

ANNUAL REPORT

20

SEDONA FIRE DISTRICT

23





SFD 2030

Planning now to secure the future



Leading with Vision, Inspiring Success

Dear Fire Board, Employees, and Stakeholders

I am delighted to present our Annual Report, showcasing our remarkable journey and accomplishments throughout the year. It is with immense pride that I reflect on the dedication and resilience of our team, the unwavering support of our District residents, and the positive impact we have made in the industry.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to excellence, innovation, and customer satisfaction. Our focus on delivering exceptional emergency services and community education, coupled with our agility in adapting to market dynamics, has been instrumental in our continued success.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our talented team members who have consistently gone above and beyond to exceed expectations and drive our organization forward. Their unwavering passion, expertise, and commitment have been the bedrock of our achievements.

Looking ahead, we remain dedicated to our core values, fostering a culture of innovation, and delivering sustainable value to our stakeholders. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and confident in our ability to navigate the evolving landscape.

On behalf of the entire leadership team, I assure you that we will continue to prioritize transparency, integrity, and responsible growth in everything we do.

Together, let us embrace the future with optimism and determination, knowing that our collective efforts will shape a brighter tomorrow.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and I invite you to delve into the following pages of this report to discover the milestones, achievements, and exciting prospects that define our organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Mezulis'.

Ed Mezulis

Fire Chief



Mission, Vision, Values

SFD Mission

We help people through Safe, Friendly, and Dedicated Service.

Vision

Sedona Fire District will be a community leader in Emergency Services to make our District one of the safest places in the world to live, work, and explore.

Values

Sedona Fire District values the faith and trust of the community, and each of our members will support the mission by adhering to the following values:

- Safe, Friendly, Dedicated Service;
- Cost-saving initiatives and multi-tasking for organizational improvement and sustainability;
- Compassion, fostering a genuine concern for those we serve;
- The ability to anticipate, influence, and adapt to change;
- Personal accountability and professionalism, adhering to a strong code of moral and ethical conduct; and,
- Teamwork, working together for a common goal.

