



WHISPERING PINES FIRE DISTRICT

10603 N. Houston Mesa Road

Payson, Arizona 85541

928-474-3088 office, 928-472-3392 fax

2016 Year in Review

December 31, 2016

This has been an active year for the Fire District. This was our sixth year of our Fire Patrol Program. This year our activity covered the months of March through September. The early start was due to an unusually warm and dry spring time. Our Fire Patrol Program continues to be one of the strengths of the District's activities for the year. The primary goal of the District's program remains fire prevention by providing public education to the people that visit the forests that surround our communities every summer. Statistics for 2016 are slightly higher than 2015 due to an earlier start in the program this year. This year FD personnel visited 1673 campsites, discovering and extinguishing 100 illegal fires, expending 270.5 man-hours and traveled 1340 miles.

In May 2016 talks began between the Boards of Directors of the Beaver Valley Fire District and the Whispering Pines Fire District regarding the possible consolidation of the two Districts into one. This effort had been attempted several times over the past couple decades, but for whatever reasons it never made it into a reality. Well, in October of 2016 both Board's of Directors voted unanimously to consolidate the two Fire Districts into one District. The name will change for the new District, it will now be called the Water Wheel Fire & Medical District. This consolidation will be final at the start of the next fiscal year which begins on July 1, 2017. The current Board of Directors of the Whispering Pines Fire District will assume the duties of governing the new Fire District on that date. All assets and liabilities of the Beaver Valley Fire District will also be transferred effective on that date. The new District will then have 5 fire stations and 13 apparatus.

The second significant milestone for the District in 2016 was the completion of the ISO evaluation following the completion of fire station 72 in Rim Trail and the purchase of a second type one fire engine to serve the District. On December 19th we received notification from ISO that the new station and additional firefighting apparatus have been accepted by ISO and therefore the Property Protection Classification for all properties within 5 road miles of the new station will have a PPC (ISO rating of 5) as does all the property within 5 road miles of station 71 in Whispering Pines. This expansion of the PPC (ISO rating) of 5 now encompasses 53.3% of the District's properties, an increase of more than 13% over last year. Anyone that has property in this affected area should contact their home owner's insurance company and provide them with this updated information to see if their insurance premiums may be reduced by this change in the PPC (ISO rating). The governing Board of Directors and the Administration of the District are committed to a long term goal of having the PPC (ISO rating) at a level of 5 for the entire District and for providing the best most cost effective emergency services delivery system as possible to our tax payers. It is unfortunate that these improvements are expensive and take several years to complete, but be assured that this remains one of the top goals for the governing Board and the Administration of the Fire District.



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The FD Auxiliary through their various fund raising activities during the year, continue to provide financial support to the Fire District for many miscellaneous projects. This is a list of some of the benefits the FD Auxiliary provided to the Fire District in 2016.

- Rented two dumpsters for the summer months for campers trash disposal (\$1050)
- Purchase pallets of bottled drinking water (\$350)
- Purchase uniform shirts and sweatshirts (\$500)
- Purchased a high capacity ice machine (\$2700)
- Purchase supplies to support our community outreach CPR Program (\$100)
- Paid half the repair costs for the FD breathing air compressor (\$2500)

The FD Auxiliary fund raising activities include Pancake Breakfasts at fire station 71 in Whispering Pines on the second Saturday of the months of April thru October, 8AM to 10AM. At each activity they also have used books for sale from their community library. At least twice per summer they hold a large bake sale and once during the year there is a large one day Rummage Sale. The largest fund raising activity is the community BBQ lunch that follows the annual Independence Day parade in Whispering Pines.

During 2016 the District continued to improve our Emergency Medical response capability by continuing to have medically qualified and certified personnel on duty 24/7 at the primary fire station in Whispering Pines. This provides very timely responses to virtually anywhere in the District response area. A significant number of emergency response by the District involve emergency medical situations so the medical aspect of our services are extremely important. Our current certified staffing level consists of 6 individuals that hold dual certification in firefighting and EMS (3 paramedics and 3 EMTs) and 3 additional individuals that are certified EMTs.

The District continues to be an active participant in the northern Gila County regional automatic aide system. This allows all of our agency responses to calls for emergency services to be based upon the geographical location of the incident rather than the jurisdictional location of the incident. This expedites the delivery of vital services by eliminating the need for an incident commander to arrive at the scene of an emergency and then call for assistance from other agencies in the region. This automatic aid system also plays a part in the improvement of the District's PPC (ISO rating).

As part of our Public Education and Fire Prevention Program the District we continue to offer FREE carbon monoxide (CO) and smoke detectors to District residents. You can stop by the fire station in Whispering Pines to pick them up. If needed the Fire District will install these detectors in your home for free. There is a limit of one CO detector and 2 smoke detectors per property. Since this program began in December 2012 we have distributed 70 smoke detectors and 51 carbon monoxide detectors.



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One last thing I wish to include in this summary. The District is always looking for individuals from any of the communities that would be willing to become a part of this emergency response organization and help protect the property and lives of our visitors and property owners (your neighbors). It is a commitment requiring a bit of your time, but the District is also willing to make a commitment to you to provide you with the necessary training and safety equipment you will need to participate in the organization. If you are at all interested in participating, no matter at what level, please contact us at the Administrative Offices at fire station 71 in Whispering Pines, or call 928-474-3088. Also if anyone is interested in participating as a member of the FD Auxiliary you can contact the Administrative Office for details and contact information.

On behalf of the Board and all the District responders, we wish to express our sincere gratitude for your continued support. We invite everyone to visit our website at <http://www.wpfd.us> where we post important information about the District operations, budgets, meeting agendas and meeting minutes. If you ever have a question or concern about the Fire District or our operations, we welcome you to contact us at 928-474-3088 or you can email the Chief at ronsatt@wpfd.us. If you would like to contact one of the Board Members, their contact information is also available on our website.

Ron Sattelmaier – Fire Chief

2016 Response statistics:

- 1 – False Alarm
- 1 – Powerlines Down
- 1 – Swift Water Rescue
- 1 – Vehicle Lock-out
- 1 – Transformer Fire
- 2 – Wildland Fires
- 2 – Propane Leaks
- 2 – Check Smoke
- 10 – Structure Fires outside the District (automatic aide given)
- 41 – Emergency Medical Responses
- 45 – Fire Patrols
- 100 – Illegal Campfires