

# Ride Along with Fire Department

By Michele McClintock

On Thursday April 6 Larry LeMieux and I went on a ride along with Captain Jensen, Shawn Tobler and Jason Hanor. Shawn Tobler has been a full time fireman for four years and Jason Hanor

has been full-time for two years. Both were on the reserves before being promoted to full time status.

Upon our arrival to the station we were shown the fire truck we would be going out

in. The truck has a thousand gallon of water capacity, seats up to five people and has the capacity to spray foam as well for the alcohol burning fires.

Captain Jensen and

firefighters Hanor and Tobler's schedule for the day included a few business inspections and to flush the fire Hydrants.

Business inspections are done once a year. Items the fire department are concerned with are exposed wires, wires extending from

the ceiling, exit signs having power, mainly anything that could potentially start a fire.

The hydrants are flushed twice a year and takes approximately 3 months to do the whole city. The purpose for this is to get rid of the

*Continued next page*

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*Michele McClintock prepares to ride along with firefighters, Shawn Tobler and Jason Hanor*



Continued from page 27

## Ride along

build up of sediment and debris in the pipes.

The fire truck is flushed once a week for the same purpose as the hydrants. While in the process of flushing the truck we were shown the operation of the deck gun. This attachment allows the firefighters to be able to reach vehicles that may be

on fire and because of the type of fire not safe for the truck to be close up.

The fire department is looking for reserves. If you are interested in joining the department please contact Chief Meachum. The reserves are required to work 8-10 hours per month. After the sixth month probation

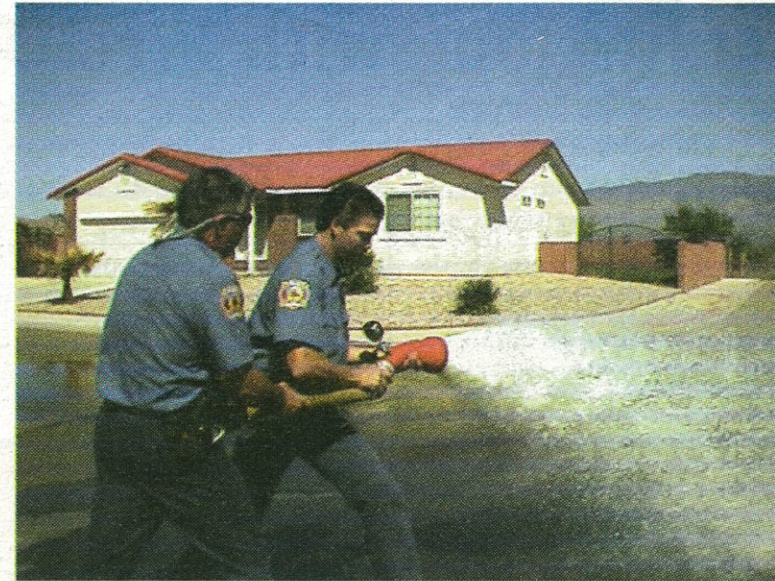
period they will receive \$200.00 per month. The station could not function as well as it does without the help of the reserves. As our population continues to get bigger the fire department will need more help. As one can see the job consists of a lot more than just putting out fires.



*Top Right: The firemen test a new piece of equipment designed to distribute the water and reduce pressure.*

*Left: The control panel where all the water is turned on and off.*

*Right: Captain Jensen demonstrates the operation of the Deck Gun.*





March 23, 2000

Desert Valley **TIMES**



Photo Submitted / Desert Valley Times

## Fire Attack Training

40 firefighters from Mesquite and a number of outside agencies participated in Initial Fire Attack Training at the Mesquite Fire Department training facility. The training allowed firefighters to experience live fire attack under controlled conditions.

The Utah State Fire Academy brought their live fire training platform and the firefighters were formed into teams for Initial Attack, Rapid Intervention, and Backup. Each firefighter rotated from one position to another several times during the training allowing him to experience each function.

The Utah State Fire Academy brought their Propane fire training platform last fall and their flashover platform earlier this year. This training and the equipment are the state of the art.



# City Hall Update

**Ken Meacham, Fire Chief**

The Mesquite Fire Department knows that round-the-clock fire protection requires a continuum of readiness, training, pre-fire planning and hazard planning, code enforcement, equipment maintenance, and physical fitness. We also know that rapid growth in the community and budget constraints often make it a struggle to keep pace in terms of advanced training, personnel and equipment.

In the face of rapid change, our primary mission remains as always to provide prompt quality service to the community and visitors of Mesquite through proactive training, public education, fire prevention, fire suppression, and emergency response. Plain

and simple...that is our mainstay. While we as a fire department provide a host of other programs and services, to lose sight of our number one purpose is to fail our mission. The task we have undertaken is to provide 24-hour a day protection at a level that conforms to mainstream and/or community standards.

Fighting fire is hard, physical, demanding work. Providing fire protection and life safety service is an enormous challenge for any fire department. We are attempting to meet those challenges through education and training of our firefighters and the public.

In our effort to inform and educate, we ask that the following

accomplishments be considered. In 1999, we set goals for all the officers, volunteers, and full-time firefighters to be certified to the Firefighter I level, and to the Firefighter II level. Fire officer I training is an on-going effort. We have achieved a 100% complete program for the Firefighter II level for our full-time firefighters. 98% of our volunteers are now certified either Firefighter I or Firefighter II with a new class of firefighters read to certify in February, 2000. The training program has been updated to meet the more stringent requirements of NFPA 1001, 1401, and 1410. During 1999 seven volunteer firefighters attended and completed certification for

Emergency Medical Technician, and five volunteers have gone on to be certified through the Health District as EMT Intermediates.

We have had great success in obtaining full cooperation from local casinos to allow us to use designated areas of their properties to train our full-time staff and our volunteers in the use of our newly acquired 100-ft. Ladder truck. Training has been scheduled in March for Initial Fire Attack, which will be instructed by the Utah State Fire Rescue Academy, and research is being done for training in high angle rope rescue. By the end of the fiscal year, the goals that our department had set in 1999 will be accomplished, and our

next set of goals is in the process for next year.

The following responses were made from Jan. 1, 1999 to Jan. 1, 2000: 20 structure fires, 21 wildland fire, 13 haz-mat incidents, 52 car accidents, 14 car fires, 27 false alarms, 1 body recovery, 2 fatalities, 14 mutual aid given, 2 mutual aid received; with an average response time of 5.45 minutes.

Two structure fires of late include one at the Stateline Trailer Park and the other at Enchantment condos. Both fires required the response of fourteen firefighters and the required equipment. The response was quick and no injuries were reported.



# Mesquite Fire Fighters

for Desert Valley Times 9-29-00

The Mesquite Fire Fighters Association will hold its second annual Fire Muster Oct. 7 at the Eureka Hotel Casino. The event is co-sponsored by the Eureka and the association.

Festivities are open to the public and will begin with a Pancake breakfast at 7 a.m. Donation is \$5 per person. Antique and operational fire trucks will join a parade on Sandhill and Mesquite Blvd., starting at 9:30 a.m., and will return to

the Eureka where they will be on display for the rest of the day. Fire fighter competitions begin at 1 p.m. and will include water barrel, water cannon, fireman's relay, hose roll, broken hose drill and midnight alarm.

The public, with emphasis on kids and politicians, will be invited to join in the competitions.

Capping the day's activities will be a bar-b-que awards dinner and entertainment beginning at 6 p.m.



# City welcomes two new firefighter/paramedics

Derek Hughes, Acting Fire Chief

Firefighter/paramedics Jim Kindel and Chris Racine recently joined Mesquite Fire and Rescue. Both bring a broad range of experience and expertise to the team, as well as advanced levels of paramedic and fire fighting certification and training. "The community will definitely benefit from having Jim and Chris here in Mesquite," said Acting Chief Derek Hughes.

Jim Kindel comes to Mesquite from Las Vegas where he worked for three

"Both my wife and I wanted to get our kids out of the city and get back to a small community. Mesquite is a good fit for the whole family - including my two dogs. I'm really looking forward to working here in this community."

Chris Racine also comes to us from Las Vegas where he was born and raised. Having previously served as a Lead Paramedic in Pahrump, Chris is proud to put his diverse and proven experience to work for Mesquite. In addition to

towards achieving Advanced Life Support level of service for the benefit of the community." His wife Christie and their four children are also glad to be here.

Hiring these two new firefighter/paramedics is the first step in moving

toward Advance Life Support (ALS) licensure from the Clark County Health District. ALS status will allow Mesquite Fire and Rescue to provide a more advanced level of pre-hospital care to the community and patients they serve.

According to Acting Chief Hughes, "Having Jim and Chris on board along with Battalion Chief Jaynes definitely compliments our existing level of quality EMT service. We're glad they've joined our team."



years as a paramedic with his membership in the American Medical Response. Previously, Jim served an eight year tour of duty in the United States Navy and then completed a two-year nationally accredited Paramedic Program at UCCSN in Las Vegas. As a nationally certified Senior Paramedic, Jim brings a high level of advanced training and skill to the station.

Born and raised in Canfield, Ohio, a town about one-third the size of Mesquite, Jim and his wife, Lorena, and their three children are happy to be in our community.

National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, Chris is also trained in the handling of hazardous materials and has completed professional certification programs through the National Fire Academy in Maryland and the Paramedic Program at UCLA. Additionally, Chris is an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) instructor, which will allow him to provide training for new recruits and volunteers.

Chris was attracted to Mesquite "...because it is a progressive city that is more goal-oriented



# ert Valle

endent Newspaper

Times June 8-2000

## Fire Chief to retire

Dick Coleman - Staff Writer

The city of Mesquite is losing another public official. Fire Chief Ken Mecham is retiring after many years. He has seen the department grow from a volunteer organization to a full department within the city government. His retirement becomes effective in August, at which time, Deputy Chief Derek Hughes will become interim chief as Mesquite makes a formal search for a permanent chief. Hughes will compete for that permanent spot.

Mecham waxed a little nostalgic; remembering Mesquite as a small farm community in 1984. Then, the fire department was volunteer with an old farm truck with a water tank on the back. Mecham has seen his department grow into a modern fire department with tough upgrading and exceptionally

modern equipment. Even with the modern department he feels there is more work to be done.

The development of Mesquite's fire and EMS services have allowed the city to go from a high 8 insurance rating down to a low 4 by the Insurance Service Office. That agency helps determine insurance costs for home owners and lower costs for the city. Mesquite has continually lowered its costs since 1984. Good news for home owners and taxpayers. Mecham has seen training classes go from once a month to where weekly classes are now needed - including a recent class on responding to 'killer bees'. Mecham says he likes the way the city is heading and says his stay has been a happy one - but, at 52, he's looking forward to retirement.



# Derek Hughes is new Fire Chief

By E. Beverly Mellinger

Derek Hughes has been promoted to Fire Chief for the City of Mesquite.

A panel including Police Chief Doug Law, Financial Officer Mel Drown, Councilman Dave Bennett and City Manager Bryan Montgomery interviewed five other finalists.

The choice of Hughes was unanimous.

"Derek interviewed very well and is capable and willing to handle his fire prevention tasks as well as the Chief duties — just as he has done over the past four months," said Montgomery.

Hughes has filled the position on an interim basis since the retirement of the former Chief.

With the selection of Hughes, the city will save nearly \$70,000, which will allow the Fire and Rescue Department to hire an additional firefighter/paramedic to help extend the full-time coverage.

Barring the new hiring, the funds could be returned to the General Fund. Montgomery said that none of the other finalists convinced the committee he would bring much more to the department and make up that type of savings.

Hughes joined the Mesquite Fire Department in 1989 at the age of 17.



**It's permanent. Derek Hughes is the new Mesquite Fire Chief after holding the position on a temporary basis for four months.**

He became an EMT volunteer in 1992.

The new appointee said he's had a lot of opportunities because in a small department, "you get more experience, get to wear more hats, and that's what's so great about working here."

Since joining the department full-time in 1995, he has held the position of Assistant Chief for Reserves, Deputy Fire Chief, and Fire Prevention Officer - the position he will continue to hold

along with the Fire Chief duties.

Hughes stays busy with budgetary matters pertaining to the department, but also conducting inspections of the larger properties in town, along with educational activities at the schools and in the business community.

The new fire chief will attend a fire science course in January, as part of the department's ongoing emphasis on staying up-to-date in the field of fire technology.

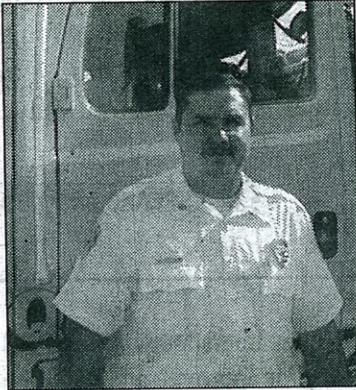


# Derek Hughes - Acting Fire Chief Update

For Desert Valley Times

8-3-2000

Change is the word at the station these days. Operations at the Fire and Rescue department are going very well. We



Dick Coleman / Desert Valley Times

haven't missed a beat, thanks to the dedicated men and women who volunteer their time to our community. I would like to thank them for their long hours, lost sleep, patience, dedication, professionalism, and time away from their family and friends. We have been fortunate to have such good neighbors like Station and Rescue 71 in Bunkerville and the Clark County Fire Department. Both departments have been very helpful with on-going training while we were searching for a Battalion Chief.

We are now in the process of hiring three full time fire-

fighter/paramedic positions. With these new positions, we will be working with the Clark County Health District to license some of our ambulances as Advanced Life Support. This will allow us to provide a greater range of services to our community. As soon as these positions are filled, we will be updating residents with more information. In the meantime, if you have any questions concerning ambulance service or medical training, please call Battalion Chief Todd Jaynes at 346.2690.

We are excited to welcome FLIGHT for LIFE to their new

home at Station #2. They will staff a pilot, flight nurse, and a paramedic 24 hours a day. There will also be an opportunity for joint training with the flight staff, since many of them are instructors in various medical fields.

With all the new construction, as well as existing business, fire prevention inspections are one of those duties that keep the full time staff busy. It is exciting to see all the new growth happening in our community and to be a part of keeping it safe. Speaking of new construction, we should start seeing the new Fire/Rescue bays going up near the existing Building Department. The new

structure will have four drive through bays and some storage space for equipment. Administrative offices will be located where the Building and Public Works offices are now.

We would like to invite everyone, especially kids, to stop in and visit the station. Come on down and see what we're up to and take a tour of the station. We know the kids will love to see the fire engine and ambulances. And, as a community service, we would be happy to check your blood pressure for free when staff is available. For more information please call 346-2690.



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At this meeting we will have a chance to meet our three new State Board Members. Surprisingly Jack Coons was not reappointed. The new members are Tommy Ford, John Moran, and Dave McNinch.

I have known Tommy Ford for some time and other than Wildred Allen, I cannot think of any better person to serve on this board. I had breakfast, with John Moran. This was our first meeting. It promises to be a great relationship. I believe that the sportsmen of Nevada now

3C's opening. The reason for this is that these people have no faith in the present NDOW leadership to properly manage this WMA. If you question their reasoning just take a look at Sunnyside and the Overton WMA.

I have been asked to film how great the 3C's WMA looks now and go back in five years and have another look at this area. They feel that this area

PA - 4-44  
• See OUTDOOR on Pg 15

# Brush Fires hit Elbow Canyon

Dick Coleman - Staff Writer

Firefighters responded to a brush fire in the mountains at Elbow Canyon ten miles south-east of Mesquite. The fire was on BLM land in the Arizona Strip. The first of this series of brush fires started around one in the afternoon last Thursday, July 20th. It didn't take long to go through a hundred acres in the above one hundred degree temperatures. The fire has consumed over 1,000 acres, and is now approaching an area where range cattle, corrals and other ranching structures are threatened.

One firefighter was pulled off the line suffering from heat exhaustion, the only injury as of yesterday.

Four air tankers have helped fight the fire along with two choppers, two fire engines



Dick Coleman / Desert Valley Times

**Choppers working out of Mesquite Airport transport 700 gallons of retardant at a time.**

and 170 firefighters using a total of 225 personnel. tial fire - the storm that rolled through the area Sunday

Visitors to the area are believed to have caused the ini-

• See Fires on Pg 13

*Desert Valley Times - July 27, 2000*



# Fire Fueled By Hot Dry Weather

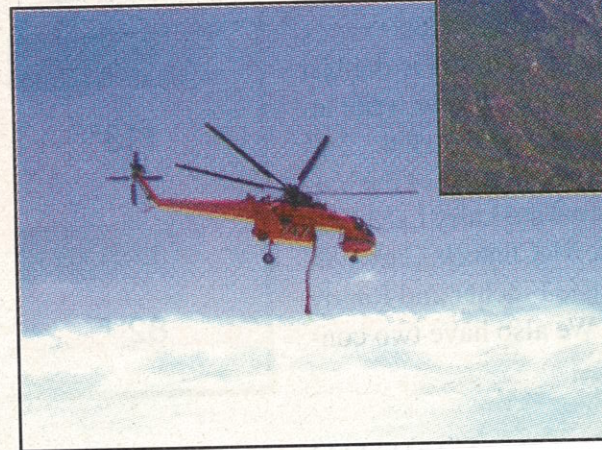
By Michele McClintock

The fire burning in the mountains was reported about 1:00 on Thursday, July 20. The cause of the fire was due to campers in the area.

The Elbow fire has currently burned 113 acres in Elbow Canyon, located ten miles southeast of Mesquite and twenty miles southwest of St. George in the state of Arizona. It is burning on Arizona strip Bureau of Land Management land. Firefighters are working the flanks of the fire in hope of stopping it from cresting a ridge where it could slop into the next drainage and complicate the firefighting ef

Continued on page 12

Photos Courtesy Of  
Bob Mills



Valley Journal  
July 27-2000



Continued from page 1

## Fire

fort. Firefighting efforts are hampered by the lack of natural barriers to assist in containing the fire. The fire continues to burn in thick brush, consisting mainly of oakbrush, chapparal, pinyon pine and juniper.

The fire is burning in the Pauite Wilderness Area and big horn sheep habitat, however, no homes are threatened by the fire.

Additional resources have been called in to fight the blaze. A heavy air tanker has joined the two single engine air tankers in making fire retardant drops. Two hand crews, three engines and a helicopter with helitak crew are fighting the blaze.

Fire officials are concerned for firefighter safety as temperatures in the 100's and extremely low humidity predicted pose a threat of dehydration and exposure to the sun for firefighters.

Officials state that the fire will be completely contained by Sunday.

Present resources of the local Color Country South Zone Dispatch are supporting fires throughout the Great Basin. The fire danger continues to be extreme with high temperatures and dry vegetation across Utah and Arizona.





# The Mesquite Fire and Rescue Department updates

for Desert Valley Times

**Training:** Last week training was held regarding the different medications that each level of EMT can administer.

This week radio, written and other forms of communication will be the topic of our Thursday training which will be a combined Fire and Emergency Medical training session.

The training topic for next week's EMS training will be cardiac emergencies.

Our entry-level firefighter training was fire control and detection last week with this week's training being

communications followed by loss control and scene control.

Mesquite Fire and Rescue is currently putting together an EMT basic class that will be starting in November.

We are inviting all those who are interested in this class to call and if space permits take the class.

CPR is offered every first and third Saturday so those people interested in this class may call and schedule attendance.

We require a minimum of six people and there is a \$12 charge to offset our costs.

## Events:

Our fire muster on Oct. 7 was a huge success with several fire departments participating.

Fire Prevention is Oct. 9-14. Our department will be putting on programs at the elementary schools.

Last week with the help of Clark County fire we operated a smokehouse for the K-third graders in Mesquite and assisted Bunkerville with the smokehouse at their school.

## Information:

Richard Resnick from AMR Las Vegas was hired to be our fourth full time Paramedic.

The testing was on Sept. 23 with a hiring list being

generated from the other candidates who tested.

We feel that Richard will add experience and training to our department and he tested really well.

The testing consisted of several components including:

- Climbing 75 feet up the ladder on the truck
- A timed physical agility test
- A written test
- Practical scenarios
- Oral board

For the week of Oct. 1-7, we responded to 12 calls for Emergency Medical Service.

ALS status for our department is progressing

with a few minor details to be worked out. Nov. 9 is the day scheduled to be 10 percent ALS-certified and functioning at the ALS level. ALS coverage will be seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

The delay in obtaining our ALS certification is the time factor involved in ordering and receiving our supplies and equipment.

We are still looking for volunteers for fire, ambulance, or both.

If interested, please fill out an application at City Hall.

For more information call (702) 346-2690 or [tjaynes@ci.mesquite.nv.us](mailto:tjaynes@ci.mesquite.nv.us).



# Jaynes, new battalion chief, EMS coordinator for the City

E. Beverly Mellinger - Correspondent

Small steps-large steps-they all add up to achieving a goal. When the city combined its fire and ambulance departments, that large step has proven one of the most significant in its history.

The driving force is to

provide the best patient care possible outside of a hospital.

By combining the two mainly volunteer services into one entity, the city as significantly enhanced its medical support services. Combining the two department budgets also enabled

the city to hire Todd Jaynes to fill both the battalion Chief and Emergency Service Coordinator positions. Jaynes comes to Mesquite with broad experience in both areas.

"It's been a good fit," says Derrick Hughes, Acting Fire Chief. The firefighters



photo submitted

Todd Jaynes was recently named new Battalion Chief/EMS Coordinator. The City is more than midway into achieving Advanced Life Support (ALS) certification, and has Jaynes to thank for spearheading the program. The City is expecting final word from Clark County by the end of the year.



and the paramedics now work hand-in-hand when responding together to accident scenes.

Firefighters perform traffic safety and extrication duties while paramedics and EMTs perform the life saving patient care. Both departments are encouraging the "many good volunteers" to cross-train.

By cross training, the 20 plus firefighters, 11 EMT's, three paramedic/firefighters and five EMT/firefighters will be able to receive broader training opportunities.

Jaynes' professional background makes him well suited to his task. He was in

the first paramedic certification class offered by Dixie College in 1995, and says, that, because that class was the initial venture, "we were very much over trained."

He comes to Mesquite from Pahrump where he was the lead paramedic firefighter. Prior to that position he gained experience with volunteer and paid firefighter and paramedic units in Rockford, Ill., St. George and Hurricane, Utah.

According to Hughes, it was Jaynes' broad experience and work with combination firefighter and paramedic units in the past that set him apart from several

• see JAYNES on page 5



excellent candidates. "We needed an individual with the knowledge and personality to effectively lead a combination unit. Todd has both. We're very lucky to have him aboard."

Jaynes' role as EMS Battalion Chief includes responsibility for training and certification as well as quality assurance of equipment, personnel, and performance.

"He is well suited for all these tasks, as noted by his A+ score on his certification test - one of the highest ever recorded," says Hughes. His paramedic and firefighter certification in three states also adds to his ability to offer high quality training to the local department.

In addition to his fire-

fighting and paramedic expertise, Battalion Chief Jaynes also has an MBA and degrees in management and Asian Studies through the University of Phoenix, and speaks fluent Korean.

At one time he owned a 15-employee landscaping business in Hurricane, Utah. His interest in Korea was whetted as he realized that "Asia is where business is headed."

Janes' basic philosophy is: Enjoy what you do! He and his wife, Sheila, are the parents of seven children and live in Mesquite.

He also likes to cook all kinds of dishes, and especially experimenting with oriental cuisine.

A second major step for the department is that they are more than midway into achieving Advanced Life

Support (ALS) certification. They're expecting the final word from Clark County by the end of the year.

Advanced Cardiac Life Support service means that local paramedics will be able to use the highest level of pre-hospital care, including administering more advanced medications and equipment for control of cardiac and respiratory emergencies.

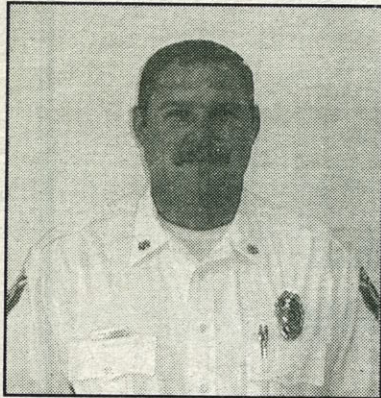
They will be trained and able to use advanced lifesaving procedures for patients with serious and potentially life-threatening injuries.

ALS is the highest level of pre-hospital care without having registered nurses on duty. While that may happen, someday, Flight for Life crew nurses are already located in Mesquite.



# City Hall Update

By Derek Hughes, Acting Fire Chief



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Aug 3-2000

# City Hires New EMS Battalion Chief

By Derek Hughes Acting Fire Chief

On July 10<sup>th</sup> the City of Mesquite hired its new EMS Battalion Chief Todd Jaynes. Chief Jaynes comes to Mesquite from Pahrump where he was the Lead Paramedic/Firefighter. Prior to that position he gained experience with volunteer and paid firefighter and paramedic units in Rockford, Illinois, St. George, Utah and Hurricane, Utah.

According to Acting Fire Chief Derek Hughes, it was Jaynes broad experience and work with combination volunteer/paid firefighter and paramedic units in the past that set him apart from several excellent candidates. According to Hughes, "We needed an indi-

vidual with the knowledge and personality to effectively lead a combination unit. Todd has both. We're very excited and very lucky to have him here in Mesquite."

Jaynes role as EMS Battalion Chief includes responsibility for training and certification as well as quality assurance of equipment, personnel, and performance. He is well suited for all these tasks, as noted by his A+ score on his certification test - one of the highest ever recorded. His paramedic and firefighter certification in three states also adds to his ability to offer high-quality training to local firefighter/paramedic staff.

Asked why he relocated to Mesquite, Chief Jaynes gave two reasons. "One, the opportunity was great; and two, my wife liked the town a lot. Mesquite is just a much better place

to raise a family."

In addition to his firefighter/paramedic expertise, Chief Jaynes also has an M.B.A. and degrees in management and Asian Studies and speaks Ko-

rean. He plans to teach business and EMT courses at the community college. He and his wife Sheila are the proud parents of seven children.



