



Chiefs Report

M. LaMont

May 27th, 2025

Highlights for March and April 2025

MAR. 2025

- IFPD RT130 well underway. All personnel will complete wildfire readiness by June 1, 2025.
- IFPD Assisted with S215 course at USFS training center Danny Rhynes. Several IFPD Cadre' members as well as students attended this training.
- IFPD Co-Hosted an agreements and FMAG class at the Keen wild training room.
- Chiefs office (leak) repair was completed.
- We embarked on station repairs/upgrades/maintenance of front office area bathrooms.
- Work continues on the IFPD 25-year Vision and Strategy Plan.
- Invoicing of several new Mutual Aid incidents.
- Meeting with USFS regarding local fuels projects.

APR. 2025

- SCE at IFPD Communications site. We anticipate full power at site by June 1, 2025.
- M. LaMont attended several meetings regarding our (USFS)cooperative and partnership agreement(s).
- Continued work on the IFPD 25-year vision and strategy plan.
- IFPD began with 1st round of abatement inspections throughout the community.
- IFPD assisted with a Mutual Aid Fire in Bishop CA.
- Front office area Bathrooms completed.
- Began work on the Officers area bathroom/ station maintenance and repairs.
- IFPD Chief Officers meeting.
- CPR and First Aid Classes were held for the USFS.



At the Last meeting we asked the Question: Do we have a "Wildfire Crisis" and *What are we doing currently?*

Answer: No, we have a three "P" Problem, (Population, Planning, Permission)

- a) We continue to populate/inhabit areas within the WUI landscapes without clear and defined avenues for both initial and ongoing fire prevention and mitigation plans and funding mechanisms.
- b) We continue to allow fire planning and prevention methods (such as fuels treatments and prescribed burns) to be met with nearly impossible and overly restrictive regulations, policies and standards which paralyze progress in these critical areas.
- c) The fight over "climate change" has blinded many on both sides of the argument to the point that Society does not currently have the appetite to force common sense change and funding mechanisms to ensure that mitigation efforts are proportionate to values and lives at risk.

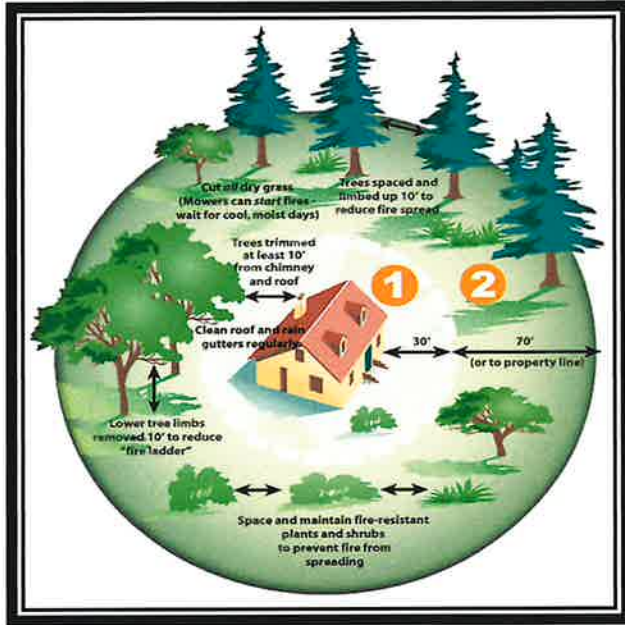
At this meeting we will discuss: *How we can make things better?*

It begins with you, **Property Abatement:**

The Idyllwild Fire Protection District inspects 3829 properties each year. In April 2025 the IFPD did inspect all properties throughout the community with 826 failed properties during this first inspection cycle. Second inspections are just wrapping up and we anticipate (as with previous years) a 50% reduction in overall failed properties (approx.. 400 properties are anticipated to fail inspection #2).

The IFPD will begin the 3rd round of inspections in early June and those properties which do NOT successfully complete their required abatement will then receive a citation per IFPD ORD. 01-19.

We urge all property owners having difficulty completing their annual and ongoing abatement responsibilities to contact us for answers to questions and assistance in reaching abatement compliance.



- As Per IFPD Ord. 19-01 we perform our annual abatement inspections on ALL properties within the IFPD jurisdiction. IFPD crews start the first round of inspections between **April 1st** and **April 15th** each year. Failed inspection notices were mailed out to property owners in late April.
- Second inspections are just being completed. After the second inspection notices are mailed out, then a three week interval is given to complete the work prior to the final inspections being performed.
- We anticipate final inspections in the first couple weeks of June each year. Last year numerous citations (approximately 3%) were mailed out for those properties which remained out of compliance.

Property Abatement 2025:

Our annual notification Postcards were mailed out early this year.

As with previous years, the Idyllwild Fire Protection District will continue inspecting ALL (3829) properties for compliance with ORD 19-01. This local ordinance is in addition to the CA State abatement regulations: (IFPD abatement Inspections begin late spring generally Early to Mid-April – Early June each year).

