



WATER WHEEL FIRE & MEDICAL DISTRICT

10603 N. Houston Mesa Road
Payson, Arizona 85541
928-474-3088 (office)
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Chief's Report

August 15, 2023

Operations:

Activity for 2023 91 - Incidents

Activity since last report:

- 6 – EMS
- 2 – Wildfires
- 1 – Truck Fire (assist to PFD)
- 3 – Special Duty

The big news for this report period is the Brady Fire that started on August 6th about 2PM on the north edge of the Bray Creek Ranch property. The fire rapidly spread north and east into the Tonto National Forest. We initially assisted the FS at the helicopter dip site at the Boy Scout Camp but were relieved of that duty and sent to man the Bonita Creek Dip Site for the type 1 helicopter. Crews were on standby at that location for about an hour before being released because the type 1 helicopter found a suitable dip site closer to the fire.

I anticipate the rescinding of the forest closure order for the Brady Fire in the next few days and the lifting of Fire Restrictions in the forest as well.

Water Wheel continues to be keeping us busy with EMS incidents. So far since July 1st of this year we have responded to 5 incidents in this recreational area for medical calls. These incidents are billable to DFFM at the rate of \$500 per called.

The possible reimbursement of some of our Worker's Comp premiums from the Federal ARPA Funds that Sue has been working on for the past three months may soon become a reality. All of the necessary information has been provided and we were notified it has been accepted and is in process for distribution of these allotted funds to our District. At this point we do not know when the funds will be distributed.

John Collins will start his EMT class August 22nd at the college in Payson. The class is scheduled to complete before the end of this year.

We have received two applications for the vacant positions on the staff, unfortunately one is too young and the other has no certifications. We are currently advertising our job openings in multiple venues.

Equipment / Facilities:

Repairs to rebuild the motor on our Polaris Ranger have been completed and it will be returned to service later this week.

SQ71 is out of service for replacement of the turbocharger. Repair date is still pending with our mechanic.



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Administration:

We have another request from a property owner in Verde Glen to join the Fire District. Resolution 2023-2024.003 is on the agenda for Board approval tonight.

We will have our 5 year ISO inspection this Thursday. With all the changes in our District over the past 5 years I anticipate a significant reduction in our ISO rating of 5. With the insurance industry moving away from using ISO ratings of fire protection services, the impact of this reduction may not be seen by property owners. The insurance industry is now using the Fireline Risk as a matrix for setting insurance premiums or even insurability for property owners. This Fireline Risk matrix was created by the insurance industry to rate the risk of wildfire for the area. Just a point of information, they consider 72% of Gila County as being rated as High or Very High risk for loss due to a wildfire. Another issue of not recognizing our previous ISO rating of 5 is the fact we have no fire hydrants in any of the Fire District. In the past evaluation we were given credit for our robust regional automatic aid system for the ability to haul enough water to the scene of a fire by our partners but apparently this is no longer the case.

Respectfully submitted;

Ron Sattelmaier - Fire Chief