



PALOMINAS FIRE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



Winter 2004

Volume 11 * Issue 1

11 TH ANNUAL PVFD AUXILIARY CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday, Dec. 11, 9 AM to 5:00 PM

PALOMINAS FIRE STATION #2 - 9695 E. HWY 92

(between Ferrelgas & San Pedro Ranch Supply in Palominas)

DELICIOUS BAKED GOODS

BEAUTIFUL HAND CRAFTS

Raffle tickets on sale December 1st at the following locations in PALOMINAS:

Palominas Trading Post

Morning Star Cafe

Jackie's Country Curl

San Pedro Ranch Supply

J.B.'s Bright Spot

Palominas Country Store

and from some Palominas Fire Department and Auxiliary Members.

(all tickets \$1.00 ea. or 6 tickets for \$5.00) Prize & donating vendors list will be posted at ticket sales locations. ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT PALOMINAS FIRE DISTRICT

CHIEF'S CORNER

by Chief James Leiendecker

To provide EMS or not to provide EMS...is there really any question?! When you are having chest pain or involved in an auto accident, your primary need is Emergency Medical Services.

During the past several months there has been a push by a few members of our community to discredit the Palominas Fire Board and members of the Department for not providing EMS. These individuals have no reported experience or knowledge in operating a business and, apparently, believe there are no rules governing decision making. I have personally heard them state they want an ambulance service NO MATTER THE COST.

If you have been approached by any of these individuals, who are reportedly using "scare tactics" in an attempt to bring residents to their way of thinking, please read the following and make your own common sense conclusion.

Throughout Cochise County some fire departments provide EMS to their districts, while other departments rely on *ambulance providers* to meet the EMS need. Many factors must be taken into consideration when determining whether a district should provide its own EMS. I am addressing the two main factors: *need* and *cost*. The *need* is based on the number of EMS calls per day/week/month. Currently, days, and sometimes weeks, go by without any EMS calls in our District. Other days we may have three EMS calls in one day.

Cost to the District (supported by your tax dollars) is the other main consideration. The feasibility of the district to support the cost of initiating and maintaining an ambulance service plays heavily into this decision. The initial cost alone is prohibitive at this time: training and paying 7 to 10 full-time personnel (including adequate benefits) and providing living quarters; not to mention the cost of two ambulances, medical equipment and supplies and additional insurance premiums. Of course it would also be necessary to pay someone to handle all of the billing and collections. Don't forget,



Special thanks to the following Fire Department personnel for their assistance with this years fire prevention days at Valley View & Palominas Schools: Barb Fox, Jason Pickett & Darl Goode. We also want to express our appreciation to the staff of Palominas and Valley View Schools. Thank you for the opportunity to spend time with the students, and for your continued support of Fire Prevention Week. See you next year!

CURRENT PVFD ROSTER

Officers and Administrative Staff

James Leiendecker, Chief	Tom Stoner, Assistant Chief
Becky Leiendecker, Dispatch/Admin Officer	Randy Fox, Training Officer
Barb Fox, Asst. Disp/FF	Geoff Bohrer, Asst. Training Officer
Roger Reese, Lieutenant	Darl Goode, Engineer
Jason Pickett, FF/Mechanic	

Fire Fighters

Tina Bohrer	Jesus Bracamonte	David
Buckmaster		
Yvette Buckmaster	Francisco Cisneros	Andy Couchoud
Jason Cross	Craig Duncan	Jeremiah Hinkle
Sherry Hunter	Miguel Jimenez	Joseph Jingle
Michael Kean	David King	Michael
Larson		
Jason Mullins	Brian Olson	Kevin Olson
Bill Ramirez		Debbie Stoner

Fire Board

Don Mott, Chairman Norm Wiseman, Clerk
members: Ed York, Ken Hayes & Chuck Mullens

Thank you for your dedication & commitment!

Chief's Corner (continued)

once all of this is in place, the cost of maintaining an EMS provider service is nothing to sneeze at! **To be frank - if our District were to initiate an ambulance service at this time, it would seriously cripple (if not disable) our ability to adequately fight fires.**

Your Fire Board is comprised of District residents who have owned or operated a successful business (currently or in the past), and/or have been involved in creating and maintaining budgets for years. Since 1990, we have had 15 different Board members serve our District; everyone seeing that an ambulance service is not financially possible at this time.

