



Drexel Heights Fire District

2009 Annual Report

Administration, Training & Station 401 - 5030 S. Camino Verde

Station 402 - 6340 S. Mark Rd

Station 403 - 5960 S. Cardinal Ave

Station 404 - 3255 S. Kinney Rd

Communications - 6950 S. Beehive

www.drexelfire.net

MISSION STATEMENT: To minimize the threat to life and property due to fire, medical or other emergencies through education, prevention, preparedness, prompt response, & effective customer service.

Governing Board

Drexel Heights Fire District is governed by a five member board who are elected to their offices. Fire Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the second Friday of each month at 9:00 AM. The 2009 Board is featured here at the Station 403 dedication ceremony: (left to right) Board Chair James Bertrand, Clerk of the Board Cheryl Cecil, and Board Members Laura Dailey, Charles Mendonca and R.M. Bishman.



Administration



The Drexel Heights Fire District is a customer service organization that provides safety related services for our residents and our residents routinely tell us that we are meeting their expectations. The District needs to maintain those services for our existing residents and address service needs in the developing areas of the Fire District. The District must also remain fiscally sound while keeping the tax rates under control.

2009 continued the economically challenged period for our residents and the Fire District. The Governing Board and employees of the District worked to complete projects and do so within a sustainable budget. To date, the District has not been forced to reduce staffing levels due to the national and local fiscal crisis. The District, like most governmental organizations, has been forced to reduce budgets over the last several years. The District has worked hard to reduce our spending in ways that do not impact our ability to respond to emergencies and maintain safe working conditions for our employees.

District highlights for 2009 include:

- Completion of all of the tasks included in the 2005 Strategic Plan.
- Completion of the construction phase of the new Star Valley Fire Station known as Station 405.
- Receipt of a new pumper ordered in 2008. The new unit was placed in service at Station 403 (Cardinal).
- Receipt of an ambulance ordered in 2008 utilizing a gaming grant from the Tohono O’odham Nation.
- Receipt of a Community Development Block Grant through Pima County for continuation of the Family Safety Program.
- Receipt of a Governor Office of Highway Safety grant for billboards which have safety messages.
- Continued funding from a FEMA “SAFER” grant which provides reimbursement for employee costs for nine Firefighters hired in 2007.

2010 will be much different than previous years due to the continuing economic slowdown. The District will open the new fire station in Star Valley known as Station 405. Very few other new projects will take place. The focus for the year will be maintaining our levels of customer service. District staff will continue to pursue grant opportunities that do not negatively impact the finances of the District.

The Governing Board and employees look forward to the challenges that 2010 will bring. The ever changing economy and housing market will continue to affect how the Fire District does business. The District will continue to attempt to balance our established community partnerships for both emergency and non-emergency services. Providing outstanding service to our community is our obligation. Our Mission clearly demonstrates that we accept that challenge and will do our best to exceed the public’s expectations. I encourage our residents to let the District know how we are doing. Visit our website www.drexelfire.net and provide your feedback and comments.

New Employees

Firefighter Charles Higgins	Apr
Firefighter Brett Houser	Apr
Firefighter/CEP Andrew Sepulveda	Apr
Firefighter Justin Alvarez	Jul
Firefighter Jason Lowe	Jul
Pub Ed Volunteer Lester Craig	Jul
Pub Ed Volunteer Norene Craig	Jul
Pub Ed Volunteer Garree Innis	Jul
Pub Ed Volunteer Gerald Innis	Jul
Firefighter Erica Mejia	Oct
Firefighter Robert Santoro	Oct
Firefighter Joshua Wood	Oct

Promotions

Captain David Wilson	Feb
Captain John McCaffrey	Feb
Paramedic Anthony Granillo	Apr
Paramedic Justin Flynn	Apr
Battalion Chief Mark Fiems	May
Captain Sam Criner	Jul
Paramedic Raul Rodriguez	Sept

Emergency Operations

Emergency Fire & Medical Services

2009 emergency calls totaled 7,016 with 1,270 of those related to fire and 5,746 for medical assistance. A new hose load was introduced this year and is being field tested for efficiency. The EMS division administered H1N1 flu immunizations to employees. Two new emergency medical care programs were implemented: the Rapid Sequence Intubation and the EZ-IO Intraosseous Infusion System.

Special Teams

After receiving a new equipment trailer, the District participated in a series of Metropolitan Medical Response System training exercises with other community partners. Drexel's Technical Rescue Team continued regional training including exercises with Southern Arizona Rescue Association. Six of the District's Haz Mat members attended a grant funded specialized training that comes from the Department of Homeland Security.

Fleet & Equipment Maintenance

In October the District received a new fire engine which is housed at Station 403. The District also received a new ambulance this year with the assistance of a Tohono O'odham gaming grant.

Risk Management & Wellness

For the third year, the District's Operations personnel participated in the National Safety & Survival Day. New physical fitness equipment was outfitted in an exercise room at the new Station 403. The equipment was purchased with assistance of a grant from the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company.

Training & Education

The District implemented the use of a new automated training software system that streamlined training classes. A regionalized training committee was created this year and included automatic aid partners improving consistency between the agencies. Drexel is one of seven agencies that received a mobile fire burn simulator trailer where firefighters practiced extinguishing fires in various scenarios.



Technical Services

Communications

In 2009 our communications center dispatched 12,596 calls for DHFD and five other agencies. This year the Computer Aided Dispatch program was updated and now includes a voiceless system of pre-designated buttons on the laptop computers in all emergency units.

Facilities

The Station 403 (5960 S. Cardinal) rebuilding project was completed and was dedicated to the community in May. In April ground breaking on the new Station 405 in Star Valley took place with completion expected in early 2010.

Fire Prevention

Plan review numbers were down this year due to the construction decline but existing commercial building inspections totaled 190 for the year and there were 31 fire cause and origin investigations completed.

Pima County Wireless Integrated Network

The District serves on multiple committees for this regional communications project including the development of a county fire dispatch as well as the executive, technical and user committees.

Public Education

This year we implemented two new programs. The Senior Citizen Fire Academy targeted community members 55 and older and was part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Fire Prevention & Safety Grant program. The Fire Fit Cadet Academy was designed for middle schoolers and included firefighting skills, physical fitness and injury prevention.





We would like to thank our residents for the daily support we receive. It is a pleasure to serve you!