



# 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

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## Fire Chief's Report for November 17, 2020

1. EMS Calls=23
  - A. In District Calls= 9
  - B. Out of District Calls= 14
  - C. Number of Patients Transported= 12 (plus 1 by Elfrida)
  - D. Number of Patients Flown Out= 1
  - E. Number of Patient Refusals =8
  - F. Number of Mutual Aid Given Calls= 3 (HCI)
  - G. Number of Mutual Aid Received Calls= 1 (Elfrida)
  - H. Number of Dead on Arrival Calls= 1
  
2. Fire, Service and Good intent Calls = 19
  - A. In District Calls= 12
  - B. Out of District Call= 7
  - C. Wildland Fires = 0
  - D. Structure Fires= 1 (Elfrida)
  - E. Car Fires= 0
  - F. Hazardous Materials= 0
  - G. Good Intent= 5
  - H. Service Calls=13
  - I. Mutual Aid Given Calls=1 (Elfrida)
  - J. Mutual Aid Received Calls= 0
  - K. Prescribed burns=0
  - L. Motor Vehicle Crashes= 4 (191-two, I10-one, 181 – one)

Total Fire and EMS Calls year to date are 594. Total calls since October 20, 2020 are 42.

### Training:

1. Fire training: On duty crews have been completing on shift training. These sessions included: service checks of apparatus and equipment, and physical fitness training. We participated in a virtual training with Southwest Gas.
2. EMS training: On duty crews completed on shift training. These activities included: regular checks of ambulances, EMS supplies, equipment, and medications; continued independent completion of on-line modules. We held

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one group EMS session with our staff and instructors from Air Evac, covering cardiology assessment and treatments.

3. Captain Garner remains in the regional hazardous materials technician course beginning October 26 through December 5.

## **Wildland:**

1. We have no resources currently assigned out of area. We have had zero wildland assignments since the last meeting.  
We have a total of \$65,939.78 in open bills with Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) submitted in October. We have received \$208,977.72 for bills submitted since July.

## **Out of District Services:**

1. We currently have a balance of \$59,920.00 for the outstanding services that have been provided outside of the district boundaries since 2013. Of the out of district services provided, eight incidents, with a total of \$20,401.43 are in collections. Total unpaid balance that is not in collections is \$39,518.57.

## **Emergency Medical Services:**

Total billings since July are \$161,472.87; total payments received are \$59,520.97. To date, Noridian has re-directed \$44,817.21 of Medicare and VA payments towards our outstanding Noridian debt.

## **Hazardous Materials:**

1. We participated remotely in the County quarterly drill held at Apache Nitrogen in St. David.

## **Maintenance**

1. E306 needs a transmission; we are assessing quotes for transmission re-build.

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## Communication:

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

We are experiencing increasing cases in all parts of the County.

2. Grants:

-100 Club: We have been approved for \$5,783.08 for two complete sets of firefighter turnout gear. The equipment was ordered from United Fire and the invoice has been paid. We are submitting documentation to the 100 Club for reimbursement.

-Firehouse Subs: submitted for the grant request for \$24,717.92/ 100% for UTV, with accessories and retrofit modifications. This grant was not approved.

-Leary Foundation: submitted grant request for \$24,999.98/100% for extrication equipment; submitted follow-up addendum to explain special district status. This grant was not approved.

-Gary Sinise Foundation: new grant request to duplicate Firehouse Subs grant if unfunded, or to develop a secondary replacement grant. This grant proposal has been updated to include additional wilderness medical and fire-line equipment, along with unfunded elements in the Firehouse Subs grant; it is on the November meeting agenda.

-Legacy Foundation for Southern Arizona: submitted new request for turnout extractor and cleaning equipment for \$23,000 ; this grant is an updated request for a previously denied grant to Legacy; and it duplicates a previous unfunded grant to Pascua Yaqui; consideration is pending.

-Ak-chin grant follow-up: three Tempus Pro units have been sent back to Enerspect for technician work to add on defibrillator components and add new protective cases. Cases will be funded from trade-in value of old Lifepak 12's that are being replaced by the Tempus units. Nominal value of this trade is \$2400. We have an additional delay from Phillips related to the defibrillation components, so the units are still not in service.

-AFG grants follow-up: for Wildland Type 3 Engine and radios; both grants were not approved.

-Gila River follow-up: received award notification of grant approval for \$44,682 for hand-held radios and associated repeater network upgrades; this funding has been accepted on our behalf by the Cochise County Board of Supervisors. We have received the check for this grant; Lone Mountain has submitted an invoice that we are processing; all of that equipment should be in

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service this month. The original quote did not include sales tax, so we have reduced the APX4000 section of the grant to 10 radios, instead of 12, to stay close to the grant award amount. The amended invoice is \$44,807.30.

-VFA follow up: This 50/50 grant of funding support of \$3223.00 for wildland firefighter PPE was accepted last fiscal year, and we delayed the order for cash flow reasons. Last week we submitted an order through DFFM for approximately the full amount; we have not yet received the final invoice related to this grant.

-SAEMS follow-up: we have received \$657.75 in reimbursement for Covid-19 related expenses for medical supplies.

3. Local Emergency Planning Committee report: No new information since the last virtual meeting on October 15.
4. Cochise County Fire Association/ Cochise EMS Association reports: A virtual meeting was held on October 28. The next meeting will be November 18/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. 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 today, the registered warrant was at \$46,220.24, a decrease of \$135,651.68 since the last meeting. This improvement is causally related to the \$205,452.50 in real property taxes we have received so far in October and November.
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 budgeted due to extended wildland season assignments.
7. FEMA/ AZ DEMA: We have applied to FEMA for reimbursement for COVID-19 response related expenses last spring, including the mobile triage shelter set at the Northern Cochise Community Hospital. We are continuing to seek reimbursement.

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8. Medicare- At the September Board meeting, our attorney, Mr. Matura was directed to send a letter to his counterpart at CMS with a settlement offer for the outstanding debt. We have not yet received a counteroffer. Additionally, the Administrative Law Judge assigned to our case has requested written arguments to be submitted for the re-hearing about communications between the District and Noridian in 2017. The deadline for those arguments is November 30. Mr. Matura's office is working on updating written affidavits from certain staff, board members, and attorneys involved in the 2017 conversations.

9. Surplus Wheelchair van- the auction on publicsurlus.com was completed on November 3, and the vehicle was sold for \$10,007.77.

10. Surplus SUV – this vehicle has received more use on out-of-district wildland assignments than I had foreseen, and has not been listed for sale. The long-term plan still includes selling off older vehicles as part of our budget right-sizing process. But I may have been pre-mature in designating this vehicle, and may ask the Board to re-consider its status.

11. Audit- we are continuing to participate in the audit process with Walker & Armstrong, and have been providing them with documents and phone interviews. We anticipate their report later this year.

12. 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. This month we began orientation for one new employee and have an interview scheduled for one additional applicant this week.

13. US Border Patrol – we provided standby emergency services to Customs and Border Protection for one of their aviation projects on Willcox Playa. We are submitting an invoice for those services.

14. Introduce employees on shift.

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