Organizational Overview





Newly Hired Personnel



Michael Hardy
Firefighter



Indiana Palmer
Firefighter



Tarren Soto
Firefighter



Brian Russell
Fire Inspector II



Colten Anderson
Firefighter



Lukas Becker
Firefighter



Michael Garcia
Firefighter



Austin Litten
Firefighter



Elijah Mylott
Firefighter



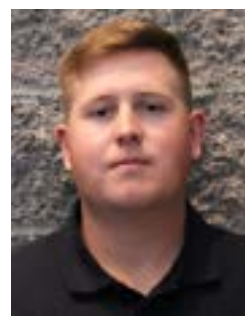
Madelyn Peyton
Firefighter



Andrew Richards
Firefighter



Clyde Rubin
Firefighter



Justin Wassell
Firefighter



Justin Broos
Public Safety Radio
Technician



Promoted Personnel



Jordan Baker
Division Chief



Eric Lechowski
Division Chief



Eric Lewis
Battalion Chief/Medic



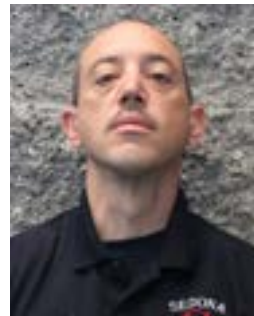
Todd Miranda
Battalion Chief/Medic



Jonathan Scaife
Captain



Greg Eberlein
Captain/Medic



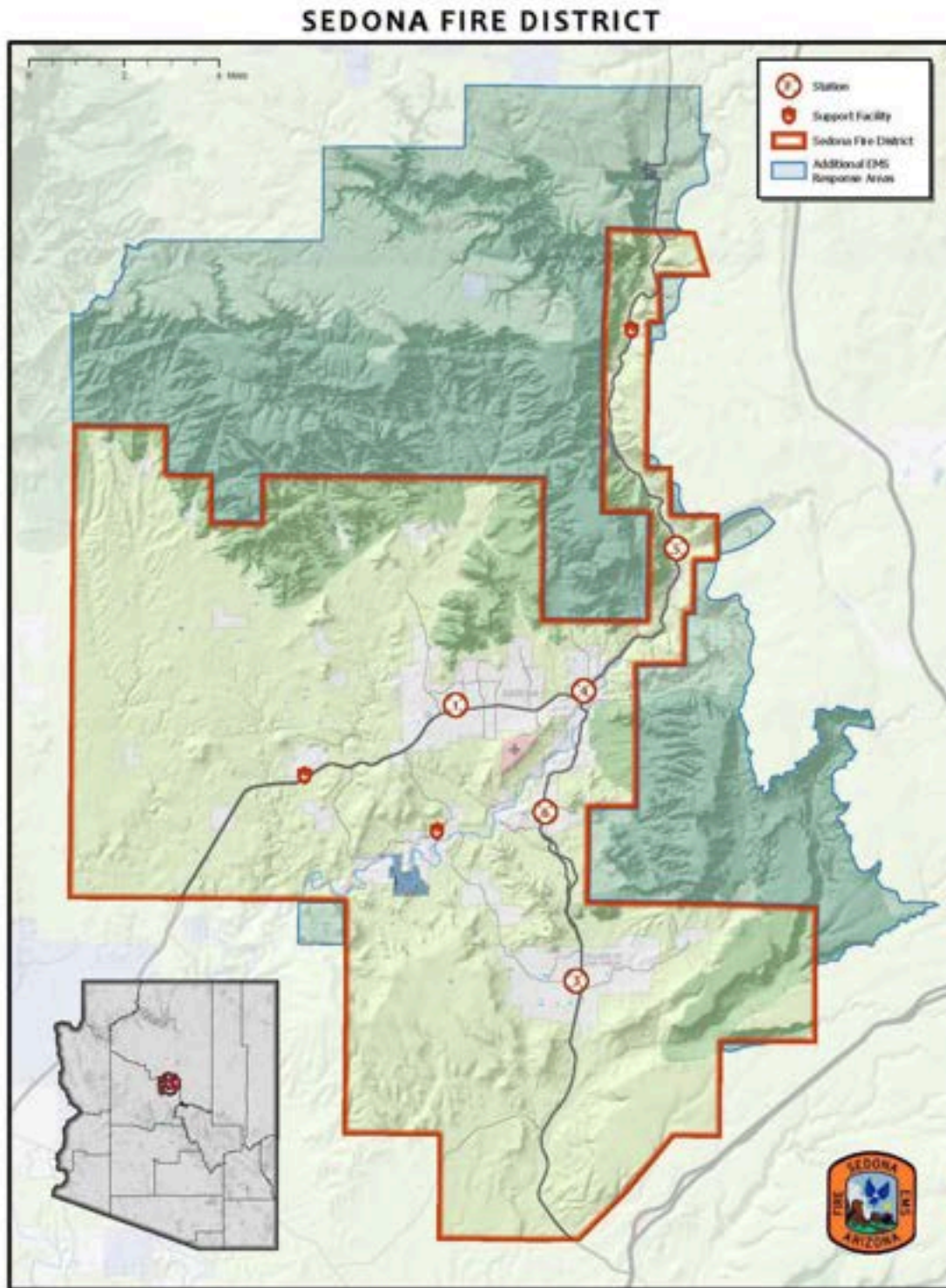
Milan Zorita
Engineer/Medi



Jeffrey Wassell
Battalion Chief/Medic

Retirements

Retirements	Rank	Month	Years of Service
Walter, Eric	Fire Inspector II	May	13
Morales, Angel	Captain Medic	June	24
Liebermann, Kelly	Firefighter Medic	June	2
Ojeda, Patrick	Captain Medic	July	23
Foster, Shawn	Firefighter Medic	July	20
Cochrane, David	Battalion Chief Medic	August	26
Duran, Michael	Training Officer	September	22





The Sedona Fire District (SFD) is a professional, public safety organization providing emergency medical and fire suppression services.

The SFD is comprised of 274 square miles in Sedona and the surrounding area. The District spans two counties, Yavapai and Coconino. There are five fully-staffed stations strategically located throughout the District



Station 1
2860 Southwest Drive

Station 3
125 Slide Rock Road, Village of Oak Creek

Station 4
431 Forest Road

Station 5
Highway 89A, Oak Creek Canyon

Station 6
2675 State Route 179



Sedona Fire District

Governing Board



Dave Soto
Chair



Helen McNeal
Clerk



Janet Jablow
Member



Scott Springett
Member



Corrie Cooperman
Member



Sedona Fire District Governing Board



Gene McCarthy served on the Governing Fire Board from 2018-2023, when he resigned due to personal reasons. Gene served the Fire Board with wisdom, dedication, and grace. Sedona Fire District thanks Gene for his service on the Fire Board and wishes him well in future endeavors, or just enjoying his retirement.

2023 Financial Overview





Envisioning Tomorrow, Embracing Opportunities



Finance Overview

Sedona Fire District (SFD) is contracted with The James Vincent Group (JVG) to work as their independent Finance Director and Finance Clerk role. Within that role, it is JVG's responsibility to provide the Board with the information necessary to fulfill its fiduciary responsibilities as well as process payables.

- All aspects of accounting and budget preparation
- Monthly financial reporting
- Capital assets and depreciation
- Coordination of risk management insurance policies and claims
- Annual audit
- Annual Department of Health Services reporting and rate increases
- Grant accounting
- Accounts payable and receivable
- Bi-weekly payroll and reporting

Ambulance billing and collection generates revenues that are second only to property taxes as a major source of income for the District. The ambulance billing and collections is outsourced to Ambulance Medical Billing, a subsidiary of Credit Bureau Systems, Inc. As the external Finance Director, JVG works closely with the Chief, District administrative staff, and Ambulance Billing, Inc. to provide financial oversight and strategic guidance for District operations.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, SFD, in conjunction with JVG, prepared an Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)



The ACFR is a thorough and detailed presentation of the District's financial condition. It reports on the District's activities and balances for each fiscal year.

Last year, SFD submitted its June 30, 2022 ACFR to the Government Finance Officer's Association and received an award for Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting. This achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting.

Grant Opportunities

SFD is constantly seeking alternate revenues to help offset the tax implication to our district taxpayers. In line with this philosophy, SFD applies for grants to fund equipment and programs to maintain or enhance services. The Fire Chief, in partnership with the finance team, reviews grant opportunities and related funding guidelines prior to determining whether an application should be made. This helps ensure the pursuit of grant funding is in both the short and long-term interests of the District.

