



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 April 20, 2021

1. **EMS Calls=43**
 - A. In District Calls=21
 - B. Out of District Calls= 22
 - C. Number of Patients Transported= 37 (includes one by HCI)
 - D. Number of Patients Flown Out= 3
 - E. Number of Patient Refusals =4
 - F. Number of Mutual Aid Given Calls= 2 (2 transports in Elfrida)
 - G. Number of Mutual Aid Received Calls= 1 (HCI for transport from Sunsites)
 - H. Number of Deceased at scene Calls=1

2. **Fire, Service and Good intent Calls = 26**
 - A. In District Calls= 14
 - B. Out of District Call= 12
 - C. Wildland Fires =3 (Squaretop, Dragon, and Tombstone)
 - D. Structure Fires=0
 - E. Car Fires= 1 (Mustang Mall)
 - F. Hazardous Materials= 2 (explosion in Richland, refrigerant leak at Elfrida Elementary School)
 - G. Good Intent=8
 - H. Service Calls=12
 - I. Mutual Aid Given Calls=3 (Elfrida Hazmat, 2 HCI assists)
 - J. Mutual Aid Received Calls= 0
 - K. Prescribed burns=0
 - L. Motor Vehicle Crashes= 1 (Willcox)

Total Fire and EMS Calls 2021 year to date are 197. Total calls since March 16, 2021 are 69.

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. On April 10, we held one inter-agency training session covering vehicle crash-rescue at the Richland station with our personnel, Elfrida Fire District, and Holmatro Extrication Concepts.

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 independent completion of on-line modules. We held one group EMS session with our staff and outreach representatives from Air Evac, covering ventilation, capnography, and oxygenation. Captain Austin is traveling to Henderson, NV this week for additional training at Enerspect on the Tempus Pro monitors.

Wildland:

1. We have no engine resources currently assigned out of area. We have had three local wildland assignments since the last meeting.
We have a total of \$13,806.46 in open bills with Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) submitted in April. We have received \$325,899.71 for bills submitted since July.

Out of District Services:

1. We currently have a balance of \$60,415.68 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 \$40,014.25.

Emergency Medical Services:

Total billings since July are \$341,752.89; total payments received are \$133,094.19. As of March 31, US Department of Treasury has re-directed \$69,965.68 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 4th with Union Pacific railroad. The Boeing Starliner project for Willcox Playa has been delayed again to May/June timeframe.

Maintenance

1. E306 is at Elite Service for a tow/haul switching problem.
2. We completed annual pump tests, ladder tests, and SCBA air cascade maintenance with W.W.Williams. Both Type 1 engines (E302 and E305) passed their pump tests.
3. C30 is at Elite Service for a timing chain problem.

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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. The County still is adding 2-20 new cases each day. 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 everyone 18 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. As of April 19, Cochise County has vaccinated with at least one dose over 48,399 people.

We are planning to assist Northern Cochise Community Hospital with a vaccination event at the Sunsites Medical Clinic on April 26. Appointments for that event may be made at 520-766-6456.

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. The wash unit has arrived; we are still waiting on the dryer system.

- Arizona Governor's Highway Safety Grant: March 2021, we submitted a grant proposal for \$30,000 in extrication equipment upgrades.

- Gila River Indian Community: March 2021, we submitted new grant for purchase of chassis and associated pumps and boxes for wildland engine replacement.

- we have sent a letter of interest application to 5-5-5 Firefighter Fitness Foundation for possible donation of physical fitness equipment for our firefighters' gym. (April 2021)

- we have sent a letter of interest application to Southwest Gas for possible donation of a surplus service truck for the 2022 donation cycle. (April 2021)

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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 paying off the registered warrant by June 30, 2021 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 April 19, the registered warrant was at \$80,612.49, an increase of \$27,258.22 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. The cross-examination hearing has been scheduled for May 25, 2021.
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. Staff is recommending a donation of certain working equipment to Elfrida FD, and that donation is on the agenda tonight.
6. Staffing- We have hired one new reserve firefighter/ EMT and one wildland firefighter.
7. Community support- We assisted the local Lions with a loan of tables for their spring barn sale. We assisted Riverview Dairy with a CPR class on April 7th and plan for a second one on April 28th.
8. Policy review follow-up –Chapters 301, 308 and 309 are on the agenda tonight. We are planning on review of chapter 302 for the next meeting.
9. Budget process- We are continuing preparations for next year's budget. Our first budget work session occurred April 20th.

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10. Introduce employees on shift. [We have received a letter from the Pinal County Health Department commending Firefighter Brian Hughes for his hard work, calm demeanor and compassion during his three-week assignment detail supporting the FEMA COVID vaccination team in Pinal County.] [Firefighter Eric FriedenberG successfully completed his first assignment as an Engine Boss trainee on the Tombstone Fire this past weekend.]

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