# Mesquite Fire Rescue

By Rick Resnick

There has been an unusual increase in the number of calls. We are unsure why this is, but we can assume that the sudden heat wave that has plagued us has some part to do with it. On that note, we would like to remind you of some precautions to take while out in the sun and some of the problems that can arise from the heat.

**Dehydration** - We assume that our thirst mechanism will protect us from dehydration, that if we become dehydrated, it will tell us by triggering intense thirst until we are properly hydrated. But this isn't always the case. It is possible to lose fluid so quickly that the normal thirst mechanism is overwhelmed or overridden.

The sources of fluid loss are respiration, perspiration, urination and defecation. The rate of loss from each of these will vary according to

altitude.

The most common cause of increased fluid loss is exercise and sweating. The effects of even mild dehydration are decreased coordination, fatigue and impairment of judgment.

**Heat Exhaustion** - The primary cause of symptoms is the amount of sodium and chloride ions lost, rather than the amount of water. Little or no rise in body core temperature will be noted. Symptoms include fatigue, exhaustion, nausea, lightheadedness and possibly heat cramps.

Heat exhaustion usually comes on several hours after exertion and dehydration. The individual may have even replaced the lost fluids, but not the electrolytes. With enough rest and water, heat exhaustion is self-correcting. However, this condition can often be treated rapidly with an electrolyte solution consisting of one teaspoon of salt (sodium chloride) dissolved

into the stomach to dilute the salt, while the sufferer needs the water out in the circulatory system where it is used to help maintain a normal core temperature.

Heat cramps sometimes associated with heat exhaustion, are painful but not damaging unless they are ignored. As with any cramp, they can be stretched and massaged away.

Drinking the slightly salty water and resting should keep them from reappearing. If they do reappear, you should take the rest of the day off.

**Prevention** - Heat exhaustion can be avoided by consuming enough water to replace the fluids lost, and eating salty foods or drinking an electrolyte solution. Drink because you know you should, not because you feel thirsty. Maintain a pace that allows your body to adapt to the heat.

If you feel the symptoms of exhaustion coming on, you're going too fast. It is

humid season. Your thermoregulatory system will become more efficient as it gets used to hot weather. Take a break during the hottest part of the day, the middle afternoon hours. Wear cotton clothing that lets air pass through and sweat evaporate. And wear a brimmed hat or cap to shade your heat-sensitive head.

**Heat Stroke** - Heat Stroke, on the other hand, is a life-threatening emergency. Without proper care, heat stroke victims will most likely die. Once our cooling mechanism fails, core tem-

perature rises rapidly. Death can occur in as little as 30 minutes.

When the core temperature rises, the brain, which can only function in a very narrow temperature range, begins to fail. In an effort to cool the blood and lower the core temperature, the brain will dilate all the blood vessels in the skin. As a result, the skin becomes red and hot, but may still be wet. (Note: Classical heat stroke, suffered more commonly by the ill and/or elderly, usually produces dry skin from severe

• see FIRET page 52



activity levels, air temperature, humidity and altitude.

Through the activities of daily living, the average day's loss of fluid is four liters, which is generally replaced by the fluid we drink and the food we eat. But the amount of fluid required can be significantly increased by exercise, sweating, diarrhea, temperature or

in a liter of water, which should be slowly sipped over a period of 60 minutes. Add a tablespoon of sugar or a sweet drink powder to replenish energy stores. Sports drinks like Gatorade are acceptable. It's better if the drink is cooled.

Salt tablets are too concentrated and should be avoided. They draw water

yourself early in the hot,

## FIRE

From page 17

dehydration.)

As the brain overheats, the individual may become disoriented combative, argumentative and may hallucinate wildly. The primary goal of therapy is to cool the victim as rapidly as possible. Since the sweating mechanism has failed, we have to sweat for the patient.

The simplest and most effective method is to remove all non-cotton clothing and soak the victim with water, fanning to increase the rate of evaporation and massaging extremities to encourage the return of cool blood to the core, and removing the victim from the outdoors to an indoor air-conditioned environment.

With a limited supply of water, cooling the head and neck becomes the top priority. If available, ice packs should be placed at the neck, armpits and groin, in that order. All heat stroke victims must be transported to the hospital as quickly as possible.

Prevention - Heat stroke,

like all heat-related illnesses, is preventable. The same prevention methods that work for dehydration and exhaustion will work for heat stroke. The guiding principle is to stay well hydrated.

Do not rely on your thirst mechanism to tell you when and how much you need to drink. Under conditions of exertion, it is probably impossible to drink too much water.

As with any emergency, please call 911 and get the proper assistance if you are unsure what to do. Many of these problems can be avoided by limiting sun and heat exposure time as well as keeping hydrated.

Another subject we would like to remind you of is drowning. This is the time to be extra cautious with small children and pools. Please remember to keep the gates locked, pool toys cleaned up and the fence closed. Children can wander into dangerous areas unnoticed until it's too late. Safety and prevention are the key to a drowning free summer.



# Fire Chief Meets With Local Agricultural Community.

## Press Release

Mesquite Fire Chief, Derek Hughes recently met with members of the local agricultural community to discuss agricultural burning and community growth issues. Some of the concerns discussed were size of burn, weather factors, seasonal factors, permit criteria and issuance, definition of an agricultural burn, and the converging of suburban and farming activities. The meeting was prompted by repeated fire department responses to controlled agricultural burn scenes.

The City, by ordinance, allows controlled burns in the City limits if certain criteria are met. The ordinance requires that a permit be issued by the Fire Department. Some factors that influence the

issuance of a permit are, weather, burn size, available water supply, exposures, and an on site check by fire department personnel. The Burn permit has two categories: Agricultural, and General.

One of the first items discussed was the definition of an agricultural burn. Chief Hughes defined an agricultural burn as a controlled burn including hedgerows and ditch banks for weed abatement purposes.

Some ideas brought up surrounding weather factors were the possibility of extending permit dates. Permits are issued daily. In the past, if the weather turned unfavorable, the user would have to return at a later date and be issued another per-

mit. An extended permit may alleviate this problem and some of the stress created for the user.

When discussing seasonal burn times, it was unanimous that Spring is the best time to burn. The increase of dead weeds and higher temperatures in Summer are less than ideal when burning. Additionally, the inversion layer and weather conditions of Fall and Winter can create health related hazards due to the smoke entrapment in the valley.

Another suggestion discussed during the meeting was the pos-

sibility of more frequent burns, with smaller fires. This will decrease noxious smoke, smoldering, and burn times.

A General burn permit can be issued to the public. A General burn permit may be issued for weeds, wood scraps, papers, and campfires and costs \$5.00 per issuance. A General burn permit has the same factors that affect the issuance as the Agricultural permit.

All permits can be obtained from the City of Mesquite Fire Department, Monday through

Friday during regular business hours. Permits are promptly followed up by an inspection of the burn site.

Chief Hughes stated that he is confident that the suggestions and ideas presented, common sense, courtesy, and the cooperation of the residents of Mesquite, in conjunction with permit guidelines, that some of the problems which have occurred in the past can be alleviated. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call my office at 346-5231.



# Mesquite Fire And Rescue Begins 24-Hour Coverage

By Derek Hughes  
Mesquite Fire  
and Rescue Chief

The City of Mesquite Fire and Rescue Department has begun 24-hour-a-day staffed emergency services.

The station will now always be staffed by a crew of three personnel — all cross-trained in both fire fighting and emergency medical services.

There are three shifts a week of crews that rotate in and out based on a 48-hour on, and 96-hour off schedule.

The 24-hour-a-day coverage will decrease response times for both fire and ambulance and help the city provide superior emergency services for the protection of life and property.

Paramedical emergency medical service and modern day aggressive fire fighting

technique strongly suggest minimal response time and proper staffing saves lives and property.

Support by the city council, city manager and local citizenry led to the expanded services.

In recent months the call volume has risen significantly.

The new work schedule will help alleviate staff fatigue as well as keep our service safe, professional and expedient.

To facilitate the necessary staffing requirements, three full-time Firefighter-EMT's were hired.

The new Firefighter-EMT's are William Martinez, Ryan Thornton and Britanie Wilkins.

They were not only the top three scorers on the entrance exams, but also, all

three were Reserve Firefighter/EMT's for our department.

The physical agility test, written test and interviewing process is difficult and was highly competitive.

The Fire & Rescue Department will hire another Firefighter/Paramedic later this month.

Applications for that position were received through Aug. 17.

Examinations will take place August 25, to establish a hiring eligibility list.

Please contact us at 346-2690 if you have any questions, or as always, feel free to stop by the Fire and Rescue station during normal business hours.



# City Hall Update

By Rick Resnick, FF/Paramedic,  
P.I.O. Mesquite Fire & Rescue  
Department

Over the past few weeks there has been a lot of activity at the Mesquite Fire Department. Everything from call volume to studying the feasibility of twenty-four hour staffing has been worked on.

The call volume is at an all time high.

With the first quarter as a guide, the call volume for the year will be in the twelve hundred (1,200) range for EMS alone.

In the month of February, we had 104 EMS responses and 19 fire responses. The percentage of first out rescue units were 80 percent while second out units were at 19 percent and third out rescue units at 3 percent. Twenty-two percent of our EMS call volume was in calls originating from hotel casinos.

The Advanced Life Support program is getting positive responses from the medical community, as well as from the public. We thank you for your support!

The rescue units are holding up well thanks to the

rapid and expert skill of the City Vehicle Maintenance division - a special thanks to Ray, Doug and Lou for keeping us going. They even had to do an emergency repair to Engine One's pump!

Testing for the position of Firefighter/EMT was completed. Of the eighty-six applications, we had just over sixty applicants test on March 3 and March 10. The testing was done to create a list of candidates eligible for hire and in preparation for possibly going to twenty-four hour coverage. Approximately 30 people are on that list.

The City has been exploring the cost of twenty-four hour coverage in order to decrease our response time (the time we get the call to the time we arrive at your house) and to supply faster EMS / Fire service.

To accomplish this, we would need to hire four more full time personnel. This would also help decrease overtime paid out and also give the reserve staff the chance to staff on duty with

• see UPDATE page 40



## UPDATE

From page 24

the paid full time staff. The reserve staff will also be utilized for second out EMS calls and fire response as well.

The Staff welcomes the idea of additional coverage due to the increased call volume and call patterns.

A few weeks back we had the unfortunate experi-

ence of responding to an ATV accident. The individual had to be flown to University Medical Center in Las Vegas, where he subsequently died from massive head injuries a few days later.

All this person needed to stay alive that day was a helmet. Helmets save lives. There is no way to appreciate the amount of safety a helmet can give until you see the amount of damage

sustained without one.

Please, I beg of you, if you are riding a bike, motorcycle, or are rollerblading, skateboarding, etc., wear a helmet and pads! This person probably could have gone home and had dinner that night if he had.

Incidentally, this person had his helmet in the front seat of a car that was less than a short walk from where he sustained his fatal head injuries.

Finally, we are settling into the new station behind the New City Hall. We still have ongoing small projects to complete, and we are grateful for the space that the new bays and offices give us.

If you haven't had a chance to come and take a tour of the station, we will be here for the City Hall Complex grand opening this Thursday, 4-6 p.m. so please stop over and take a look.



# Mesquite Fire & Rescue

Valley Journal  
April 26, 2001

## Press Release

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Two of our Reserve Officers were certified after attending the 4-day National Certification for Child Passenger Safety Technician Course. In this course they learned about crash dynamics, Federal role and Safety Standards, additional vehicle protection systems, correct installation of (CRS) Child Restrain Systems, misuse, compatibility issues and more.

It is a fact that unintentional injuries are the leading cause of childhood deaths, and vehicle crashes account for 42 %. Another fact is the misuse of CRS is about 80% but in reality on several child restrain inspections the numbers were alarming. In Washington DC, Maryland, Virginia, Feb 1999. An inspection team found 1210 seats incorrectly in-

stalled and 48 seats correctly installed. Other inspections around the US have revealed similar results. It is our intention with this training and the assistance of other agencies to begin a program to educate people and assist them in learning to properly install their children's car seats, proper placement and to check for current recalls and what to do in the event of a recall, as well as compatibility issues.

We are hoping for some federal funding to initiate a low to no-cost car seat program for low-income families in our community as well.

We can't do this alone, so we are encouraging other agencies, organizations as well as private citizens to attend our 8 hour training for Child Passenger Trauma

Prevention, which will cover the necessary topics to certify you as a Child Restrain Systems Inspector. This training is scheduled for Thursday April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2001 from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Please call Fire Department for more information. We would like to have at least 2 voluntary Child Restrain System checkup events per year. The first event will be on Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup>, starting after the parade to 2:00pm during Mesquite days and the other towards the end of the year. We need all the inspectors that we can get, so make the time to take the class and participate by volunteering in these events. Remember it is easier and less costly to prevent an injury than it is to remedy one...your loved ones will thank you for it.



# Mesquite Fire & Rescue

By Rick Resnick

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they learned about crash dynamics, Federal Roll and Safety Standards, additional vehicle protection systems, correct installation of (CRS) Child Restraint Systems, misuse, compatibility issues and more.

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We need all the inspectors that we can get, so make the time to take the class and participate by volunteering in these events.

Remember it is easier and less costly to prevent an injury than it is to remedy one...your loved ones will thank you for it.



# Fire At Mesquite Plaza

By Michele McClintock

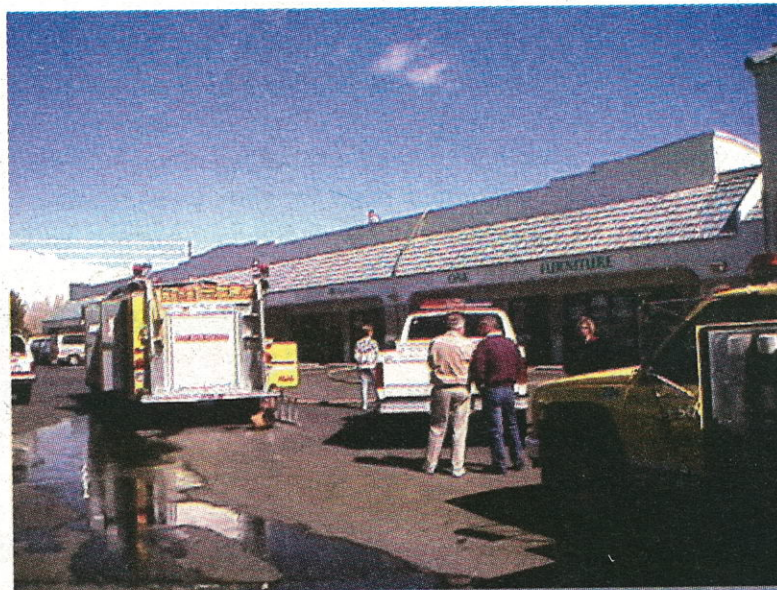
Friday, February 23 at around 10:00 am Ted and Jackie Miller owners of Virgin River Oak Furniture smelled a burning odor in their store. "The odor was strong enough for our eyes to be affected" said Jackie.

After doing a thorough investigation of the store they could not find anything that was giving off the odor. The Millers went to get Sheila Moyers, Mesquite Plaza's property manager and call the fire department.

The fire department arrived and immediately started popping holes in the ceiling tiles to see where the source of the smoke was coming from. It was later noticed by another tenant of the Mesquite Plaza that there was smoke coming from the roof just above Virgin River Oak. The firefighters found that there was an electrical fire in the neon light.

The firefighters had to chop holes in the roof to be able to get to the fire.

Ted and Jackie Miller were happy to report that there was no damage to anything and the roof is temporarily covered and will be fixed shortly.





# Mesquite Fire Department Activities Updated

By Rick Resnick

On Friday night, Feb. 9, vandals struck the vehicles in the parking lots of the Fire Department and City Hall. There was quite a bit of damage to some City of Mesquite and personal firefighter vehicles. If you have any information regarding this incident, please contact the City of Mesquite Police Department.

The Fire Department has responded to about 130 calls this year, the majority being EMS-related emergencies. We would like to request the following of you if you should call for an ambulance:

Give the dispatcher as much information about the patients current problem and past medical history.

Have the patient's identification and insurance information available for our crews. Don't rely on your memory for the information because in an emergency situation it's difficult to think clearly and stay focused.

Have a complete list of the medication the patient takes and write it down on something you can give to the fire crew. A photocopy of a pre-written list is an excellent idea.

Be available to the crew to answer questions about the patient, but try to stay physically out of the way of the working crew. Some of the equipment can be dangerous and requires quite a bit of space to operate efficiently.

Don't smoke while the crew is working on the patient. We carry oxygen and other potentially dangerous material that can be hazardous with smoking materials.

We have completed our move into the new firehouse. There is still some modification work going on, but we would not mind a bit if you came by to say hello and check out our new station set up. We are still looking for volunteers to help out around the station with mostly clerical work. If you are interest-

ed in donating some of your valuable time, contact Chief Derek Hughes at 364-2690.

Winter is almost over, but please try to keep those space heaters safe and away from combustible materials and always follow the manufacturers guide for use. A winter without someone losing a home due to fire is what we call in the fire service

"great!"

The EMT class is almost over. A few more tests and we will have a bunch more EMT's in the community. Congratulations to the men and women who have studied hard and put forth a good effort. The graduating class is complete on the Feb. 20. Also, we have assembled a team to partake and train in

Technical Rescue. The Tech Rescue Team will train in the areas of confined space rescue, high angle rescue, trench rescue and underground rescue. They will also have the equipment and training for Hazardous Materials management. The team was chosen from a stack of applicants and will consist of 10 members of the fire department.



# Mesquite Fire Rescue

## Press Release

January, by most standards, is not too exciting a month. There is New Years Eve and it usually takes the rest of the month to recover from that. But such is not so for the men and women of Mesquite Fire Rescue. Aside from being an unusually busy month for Fire and EMS calls there has been a lot of activity around the old and new stations. Yep, that's right we moved into the new fire station behind the new City Hall building. There is still some work going on and some of the apparatus is still in the old garage bays but most of our stuff is in. We will be more than happy to show you around our new station but give us some time before you drop by. We will still have some cleaning and organizing to do, however, we look forward to seeing you drop by during normal business hours. Our phone number is still the same 346-2690.

On the Fire side of things; there has been reports of out of control "controlled burns". Please remember to keep a control burn to a size that you could control if things went awry. Also, please see Sonja at the fire station for a burn permit if you plan to burn. Not having one can land you in some trouble. We would also like to remind you that if our lights are flashing and our siren is blaring, to please pull to the right hand side of the road. Our truck is big, heavy, and can be difficult to stop in an emergency. It's easier and safer for you to pull to the right and wait for us to go by. We'd hate to meet by accident.

On the EMS side of the equation that is our department; Our paramedics and EMT's are cold, tired, hungry, and at times...sleep deprived. I guess what I'm trying to say is we have been running day and night at times. There

has been an increase in normal call volume and Advanced Life Support calls. The cold weather and rain might have something to do with that. Please keep yourself warm and get plenty of rest during this time of winter. Keeping that Flu bug away is a good way to ensure a healthy winter season. There have been several out of the ordinary type calls. All I can say about that is think "safety" before doing something that might be thought of as risky or that you haven't done in a while.

The Fire Rescue Department is receiving excellent feedback from the professional medical community. We have had favorable mentions about the improvement of emergency medical care in the community at recent lectures and at meetings with the Clark County Health District. I would like to say that our Paramedics and EMT's have

been striving to increase their skills and knowledge base with continuing education and practice. Our goal is to be the best EMS system in Clark County and we are well on our way. Good job to our Fire and Ems crews.. keep up the good work! If you'd like to join Our team and are interested in an exciting and challenging career, then listen up... We are testing for the position of Firefighter/EMT, Firefighter/EMT-1, and Firefighter/Paramedic to establish a list for future hiring. Please see Jessie in personnel in City Hall for an application. The testing will be done in the end of February. Good luck to all. If you have any questions, feel free to call us and we'll try to answer them as best as we can. We also have openings for volunteers to answer phones, file or anything else you would like to help with. If interested in volunteering,

please contact Chief Derek Hughes at 346-2690.



# Mesquite Fire Rescue

By Rick Resnick

Another busy month is about to close out for us. To date we have run 350 EMS responses and 63 fire calls. In March we had 83 EMS responses with 59 transports

(71%). 54 of those patients went to Dixie Regional Medical Center (92%), while four were transported to Las Vegas area hospitals. One patient went by flight for life.

The majority of patients were medical calls with 18%

being chest pain related. There were 23 trauma-related calls for service. Nine calls were out of area originating in Bunkerville and Littlefield, Beaver Dam (11%). 23 calls were ALS oriented (28%).

There have been 63 calls for fire related emergencies this year. As for the 12 fire calls this month, the majority (nine) were fire department assist calls such as extinguished prior to our arrival, smoke detector malfunctions, Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVA) and leaking propane tanks. We responded to one building fire and two responses were cancelled in route.

Aside from being busy running calls, we have been very hard at work on other projects. The fire station is now capable of twenty-four hour shifting accommodations and we look forward to being able to give the community the coverage it deserves. We would like to mention the extra effort that City Manager, Bryan Montgomery and Fire Chief Derek Hughes have put forth.

As mentioned, last week two of our staff went to Las Vegas to be certified as child restraint technicians. If you have questions about your child safety restraints, please feel free to stop by and ask us. We would be more than happy to help.

On that same note, two of our firefighter paramedics went to the State Fire Marshals Training Office in Carson City and attended the First Fire Officer One State of Nevada certification class. This class was one week long and is a train the trainer class, which means our two FF/Paramedics can teach it here in Mesquite. Keep your ears open for a future fire officer certification class.

If you drive by the station on Saturday afternoons and see a lot of action around the fire station please don't be concerned. The small fires, vehicle extrications, and roof ladders are all part of the Firefighter One and Two certification class that has been underway for a few weeks now. The class is doing quite well and we believe they will score very well on their state certification exams.

Rest assured our firefighters are getting the very best education we can get for them.

In recent news, The Clark County Health District has revised some of the paramedic protocols. It is now a

• see FIRE page 16



## **FIRE**

From page 10

little easier and faster for our paramedics to treat some very serious conditions.

The Health District EMS division has been very proactive in the delivery of emergency medical care.

The training division for the fire department will conduct an EMT-intermediate certification class in August. If you are a current certified EMT and would like to attend please call us at the number below.

A Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support class will be held here in Mesquite for area paramedics and EMT's.

If you are interested in attend-

ing this class on May 4-5, please call Batt or Chief Todd Jaynes at 346-2690.

We will be conducting testing and interviews for our reserve staff. We are looking for those people in the community who would like to be involved in the department. Applications are available in city hall. So come on down and put the "you" in teamwork.

Now that we are into the warmer weather, picnics, and BBQ's please remember to keep the old BBQ at least 10 feet from the side of your house or any overhang. This is a safety issue as well as a city ordinance.

The rapidly rising heat can catch an overhang on fire faster than you think possible. So be safe and keep those stakes nice and juicy.



# Mesquite Fire Rescue

## Press Release

*Rick Resnick FF/Paramedic, PIO*

Another busy month is about to close out for us. To date we have run 350 EMS responses and 63 fire calls. The numbers for May are as follows.

We had 83 EMS responses with 59 transports (71%). 14 of those patients went to Dixie Regional Medical Center (92%), while 4 were transported to Las Vegas area hospitals. 1 Patient went by Flight for Life. The majority of patients were medical calls with 18% being chest pain related. There were 23 trauma-related calls for service. 9 calls were out of area originating in Bunkervill and Littlefield Beaver Dam (11%). 23 calls were ALS oriented (28%).

There have been 63 calls for fire related emergencies this year. As for the 12 fire calls this month, the majority (9) were fire department assist calls such as extinguished prior to our arrival, smoke detector malfunctions,

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As mentioned last week 2 of our staff went to Las Vegas to be certified as Child Restraint Technicians. If you have questions about your child safety restraints, please feel free to stop by and ask us. We would be more than happy to help.

On that same note, Two of our Firefighter Paramedics went to the State Fire Marshals Training Office

*The Valley Journal - May 3, 2001*

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education we can get for them.

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**please call Batt. Chief Todd Jaynes at 346-2690.**

We will be conducting testing and interviews for our reserve staff. We are looking for those people in the community who would like to be involved in the department. Applications are available in City Hall. So come on down and put the "you" in teamwork.

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# Firefighters Get Intervention Training

By Bill McClure  
Editor

About 100 firefighters lose their lives each year in a normal house fire and Mesquite Fire Chief Derek Hughes wants to make sure it doesn't happen to one of his.

Nine of Mesquite's instructor-certified firefighters completed three days of Rapid Intervention Training last week.

The course was conducted by Jay Acebo and Tony Pastorello, veteran firefighters and instructors from the Las Vegas Valley.

Acebo is a 15-year veteran and Pastorello has 11 years of experience.

The first day began with

some classroom training but the course quickly evolved into hands-on training and technique exercises.

"I learned how to get between two studs — that's a 14-inch opening — while wearing all of my protective gear and an air tank," Hughes said.

"I didn't believe my big body and all that equipment would get through that small of an opening but the techniques they taught us allowed me to do it."

Another part of the training was about how to help a firefighter who goes down.

"It used to be that the preferred way to rescue a downed

• see TRAINING page 3



**Firefighters Train** Photo by Bill McClure

Mesquite Fire Chief Derek Hughes, back to camera, prepares to pull simulated downed firefighter to safety during a training exercise.

*Desert Valley Times - Feb 28 - 2002*

## TRAINING

From page 1

firefighter was to carry him out — the old fireman's carry," Acebo said.

"But that's a lot of dead weight to carry and it's really difficult for a small man whose trying to carry a much larger man — especially with all the equipment we wear."

Another exercise taught the firefighters techniques on how to free themselves if they get caught in a web of wires — a common problem in house fires.

And, the firefighters were taught how to get downed firefighters out of a basement or the second story of a building.

"We were all tired when it was over, but we all walked

something," Hughes said.

Acebo and Pastorello left copies of course materials and briefings so the newly trained Mesquite instructors can train the rest of the department's firefighters.



# Men And Women In Blue

## Local Boy Finds Excitement In Mesquite

By Terrie Canfield  
Staff Writer

Shawn Tobler is following in his father's footsteps.

