



WATER WHEEL FIRE & MEDICAL DISTRICT

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



Chief's Report

September 19, 2023

Operations:

Activity for 2023 114 - Incidents

Activity since last report: 14 – EMS
9 – Special Duty

We are still searching for employees to fill our two vacant full-time staff positions. We received an application from a possible candidate that lives in San Jose California who may be interested in moving to Payson. We are working at getting him through the hiring process right now. We have two other applicants that are uncertified at this time.

We recently received reimbursement funds in the amount of \$24,000 from the State for some of our Worker's Comp premiums we paid in 2021. These funds came from the Federal ARPA Funds that the State received.

We have received a small grant to fund the purchase of medical training equipment from the Mogollon Health Alliance in the amount of \$677.00.

Increased operating costs continue to plague our budget with increased expenditures, primarily for overtime wages, fuel and utilities.

Equipment / Facilities:

The generator on E-71 has been taken off the engine and sent to an electrical repair shop in Mesa. We anticipate getting it back in the next couple weeks. Recently we discovered a leak in the water tank on the truck. It appears to be a crack in the seam along the driver's side top of the tank. A warranty claim has been submitted and accepted by the tank manufacturer. The technician is scheduled to be here the week of October 16th to inspect and hopefully repair the tank. This will require the truck to be out of service for several days because we need to remove all the hoses and all the equipment from the top of the truck.

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

We continue to make minor repairs to equipment as deficiencies are discovered. If we can fix them ourselves, we do so to keep our repair costs as low as possible. Unfortunately, because our equipment is so specialized, we are required to have many of the repairs performed by a certified Emergency Vehicle Technician, which increases the costs.

We have discovered a water leak inside the wall of the fire station in Bonita Creek. It is in the north wall of the bathroom, same wall as the sink and toilet. The contractor that built the station has been contacted to look at the needed repairs. Water to the building has been shut off since the discovery of the leak about three weeks ago.



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Administration:

We continue to receive requests from property owners in Verde Glen to annex their property into the Fire District. There are two more resolutions on the agenda at tonight's meeting for joining the District.

On August 17th I spent most of the day with the Inspector from ISO reviewing our Fire District firefighting capabilities. This was a 5-year scheduled inspection. Due to the many changes over the past 5 years, with liquidating some equipment and facilities and our reduction in manpower, the preliminary new ISO Property Protection Classification for the District will fall from a 5, but it is unknown what the new classification will be. It usually takes a few months for the final determination by ISO. It is absolutely financially impossible for the District to improve this classification at this time. If for some reason things improve in the future before the next 5-year scheduled inspection, we can request a re-inspection / evaluation to see if we can improve our rating. 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