MESCAL-J6 FIRE DISTRICT

448 N. Warren Rd. Benson, AZ 85602
Phone (520)586-4690 Fax (520)586-8598

Fire Chief Report
July 2025
Presented at Aug 2025 Board Meeting

Incidents: 7/1- 7/31/25: 75 total 28 fire; 24 ems; 23 other. Mutual aid: given-4, received-0; billable calls-11.
Total for 2025 – 398; 2024-330– **up 68 calls. 20% increase.**

Fires: The number of brush fires has decreased. I have been instructed to tell people to call either 911 or 88-crime to report. We are doing all the things we can to prep for these incidents. We are all a TEAM and must work together, BUT….in the same direction so we don't jeopardize any investigation. Also, although I know it's a very fearful incident, please make sure you, (public) are not putting yourself in a dangerous position. I know it is hard, but please, be careful…we care about you and don't want you to be injured.

Hazard Mitigation Collections: May was $820, and July was $2452.80, with 17 calls still in cue, over $19,000 still working on.

Apparatus
We continue to do minor repairs and upkeep, far less than how we entered FY2025.

Projects: Strategic Plan Rollout: Continue to begin to work with individuals to sit on committees. Right now, we have a fundraising committee, an operations communications committee, and an external communications committee. If you are interested in serving or know of someone who would like to, please have them contact me.

IT: Continue to improve items after complete switch. Seems to all be coming together.

Repeater: Numbers sent from equipment donated to MJ6FD by Mr. Zappia, to TEP as requested. More to come…..

Activities:
Drilling with team, responding to more calls, achieved paramedic certification.
Working on plans for EMT course beginning September 3. Lectures online, we would host practical hands-on activities every other week, alternating with St. David.

Issue with Work Comp providers. Did interview with Chorus Nyland on the extreme increase in WC coverage.

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Grant Activities:

GOHS- Received pre-funding letter, that has been filled out and a record of receipt by GOHS has been completed. If this passes GOHS protocols, we will be sent a notice of funding, then we can work towards ordering the following equipment: electric spreaders, cutters, and extension tips with battery charger and batteries.

HRFSA- wrote for two pickup trucks, fully loaded with EMS, rescue and other safety equipment. This will improve safety, ensure we have at least one truck in service and have capabilities to get back into tight spaces with new ATV rescue. GREAT NEWS! WE'VE MADE IT PASSED THE SECOND CUT! NO GUARA NTEES, BUT IT'S A GREAT PLACE TO BE! Update: We have now made it through and are part of the actual bill the Senators and Congressmen are requesting be funded at the national level! One more step forward! Decisions are not likely till December, 2025.

Nutella—unsuccessful- only 4 depts nationwide awarded and all are completely volunteer.

AFG- Suppression helmets, boots, gloves—not open yet

SAFER- we cannot afford to write for it due to matching %.

100 Club- AED's—not decided yet

Frank Antenori- Chair CC BOS, awaiting final word whether the grant will be funded. Wrote for $4800 of badly needed hose and nozzles.

FPS- Wrote for community risk reduction evaluation, $11,650. We will not do it unless we get grant. No word yet on this.

Railroad- a bit of phone tag with their community rep, but we're continuing to try. We have worked out a simple plan of calling the emergency number, then selecting a number on phone to get correct information.

Water grant? Looking into this. Waiting to see what other people can bring to table in way of a grant. Hope Water has been talked to by Chairman Law.

We may be engaging Funding/Navigator to begin assisting us in finding grants to build the new station. Also, have been working with SEAGO, Arizona 1st. The goal is education this year with taxpayers, finding and purchasing land, and begin writing grants. We are trying to do everything we can to do this without using district operating and/or reserve accounts. We cannot write for grants if we do not own the property. It is part of being "shovel ready".

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Mr. Law, Mr. Temple, Capt Olander, FF Peralta and I toured a piece of land hosted by the owner. This location is perfect for our plan of a community center with a fire station attached. This then led to the individual taking me to a meeting amongst some developers and The Honorable Lupe Diaz, Arizona House of Representatives. It was very productive, and I have several contacts as we move forward with due diligence.

Did a podcast with Geoff Oldfather. Went well, unknown when it will air. Trying all ways to get message out and gain support for Mescal-J6 FD and community.

Finally, a shout out to our FF, who have had a busy time, not just with calls, but with training, teaching, and much, much more. Good job everyone! Also included in this is “the glue”, Denise, who keeps us all in line. :0). Also, thank you to the board members who really contributed a great deal of time this