



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 December 21, 2021

1. EMS Calls=56
 - A. In District Calls=36
 - B. Out of District Calls= 20
 - C. Number of Patients Transported= 46 (SPFD-43, HCI-2, EFD-1)
 - D. Number of Patients Flown Out=0
 - E. Number of Patient Refusals =9
 - F. Number of Mutual Aid Given Calls= 0
 - G. Number of Mutual Aid Received Calls=3 (HCI-2, EFD-1)
 - H. Number of Deceased at scene Calls=1

2. Fire, Service and Good intent Calls = 28
 - A. In District Calls= 14
 - B. Out of District Call= 14
 - C. Wildland Fires =0
 - D. Structure Fires=2 (out of district in Cochise)
 - E. Car Fires= 0
 - F. Hazardous Materials= 2 (in district – CO, chemical storage)
 - G. Good Intent/ false alarm=10
 - H. Service Calls=13
 - I. Rescue/extrication=1
 - J. Mutual Aid Given Calls=2 (HCI-1 standby, Benson-rescue)
 - K. Mutual Aid Received Calls= 4 (HCI-2 cancel; Elfrida-2 structure fires; Willcox-2 structure fires)
 - L. Prescribed burns=0
 - M. Motor Vehicle Crashes=2-(191, Parker Ranch)

Total Fire and EMS Calls 2021 year to date are 666. Total calls since November 16 are 84.

Training:

1. Fire training: On November 20 we completed a basic wildland course at San Simon, with 5 new San Simon firefighters and one prospective firefighter for us. We are planning our in-house annual wildland safety training for January 8.
2. EMS training: We held one group EMS session with our staff and outreach representatives from Air Evac, covering airway lab skills.

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Wildland:

1. We have no apparatus assigned out of area. We have a total of \$0 in open bills with Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM). We have received a total of \$100,084.92 for assignments since July 1.

Out of District Services:

1. We currently have a balance of \$66,434.20 for the outstanding services that have been provided outside of the district boundaries since 2015. 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 \$46,032.77.

Emergency Medical Services:

Total billings since July 1 are \$236,650.26, with \$85,218.85 received. We are averaging 26 billable transports per month.

Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue:

1. We assisted Benson Fire and HCI with rescue support at an offroad vehicle crash in Benson.
2. We assisted a local family with a carbon monoxide/ faulty furnace situation.

Maintenance

1. E302 went to Fry Fire District for replacement of the pressure relief valve and related pump work. It is back in service.
2. M303 went to Fry Fire District for patient compartment heater repair. It is back in service.
3. M302 will need repairs related to DEF heater problem.
4. M301 will need repairs related to intermittent electrical warning light problem, and patient compartment cooling/ heating problems.

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/>).

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Cochise County is still adding 300-400 new cases every week.

Vaccines are available to everyone five years old and up. As of December 21, Cochise County has vaccinated with at least one dose 84,335 people, about 64.5% of the population.

2. Grants/ follow-up.

Changes since the last meeting include:

- Received award from Pascua Yaqui Tribe for wildland firefighting packs (\$4,000); we are waiting for one final pack delivery to complete that order.
- Received award from Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for wildland/ medical response UTV and trailer (\$28,430.40); purchase order has been placed with estimated delivery by February 2.
- We have been notified by Leary Firefighter Foundation of an award for new vehicle extrication equipment valued at \$13,177. They will be working directly with the vendor for purchase of the equipment.
- We have been notified by the 100 Club of Arizona of a Safety Enhancement award of \$2,920.19 for purchase of structure firefighting gloves; we will need to place our purchase order by 2/18/22, and then submit for reimbursement.
- We submitted a grant proposal to the Gary Sinise Foundation for additional vehicle extrication equipment and expect a decision later this month.
- 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. After the original dealer was unable to find a suitable chassis, we were able to locate one in Texas, and placed a down payment on it; further discussion is on the agenda tonight. The pump has arrived, and the tank has been purchased and is in transit.
- Ak-Chin Indian Community has notified us of their grant reward to us for \$198,132 for purchase of a new ambulance; this award has been accepted by the Board of Supervisors on our behalf, and disbursement is expected for January 2022; further discussion is on tonight's agenda.

- ## 3. Treasurer's Office:
- We are continuing to receive assistance from the Treasurer's office regarding our line-of-credit and income shortfall. Currently our registered warrants are at 0. Our ability to avoid future use of registered warrants will depend on the success in limiting payroll and other expenses, and the continuing increase of ambulance revenue.

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4. Medicare-We made our final payment to Noridian on November 23. Due to several sequestered bills of overlap we ended up with an over-payment of \$4245.29 that they refunded on December 21.
5. Surplus equipment follow-up:
We donated 7 turnout sets, 7 pairs of boots and 6 helmets to Sunnyside Fire District.
6. Staffing- We have hired one new paramedic firefighter to fill the opening made by retirement in August. One of our part-time employees has been hired full-time at another agency.
7. Community events/ support:
 - We missed the SCA community parade on December 4 due to concurrent ambulance incidents, but we are planning to stand-by for the SCA fireworks display on New Year's Eve.
 - I attended the annual Firewise meeting in the Cochise Stronghold neighborhood on November 18.
8. Policy review follow-up:
 - I still anticipate a need for the Board to consider implementing a District policy mandating Covid-19 vaccinations for employees. Such a mandate is complicated by wide-spread resistance by most of our employees. Additionally, federal rulemaking on this matter is complicated by document complexity, as well as several court challenges and stays.
 - We are still working on applying the ETS-1 guidelines that OSHA published for healthcare providers in June. Unfortunately, we had the need to apply the employee removal and return to work flowchart to several employees this past month. But fortunately, no one was ill to the point of requiring hospitalization. I have not yet produced a District-specific version of the ETS-1 model plan template for Board consideration.
9. Cash flow projection summary (estimated December)-
 - Payable: \$55,859
 - Receivable: \$50,000
 - Current (today) registered warrants: \$0
 - End of December registered warrants projected: \$0.

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Receivables are similar to last year, but may trend higher for ambulance revenue by month's end. Payables are higher due to the second audit payment and some grant related expenditures.

Looking ahead to January, we can predict an above average month for expenses due to fuel and maintenance costs, and outflows related to grant related purchases.

Looking to last year, on 10/31/2020 the registered warrant was \$153,657. On 11/30/20 it was \$5,826. We do not anticipate any need for using registered warrants for the remainder of the quarter. But it is important to remember that approximately \$96,000 of the M & O account is restricted to awarded grant expenditures; once those grants are fulfilled, we probably will be using registered warrants during the third quarter, although we will see a transient liquidity boost between receipt of the Ak-Chin award and purchase of the new ambulance.

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. We have received access to several video trainings related to the requirements; PSPRS is still working on a model policy for local board adaptation.

12. Chief leave- Following counsel from the Board Chair, I took one week of time off. Special thanks to staff for providing flexibility to cover shifts during that time, and to Captain Garner for covering interim chief duties.

13. District changes

- we have received a request from Elfrida Fire District to study the feasibility of a possible merger or other joint management tools; a planning meeting is to be determined in January.
- we have received a resident request to consider an annexation proposal for the Ironwood Road/ Cochise Stronghold area; staff research for such an election is ongoing.

14. *Introduce employees on shift.*

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