His dad was a firefighter in the 70s and 80s.

Now Shawn is an EMT/firefighter.

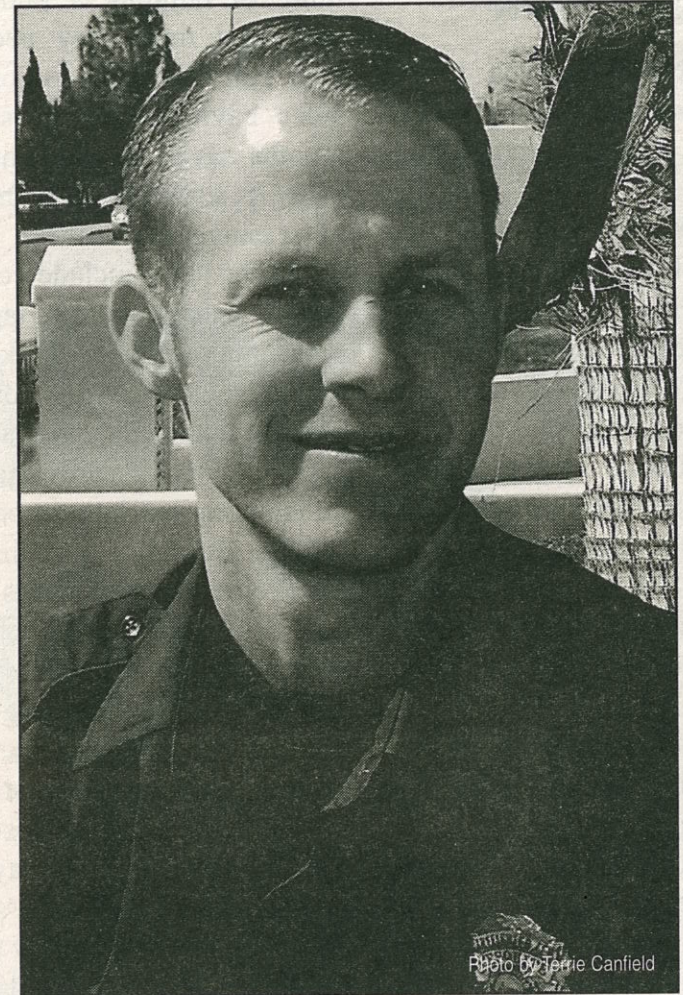


Photo by Terrie Canfield

### **Shawn Tobler**

Shawn Tobler is glad to be following in his father's footsteps.



He was born and raised in Mesquite, graduated from Virgin Valley High School and decided to stay here.

"Mesquite is a great place to raise kids and the department is great to work for," he said.

Besides he has lots of family here.

He also said that he's seen lots of changes both on the job and in Mesquite over the years.

Shawn worked while going to high school and while working at the Valley Market (now Rancho Market) a co-worker suggested he join the reserves.

He did, liked it and it has turned into a career for him - a career he really enjoys.

"When you go into work, you never know quite what will happen.

"I like that - it's always something different, something new to learn," he said.

He also admitted that the fire fighting intrigues him the most.

"Maybe it's the adrenaline rush."

Maybe.

But fires are kind of rare around here.

If the river catches on fire, it is usually let burn unless it threatens a home site.

And because it isn't within the city proper, it's BLM jurisdiction anyway.

Shane is on the rope rescue team.

Their training has brought them up to operational levels and they will attend additional training in Las Vegas next week.

This training gives them (there are eight members) the capability to rescue stranded climbers, for example.

In his off time, he rides and occasionally races dirt bikes, rides ATVs and spends time with his wife and daughter.

As an EMT, he says its good to know that he is able to provide a better outcome than might have been.

Last week he helped deliver a baby and said, "That was pretty great."

Pretty great we have dedicated men and women like Shawn in the fire department.



# Women In Blue

**Firefighter/EMT  
Britanie Wilkins  
Made The  
Right Choice**

**by Terrie Canfield,  
Staff Writer**

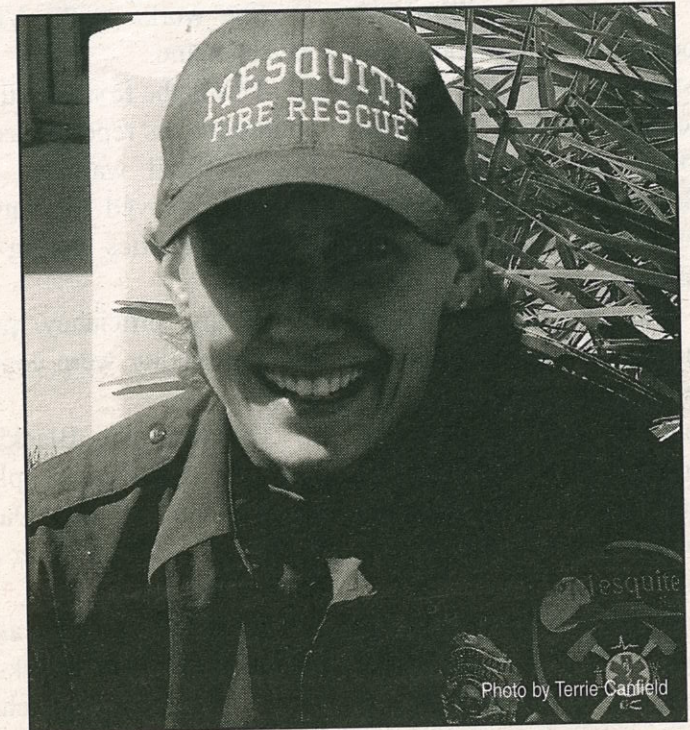


Photo by Terrie Canfield

**Britanie Wilkins**



Britanie Wilkins was born and raised in St. George, but came to Mesquite to work security at the CasaBlanca.

One day, she ran into the fire chief, and he asked if she'd like to be a firefighter.

She had shown an interest in EMT work and had actually graduated from the law enforcement academy, which made her eligible to be a police officer, so she said "sure."

Now that she's been in the field, she knows it was the right choice.

"I don't think I was meant to be doing anything else," she said.

She volunteered for six months while going through EMT training and firefighter training.

Then she was hired on full time.

As a Firefighter/EMT, she works 48 on and 96 off.

Those 48 hours are spent at the fire station and on call, the majority of which are EMT calls.

So far the fires have been mostly car fires or dumpsters or smoke alarms.

She remembers one of her first fires, all suited up and being first on the hose.

"When you have your suit on, all

you can see through is that little window and the smoke billowing at you," she said.

"It was a pretty cool feeling to put out a fire."

For Britanie, helping people is the best part of the job.

It gives her a good feeling to be doing something good for the community.

Sometimes the work can be awe inspiring, like the time a truck went over the edge and dropped 100 feet into the gorge.

"You couldn't even tell it was a truck," she said.

"But the woman was virtually untouched."

After they hauled her up on a backboard, and Britanie saw she was unhurt, she just stood in disbelief.

Britanie also likes the fact that the job is physically demanding and keeps her in shape.

That helps her chase after her five-year-old son and mountain bike in her spare time.

While she loves her job, she also loves to play the piano and compose music.

It seems she made the right choice indeed.





### ***New Ambulance***

Photo by Bill McClure

The Mesquite Fire Department has taken delivery of a new ambulance to replace a 1990 model which had more than 100,000 miles of service. The Department researched the purchase for about seven months and received proposals from about 12 companies.

The new, \$95,000 ambulance has a larger box which provides more room for para-medics to work and a quieter, smoother ride for patients. The department is answering between 700-800 calls per year with an average run of more than 100 miles

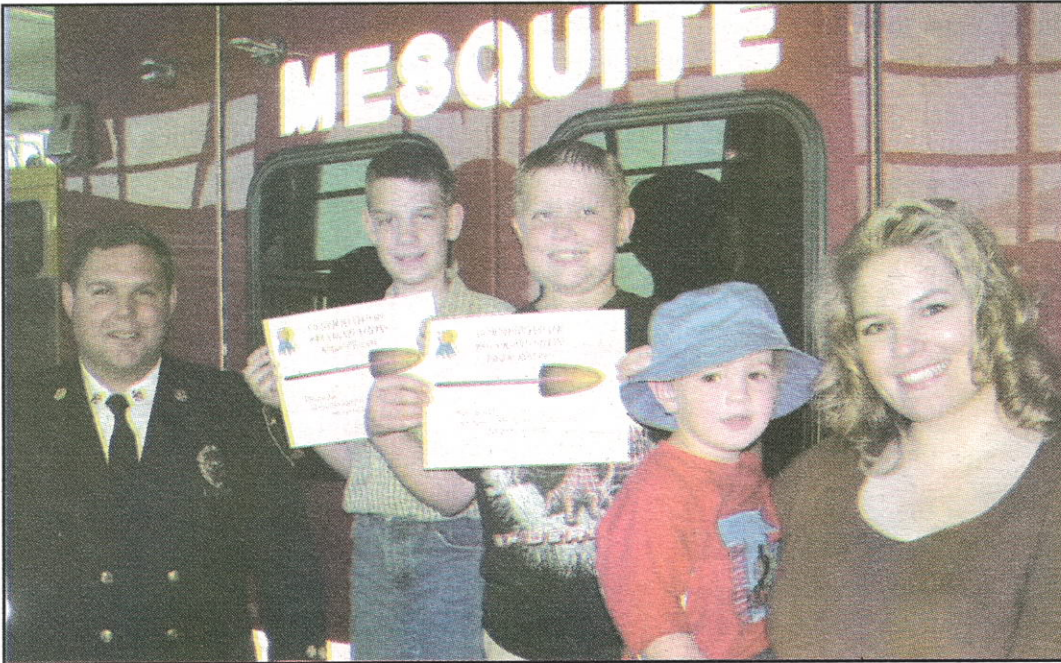


# ert Valley Times

ndent Newspaper

[www.dvtnv.com](http://www.dvtnv.com)

Times - May 16-2002



## Junior Rescuers

Photo by Bill McClure

Mesquite Fire Chief Derek Hughes, left, Monday named Logan Leavitt and Bryson Van Houten, both 10, "Junior Rescuers" for their quick action, saving the life of Thomas Lee, 2, held by his mom, Sandra. Thomas recently wandered into a neighbor's yard, climbed up on a backhoe and nearly hung himself on hydraulic lines. The pair of 10-year-olds noticed

what was happening and raced to the infant's rescue. Bryson held Thomas close to his body to take the weight off Thomas' neck while Logan pushed on the child's feet. Sandra arrived moments later to disentangle her son. "The boys were so humble about what they had done, they didn't even tell their parents. I had to tell them," Sandra said.





### ***New Recruits***

Dave Prater, left, Huk Todd, John Villegas, Dave Neufeld, Ruben Cabrera, Trevor Iverson, Mark Moriarty, Justin McConnell join the Mesquite Fire Department.

## **Mesquite Fire Department Gets New Recruits**

The Mesquite Fire Rescue Department would like to congratulate a new group of certified fully trained firefighters.

Many of the new recruits are cross-trained as Emergency Medical Technicians in basic, intermediate and paramedic level care.

Each of the new firefighters had to complete many hours of classroom training, hands on training, and an orientation ride.

After all the training came rigorous testing, including a challenging physical agility test and state testing for both written and practical fire fighting techniques.

All candidates successfully completed the testing criteria and are now certified to run Fire and EMS calls.

The new members of the department are Dave Prater, Firefighter/ EMT-Intermediate, Diana Lara, EMT-Basic, Mark Moriarty, Firefighter/ EMT-Basic, Dave Neufeld, Firefighter, Brian "squeek" Carlson, Firefighter/ Paramedic, John Villegas, Firefighter, Ruben Cabrera, Firefighter.

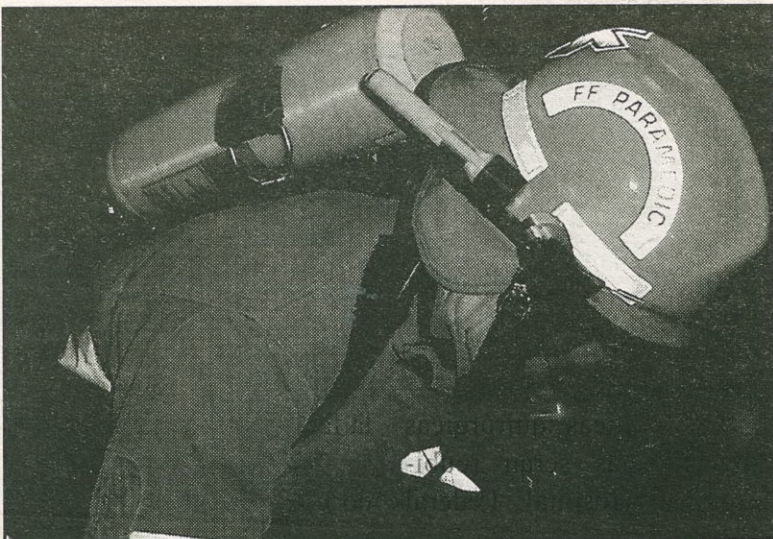
Those who are not yet active reserves will be so in the near future after completing some other classes and ride along training.

Congratulations to all!



Times Oct. 17, 2002

# SCHOOL



## Firefighters Teach Fire Safety At VVES

### Desert Valley Times

Fire Prevention Week was made much more important to the students at Virgin Valley Elementary School on Oct. 11 when a group of firefighters from Mesquite's Fire Department presented three assemblies to the students of the school throughout the day. The students were very interested in seeing the firefighting uniforms and gear, as two of the firefighters crawled down the aisles of the auditorium to stay out of the "smoke" which had been created.

Frank Fletcher told the students they should not be afraid of the firefighters when they are dressed in their firefighting gear as they are there to help and save lives.

He also talked to the students about fire safety, what they should do if they are ever in a fire, and how to call 911.

They learned about "stop,

drop, and roll," and how to get down low to crawl out from under the smoke.

Each of the younger students were given a red fire hat and a coloring book about fire safety. It was very interesting and informative for students from Kindergarten through sixth grade.

Thank you to the many firefighters of Mesquite, full-time and volunteer, who share their time and talents to teach and to protect the children of our city.

They hold a fire drill each month at the elementary school to prepare the children in case of a real fire.

Some of the firefighters who participated in this demonstration were Mark Moriarity (also a fourth grade teacher at VVES), Clint De, Shawn Tobler, and Frank Fletcher.



# State And Local Fire Departments Commemorate Eightieth Anniversary

**Desert Valley Times** 10-10-02 22,000 injuries and \$11 billion in losses.

The Nevada State Fire Marshal, in cooperation with local fire departments, is asking citizens to increase their awareness of fire safety in honor of the eightieth anniversary of the 2002 Fire Prevention Week.

The event is observed from Oct. 6 through Oct. 12 to coincide with the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, which occurred on Oct. 8, 1871.

This fire killed 250 people, destroyed 17,400 structures, burned more than 2,000 acres and left 100,000 people homeless.

The cause of the fire was never determined.

In 2000, there were 20 Clark County fire fatalities, four in Washoe County and four throughout the rest of the state.

Nationally, there 1.7 million fires accounting for more than 4,000 deaths.

"Paying extra attention to fire safety during this designated week can save lives," said State Fire Marshal Chief Doyle Sutton.

"Nevadans should implement this national campaign's safety theme right at home by installing and testing smoke alarms, practicing home escape plans and hunting down fire hazards such as frayed electric wires."

The State Fire Marshal Office investigates fire related incidents, provides training to local fire jurisdictions, licenses fire companies and provides fire safety reviews of construction plans for all state owned facilities and rural commercial facilities.

For more information on Fire Prevention Week or the State Fire Marshal's Office, contact deputy chief Dennis Ely at 775-687-4290.

*Desert Valley Times*



# Men And Women In Blue

## Satisfaction Comes From Helping Others

By Terrie Canfield  
Staff Writer

John Foster started out as an EMT in San Francisco Bay area in 1977 and he's been at it ever since.

He is a Firefighter-Paramedic with the City of Mesquite because he likes helping people out.

Initially he was trained by a cardiologist and that remains a very interesting part of the job, but he says it isn't the big things that make the job rewarding, "it's the little things like helping relieve pain."

"Sometimes people just need to talk and you need to listen.

"I like that part of the job best," John said.

That's why he's been at it so long, and he'll stay with it until he retires.

He says learning about people makes the job rewarding.

He worked in Fallon, NV as a hospital paramedic for 10 years and before coming to Mesquite he helped establish Southwest Ambulance Service in Las Vegas, where he worked for a year.

But he missed the small town atmosphere and liked the area surrounding Mesquite - the mountains and plateaus - as well as its small town atmosphere.

And someday he'd like to learn to play golf.

Meanwhile he likes to travel whenever possible and he helps collect and restore old ambulances, like

old Cadillacs.

Once they are fixed up they are sold to other services for use.

He also collects ambulance services' patches from all over the world.

John remembers delivering babies as a highlight of his career - bringing new life into the world.

He has a son of his own in Fallon.

"Ian Michael, he's my life," he says.

John's ultimate goal is to be an engineer/paramedic, but that depends on where the fire department would like him to go.



**John Foster**

"I came to Mesquite said. because I heard it was a young, progressive fire department with a young, progressive fire chief," he

He's bought a home here, so it looks like he plans to stay.



# Men And Women In Blue

## *Jason Hanor Realizes A Dream As Firefighter*

By Terrie Canfield  
Staff Writer

"I've wanted to be a firefighter since I was 15," EMT/firefighter Jason Hanor said.

"It's a dream come true."

He didn't start out to be one though.

He worked as a waiter at the Virgin River and Jim Brown, who also worked there, asked him if he'd like to volunteer for the fire department.

After spending time as a volunteer, he was picked up full time and has been full time

for two-and-a-half years.

That's a nice thing about the department in Mesquite.

Volunteers can get training and then apply when full-time positions become available.

Of course the training is ongoing.

Recently, Hanor attended weeklong training in Las Vegas as a member of the Rope Rescue Team.

EMT/firefighters learned "patient packaging," methods to safely carry patients in the Stokes Basket.

They also learned "pick-off" methods, which are ways of rescuing people from different situations and on different types of rocks.

The course was offered by CMC, who teaches rope rescue and makes the rescue equipment.

Now the men who attended the course will teach other members of the team what they learned.

"That's very satisfying," Hanor said, "training others in what you've learned."

He likes that and the medical aspect too.

"It's really rewarding. And a way to learn too," he said.

On another run to ER he can follow-up on a transport and often learns more about the condition that necessitated the call.

And patients send cards to the fire department thanking them for their help.

His first fire was an Easter brush fire four years ago.

"The first time you fight a fire, you're hooked if you have it in your blood.

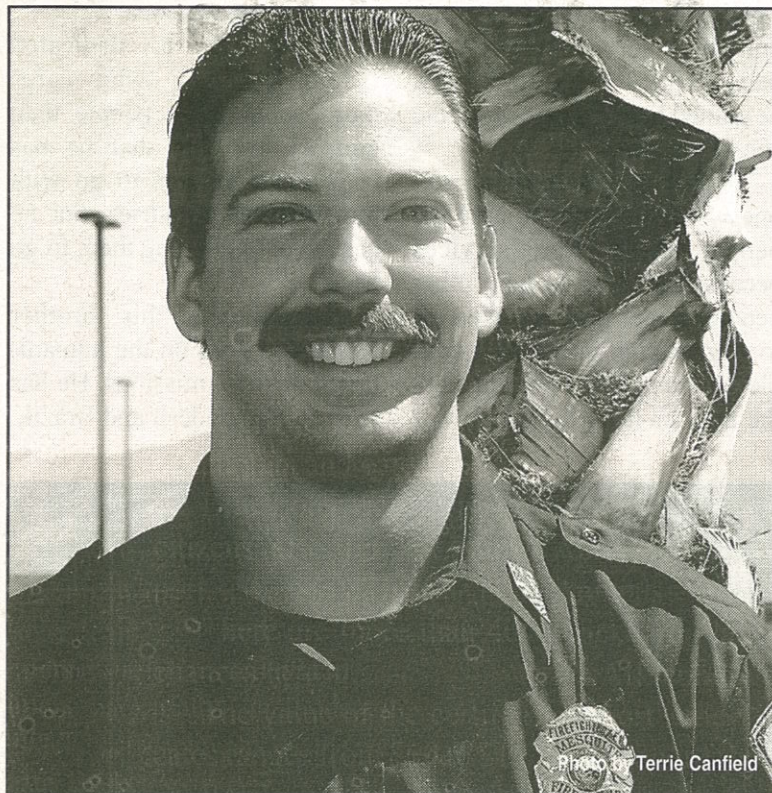
"You can see it in people's eyes."

Hanor was hooked.

He can't imagine doing anything else.

And he says there are a lot of good, dedicated people here in the fire department.

He's just one of them.



**Jason Hanor**



# Mesquite Fire-Rescue Looks Back Over Year Of Success

**By Derek Hughes,  
Fire Chief**

The second year for the City of Mesquite Fire-Rescue Department has ended since the start of providing 24 hours a day, year-round advanced life support and fire suppression crews. The department maintains four firefighter/paramedics and five firefighter/EMT-ones, along with trained part-time and reserve personnel to meet our staffing needs.

The reserve staff consists of 16 individuals, five of those being EMS only, certified nine trained as firefighters/EMT's and two trained firefighter/paramedics.

The department also has six cadets in training.

On the education front,

two firefighters graduated paramedic school, six graduated certified firefighters, and six certified as EMT's.

The department also re-certified all current EMT's and paramedics with the Clark County Heath District.

In 2002 the fire-rescue department ran 1,244 emergency medical responses and 155 fire responses, for an average of about four calls a day.

That is approximately a 10 percent increase from calls in 2001.

In 2003 we can expect to increase in both medical responses and fire responses because of population growth and the department has improved record keeping methods.

This year saw a new rescue ambulance was put into service.

The new red ambulance is identical to the one purchased in the 2001 budget year.

As you might expect, the city ambulances get a lot of use.

The first out rescue ambulance logs over 35,000 miles a year.

The City of Mesquite Fire-Rescue Department is once again offering the city ambulance insurance plan.

The plan is strongly recommend for those who are on limited fixed income as it is a way to protect yourself from costly ambulance bills.

The plan is \$125 per household and supplements your primary insurance

including Medicare.

Please call the department for details at 346-2690 during business hours Monday-Friday.

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The program has had tremendous success across the country in decreasing youth firesetting and youth arson.

The main goal of the program is to save lives and property damage through youth education and counseling.

The program has been in Mesquite for two years and has seen successful results.

The department has two trained youth firesetter intervention specialists.

Additionally, last year, the department started a car seat assistance program.

The program has enjoyed

great success in installing, checking car seats, and providing car seats for those who need assistance.

The department is able to do this through the efforts of Juan Belalcazar who obtained a federal grant and organized the program.

Last, the Mesquite Fire-Rescue Department wishes to express its thanks to Jim Brown.

Jim retired from the emergency management technician position in 2002.

Jim devoted hard work and dedication to the department over the past few years.

Should you ever have questions regarding the activities and services of the fire-rescue department, please contact Derek Hughes at 346-2690 or email [dhughes@ci-mesquite.nv.us](mailto:dhughes@ci-mesquite.nv.us)



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## **Tribute**

Virgin Valley Elementary School honors police officers and firefighters for their service to the community

# **Tribute Paid To City Of Mesquite Police Officers And Fire Fighters**

those two twin towers again standing high with pride. I feel so bad for those who lost their loved ones. I hope that a tragedy like this never happens again. I am thankful for all those firefighters who risked their lives to try and save people. I am thankful for all those people who are trying to help. I am proud to be an American." (Danielle Wynn)

"I think that it is very sad about what happened. I wanted to help the people so bad. I wish that I could do something to teach the people who hit the twin towers and pentagon a lesson. But I am still standing for freedom. I hope we still are proud that we have freedom." (Paula Ceoli)

"I am sorry for Ameri-

cans that died. America will never give up. I am very happy none of my friends or family have died. I am very thankful for the firefighters and volunteers courage and that they love to help America. And the soldiers that are protecting us now." (Cody Milan Jones)

Following the students presentations, each firefighter and police officer was presented with a U.S. flag and thanked for his/her loyalty to our community.

A special video presentation was shown on America, as all of the children joined in singing *I'm Proud to Be An American*.

It was a very touching and special occasion for everyone there.



## Times

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*Their loyalty and sense of honor will never be forgotten.*

*The children of Mesquite love America.*

*We are committed to fighting evil, protecting freedom, and championing the rights of others.*

*On this day we pay tribute to our own police force and fire department who protect and care for children.*

*Thank you for your loyalty and commitment to duty.*

*Our community is safer place because of you.*

The following fifth grade students also wrote and read their tributes at the special flag ceremony:

"I was so sad for the people and kids and the firemen that died, but United We Stand!" (Fernando Martinez)

"It changed my life to know that thousands of innocent people died."

"It was a tragic day to watch the towers fall and to know that thousands of people died."

"It was a sad day for a lot of families."

"That day changed millions of lives."

"Lots of people risked their lives to save people from dying."

"Nobody expected it to come." (Caleb Lee)

"It made me really sad, but it made me feel really proud to be an American and have to go through that because it made me really believe in the U. S. that it is the United States." (Travis Rushton)

"I started to work a lot harder and tell people to pay attention during flag ceremony."

"I think everyone gained more respect for America."

"It didn't bring us down, it helped us."

"It's amazing how someone could do that, over 3,000 people died."

"You can't comprehend how much pain and suffering there was."

"The firefighters were so brave, many of them died." (Chris Anderson)

"It changed my life because we will never see



# LOCAL NEWS

A-3-47

## Mesquite Firefighters Receive Grant

### Desert Valley Times

The Department of Homeland Security, Office of

Domestic Preparedness allocated \$15.5 million to the State of Nevada for First

Responder Preparedness.

Twenty percent is allocated for state agencies with the

other 80 percent, or \$12 million, going to local jurisdictions.

The money is designed for planning, training, exercises and equipment for the purpose of enhancing the capability of state and local agencies.

Clark County submitted a request for 51 items totaling \$10.7 million.

