk groups on that system. We will get better penetration, more signal, signals coming in from different directions. This will also clean up a lot of the gaps we have on the system.

Chief Stanec asked Chief McShea to give a little history. Chief McShea states all the green boxes on the presentation are tower and repeater sites which has microwaves and fiber running to them. What the trunked phased system does is a simulcast system, so when we push the handle on the handheld it automatic sends out the signal. The signal is sent out into the air and it digitally figures out which repeater site has the best reception. It's all digitally done, so it brings us for the 1970's to today. It's a buildable system, each district of Mohave County, from here all the way to Colorado City can be put into this system. So, we are not excluding anyone, we what it to be a global project.

Chief Stanec states that Chief McShea applied for the Senate Appropriation Grant to help with this project, unfortunately we were notified we made the first round but were cut from the second round. We are going to write an AFG Grant regional for this project.

Chief Stanec explains how we will pay for the system. Admin Harrison applied for APRA Funding and was awarded \$104,000. I recommend we invest this into communications and update our sites. We have a list of the cost; we will need to get permission from the FCC. The total cost is \$111,000. We did increase our communications budget this fiscal year for any upgrades or improvements.

Motion by Board Member Roger to approve the communications infrastructure project for \$111,000, seconded by Board member VanLeuven, all in favor.

9. Board Member Comments:

- a) New Business to be considered on future agendas: None
- b) Comments: Board Member Hanks states the first pancake breakfast will be October 4th.
Board Member Rogers states we appreciate all the auxiliary does for DHFD.

10. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 9:45 by Board Member Roger, seconded by Board Member Schafer, all in favor.