



MESCAL-J6 FIRE DISTRICT

Ed Nied - Fire Chief

98 N. Oak Dr. Benson, AZ. 85602

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

Fire Chief Report

December 2025

Presented at January 28, 2025 Board Meeting

Incidents: 12/1- 12/31/25: 47 total- fire-10 ; ems-29 ; other-8.

Total for 2025 –632; 2024—586 **up 46 calls. 10% increase.**

Mutual aid: given-1, received-1; billable calls-5.

Significant calls: Overturned semi, Train car fire; Benson house fire

Hazard Mitigation Collections:

December received \$3201.60. Still working on over \$17K

Have billed UPRR for train fire extinguishment. Nearly \$1000.

Received check from Mescal Movie stage for just over \$200 for payroll costs staffing for pyrotechnics and other filming activities.

Projects:

Strategic Plan Rollout: Beginning to sort through what we have accomplished. As you will remember, this is a living, changing document in the sense that some goals will be reached out of order, sooner or later than the plan states based on items that come forward or occur that were not planned for.

Policy Review:

I have begun to review and will bring further policies forward as needed.

IT: Refurbished computer for station-- repairs are completed—still issues. Working on possibility of gaining Spillman interface between the CAD and our tablet. This will allow information to be downloaded and save time on writing reports. Also working to get info auto downloaded to our billing company, reducing duplication. Attempting to be more efficient. New ESO system is difficult at times....still learning how to navigate. Moved from NFIRS to NERIS. Mescal was one of the districts/depts in state that was current and caught up.

Repeater:

I have filled out paperwork for State Land. This should be final step in making it happen. We must make it work. It's a real safety issue for our personnel.

Admin:

Worked on lighting up walkway and parking. Ramp comes when it's not so wet.

Have secured a free connex box. We will be moving the turnouts from bay into box so they don't absorb the diesel fumes, and they don't off-gas carcinogens on our personnel. Due to space, the bays are used for training and education. This is a critical step in protecting our personnel.

Activities:

Audit complete on our end, awaiting formal audit to be delivered.

FF Ben Brewer began Whetstone's Fire Academy. He's sore but doing very well. This is in large part because of Captain Olander's training programs with our personnel.

Getting ready to host vehicle extrication class for our personnel, utilizing new tools. It will be instructed by Capt Olander. After our personnel are trained, we will be doing the same for our neighboring districts (Benson, St David and Pomerene) as well. Trying to do classroom first, then realistic drill scenarios.

SCBA mask fit testing complete. Ladder testing is complete. SCBA flow testing done. Fire extinguisher and SCBA air quality testing are also coming soon in Dec/Jan. All required by law or standard.

2nd meeting with Camaro Valley Homeowners on Dec 16th. We discussed tapping into owned water tanks and home protection sprinklers as well as access issues. Since then, we have received 3 different individual offers to be involved by using their tanks. We will now be going to these sites to see if we can use the water (logistically), and what it will take to make it ready to use. More to come....

Grant Activities:

GOHS- Training now begins

Ak-Chin Grant- We have received the executed contract, and the money has been sent to County. From there, we will get a "pass-through" to our account to purchase.

BOS Grant- Fully executed

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 GUARANTEES, 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 until Feb 2026.

I am less optimistic on this due to the severe cutbacks and state delegated costs from the federal government. We will continue to hope for this as it would be tremendous.

I spoke with Sen. Kelly's office who said the grant is still in the mix. Congress didn't get to it before the break. They expect something in February. They remain very hopeful.

Working with Reps on station build and road from Mescal to a connection going east, to give northern residents 2nd way out and a 2nd way in for our response. Not going to be easy, but we're trying.

FHS- wrote for six full sets of turnouts. \$37000

AFG- Suppression helmets, boots, gloves, opening soon. This is an extension of our 2024 AFG. We are in, we will see.

100 Club- PPE, not open until March. If AFG and FHS don't come through we will try for turnouts.

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

FPS- Wrote for community risk reduction evaluation, \$11,650. We will not do it unless we get grant. No word yet on this as it was part of government shutdown timeline.

Arizona 1st and USDA- will be utilizing them hopefully for portions of the plan.

I have been working with SEADG and they have developed an overall general timeline for process of building a fire station. It is a start, and they have done a tremendous amount of work for free! SEADG has helped with building phases, general knowledge.

Will be meeting with realtor and architect to begin developing outline of station design. This is necessary as we ask for grants, etc. going forward. We have some great partners working with us who have been doing things gratis. More to come hopefully in Feb. Continue to work on land and donations, it's a balancing act.

BLM Brush Truck- still awaiting decision