



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 October 19, 2021

1. **EMS Calls=30**
 - A. In District Calls=13
 - B. Out of District Calls= 17
 - C. Number of Patients Transported= 28 (SPFD-25, EFD-2, HCI-1)
 - D. Number of Patients Flown Out=2
 - E. Number of Patient Refusals =1
 - F. Number of Mutual Aid Given Calls= 1 (cancel enroute for HCI)
 - G. Number of Mutual Aid Received Calls=4 (EFD-3, HCI-1))
 - H. Number of Deceased at scene Calls=1

2. **Fire, Service and Good intent Calls = 22**
 - A. In District Calls= 13
 - B. Out of District Call= 9
 - C. Wildland Fires =2 (Coyote-Cochise, Monument-CA)
 - D. Structure Fires=2 (Riverview-Kansas Settlement, Dragoon Rd-Cochise)
 - E. Car Fires= 0
 - F. Hazardous Materials= 0
 - G. Good Intent/ false alarm=4
 - H. Service Calls=13
 - I. Rescue/extrication=0
 - J. Mutual Aid Given Calls=1 (HCI-1 standby)
 - K. Mutual Aid Received Calls= 1 (Willcox FD-fire)
 - L. Prescribed burns=1
 - M. Motor Vehicle Crashes= 1-191

Total Fire and EMS Calls 2021 year to date are 532. Total calls since September 21 are 52.

Training:

1. Fire training: We are planning a joint program with Bowie FD and San Simon FD for basic wildland training, tentative for November 20.
2. EMS training: We held one group EMS session with our staff and outreach representatives from Air Evac, covering neonatal emergency treatment.

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Wildland:

1. We have one tender assigned to northern California. We have a total of \$133.61 in open bills with Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) submitted in October.

Out of District Services:

1. We currently have a balance of \$59,880.97 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 \$39,479.54.

Emergency Medical Services:

Total billings since July 1 are \$131,292.54, with \$25,989.28 received. Total billings for year ending June 30 were \$426,973.28.

Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue:

1. No new incidents.

Maintenance

1. M302 had several emissions related sensors replaced at Elite and is back in service.

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 200-400 new cases every week. 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. Many providers also accept walk-ins. As of October 18, Cochise County has vaccinated with at least one dose 72,493 people, about 55% of the population.

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2. Grants/ follow-up.
Changes since the last meeting include:
 - Received award from Pascua Yaqui Tribe for wildland firefighting packs (\$4,000); some packs have been received and we are continuing to receive back-ordered packs as they come available.
 - Received award from Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for wildland/ medical response UTV and trailer (\$28,430.40); purchase order has been placed with delivery around January 1. We also are arranging related operator safety training for January.
 - Submitted application to Leary Firefighter Foundation for new vehicle extrication equipment (\$14,500); their decision is planned for November.
 - On September 12, Cochise County Board of Supervisors accepted on our behalf a grant from the Gila River Indian Community in the amount of \$88,919.00 for purchase of a new Type 6 wildland engine. That award check has been received by Cochise County, and is being forwarded to us.
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 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 October 6, the registered warrant was at \$0. On October 18, we discussed the remaining Medicare debt issue with the County Treasurer, Cathy Traywick, and its impact on future cash flow and registered warrant use. We will continue that conversation when we have more precise Medicare numbers.
4. Medicare- Mr. Matura has advised us that Noridian was reporting a debt amount on September 07, 2021, of \$124,437.45. We have established contact with Theresa Pachel, a supervisor at Noridian, and requested clarification of that amount with itemized details regarding debt, confirmation of credits, and interest assessed, as well as appropriate payment procedures.
5. Surplus equipment follow-up:
We were able to coordinate with Ladonna Burgess at the Willcox St. Vincent de Paul Thrift store, and to move our excess wheelchairs and walkers to their location for wider distribution in northern Cochise County.
6. Staffing- We have one full-time paramedic opening, and posted for that position, along with a supplemental posting for a reserve paramedic or EMT. We did not receive any applications that met minimum requirements, so we will re-post for those positions. We

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also have openings for local residents who are willing to volunteer for basic wildland firefighting training and response, and one Richland area resident has contacted us and started training.

7. Community events/ support:

- We visited Pearce Elementary on October 5th and Cochise Elementary on October 8th as part of our fire prevention/ safety outreach. We are scheduled for Ash Creek School for October 21st. We were also requested to assist St. David Schools with a similar program, but did not have the staffing capacity to do so this year.

-The City of Willcox has begun a new transit program providing bus service between Sunsites and Willcox, with free or nominal fees. Information is available at 520-766-7433 and WillcoxTransit@willcox.az.gov, or at Willcox.AZ.gov/departments/transit.

-The Northern Cochise Community Hospital District has its ad-valorem tax renewal on this year's mail-in ballot. Continuation of this secondary property tax assessment is important for the hospital's financial stability, and for supporting critical operations and maintenance. Voters are encouraged to mail back their ballots by October 25 to ensure arrival by election day on November 2.

- The Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona has filed the "Fire District Safety Act," a ballot initiative that if passed by the voters in November 2022, would impose a temporary additional transaction privilege tax (commonly referred to as the sales tax) and use tax increments of one-tenth of one percent (or one tenth of \$0.01) for a period of 20 years, and distribute the additional revenue generated between fire districts in Arizona. The sales tax increment is estimated to generate \$150 million annually in revenue, which would be allocated on a pro-rata basis amongst the state's 144 fire districts. The Fire District Safety Act will require 237,645 valid signatures to secure a place on the ballot.

8. Policy review follow-up:

- Chapter 302.5 Recruitment and Selection/ Special Appointments is on tonight's agenda.
- For the next meeting, I anticipate a need for the Board to consider implementing a District policy mandating Covid-19 vaccinations for employees. CMS is planning release in October of a rule requiring mandatory vaccines for Medicare contractors. Additionally, a broader federal directive applies to all federal contractors, and I expect clarification as to how that requirement applies to cooperators, both for reimbursement for wildland assignments, and for distribution of federal grants.

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9. Cash flow projection summary (estimated October)–

Payable: \$97,000

Receivable: \$290,000

Current (today) registered warrants: \$0

End of October registered warrants projected: \$0.

Receivables are higher due to the Gila River grant award and October tax collections. Payables are higher due to maintenance costs for M301 and M302.

Looking ahead to November, we can predict an average month for expenses, and posting of the remainder of the fall tax collection cycle.

Looking to last year, on 9/30/20 the registered warrant was at \$218,606, and on 10/31/2020 it was \$153,657. On November 30 it was \$5,826. We do not anticipate any need for using registered warrants for the remainder of the quarter.

11. Pension Board: We still have one vacancy for a community member who is not an employee or board member. Also, new state legislation signed this year is requiring additional training for pension board members effective beginning of 2022.

12. Audit- Walker & Armstrong Staff are continuing with their audit work for last year.

13. Insurance refund- Crest and EMI have notified us of a pending refund of health insurance premiums. Tonight's agenda includes an item for board approval of future premium reductions to eligible employees for employee contributions towards family coverage.

14. *Introduce employees on shift.*