



# MESCAL-J6 FIRE DISTRICT

448 N. Warren Rd. Benson, AZ 85602

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

Fire Chief Report

September 2024

Incidents: 59 total; fire (3); EMS (37); other (19). Mutual aid received -4; given -4.

Total up to Sept 30 for 2024 – 456; same time last year 2023 - 394 – up 62 through Sept 30. Up 72 calls to date (10/17). **This represents a 16% increase through 9/30/2024.**

Apparatus: Being handled as per previous board approval.

Only two apparatus remain in need of repair, Chief's vehicle and a tender whose bushings for hood need replacement due to a safety hazard of hood coming down inadvertently.

Equipment: Found station and admin fire extinguishers were out of compliance. Working on getting this done,

Buildings: Admin roof -We have received final word from VFIS, our insurance carrier and they have determined they will fund \$11977.28. I am working on getting bids to do the job. I am hopeful that the entire project will be covered resulting in zero out of budget costing.

Helipad and Repeater: Continue with our work. Mr. Nervik has been assisting so I will respectfully ask him to report on where we are at.

I participated in the RVFD strategic planning meeting for external stakeholders. Took away some valuable information.

Public records requests for Sept 2024 is \$825.62. YTD since tracking began in Aug = \$2307.49

I have met with a station design expert, and we have a follow-up meeting scheduled soon to continue general discussions on the potential to construct a new station. NO decisions of any type have been made. We are in the fact-finding process only at this point. This should flesh out during Strat Plan.

I will be meeting with the boundary mapping personnel to go over our area.

I have met with the AZ Burn Foundation and secured an initial 30 smoke detectors for dispersal by our crews, etc, after which we will hold a "Smoke Detector Walk" in early spring 2025 where the Board, our personnel and other members of the community can assist us with placing between 300-500 in Mescal/J-6 homes. I have also received children's fire safe workbooks that parents can share with their children. I am also attempting to find a good time when parents can take the children to one of our fire facilities and I/we can work through the book with them. These two items, plus a quarterly, meet with the Chief and our already existing programs will help us attain a more comprehensive approach to community safety.



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Hazard Mitigation Collections- We have received our check for just over \$10,000 and it has been placed on the income line on the budget. We still have over 30 calls in process. We cannot reduce budget need when we receive this type of income, we merely will have a note that it will go into the vehicle repair/maintenance category for help. Had lengthy conversation with Natalie and we are doing fine budget-wise. October is a heavy month for tax income, we are past our very lean months.

Our Gary Sinese Foundation grant for 7 AED's and all accompanying equipment is in. I believe the grant was very well written and I am hopeful for a positive outcome. Only time will tell how our needs stack up against others.

Working on grants, funding potential with Special District Advocate Group. Initial information from contact is we "tick" several good boxes.

Meeting with VFIS, Volunteer Fire Insurance Services to gain understanding of how they can assist us. They have several programs we may take advantage of which will also help produce the best strategic plan possible.

## Activities

The next major grant category will open in Dec/Jan, and it is the AFG. It's the same grant we received our SCBA's on. I am offering to act as the "host" for what I hope will be another regional effort. These types of grants heavily favor the regional approach. We are working on specific items.

We will then write again for the SAFER grant, asking to fund most likely between 3-6 personnel. We will be writing to GOHS for electrically powered extrication equipment and/or RAMs for vehicle stabilization.

I am working with other Fire Chiefs towards a Department of Forestry grant specifically designed for Wildfire Mitigation. It would be done hopefully prior to wildfire season. We have a significant issue in this area and if awarded, we could drastically reduce this risk to our citizens.

Training: upcoming training on new SCBAs and radios. Also working towards getting one to two personnel to Incident Safety Officer class in November



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SCBA matching portion paid.

Been researching medical insurance to see how we may be able to best work towards offering to our employees.

Also looking at workman's comp and how they function as pertains to our personnel when attending training out of district or not specifically on duty. More to come.

Mr. Temple has been a big help assisting with a review of our email domain provider GoDaddy. We should have a proposal to you by next month's meeting. Also, in the process of gaining our .gov suffix...paperwork in. We are beginning the process of reviewing our website for potential positive changes.

I will be attending the CCEMS and Fire Chief's meetings. I will also be attending a presentation on the "new" OSHA for the fire service that is in process. I will have a more comprehensive report next month.

I will be attending a meeting on NFPA 1970 which is a new comprehensive Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural and Proximity Firefighting. It also now covers work apparel, SCBA, and Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS), which is an alarm that sounds so a downed FF can be located should they not be able to use radio. There is a lot of changes coming our way as the NFPA standards while not law, are a comprehensive standard that we can be measured against. NFPA is working towards tightening up the standards and combining those that are of similar content.