Staff provides updates to the Governing Board to assist in tracking pending grants monthly, as part of the Fire Chief's Report to the Board at Board meetings, including pending, awarded, denied, and closed out grants in order to best allow the Board to understand the status of particular grants. The District may terminate grant-funded programs and associated positions when grant funds are no longer available unless alternate funding is identified.



The grants applied for in FY 2023:

Agency	Description of Request	Amount requested	SFD Portion	Status
State of Arizona	Covid Reimbursement – ARPA	\$1,108,390	\$1,108,390	Awarded

SFD Budget Information

Arizona Revised Statute §48-805.02 requires fire districts under Title 48, Chapter 5 to prepare and submit an annual budget. A budget is an organizational plan stated in monetary terms. The purpose of the budget is to provide a forecast of revenues and expenditures; and enable the actual financial operation of the fire district to be measured against the forecast.

Beach Fleischman, PC, Certified Public Accountants, conducted the annual audit of SFD’s financial records in accordance with U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards, as well as Government Accounting Standards and presented the report to the Governing Board on January 15, 2024.



Category	Approved Budget	Actual & Audited
Property Tax Revenues	\$ 18,170,507	\$18,153,326
Non – Tax Revenues*	\$ 3,461,874	\$ 5,231,079
Total Revenues	\$ 21,632,381	\$ 23,384,404
Expenditures	\$ 20,074,594	\$ 20,356,290
Capital Outlay	\$ 1,557,787	\$ 1,101,392
Total Expenditures	\$21,632,381	\$ 19,804,282
Ending Fund Balance**		\$ 15,967,005

- **Non-Tax Revenue** includes funds generated by SFD from ambulance billing, Telecom services, communication rents, carryover of unspent funds from prior fiscal year, grants, and transfers from capital reserves. In addition, smaller funding amounts including dispatching revenues, non-district fires, CPR revenues, CRM revenues, interest earnings, facility & parking rents, donated funds, the sale of surplus property, and any other funds received that cannot be consistently expected.
- ** **SFD Policy #2014-02** requires SFD to maintain an unassigned fund balance in the General Fund of a minimum of \$2,000,000 in case of economic downturns and/or unexpected emergencies or requirements, and to provide working capital in the first several months of the fiscal year, until sufficient revenues are available to fund operations.

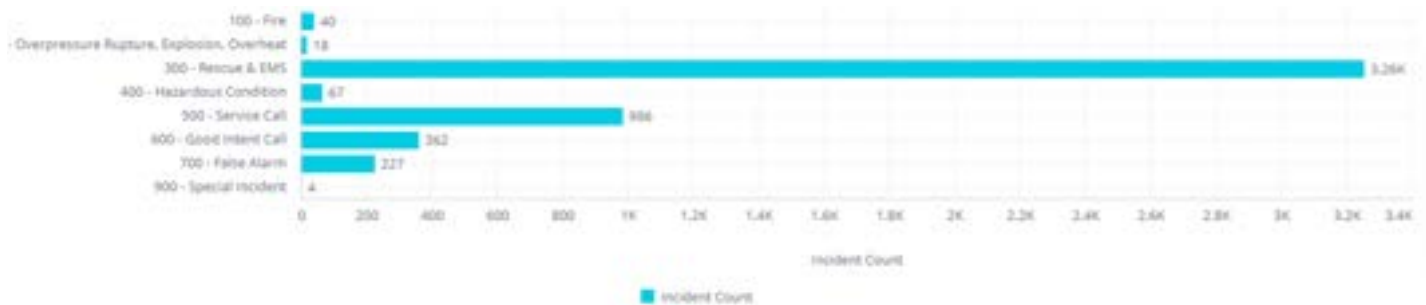
Incident Statistics & General Information





Sedona Fire District tracks and reports data to National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) which is a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The NFIRS is a reporting standard to consistently report on fire and emergency medical services (EMS). This standardized reporting helps SFD analyze the data to assess the different needs of the District

The Sedona Fire District ran 4,959 calls in the 2023 calendar year. Emergency medical Services calls continue to make up a majority of the call volume at 3,255 calls. Firefighters performed 176 backcountry rescue calls. Service calls made up most of the remaining calls with 1,646 calls that included hazardous materials, false alarms, and special incidents to name a few. There were 77 off-District calls in 2023, up 12 from the previous year, assisting our regional neighboring agencies.



In-District Incident Volume by Incident Type Group

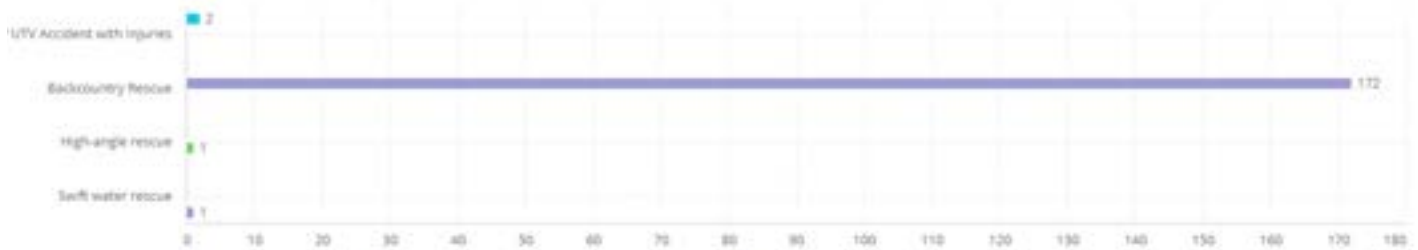
Incident Type Group	# of unique Incident Number
Fire	40
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat	18
Rescue & EMS	3,255
Hazardous Condition	67
Service Call	996
Good Intent Call	362
False Alarm	227

