



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 December 15, 2020

1. EMS Calls=21
 - A. In District Calls=17
 - B. Out of District Calls= 4
 - C. Number of Patients Transported= 17
 - D. Number of Patients Flown Out= 0
 - E. Number of Patient Refusals =4
 - F. Number of Mutual Aid Given Calls= 0
 - G. Number of Mutual Aid Received Calls= 0
 - H. Number of Dead on Arrival Calls=0

2. Fire, Service and Good intent Calls = 27
 - A. In District Calls= 15
 - B. Out of District Call= 12
 - C. Wildland Fires = 3
 - D. Structure Fires= 0
 - E. Car Fires= 0
 - F. Hazardous Materials= 0
 - G. Good Intent= 10
 - H. Service Calls=14
 - I. Mutual Aid Given Calls=5, includes good intent/ cancel in route calls to Elfrida, Bowie, San Simon and HCI
 - J. Mutual Aid Received Calls= 0
 - K. Prescribed burns=0
 - L. Motor Vehicle Crashes= 1 (off-road in district)

Total Fire and EMS Calls year to date are 642. Total calls since November 17, 2020 are 48.

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.
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 outreach representative from Phillips, covering use of Tempus monitors and LS defibrillators.

3. Captain Garner successfully completed the regional hazardous materials technician course.

Wildland:

1. We have no resources currently assigned out of area. We have had three local wildland assignments since the last meeting.
We have a total of \$10,496.18 in open bills with Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) submitted in October through December. We have received \$265,713.28 for bills submitted since July.

Out of District Services:

1. We currently have a balance of \$59,790.00 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 \$39,388.57.

Emergency Medical Services:

Total billings since July are \$184,087.73; total payments received are \$66,172.69. As of November 30, US Department of Treasury has re-directed \$45,814.25 of Medicare and VA payments towards our outstanding Noridian debt.

Hazardous Materials:

1. We have gained access for our Target Solutions users to the Pima County enterprise account for regional hazardous material and technical rescue training.

Maintenance

1. E306 needs a transmission; we are assessing quotes for transmission re-build.
2. We contracted annual certification checks of fire extinguishers; five were replaced and one refilled.

Communication:

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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, admissions and deaths in all parts of the County. We have over 30 active cases in the Sunsites community.

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. We have received partial shipment, and will not receive reimbursement until all items ordered have arrived.

-Gary Sinise Foundation: This grant proposal to add a customized UTV to our back-country/ wildland medical program was approved at the November meeting. It is still in staff development prior to final submission.

-Legacy Foundation for Southern Arizona: we submitted a 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; this grant has been awarded pending acceptance.

-Ak-chin grant follow-up: we have received our three monitors along with the LS defibrillator component; these units are in service and we are packing up two of the old Lifepaks to send to Enerspect as part of our trade-in for supplies arrangement.

-Gila River follow-up: we received award of \$44,682 for hand-held radios and associated repeater network upgrades; this equipment was purchased from Lone Mountain. The handheld radios have been programmed and put into service; the new repeaters will be installed later this winter.

-VFA follow up: This 50/50 grant of funding support of \$3223.00 for wildland firefighter PPE was accepted last fiscal year. Last month 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.

-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, and are considering carving out eligible expenses from that grant and re-submitting them under the SAEMS available funding.

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3. Local Emergency Planning Committee report: No new information since the last virtual meeting on October 15; next virtual meeting will be December 17.
4. Cochise County Fire Association/ Cochise EMS Association reports: A virtual meeting was held on November 18. The next virtual meeting will be January 27.
5. Treasurer's Office: We are continuing to receive assistance from the Treasurer's office regarding our line-of-credit and income shortfall. We did not finish last 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 nature of a possible resolution with CMS regarding Noridian and other Treasury payments, the availability of additional wildland extended assignments, and continued reductions in payroll and maintenance. As of today, the registered warrant was at \$7297.65, a decrease of \$38,922.59 since last meeting. We were briefly at "0" in November, but have added to our deficit since then due to December accounts payable.
6. 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 requested written arguments to be submitted for the re-hearing about communications between the District and Noridian in 2017. The initial deadline for those arguments was November 30. After that deadline was set, CMS staff replied to our attorney that they were interested in our settlement offer, but needed more time to consider. As a result, both sides filed a joint motion to move the ALJ hearing to January 29. On our side, Mr. Matura's office did not want to incur expense for us by updating affidavits if a settlement was possible. Thus the work of updating written affidavits from certain staff, board members, and attorneys involved in the 2017 conversations has been postponed until closer to the January 29 hearing. On the CMS side, because of the amount of money involved, they must forward the settlement proposal to U.S. Department of Justice for approval; we are waiting on the DOJ decision.
7. Surplus equipment follow-up:
(June)

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-Surplus Wheelchair van -- the auction on publics surplus.com was completed on November 3, and the vehicle was sold for \$10,007.77. We are waiting on the disbursement of money from Public Surplus.

-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 yet. The long-term plan still includes selling off older vehicles as part of our budget right-sizing process.

-Surplus boots –These structure boots were replaced by a 100 Club grant; they were donated to Mescal Fire District for interim use there.
(November)

-ventilation fans –both fans were donated to City of Willcox Department of Public Safety.

-foam proportioner, refrigerator – still waiting for staff processing to post on auction site.

-used tires – still waiting for staff processing to post local listing.

8. 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 draft copy report this week, and expect the audit to be presented at the January meeting.

9. Staffing- We added one additional part-time EMT/firefighter this month. We accepted the resignation of one part-time paramedic/ firefighter.

10. US Border Patrol – we provided standby emergency services to Customs and Border Protection for one of their aviation projects on Willcox Playa. Our invoice (\$15,700) for those services was paid, but that payment was reduced to zero by Treasury due to our Noridian debt.

11. Policy review follow-up –Since the last meeting, I have not forwarded any new drafts to the Policy ad hoc committee. For January, I will be focusing on finishing section 300, including the organization chart, and section 303, including job descriptions.

12. Introduce employees on shift.

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