



# 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 June 2025 Board Meeting

Incidents as of 5/31/25: 79 total 26 fire; 37 ems; 16 other. Mutual aid: given-2, received-5  
Total for 2025 – 269; 2024-223– **up 46 calls. 18% increase.**

Fires: The number of brush fires has decreased. I have been instructed to tell folks 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: was \$820 collected in since the last Board meeting. Ten calls are still in cue with over \$13K still working on. YTD: \$13400, but nearly 19K since Aug

Apparatus: Util truck \$495 for flywheel

Projects: Strategic Plan Rollout: Continue to begin to work with individuals to sit on committees.

IT: Just about complete on all major IT issues. Soon will be mescalj6fd.gov and will be saving \$500/mo on Godaddy. It's been a wild ride but between Brian Molina (TY Soni!), Mr. Temple and a shout out to Jasmine Wise, it's all going to just get better from here.

We are officially a .gov on the website, stay tuned for an update note on migrating your particular email over to new system. Brian will be creating the document to explain and will be available for questions.

Budget: Meetings with both Cathy Traywick and MAC personnel to continually evaluate current and proposed budgets.

Repeater: Meeting 6/11/25 to entertain all possible tower solutions. Great discussion on several topics including utilization of newer green radios once reprogrammed. Huge shout out to Mr Zappia, Mr. Merlin, Grant Fuller, Mike Nervik, Chris from Bluespan and Capt Olander for all the great info sharing. It appears we are all rowing in same direction and that good things are going to come from this Strategic Plan Group (Operational Communications), under the SP pillar of Operational Readiness. An additional study done by Grant Fuller and Mr. Zappia, reveals donated repeater will be good for parts in case frontline has issues. Continue to work with TEP to figure out what boxes need to be checked if we decide to move to Haystack. More testing is being done to get as much accurate data as possible. Also (new) radios being reprogrammed and the next level down also. This should allow every ff to have a radio which is crucial for safety.



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## Activities:

Met with BOS Anteriori, good meeting, was able to explain our long-term vision, short term needs, etc. Just sent \$5000 grant to which if successful we will use to purchase new hose that is in much needed.

Mr Nervik and I presented at the SSVEC regular board meeting. We have permission to utilize the remaining monies in the grant for other projects as deemed necessary. I will be working closely with Ms Gray moving forward. We gave a brief PPT presentation, followed by a framed letter with all the Board Members' signatures. It was very well received, and we continue to create deeper relationships with our external stakeholders.

Issue with Work Comp providers. Apparently state changed law and it is skyrocketing costs. Working on getting grandfathered in.

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... Hoping for a running ticker-tape type presentation toward bottom of screen first page of website. We'll see if we can make it happen.

We have stood up our Instagram 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 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.

We will realize several positives from the work currently being done:

More responsiveness for website changes

Better having everything under the PC platform and no longer trying to make Apple work with our technology.

Just about done with email transfers, All emails will be housed with Brian. This should save approximately \$5000/yr.

Already pointed our .gov towards our website. Now we will do some testing and then begin to put out messages to others about the change.

Website is now under Mr Molina's care. We thank Ms. Victoria for all the help and she still stands ready if needed.

We still own .net, .org. and still .com so no matter what suffix someone uses, it will be pointed to .gov



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Potential to gain free and delivered single wide for either occupation or prop. Working on costs associated with this to determine efficacy.

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. GREAT NEWS! WE'VE MADE IT PASSED THE INITIAL CUT! NO GUARANTEES, BUT IT'S A GREAT START! Decisions not likely till December, 2025.

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

FPS- writing for community risk reduction evaluation, \$11,650. We will not do it unless we get grant.

Home Depot- will write for more tools that will be compatible with our 20v systems for rescue tools, etc.

Railroad- Looking into this

Water grant? Looking into this.

Once new FY hits, will be engaging FundingNavigator to begin assisting us in finding grants to build the new station. The goal is education this year with taxpayers, finding and purchasing land, and begin writing grants. We are trying to do everything we can to do this without using district operating and/or reserve accounts.