



SUNSTITES-PEARCE FIRE DISTRICT

SERVING RESIDENTS OF THE SUNSTITES-PEARCE FIRE DISTRICT,
AND NEIGHBORING COCHISE COUNTY

Mailing Address: PO Box 507, 105 TRACY ROAD PEARCE, AZ 85625

PHONE: (520) 826-3645 FAX: (520) 826-3586

Fire Chief's Report for July 21, 2020

1. **EMS Calls= 38**
 - A. In District Calls= 25
 - B. Out of District Calls= 13
 - C. Number of Patients Transported= 29
 - D. Number of Patients Flown Out= 2
 - E. Number of Patient Refusals =8
 - F. Number of Mutual Aid Given Calls= 1 (HCI for NCCH transport, canceled)
 - G. Number of Mutual Aid Received Calls= 1 (HCI for transport of MVC pt.)
 - H. Number of Dead on Arrival Calls= 0

2. **Fire, Service and Good intent Calls = 48**
 - A. In District Calls= 24
 - B. Out of District Call= 24
 - C. Wildland Fires = 13 (Valley/ Blue River 2, Bonita, Sunland, Navarro, Chiltepinas, Sunglow, Bobcat, Cochise, Shake, Klondyke, Kansas, Touchstone, and Polles)
 - D. Structure Fires= 1 (mutual aid to Willcox area)
 - E. Car Fires= 0
 - F. Hazardous Materials= 1 (Kansas Settlement)
 - G. Good Intent= 7
 - H. Service Calls=26
 - I. Mutual Aid Given Calls=1 (Willcox FD)
 - J. Mutual Aid Received Calls= 0
 - K. Prescribed burns=0
 - L. Motor Vehicle Crashes= 1

Total Fire and EMS Calls year to date are 364. Total calls since 0800 June 16, 2020 are 86.

Training:

1. Fire training: On duty crews have been completing on shift training. These sessions included: regular service checks of apparatus and equipment, and physical fitness training.
2. EMS training: On duty crews completed on shift training. These activities included: regular checks of ambulances, EMS supplies, equipment, and

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medications; continued review of standing orders and report writing best practices.

3. We have suspended outside and group training due to pandemic response precautions and budget shortfall.
4. We have suspended controlled burn activity due to air quality concerns, fire safety concerns, and budget shortfall.

Wildland:

1. All of our apparatus is currently in quarters and available. We have had a total of 13 wildland assignments since the last meeting.
We have a total of \$20,667.59 in open bills with Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM).

Out of District Services:

1. We currently have a balance of \$63,042.68 for the outstanding services that have been provided outside of the district boundaries since 2012. Of the out of district services provided, eleven incidents, with a total of \$24,157.25 are in collections. Total unpaid balance that is not in collections is \$38,885.43.

Emergency Medical Services:

June total billings were \$42,201.93. July billings to date are \$26,633.84.

Hazardous Materials:

1. We assisted Cochise County Hazardous Materials Team with one incident in Kansas Settlement.

Maintenance

1. Lone Mountain Communications is continuing to repair ongoing reception quality issues we are having with our system, and will be relocating our repeater to a new site on Willcox's W Mountain. Link is donating his time as a community service to the fire district.

Communication:

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1. Cochise County Health Department: Please visit the County website for daily Covid-19 updates (<https://covid-cochisehealth.hub.arcgis.com/>).

As of yesterday morning, over 14939 tests have been recorded in Cochise County, with 1268 positive cases identified. 432 cases are still active, and 808 have recovered and been released from their isolation period. 126 cases were hospitalized, including 44 ICU admissions. Cochise County is reporting 28 COVID-19 deaths to date. Positive cases have been identified in all areas of the county, including Sunsites and community transmission of the disease is still considered a risk in all county communities. Everyone should continue to take prudent steps to stay home as much as possible and maintain physical distancing when away from home. Other prudent steps include frequent handwashing, cleaning of doorknobs and other items frequently touched, avoiding touching of one's face, and covering one's face with a cloth mask or covering when in public. Call your physician if you are sick. Continue to call 911 for any emergent symptoms.

We have provided the Health Department with five long spine boards for use with their refrigerated morgue vehicle. We have received isolation gowns from their supplies.