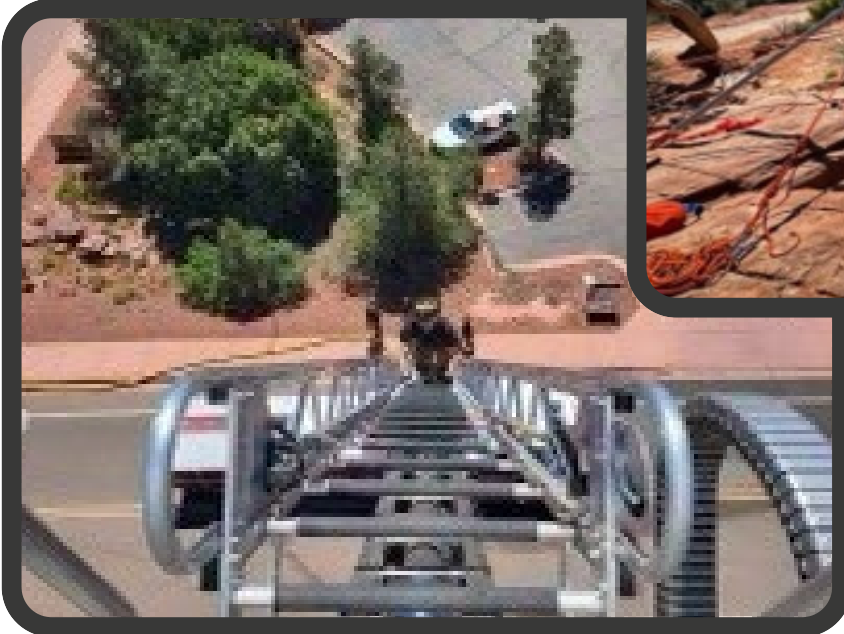
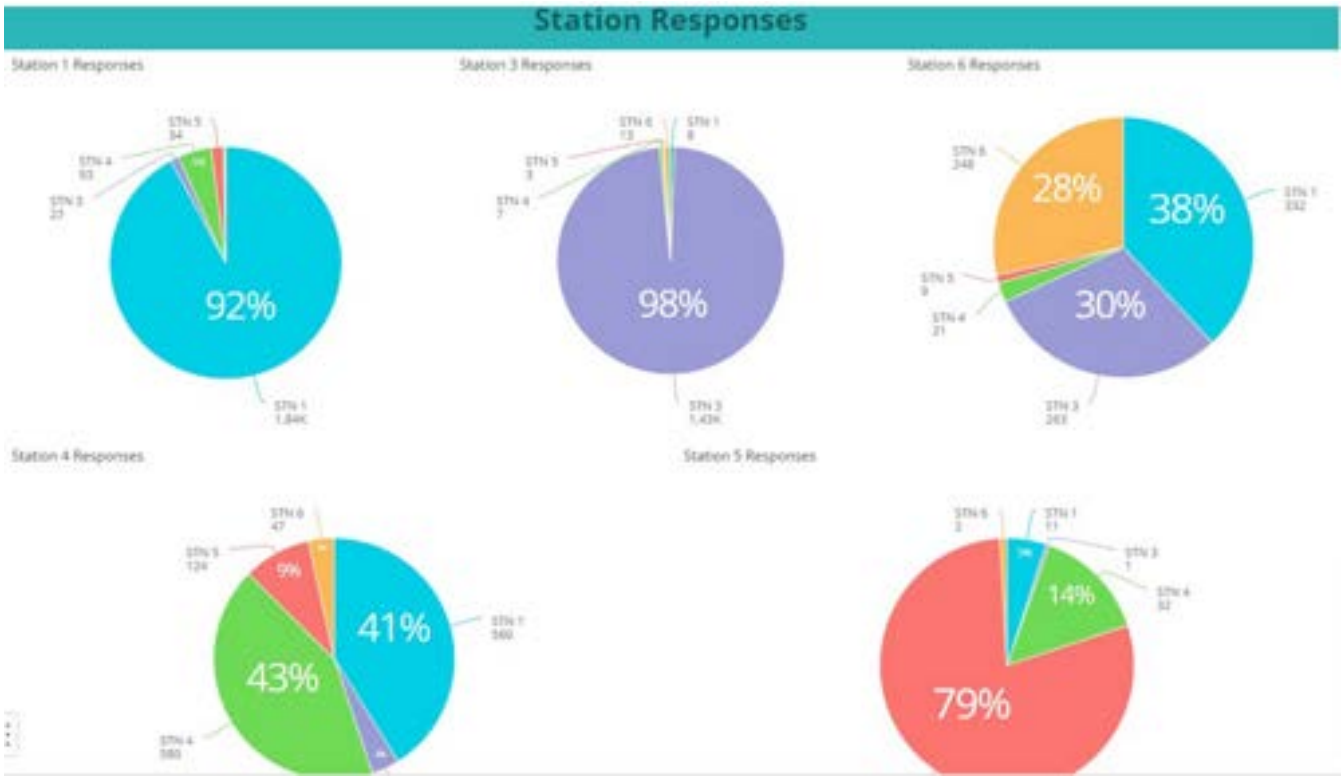
Out of District Incident Volume by Incident Type Group