The City of Mesquite's request had seven items for \$395,000.

Clark County was approved for 37 items totaling \$7.7 million.

The City of Mesquite finally received notification from the state regarding their request.

It has been approved and Mesquite will receive funding for the following items:

Hand-held radio - 20 at \$13,800

Radio base stations - eight at \$4,672

Thermal-imaging cameras at \$11,250

Hand-held personal gas meter at \$2,949

Mobile Incident Command Unit at \$125,253



Airline equipment by  
at \$16,644

Mass Casualty Response  
Unit at \$42,649

Special thanks goes to  
Heidi-Karin Albrecht who  
wrote the grant and to Jason  
Hanor, Rick Resnick and Jim  
Kindel for their help and sug-  
gestions for the equipment  
grant request.



# Mesquite Fire — Rescue Reaches Out

## Desert Valley Times

The City of Mesquite Fire-Rescue Department is reaching out to residents this fall with a Fire Prevention Week campaign designed to save lives and prevent injuries by teaching important information about having smoke alarms and fire escape drills.

National Fire Prevention Week takes place October 5-11, and is the basis for public fire safety awareness activities in fire departments and elementary schools across North America.

The 2003 Fire Prevention Week theme, "When Fire Strikes: Get Out! Stay Out!" is a lifesaving reminder to leave right away when the smoke alarm goes off, and to stay out until firefighters say it is safe to go back inside.

"This Fire Prevention Week we are concentrating our efforts on making sure Mesquite residents understand that they need working smoke alarms on every level of their home, and they should plan ahead of time how they would get out if fire strikes, and practice that plan regularly," said Derek Hughes, Mesquite Fire Chief.

"Having early warning of a fire, and following a well-

practiced escape plan to get out quickly – and stay out – can make the difference between surviving a fire and dying in one," Hughes added.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), half of all fatal home fires occur in homes that have no smoke alarms.

A fire can become deadly in only moments, making every second count.

The Fire Prevention Week 2003 advice is simple:

1) Install working smoke alarms on each level of the home, and test them monthly to ensure they are working; replace batteries at least annually.

2) Develop a thorough fire escape plan and practice it by holding fire drills twice a year; make sure you know two ways out of every room.

3) Teach everyone in your household that once they are out, they must stay out until firefighters say it is safe to go back inside; get out first, then call the fire department.

For more information about Fire Prevention Week, log on to the official Web site: [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org).

To contact Derek Hughes or the Mesquite Fire-Rescue Department call 346-2690.



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### ***New Paramedic Firefighter***

Brian Carlson (left) receives his appointment as Paramedic Firefighter from Fire Chief Eric Hughes.

## **New Firefighter/Paramedic Joins Mesquite Fire-Rescue**

**Desert Valley Times** 1-23-03

Brian Carlson was hired in November by the City of Mesquite as a Firefighter/Paramedic. He replaces Chris Racine who accepted a position with the Las Vegas Fire Rescue Department earlier in the summer.

Carlson previously served as a reserve member of the department for the past year and was also employed as a paramedic in Las Vegas for American Medical Response and Southwest Ambulance the last five years.

He came to southern Nevada from Minnesota where he first became an EMT.

Carlson completed his paramedic training in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Carlson is an avid reader, basketball player, and a computer junkie.

"He is very polite, friendly, very easy to talk with and professional in his work and attitude," said fire chief Derek Hughes.

"He is an excellent addition to our department staff."



# Mesquite Fire-Rescue Conducts Testing

By Rick Resnick

FF/Paramedic

*D.V. Times May 8, 2003*  
Mesquite Fire Rescue conducted a testing to establish a list of eligible candidates for hire.

The testing was conducted on April 11 and 12.

The first day of testing included a comprehensive written exam consisting of over 100 fire and emergency medical questions.

Candidate's that passed the written test were able to progress to the next phase of testing that consisted of a physical agility exam.

The physical agility exam measures strength and endurance as it relates to fire fighting and rescue duties.

Some of the physical tasks consisted of climbing the aerial ladder 75 feet and identifying an object on the ground, a 200 foot hose drag, and a Kieser sled, in which you have to move a 165 pound block of steel five (5) feet with a eight (8) pound rubber mallet.

If the candidate successfully passed the physical agility exam, they were invited back to the second day of testing.

The second day of testing included a medical scenario



## Trainees

Photo Submitted

Mesquite Fire Rescue tests applicants to determine who is eligible as a candidate for hire on April 11. Candidates that passed the written test were then given a physical agility exam.

exam and interviews.

Mesquite Fire Rescue Firefighter/EMT-Intermediates and Firefighter/Paramedics conducted the scenarios.

Again, the candidate had to pass the scenarios to advance to the oral board (interview) exam.

The interview panel consisted of Mesquite Fire Rescue personnel, St. George Fire Department Fire Chief Robert Stoker, and Boulder City Fire Department Firefighter-Paramedic Brett Nash.

Over one hundred (100) applicants applied to test. Only nineteen (19) applicants passed all of the required testing and were put on the list of eligible for hire.

If a position becomes open

during the next year, the top five candidates on the test list are eligible to be hired to fill the vacancy.

***It pays to  
advertise in  
the  
Desert  
Valley  
Times***

***Call Edward  
at 346-7495***



# Mesquite Celebrates Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 5-11

## Desert Valley Times

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The Fire Prevention Week 2003 advice is simple:

1) Install working smoke alarms on each level of the home, and test them monthly to ensure they are working; replace batteries at least annually.

2) Develop a thorough fire escape plan and practice it by holding fire drills twice a year; make sure you know two ways out of every room.

3) Teach everyone in your household that once they are out, they must stay out until firefighters say it is safe to go back inside; get out first, then call the fire department.

For more information about Fire Prevention Week, log on to the official Web site: <http://www.fireprevention-week.org>.

To contact Derek Hughes or the Mesquite Fire-Rescue Department, call 346-2690.



# Mesquite Fire Rescue Acquires Valuable New Equipment

## Desert Valley Times

The City of Mesquite Fire Rescue Department has begun receiving life saving equipment from several grant sources that were awarded earlier this year.

Rick Resnick, Mesquite Fire-Rescue Captain, said the new equipment includes a Carnis Viper thermal imaging camera, handheld mobile radios, AirLine life safety breathing apparatus, and hazardous materials scene management equipment.

Resnick went on to say, "The equipment will assist firefighters in saving lives and decrease property loss, along with protecting our own safety in a various hazardous environments."

Thermal imaging technology has been around since the early 1960s; however, the applications for fire service and its availability didn't appear until the early 1990's.

Initially the prices on thermal imaging cameras were around the \$30,000, but slowly over the years the prices have dropped, and cameras can now be purchased for about \$15,000.

Thermal image cameras see heat and heat signatures that form as real-time moving pictures on a multi-colored screen that is easily viewed by firefighters.

In a fire with a zero visibility environment, which is

often the case, a firefighter can view a room and has the ability to locate the "seat of the fire" and any victim in a matter of seconds as opposed to many minutes.

The technology is saving hundreds of lives and hundreds of thousands of dollars in property loss.

Firefighters can also instantly know the direct temperature of that room, Resnick explained.

He noted, "This can save the lives of firefighters because now they'll know if the room is too hot for safe entry"

In addition to property loss and life saving applications, thermal-imaging cameras can also be used to find hot spots and bad wiring before a fire breaks out.

Resnick added, "These high tech cameras can also be used for nighttime search and rescue operations. Again, a victim may be found in a matter of minutes versus hours and days."

Resnick said the Carnis Viper thermal imaging camera the department received features all the latest innovations in thermal imaging technology and is one of the most rugged cameras on the market.

The new communication mobile radios will update some of the older radios in use. Resnick commented,

"For emergency personnel, clear, loud and precise communication is essential to public safety."

The new AirLine breathing system will be used for confined space rescue and trench rescue operations.

The system allows firefighters to enter into confined space where using full sized self-contained breathing apparatus units would prohibit such entries.

The new units will also allow emergency personnel to "be on air" longer than a single unit/bottle application.

Hazardous materials intervention and mitigation requires specialized training and equipment.

The department has begun to receive some of the hazardous materials equipment and have also been sending selected personnel to training to receive Hazardous Materials Technician certification.

Derek Hughes, fire and rescue chief, said he was excited to get the equipment because it can help the department provide more effective services.

Hughes noted, "Our goal is to continually progress and expand our capabilities and the level of quality service we provide."

For more information about the new equipment or for general fire-rescue questions, call 346-2690.





### It's Here

Photo by Bill McClure

Celebrating the arrival of Mesquite's new ambulance are Mesquite Fire Rescue Chief Derek Hughes, left, CasaBlanca general manager George Rapson, Oasis general manager Tony George, ambulance donor Loretta Keith Long, Eureka general manager Joe Rammos and Virgin River general manager Lex Hall.

Long donated \$100,000 in memory of her son, Dennis E. Keith and grandson, Timothy Keith. The Mesquite Resort Association donated more than \$50,000 to outfit and stock the ambulance. Once stocked, the ambulance will be inspected by state officials before being put into service.





Photo by Bill McClure

### Donation

Mesquite Fire and Rescue Department Chief Derek Hughes, center, receives a donation on behalf of the New York Firefighters Burns Foundation. Mesquite artist Dawn Cosmos, left, was traveling cross-country on 9/11 and listening to the horrendous news of that day. Late in the afternoon, she turned a corner in Moab, Utah and saw the placid scene depicted in the paint-

ing which gave her a sense of serenity. The painting won the People's Choice award at the Great Mesquite Chili and Arts Festival. Cosmos offered the painting at silent auction for the benefit of firefighters who gave their lives on 9/11. Faye Burris Seaman, right, Mesquite, represents Burris and Sons Vending, a California company that made the winning bid in the silent auction.



# Controlled Burn Razes Building



**By Morris Workman  
Staff Writer**

The Mesquite Fire Department conducted a controlled burn exercise last Friday evening at 751 West Mesquite Boulevard, providing an unofficial fireworks display that slowed traffic and awed spectators who gathered to watch.

The MFD had been using the 98-year-old building for training exercises over the last three weeks, including smoke drills, controlled room burns, search and rescue practices, and various fire suppression techniques.

On Friday evening, after a final day of drills and preparation, Division Chief Dave Peterson ignited a fuel package in the rear upstairs bedroom at 7:30 p.m.

By 7:35 p.m., the fire had broken through the roof.

The house was fully involved by 7:45, showing how quickly a fire can consume even a predominantly brick building.

Flames reached 30 feet into the air, with heat so intense that

• see FIRE page 3

## Fully Involved

Photo by Morris Workman

Within 45 minutes of the first appearance of flames, the roof and second floor had collapsed into the main structure at 751 West Mesquite Boulevard. The

Mesquite Fire Department destroyed the house in a controlled burn after using the building for training exercises over the last three weeks.

it could be felt on the other side of the five-lane boulevard.

Firefighters soaked the open field across the boulevard to keep ashes and embers from igniting the dry grass.

Members of the MFD also kept their hoses trained on the large trees located on each side of the building, as well as the power lines in front of the house.

The techniques worked, as the trees sustained only light scorching in the upper branches, in spite of the fact that the tree on the west side of the house was less than five feet from the building.

The roof and second floor collapsed at 8 p.m., leaving only the adobe-brick gables on each end of the house.

The frame addition on the front of the house finally caved in at 8:30, leaving only the plaster and brick walls and a few remaining burning timbers to mark where a house once stood.

To a civilian, the idea of burning down a house for training purposes sounds like a pretty simple endeavor.

But according to Fire Chief Derek Hughes, it involves a lot more than just a can of gas, a box of matches, and a fire truck.

"Before we could do anything, the owners had to get an asbestos survey. Then they had to have a professional outfit come and remove the asbestos that was found, then the place had to be re-surveyed."

Once they received the okay from the surveyor, MFD had to

prepare a burn plan that would adhere to the National Fire Protection Association standards for practice burns.

Among other things, the NFPA standards require two water sources, as well as the positioning of Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT) around the building that are ready to move within seconds.

Then, according to Division Chief Peterson, the actual preparation and placement of the fuel ignition package is like a science unto itself.

"We can't really talk about how and where we place the package, but it has to be positioned so that the roof and walls collapse inward instead of spilling outward."

Firefighters weren't the only city employees involved in the

training.

City councilman Marco Ruelas went through a smoke drill and a search and rescue practice, which included the infrared equipment that MSD uses to locate victims and identify hot spots.

"It was an incredible experience to be with these guys. It's pretty intense training," said

councilman Ruelas, before riding out on the Mesquite Rescue truck to answer a call with the MSD paramedics.

City councilman Scott Fisher was also on hand, donning turnout gear and manning one of the hoses for a part of the controlled burn.

"It gives a different perspective of what these guys go

through," Fisher offered, working his way out of the hot and dirty bunker pants.

The owner of the building, Burns Group Partnership, along with property manager Joe Bowler of Century 21 Bowler Realty, authorized MFD to use the building for training and a final full-burn in preparation for new construction on the lot.



# New Fire Safety Code Provides Less Protection

By Jerry R. Harke  
For News USA

(NUE) — Families and businesses across the nation may find they have less protection from fires as a result of ongoing building code revisions. Here's why:

Until 2000, the Southeast, Northeast and West had separate organizations that created building codes for those regions.

Recently, the three regions combined in order to create one building code for the entire country.

This has resulted in less protection from fire in some cities and states where the old codes provided more protection.

The problem with the new code involves fire walls.

Traditionally, fire walls have been rated in terms of "hours," which means that the product has passed a test

called a one-hour, two-hour, three-hour or four-hour test.

Some materials, like concrete masonry, endure the entire test with no failure using only one wall panel.

Other materials get by with the same rating by passing the test using two wall panels for different parts of the standardized test.

This means that these products are allowed to have a fire rating without showing the same protection as concrete masonry fire walls.

Whether a product passes the test with one wall or gets a rating with less rigorous testing involving two walls is not general public knowledge.

In the Southeast, the old codes required all fire walls to have a four-hour rating.

But the newer standard requires a four-hour rating only for buildings considered

to be "high hazards."

Fire walls for buildings where large groups of people gather or where businesses, schools or day-care facilities are located now require only a three-hour rating when constructed of noncombustible materials or large wooden timbers.

Additionally, the new code requires only a two-hour fire wall for these facilities when wood studs are used.

In the Northeast, the old codes required all fire walls to be constructed of noncombustible materials.

Yet the new standard allows fire walls to be built of combustible materials for buildings using wood studs.

It is even more critical that these walls stop the spread of fire since wood studs are combustible.

Yet the new codes allow these walls to be built of

combustible materials.

Since some requirements in the old codes are more stringent than in the new standard, this means the problem is now left up to state authorities to improve fire walls.

Some, like North Carolina, already have required all fire walls be constructed of masonry, concrete, or any approved noncombustible material.

Further, they have mandated that all fire walls must pass the entire standardized fire-resistance test by using only one wall panel instead of allowing two.

Concerned citizens can contact their elected representatives about this at [www.ncma.org/fire](http://www.ncma.org/fire).

*Jerry R. Harke is a spokesman for the National Concrete Masonry Association.*



D.V. Times, Oct 9, 2003

# LOCAL NEWS



## Fire Prevention Week

Photo submitted

The City of Mesquite Fire and Rescue Department conducted fire safety assemblies at Virgin Valley Elementary school on Monday to participate in National Fire Prevention Week. Safety topics covered were 1. Know two ways out of every room; 2. Crawl low in smoke; 3. Have a family meeting place; 4. When clothes are on fire Stop, Drop, and Roll, and 5. Get out and Stay

out. Students were urged to get parents to help draw an escape plan and conduct fire drills in the home and test smoke detectors. Chief Derek Hughes is challenging parents to talk with children — even the older ones — about fire safety and conduct a fire drill in your home. That will make families better prepared if fire strikes, he said.



Friday

**FREE**

Take one

# Desert Valley Times

Independent Newspaper

[www.dvtnv.com](http://www.dvtnv.com)

Vol. 10 No. 43

Tuesday, May 31, 2005

## Paramedic Course Now Available

**By Bill McClure**  
Editor

The Mesquite Fire & Rescue Department in cooperation with Mesa View Regional Hospital has been granted authorization to conduct a Paramedic Training Program.

"This is the first hospital-fire department partnership in the state that I know of," said program coordinator Capt. John Higley.

The first class starts Aug. 1 and will conclude on July 31, 2006.

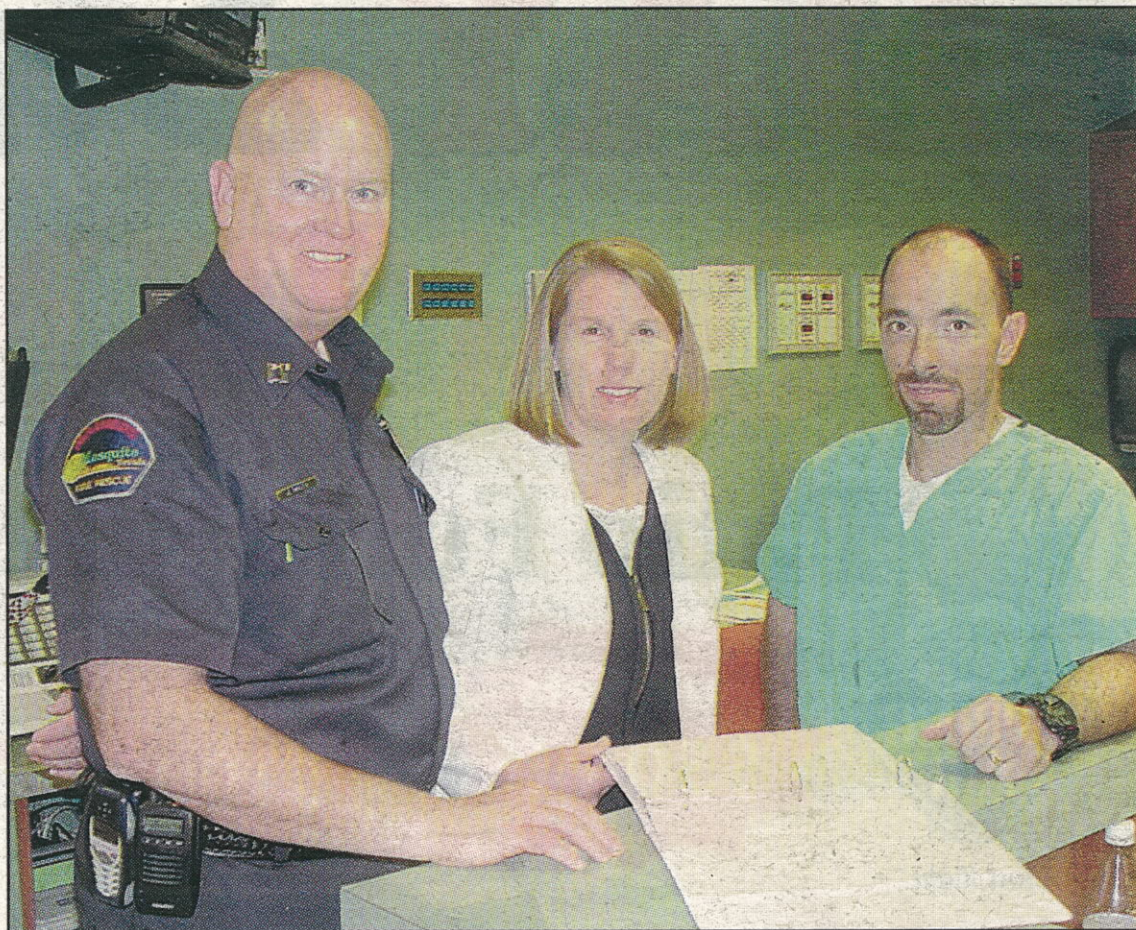
Applications for the program will be accepted through June 3 and applicants then will go through an interview process.

The annual class will be limited to 20 students.

"Classes are on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings," Higley said.

The program will consist of more than 1,275 hours of classroom, lab and clinical training rotations.

• see PARAMEDIC page 3



### Gearing Up

Photo by Bill McClure

Mesquite Fire Rescue Emergency Medical Service Coordinator John Higley, left, Mesa View Regional Hospital Critical Care-Risk Director Vickie Lewis

RN and Mesa View Emergency Room Supervisor Rod Wayne discuss the curriculum for the new paramedic course to be offered in Mesquite.



# LOCAL NEWS

## PARAMEDIC

From page 1

When the classroom portion of the training is complete, students will be required to take the Clark County Protocol Test and the Nevada State Paramedic Examination.

Upon successful completion of those tests, students will serve a 360-hour on-the-job internship.

"Our goal is not just to produce paramedics; it is to produce excellent paramedics," Higley said.

And the program is a good deal for students.

"The program will cost \$4,500 — that's about a third of what other programs cost," he said.

"But it's still a big commitment for all concerned — the city, the hospital and the students," Higley said.

The program didn't just happen overnight.

The program was the brainchild of deputy fire chief Dave Peterson.

Higley was hired Feb. 1 to put the final touches on the program, coming from a two-year stint as the Paramedic Program Coordinator at Dixie State College in St. George.

Prior to that, he served in the Provo police department for five years and then 12 years in that city's fire department where he was

involved in public education, training and safety.

"My first assignment here was to get the curriculum put together and approved by the Clark County Health District."

After almost a year of planning and preparation by the fire department and the hospital, the Clark County Health District has given its approval for the program.

Applicants for the program must meet all of the U.S. Department of Transportation and Clark County Health District requirements.

Program information and application materials may be downloaded from the city's website or the Mesa View Regional Hospital website.

Application may also be picked up at the City of Mesquite Fire & Rescue Department.

Questions about the program can be directed to Higley, the Paramedic Coordinator at Mesquite Fire & Rescue (702) 346-2690 or at [jhigley@ci.mesquite.nv.us](mailto:jhigley@ci.mesquite.nv.us).

**News Tip?**  
**Call 346-7495**



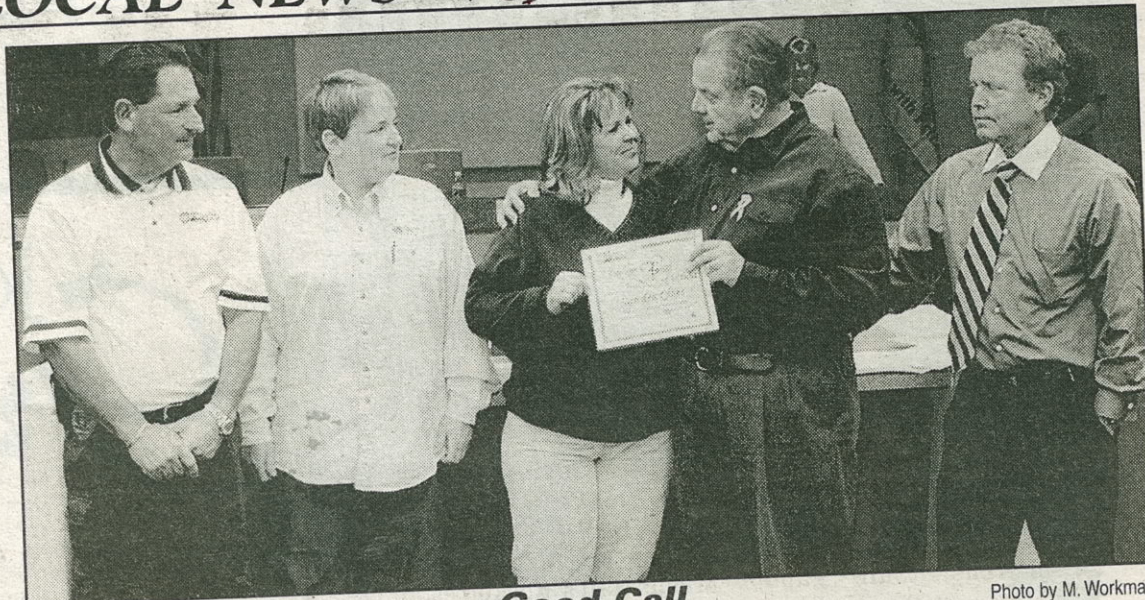


Photo by M. Workman

## Good Call

Mesquite Police Department Deputy Chief Joe Szalay, left, is joined by Emergency Dispatch supervisor Beth Caplinger as emergency dispatcher Sandra Cloes is presented with the city's Employee Award of Excellence by Mayor

Bill Nicholes during Tuesday's city council meeting. Also pictured next to the mayor is MPD chief Doug Law. Cloes received the award for her stellar handling of an emergency burglary call back in October.

## Dispatcher Recognized For Award Winning Call

By Morris Workman  
Staff Writer

When a call comes in to Mesquite's emergency dis-

patcher, supervisors often refer to handling the call "by the book."

A call taken by dispatcher Sandra Cloes has now become a part of the book.

On Tuesday, the Mesquite city council presented an Employee Award of Excellence to Cloes in recognition of the exemplary

way she handled an incoming call about a burglary back in October.

Since then, the recorded call has been reviewed by a 911 training center, and has been incorporated into their training program as an example of the correct way to handle a difficult call.



D.V.T. Mar. 25-2005

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## New Fire Code Adopted

### Desert Valley Times

The Mesquite City Council Tuesday adopted the 2003 International Fire Code (IFC) with several amendments, making the 2003 IFC Mesquite's new code.

"The change from the Uniform Fire Code (UFC) to the International Fire Code will make it easier for contractors to do business in Mesquite," said Derek Hughes, Mesquite Fire Chief.

"We think this is the best available code.

"Several other jurisdictions in southern Nevada have chosen to adopt the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)1 UFC with amendments, that is similar; however, it is better for Mesquite to adopt the 2003 International Fire Code just as the State of Nevada has done.

"It will also make for less

contradiction between our two agencies when we work together in occupancies such as the Mesa View Regional Hospital, and daycare facilities, just to name a few."

Codes are generally updated every three years due to new research, new technology new building materials and new standards.

"A big influence on fire code changes is actual occurrences like the fire in the Rhode Island night club that killed several people two years ago, and specifically in Nevada, many of us still remember the MGM and Hilton fires in the 1980s," Hughes said

"This action shows our city leaders are continually working to advance safety and ensure that residents and visitors are given the highest degree of protection from hazards caused by fire."

