



WATER WHEEL FIRE & MEDICAL DISTRICT

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



Chief's Report

July 19, 2022

Operations:

Activity for 2022

75 Incidents

Activity since last report:

5 - EMS

6 - Special Duty

2 – Illegal Fires

1 – First Alarm Structure Fire (PSFD)

1 – First Alarm Structure Fire (BV)

1 – Second Alarm Auto Aid HFD)

Total

16 incidents since last meeting

Stage 1 Fire Restrictions went back into effect on July 18th at 0800 hrs. in the National Forest. There are now no fire restrictions for private property in Gila County unincorporated areas.

Independence Day celebrations around the area drew many participants to the Beaver Valley ATV parade. This year the District decorated our Polaris Ranger and entered it in the parade. We also assisted the Town of Payson FD with their July 4th fireworks festivities by loaning our Polaris Ranger to them as a mobile medical response vehicle.

There have been several small lightning caused fires in the area since the last meeting, none have resulted in any significant acreage burned, the largest being about 2.5 acres. The 2022 monsoon has been producing spotty precipitation in the region but not widespread enough for the FS to drop all fire restrictions.

CPR classes for the public are still being scheduled each month on the third Saturday.

We will be sending two individuals to State Fire School this year the second week of September. The Auxiliary is providing \$1,500 in financial support to cover most of the costs.

Equipment / Facilities:

SQ71 has been removed from service for repairs. Due to the many years of traveling the rough gravel roads in the district there has been a significant failure of the support structures for the fire pump on the rear of the truck. Preliminary evaluation indicates that the repairs will require the truck to be sent to the valley and would be out of service for an extended amount of time. I am working with a possible vendor in the valley to get the repairs scheduled. Cost of the repairs is unknown at this time.



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Administration:

We received notice from our auditors that the Government Audit Standards have changed for the audit that they will be working on for fiscal 2021-2022. These changes will involve a more in depth look at leases and lease purchases and will require more work for the auditors and for our admin staff.

Over the past couple years the legislature has implemented new laws aimed at protecting firefighters from exposure to cancer causing agents in the workplace. To that end many requirements have been placed on Fire Districts and Fire Departments that unfortunately are unfunded mandates to which we must comply. Many of these mandates are of significant cost to the District. We are in the process of evaluating this list of mandates and prioritizing the list for implementation and budgeting. A couple examples of big ticket items on the list are special annual physical exams for each full-time firefighter that includes special cancer screenings and testing. Purchasing a special washing machine to launder structural turnouts after each exposure and periodically throughout the year. Purchasing a second set of structural turnout gear for each full-time firefighter.

The State has designated \$13 million of COVID relief funds from their budget to help cover some of the shortfall in premiums for Workers Comp Insurance premiums of the Fire Districts and Departments for this fiscal year. As of now we do not know how much of the \$17,500 premium increase will be offset, but it could be the entire amount of the increase.

Prop 310 has been approved to appear on the general election ballot in November. This is the proposition asking the voters to approve a 1/10th of one percent increase in the State Sales Tax for a period of 20 years with the proceeds being distributed to Fire District all over the State of Arizona. It is projected to generate \$150 million a year to be distributed to Fire Districts.

The AFG Grants from FEMA are still awaiting release for this year. This grant application is for the purchase of a new water tender. Our grant application with the Gila River Indian Community is still pending notification of award status. We should hear something from them in August. This grant application is for a new cardiac monitor.

Respectfully submitted;

Ron Sattelmair - Fire Chief



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