

Monthly Summary Report: (Chiefs Report)

Meeting Date:

24-Jan-23

**IDYLLWILD FIRE****Statistics:**

Total Number of Incidents :	EMS	FIRE / Other	Transports	Totals
November	54	32	28	86
December	61	28	29	89
FY (Running 2022/23)	317	206	157	523
Average Monthly	53	34	26	87

Ambulance Income:

	Charges	Payments	Difference	A/R
November 2022.	\$118,600.50	\$28,133.54	\$90,466.96	\$435,347.81
December 2022.	\$84,924.50	\$39,602.88	\$45,321.62	\$459,048.21
FY (Running 2022/23)	\$682,280.70	\$187,545.87	\$494,734.83	\$487,059.90

Revenues / Expenditures

	Revenues	Expenditures	Difference
November 2022.	\$134,921.01	\$184,224.84	(\$49,303.83)
December 2022.	\$486,020.39	\$161,777.70	\$324,242.69
FY (Running 2022/23)	\$2,034,028.48	\$1,735,296.89	\$298,731.59

Annual Budget

	Revenues	Expenditures	Difference
23 FY Budget	\$3,194,440.00	\$3,170,903.01	\$23,536.99
Amount Remaining	\$1,160,411.52	\$1,435,606.12	
% Remaining	36.33%	45.27%	

Notes / Highlights:

Our Communications site is progressing well. We estimate that the site will be fully operational by late Feb/early March 2023.

Bear trap canyon fuels reduction project continues to be improved. We anticipate an opportunity to begin firing in February of 2023 through April of 2023 when conditions allow. (Thank you to all of our personnel for their efforts on this critical project.)

We provided mutual aid support to the city of Hemet for their annual promotional ceremony.

Looking forward to reconvening the Sustainability committee in March - April 2023.

Fire Abatement inspections will begin March 15th 2023. (We are looking forward to working with Team Rubicon this year)

Last year we ended our inspection period with 161 parcels receiving citations.

We joined forces with the Idyllwild Help center in collecting toys for tots. This event was a huge success with over 450 toys distributed to mountain area families.

I was joined by Jim LaMont and Rachel Teegarden for an informational discussion with the Idyllwild Rotary group on December 21st. We discussed topics such as: Fire Prevention, Abatement requirements, IFPD History and sustainability outlook.

Suppression Equipment:

Unit	Mileage	Condition	Replacement Year/Cost	Notes
T-621	29331	Good	2026 / \$ 1,500,000.00	In good cond. May last until 2030
E-621	35930	Good	2028 / \$ 1,200,000.00	In good cond. May last until 2030
RE-622	60575	Good	2030 / \$ 1,250,000.00	In good cond. Likely replace by 2030
BR-621	57539	Fair	2026 / \$ 550,000.00	In fair cond. Likely replace by 2030
BR-622 (FEFP)	131050	Good	2030 / \$ 550,000.00	In good cond. Likely replace by 2030
BR-625	28860	Excellent	2040 / \$ 750,000.00	In Exc. Cond.
OES-6608 (OES)	14697	Excellent	N/A	Owned by OES (no cost IFPD)
WT-621	31280	Fair	2020 / \$ 225,000.00	Looking for grant to replace

Ambulances:

Medic Unit One 1	42950	Excellent	2036 / \$ 245,000.00	In Exc. Cond.
Medic Unit Two 2	21910	Excellent	2038 / \$ 250,000.00	In Exc. Cond.
Medic Unit 625	176899	Fair	2020 / \$ 210,000.00	Fair, should be replaced asap
Medic Unit 626	59575	Good	2023 / \$ 225,000.00	Good, should be replaced 1-2yrs.

Administrative/Other Units

		Condition		
C-6200	47884	Excellent	2035 / \$ 85,000.00	In Exc. Cond.
B-6201	3450	Excellent	2036 / \$ 90,000.00	In Exc. Cond.
S-621	42,705	Good	2032 / \$ 185,000.00	In good cond. Likely replace by 2030
U-621 (FEFP)	105418	Good	2030 / \$ 80,000.00	In good cond. Likely replace by 2030
			\$7,395,000.00	Total
			\$37,500.00	Monthly

A recent event brought to light a very difficult thought:

On January 2nd, at a Monday evening football game between the Buffalo Bills and the Cincinnati Bengals, Safety, Damar Hamlin was at work and just after a tackle he collapsed on the field. Emergency responders worked diligently on the field and in route to the nearby medical center where Damar was placed in the hands of medical professionals for definitive treatment.

With all that took place surrounding the rescue, I am not certain that everyone captured the reaction of his teammates, other players and staff on the field, and the crowd of spectators. These incredibly strong, talented and powerful people broke down in tears. The overwhelming shock of this tragic event affected them deeply. Media outlets and News anchors spoke about this event for several weeks after the event. Thankfully Damar is making a great recovery.

The difficult thought: Your emergency responders here at the IFPD respond to these "tragic" events everyday. Responding to an average of 1200 emergency incidents annually, and transporting medical aid patients to medical facilities and to air flight units for transport daily. These events affect your responders everyday, not just once in a lifetime.

Our First Responders build friendships, and close relationships with those we serve over decades of service in the same community. Our responders have resources available should the cumulative affect of these "tragic events" begin to overwhelm them. Please join me in Thanking All of our Responders in Law Enforcement, Fire and EMS, Flight Services and Medical Care.

At IFPD responders average 9.25 hours on incidents daily averaging 3.12 incidents each day. Your responders average 3.5 hours of training everyday (to meet the rigorous minimum 360 hours of annual ongoing training) Your responders have special duties such as Training Officer, Fire Prevention Specialist, Grants, Vehicle repair and maintenance, Reserve Coordinator, Dep. Fire Marshal and much more. In addition to these responsibilities your responders also spend up to 2400 hours annually providing mutual aid in our ongoing effort to ensure that we provide for the emergency needs not only here at home, but also for those throughout other communities during their time of need.