This year's 1st inspections have been conducted and failed notices have been mailed out to 826 property owners.

Second inspections have been completed and are being entered into the system.

We anticipate final inspections to begin around June 15th

2025. Those failing the final inspection will receive a citation per IFPD ORD 19-01



Items which top the "Failed" inspection list each year are:

- Address Numbers – These must be 4" or greater in size and must be visible from the street in a contrasting color.
- Clearance around Propane Tanks – Must have a minimum of 10' clearance around LP tanks.
- Roof clear of flammable debris – Your roof must be free from pine needles, leaves, and other flammable debris.
- Thirty (30') ft. clearance of all vegetation around your home.

How else can you help?

Support change,

- The problem that we are faced with has been developing for decades. Thinking that we can unwind this problem overnight is fool-hearted.
 - Decades of over regulation (Throughout the State and our Country) has paralyzed any useful advancement in the reduction of Wildfires threat to communities.
 - Contact your representatives and ask them to support the necessary changes.
- A change in the approach to the “Wildfire Problem” must be made.
 - Working together with the USFS to ensure that ANY intrusion of development into the Wildland Urban Interface must be mandated. Allowing communities to be built within these “High Wildfire Severity Zones” must be mitigated with clear and concise plans to mitigate such threats prior to approvals of such development(s), and ongoing and mandatory maintenance of such mitigation(s) must be enforced.
 - Contact your representatives and ask them to support the necessary changes.
- How do we get there?
 - Working together with Government Leadership, Fire Service Industry Leaders, Environmental and Wildlife experts, Property Owners and Land Developers we can (over time) work to reduce the overall threat of Fire on our landscapes.
 - Contact your representatives and ask them to support the necessary changes.



Please check our website or contact our office with any questions you may have regarding Property Abatement, the IFPD will be happy to assist you! Property Abatement is an ongoing responsibility.



Ongoing Fuels Projects: The Idyllwild Fire Protection District continues to work with our Cooperative Partners on fuels reduction and community resiliency projects: Thomas Mountain, Westridge, South Ridge, Strawberry, and other local fuels projects. The IFPD has also had the opportunity to assist with fuels projects in the Cleveland National Forest.

Update: (Partnership agreement with the USFS is completed)

Bear Trap Fuel Reductions:

IFPD continues working on this critical fuel reduction project with the private property owners to reduce fuels on a ridgeline west of Idyllwild and east of Bear Trap Canyon. These fuels reductions will greatly strengthen our fire prevention efforts along with the other ongoing fuels reductions projects on west ridge, south ridge, and strawberry fuel reductions. We anticipate an RX treatment in early 2024 on this project.



Update: The Bear Trap fuel project is ready for an RX (firing) treatment. We will likely need to do a "re-entry" on this project early 2025 and then apply the Rx treatment.

Communications Site:

The IFPD completed numerous improvements to our communications site. The IFPD plans to relocate WNKI (1610 am emergency radio) to the site which will greatly enhance our overall emergency communications network and provide a larger coverage area for the community. This relocation is anticipated to take place early 2025. Thank you to all those who participated in making this project a huge success! (We are currently working with SCE on providing permanent power to this site) Currently we have LP generator power and solar energy providing power to the site.

Update: We have worked through the project planning process with SCE and anticipate having final approvals by mid-April/May 2025, this will provide permanent power to the site.

Individual and ongoing Community CPR Classes:

IFPD delivers several CPR classes each year. In 2024 we provided five (5) CPR classes for the USFS, three (3) for local tree companies, two (1) local camp employees courses and two (2) community CPR classes. 2025 CPR Classes are underway, IFPD has already provided numerous CPR recert and full classes.



(Persons interested in attending a CPR class should contact our office and speak with Rachel for details and class schedule)

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

IFPD held a full CERT Course in October of 2023. We also conducted 1 refresher course in June of 2023. IFPD sponsors MDP (Mountain Disaster Preparedness) and partners with them in the training of new CERT members. Twenty-two new CERT members took the October 2023 training course. In 2024 the IFPD supported two CERT refresher training classes.



- ***The IFPD anticipates putting on one (1) new CERT course and one (1) refresher course in 2025. Check our website or call our office for details regarding upcoming classes. Thanks to all who assisted and participated in these training classes.***

Board Ratification of Firefighter Ohm.

Tyler Ohm Joined the IFPD as a Reserve just under three years ago. At the last IFPD recruitment and test for Firefighter Mr. Ohm was successful in the testing process and awarded a probationary Firefighter Position with the IFPD as of December 1st, 2024.

Congratulations Tyler, welcome to the Career Family at the IFPD.