The Mesquite City Council had previously adopted the 2003 International Building Code.





### **Safety Van Visits Mesquite**

Juaniki Marquez, left Marisela Cuellar, Penny Edwards, Maria Andrade and Heidi Albrecht are in front of the Safe Kids Car Seat Checkup Van.

# **Safety Seat Check Up A Success**

## **Desert Valley Times**

Twenty-six children are riding safer in their car seats after the Child Safety Seat Check-up event conducted by University of Nevada Cooperative Extension & Mesquite Fire & Rescue on April 17, in conjunction with the Spring Health and Wellness Conference & Fair 2004.

Seats were checked for date of manufacture, condition and recall status.

If seats did not meet federal safety standards, they were replaced with a new seat.

Seventeen new seats were installed and all parents were trained on proper placement and installation.

Penny Edwards, Vocational Education Instructor, Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician and Heidi Albrecht, Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician, Mesquite Fire & Rescue coordinated the event.

Other Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians assisting with the check up included: Marisela Cuellar, Sunrise WIC; Juaniki Marquez, Safe Kids Coalition; and Maria Andrade, Mesquite Family Resource Center.

If you missed the check-up event, you can make an appointment with Penny Edwards at 346-7215.

She will check your child seat and show you how to make sure your child's seat is installed and used properly.

Grant funds from the Nevada

chase car seats and booster seats for the program to give to those who qualify.

If you would like to make a donation to the program please call the same number.

This is an important educational program for this community because only 37 percent of Nevadans buckled up their kids, even though it is required by law for age 6 and under in 2004.

What is worse is that parents who are doing the right thing by using a car seat probably do not have it installed properly.

The National Safe Kids Campaign has determined that four out of five car seats are used incorrectly.

Misuse includes but is not limited to: using an inappropriate seat for the child's age and size; placing an infant under one year or under 20 pounds forward-facing; not securing the seat tightly in the vehicle, and not securing the child correctly in the seat.

The University of Nevada Cooperative Extension is an outreach arm of the University that extends unbiased, research-based knowledge from the University of Nevada—and other land-grant universities—to local communities.

Educational programs are developed based on local needs, often in partnership with other agencies and volunteers.

For more information about the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, please visit the website at [www.uncoext.edu](http://www.uncoext.edu) or call (702)



Nov 11, 2004

Desert Valley Times



### **Donation**

Photo by Bill McClure

Mesquite Fire and Rescue Department Chief Derek Hughes, center, receives a donation on behalf of the New York Firefighters Burns Foundation. Mesquite artist Dawn Cosmos, left, was traveling cross-country on 9/11 and listening to the horrendous news of that day. Late in the afternoon, she turned a corner in Moab, Utah and saw the placid scene depicted in the paint-

ing which gave her a sense of serenity. The painting won the People's Choice award at the Great Mesquite Chili and Arts Festival. Cosmos offered the painting at silent auction for the benefit of firefighters who gave their lives on 9/11. Faye Burris Seaman, right, Mesquite, represents Burris and Sons Vending, a California company that made the winning bid in the silent auction.



## LOCAL NEWS

# WMD Training Comes To Mesquite

By Bill McClure  
Editor

A team of instructors from Texas A&M University was in Mesquite last week to train 25 emergency response people, including members of the Mesquite Fire and Rescue Department, on how to handle emergencies involving weapons of mass destruction.

The training was funded by a grant from the federal Office of Domestic Preparedness.

John Rinard, supervisor of the WMD EMS team, said the training included how to respond emergencies involving biological, explosive, incendiary and radiological

materials.

"We teach about 120 classes involving about 3,500 students throughout the nation each year," he said.

"We have three teams out each week."

The training includes both classroom and hands on exercises.

The most fascinating part of the training program was a \$175,000 manikin that can be made to exhibit a variety of health problems, such as a collapsed lung, by a computer program.

In one exercise, the manikin was programmed to be a 55-year-old truck driver who had been exposed to bio-



**WMD Training**

Photo by Bill McClure

Some 25 emergency responders received weapons of mass destruction training last week in Mesquite.

The training was funded by the Office of Domestic Preparedness.

logical agents.

Students had to identify the agent, determine the required protective gear and then identify and treat the driver's injuries.

Among the students were members of the Mesquite Fire and Rescue Department, Clark County Fire Depart-

ment, Clark County School District, Salvation Army and some members of the private sector.



# FIRE & RESCUE



Photo by Bill McClure

## ***New Lieutenants***

The Mesquite Fire Rescue Department has three new lieutenants including Jim Kindel, left, Rick Resnick and Paul Whitehead. The trio earned the promotions through a competitive examination. Congratulations!

D.V. Times - July 22, 2004

Also Mentioned Listed



# Desert Valley Times

Virgin Valley's Independent Newspaper

www.dvtnv.com

June 24-2004

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Photo by Lizz McDermaid

## Nickel Fire

A Sikorsky helicopter returns to dump water on the Nickel fire 12 miles south of Mesquite Sunday after uploading water from a pond on the Coyote Willows Golf Course. The fire had consumed nearly 10,000 acres by Tuesday when officials declared the blaze 90 percent contained.

## Nickel Fire Scorches 10,000 Acres

By Lizz McDermaid  
Staff Writer

The Nickel Fire 12 miles south of Mesquite is in the Virgin Mountains has consumed nearly 10,000 acres by Tuesday morning.

The fire is 90 percent contained according to Dorothy Harvey, an information officer for the Whelan's Type I Interagency Incident Team who assumed fire management responsibilities on Monday.

"The habitats of endangered desert tortoises, gila monsters and condors are not our only concern, the entire native eco-system is destroyed when fires are allowed to burn themselves out," said Mike Whelan, Incident Commander of Team Whelan.

"The area becomes a monoculture with 'cheat' grass as the main plant growth.

"This grass does not promote wildlife or allow for re-

growth of native plants.

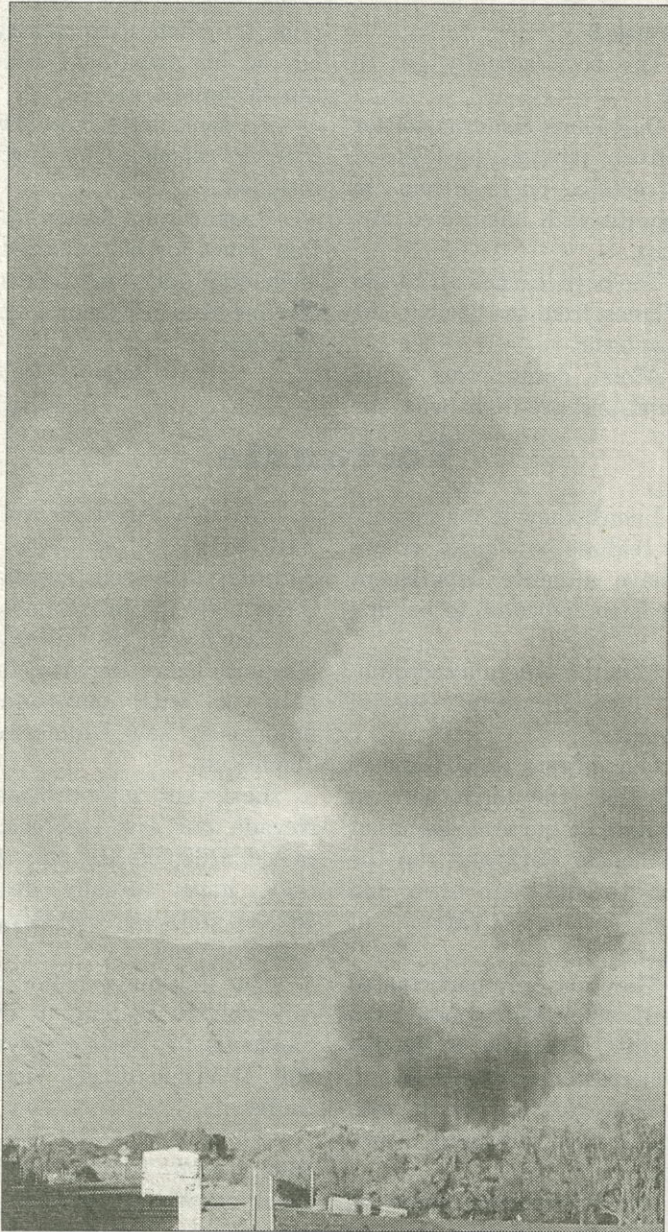
"It is simply propagated by fire."

Crews who spent one hour enroute to the fire base and

• see FIRE page



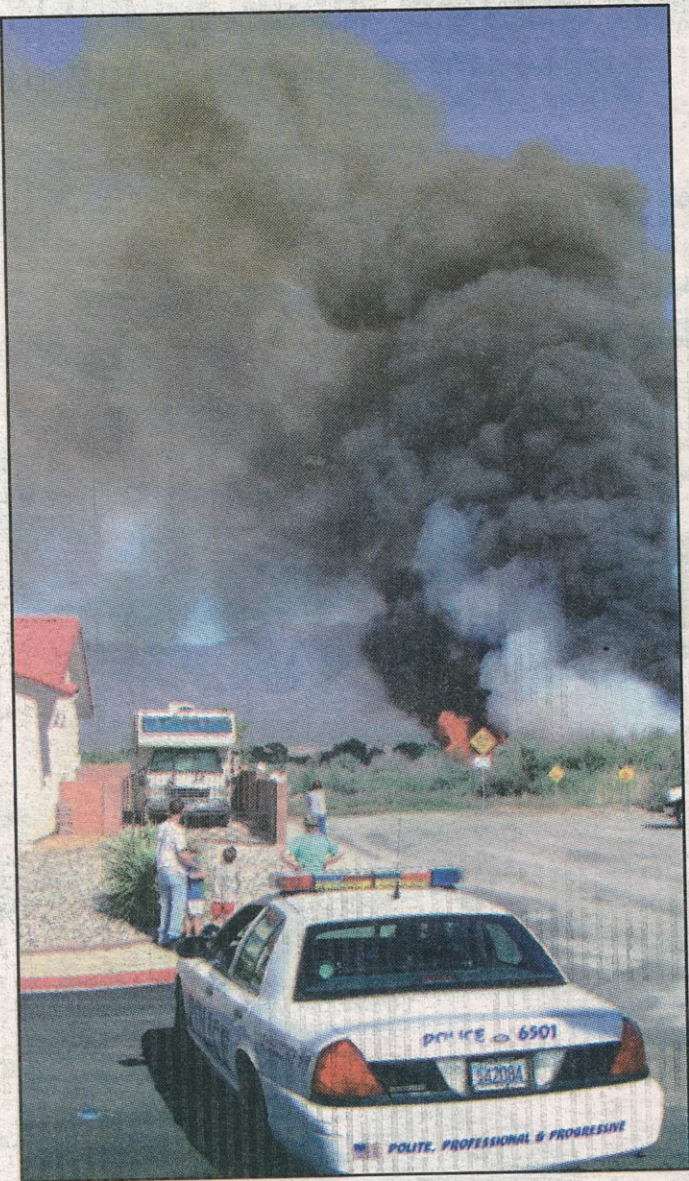
S. D.V. Times June 3, 2004



**Tamarisk Fire** Photo by Bill McClure

Two juveniles, setting off fireworks, are alleged to have started this fire Saturday evening between Mesquite Boulevard and the Virgin River which burned about four acres. Two months ago, sparks from a chain saw used by crews hired by the Bureau of Land Management to clear Tamarisk from the Virgin River bed ignited a fire which burned 41 acres and threatened several homes on Old Mill Road. The BLM plans to resume removal of Tamarisk from the area in September.





## **Brush Fire**

Photo by Bill McClure

Southwest winds gusting to 27 miles-per-hour fanned this fire which burned 41 acres in the Virgin River bed Wednesday, April 14. Mesquite firefighters were on the scene about seven hours before the fire was contained. When the fire approached Old Mill Road, fire units sprayed homes with water and created a water curtain to protect the homes from the flames. Cause of the fire is still under investigation, but it is believed to have been started by sparks from a chain saw. Assisting the Mesquite Fire Department were units from the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Parks Service, Clark County Fire Department in Bunkerville and the Beaver Dam-Littlefield Fire Department. The Oasis Resort Casino provided sandwiches and water for firefighters.

*D.V. Times Apr. 25-2004*



# Fire Department Continues To Grow

*Times - Apr. 22 - 2004*

**By Derek Hughes  
Fire Chief**

The Fire Rescue Department is experiencing heavy growth as is the City of Mesquite.

Our growth both as a city and fire department must be tracked and kept under constant watch to ensure we can meet the requests for emergency services.

In the first quarter of 2003, Mesquite Fire Rescue answered 353 requests for emergency medical services.

That number increased by 13 percent to 400 requests for emergency medical services in the first quarter of 2004.

In the month of February of this year, the Fire Rescue Department answered more than 140 calls for service.

The month of March also yielded a call volume of more than 140 calls for emergency medical services.

According to Jack Stout, creator of modern System

Status Management (SSM), a city experiencing a heavy growth period should account for a minimal 10 percent increase in services and supplies for emergency medical services.

SSM is the basis for management of emergency services in most major metropolitan areas worldwide.

Also up in call volume, is the request for fire suppression services.

To date this year there has been 70 requests for fire suppression and related services.

## Fire Training Scheduled

**Desert Valley Times**

The Mesquite Fire & Rescue Department will be conducting live burn training this Friday, April 23, in the 700 block of West Mesquite Blvd.

The structure at that location was donated for firefighter training.

Firefighters will practice search and rescue, ventilation and fire suppression techniques before burning the building.

Traffic on Mesquite Blvd. will be limited during the hours of 4:30 and 10:30 p.m.

Please avoid this area if at all possible.

*Strip Interactive*



# Fire-Rescue Personnel Receive Specialized Training

Mesquite Fire-Rescue hosted over 50 fire personnel from nine different agencies in the region on February 21 and 22, 2004 for trench rescue and vehicle extrication classes.

Chief Derek Hughes said, "As a Department we are continually educating ourselves with new techniques and equipment that will make our jobs easier, faster, and safer."

Chief Hughes added, "We were very fortunate to have training personnel from both Diamondback fire and rescue who sell the "Jaws of Life"



## Vehicle Extrication

and offer training on vehicle extrication equipment, and Prospan trench rescue equipment who specialize in trench stabilization equipment."

The first day of training was dedicated trench rescue.

Open trenches are often found in or near construction sites. Legacy Construction and Development generosity made it possible to spend the afternoon in a trench deploying the safety equipment and procedures.

The second day of training was devoted to vehicle related rescue training, including using the "Jaws of Life" equipment.

With new advances in  
• see TRAINING page 52

## TRAINING

From page 48

the auto industry rescuers must learn how air bags and new metal alloys can affect rescue personnel and the patient in a rescue situation.

Harley's Garage generously donated the cars that were used for the training.





## Wildfires

Photo by Dave Chevalier

Fourteen wildfires are burning in northeastern Clark County, southern Lincoln County and northwest Mohave County in the Arizona Strip.

This photo shows a line of fire sweeping across the desert in the Meadow Valley fire, the largest in the area at more than 114,000 acres.

More than 850 firefighters are in the area fighting the fires. Two camps, one in Mesquite and one in Bunkerville, have been set up.

# Lightening-Caused Wildfires Scorch Surrounding Areas

By Bill McClure  
 Editor

Wildfires have scorched more than 250,000 acres in northeast Clark County and southern Lincoln County since thunderstorms rolled through the area last Wednesday.

JL Bowler Elementary School in Bunkerville is now home for more than 850 firefighters and support personnel.

Tom Suwyn's Inter-agency Incident Manage-

ment Type 2 Team took command of the firefighting effort at 6 p.m. Thursday.

In addition, the Lime Kiln fire east of Mesquite has consumed 20,000 acres.

A Type 2 team was scheduled to arrive at Virgin Valley High School to battle that blaze.

Previously, firefighting efforts were directed out of St. George.

Suwyn's team is looking for support from the local

• see WILDFIRES page 3



## Resting Up

Photo by Bill McClure

Firefighters have pitched tents at the JL Bowler Elementary School in Bunkerville as they battle wildfires.



# WILDFIRES

From page 1  
community.

The incident team needs up to six drivers with half, three-quarter or one-ton four-wheel drive pickup trucks.

Vehicles must be in good working order and drivers must have a good, clean driving record and proof of insurance.

Drivers will be reimbursed for time and use of their vehicles.

The Mesquite and South Desert Complex's consists of 16 fires.

The fires are burning annual grasses, creosote brush, Joshua trees, pinyon pine and juniper.

Higher altitude fires are also burning Ponderosa pine and spruce.

Resource concerns are centered on Desert Tortoise habitat.

There are potential threats to power lines, railroad tracks and historical sites.

Firefighters are from Nevada, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, California and Utah.

Six fires are in Clark County and the remainder are in Lincoln County.

Currently there are six aircraft and six helicopters assigned to the firefighting effort.

They are operating out of the Mesquite Airport.

The main thrust Monday was to prevent the Meadow Valley and Duzak fires from joining.

The Meadow Valley fire is 12 miles south of Caliente and threatening Caliente's watershed.

The Meadow Valley fire is at 114,000 acres and the Duzak is at about 40,000 acres.

The Tramp fire at 2,576 acres and the Bunkerville fire at 5,330 acres are considered contained but are being monitored for flare ups.



# WILDFIRES -

From page 1

tions will continue effectively.

Dave Chevalier, information officer in Bunkerville, said the fire areas aren't like a moonscape.

"The fire areas are a mosaic.

"The fires run where the dry stuff is," he said.

The Incident Command Post continues operations out of JL Bowler Elementary School in Bunkerville.

Equipment assigned to the firefighting effort includes 34 fire engines, eight water tenders and three bulldozers.

Aircraft assigned include four light helicopters, two medium helicopters and one heavy helicopter.

Also, three single engine air tankers (SEAT) and three air attack aircraft.

# WILDFIRES

From page 1

The combined Mesquite and South Desert Complexes now consist of 10 fires, totaling approximately 500,000 acres.

The fires are burning mosaic patterns through varied desert flora, and at higher elevations Pinyon, Juniper, Ponderosa Pine and Spruce trees are burning.

Conditions found at higher altitude are greener, wetter, and more conducive to suppressing fires.

Weather conditions predicted for today and through the remainder of the week favor firefighting efforts with little to no wind and steady temperatures through Sunday.

Fire crews continue to focus efforts on potential threats to any residential structures, power transmission towers, and railroad lines within the boundaries and near fire perimeters.

Three fires are in Clark County with the other seven burning in Lincoln County.

The Duzak fire has run into Washington County in southwestern Utah.

The Meadow Valley fire, still 10 miles south of Caliente, is being aggressively confronted with large num-

bers of crews, engines, bulldozers and air attacks.

There is no threat to the town of Caliente.

Crews have been instructed to scout, construct and hold lines, and conduct burnouts, as well as provide structure protection on developments in Beaver Dam Canyon.

Monday lighting strikes sparked at least seven new fires — the Morman fire, located near Morman Peak and is burning in Big Horn Sheep habitat; the Delamar fire located 25 northwest of Moapa; the Fork, Needle, Summit, Point and Trailer fires located just south of the Tramp fire.

All five fires combined with the Tramp yesterday and are now referred to as the Fork fire.

The Mt. Bangs fire in the Virgin Mountains was 70 percent contained Wednesday, burning nearly 30,000 acres.

Tom Suwyn, Incident Commander for the Southern Nevada Complex, commented that with favorable weather conditions offering somewhat predictable fire behavior and significant resources on hand, opera-

• see WILDFIRES page 6

**FREE**

Take one

# imes

Vol. 10 No. 52

Friday, July 1, 2005

# Fires Calm Down

By Bill McClure  
Editor

Although humidity remained low, temperatures and winds moderated Wednesday, allowing firefighters to gain ground in fighting wildfires in the surrounding areas.

Still, more than 500,000 acres have been scorched by the fires.

As of Thursday morning, the fires were 51 percent contained.

And, fighting the fires is an expensive effort.

So far the firefighting effort has cost more than \$4.3 million.

More than 1,000 people are assigned to the firefighting effort.



Aug 26-05

## ICE

From page 1

to be called. Here's an example: Let's suppose you have a child not living with you by the name of Matt. Follow the directions for your cell phone and add an entry for "ICE Matt" or "ICE-Matt." Enter the phone number including the area code for Matt and save the number. Now, Matt may not be home or available when EMS personnel try calling, so enter a second number for another trusted individual or family member like your adult granddaughter, Savannah. You would again follow the directions for your cell phone and enter the name "ICE Savannah" or "ICE-Savannah." Mesquite Fire and Rescue recommends you have three names listed under ICE.

3. Next, let these individuals know that you've ICED their names in your cell phone and explain to them that they will be the ones contacted by emergency

response personnel.

EMS personnel are required to keep confidential everything relating to your illness or injury.

They can, however, give out the location — such as a hospital — that they are transporting you to and the estimated time of arrival.

They will tell those individuals that their number was listed under ICE in your cell phone and they are making the call on your behalf.

When people on your ICE list ask why you are being transported, EMS personnel will say that information is confidential and they are responding to your ICE request.

EMS personnel will use your cell phone, calling the first ICE number you have listed, then others if necessary to reach someone.

Your cell phone will be used because the people on your ICE list will probably recognize your cell phone number which helps authenticate the call from EMS personnel.

For more information call Mesquite Fire and Rescue at 702-336-2931.

# MFRD Joins ICE Program

By Bill McClure  
Editor

The Mesquite Fire and Rescue Department has joined an international push to get cell phone users to put emergency information on their cell phones.

The movement began after the terrorist bombings of the London Underground during which emergency responders came upon victims who had cell phones but were incapacitated to the point they could not provide emergency contact information.

The new program is called ICE — In Case of Emergency.

ICE involves three steps:

1. Establish a short list — maybe two or three — of people that you would like notified in the event of an emergency when you cannot notify them yourself. They should probably be people with whom you would not normally travel.

2. With your cell phone, make a new entry that begins with ICE and then the first name of the person

• see ICE page 6



# 'Fill The Boot' Scheduled

By Eric Ruiz  
Staff Writer

The Muscular Dystrophy Association has announced that the Fill The Boot Program, sponsored by the Mesquite Fire Department, will take place in Mesquite Aug. 27-28 and Aug. 30.

This is the second year that Mesquite will host the event.

In 2004, Mesquite brought in almost \$16,000 for the cause.

The drives will take place at two separate locations — at the intersection of Sandhill Boulevard and Hillside Drive and at the intersection of Mesquite

Boulevard and Arrowhead Drive from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day.

Tyler Black will be the Mesquite representative for this year's program.

"Last year we were received amazing support from Mesquite," said Kelly Clark, program coordinator.

Funds from the drive will stay in Southern Nevada, helping to fund several programs including free clinics, funding for wheelchairs and funding research.

Fill The Boot is a nationwide program that raised approximately \$18 million last year, according to Clark.

S.D.J. Aug-19-2005



WILDFIRES

On page 1

near Mesquite in grass, yon and juniper and in her elevations Ponderosa e.

Wilderness areas, power es, Caliente municipal tershed and Desert toise habitat remain eatedened.

Structure protection for town of Motoqua rains in place with some ial support missions nched from the Motoqua strip.

The Duzak Fire which burned approximately ,638 acres is contained. There is still active fire some of the steep rocky rain areas and fire avior is predicted to be derate.

The eastside of the fire

near the community of Motoqua has been secured. Crews will continue to construct and hold lines and scout for hotspots.

Crews may perform burn out operations if necessary, while being supported by aircraft being launched from the Motoqua airstrip and Mesquite airport.

The Meadow Valley Fire was 100 percent contained at 6 p.m. Sunday at 146,039 acres.

With many of the firefighters approaching their two-week limit, most were being sent home for a break while others were reasigned where needed.

The Delamar Fire, burning approximately 153,295 acres was 40 percent contained Thursday morning.

This fire has been most active on the north-northeast side due to 20 miles-per-hour winds from the south-southwest and higher temperatures.

On Wednesday, the fire made a run scorching an additional 400 acres.

On Thursday, a night shift was brought in to provide 24-hour firefighting efforts.

Crews are hoping to have the fire contained by Saturday.

This fire was turned over on July 3 to Whalen's Type II incident Management Team.

The Incident Command Post is at the Alamo High School.

Wildfires  
Contained

By Bill McClure  
Editor

Firefighters took advantage of favorable weather conditions over the Fourth of July weekend and early this week and got the upper hand on wildfires that scorched more than 1.1 million acres in Southern Nevada and the Arizona Strip.

Most of the fires were started by lightning on June 22.

The Southern Nevada and Mesquite complex firefighting effort topped out at just over 1,000 personnel but fell back to 525 on Wednesday.

Cost of fighting those fires was nearing \$6 million.

The South Desert Complex — which consumed 590,440 acres — was at 95 percent containment.

Those fires were located

• see WILDFIRES page 3





### **'Loaded Dice'**

Photo by Eric Ruiz

An unidentified volunteer plays a victim in exercise "Loaded Dice" which tested the ability of first responders to handle a terrorist incident in Mesquite.

## **Operation Loaded Dice Tests Local Authorities**

**By Eric Ruiz  
Staff Writer**

None of us like to think about catastrophes.

In our own minds, not many of us think that we are prepared for the worst case scenario.

However, if Mesquite were suddenly facing a disaster, it is important that our authorities are able to handle the situation.

Operation Loaded Dice is an exercise preparing the authorities of the Las Vegas area for a terrorist attack and was made possible by funds from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Participating in the

Mesquite exercise were Mesa View Regional Hospital, Mesquite Police Department, Mesquite Fire Department and the St. George Bomb Squad.

The exercise began at 10 p.m. Thursday and concluded at about 4 a.m. Friday.

During the exercise, only four classifications were allowed on the scene.

Evaluators were representatives from each organization who were not allowed to interfere with the operation, but were taking notes on the scene, both positive and negative, about their organizations and how the situation was handled.

