



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

September 2025

Presented at October, 2025 Board Meeting

Incidents: 9/1- 9/30/25: 56 total 10 fire; 40 ems; 6 other.

Total for 2025 – 498; 2024-456– **up 42 calls. Roughly 10% increase.**

Mutual aid: given-2, received-0; billable calls-3.

Significant calls: Tanker rollover, hazmat on US90, 10- hour mutual aid call.

Hazard Mitigation Collections:

Sept \$2531.80 Still working on over \$15K. I've sent one to collections as it's a large one, over \$7,000.

Apparatus:

Batteries for 1711, wiring issue on Tender 2.

I was informed that the application I put in for a BLM Type-VI brush truck was accepted and is one of a group of other districts who have expressed interest. I wrote that letter last November, but BLM had to wait to get their new Type VI before they could officially open it. I have had contact with two other individuals that I know in the WL business, and they are putting a good word in for us. It will be difficult, but we really need to replace our brush truck.

I have also approached DFFM for same. We will need a Type 3 soon as some of our areas require 4-wheel drive capabilities.

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 beginning in November.

IT:

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

Repeater:

Numbers sent from equipment donated to MJ6FD by Mr. Zappia, to TEP as requested. More to come. Nothing new. Chief to ask Chris from Bluespan to make a phone call to his contact at TEP. Beginnings of fiber optics going in at station 172.

Activities:

I was able to secure scholarships for our folks to attend State Fire School, so our cost was reduced by \$1800, which was \$600 more than we expected. My attendance, room, food was covered by State Training Committee.

Smoke detector for Nov 8 has been canceled. Anyone who needs one can look for flyer on our website, on our social media, email info@mescalij6fd.gov, or phone and leave message 520-586-4690. In all three, please give name and address.

Capt Olander and FF/PM Kearney will be attending 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.

FF/EMT Peralta has completed his Fire Instructor I course- just awaiting on certification testing results. Nice work Chris!

Reserve FF Darren Markley has been offered an inspector position with Phoenix Fire. This will undoubtedly prove positive for MJFD. Congratulations Darren!

Arizona State Mutual Aid Compact. Apparently, we have not been a part of this as we believed. It's a basic agreement that we will give and receive mutual aid.

Grant Activities:

GOHS- Received funding paperwork, that has been filled out and a record of receipt by GOHS has been completed. Successfully petitioned to move money \$4400 set for outside training to our employee OT and ERE as we requested in the grant. This grant is a reimbursement grant, in that we pay for the items and send all necessary paperwork to GOHS for approval and reimbursement. We have worked with vendor Amkus, to ship our order as soon as the Board approves the use of funds.

We were successful in our application for the Ak-Chin Tribal grant. We were awarded the full amount \$8501.93 to purchase a turnout extractor. This is a machine specifically designed to clean our personnel's turnouts, thus removing carcinogens at a much higher level, which in turn lessens their overall exposure. Cancer is the #1 cause of all FF deaths. We have been sending our turnouts out for cleaning. This extractor will also lower our costs for that.

BOS Grant- We have received our check from County BOS awarding us \$3000 towards our much-needed hose and a specialized nozzle that utilizes a straight stream on a fan pattern. Together with our F-500 additive, we will be able to penetrate the seat of fire faster. This should result in a quicker fire knockdown, giving us time for rescue and/or a reduction in overall loss. Of course, there are many factors that lead to this, but we are doing the things we can, to improve our efficiency and effectiveness.

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.

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.

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.

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 plan for the construction of the community center and 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.