2024/25 FY Mutual Aid Fires:

IFPD is a proud contributor to the greater Mutual Aid effort. IFPD has served on numerous fires to date during the 2024/25 FY including but not limited to:

2024/25FY Mutual Aid Fire assignments:

BASIN FIRE	Team 11	June 27 th – July 14 th
White Fire	T6 Strike Team	July 16 – July 20 th
Ridge Fire	T6 Strike Team	July 20 th – July 24 th
Gold Fire	T3 Strike Team	July 25 th – July 28 th
Park Fire	T3 Strike Team	July 28 th – Aug 11 th
SQF Lightning	Team 11	July 26 th – July 30 th
BOREL	Team 11	July 28 th – Aug 10 th
BOISE Fire	Team 11	Aug 22 nd – Sep. 8 th
Line Fire	Task Force 621	Sept. 6 th – 21 st
LINE Fire	Team 11	Sept. 26 th – Oct. 11 th
Mountain Fire	T3 Strike Team	BR625
Palisades Fire	T 3 Strike Team	BR621
Palisades Fire	T 1 Strike Team	E622
Hurst Fire	T 1 Stike Team	E622
Eaton Fire	T 3 Strike Team	BR625



Numerous Pre-Position Mutual Aid Assistance:
Ongoing



2024/25 Fires Invoiced to Date: \$ 4,671,038.00
(Received YTD FY24/25 \$ 3,623,240.00)

In **2024** IFPD invoiced \$ \$2,427,631.09 in mutual aid reimbursement.

In **2023** IFPD invoiced: \$ 1,353,000.00 in mutual aid reimbursement.

In **2022** IFPD invoiced: \$ 2,010,000.00 in mutual aid reimbursement.

In **2021** IFPD invoiced: \$ 1,205,000.00 in mutual aid reimbursement.

In **2020** IFPD invoiced: \$ 500,000.00 in mutual aid reimbursement.



The IFPD Continues to meet the challenge of providing assistance through the Mutual Aid system to those communities in their time of need. IFPD thanks our Cooperators and Partners for their strong commitment to this critical system of emergency service.

Grants:

**Awarded: AFG Grant 2024/25 – 25,000.00
PPE Gear.**

**Awarded: VFA Grant 2024/25 – 10,000.00
Radio and Communications Equipment.**

**Awarded: FEMA 2024: \$ 50,000.00 Medical
Equipment, gurneys, stair-chairs,
laryngoscopes, and more.**



- Previously Awarded items:
 - Firehouse Subs SCBA Grant(s)
 - Previously Awarded items: Striker Life Pac Cardiac Monitors and Gurneys.

- Pending Grants:
 - AFG Assistance to Firefighters Grant. (Awarded)
 - VFA Volunteer Firefighters Assistance Grant. (Awarded)
 - \$ 25,000.00 Rope rescue gear, misc. rescue equipment. (Submitted)



AWARDED:

- **2024: \$ 1m California Investments in Wildfire Prevention.**

UPDATE: IFPD was awarded the \$1m Investment in Wildfire Prevention Grant, stay tuned for more information as this grant and the dollars associated come available. We anticipate purchasing of the vehicles and equipment awarded within this grant throughout June and July 2025. The fuels work is anticipated to begin soon as we obtain the necessary clearances to begin the work.

Equipment Update:

Suppression Equipment:

Unit	Mileage	Condition	Notes
T-621	30134	Good	2025 Ladder test completed.
E-621	38027	Good	Repairs completed.
RE-622	64869	Good	Front line
BR-621	66340	Fair	PM Scheduled
BR-622	132970	Good	PM Scheduled
BR-625	37411	Excellent	NA
OES-6608	24685	Excellent	NA
WT- 1	6670	NEW Excellent	NEW

Ambulances:

Medic Unit One 1	64893	Excellent	NA
Medic Unit Two 2	48370	Excellent	NA
Medic Unit Five 5	48415	Excellent	NA
Medic Unit 626	64601	Good	NA

Administrative/Other Units

		Condition	Notes
C-6200	82120	Excellent	NA
B-621	38303	Excellent	NA
B-6202	20404	Excellent	NA
S-621	50955	Good	NA
U-621	132070	Good	NA
A-621	79370	Excellent	NA

IFPD CREW621:

Members of Crew 621 receive an “in Service” training in May each year. These members train to earn their “red card” and maintain certification and training for the wildland fire environment.

Crew 621 has a greater than 80% return of last year’s members which will allow crew 621 to reclassify as a type II IA crew (upgrading from last year’s classification of Type II) All members will received a full in service “red card” training and the crew will be fully in service and ready to assist the USFS (BDF) San Jacinto Ranger District with the continued prescribed burn projects on Thomas Mountain, Our Crew has provided Mutual Aid and completed local fuels and fire incident work throughout 2022/2023 and 2024. Looking forward to their continued efforts in 2025, Thank you Idyllwild Crew 621!!





Please remind your family, friends, and neighbors that Fire Prevention and Abatement efforts are a year-round commitment.

Thank you for your efforts in helping to keep Idyllwild Fire Safe!



Emergency Siren Testing

*3rd Saturday of each month @
1:00pm.*

IFPD Response Time Averages: (time of dispatch to time of arrival)

Medical Aid Incidents. 3.01 minutes

Fire Related Incidents. 4.2 Minutes

Overlapping Incidents 31.48%



*From our Family to Yours,
“You are our Mission.”*

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