



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 January 19, 2021

1. EMS Calls=44
 - A. In District Calls=30
 - B. Out of District Calls= 14
 - C. Number of Patients Transported= 35
 - D. Number of Patients Flown Out= 2
 - E. Number of Patient Refusals =6
 - F. Number of Mutual Aid Given Calls= 4 (2 HCI transports and 2 fill-in)
 - G. Number of Mutual Aid Received Calls= 0
 - H. Number of Dead on Arrival Calls=3

2. Fire, Service and Good intent Calls = 34
 - A. In District Calls= 14
 - B. Out of District Call= 20
 - C. Wildland Fires = 3 (Pre-Position SoCal/ E307& Sunnyside, Baker/ E307, Johnson/ E307&T304)
 - D. Structure Fires= 0
 - E. Car Fires= 1(Dragoon)
 - F. Hazardous Materials= 1 (Sunizona)
 - G. Good Intent= 11
 - H. Service Calls=18
 - I. Mutual Aid Given Calls=1, includes good intent/ cancel in route call to Bowie.
 - J. Mutual Aid Received Calls= 0
 - K. Prescribed burns=0
 - L. Motor Vehicle Crashes= 3 (Cochise Stronghold, 191, I10)

Total Fire and EMS Calls 2021 year to date are 39. Total calls for 2020 were 681. Total calls since December 15, 2020 are 78.

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 held our first pack test assessment of the season on January 9.

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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 one group EMS session with our staff and outreach representatives from Air Evac, covering triage, trauma care, and fluid resuscitation. In partnership with Arizona Ambulance, we hosted one Webex site for a three-day EMT continuing education course.

Wildland:

1. We have no resources currently assigned out of area. We have had two local wildland assignments, and one California assignment since the last meeting. We have a total of \$26,129.30 in open bills with Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) submitted in November through January. We have received \$274,917.50 for bills submitted since July.

Out of District Services:

1. We currently have a balance of \$60,130.63 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 \$39,729.20.

Emergency Medical Services:

Total billings since July are \$241,476.98; total payments received are \$83,281.67. As of December 30, US Department of Treasury has re-directed \$50,429.99 of Medicare and VA payments towards our outstanding Noridian debt.

Hazardous Materials:

1. We are continuing to participate in planning for county/ regional training, but due to pandemic precautions, group exercises are still limited.

Maintenance

1. E306: transmission problems were assessed by Tucson Transmission. They recommended replacement of a faulty fan clutch instead of a transmission rebuild, which reduced the invoice by \$2000; we are still assessing an intermittent tow/haul switch control issue.

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2. We are due annual pump tests, ladder tests, and SCBA air cascade maintenance this spring, and are assessing cash flow before scheduling.

Communication:

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

Cochise County suffered a dramatic increase in positive Covid-19 tests, hospital admissions, ICU admissions, and deaths since November. It remains important for everyone to continue basic steps like mask wearing in public, avoiding large groups, maintaining social separation, frequent handwashing, and staying home when possible to slow down the continuing spread of this coronavirus and all its variants.

Cochise County opened vaccinations to Phase 1B individuals 75 and older on January 9th. Based on availability, vaccinations will be open to other 1B individuals on January 23. Many individuals have had difficulty making vaccine appointments through the state portal for Cochise County vaccine sites. If you have trouble, please call the provider directly to make the appointment. Phone numbers for most providers can be found on the azdhs.gov vaccine finder page. Locally, vaccines are being distributed in Willcox by Walker Family Medicine and the Medicine Shoppe pharmacy, as well as the Northern Cochise Community Hospital.

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, all equipment has been received, the invoice has been paid, and we have received reimbursement from the 100 Club of Arizona.

-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 and we will receive the funding distribution next week.

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

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-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; one new repeater has been installed on the station tower; the second will be installed on the W Mountain site installed later this year.

-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. We are not submitting a new proposal for this current cycle because of the 50% match requirement.

-SAEMS follow-up: we have received \$657.75 in reimbursement for Covid-19 related expenses for medical supplies. We are evaluating other expenses for a possible second submission for reimbursement.

-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.

3. Local Emergency Planning Committee report: A virtual meeting was held 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 January 15, the registered warrant was at \$15,382.22, an increase of \$8,084.57 since last meeting. We were briefly at "0" in November but have added to our deficit since then due to ongoing payroll and accounts payable costs.

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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. 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 December 28 CMS replied that they would not accept our settlement offer and would not be offering a counter-offer. As a result, our attorneys are preparing for the January 29 hearing.

7. Surplus equipment follow-up:
(June)

-Surplus Wheelchair van -- the auction on publics surplus.com was completed on November 3, and the vehicle was sold for \$10,007.77. We have received this payment 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.

(December)

-handheld radios-these radios were replaced by the Gila River grant and were donated to Bowie Fire District and San Simon Fire District.

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 have reviewed the draft audit in a virtual meeting with Jay Parkes and Lisa Parkes. The audit will be presented tonight.

9. Staffing- We made no staffing changes this month, but we are still accepting and considering applications for part-time reserves.

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10. Community support- We assisted the Sunsites Community Association with their New Year's Eve fireworks display. We assisted Friends of the Sunsites Library with space/Microsoft Teams for their annual meeting.

11. Policy review follow-up –Since the last meeting, I forwarded to the ad hoc committee the remainder of section 300, including the organization chart, and a partial review of section 303, including job descriptions. The ad hoc committee has recommended that review on tonight's agenda. For next meeting, I will continue to finish the remainder of the job descriptions in section 303, and start section 311 (Out of District billing).

12. Introduce employees on shift.