Incident Type Group	# of unique Incident Number
100 - Fire	4
300 - Rescue & EMS	21
500 - Service Call	8
600 - Good Intent Call	64
700 - False Alarm	1
800 - Special Incident	1
# of unique Incident Number	77

Rescues

UTV Accidents and Backcountry Rescues







Gratitude, Collaboration, and Continued Success

Division and Special Ops Report





Wildland Fires



In 2023, personnel from Sedona Fire District showcased their expertise and leadership abilities by taking on various roles in wildland fire incidents and training events. SFD was involved in national level standardization of wildland fire response. Working with the National Wildland Coordinating Group to build the first national standard for Rapid Extraction Module Support teams (REMS). REMS are multi-disciplinary units designated to extract sick and injured firefighters from remote and austere environments. This involvement brought significant benefits to SFD personnel. Firstly, participating in wildland fire incidents and training allows SFD to gain valuable experience during initial response, as well as managing long duration, complex emergency situations. Wildland fires present unique challenges that differ from structural fires, requiring specialized knowledge and skills. By actively engaging in these incidents and training, SFD personnel acquire firsthand



experience in wildland fire behavior, incident command systems, strategic planning, and resource management. This enhances their professional growth and equips them with the necessary competencies to handle future wildland fire events effectively. Wildfires are the single largest risk to Sedona and surrounding communities. Sedona Fire District has a robust wildland division which responds to local fires and travels across the country in support of the National Wildland Fire Response Plan. In 2023, Sedona firefighters spent over 150 days off-district in support of large wildfire suppression. Assignments range from engine work to command and control of the largest and most devastating wildfires. Valuable skills, knowledge, and abilities are gained through these assignments which are used during local wildfire response. Revenue generated during wildfire assignments allows SFD to reinvest in our program to better prepare for the next large fire in our community.



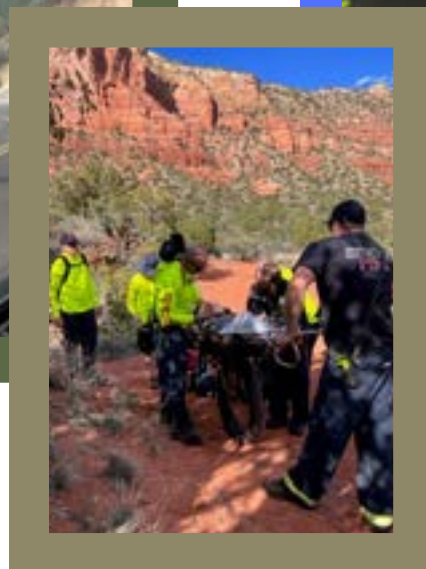
The benefits of SFD personnel leading in wildland fire incidents and trainings extend beyond individual development. It contributes to the overall capacity and capabilities of the district in responding to wildland fire emergencies. Sedona Fire personnel bring back new knowledge, best practices, and

lessons learned to share with their colleagues. Personnel taking on leadership roles also foster positive relationships and collaboration with regional, State, and Federal firefighting agencies which are invaluable when it comes to mutual aid responses and resources sharing during large-scale incidents.



Training

Our mission is to provide comprehensive annual training that enhances employee skills, fosters a culture of continuous learning, and ensures compliance with both external industry standards and internal expectations. Through engaging classroom sessions and practical trainings, we aim to empower our employees with the knowledge and tools necessary to achieve excellence in their roles, uphold safety standards, and contribute to the overall success and growth of the organization, while providing exceptional service to the community.





Training Highlights

- Annual Non-Ops Defensive Drivers Training implemented
- 2 New UTV Instructors
- Annual UTV Training Overhaul
- Battalion Chief Testing
- Engineer Testing
- Mandatory HR Training for Supervisors
- Annual Training Plan implemented
- Quarterly Minimum Company Standards evaluations begin



- 4 Attend Arizona State Fire School
- 12 New Firefighters start training
- New Firefighter Task Book completed
- 3 New Live Fire Instructors
- Training Library System overhaul
- Annual Battalion Extrication Training implemented
- Annual Drivers Training Program overhaul



Active Shooter Hostile Event Response ASHER



- 2 Instructors to Georgia for Advanced Complex Incident Training
- Training with Sedona Police Department on Clarity of Communications during high stress incidents
- Continuation of Unified Command Procedures
- New equipment purchases for increased safety considerations
- Regional discussion on Policy Improvements
- Discussions on holding annual large-scale regional trainings
- Implemented Capital Improvement Plan for equipment replacement



Community Risk Reduction

Key Highlights FY 2023:

- ▶▶▶ Hired an experienced Fire Inspector II to fill the Fire Inspector vacancy;
- ▶▶▶ Purchase of electronic Fire Extinguisher trainer to be able to conduct Fire Extinguisher training for the community;
- ▶▶▶ Continued efforts to engage and educate the community on fire prevention, safety, and emergency preparedness through various outreach programs, including school visits, community events, and virtual platforms;
- ▶▶▶ Firefighters actively participated in community events, collaborating with local organizations to promote safety initiatives, such as Smoke alarm installation programs and CPR Training; and.
- ▶▶▶ CRR Members attended numerous virtual and in-person trainings and conferences furthering their knowledge and skills in the multiple facets of the Division.



Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Division is a multi-faceted Division that includes Fire Investigations, Fire Code Enforcement, Fire Plan Reviews, Public Education, Public Outreach Programs, Wildland Urban Interface Code Enforcement, Fire Inspections, KNOX Fire Department Access Program and Public Information. The combination of these numerous facets is critical to the safety of not only our First Responders, but to our residents and visitors of Sedona alike.



Community Risk Reduction

CRR Training, Certifications, Conferences:

In order to stay current on Codes, Standards, and Programs that directly impact our Division and the community, members of the CRR Division must attend training programs, conferences, and obtain and maintain certifications relevant to the multitude of our responsibilities. These opportunities are also available to members in the field that are interested in supporting the CRR mission. In 2023, CRR attended, completed, or participated in the following:

Certifications: International Fire Code Council Fire Inspector I, International Fire Code Council Fire Inspector II, Fire Investigator II & III, Fire Life Safety Educator I, Car Seat Safety Technician, National Fire Academy Residential Fire Sprinkler Plans Reviewer.

Training: AZ Chapter International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) Advance Arson Seminar,

Conferences: Arizona Fire Chiefs Association and IAFC Wildland Urban Interface Conference.





Community Risk Reduction

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Training: AZ Chapter International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) Advance Arson Seminar,

Conferences: Arizona Fire Chiefs Association and IAFC Wildland Urban Interface Conference.

Fire Investigations

Sedona Fire District currently has six Fire Investigators, three on shift, and three within the CRR Division. This is an increase in investigators in the District from last year. The Fire Investigators are responsible for Cause and Origin of fires that occur within our



Community Risk Reduction

District. In FY 2023, investigators conducted 7 investigations within the District. A significant decrease from the 20 investigations necessary in 2022. Our investigators are also part of the Verde Valley Fire Investigations Task Force comprised of Sedona Fire District, Copper Canyon Fire District, Verde Valley Fire District, Jerome Fire District, and Cottonwood Fire Department. The SFD was asked to assist with 4 fire investigations outside of our District. Annually, investigators must be engaged in continuing education to remain current on Fire Investigation techniques, tactics, and procedures. This includes attending Annual Advanced Fire and Arson Conference held in Prescott, AZ, online training, and assisting in Fire Investigations as the opportunity arises in the area.

Fire Inspections and Plans Review

The majority of the tasks CRR is responsible for surrounds the enforcement of codes and standards through inspections, consultations, and plans review. This includes the Wildland Urban Interface Code and the International Fire Code.

Statistics:

	2022	2023	Difference
Code-Consultations	108	90	-20%
HIZ-Assessments	31	11	-182%
Inspections	600	699	14%
Plan-Reviews	531	362	-47%



Community Risk Reduction

2023 saw decreases for the second year in a row. One potential reason for the decreases in code consultations and Plan Reviews are the economic impacts of high interest rates from lenders. Interest rates not only impact new development, but, in many cases renovations and tenant improvements, all of which drive consultations and plan reviews. However, we saw an increase of 14% in inspections correlating to the high number of plan reviews in 2021 since most projects are taking 12 to 24 months to complete. These number swings are typical in construction. Although numbers reflect Home Ignition Zone (HIS) assessments are down, we conducted numerous HOA and organizational presentations regarding Fire Wise and Wildland Preparedness that included site walks of individual homes and community areas.

Community Events and Presentations

Throughout 2023, CRR and Operations attended or participated in several community events hosted by the City of Sedona, Sedona Schools, HOAs, and other community organizations to provide education on Wildfire Preparedness, home fire safety, youth education, and, in some cases, simply support our community members by attending the events. One of the most popular presentations is Wildfire Preparedness and Defensible Space presentations, alongside our partners from the Department of Forestry and Fire Management and the National Forest Service. In 2023, we conducted 11 presentations.



Community Risk Reduction

We also participated in the Sedona Toys for Tots Bicycle Rodeo, Sedona Charter Schools Heroes Day, a Women of Sedona monthly meeting with Fire Chief Mezulis, Sedona Elementary School Carnival, City of Sedona 4th of July Splash Bash, Trunk or Treat, Winter Wonderland party, the Sedona Oak Creek Authority Airport Days, and Slide Rock Fall Fest, allowing us to interact with more than 500 community members and visitors to Sedona.

Programs

The CRR Division leads and participates in many programs both locally to the SFD and regionally across the Verde Valley. The SFD programs include Wildfire Preparedness Days, KNOX Fire Department Access Program, Car Seat Safety checks and installation program, Smoke Alarm checks and installations, Firewise USA, and Life and Fire Safety (LAFS).

Wildfire Preparedness Days - Yardwaste Drop Off

This year marked the 20th Annual SFD Wildfire Preparedness Day yard waste collection event. Firefighter Paul Chabot has been leading the effort in securing drop-off locations, roll-off dumpsters, and equipment to make the event as easy for our residents as possible. After feedback from residents that usually drop off their yard waste in uptown Sedona, we coordinated with the City of Sedona to move the location to Posse Grounds Park.