• see LOADED page 2

10/11/05



## LOADED

From page 1

Controllers were not allowed to interfere with the operation, but were responsible for maintaining the atmosphere of realism without jeopardizing the safety of

any individuals involved.

Observers were not allowed to participate in any way, but were granted permission to be present during the exercise as long as they did not interfere with the

procedure.

Players were the only individuals allowed to participate in the actual scenario and they consisted of representatives from each of the participating organizations as well as 12 citizens who volunteered to play as either victims or terrorists.

The goal of Operation Loaded Dice is to prepare the organizations for an actual disaster and to take inventory of their strengths and weaknesses so they know what to improve to be better prepared.

The event was originally planned on Interstate 15, but was moved to Falcon Ridge Parkway for safety reasons, according to Mesquite Fire Chief Derek Hughes.

After the exercise, the results from the evaluators were collected and sent to Las Vegas where they will be

reviewed and returned to the departments in about two weeks.

The exercise was a staged situation in which a terrorist group was on its way to Las Vegas when it was involved in an accident in Mesquite.

The three-car collision resulted in 12 injuries, including two deaths.

After transporting all the injured individuals from the scene, the St. George Bomb Squad used a remote-controlled robot to disarm and safely discharge a bomb in the terrorist's vehicle.

This scenario tested Mesa View Regional Hospital's ability to handle mass injuries.

The fledgling institute required to run one community drill per year.

Sue Conley, CEO at Mesa View Regional Hospital, and Derek Hughes, Mesquite Fire Department Chief, attended workshops in Alabama to prepare them for the scenario.

Conley was especially impressed with the fire department.

"I've worked with a lot of departments before," Conley said, "and our's is better prepared than the other ones were."

The operation, which took a year to plan, was coordinated with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.



# Derek Hughes - Acting Fire Chief Update

For Desert Valley Times

8-3-2000

Change is the word at the station these days. Operations at the Fire and Rescue department are going very well. We



Dick Coleman / Desert Valley Times

haven't missed a beat, thanks to the dedicated men and women who volunteer their time to our community. I would like to thank them for their long hours, lost sleep, patience, dedication, professionalism, and time away from their family and friends. We have been fortunate to have such good neighbors like Station and Rescue 71 in Bunkerville and the Clark County Fire Department. Both departments have been very helpful with on-going training while we were searching for a Battalion Chief.

We are now in the process of hiring three full time fire-

fighter/paramedic positions. With these new positions, we will be working with the Clark County Health District to license some of our ambulances as Advanced Life Support. This will allow us to provide a greater range of services to our community. As soon as these positions are filled, we will be updating residents with more information. In the meantime, if you have any questions concerning ambulance service or medical training, please call Battalion Chief Todd Jaynes at 346.2690.

We are excited to welcome FLIGHT for LIFE to their new

home at Station #2. They will staff a pilot, flight nurse, and a paramedic 24 hours a day. There will also be an opportunity for joint training with the flight staff, since many of them are instructors in various medical fields.

With all the new construction, as well as existing business, fire prevention inspections are one of those duties that keep the full time staff busy. It is exciting to see all the new growth happening in our community and to be a part of keeping it safe. Speaking of new construction, we should start seeing the new Fire/Rescue bays going up near the existing Building Department. The new

structure will have four drive-through bays and some storage space for equipment. Administrative offices will be located where the Building and Public Works offices are now.

We would like to invite everyone, especially kids, to stop in and visit the station. Come on down and see what we're up to and take a tour of the station. We know the kids will love to see the fire engines and ambulances. And, as a community service, we would be happy to check your blood pressure for free when staff is available. For more information, please call 346-2690.



At this meeting we will have a chance to meet our three new State Board Members. Surprisingly Jack Coons was not reappointed. The new members are Tommy Ford, John Moran, and Dave McNinch.

I have known Tommy Ford for some time and other than Wildred Allen, I cannot think of any better person to serve on this board. I had breakfast, with John Moran. This was our first meeting. It promises to be a great relationship. I believe that the sportsmen of Nevada now

3C's opening. The reason for this is that these people have no faith in the present NDOW leadership to properly manage this WMA. If you question their reasoning just take a look at Sunnyside and the Overton WMA.

I have been asked to film how great the 3C's WMA looks now and go back in five years and have another look at this area. They feel that this area

PA - 4-44  
• See OUTDOOR on Pg 15

# Brush Fires hit Elbow Canyon

Dick Coleman - Staff Writer

Firefighters responded to a brush fire in the mountains at Elbow Canyon ten miles south-east of Mesquite. The fire was on BLM land in the Arizona Strip. The first of this series of brush fires started around one in the afternoon last Thursday, July 20th. It didn't take long to go through a hundred acres in the above one hundred degree temperatures. The fire has consumed over 1,000 acres, and is now approaching an area where range cattle, corrals and other ranching structures are threatened.

One firefighter was pulled off the line suffering from heat exhaustion, the only injury as of yesterday.

Four air tankers have helped fight the fire along with two choppers, two fire engines



Dick Coleman / Desert Valley Times

**Choppers working out of Mesquite Airport transport 700 gallons of retardant at a time.**

and 170 firefighters using a total of 225 personnel. tial fire - the storm that rolled through the area Sunday

Visitors to the area are believed to have caused the ini-

• See Fires on Pg 13

*Desert Valley Times - July 27, 2000*



# Fire Fueled By Hot Dry Weather

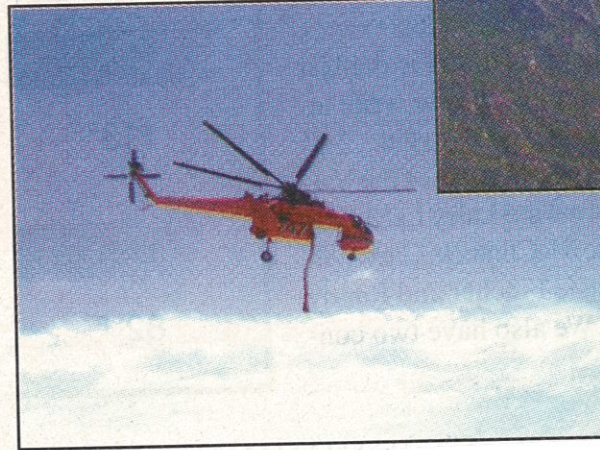
By Michele McClintock

The fire burning in the mountains was reported about 1:00 on Thursday, July 20. The cause of the fire was due to campers in the area.

The Elbow fire has currently burned 113 acres in Elbow Canyon, located ten miles southeast of Mesquite and twenty miles southwest of St. George in the state of Arizona. It is burning on Arizona strip Bureau of Land Management land. Firefighters are working the flanks of the fire in hope of stopping it from cresting a ridge where it could slop into the next drainage and complicate the firefighting ef

Continued on page 12

Photos Courtesy Of  
Bob Mills



Valley Journal  
July 27-2000



# Firefighters Get Intervention Training

By Bill McClure  
Editor

About 100 firefighters lose their lives each year in a normal house fire and Mesquite Fire Chief Derek Hughes wants to make sure it doesn't happen to one of his.

Nine of Mesquite's instructor-certified firefighters completed three days of Rapid Intervention Training last week.

The course was conducted by Jay Acebo and Tony Pastorello, veteran firefighters and instructors from the Las Vegas Valley.

Acebo is a 15-year veteran and Pastorello has 11 years of experience.

The first day began with

some classroom training but the course quickly evolved into hands-on training and technique exercises.

"I learned how to get between two studs — that's a 14-inch opening — while wearing all of my protective gear and an air tank," Hughes said.

"I didn't believe my big body and all that equipment would get through that small of an opening but the techniques they taught us allowed me to do it."

Another part of the training was about how to help a firefighter who goes down.

"It used to be that the preferred way to rescue a downed

• see TRAINING page 3



**Firefighters Train** Photo by Bill McClure

Mesquite Fire Chief Derek Hughes, back to camera, prepares to pull simulated downed firefighter to safety during a training exercise.

*Desert Valley Times - Feb 28 - 2002*

## TRAINING

From page 1

firefighter was to carry him out — the old fireman's carry," Acebo said.

"But that's a lot of dead weight to carry and it's really difficult for a small man whose trying to carry a much larger man — especially with all the equipment we wear."

Another exercise taught the firefighters techniques on how to free themselves if they get caught in a web of wires — a common problem in house fires.

And, the firefighters were taught how to get downed firefighters out of a basement or the second story of a building.

"We were all tired when it was over, but we all walked

something," Hughes said.

Acebo and Pastorello left copies of course materials and briefings so the newly trained Mesquite instructors can train the rest of the department's firefighters.



Continued from page 1

## Fire

fort. Firefighting efforts are hampered by the lack of natural barriers to assist in containing the fire. The fire continues to burn in thick brush, consisting mainly of oakbrush, chapparal, pinyon pine and juniper.

The fire is burning in the Pauite Wilderness Area and big horn sheep habitat, however, no homes are threatened by the fire.

Additional resources have been called in to fight the blaze. A heavy air tanker has joined the two single engine air tankers in making fire retardant drops. Two hand crews, three engines and a helicopter with helitak crew are fighting the blaze.

Fire officials are concerned for firefighter safety as temperatures in the 100's and extremely low humidity predicted pose a threat of dehydration and exposure to the sun for firefighters.

Officials state that the fire will be completely contained by Sunday.

Present resources of the local Color Country South Zone Dispatch are supporting fires throughout the Great Basin. The fire danger continues to be extreme with high temperatures and dry vegetation across Utah and Arizona.





# Fire Dept. Update

**Rick Resnick FF/Paramedic, PIO**

On Friday night, the 9<sup>th</sup> of this month, vandals struck the vehicles in the parking lots of the Fire Department and City Hall. There was quite a bit of damage to some City of Mesquite and personal firefighter vehicles. If you have any information regarding this incident, please contact the City of Mesquite Police Department and help us maintain a safe and quiet community for all.

The Fire Department currently has received around 130 calls for the year so far. The majority being EMS related emergencies. We would like to request the following of you if you should call for an ambulance:

- 1) Give the dispatcher as much information about the patients current problem and past medical history as possible.
- 2) Have the patient's identification and insurance information available for our crews. Don't rely on your memory for the information because in an emergency situation it's difficult to think clearly and stay focused
- 3) Have a complete list of the medication the patient takes and write it down on something

you can give to the fire crew. A photocopy of a pre-written list is an excellent idea.

- 4) Be available to the crew to answer questions about the patient but try to stay physically out of the way of the working crew. Some of the equipment can be dangerous and requires quite a bit of space to operate efficiently.

- 5) Don't smoke while the crew is working on the patient. We carry oxygen and other potentially dangerous material that can be hazardous with smoking materials.

We have completed our move into the new firehouse. There is still some modification work going on, but we would not mind a bit if you came by to say hello and check out our new station set up. We are still looking for volunteers to help out around the station with mostly clerical work. If you are interested in donating some of your valuable time, contact Chief Derek Hughes at 364-2690.

Winter is almost over but please try to keep those space heaters safe and away from combustibile materials and always follow the manufacturer's guide for use. A winter with-

out someone losing a home due to fire is what we call in the fire service "great!" We are on our way to the completion of a great winter so let's keep up the safety aspect.

The EMT class is almost over. A few more tests and we will have a bunch more EMT's in the community. Congratulations to the men and women

who have studied hard and put forth a good effort. The graduating class is complete on the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month. Also, we have assembled a team to partake and train in Technical Rescue. The Tech Rescue Team will train in the areas of confined space rescue, high angle rescue, trench rescue and underground rescue. They will

also have the equipment and training for Hazardous Materials management. The team was chosen from a stack of applicants and will consist of 10 members of the fire department. The decisions were tough for final selection as almost everyone that applied had excellent experience and skills.



## FIRE

### From page 1

These restrictions apply to all public and private lands in Washington County and the Arizona Strip and will be in effect until further notice.

The following acts are prohibited on the above mentioned lands until further notice.

1. Setting, building, maintaining, attending, or using open fire of any kind, except campfires within approved fire pits and grills provided for, in improved campgrounds, picnic areas, and permanently improved places of habitation, or except as otherwise authorized. Devices fueled by petroleum or LPG products are allowed in all locations.

2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle, camp trailer, or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is

barren or cleared to mineral soil.

3. Discharging, or using any kind of fireworks, tracer ammunition, or other incendiary devices in any location on federal, state, and unincorporated private lands. (Note that these acts are always prohibited on Federal Lands.)

#### Exemptions:

- Persons conducting activities in designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written notice.
- Any federal, state, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
- Person with a written permit that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act.

For more information on fire restrictions, call the Bureau of Land Management at (435) 586-2401.

## Fire Restrictions Implemented

### Desert Valley Times

Due to the high fire danger in southwestern Utah and northwest Arizona, Color Country Interagency Fire Management Officials implemented fire restrictions for Washington County in Utah and the Arizona Strip.

• see FIRE page 3

JUNE 10, 2005



# New MFD ambulances on the road

**Mike Donahue**  
Desert Valley Times

Four new Mesquite Fire Department (MFD) ambulances were put into service this week replacing four older vehicles with more than 10 years working history in the city.

Life Line Emergency Vehicles out of Anaheim, Calif., built the new "smaller, sleeker vehicles" to exacting MFD specifications, said Deputy Chief Richard Resnick.

"We went to a new, lighter 450

Ford chassis that saved us some \$25,000 and change for each unit," Resnick said. "They not only provide a smoother ride, they're about two feet longer and we can get them serviced right here at Mesquite Ford instead of having to take them into Las Vegas every 3,000 miles."

Each new ambulance cost Mesquite approximately \$190,000 once all MFD requirements were met, a considerable savings over what normally is asked for the vehicles.

"The price is really good for a

quality, custom-built ambulance," Resnick said. "To purchase a typical ambulance on a medium-duty truck chassis comes with a price tag of \$225,000."

The deputy chief said MFD started discussions with city officials about replacing vehicles in the department's aging fleet more than 18 months ago. The request was approved in last year's budget cycle.

Previously the six MFD am-

See AMBULANCES, Page A6



Eric Paul, MFD firefighter/paramedic, arranges equipment in a new ambulance. MIKE DONAHUE / DESERT VALLEY TIMES

FIND IT ONLINE

INDEX



## Travel

Continued from A1

review previously scheduled for Jan. 8 to the Feb. 12 regular city council meeting. Council member Kraig Hafen, who disclosed he has an ongoing agreement with the parties involved, abstained. Councilman George Rapson voted against the motion via teleconference.

Richard Secrist, city senior planner, said commercial general PUD zoning is "a vehicle for zoning flexibility" that helps in developing difficult sites. However, former Mesquite mayor Susan Holecheck said during the public hearing that the zone change would create "the appearance and perception of spot zoning."

"There could be big ramifications," she said. "Cities create master plans and an amendment must be consistent with the master plan. The project has the potential for increased traffic, noise and air pollution and impacts a grandfathered sign ordinance. This is better placed in commercial zones. Please do not rush on this. Please

ference."

George Gault, chair of Mesquite Regional Business, said his organization supported the travel center concept and the zone change/master plan amendment.

"There are traffic issues to be resolved but they can be mitigated," he said. "We'd offer our services and support the successful completion of the project."

Andre Carrier, Eureka general manager, conceded the issue was "a tough one for (Eureka owner) Greg (Lee), the (Lee) family and I. We'd love to see new jobs, a new business in Mesquite rather than an empty hotel, and I'd like to see Mesquite Gaming get a liquidity event.

"With all that said, we're struggling with having another truck stop that close to our doorstep while trying to maintain our reputation as a resort destination. We invest a lot more than one truck stop a year. We've worked and spent diligently five years to create an impression with our resort destination.

"It gives us pause when we consider the long-term vision for

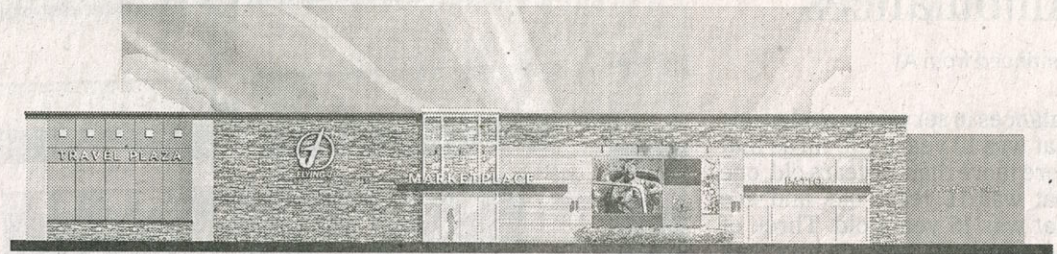
the businesses I want. When you say no to a business at one point is to say no to all businesses. There will be jobs.

"You can't have it both ways to say we're for business and then deny them."

Council member Al Litman said due diligence hadn't been done on the project yet.

"In my opinion we're jumping the gun on this," he said.

"We're committed to doing this right," Kaempfer said. "I've spoken with the highest level of management in Pilot. They've looked at several sites in Mesquite and they didn't work, either because they weren't cost effective or there was inadequate or non-existent infrastructure to build in





# Beaver Dam

Barber Shop

Men's Hair Cuts

**\$9.00**

Beaver Dam Store, Arizona  
**OPEN Thursday & Friday, CLOSED Saturday**  
SU-0000125729 **9:00 am - 5:00 pm (AZ, NV)**





## We want to make you a loan...

*Because Money Doesn't Grow On Trees*



Oct 8, 2010

# John Higley starts fire chief job

By John Taylor  
Mesquite Local News

Newly promoted Mesquite Fire Chief John Higley was quick to give credit to the men and women of the Mesquite Fire and Rescue Department and was modest about his role as head of the department.

"We have an absolutely great team of firefighters here," he said.

Higley was promoted to chief of the fire department after being the acting fire chief since August when Fire Chief Derek Hughes resigned.

"The people that work for the Mesquite Fire Department are a very talented and dedicated group of individuals that can handle anything that is needed," Higley said.

Higley has a great deal of experience and is retired from the Provo Fire Department in Utah after having achieved the rank of battalion chief.

He will now take on the administrative challenges of running a department in a down economy.

"We will have to pursue grants whenever possible and look at all funding options available to fire departments. One of our

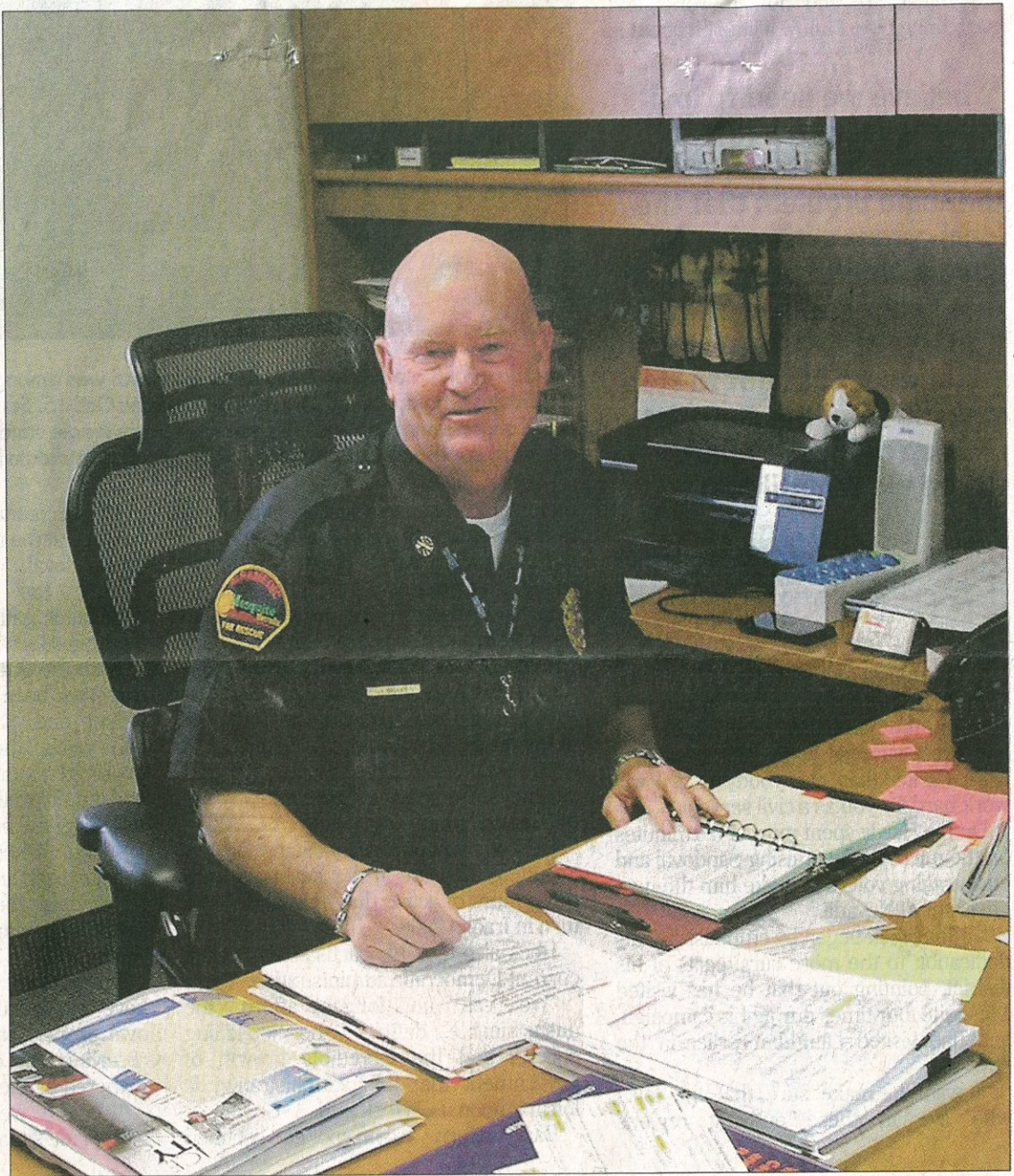


PHOTO JOHN TAYLOR

**Fire Chief John Higley takes command of the Mesquite Fire and Rescue Department after his recent promotion.**

Safer grants runs out in 2012 and we used that to hire some new people, so we have to work hard to make sure those positions are

funded," he added.

Higley said his day starts early so he can answer e-mails and telephone calls, then he meets

with his staff. From there it is either meeting to meeting or call to call.



## ► **HELP:** Fire chief urges residents to check smoke alarms

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1-A

"You never know what the day will bring," he said.

Higley said most people don't know that Mesquite has a mutual aid agreement with surrounding agencies that reaches from Cedar Pockets (Utah) to the north and exit 110 on Interstate 15 on the south.

"It is a large area for emergency response but we are in the business of helping, and those agencies come and help us if we need it," he said.

Higley also said 85 percent of the department's calls are emergency medical service related.

"With the average age of the population

of Mesquite, we get a lot of injury calls, but we are very well trained to deal with that," Higley said.

Higley said he plans no sweeping changes and has only praise for the quality of the Mesquite department.

He said his predecessors gave a lot of serious thought to equipment they purchased and the department has excellent equipment.

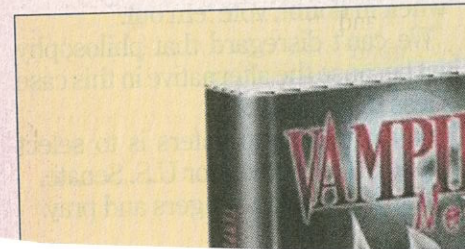
"It is our job now to take very good care of that equipment and to watch every taxpayer dollar we get," he said.

Higley said the best thing residents of Mesquite can do to help the fire department is to check their smoke alarms regularly and to call the station if they have any questions.

"We are here to help, so don't hesitate to call us," he said.

Asked how he liked being the fire chief Higley said, again very humbly, that Mesquite has a great fire department and great firefighters.

"If you would have told me three years ago that today I would be the fire chief, I wouldn't have believed you. But now I couldn't be prouder," he said.





SAGE 2-A • THURSDAY • DECEMBER 13, 2012 • MESQUITE LOCAL NEWS

# MESQUITE LOCAL NEWS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2012

WWW.MESQUITELOCALNEWS.COM



PHOTOS BY KENT HARPER/MLN

Aaron Ferguson of Emergency Vehicles Group of Anaheim, Calif., applies decals to one of the Mesquite Fire and Rescue's new ambulances at Fire Station No. 3 on Dec. 6.



# City gets four ambulances

## Mesquite Fire and Rescue replaces aging vehicles

Special to the MLN

Mesquite Fire and Rescue has replaced four aging ambulances with smaller, sleeker vehicles that officials say provide the same services for a smaller price tag.

Fire Chief John Higley said the ambulance fleet is made up of six vehicles. Four ambulances serve in the main force while the other two remain in reserve.

"The four new ambulances are at Fire Station 3 on John Deer Drive (in west Mesquite)," Higley said. "Emergency Vehicles Group, our LifeLine dealer from Anaheim, Calif., will be finishing the vehicles on-site by applying the graphics package and doing the two-way radio installations the first week in December."

Southern Nevada Health District will have to inspect and certify the ambulances, and the city's vehicle fleet services division will register them before they are in service, he said. The four new units will be in service this month.

"After much consideration, city and department officials decided to replace the four aging ambulances with a lighter weight and less expensive Ford Econoline chassis rather than the 2-ton medium duty chassis," the chief explained.

"The current ambulance fleet is made up of six ambulances, three of which are 10 years old or more; one that is 15 years old, one that is 11 years old and the third being 10 years old. They each have 250,000-plus miles and have become a financial burden to the city due to maintenance issues and costs to repair."

Deputy Chief Rick Resnick added, "Our current situation is such that at least two of the six ambulances are out of service for maintenance at any given time. We have had instances when our ambulances broke down during a call or on a transport and have had to ask other fire and emergency

**"After much consideration, city and department officials decided to replace the four aging ambulances with a lighter weight and less expensive Ford Econoline chassis rather than the 2-ton medium duty chassis."**

JOHN HIGLEY  
FIRE CHIEF, MESQUITE

medical service personnel to finish out the transport.

"We also have had instances of three units being out of service for mechanical issues at once with mandates stating the unit not be placed into service until it is repaired and safe to respond to calls," Resnick said. "At 2,000 EMS calls per year we are a small, albeit busy, department. It is not uncommon to have four frontline ambulances running calls at once."

