



# 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 March 16, 2021

1. EMS Calls=26
  - A. In District Calls=18
  - B. Out of District Calls= 8
  - C. Number of Patients Transported= 20 (includes one by Elfrida)
  - D. Number of Patients Flown Out= 1
  - E. Number of Patient Refusals =3
  - F. Number of Mutual Aid Given Calls= 0
  - G. Number of Mutual Aid Received Calls= 1 (Elfrida for Sunizona)
  - H. Number of Deceased at scene Calls=3
  
2. Fire, Service and Good intent Calls = 24
  - A. In District Calls= 14
  - B. Out of District Call= 10
  - C. Wildland Fires =5 (Middlemarch, Stronghold, Wrangler, Klondyke I & II, FEMA Vaccination/ EMT)
  - D. Structure Fires=0
  - E. Car Fires= 0
  - F. Hazardous Materials= 0
  - G. Good Intent=4
  - H. Service Calls=15 (includes EMT for FEMA Vaccination support)
  - I. Mutual Aid Given Calls=0
  - J. Mutual Aid Received Calls= 1 (Elfrida for fire alarm in Kansas Settlement)
  - K. Prescribed burns=0
  - L. Motor Vehicle Crashes= 1 (pedestrian in Sunizona)

Total Fire and EMS Calls 2021 year to date are 128. Total calls since February 16, 2021 are 50.

### 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 third pack test assessment of the season with wildland safety refresher training on February 27th. One firefighter attended a Peer Support Training course held at Northwest Fire District.

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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 anaphylaxis, pain management and toxicology.

## **Wildland:**

1. We have no engine resources currently assigned out of area. We have one firefighter assigned to FEMA for Covid-19 vaccination support. We have had five local wildland assignments since the last meeting.  
We have a total of \$20,975.43 in open bills with Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) submitted in February through March. We have received \$301,427.62 for bills submitted since July.
2. Captain Tingle has taken on the responsibility of chair of the Cochise County Wildland Group, as well as a seat on the District 3 Red Card Committee for wildland qualification review.

## **Out of District Services:**

1. We currently have a balance of \$59,865.63 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 \$39,464.20.

## **Emergency Medical Services:**

Total billings since July are \$291,167.25; total payments received are \$114,337.58. As of February 28, US Department of Treasury has re-directed \$65,369.66 of Medicare and VA payments towards our outstanding Noridian debt, as well as an additional \$15,700 from Customs and Border Protection.

## **Hazardous Materials:**

1. We are planning on participation in a regional training exercise on May 4<sup>th</sup> with Union Pacific railroad. The Boeing Starliner project for Willcox Playa has been delayed again to May/June timeframe.

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## Maintenance

1. M303 (2001 F350 4WD): we replaced its universal joint.
2. We are due annual pump tests, ladder tests, and SCBA air cascade maintenance this spring, tentatively scheduled for end of March.
3. M302 (2013 F450): we repaired its rear suspension.
4. Server/ Finance functions: we had an end-of-life failure of our hard drive server that affected all our files under the Admin and Chief logins. Sunstate Technology Group retrieved our server back-up files and placed them on a new solid-state server; labor and expenses for this retrieval was quoted at \$3,558. Additionally, the new server was provided under a Hardware As A Service three year agreement, adding \$165/mo to our existing agreement, for a new total of \$517/mo.

## Communication:

1. Cochise County Health Department: Please visit the County website for Covid-19 updates and vaccine registration information. (<https://covid-cochisehealth.hub.arcgis.com/>).  
Cochise County has had a decrease in positive Covid-19 tests, hospital admissions, ICU admissions, and deaths since January. 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 has opened vaccinations to those 55 and older. Please use the AZDHS vaccine finder page to make an appointment or the 1-844-542-8201 hotline for those without internet access. Locally, in Willcox vaccines are being given by NCCH, Walker Family Medicine, Medicine Shoppe pharmacy, and Safeway pharmacy. As of March 15, Cochise County has vaccinated with at least one dose over 28,353 people.
2. Grants/ follow-up:
  - 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 was awarded January 2021 and we are in the implementation stage.
  - Arizona Governor's Highway Safety Grant: March 2021, we submitted a grant proposal for \$30,000 in extrication equipment upgrades.

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3. 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 March 12, the registered warrant was at \$53,354.27, an increase of \$18,274.85 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.
  
4. Medicare- On January 29, Mr. Matura filed our brief for the Administrative Law Judge hearing regarding communications between the Fire District and Noridian/CMS in 2017. CMS has filed its reply and requested an examination of the affidavit witnesses submitted. We are waiting on a decision of possible scheduling of that examination process, if indeed the Judge allows it.
  
5. Surplus equipment follow-up:  
No new changes since the list update at the January meeting.  
Except, we did receive a donation of used extrication equipment from Three Points Fire District to be shared by Sunsites and Elfrida. We have identified some maintenance problems with the donated equipment, and staff is researching solutions.
  
6. Staffing- We made no staffing changes this month, but we are still accepting and considering applications for part-time reserves. We interviewed and started background checks for two potential hires.
  
7. Community support- I spoke briefly at the Sunsites Community Association annual meeting on February 25.
  
8. Policy review follow-up –Section 311.1 Out of District billing, and a new section 311.4 fee schedule for open burning assistance are on tonight's agenda. I have not finished section 308 Corrective Action/ Discipline and section 309 Complaint /Appeals Process, but I am planning on forwarding those to the ad-hoc committee for the next meeting.
  
9. Budget process- We are beginning preparations for next year's budget, and expect our first budget work session April 20<sup>th</sup>.

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10. Introduce employees on shift. [We have received a letter from the Pinal County Health Department commending Captain Austin for his outstanding competence, work ethic, and leadership skills during his three-week assignment detail supporting the FEMA COVID vaccination team in Pinal County.]

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