Community Risk Reduction

The first weekend was held at Sedona Vista Village in the Village of Oak Creek. Residents dropped off over 13 tons of combustible yard waste, made over 100 drop-offs at the location, and spend nearly 300 hours preparing defensible yard space in their yards. The second weekend, held at Posse Grounds Park in West Sedona, was also a success. Residents dropped off 12.5 tons of combustible yard waste, made 80 trips to drop off material, and spent over 350 hours preparing their yards. Finally, Pine Flats, a subdivision deep in the Wildland Urban Interface, collected over 5 tons of yard debris on their own. The grand total of yard waste collected was over 30 tons. This is the best year of collection and community effort we have seen to date. A special thank you to United Rental Equipment, Patriot Waste, Sedona Vista Village property management, the City of Sedona, and our residents for making this a successful event

KNOX Program:

CRR, in coordination with Fleet Maintenance and Operations, transitioned to a Cloud-based KNOX Fire Department Key program with new key control devices being purchased for the entire fleet. This allows greater security and accountability of KNOX keys, which are utilized to access gates, homes, and businesses throughout our District when owners/occupants are not available to give firefighters access in an emergency. Part of the program also includes providing Knox home boxes to vulnerable members of our community at the suggestion of our Fire Operations crews.



Community Risk Reduction

Car Seat Safety Program:

The District sent two additional members to become National Child Passenger Safety Certified Car Seat Technicians, bringing our current total of technicians to three. This year, they performed 15 car seat installation safety checks and installed six new car seats.

Smoke Alarm and Battery Program:

The SFD responds to numerous service calls requesting assistance in changing batteries in Smoke Alarms in residential occupancies. Another cooperative effort for Smoke Alarms is with the Red Cross's Home Fire Campaign. This campaign provides smoke alarms to fire agencies to install in homes that are either missing smoke alarms or need replacement. Crews exhausted our inventory last year and we will be submitting documentation to request more smoke alarms for installation.

Life and Fire Safety (LAFS):

LAFS is a youth Fire and Safety education program that consists of members from Verde Valley Ambulance Company, Verde Valley Fire District, Cottonwood Fire Department, Copper Canyon Fire District, Sedona Fire District, and the National Forest Service. The group travels to schools throughout Sedona and the Verde Valley twice per year, performing interactive skits teaching students of all ages about fire safety, safe recreation, general safety around the home, and more.



Community Risk Reduction

The group builds all of its sets, designs their costumes, writes the scripts for the skits, and sets up and tears down multiple times per day for two weeks each during the spring and fall shows.





Wellness Highlights

- Annual Functional Movement Screenings
- In-Station Yoga Sessions
- Foam Rolling classes for crews and staff
- Wellness Center modifications to reduce injuries implemented
- New Wellness equipment purchased
- Alignment with External Health & Wellness Standards
- Quarterly Wellness newsletter implemented

Organizational Overview





The SFD Annual Awards Banquet for 2023 was once again held at the Blazin' M Ranch in Cottonwood, AZ. This year, the banquet was pushed back to March, in an effort to avoid the bad weather from the previous year. Curses, foiled again! The event was once again held in the rain and, of course, the mechanical bull broke down before anyone could defend their title, but a good time was still had by those who attended. There was another record turnout for SFD and we celebrated St. Patrick's Day as well as our awards with a somber group of Canadian RV'ers.



OFFICER OF THE YEAR - JORDAN BAKER

Jordan Baker stepped into his new position as the Division Chief of Training and Development with gusto and had already made a difference in the position and to those he instructs. This is most clearly seen in his revamping of the Firefighter Academy. In extending the time, restructuring the schedule, creating a new task book. Chief Baker cares, showing commitment to the program and the individuals to build camaraderie and a sense of team for both new hires and crew. In teaming up with Kim to facilitate the potluck including Admin, crew, and Board members, the new hires were able to meet everyone with less pressure, giving them a warmer welcome than in the past.

Expanding the first week to include at least a few minutes of time with each Admin member helped expand the new hires' understanding of who we are in Admin and what all we do and who to go to for help.

Throughout the new hire process, and even the trainings and classes Chief Baker has led, he has reached out beforehand for advice on how we can improve and even after, asked for feedback knowing that there is always room to improve going forward.

Chief Baker's actions and initiatives align perfectly with the criteria of this recognition, including Proactive Leadership in Special Operations, Strategic Problem-Solving, Dedication to Continuous Improvement. Advocacy for Team and District, Comprehensive Training Development, and Implementation of Evaluation Processes.

Chief Baker's initiatives, especially in the realm of special operations and training development, have not only addressed immediate operational needs, but have also laid a foundation for long-term improvement and excellence. His leadership style embodies the core values of our organization, making him an exemplary candidate for Officer of the Year.



FIREFIGHTER/ENGINEER OF THE YEAR - BRIAN ESPIAU

Engineer Brian Espiau has an “exemplary work ethic” that is best seen at C5 (C shift, Station 5) 0600 when he goes to the downstairs office to tackle the days software problems, analyze data, fix scheduling issues, build reports, and look for new ways to improve and build efficiencies, often until 1700 or later, and only breaking for Engineer duties or work required of the crews.

