



MESCAL-J6 FIRE DISTRICT

448 N. Warren Rd. Benson, AZ 85602

Phone (520)586-4690 Fax (520)586-8598

Fire Chief's Report

September, 2022

Incidents: We responded to 46 incidents during the month of September.. Our average turnout time was 3:10 and our average response time was 9:58. Of particular interest is the fact that we have responded to more rattle snake removals in the past two months than I can remember. Fortunately, there were no reported snake bites in the District. One of our own firefighters, practicing his snake charming skills by night, was bitten in the wrist by a rattlesnake two weeks ago. Fortunately, all it took was a quick trip to the hospital, a couple of doses of anti venom, and a night in ICU and he is expected to make a full recovery.

Training: The AFDA has announced a one day mandatory training session for new board members and fire chiefs for December 2nd. The six hour class will be in Phoenix. There is limited seating available and classes fill up fast. Fortunately there will be at least one more opportunity to meet the educational requirements within the one-year time frame.

Apparatus Maintenance: Command 171 recently required two new batteries.

Facility / Building Maintenance:

The CMP project at Station 171 was completed today. I made a quick inspection this afternoon and discussion with staff identified the need for one or more two loads of gravel in the parking lot. I will speak with the contractor before initiating that purchase.

Billing: There have been no billable incidents recently; however, Captain Olander informed me that he recently received from DPS the info necessary to bill for one of our previous highway incidents and that invoice will be submitted soon.

Other:

We've received confirmation from Cochise County that Mrs. JoAnne Ellsworth is the only board member to be appointed to the MJFD Governing Board. Her first day in office begins December 1st.

The county wide alerting system was scheduled for completion on Monday. They have run into some technical difficulties which I understand to be faulty equipment. No word just yet on when the issue will be resolved but I will advise when I know more.

We are back in the financial black with a balance of little over \$70,000 in the warrant account and our line of credit has returned to zero. No word yet as to the final amount of interest we paid but that information should be available to us next month.

I recently completed the usual phone interview with a representative from Walker & Armstrong, the firm conducting our annual review and I *expect* the results to be presented at the November regular meeting. I will advise you all when I have confirmed.

The helipad refurb project is scheduled to begin November 9th, and the curb will be poured on November 11th. Mr. Kieley volunteered to remove the old lights, conduit and wiring and started that task this afternoon. Mr. Lee volunteered to utilize his backhoe to remove the old telephone poles used to encircle the helipad. I want to wait until the paving date is closer before that task is completed and I will let area agencies know the helipad will be out of commission from November 9th to through the 13th. Weather and construction crews can always affect these dates and require a postponement.



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We've received notice that the Arizona Ombudsman's office is investigating MJFD for our refusal to provide detailed payroll information of our employees and volunteers. The original complaint was lodged over a year ago but took a backseat to other complaints that have already been resolved. Considering the gravity of the situation I have forwarded the complaint to our attorney for her opinion. I will keep you posted as this situation develops.

Respectfully,
John Moran
Fire Chief