



IDYLLWILD FIRE

Chiefs Report

Author: M. LaMont

Updated July 18th, 2021

Mtg. July 27, 2021

1. Community Alert/Siren System.

Please note that a change to the siren testing has been made: The tests will continue to take place on the third (3rd) Saturday of each month, **the length of the test has changed to one (1) full minute instead of 10 seconds due to the time the siren takes to reach full potential. An actual emergency will be denoted by three separate blasts of the siren for three (3) minutes each.**



- The community alert siren was lifted in place on April 15th. Thanks to the generosity of **Sturgeon Electric CA** the pole was donated and set by a local Sturgeon crew in Honor of **Ross Bowlin** and his incredible recovery and courageous fighting spirit.
- We completed the postcard and banners for the community educational outreach regarding the siren. **Mtn. Disaster Preparedness** donated \$ 2,500.00 to help with the expense of these educational materials. (All mailed out)
- The first official test of the system took place on **May 15th at 1:00p.m (1300hrs)** the siren will be tested monthly on the **third Saturday of each month at 1: 00p.m (1300hrs)**

2. Mutual Aid Fire(s)

- We have assisted with several mutual aid fires in the 20/21 FY:



- ONC1 Staging (Team 11 Redding CA) Overhead
- Mile Post Fire Hoopa CA (Team 11) Overhead
- ONC2 Staging (Team 11 Redding CA) Overhead
- Indian Fire (Anza CA) BR621 / WT622
- Apple Fire (Beaumont CA) BR621
- Whitewater Fire (Cabazon CA) WT622
- Red Salmon Fire (Willow Creek CA) Overhead Team 11
- Ranch Fire (Azusa CA) Overhead. Team 11
- Hobo Fire (Willites CA)
- Elk Horn Fire
- Eldorado Fire (Yucaipa CA) Team 11
- August Complex (Mendocino Co. CA) Team 11
- Castle Fire (Sonoma CA)
- North Complex (Butte CA)
- Glass Fire (Sonoma CA)
- Bobcat Fire (Sierra Madre' CA) Team 11
- North Complex 11 (Overhead) (Plumas NF)
- Silverado Fire (Orange County CA)
- Mountain View Fire (Sierra Front) 11
- Airport Fire (Corona)
- Bonita Fire (Mtn Ctr.)



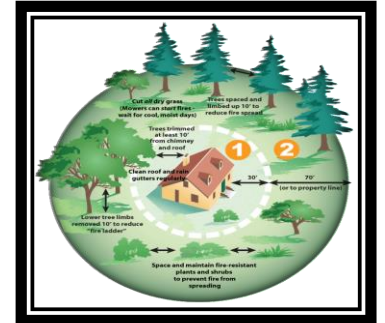
Current MA Billing is at \$ 1,200,216.67 To Date we have received \$ 914,685.25, with a remaining A/R of \$ 285,531.42.

Recent additional mutual Aid assistance fires:

Hwy 64 Fire Thermal Ca. / Coyote Fire Banning Ca. / Control Fire USFS 5S06 Idyllwild Ca./ Flat Fire Pinyon Ca. Willow Fire LPF. / Beckworth/Sugar Fire PNF

3. Abatement Inspections/Citations:

- Per IFPD Ord. 19-01 we began annual abatement inspections on ALL properties within IFPD jurisdiction. We intend to follow ORD 19-01 including the citation process for 2021/22. The final result of this first inspection (May 15th) ended with a total of **551** failed properties which have been sent failed notices.
- Second inspections were completed on June 15th.
- Third and Final inspections were completed on July 10th with **145** properties which remain out of compliance. Citations have been issued for those properties which have not come into full compliance.



- IFPD Ord. 19-01 details the complete process for Inspections and also for property owners to appeal their citations to the IFPD Board. We have been working closely with property owners to help them come into compliance.

