



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

October 2025

Presented at November, 2025 Board Meeting

Incidents: 10/1- 10/31/25: 45 total 7 fire; 28 ems; 10 other.

Total for 2025 – 543; 2024-516– **up 27 calls. Roughly 6% increase.**

Mutual aid: given-4, received-0; billable calls-2.

Significant calls: Benson house fire.

Hazard Mitigation Collections:

October received \$7,677.94 Still working on over \$15K

Apparatus:

Nothing new for October.

Projects:

Strategic Plan Rollout: Continue to begin to slowly work with individuals to sit on committees. Right now, we have the beginnings of 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.

Policy Review:

I have begun to review and will bring any changes to the board for approval potentially beginning in December.

IT:

Continue to work on website, station refurb computer is not working properly. We are working on a refund and replacement.

Repeater:

Going to resurrect this group. May be without Mr. Zappia, who we were really hoping could assist. He is currently unable, so we will attempt to move on beginning in December or January.

Activities:

Denise has been very busy obtaining and sending documents for our audit. Things are going well. We have been able to deliver everything they have asked for and the audit firm is very pleased with our ability to do so. We look forward to the results so we can improve should any deficiencies be found.

Capt Olander and FF/PM Kearney attended a Community Risk Reduction course November 4-6. CRR is going to be a focal point for our community and having folks trained at a higher level will be critical. They were able to bring back significant information to assist us.

FF/EMT Peralta has passed his Fire Instructor I course. Nice work Chris!

Reserve FF Darren Markley will begin his fire inspector position with Phoenix Fire December 1, 2025. 6-weeks of school, followed by certification tests, then able to go into field to learn job more completely. This will undoubtedly prove positive for MJFD. Congratulations Darren, we're all very proud of you!!

We recognize and celebrate with Lt. Ron Soto, as he achieves 15yrs with MJFD! He has been here longer than anyone and still loves coming to work every other weekend. This helps Capt Olander out in that he can get away from the station a bit.

Reserve FF Ben Brewer has enrolled in an EMT refresher program in December, to then be able to challenge the test such as I did. After that, he's looking at the Whetstone Fire Academy beginning in January, with the hopes of testing and being certified FF II soon after. Reserve FF Aysia Roar is looking to test for EMT. If she passes, she too will be FF/EMT certified.

Fit testing ongoing. Ladder testing coming up. SCBA flow testing, and fire extinguisher testing also coming soon in Dec.

Arizona State Mutual Aid Compact. Documents have been sent.

Grant Activities:

GOHS- Check sent, will receive new tools as soon as they come in. Diamond was good to us and gave us the heavy-duty tools for the same cost as regular. This will allow them to move bigger metal, while remaining not too heavy. We have written and GOHS has approved the press release we are required to do. All paperwork is up to date and files, both physical and computer-based, are up to date.

Ak-Chin Grant- We are awaiting the paperwork signed by BOS to approve the pass-through of the funds. This will happen at their Nov 18th mtg. Once they sign off, we will then sign the contract and send back to Ak-Chin. Once that is done, funding will be carried out projected in January 2026. We expect that by the end of January, the turnout extractor will be operational. This will greatly reduce our FF exposure to chemicals and smoke debris, thus reducing the risk of cancer, which is currently the number one cause of FF death. We just completed cancer screenings for all personnel over 40 as recommended.

Number 2 is suicide. We have our Lt who is trained in peer support and is our Chaplain. We are looking to expand that area in the next fiscal. We also have initial visits paid for within our insurance policy, so our personnel can seek mental health assistance should they need it. The third biggest killer of FF is cardiovascular events such as heart attack or stroke. We are investing in our FT employees to get NFPA 1582 physical done this fiscal to help detect any issues so they can be corrected.

BOS Grant- Hose and nozzle ordered.

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 December 2025.

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.

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

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

I will repeat this again...WE HAVE NOT PURCHASED ANY PROPERTY AND NO OFFICIAL OR LEGAL AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN ENTERED INTO. WE ARE DOING GROUNDWORK AND UTILIZING OUR FRIENDS WHO BELIEVE IN OUR VISION, TO ASSIST---FOR FREE!!

This will save us thousands of dollars as we look to build a station as soon as we can—all the while, doing things the law, the taxpayers and the board require.

I, the landowner and our potential donor met regarding property purchase for new community center/fire station. It was very productive. There are many questions that need to be answered, so we are working on those. We are awaiting information.