The purchase of a typical ambulance on a medium-duty truck chassis comes with a price

tag of more than \$225,000.

By choosing the smaller Ford F450 pickup truck chassis, the department was able to reduce each unit purchase price by \$25,100.

Additionally, there will be a savings on mechanical services since the new ambulances can be maintained in town without travel costs and lost time by taking them to a private garage in Las Vegas.

"These new units will be serviced here in Mesquite at the Ford dealership and at our fleet vehicle services division shop," Higley said.

"The last ambulance purchased for the department was in 2008," Higley said. "That ambulance already has 73,000 miles on it. Our units also have a unique responsibility to provide on-scene and interfacility transportation to area hospitals including Mesa View Regional, Las Vegas, Henderson, and St. George hospitals. That equates to very high mileage units in a shorter amount of time than typical fire department ambulances ... which, in turn, equates to a higher cost and frequency of maintenance and replacement."



Derek Adame of Emergency Vehicles Group finishes up on the rear of one of the four new ambulances. The "VV" also will include Virgin Valley High School's Bulldog logo when completed, according to Chief John Higley.



# Deputy fire chief takes new job

For the Desert Valley Times

Deputy Chief Dave Petersen, appointed interim chief of Mesquite Fire and Rescue last week, has accepted another job out of state.

Capt. John Higley will become interim fire chief when Petersen leaves on Aug. 18.

Petersen was named interim fire chief after Derek Hughes announced he was resigning as chief to spend more time with family and pursue other career opportunities.

"When we started the budget process in the fire department this year, I became concerned about the ongoing revenue short-

fall and the uncertainty about the future and decided I would look around for other opportunities," said Petersen. "I have been presented with a couple of very good job opportunities, one of which was just too good to pass up. It is an exciting position with extraordinary benefits for me and my family."

"I really appreciate the opportunity that I have had to work here in Mesquite for the past seven years and will miss the many friends I have made, both at work and in the community."

Petersen joined the department in 2003.

"We have full confidence in Captain Higley to oversee the fire

department during this period of transition," said city Manager Tim Hacker. "He has previous experience as a chief officer with the Provo City Fire Department and is well respected within the department. Operations of the department will continue uninterrupted as we have well-qualified shift captains who supervise the day-to-day operations, and an outstanding staff of firefighters and paramedics."

The city has begun the recruitment process for a new fire chief, with job description and applications posted on [www.MesquiteNV.gov](http://www.MesquiteNV.gov). Applications will be accepted until Aug. 31.



## CHIEF

• Continued from A1

Higley joined the department five years as EMS captain and his first responsibility was to establish the paramedic program.

Before he became a firefighter/paramedic, Higley served for five years as a police officer in Provo, Utah.

In that capacity, he worked with his department's inountain rescue and training, which brought him in constant contact with paramedics. He said he really liked the idea of working in that field, and so hired on as a firefighter, then qualified as a paramedic.

He was with the Provo department for 20 years, and was a battalion chief when he retired. After moving to Mesquite, he served on the faculty of Dixie State Collge in St. George, running the college's EMS program.

He began his association with the Mesquite department by riding along on calls as a reserve member. After he had put in 100 hours as a reserve, a position became available and he was hired as EMS captain.

"My first responsibility was starting the paramedic program in partnership with Mesa View Regional Hospital, and I have been doing EMT classes since then," Higley said.

He said he knows the department faces challenges as the city struggles with the economy.

"We have to manage the funds we have wisely," he said. "We have to save every penny we can."

Higley said he enjoys being part of Mesquite Fire and Rescue.

I couldn't have handpicked a better department to come to," he said. "I've never met a more talented, intelligent, dedicated group than these guys.

"If I ever get hurt, I want to get hurt in Mesquite."



David Bly / Desert Valley Times

John Higley has been with Mesquite Fire and Rescue since 2005.

## Higley named fire chief

David Bly

Desert Valley Times

Mesquite's new fire chief started out his career as a police officer.

City Manager Tim Hacker announced Thursday that John Higley, who has been acting fire chief since Aug. 18, has been selected as the new chief of Mesquite Fire and Rescue.

The top spot was left vacant with the resignations this summer of Chief Derek Hughes, who said he is pursuing other interests, and

Deputy Chief David Peterson, who accepted a job in Utah.

"It is always rewarding to undertake a national search and find that the most qualified candidate exists in your department," said Mayor Susan Holecheck.

"Chief Higley's combination of education and experience, along with his positive demeanor, will serve our department well," said Hacker.

• See CHIEF on A3



# Making way for future possibilities



Desert Valley Times

A clean-up crew from Mesquite General Contractors this week removed nearly 1,200 yards of material left over from a Mesquite Fire Department-ignited blaze April 3.

The fire was part of deal between H3B Properties and Mesquite in which some tall palm trees were taken by the city for use elsewhere in exchange for the fire department burning down the home on a small knoll near the Oasis Casino, according to Crescent Hardy, property owner.

The refuse was dumped on private property in Bunkerville, said Henry Slack, project manager.

In a methodical process, workers knocked down everything standing after the fire, then loaded it piece-by-piece into large trucks.

The house was built in 1984 by Tommy and Mary Lynn Leavitt.

Tommy was instrumental in the incorporation of Mesquite that same year.

Photos by Mike Donahue / DVT

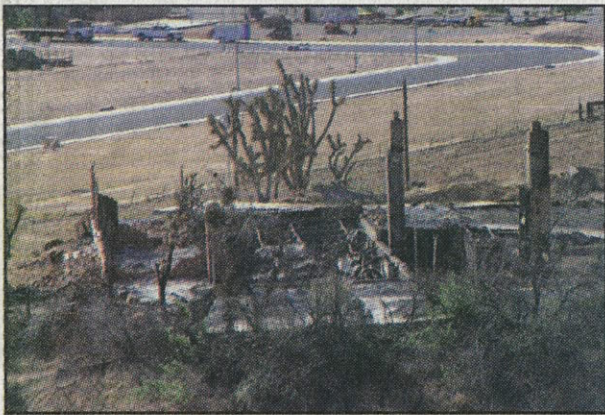
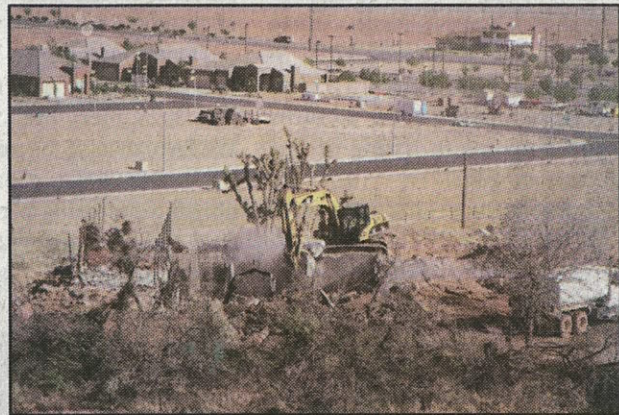
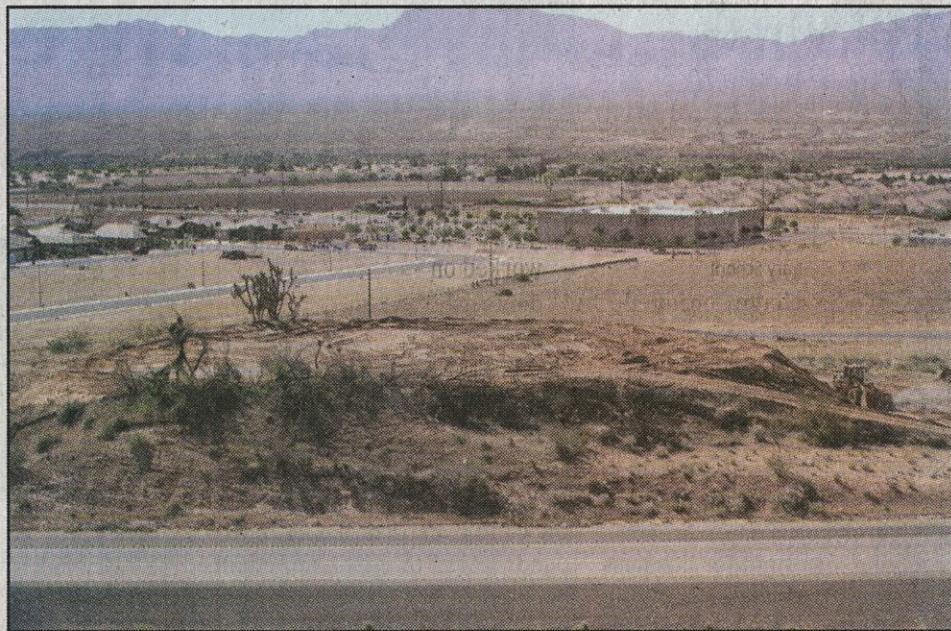


# COMMUNITY

Friday, April 20, 2012 • B5

## PEOPLE NEEDING

## ANNUAL





# MESQUITE LOCAL NEWS

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## Fire chief resigns

### Derek Hughes says he wants out of public life

By **Morris Workman**

[morris@mesquitelocalnews.com](mailto:morris@mesquitelocalnews.com)

Mesquite Fire Chief Derek Hughes resigned suddenly Monday evening.

The resignation came without warning, and without two weeks notice.

"It's just time," Hughes said on Tuesday.

"My wife and I have talked about it, and it's time to get out of the fray of living the public life," Hughes said. "I want to live more stress free."

The resignation came on Monday during a meeting with City Manager Tim Hacker, Hughes said.

When asked if there was a specific reason for choosing to

leave at this time, Hughes said "nothing monumental."

"I've thought about this for a while," Hughes added. "I've got a couple of things I'm working on. I'll just be taking back my life for me."

Hughes has been with the Mesquite Fire Department for 15 years, spending the last 10 as the chief.

During that time, he has been one of the most popular city officials among his subordinates and the public.

In a MesquiteLocalNews.com opinion poll in April of 2009 which asked, "Which Mesquite city official does the best job?" 1,038 people voted for Hughes.

Former City Clerk Sheree

Goessman finished second in the voting with 939.

Because Hughes' resignation is immediate, Deputy Chief David Peterson will serve as the acting chief until a new chief is named.

According to Mesquite city code, the new chief will be appointed by the city manager.

Hughes becomes the third high-ranking city official to depart in the last six months.

Goessman was terminated in February of this year as part of a layoff at the city.

Longtime city engineer Allen Bell officially submitted his retirement earlier this month, with the retirement set to take effect on Dec. 31. On July 1,



MLN FILE PHOTO

**Mesquite Fire Chief Derek Hughes, shown earlier this year at a Virgin Valley Water District meeting, suddenly resigned from the fire department Monday.**

Bell began using the substantial amount of vacation time he has accrued, and has been away from the city offices in anticipation of the Dec. 31 date.

While he will no longer be the

chief, Hughes believes the fire department is in good shape.

"It's a great team over there," Hughes said.

"They've got a good staff at the fire department."



# Desert Valley Times

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Friday, July 13, 2012

[www.dvtonline.com](http://www.dvtonline.com)

## Blazes char Ariz. Strip, Grand Canyon

### Hobble, Plateau fires cover 22,500 acres

**Bob Challinor**  
Desert Valley Times

Thirteen lightning-sparked fires are burning in rugged Arizona Strip locations after a series of storms passed through the area Wednesday evening.

The fires are charring public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The largest blaze, the Hobble Complex, has consumed 18,000 acres and the Plateau Fire has burnt 4,500 acres, Rachel Tueller, pub-

lic affairs officer for the BLM Arizona Strip District, said Thursday afternoon.

The Hobble Complex is located 35 miles southwest of St. George near the Grand Wash Cliffs in the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument. The Plateau Fire is approximately 65 miles south of St. George near Snap Point in the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument.

"Right now we have two Col-

or Country Interagency Type III teams on each of the two fires," Tueller said.

The teams are using a mix of single-engine air tankers, Type I helicopters and several engines on the ground to battle the blazes. Several structures are threatened including out buildings, such as barns and sheds.

"We have scarce resources across Color Country because of the of the number of fires burning throughout the West and in neighboring states such as Idaho and Utah," Tueller said. "Sev-

eral fires are also burning within Arizona and the Color Country region which requires a prioritization process for the allocation of resources. Fires are prioritized based on known values at risk such as urban interface (such as residential), rangeland, wildlife habitat, and cultural values and others. We're in a prioritization mode."

Nine of the fires are in the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument and one blaze is located within the Arizona Strip Field Office sphere. The fires vary in size and are awaiting more accurate mapping,

Tueller said. Containment is unknown and is weather- and resource availability-dependent.

However, Tueller held out hope that thunderstorms forecasted for today could help firefighters. The National Weather Service Las Vegas office said up to a half-inch of rain could fall on the region.

"We're keeping our fingers crossed," she said.

There are 4,000 miles of dirt roads throughout the region, but only paved roads - Interstate 15, Highway 89A and Highway 387 - but none of them pass near the wildfires, Tueller said.



DVT May 16, 2006



### ***Smoke Gets In Your Eyes***

Photo Submitted

Beaver Dam firefighters responded to an early-morning haystack fire at Hafen Ranch Monday. The blaze, which consumed 300 haystacks, was confined in approximately an hour, according to Beaver Dam-Littlefield Fire Chief Gary McIff. "It was not arson," McIff said. "It was new hay, and when you have some moisture it has a chance of spontaneous combustion. It was put in three weeks ago. We had the fast heat, and

the hay didn't have a chance to dry out." Beaver Dam firefighters responded to the fire at about 3 a.m. The property owner already had equipment on site to help quench the fire. The Mesquite Fire Department also assisted under the mutual aid agreement. The fire cast a blanket of smoke over the valley Monday morning, but there was no property lost and no acreage was burnt.



# Fire Warnings Issued In Arizona Strip

By Eric Ruiz  
Staff Writer

The Beaver Dam-Littlefield Fire District has temporarily suspended burn permits, according to Fire Chief Gary McIff.

Restriction guidelines include setting, building or maintaining any fires with the exception of charcoal grills and pits used for cooking only.

Fireworks and pyrotechnic devices are prohibited at all times.

If a fire is caused on private land and spreads to fed-

eral, county or state land, the cost for suppressing the fire is the responsibility of the individual who started the fire.

Permits will be reinstated after the high fire danger is over, provided there are no violations during the restriction.

"We can't be too careful during this high fire danger," said Chief McIff.

For more information, contact Chief McIff at 928-347-5514 or 928-347-5572.

Fire danger is also high on public lands.



Photo by Bill McClure

## Battling The Blazes

Lightening Tuesday night and Wednesday morning torched several blazes west of Mesquite. Fifteen members of the Mesquite Air Tanker Base were assisted by firefighters from the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, Nevada Division of Forestry and Clark County Rural Firefighters. No structures were threatened by the fires.

D-V Times - Jun 24 - 2005



## Area fire district grows Feb 93 to 14-member volunteer force

LITTLEFIELD, Ariz. — In the last three years, the Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire District has progressed from a meager existence to a 14-member volunteer department with a roof over its head.

"This has been accomplished with very dedicated crew, management, fire board members and a great deal of citizen support," Fire Chief Clayton Bell said.

He said the state of Arizona has placed a tax ceiling on all fire districts of \$3 per \$100 of assessed value. The local fire district has a \$2.49 tax assessment.

Bell said the Fire District has saved the taxpayers about \$26,000 by building the fire house shell with volunteer labor while the inside offices currently under construction will also save taxpayers about \$25,000 because of volunteer labor.

Because 95 percent of the Fire

District personnel are volunteer another \$8,000 in savings was realized in hours responding to service calls, Bell said.



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D.V. Times June 24-2005



## Strip Fire Department Gets New Equipment

By Eric Ruiz  
Staff Writer

Just in time for the summer fire season, the Beaver Dam-Littlefield Fire Department has acquired several pieces of new equipment thanks to some grants.

The biggest additions to the department's firefighting arsenal were two new trucks. One is a fast attack truck that is used for responding to accident scenes which features equipment specifically designed for extracting persons from a dangerous location.

The other truck is a brush fire truck, capable of responding to brush fires, featuring a tank capacity of over 500 gallons.

In addition to the new vehicles, the department has also received new brush fire gear for the fighters to wear.

The jackets and pants are much lighter than tradi-

tional fire gear, allowing the firefighter to move more quickly and keep cooler while battling the blazes.

The department has also obtained water-carrying backpacks, often used to put out smaller fires and hotspots that are difficult to reach with a firehose.

Also available to the department are new electric flares, which are much safer than the traditional lighted flares, used to establish an accident scene.

Since January, the department has responded to 165 medical and fire calls on the Arizona strip.

Burn permits are still not being issued on the strip, as the fire hazard is dangerously high.

"If we can get another grant in the fall, we will be all set as far as equipment goes," said Fire Chief Gary McIff. "We just need man-



Photo By Eric Ruiz

### New Trucks

The Beaver Dam-Littlefield Fire Department has used a recent grant to purchase two new trucks. The front truck is a fast action truck, while the

power." The Beaver Dam-Littlefield Fire Station is

back truck is used specifically for brush fires. Chief Gary McIff is hoping to receive another grant this autumn.

staffed by volunteers.

Any interested parties can check out the new equip-

ment for themselves at the Beaver Dam-Littlefield Fire Station.



# Fire Training For Beaver Dam

By Sherrie Rhoades

D. V. Jones 3-8-2001

Two unoccupied single-wide mobile homes made for some excellent fire training

for the Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire Department on March 4 throughout most of the day.

Under the supervision of

training officer Captain Darrell Jensen, members of the fire department were able to practice crawl throughs and some rescue maneuvers

before lighting the mobile homes on fire.

Having the mobile homes on fire allowed fire fighters the opportunity to practice their fire fighting skills before allowing the mobile homes to become a controlled burn and com-

• see FIRE page 48

## FIRE

From page 9

pletely destroyed.

The fire department has been working in the classroom on the Fire Fighter I program for the past several weeks.

As the town of Beaver Dam continues to grow, so does the fire department. In the past few months there have been several new fire fighters join the department.

The fire department also has an Emergency Medical System that is rapidly growing. With four new nationally certified EMT-Bs on staff, the department is working very hard to obtain a C.O.N. so that they can offer ambulance service to the people of Beaver Dam and surrounding areas.

These people are committed to both the fire department and the community. The community is very lucky to have all these people working for them.



Photo submitted

### Beaver Dam Fire

Two unoccupied mobile home were set ablaze so Beaver Dam Fire Fighters could practice battling a mobile home fire.



the child's home pool.

dren in the water.

With Alstair

## Arizona Fire Grows To 1850 Acres

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — A fire burning in the Coronado National Forest grew to 1,850 acres by Monday night but authorities said it still wasn't threatening any structures.

Although the Florida fire was still zero percent contained, authorities said the blaze was expected to be fully contained by Friday night.

"We still have one mile of fire line to build," said Dan Bastion, a spokesman for the team fighting the lightning-sparked fire that started Thursday.

Authorities have closed the Madera Canyon Recreation Area as a precaution, Coronado National Forest spokeswoman Heidi Schewel said.

Homeowners and campers, however, were allowed to stay in the canyon area, which has resort lodges, a campground and summer homes, Schewel said.

Bastion said the possibility that the fire will threaten structures is remote.

"The fire is behaving the way we expect it," he said.

Firefighters used natural barriers to help them build lines around the blaze on Monday.

It would take monsoon moisture to completely extinguish the fire, Schewel said.

Bastion said 677 firefighters were working on the blaze, which is burning steep, rugged terrain in wilderness areas.

July 15-2005



# Letters To The Editor

## Beaver Dam Fire Dept.

After attending several of the Beaver Dam Fire Department meetings, I have several concerns.

These board members were voted in by you.

Don't you wonder how they are spending your money or what changes they make that affect each one of you.

One board member wanted a wood floor — very pretty, but not very practical.

It will have water on it from training meetings while other floor coverings would have cost less and would have look just fine

Another board member told an employee to go ahead and sue.

He didn't care.

That's mine and your money he doesn't care about.

This brings up another question.

Why not do things the right way, then there would be no question of anyone being sued.

Their hiring practices also have me a bit concerned.

A volunteer was hired as a clerk because she was doing an ambulance coordinator job.

An ambulance coordinator and a clerk are not one and the same job.

The clerk's job should have been advertised and a person

with the skills of a clerk hired.

I for one have no confidence in the EMTs.

I do not want them near or around me in a time of need.

If Mesquite can't come, we will go to someplace else for help.

In the case of fire, I ask myself, Do I want to lose everything to fire or water damage?

As one of your board members said, we only surround and drown a fire.

Either way all is lost.

The fire board has worked out an agreement to keep the chief and try to pull the fire Department back together.

This should have been done three or more months ago before things got as bad as they did.

I hope their plan works, but I really doubt it since there are way too many hot heads working together, and one volunteer who seems determined to keep everyone upset for her own self serving interest.

Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire District, please get out and vote.

Go to the meetings, make this a check and balance system, know what laws are being changed and where your money is being spent.

*Jerry Dixon  
Beaver Dam*

D.V. Times July 22-2004



## Fire Prevention Week

**Desert Valley Times**

During Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 7-14), the Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire Department invited kindergarten through fourth grade students from the Beaver Dam Elementary school to tour the firehouse.

The children were shown the different fire trucks and their functions.

The children also learned how to prevent fires, as well as what to do in case of a fire.

Grades five through nine enjoyed an assembly with a

video.

Firefighters asked fire trivia questions of four volunteers from each grade.

All the students remembered what they were taught in previous years.

The Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire Department would like to thank all the children for their participation in the contests, and congratulations to the winners.

Thank you teachers, staff, and Rick Gardner of State Farm Insurance for helping with another successful Fire Prevention Week.



### **Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire Department Tour**

Kindergarteners through fourth grade took a trip to the Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire Department for a tour

and some information on fire prevention and what to do in case of a fire.

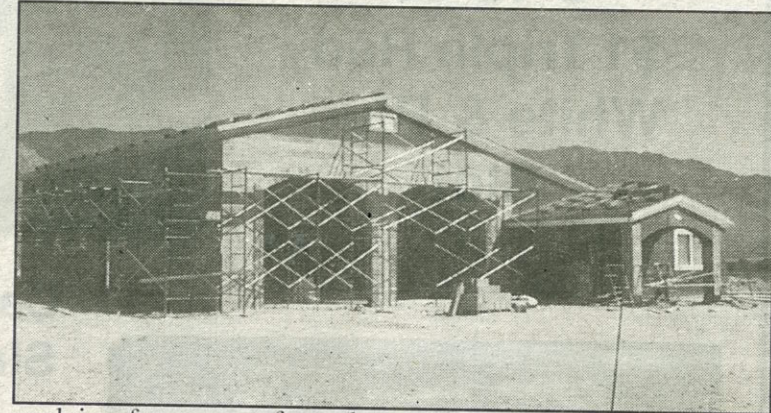


Desert Valley Times 18 May 2000

# Beaver Dam Fire House Under Construction

By: Dick Coleman - staff write

As you can see by the photo, the Beaver Dam Fire House is near completion. It is estimated another six weeks will be needed to finish the job. Workers were working on the exterior of the building when these pictures were taken last week. Most of those working on the site are from the local area around Beaver Dam. David Guimond is the general contractor on the job. Guimond also told the Times that a non-profit group is considering



applying for a grant from the State of Arizona to establish a medical facility in Beaver Dam. The group tried last year

Dick Coleman / Desert Valley Times  
with some procedural flaws in the paperwork. The group will try again this year.





Photo submitted/Desert Valley Times

## **New Fire Station for Beaver Dam/Littlefield**

**For Desert Valley Times**

Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire District builds Fire Station No. 2 in Beaver Dam, AZ.

Tax dollars build Beaver Dam and surrounding communities a second fire station. The new fire station will be located on High-

way 91 near the new elementary school.

Pictured are Fire Board Members, left -right - Maxine Peterson, Secretary; F.D. Houston, Chairman; Mike Draper, Fire Chief; Mel Peterson, Clerk, and

Tony Moerman, Board Member at the new station site shortly after construction began.

Plans for completion of the station hope to be early this summer.



May 20, 1999

## Littlefield Fire Department Awards Bid for New Station

A bid award was announced to the Beaver Dam/ Littlefield Fire Board Meeting held May 12th. The bid, awarded to Dave Guimond, a local builder, will be for the construction of a new fire station. The station will be constructed next to the new Beaver Dam School and will serve the businesses and residents in that area. Station #1, the existing fire station located in Desert Springs, will continue to serve the businesses and residents in that area and along Interstate 15.

Dave Guimond has been in the area for several years and he is a principal builder in the Sunset Ranch Subdivision. For more information on the new station or the bid award, contact Fire Board president, F.D. Houston, at 347-5780.



# Fire department 'flagged' for efforts

## ■ Potential fire victims give flag pole and flag to 'awesome' firemen

By The Spectrum

BEAVER DAM — When a brush fire whips out of control, a homeowner's dream can change in an instant.

On March 11, winds fanned flames of a raging brush fire which roared up the cliff from the Virgin River near Interstate 15, threatening several homes.

"Several times homes and nearby structures were in danger," said fireman Tony Moerman. "But through the valiant efforts of the Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire Department and the Mesquite Fire Department, no structures were lost or even damaged."

Homeowner Cory Clark, sprayed his roof with water while the firemen fought the blaze. "Awesome," said Clark. "If it hadn't been for the awesome efforts of both departments, I would not have a home right now. Their working together is what saved my home."

Another homeowner, Craig Warren, whose home was saved, showed his gratitude to the Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire Department on April 14. At the Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire Board Meeting, Warren said he thought most volunteer fire departments depended on donations to operate, so Warren donated enough money to pur-

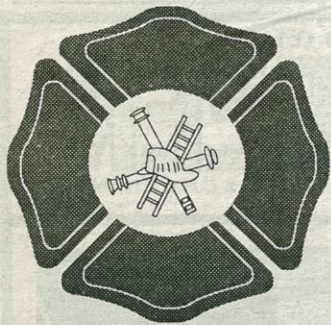
chase a flagpole and flag for Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire Station No. 1.