Thank you to all of our First Responders!

(Please see the article attached "5-signs of PTSD in First Responders")

Thank you,

Mark LaMont

Fire Chief

5 Signs of PTSD in First Responders

December 20, 2019 By Natalie Marston-Salem

All it takes is a sound or a whiff of a specific scent to trigger symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Fire fighters, police officers, EMTs, nurses and other first responders are faced with horrors most of us are fortunate enough to never encounter in our entire lives.

From witnessing the results of car accidents and school shootings to putting their own lives on the line, first responders deal with death and tragedy on a regular basis. And in many cases, all that trauma leads to PTSD. As a spouse, parent, child or sibling of a first responder, you can't imagine what your loved one has to go through on a daily basis and it's heartbreaking to think about how much trauma they carry with them. Has all that trauma triggered PTSD, or could it?

Unfortunately, this is the risk that first responders face. But being able to identify the signs of PTSD can help you take action and get your loved one the help they need before it's too late.

Signs of PTSD to Look Out for in Your First Responder Loved One

In a Washington Post article from October 2019, a first responder described how he never struggled with PTSD in his 30-year career until the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. After that, the very smell of pizza would send him back into that school's cafeteria where trays of pizza rotted away as he and other first responders processed the scene.

As this first responder's PTSD symptoms worsened, his life unraveled. He turned to alcohol to try to cope with the trauma, withdrew from family and friends, and lost his marriage. Eventually, he was able to recover after seeking help. But what if he had been able to address his PTSD sooner?

By knowing the signs of PTSD, you have a better chance of identifying what your loved one is going through sooner and get them the help they need before they turn to drugs or alcohol.

If your loved one is exhibiting the following symptoms, they are probably struggling with PTSD:

Difficulty Sleeping. First responders who struggle with PTSD will relive past trauma through flashbacks and nightmares.

If your loved one is showing signs of distress in their sleep, not sleeping at all because of nightmares or having panic attacks throughout the day, they're likely struggling with PTSD.

Avoiding Places, People or Activities. Has your loved one tried to avoid driving down a specific road? Do they seem extremely tense and anxious when doing certain things or talking to specific people? Your loved one is most likely reacting to triggers that remind them of a traumatic event or experience. This is another sign that your loved one is struggling with PTSD.

Extreme Mood Swings. Being a first responder requires staying calm and collected during emergencies when other people are panicking. This used to be your loved one, but now they're constantly on edge. Their emotions seem to be all over the place, and you've noticed that they lose their temper faster than usual. These mood swings have everything to do with how PTSD is hurting your loved one.

Pulling Away from Family and Friends. On top of their mood swings, has your loved one pushed you away, ignored other family and friends, and lost interest in activities or hobbies they used to enjoy? PTSD is probably leaving your loved one feeling isolated, misunderstood and acting out against the people they love and care about.

Bringing a Gun or Weapon Everywhere. Is your loved one keeping their gun or another weapon on them whenever they leave the house? PTSD can be so overwhelming that it can make your loved one think they need to be armed and ready to protect themselves at all times. This can be extremely dangerous – both for your loved one and for others around them – if they overreact and feel the need to take action.

I also wanted to add the recent reply i had sent to JP Crumrine (writer for the town crier)
JP asked what my thoughts were about the rain and its effect on the upcoming 2023 Fire Season. Since JP's question was raised I have also received several questions from community members asking generally the same thing:

"Hello JP ,
I hope this finds you and your family doing well.

I think that I've mentioned this to you previously, there is an old saying as follows,
"Only fools and Rookies predict fire season" - and I'd like to think that I'm neither" ..

That said, of course there are indicators as to fire potential and heightened fire threats such as drought, large old growth continuous fuel beds and many, many other considerations.

Rain is a double-edged sword.
We desperately need it, though it tends to bring up a light flashy grass crop which carry's fire.

**The following considerations are huge:
Fuel / Weather / Topography**

No fuel, no fire.

Low fuel moisture content is a major consideration as the probability of ignition increases greatly. Continuous fuel beds make suppression extremely difficult.

Weather:

Of course the hotter it is the dryer the fuels tend to be, the dryer it is (lack of rain) the more receptive fuels are. Wind is generally a bad thing as it hastens fire growth. Thunderstorms can blow fires in all directions. And of course droughts not only dry things out, they weaken plants defense systems so they can't fight off bug damage leading to large bug kill fuel beds.

Topography:

Steep hillsides carry fire quickly as fuels preheat rapidly and run up slope at incredible rates of growth.

Keys to success's:

Prevention measures. Prevention is truly the main key to future success. As a society we need to fund and allow for more fuel reduction and forest health. We need to strictly enforce abatement ordinances. Ultimately I believe we will reap great reward if we are willing to do the work in advance. Clear fuels and thin fuels which will lessen the opportunity of large fire growth. Currently, fuels projects can take years and years going through approvals process, (not to say approvals aren't necessary) but the process needs to be streamlined so these projects will actually be started and completed.

Once fire is introduced on any landscape previously completed prevention measures are key. When our team is activated to manage, and lessen threat to life and property and ultimately bring full containment to these fires we look for pre plans, previously completed fuels reductions and of course Rivers, Ridges and Roads in our efforts to minimize the threat and keep the fires footprint as small as possible.

Probably more than you wanted.
What are my thoughts about the rain that we've received?
I love it! We need it! Will it help? Not if we aren't diligent with prevention measures.

Happy New Year!

Mark LaMont
Fire Chief
Idyllwild Fire Protection District