



WATER WHEEL FIRE & MEDICAL DISTRICT

10603 N. Houston Mesa Road
Payson, Arizona 85541
928-474-3088 (office)
928-472-3392 (FAX)



Chief's Report

May 16, 2023

Operations:

Activity for 2023	29 Incidents
Activity since last report:	3 – EMS 3 – Special Duty 1 – Structure Fire assist PFD

Operations are getting busier with the end of the fiscal year just 6 weeks away. Staff members are scheduling the last of their vacation days, and Tyler is taking his Paramedic Refresher class the second week of June. We continue to see a steady increase in the number of folks camping in the area on weekends and the Water Wheel recreation area is also increasing in activity.

With the Memorial Day weekend just around the corner we will be once again double staffing for the holiday in anticipation of increased activities dealing with the increased numbers of folks recreating in the area. We will also be participating in the Memorial Weekend festivities in Beaver Valley on May 27th.

Tyler, Crystal and I will be observing and critiquing the annual evacuation drill for the Girl Scout Camp on May 31st. Sue, Andrew and Tyler will be teaching the annual CPR and First Aid class to the camp staff at the Girl Scout Camp on June 1st.

Last year the legislature passed a bill to allow Fire Districts in the State of Arizona an opportunity to receive some financial assistance to help cover the increased costs of Workers Compensation Insurance (WC). This financial assistance is being funded by Federal ARPA monies that the State received for COVID. All of the WC providers in the State have been working hard for more than a year with the Industrial Commission of Arizona (ICA) and the Governor's Office to put together a formula for distribution of these funds to the Fire Districts. The purpose of this one-time funding is to help offset the increases we all experienced last year for our WC Insurance premiums. To be eligible for this financial assistance, each Fire District must provide payroll and other information to the ICA beginning in March 2021 all the way through July 31, 2023. The required info is not just a single total of payroll for the time period but rather each individual employee for each pay period over the time from March 2021 through July 2023. Sue is still working on compiling and filing the necessary reports with the ICA. Our District could see a possible distribution in excess of \$24,000 if approved. The extra efforts being expended will be worth all the work.

Wildfire season is getting busier in the Southwest, with daily reports of fires on the increase. So far this season there have been no large fires in Arizona. The largest recently in the Tonto National Forest was the Rolls Fire last week south of HWY 87 in the grassy area between Bush Hwy and the Four Peaks turnoff. That fire burned 246 acres.



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Equipment / Facilities:

The refurbished cardiac monitor that we ordered last November has finally arrived. Once it is in service it will be carried on SQ71 so we will have two fully equipped ALS response apparatus.

The Polaris Ranger (UTV71) is out of service in the shop to replace a crankshaft position sensor. Additional trouble shooting has determined there are more issues to be corrected.

E72 that was declared surplus has been listed with a fire apparatus broker for sale. As of this date there have been no inquiries reported by the broker. I have lowered the asking price to \$20,000.

BR746 developed a leak in the radiator. The parts were purchased and Dan installed the new radiator this past Sunday.

All other apparatus and facilities are in service at this time. There are several minor maintenance issues that will be addressed after the start of the new budget year that begins July 1st.

Administration:

We are still waiting to hear from FEMA regarding our 2021 AFG Grant request. I have contacted the FEMA Help Desk to see if they have completed the funding distributions for the 2021 AFG grants, and have been told they anticipate completion by the end of May, so we still have an outside chance.

The WWFMD Auxiliary recently provided financial assistance to the District for the purpose of purchasing a new desktop computer for our Admin Assistant and to purchase some needed medical equipment.

Respectfully submitted;

Ron Sattelmaier - Fire Chief