



MESCAL-J6 FIRE DISTRICT

448 N. Warren Rd. Benson, AZ 85602

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

Fire Chief Report

May 2025

Presented at May 2025 Board Meeting

Incidents as of 4/31/25: 57 total; fire (39); EMS (18). Mutual aid received -2 given -1.

Total for 2025 – 256; 2024-208– **up 48 calls. 20% increase.**

Fires: There have been numerous brush/wildland/urban interface fires. The public is encouraged to keep high vigilance. Take care of each other. Report suspicious activity directly to 911. I have been in contact with both PCSO and CCSO. There cannot be any comment due to ongoing investigation. If anyone, board, taxpayer or employee has anything to share, I have been instructed to tell them 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: Should be about \$850 collected in since the last Board meeting. Ten calls are still in cue with over \$8K still working on. YTD: \$13400, but nearly 19K since Aug

Apparatus: New engine in frontline pumper, all indications is it's functioning well. New tires on command vehicle after sidewall blebs were found on 3. Also new alt/volt reg and battery. Minor repairs were done to various apparatus, again reducing cost to district by our FF handling.

Projects: Strategic Plan Rollout complete. Great attendance, input. Coming soon we will be asking community members if they are interested in serving on committees.

Budget: Completed to point of having DRAFT. If the board approves, now, 20-day posting period. This will be followed by Budget hearing, tentatively set for a special meeting just prior to June 25th regular meeting.

Repeater: Mobile radios: Checked for SWR and we found two were blown...one in Chief vehicle and the other on BR171. Ordered new for brush truck and will be put in reserve into chief vehicle. Visit to Haystack revealed good signal to trucks out in district from handheld radio, so vehicle radios will be even better. Continue to meet as new opportunities have come to our attention that we must investigate further to make sure we are doing the absolute best thing. New contact will require a meeting with all parties to ensure we are doing best we can....for our emergency responders and our taxpayers.



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Activities:

New programs on Facebook site:

Firefighter 3- a caricature to help deliver education with the outcome that people remember: "These Three Things", which is usually what people can come away with that will stick in memory.

Chiefly Speaking- a way to communicate when the Fire Chief has a message.

Coming soon: "DID YOU KNOW?"- This program will help deliver education surrounding the district such as DID YOU KNOW that we ran 600 calls for service last year? Etc...

We have stood up our Instagram site soon as well as NextDoor.

All the above are designed to assist in improving External Stakeholder Communications, which is one of the 6 main areas of our strategic plan.

Many thanks to Mr Temple, Ms Salcido and Mr Norm Bradley for connecting us with Mr. Brian Molina, an IT expert. He has been helping us get on the right lines of things and the hope is that the administrative portion of everyone's work will be more streamlined and less stressful.

Grant Activities:

GOHS- this will be decided in Oct

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.

Nutella- Emergency Scene Lighting to enhance the safety of our crews on scenes where lighting is poor. This will reduce the potential for sprains, strains and other injuries that are the most common on these types of calls.

AFG- Suppression helmets, boots, gloves

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

100 Club- AED's