We will continue with the forced abatement work on failed properties and anticipate having 6-10 of these completed prior to year-end 2021. *Abatement regulations, and enforcement measures are critical to our overall success. I would like to again thank those property owners that completed their 2021 abatements. Thank you!*

4. Equipment:

Suppression Equipment:

Vehicle	Milage	Condition	CIP Info
✓ Truck 621	28,141	Good	2026 - 1,200,000.00
✓ Engine 621	33,893	Excellent	2028 - 850,000.00
✓ Engine 622	59,165	Good	2026 - 850,000.00
✓ Brush 621	49,395	Good	2025 - 425,000.00
✓ Brush 622	121,580	Good	2026 - 425,000.00

Admin Vehicles:

Vehicle	Milage	Condition	CIP Info
✓ Battalion 6201	42,068	Excellent	2030 - 72,500.00
✓ Chief 6200	19,203	Excellent	2032 - 72,000.00
✓ 2010 Chev 4X4 U621	85,852 (NEW FEOP Utility Vehicle was received and put into service)		

Ambulances:

Vehicle	Milage	Condition	CIP Info
✓ Medic Unit 1	16,132	Excellent	2032- \$ 220,000
✓ Medic 622	96,368	Fair	2024 - \$ 165,000
✓ Medic 623	104,980	Poor	2022 - \$ 179,000 Ordered
✓ Medic 624	178,312	(Out of Service)	(Replaced Medic 1)
✓ Medic 625	174,989	Fair	2025 - \$ 165,000
✓ Medic 626	53,780	Good	2026+ \$ 210,000

We added OES IDL Type 6 Engine on May 4th

We continue to train on this piece of equipment and have put the type 6 in service. This engine has responded to multiple incidents and is a value-added piece of apparatus to our fleet. 822 miles Excellent Condition. (July 14 left to assist on the Boot leg Fire OR)



We have gone into contract for another new Type 1 ALS ambulance. This ambulance is being built by the Arrow Ambulance Co. and we anticipate delivery of this unit Mid/End of August 2021.



“Good afternoon Chief LaMont”,

“I Hope you had a great 4th holiday weekend and things haven’t been too crazy for you guys with fire season. Just wanted to give you a quick update- we are making great progress on your ambulance project, and we have currently started on the electrical and HVAC. I will keep you posted as we progress, but right now we are looking at right around mid- August for completion”.

Thanks again,
Mark Radtke
Arrow Ambulance



5. Grants:

Pending Grants:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Status</u>
FEMA Cares act grant:	\$ 150,536.00	Processing @ FEMA
AFG (assistance to FF)	\$ 198,550.00	Processing @ FEMA
VFA (volunteer FF)	\$ 330,000.00	Processing @ FEMA

Awarded Grants:

<u>Cost IFPD</u>	<u>Received / Value</u>
FEPP Brush 622	FEPP Received (\$ 322,000.00 value)
2020 AFG (monitors)	AFG: Received (\$ 148,571.43 rcvd)
2020 VFA (radios)	VFA: Received (\$ 5,500.00)
2020 Firehouse (3/SCBAs)	Firehouse Rcvd. (\$ 51,600.00)
2021 IDY Bible Church	SCBA Purchase. Rcvd (\$ 6,500.00)
2020 Community Church	EMS / EMT Paramedic Training 2k
2021 Firehouse Subs	SCBA Purchase 4 additional. 28k
2021 AFG Grant	Wildland gear/Radios/Equipment. 10k.

6. Training:

- All suppression members have completed the IFPD Annual RT 130 wildfire refresher training. All IFPD suppression personnel are required to complete this arduous training annually.
- All IFPD members have continued to complete and exceed all minimum fire training requirements. 30 hours of minimum training per month for Career Staff and, 20 hours for reserve members.

7. Personnel:

- Firefighter Russel Bray successfully completed his (FAE) Fire Apparatus Engineers Exam: I am asking the Board of Commissioners to Ratify the promotion of Russel Bray to the position of Engineer EMT with a beginning Date of July 01, 2021. (Congratulations Mr. Bray for your promotion and outstanding service to those we serve.)
- We have one (1) Firefighter Paramedic Position which is currently open and have put together a test process to hire a new probationary Firefighter.
- We have had several of our IFPD Intern Reserve trainees recently receive full time Firefighter positions at: San Diego City, Los Angeles Co., Huntington Beach, Barstow, Fountain Valley. Congratulations to these hard-working individuals. We know that you will go on to serve other community's well. Thank you for your time spent here with us.
- Numerous IFPD Employees have received both COVID vaccination shots.