Long story short, he is doing two jobs at once and is essentially a single point of failure for key software systems within the District. He is always learning and growing, both personally and professionally, and does not sit still or let his mind idle. He is a bit of a guide and mentor in that he maintains his physical and

mental health, manages his time well, effectively prioritizes work, and solves problems logically and methodically. If he was not a firefighter/engineer/medic, he would make an excellent IT professional or analyst.

Brian excels in working with others, presenting information in a professional way that allows all parties to address the issue or conflict.

ADMIN/SUPPORT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR - KIMSMATHERS



Over the past year, Kim has significantly contributed to the Sedona Fire District, embodying our core values and demonstrating an unwavering commitment to community building. Her initiative and dedication have notably enhanced the morale and sense of unity within our District.

Kim has been instrumental in suggesting, coordinating, and executing events that have reinvigorated our sense of community and collective spirit. Her efforts in organizing the Annual Awards presentation and celebration dinner on May 19, 2023, at the Blazin’ M Ranch, Cottonwood, AZ, are particularly commendable. Despite the challenges posed by the weather, Kim’s positivity and leadership ensured a successful and memorable event for Sedona Fire, the Fire Board, retirees, and our families, including children.

Kim’s efforts go beyond mere event planning; they are a testament to her dedication in creating a supportive and engaging community within the Sedona Fire District.

Her work has enhanced morale, promoted inclusivity, exemplified leadership, and strengthened community ties. Kim’s dedication, leadership, and commitment to fostering a strong, inclusive community within the Sedona Fire District make her not only deserving of this recognition, but also a role model for others.



CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD - MATTHEW SPINELLI

Matt has always been very responsive to feedback and GIS-related items that will help operations. He also reaches out to crews to solicit feedback and gain input on how he can improve the way operations does business.

Without really knowing who is doing what out in the community, the only reference is what is seen being done by Matthew Spinelli. Matt has participated in several golf tournaments in his spare time, for SFD, as well as completing several projects for operations to better map and recognize known deficiencies out in the community.

While it may not be seen as a lot as a community service, he provides value to operations and, therefore, to the community!



COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD - BUZZ LECHOWSKI

Buzz is one of those employees who you always hear about doing something to help out whether it is within the District or our in the community. He has been a steady volunteer in organizations like Camp Courage and the Verde Valley Honor Guard, along with supporting other organizations in our area and enlisting the support of fellow members, such as with Special Olympics.

Buzz is the first one to say that SFD should partner with and support another organization/program.

Buzz has been known for the way that he helped mentor and guide the crews under him over the past years and as a BC. He is always willing to listen to questions and advising , along with providing support and encouragement to other SFD members in both operations and administration.

Buzz gives his time and efforts to those around him and out in the community.



OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION - SAVCO



Sedona Fire District participated in a golf tournament hosted by Sedona Area Veteran and Community Outreach (SAVCO) in October. With over \$18K raised to support SAVCO efforts benefitting the greater Sedona community. SAVCO provides direct assistance to Veterans and children in need while also supporting patriotic and community-based activities. Among the activities supported are the local Toys-4-Tots toy drive, which SFD supports and contributes every year.





UNIT CITATION - A1, B1, and C1 CREWS

Members of these crews helped out with countless calls to one residence and deserve some recognition. While not all of our patients and their families may thank us for help, very few go to the effort to disgrace our firefighters while still requiring our help, let alone threaten us with lawsuits.

Each member of these crews that have dealt with the resident of this residence continues to do what is best of the patient, no matter the ramifications from this person, while also trying to assist as best they could for as long as they could despite the difficult and hostile actions and words.

Crews lost sleep, been disrespected, and spent countless hours due to this situation while showing care, respect, and dedication to helping despite all. All involved deserve our thanks and recognition

This recognition is for an SFD operational crew, unit, or group that has demonstrated outstanding performance of their duties, well above and beyond the standard. The Station 1 crews have exemplified exceptional effort, resilience, and professionalism under challenging circumstances, making them deserving candidates for this honor.

- Exemplary Performance under Pressure
- Effective Communication and Professionalism
- Commitment to Community and Mission
- Leadership in Adversity
- Positive Impact on Public Trust

Adaptability and Teamwork

The crews of Station 1 have not only met but exceeded expectations throughout the year. They have taken on unusually challenging assignments with commendable professionalism and dedication.

Recognizing their efforts with the Unit Citation Award would not only honor their exceptional service but also inspire other units within our organization to strive for the same level of excellence and commitment



Adam Deringer



Cascade Detrick



Mark Feeney



Jeffrey Hamm

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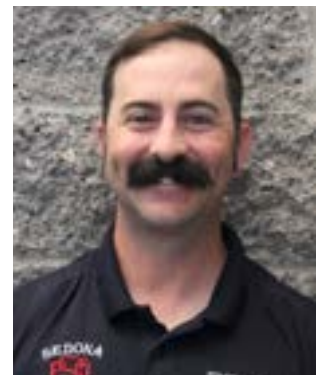
Kai Kincheloe



Jonathan King



Chaz Macari



Donald Minardi



Indiana Palmer



Alfonso Puyana



Matthew Price



Mark Rippy



Rodrigo Sanchez



Kyler Tarver



Jacob Tavrytzky



Jeremy Vargas



Jeffrey Wassell



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