2. Grants:

Ak- Chin grant: Has been awarded for \$126,789.99. We have received the new cardiac monitors. The LS defibrillator module has still not cleared FDA approval, but approval is anticipated later this summer. Phillips is developing video training to replace the in-person orientation originally planned. Invoice has been paid in full.

2019 AFG was submitted for a) \$450,000 for Type 3 engine, and b)\$225,000 for radio system replacement including repeaters, handhelds, and mobiles. (3/26/20)

100 club; Awarded \$4,706.93 for 15 replacement sets of structure firefighter boots (4/10/20). Due to price changes, we are able to order 13 pairs. Those boots have arrived and reimbursement request submitted.

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Volunteer Fire Assistance; Submitted. Received notice that we have been awarded \$3,223. This grant is a 50/50 grant. We are continuing to assess our needs and plan on using this grant in July. This order has not yet been placed.

Gila River Indian Tribe-communications equipment- \$44,682 submitted 3/23/20.

Walmart: Received award for \$500.00 for firefighter PPE.

Pascua Yaqui: A 100% grant for a commercial turnout/ PPE washer/ extractor, in amount of \$8,849.57 was submitted on 5/20/2020.

3. Local Emergency Planning Committee report: A virtual meeting was held for June 18, 2020. County 911/ SEACOM and agencies rolling out new shared dispatch frequency plan.
4. Cochise County Fire Association/ Cochise EMS Association reports: A virtual meeting was held on June 24,2020. The next meeting will be July 23/virtual meeting.
5. Treasurer's Office: We are continuing to receive assistance from the Treasurer's office for analysis regarding our line-of-credit and income shortfall. We did not finish the year out of our line of credit by June 30, and converted \$144,790.86 to a registered warrant account with Cochise County. After July 1 we paid outstanding invoices from the 4th quarter, and have added an additional \$107,190.06 to the registered warrant. This sum is greater than the budgeted \$200,000 in carryover debt. Fortunately we have been able to pay down \$58,977.86 in the registered warrant account in July, which brings us inline with the budget projection. Looking ahead, our success in limiting growth in the registered warrant will depend on the rate of Noridian payments, the availability of additional wildland extended assignments, and continued reductions in payroll and maintenance. As of yesterday, the registered warrant was at \$193,003.06.
6. Payroll reduction; We have reached a payroll reduction agreement with operations staff that remains in effect, and reduces base wages by approximately 20%. Nevertheless, payroll remains higher than usual due to peak wildland season assignments.
7. FEMA/ AZ DEMA: We have submitted RFP to FEMA for reimbursement for COVID-19 response related expenses, including the mobile triage shelter set up at the Northern Cochise Community Hospital. We are continuing to seek reimbursement.

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8. Medicare- On July 2 Noridian Healthcare Solutions approved our application as an ambulance service supplier effective back to May 1, 2020. We have directed our billing service to re-submit bills from May and June, and moving forward. We expect Noridian approved payments though EFT deposits into the M & O account, but have not received any yet.

On July 13, Judge Collins handed down a decision from United States District Court that granted in part our motion. The Court has remanded this case to the Administrative Law Judge for a limited evidentiary hearing on the advice that Noridian gave the Fire District that it could terminate its business relationship with Chief Steinberg concerning the Medicare application, how that termination worked, and whether the District's billing privileges should be reinstated on this basis. This court order will be further discussed in New Business item B.

9. As I reported last meeting, a noticeable number of community residents continue to recognize our financial plight, and have undertaken various fundraising efforts great and small. I appreciate all of the support for and from our community.

10. July 4th activities- Our right-of-way permit for the July 4th parade was revoked by the Highway Department so we did not participate in any parade activities. Additionally, we did not assist with a fireworks display in support of Health Department counsel to encourage people to stay home.

At the July meeting of the Sunsites Community Association board, I encouraged them to arrange for a non-fire department entity to take out the permit for fireworks displays. I feel strongly that events will be safer and more reliable if the fire district focuses on fire suppression support for these events, and someone else handles the display arrangement and ignitions. In the meantime, the fire district still has in storage the fireworks the SCA purchased, and they are planning for a future event.

11. Staffing- I have added open postings for part-time employees. My plan is to increase the number of certified employees with local residences available for local fires, to increase the number of employees available for out-of-area assignments, and to be able to flex staffing levels up without expending overtime costs.

12. Introduce employees on shift.

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