



Northwest Fire District Governing Board

13535 North Marana Main Street
Marana, Arizona

SCHEDULED

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Date:	September 24, 2024
To:	Governing Board
From:	Brad Bradley, Fire Chief
Department:	Fire Chief
Agenda Item	Fire Chief's Board Report

ACTIVITIES:

Academy 24-01 – Pre-employment activities for our recruits remain underway. They have participated in psychological evaluations as well as uniform sizing. The recruits will continue pre-employment activities, including physicals, through September, and the Academy is scheduled to begin on October 1st. We've also secured a new location for our graduation in March. Zion Church on Ruthrauff has graciously agreed to let us use one of their facilities for the event. This change will allow us to better accommodate the growing number of attendees we've seen at our most recent graduation ceremonies. As we get closer to the event, a formal invitation will be sent out.

Division Chiefs / Managers Meeting – I stopped by the bi-monthly meeting of Division Chiefs and Managers to share some thoughts this month. The scope of this meeting is to develop and nurture relationships among Division Chiefs and Division Managers, to further the mission by keeping each other well informed on relevant issues; collaborating; problem solving; developing common messaging; and soliciting, offering, and receiving counsel and constructive criticism with mutual respect. I talked with the group about leader's intent and their value within the organization as empowered leaders, the importance of resolving issues at their levels, and being the drivers of organizational process improvement.

El Rio Health – I met with El Rio CEO, Clint Kuntz, regarding work his team is doing to develop behavioral health programs for first responders in our community. As you'll remember, Clint is the former CEO of Marana Health Care (MHC) and was instrumental in the development of similar programming there. In addition to mental health, we discussed some potential opportunities to assist in the ongoing development of our Family Care Center (FCC).

Fire Rescue International (FRI) Conference – I attended the FRI Conference in Dallas the week before last. Educational sessions included the topics of ethical leadership, navigating the political landscape, EMS issues, etc. All in all, the conference was exceptional as I have not attended the FRI conference in several years.

Ops Meeting – I attended the monthly Operational Services meeting. The conversation included individual updates from Deputy, Division, and Battalion Chiefs.

Personnel – Senior Plans Examiner, Fred Durham, announced his retirement recently

(memo attached) and is scheduled to attend the September Board meeting for recognition of his retirement and contributions to the agency. The Assistant Chiefs (Acs) and I have been visiting folks at stations to present them with 35-year anniversary pins over the past week.

Pima County Fire Chiefs Association (PCFCA) – I attended the monthly meeting of the PCFCA. Much of the conversation centered on how various agencies are addressing the AZ State Supreme Court Union Release Time ruling.

Station Inspection – I attended the annual inspection of Station 336. Kim Sotomayor has been participating in these inspections along with the ACs and I. It was refreshing this visit that the crew had several great questions for Kim regarding Finance and HR. We are fortunate to have members that are curious and engaged in all facets of the organization. We're even more fortunate to have staff at the Manager/Director levels that care enough to dedicate their time to not only know the intricacies of their jobs but sharing this valuable information with anyone with an interest.

Storm Damage – This monsoon season wreaked havoc on several of our properties, as you all know. Facilities staff spent time touring the impacted facilities with a Claims Adjuster from our insurer, VFIS. To close this out with you, the result is a total claim of \$41,500 for all damage at all sites combined. Our deductible is \$5K.

Struggle Well – I attended the wrap up session for the most recent cohort of Struggle Well graduates. Struggle Well is a prevention-focused program for posttraumatic growth that trains first responders to “transform struggle into strength and growth, and be of better service to themselves, their family, community, and country”. Our Health and Safety Division is working diligently to facilitate the opportunity for every member of our organization to participate in the weeklong program. We are fortunate that the various first responder agencies in our region all view this training as a valuable investment and are sharing the responsibility of hosting classes with us, so that a cohort can be held at least monthly for the foreseeable future. We will be looking for opportunities to integrate the Struggle Well concepts into our future recruit academies, Captain Certification Program (CCP), and Battalion Chief Certification Program (BCP).

Town of Marana – I attended my monthly meeting with Town of Marana Development Director, Jason Angell. Development continues to be strong within the Town which you can follow using this [link](#). I also had my monthly meeting with Mayor Honea.

Training Center Project – Work at the Training Center continues, and much progress is being made. The date for substantial completion is currently on track for October 22nd.

Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) Board Visit – Members of the WIFA Board joined us for a demonstration of our new Pump-Pod Direct Recirculation Apparatus Firefighter Training & Sustainability (DRAFTS) unit that was made possible by a grant from their agency. The implementation of this DRAFT unit during fire attack training scenarios will help us conserve an estimated 1.5 million gallons of water per year, while implementing measures to eliminate treated water runoff in dry weather environments. The implementation of this training tool has been so successful in the short time we've had it that I anticipate us looking for opportunities to add more units via grant funding.

GOALS:

To save lives, protect property, and care for our community.

Attachments

Memo 24-107