



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 August 17, 2021

1. **EMS Calls=21**
 - A. In District Calls=14
 - B. Out of District Calls= 7
 - C. Number of Patients Transported= 18
 - D. Number of Patients Flown Out= 1
 - E. Number of Patient Refusals =2
 - F. Number of Mutual Aid Given Calls= 0
 - G. Number of Mutual Aid Received Calls= 0
 - H. Number of Deceased at scene Calls=1

2. **Fire, Service and Good intent Calls = 30**
 - A. In District Calls= 17
 - B. Out of District Call= 13
 - C. Wildland Fires =3 – (Cub Creek 2, Alder Creek, Rock)
 - D. Structure Fires=0
 - E. Car Fires= 0
 - F. Hazardous Materials= 2 (Gas odor and chlorine vapor)
 - G. Good Intent/ false alarm=6
 - H. Service Calls=17
 - I. Rescue/extrication=1 (Cochise Stronghold/ driver in flooded roadway)
 - J. Mutual Aid Given Calls=1 (ENGB to Sonoita-Elgin FD)
 - K. Mutual Aid Received Calls= 1 (HCI for a lift assist)
 - L. Prescribed burns=0
 - M. Motor Vehicle Crashes= 1 (Kansas Settlement)

Total Fire and EMS Calls 2021 year to date are 424. Total calls since July 20, 2021 are 51.

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 representatives from Air Evac, covering cardiac arrest emergencies.

Wildland:

1. We have one engine returning from Washington. We have had two out-of-area fire assignments (Washington/ Cub Creek 2 and Montana/ Alder Creek) and one local assignment (Rock Fire). We turned down one request for a fire near Ft. Grant due to staffing. We have a total of \$195.06 in open bills with Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) submitted since July 1.
2. We shared an ENGB to Sonoita-Elgin Fire District for the Alder Creek assignment in return for revenue sharing from this assignment. They are still working on the feasibility of a longer-term personnel sharing agreement/ IGA for extended wildland assignments.
3. We have been notified by Department of Forestry and Fire Management of planned wildland billing/ compensation changes that will take place by April 1, 2022. These changes will replace current hourly rates with daily and daily-fraction rates, and will merge personnel costs into all-inclusive equipment rates.

Out of District Services:

1. We currently have a balance of \$59,052.22 for the outstanding services that have been provided outside of the district boundaries since 2013. Of the out of district services provided, nine incidents, with a total of \$20,867.06 are in collections. Total unpaid balance that is not in collections is \$38,185.16.

Emergency Medical Services:

Total billings since July 1 are \$51,383.00, with \$10,415.08 received. Total billings for year ending June 30 were \$426,973.28.

Hazardous Materials:

1. The Boeing Starliner project for Willcox Playa was cancelled for August. Cochise County is still planning on supporting a future landing if necessary and practical.
2. SPFD hosted the Cochise County Hazmat Team with a site visit to the Excelsior Mine in Johnson.

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Maintenance

1. M301 is at Elite Service for rear end repairs.
2. M302 is scheduled for state inspection on August 31.
3. M303 passed its state inspection on August 3.

Communications:

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 is still adding up to 30 new cases every day. It remains important for everyone who is not fully vaccinated to continue basic precautionary steps.

Cochise County has opened vaccinations to everyone 12 years 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 August 16, Cochise County has vaccinated with at least one dose 67,184 people.

2. Grants/ follow-up.

Changes since the last meeting include:

- Received award from Pascua Yaqui Tribe for wildland firefighting packs (\$4,000); order was placed with vendor.
- Award notification from Legacy Foundation of Southeast Arizona for Responsive Grant for EMS packs (\$1,885); award ceremony is tomorrow on Zoom.
- Award notification from Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for wildland/ medical response UTV and trailer (\$28,430.40); award is in processing and expected within three weeks.
- Submitted letter of intent for Legacy Foundation Innovative Grant for ambulance gurney (\$32,000).
- Legacy Foundation representatives hosted a Zoom site visit here on August 3 to see our new turnout cleaning equipment installed at the Richland Station.
- Submitted letter of intent to Leary Firefighter Foundation for new vehicle extrication equipment (\$14,500).
- Received notice of no award from Governor's Office of Highway Safety for vehicle extrication equipment.

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 FYE

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2020 out of our line of credit by June 30 and converted \$144,790.86 to a registered warrant account with Cochise County. As of June 30, 2021 that registered warrant was down to \$57,159.14. As of July 31, the registered warrant was at \$9,283.16.

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. A cross-examination hearing was held May 25, 2021. The post-hearing supplemental briefs were filed August 5, 2021. Sometime soon the ALJ should make his decision.
5. Surplus equipment follow-up:
No changes from last report.
6. Staffing- We have one full-time employee retiring and have posted for that position.
7. Community support- We will be participating in a regional public safety job fair on August 27 at the Sierra Vista Mall. On August 6 we attended the memorial services for retired Fire Chief Richard Pitcher at San Simon Fire District.

We have begun planning for our fall fire prevention, stop-the-bleed and safety programs in the local schools.

8. Policy review follow-up –Review of chapter 302 was forwarded to the ad hoc committee; I anticipate including it on next month's agenda.
9. Cash flow projection summary (estimated August)–
Payable: \$94,600
Receivable: \$19,100
Current registered warrant: \$38,945
End of August registered warrant projected: \$84,783.

Receivables are lower this month due to no significant wildland assignments in July. Payables are higher due to payroll costs related to wildland assignments in August and pending maintenance costs. Looking ahead to September, we can predict increased payroll and fuel costs due to wildland incidents, typical amounts for ambulance billing, and little to no income from tax collections. Wildland revenue will be higher due to payments from the August assignments. As a result, we expect to add no more than \$25,000 to our registered warrants in September.

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Looking to last year, on 8/31/20 the registered warrant was at \$237,106 and on 9/30/20 it was at \$218,606.

I have amended the Sleep Time Reduction operating guideline I put in place last year to reduce payroll costs by not paying for certain hours between 10PM and 6AM, under certain conditions. The amendment will have a net effect of increasing employee pay for the remainder of the fiscal year, while remaining sustainable within the current personnel budget. The long-term goal is still to suspend the sleep furlough and return to the pre-April 2020 procedures for the 22/23 budget cycle, if not before.

10. Report on Collections: On August 9th I spoke with Bob Barker at Sierra Collections regarding procedures and possible improvements. He reported that he is receiving timely referrals from Action for delinquency. He has best results when the case is less than one year in arrears and is typically receiving cases at the 6-to-9-month stage. Cases that are not resolved with a payment plan by the one-year point are typically never paid in full; the one exception is if an application for new credit motivates the debtor to clean up his delinquent accounts. He complimented Ms. Allen's work and said she is very prompt and accurate with information when he requests details. He reported that his underlying procedures depend on respectful conversation with people owing delinquent accounts, and that his staff are trained to avoid language and procedures that are bullying or harassing. He invited me for an office visit to review their system and procedures in more detail.

11. Pension Board: The Pension board has two vacancies that need to be filled by non-employee community members. The next meeting will be August 23 to approve documents related to one pending retirement and acknowledge the financial reports.

12. We were invited to participate in an Arizona Department of Health Services grant-funded paramedic course hosted by Health Care Innovations in Benson; we have nominated two employees for the program.

14. Introduce employees on shift.

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