Currently, we are very fortunate to have Fry Fire District and Bisbee Fire Department providing ambulance service to our District. Bisbee Fire responds to the east side of the San Pedro River and Fry Fire responds to the west side. Both departments have trained personnel who handle our Districts emergency medical situations extremely well. These Departments currently possess the C.O.N. (Certificate of Need) for the respective areas. C.O.N.s are issued to ambulance providers and regulated by the State.

When a call for EMS is received through 911, the County Dispatch determines the exact location and notifies the proper agency. When Fry or Bisbee Fire receive notification, they make the determination of whether a fire truck, additional tools and/or personnel are needed. If that is the case, the responding agency will request our Department's response. If we are notified of the medical emergency from ANY source, we respond to the scene as *first responders* to administer first aid and inform the responding ambulance of the situation. Additionally we assist with traffic control, helicopter landing zones, retrieval of patients in remote areas, and other duties for which our personnel have been trained.

Although our District does not finance an EMT training program at this time, we do ensure that fire fighters are adequately trained in first aid (to include CPR and automatic defibrillators).

In the future (at least 5 to 10 years), the need (and financial possibility) may change. Until then, I have a couple of suggestions for those residents who are insistent on an ambulance service regardless of whether it cripples the Fire District: you could finance your

Palominas Community Food Drive

For many years, members of the Palominas community have gathered during the Christmas holidays to assemble and deliver food boxes to the elderly. To contribute to this worthy cause, bring non-perishable food items (please, no dented or swollen cans) to the Palominas Trading Post through Dec. 18th. A box will also be set up at the Palominas Fire Auxiliary Christmas Bazaar (12/11). Cash donations are welcome and will be used to purchase perishable foods for the boxes. For more info call John or Pam at 366-5529 or stop by the Trading Post. Thank you for your generosity and God bless.

Monthly Fire Board Meetings

**4th Thurs. each month.
(except Nov. & Dec. - 3rd Thurs.)
7:00 PM Fire Station 3 -
10202 S. Hwy 92**

own ambulance service. If you find that a bit cost prohibitive, there is always the option of moving into an area where ambulance service is provided by the jurisdictional fire department - that may be what you should have done in the first place.

The majority of people in our District whom I have had contact with are happy with the current level of service by all involved agencies. These same residents are not receptive to a LARGE increase in their taxes, which would be inevitable at this time if an ambulance service were brought into the picture. Nor are any willing to have our fire protection diminished by the expense of an ambulance service.

I hope this information will be helpful. If you have any additional questions or concerns, you are welcome to contact me at our administration phone number - 366-5400.

Before I close, I would also like to publicly apologize to Fry Fire and Bisbee Fire for any rumors that may have circulated concerning the ambulance service issue. To my knowledge, most of our residents are satisfied with and appreciative of your provision of EMS - keep up the good work!

I send to everyone, from the entire Palominas Vol. Fire Department, hopes for a very blessed and joyful Christmas season continuing on through the new year.

BE SAFE! CHIEF 1

9th Annual Palominas Community Unorganized Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 11th - you won't want to miss this annual event! Line up at Fire Station 1 (on Palominas Rd.) at 9:30 a.m. The parade starts movin' at 10 a.m. - the "end of the line" is Palominas Trading Post and Morning Star Cafe parking areas. No organized sign-up is required for any entry (we did say "unorganized"!), just show up at the right place and time. Additional info is available by calling John or Pam at 366-5529. Spectators are asked to park well off the road on either side of Palominas Rd. or gather in front of the Palominas Trading Post. Hope to see ya there!

CONTROL BURNING?

We believe it is important to keep the District residents aware of the legal requirements for control burning. ADEQ is the governing agency for control burns within our District and they require a permit for most burning. If you reside within the Palominas Fire District boundaries, and are unaware of the guidelines and requirements, please call.

Additionally to report your permitted control burns inside the Palominas Fire District please call 366-5400, leave a message and your call will be returned. (Prefer 24 hour notice when possible)

On behalf of the entire District, we would like to say a special good-bye to Norm Wiseman. Thanx for the 11 years of dedicated service on the Fire Board. Best wishes for all your future endeavors. We will miss you!

Also, we extend "congratulations" to Ed York on his re-election to the Board and a welcoming "hello" to Sara Couchoud, our newest Board Member, who will be sworn-in in December. We look forward to many years of working with both of you.

Last, but not least, we want to give a public welcome to Chuck Mullens, who was appointed to the Board earlier this year.

Thanx to all of the Board Members for your willingness to serve!