8. Statistics:



Incident Volume:

June 2021.

Total number of Incidents:	88
Medical:	62
Fires:	7
Hazardous Cond:	3
Public Service:	7
False Alarm:	3
Other:	6

9. Ambulance Transactions:

June 2021.



Transports:	42
Charges:	212,579.00
Payments:	53,524.71
Current A/R:	501,618.26

10. Committees:

Sustainability Committee. (Will reconvene at a later date)

Rules and Regs ADHOC Committee (Andrewson/Reitz)

11.Other/ Misc:

- ✓ We have completed the 20FY Audit. We have scheduled fieldwork for the 2021 FYE Audit.
- ✓ We presented and approved the FY22 final budget.
- ✓ We have moved forward with the purchase of an additional ambulance Arrow Ambulance.
\$ 171,000.00
- ✓ We have nearly completed our efforts moving bank accounts from BBVA/PNC to Bank of Hemet.
- ✓ Please see the new 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
- ✓ We have entered an MOU with the ICFA 2021-2026 (Five-year agreement)
- ✓ We completed the review of ALL IFPD policy's which have each been reviewed within a two-year time frame.
- ✓ We have sent off the approved parcel resolution and prop 218 required letter.
- ✓ We approved and sent of the constitutional advance paperwork to Supervisor Washington's office.



Response to the letter to the Editor: Town Crier Dated: July 15th (Chuck Weisbart/Author)

Mr. Weisbart.

I have read your letter to the Editor and wanted to encourage you and explain to you why I participate as a member of a national incident management team and explain to you why I am not nervous.

To your statement regarding Idyllwild being *"Fire Prone"*, Our beautiful community is indeed surrounded by forest and wilderness lands where vegetation and fuels are abundant. However, I would like you to note that in the past 25 years our community has been directly affected by wildland fire 3 times. In 1996 - (B Canyon) 2013 - (Mountain Fire) 2018 - (Cranston Fire) Therefore it is important to note that statistically we are most likely to see a fire which would directly threaten and affect Idyllwild about one time approximately every 10-12 years.

To your statement *"off the hill visitors are clueless about how easy fires start"*. I researched numerous fire statistics and could not locate any instance of tourists causing fires in or around our community.

1996 B Canyon Fire – Accidental
2005 Soboba Fire – Accidental
2006 Esperanza Fire – Arson
2008 Silver Fire – Arson
2013 Mountain Fire – Accidental
2018 Cranston Fire – Arson
2019 Humber Fire – Accidental
2021 Bonita Fire – Undetermined
2021 Flats Fire – Vehicle Fire
2021 Control Fire – Vehicle Fire

To your comment: *"where is our IFPD Fire Chief"*: Mr. Weisbart, I am right here. In fact, last year I averaged just about 80 hours of work per week. I assure you that I do not participate on the Incident management team in an effort to make you nervous, nor to miss out on another anniversary, birthday, wedding, graduation or other family event. I participate because I have committed and sworn to serve you, your neighbors, the Idyllwild Community and all of those who become threatened by fire to the very best of my ability. Therefore, I will continue to participate because I believe that a Fire Chief who is not out learning new techniques, witnessing fire activity, projecting fire spread, operationally engaging in planning and contingency development and working within the unified ICS system on actual fires cannot, and will not be

fully ready for a fire that threatens his or her jurisdiction and the people they serve back at home.

I am truly sorry that you are nervous Mr. Weisbart, and I hope that this information helps. In closing, please note that I would not be doing my job if I were not training your Idyllwild Fire personnel to handle any incident whether I am present or not. I am not nervous because of the experience that I have received, continue to receive as a member of an Incident Management Team, and because you are being served by incredibly competent, trained and experienced fire personnel here at the Idyllwild Fire Protection District whether I am out on a fire or right here at home.

IFPD Response Time Averages:

Medical Aid Incidents. 3.01 minutes

Fire Related Incidents. 4.42 Minutes

Overlapping Incident % 34.81



“You are our Mission.”