"I certainly appreciated the efforts by the fire department on my behalf," he told the fire department board members.

Tony Moerman, fire-fighter and Fire Department Board member, indicated that those traveling I-15 passing the Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire Station Number One should be able to see the flag pole and flag.

"The fire District appreciates Clark and Warren's support as well as the assistance of the Mesquite Fire Department," he said.





## Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire District Needs Your Help

So, please feel free to volunteer your time or service in any way you may want to help us.

With the growth of the community, we are planning a new facility to be built on the school grounds site to further accommodate the needs for quicker service in the Beaver Dam area. This will also mean more people will be needed to help. Even though it is a volunteer status, it is very rewarding when you can say that you have actually helped someone in need.

We are proud to announce the

appointment of our new Fire Chief, Mike Draper. He will resign as the present elected fire department board member to assume this new position of Chief. This will be done at our June 10th meeting at 6 p.m. Mr. Draper is also retiring from the ADOT within in the next couple of months. This will give him more time to devote to his new Fire Chief duties.

Mr. Tony Cluff has held the position of Fire Chief since Nov. 1996. He has done a great job as chief and he will continue as

Assistant-Chief. We want to thank Tony for all of the unselfish hours he has given to this community and will continue to do so. This arrangement will strengthen the Fire Department and we hope to see some good changes come about in the near future.

Mike Draper, acting as new Fire Chief, intends to recruit members for EMT training. If you would be interested, please call the Fire Department at 347-5270 or Mike at 347-5547. We will need about eight persons

to enroll in this class to be able to justify the expense of a trainer to come to this area.

Fire Board Meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. Please feel free to join us and give us your input for the new fire station or any improvements.

Mike is looking forward to having everyone get involved with the Fire Department, and has some new plans to make our community safer.

Everyone is welcome!

We are recruiting for help in the fire department for Fire Fighters, EMT's, and dispatchers. We also need assistance with the vehicles and building maintenance. We are a community that needs to work together to provide services that are needed in our area.





Nick Adams / The Spectrum

**Kami Reyes surveys the burned out shell of her home. A fire gutted the house in Beaver Dam, Ariz.**

# Fire destroys home in Beaver Dam

For The Spectrum 12/16/98

A devastating fire destroyed the home of Joe and Kami Reyes on Saturday, Dec. 12, in Beaver Dam.

The black smoke could be seen as far away as Mesquite as the home was engulfed in flames.

The outstanding response from the Mesquite and Beaver Dam Fire Departments left the community very appreciative of the quick action taken by the two departments. Mesquite's fire trucks were on the road within a few seconds after the 911 call was over.

However, despite the valiant efforts of both departments, the home was totally destroyed.

With no insurance, the blaze has left the family with basically nothing.

Kami is a fifth grade teacher at the Littlefield Elementary School. She and her family are one of the longest residents of Beaver Dam. Their home was built 20 years ago, long before Beaver Dam became the retirement community it is now.

The support from the community has been overwhelming in helping the Reyes family, including the two children, John and Jennifer. However, there is much needed to help this family regain their lives.

Anyone wishing to donate to help the family through this trying time, may make donations to:

Joe and Kami Reyes,  
c/o R.I.P.P.L.E.  
P.O. Box 110  
Beaver Dam, AZ 86432



# Peterson keeps fire district post; school board to expand

Week 95 Spectrum  
By MARTA MURVOSH

The Spectrum

Judy Harms, of Beaver Dam-Littlefield Fire District Board, wondered how long it would take to count the votes.

She waited and waited.

Finally, Lynn Cluff, the fire district's head dispatcher, announced the results over the radio.

Fire board chairman Mel Peterson defeated challenger Ron Schaller, a former board member, in Tuesday's special election 85 votes to 52.

"A lot of people have scanners out here," Harms said. "The entire valley knows about it."

A little more than half the registered voters cast ballots in two special elections held Tuesday in the Mohave

County communities located in the extreme northwest corner of Arizona along Interstate 15.

The special election was initiated when former fire chief Clayton Bell and nine volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) left the department in June. The firefighters were joined by Schaller, who was a board member at that time.

The firefighters and Schaller asked Peterson to resign after Peterson questioned the district's finances. He refused, and the board replaced Bell with fire chief Tim Pace.

"It's a victory, but it's a heart rending thing," Cluff said about the nature of the political battle that was rife with rumors and name calling.

Harms spoke highly of Peterson's commitment to the fire district, and she said the board would put events leading up to the election behind it and move forward.

"We have plans for the community — for the fire department to grow," Harms said. "And we are very happy to be able to."

Neither Peterson nor Schaller could be reached for comment.

The fire district's special election shared a ballot with a request to expand the Littlefield School District board from three to five members. The expansion passed by a landslide 123 to 9.

Candidates for the two new posi-

• Please see ELECTIONS on A5

## LITTLEFIELD / BEAVER DAM ELECTIONS



### Fire Board Recall

Election to retain fire district board chairman Mel Peterson.

Yes 85

No 52



### School Board

Vote to expand the school board from three to five members.

Yes 123

No 9

Page A6 — THE SPECTRUM

## Citadel proposes to proce

By The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. — The Citadel is ready to start processing applications from women who want to join its all-male corps of cadets, according to a plan filed in federal court Tuesday.

The college would inform women who meet all other standards that they are eligible to enroll if the courts order women

into the corps. Accepted applications would be kept on file until the legal question is resolved.

Women rejected for reasons other than their gender will be informed of those reasons, and the school will inform the Justice Department of its action on individual applications.

There are four applications from women on file at The Citadel, college spokeswoman Judith Fluck said. One is from Nancy Mellette, who has taken



Desert  
Echo

12/8/95

# Peterson still on board by 85 to 52

Fire Board President Mel Peterson was not recalled in Tuesday's election in Mohave County. He's still in, and planning to stay.

By a vote of 85 to 52, Peterson was given the majority nod, and will retain his seat at the chief officer for the Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire District. His opponent was Ron Schaller who lost by 33 votes.

Schaller said he was glad the election was over and that he was sorry he didn't win because he felt he could have given insight that would have benefitted the District.

"I have the utmost respect for Acting Fire Chief Tim Pace. He's doing a superb job. And I will help the volunteers all that I can.

"It is my hope that the volunteers who left will come back and that both sides will accept each other.

"All the rumor mongering surrounding this election was demeaning. It's not future-building" said Schaller.

Schaller said he had written a congratulatory letter to Pace, and made several suggestions that

should clear up some areas of concern, thereby getting the fire department and volunteers back on track.

The vote follows months of heated debate surrounding the suspension of former Fire Chief Clayton Bell last June, and a petition for Peterson's recall started by former Ambulance Coordinator Noreen Barnum, who has resigned.

She, along with Bell and nine other volunteers, staged an orchestrated walk-out when Peterson refused to resign his position in August following a demand to do so from former Board Secretary Sharon Bell.



*Nov 9-95 - Desert Valley Times*  
**NOTICE OF RECALL ELECTION**

To the qualified electors of the Beaver Dam Littlefield Fire District, a Recall Election will be held December 5, 1995.

The Polls will be open from 6 A.M. until 7 P.M. at the Littlefield Post Office building, commonly known as the Reber home.

The Mohave County Election Department is conducting this election for the Beaver Dam Littlefield District.

*Published in the Desert Valley Times Nov. 2 and Nov. 9, 1995*

*Times April 27 95*  
**A Wet Day for Clayton Bell  
A Good Day for Beaver  
Dam/Littlefield Fire Station**



**Clayton Bell waits for another dunking.**

Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire station Open House Raffle and Rummage Sale, April 22, was an unqualified success.

With a dunking tank, using Clayton Bell as the "dunkee" area

residents (particularly, fireman) had great fun dunking "The Chief."

The raffle, Jelly Bean guess and party atmosphere gave everyone a great day in the sun.



**Equipment at Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire Station**



Thursday February 9, 1995



The Beaver Dam and Littlefield Fire Department receive training on the use of the new extrication equipment "Jaws of Life". Instructors were Don George and Scott MacKenvie, firefighters present were: Chief Clayton Bell, Rick Johnson, Norene Barnum, Terisa Pace, Tim Pace, Mike Draper and Tony Cluff.



# Setting the pace

*Beaver Dam-Littlefield fire chief keeps pace in unenviable situation*

By MARTA MURVOSH

The Spectrum

*"Should you  
feel safe  
in the  
community?  
Absolutely!  
Will we be  
there when  
you need  
us?  
Absolutely!"*

**-Tim Pace**

Fire Chief Tim Pace only had one year's experience and seven firefighters when he took charge of the Beaver Dam-Littlefield Fire District.

In a matter of months, he rebuilt and trained his staff, developed a strong rapport with neighboring emergency agencies and turned the district's red ink into a solvent operation.

Not an enviable position initially, and not a bad job for a man barely into his second year of service with the Beaver Dam-Littlefield Fire District serving several small communities in the extreme northwestern corner of Arizona.

The district's fire board chose him to replace Clayton Bell, who walked off the job in July along with 10 other volunteer firefighters. Bell was suspended by the district in June while the board awaited an audit of the department's books but was later reinstated.

Pace still wears the "interim" title but has no time limit placed on his term and the strong support of the board, said boardmember Judy Harms.

"Tim has done marvelous as an interim chief," Harms said. "He's doing so well; we're more than sat-

isfied."

Pace said the department needs more experience.

"We're a new fire department," Pace said. "We have a lot of training ahead of us."

But he said the department's inexperience has not affected its performance.

"Should you feel safe in the community? Absolutely!" he asked. "Will we be there when you need us? Absolutely!"

Susan Hardy, coordinator for Mesquite Ambulance Rescue 77 that transports for Beaver Dam and Littlefield — calls Pace "a great leader." Ken Meacham, chief for the neighboring Mesquite (Nev.) Fire Department, said his department supports Pace's leadership.

"I think people need to be less concerned about his experience and more supportive of the fire department," Meacham said. "He's not one who'll jump into something without thinking about it."

Pace's accomplishments over the last four months have been many.

He increased the department's remaining volunteers from seven to 13 in the first month following the July 12 walkout. The department is nearly back to pre-walkout strength now with 18 firefighters, including three emergency medica-





Spectrum photo / Nick Adams

Beaver Dam-Littlefield Fire Chief Tim Pace assumed command in a political firestorm. Pace has stayed on top of fires and brought a budget that was in the red to the black.

technicians (EMT). Pace plans to train more firefighters as EMTs.

In order to increase the numbers, the department "put the word out" in the fast-traveling Littlefield grapevine.

"A lot of people join, because we have helped them," Pace said. One guy thought about joining, and we put his car (fire) out and he joined."

Volunteer firefighters undergo a metamorphosis, Pace said.

"Myself and the (volunteers) who stayed joined to see what it was like," Pace said. "And then all of a sudden you feel responsible. The responsibility of the community falls on your shoulders."

The reason for volunteerism is the "satisfaction of helping someone else, Pace said.

Pace has also doubled the number of female firefighters; there are now six.

One of the former firefighters has returned, and Pace said he does not have a problem with returning members who care about the community.

• Please see FIRE on A11



# FIRE

• Continued from A1

Firefighters were not the only thing in short supply at the district when Pace assumed command.

He took over a fire district with a \$9,000 debt. Now the d They held up and excelled."

Meacham said relationships between the Mesquite and Beaver Dam-Littlefield Fire Departments have improved since Pace was appointed chief. Monthly meetings between the fire chiefs and the Bunkerville (Nev.) Fire Department will be resumed; they were discontinued a year ago.

Hardy was specific about the change in the department.

"I felt the rapport between the rescue service and Beaver Dam was very poor," Hardy said. "Now they work with us as a team. I can't tell you how wonderful it is."

While he has accomplished a lot, Pace said he sometimes has reservations.

"When the board asked me to be the chief, I was actually quite sure I didn't want it," Pace said. "With the pressure I'm under, I'm still not sure. I feel obligated."

Pace has dealt with mysteriously disappearing or misplaced equipment. While supporters of the department said this is trouble caused by former members, Pace said there is no proof.

"Fighting fires and car accidents are easy compared to some of the headaches I get from some former members," Pace said. "If they truly cared, they'd leave me alone."



# Small town, big ruckus

Fire chief  
hit with  
petition

*Maw 93*

By Jim Rice

Staff Writer

LITTLEFIELD, Ariz. — A petition alleging mismanagement of the Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire Department has ignited tempers in the two communities.

The petition, which has been circulating among residents for several weeks, charges the department with favoritism and rampant spending of taxpayer money.

It calls for the resignation of Fire Chief Clayton Bell and the

resignation of Bell's stepson, Rusty Wilson, who is chairman of the fire board and senior firefighter.

The petition also requests a recall election to select new fire board members. The board oversees fire department activities.

The department is responsible for 58 square miles, running from the Utah to the Nevada state lines. It is an all-volunteer fire district supported by local tax money.

"We don't understand why anyone would want to destroy something that is working so well," Sharon Bell, fire department dispatcher, said of the petitions.

Bell, wife of Chief Bell and

See FIRE, Page 3A



LITTLEFIELD, Ariz. — Despite petitions calling for the removal of Fire Chief Clayton Bell, board President Rusty Wilson and the fire board, the volunteer department is sticking with its leaders. From left, front, are Bell,

Wilson, Don Smith, Steve Berry, Chuck Moon, Elmer Barnes, Sharon Bell, Tony Cluff. Kneeling are Perry Buoy and Nick Lucas. In back are Rhonda Draper and Jolynn James. (Spectrum / Nancy Rhodes)



Apr 12 - 1995

# City in need of new fire station

By LIZ LEAVITT

Spectrum Correspondent

Scenic, Ariz., a small community just northeast of the Nevada border, is in desperate need of a fire station.

Maxine Pelkey, a 12-year resident, is heading the fight for the badly needed facility. As of now, Bunkerville and Mesquite stations respond to calls in the area, with response time around 10 to 15 minutes. Pelkey would like to see a crew of their own. "We would at least like to be able to control a fire until further assistance comes," says Pelkey.

Recently, Pelkey and other interested members of the community purchased an old fire truck from the

• Please see FIRE on 2



## FIRE

• Continued from 1

Bunkerville team (Clark County). However, it needs a new engine and requires a lot of mechanical attention when it does run.

The community found another engine to put in the rig, but cannot pay for the labor to have it installed.

Another problem faced by the ambitious crew is the concern for fire training.

"Bunkerville Fire Crew has agreed to help us train in fire and safety and CPR," says Pelkey. "They have taken very good care of us, but now we would like to take care of some of it ourselves."



Spectrum photo / Liz Lea

Robert McClure and Maxine Pelkey, Scenic residents, stand beside the Scenic fire truck.





### ***Fully Involved***

Photo by Susan McAllister

At 8:16 a.m. Sunday morning, April 9 the Mesquite Fire Department was called out to this house fire on Mountain View. The fire department arrived at 8:20 a.m. Deputy Chief Dave Peterson said the owner had been restoring a Pontiac Firebird in his garage and was going to take it out for a drive when the car caught fire. The fire quickly spread throughout

the house. Homes on either side were evacuated and sustained no damage. The home was estimated at \$450,000 at current construction costs, this does not include the contents of the home. Both occupants had made it out of the property when the fire department arrived. Mesquite Police Department responded to assist with traffic control.





**Academy Cadets**

Photo Submitted

Two Mesquite Fire Academy cadets practicing a "Ventilation" scenario.

# Mesquite Fire Academy Underway

## Desert Valley Times

The Mesquite Fire Rescue Department Fire Academy has begun. The Academy is run in a Paramilitary style and is designed to take individuals with little to no fire related experience, and give them the training and tools to become certified firefighters.

The Academy runs for nine weeks and is held every Saturday. The cadets, upon successful completion of the intense Academy may be eligible to become reserves with

## Mesquite Fire Rescue.

A typical day for the Academy begins with physical fitness at 6:45 am. The exercise regimen is conducted by Firefighter/Paramedic Clint Nowery and is designed to teach the cadets the necessity and importance of physical fitness during a firefighter's career.

The agility course is comprised of realistic evolutions such as climbing ladders, carrying ladders, and dragging hose. Each cadet must pass the Department's phys-

ical agility course by the end of the Academy.

After physical fitness the cadets practice "turnout drills." The maximum allowed time to have full turnouts and a Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) air pack on is two minutes. "This exercise usually provides for some intense and sometime comical competition between cadets as well as the full-time staff," said Fire-Rescue Captain Jason Hanor.

• see ACADEMY page 10

DVT 5/9/06



# ACADEMY

From page 1

Hanor noted Cadet Lustig holds this years Academy's best time at 1:19.

The remainder of the day is used to learn topics and required evolutions such as fire behavior, ropes, building construction, hose, fire control, and fire extinguishers.

Some of the evolutions taught include ventilation, water supply and search and rescue.

This past Saturday, the cadets spent the morning learning how to use ground

ladders to rescue trapped victims. Cadet DeJoria said, "Performing the ladder rescue evolution was easier than I thought." Saturday afternoon was spent learning how to vertically ventilate a structure. For many cadets this was their first time to use a chain saw, let alone make a ventilation cut on a roof.

If you are interested in becoming a firefighter, or have any questions, please call the Fire Rescue Department at 346-2690.





Mesquite Fire Chief Derek Hughes

Dennis Lee, Desert Valley Times

## Fire chief's roots in Mesquite

*Another in a series of profiles of city staff.*

### DENNIS LEE

Desert Valley Times

**D**erek Hughes, Mesquite's fire chief, was born in Pocatello, Idaho and had been coming to Mesquite since he was born. His grandparents on his mom's side, the Barnums, lived in Mesquite.

"I can go to the cemetery and see my Grandpa Barnum, my Great Grandpa Barnum, and my Great Great Grandpa Barnum who is buried there.

"So I have just a few roots here in Mesquite," said Hughes.

"We'd come here in the

summers, and on the holidays, Christmas and Easter. And so when my parents got divorced in 1982, my mom brought us to Mesquite to live.

"I went to school here in Mesquite from sixth grade. I can't remember what the population was at the time, but I know it wasn't over 2,000. But I enjoyed growing up in Mesquite. I enjoy a small town.

"When I got out of high school one of the guys asked me why I haven't joined the fire department.

"Now, my dad worked as a paramedic in Idaho, but I don't remember growing up as a kid wanting to be a firefighter. But I really liked it, the training and all. It's one of those things that either you like it or you don't, and I really liked it.

our fire department has grown, in adding new stations, along with new personnel and equipment," he said. "Being involved in plans and purchasing, along with fire prevention, and watch both the department and the community grow. I also enjoy working with a great team at City Hall.

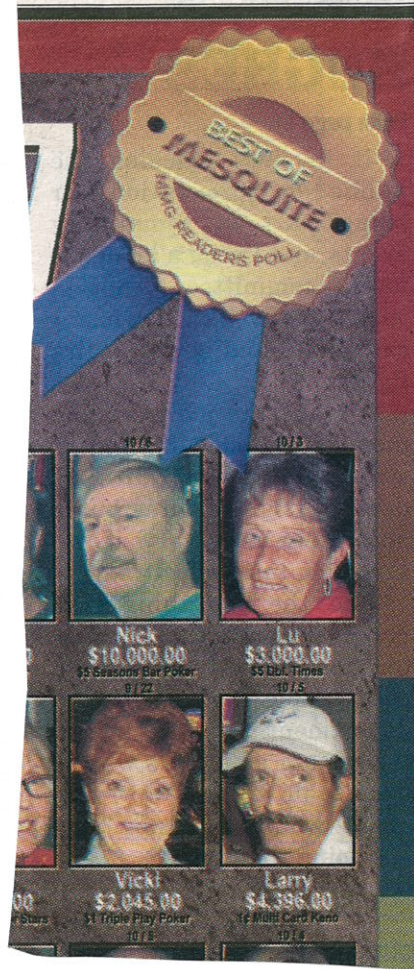
Another reason he likes the job is that it changes constantly.

"It is different this year than it was last year, and it will be different next year," he said. "I enjoy watching it evolve."

"It's amazing to look back to where we were 12 years ago and then see where we are today. Who would have thought that Mesquite would have two stations with a new station being planned and built (in the Industrial sec-



Friday, October 19, 2007 - 11



time at the water district, and also working as a reserve for the fire department. Then in 1995 I was hired full-time at the city and the city hired the first full-time fire chief, so I was able to see how it all worked from the ground up.

In November, 2000, the fire chief's position became available, so Hughes applied for it, was tested and was hired.

"The reason I put my name in to be chief is that it was the right opportunity at the right time," he said. "And things just came together where I was able to work my way up through the department, and at the time the department only had two full-time fire fighters and a chief.

He said one of the good things about being in a smaller department is that he can be involved in training, yet still go on emergency calls, or suit up and go fight a fire."

"It is also fun to see how

West Pioneer Boulevard)? And I wonder, what will this all look like in another 10 years?"

Derek is married to Amber and has four boys, and as much as he enjoys being a firefighter, he enjoys being a husband and father even more.

"Now, I'm not downplaying my role as fire chief, but I believe that I am a husband and father before I am a fire chief," said Hughes.

He also enjoys outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking, and playing ball, "and I enjoy doing it with my family and friends."

He said the job has its demands.

"Being a fire chief is a really busy job," he said. "I have to do the budget, and that's a year long process. It's keeping track of the stations, and the construction of the new station, and personnel matters. You really do some of everything.

• see HUGHES page 18



*Friday March 21, 2008*

## Local News

Desert Valley Times

# Firefighters Ball to honor Heide Smith

### DENNIS LEE

Desert Valley Times

The Mesquite Firefighters Association will honor Heide Smith at the second annual Firefighters Ball on May 9.

"What an amazing night this year's Firefighters Ball is going to be," said Len DeJoria, MFA president. "We have the opportunity to honor one of Mesquite's finest citizens."

Greg Lee and the Eureka Hotel and Casino have partnered up with MFA to help host the event, which will be held in the Grand Canyon

Ballroom. The doors will open at 6 p.m.

"We found it necessary to change the date due to conflicting city activities. We want to make sure that everyone who would like to share in this wonderful evening will be able to," said DeJoria.

Tickets this year will be \$50 in advance, and can be purchased at local Mesquite merchants or at Mesquite Fire Station No. 1. The evening will include a raffle, as well as a live auction with proceeds supporting the

MFA Children's Charities.

Last year, with help from the community and Jadde Sports, the MFA was able to give new shoes to more than 200 children.

In addition, the MFA is offering at least four \$500 scholarships to high school seniors wishing to attend college or who are pursuing a degree in emergency services and health care related fields.

The Mesquite Firefighters Association is 501-c3 non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible.





Bob Challinor, Desert Valley Times

The training tower at the new fire station.

## New fire station opens to public view

**BOB CHALLINOR**

Desert Valley Times

**F**ire Chief Derek Hughes remembered standing on top of a hill four years ago gazing down into a wash squeezed between two bluffs.

"I heard: 'This is where we're going to put it.'"

Hughes was referring to his first look at the site for Mesquite Fire Station No. 3. Today, Hughes will be leading tours at the new facility following an 11 a.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony. The fire station is located at 3 John Deere Rd, across Pioneer Blvd. from the Do It Best distribution center. Firefighters will serve barbecued burgers free to the public.

"For the last three or four years, I've gone through the whole building process — the conceptual drawings, designs, all the city departments signing off on the different components," Hughes

But it's a new beginning for Mesquite Fire and Rescue. The self-contained facility, which sprung up in the narrow canyon, is like fire department compound.

"It's like building a house," Hughes said. "You have bedrooms, kitchen and bathrooms; but you also have offices, bays and training rooms."

The facility was built by Pride Construction as part of the joint development agreement the company had with the city.

The training tower rises four stories high farther back in the canyon.

Fire station bays have enough room to house ambulances, a ladder truck and a fire engine.

"The other station has four bays, but they weren't deep enough to park an engine and ambulance back to back," Hughes said. "This is much deeper. We had to design the building with the

width, but 7 depth."

And plenty of storage space. Firefighters can store EMS supplies in an air-conditioned room away from the bays. A fire storage room houses foam and hoses. The Breathing Air Room contains a large air compressor used to fill firefighters' air packs. The station also has an electrical room.

"We'll have a work bench and ice machine," Hughes said. "And we've got places to put our turnouts and bunker gear."

Speakers suspended from the bay ceiling announce pages for fire and rescue. The speakers automatically adjust the volume to the noise level in the bays.

Adjacent to the bay are workout, laundry and mop rooms.

"We have a door directly to the bay from the bedrooms," Hughes said. "When you get the night calls you don't have to go through a maze to get to the bay."

The south section of the station houses dorm rooms, baths and showers for three shifts. There's a modern kitchen with four refrigerators.

"They're here 48 hours straight," Hughes said. "Two days on and four off. Each shift has its own refrigerator."

Naturally, the kitchen range comes with a fire suppression system; nothing more embarrassing than a fire station burning to the ground.

Adjacent to the day/dining room is the crew office, conference room, resource library and a place to store medical records.

"This is going to be our training center," Hughes

ning here, too. They'll have access to the training center, but not to where the firefighters live."

A large training classroom with two partitions (to divide the room into three sections) serves the fire academy and EMT classes. The city could use it as a training classroom, too.

The lobby/reception area at the entrance of the station fronts a hallway leading to training and EMS offices.

"I thought: Let's have a little programmable space here for expansion," Hughes said. "The community is growing."

The fire station also comes equipped with a backup generator.

The fire tower, built with steel and concrete, is located about 250 yards deeper in the canyon.

"We have a four-story tower with a two-story annex and a one-story burn room with moveable mazes and a standpipe system," Hughes said. "The burn rooms have a special liner made for them. It can take temperatures up to 2,000 degrees. We have thermal couplers to know how hot the ceiling temperature is, and it allows us to control the heat. We can burn class 1 materials — wood and straw, those types of things."

About 50 yards from the training tower is the city's record storage building plus a smaller storage/restroom structure.

"We haven't moved in the furniture yet," Hughes said. "There's still a ways to go. We need phones and computers, so we won't be running calls out of here next week, but it will be fairly soon."

After waiting four years, a few weeks more will be