

ADMINISTRATION

PROLOGUE

Arizona experienced wildland fires that scorched over 630,000 acres of forest land and destroyed approximately 500 structures in 2002. Such an unprecedented fire season required a great deal of attention by the Payson Fire Department. Our resources were strained as we assisted other fire departments and the United States Forest Service with their firefighting needs. Additionally, as a result of the largest fire in Arizona's history, the Town of Payson initiated its Emergency Operation Plan. Our Emergency Operations Center was opened, and we also assisted the Payson Police Department with the establishment of a shelter at the junior high school for the Rodeo-Chediski refugees. The efforts regarding our operations were well-managed and very effective.

Year 2002 saw many achievements by personnel in the Fire Department. Despite responding to a record-setting 2004 emergency calls, an 11% increase over 2001, the following was accomplished: developed and continued community partnerships with the new Pima Community College, Mogollon Health Alliance and Wal-Mart; acquired a State Fire Assistance grant for \$94,500 to help improve the Town of Payson's defenses against wildland fires; instituted the Guardian Angel Program that places electronic notification assistance into senior's homes to quickly acquire help in emergencies; established regional brush pits for residents to dispose of their biomass fuels; and, held our two-day master planning meeting in October.

As Fire Chief, I am extremely proud of the men and women of the Payson Fire Department who continue to commit themselves to achieving higher levels of performance year after year.

All of us in the Payson Fire Department wish to thank the citizens and Mayor and Council for their continued support and assistance. Our efforts are truly community-based.

Sincerely,

John W. Ross
Fire Chief

"Fire Sprinklers Save Lives."

Town of
Payson Fire Department

MISSION STATEMENT

“The mission of the Payson Fire Department is to provide Payson’s citizens and visitors with the highest possible level of protection against loss of life and/or property, to be achieved by maintaining a well-trained and equipped crew of fire/medical response personnel, backed up by a support staff of inspectors, educators, maintenance personnel, and supervisors, all within the scope and limitations of the budgetary resources provided.”

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Town of Payson Fire Department provides a complete range of public safety and fire protection services to the city’s residents, businesses and visitors. The function of the Department is to provide emergency services, which includes responses for fire suppression (structural*, wildland*, vehicle and miscellaneous), routine medical emergencies, medical emergencies requiring advanced cardiac life support, high angle and swift water rescues, confined space rescues and vehicle extrications.

The Department provides a wide range of services to the public beyond our response to emergency and non-emergency incidents. These other services include such things as fire safety and injury prevention classes, CPR* training, nonprofit charitable function support (educational or medical standbys), smoke detector program, public education courses and fire code administration. Fire Code Administration includes fire prevention inspections, plan review for development, and fire loss management planning.

To accomplish these services the Department maintained a staff of 36 positions during the year 2002. Of these 24 were full-time staff. These 24 were in turn supported by 12 Paid-On-Call (POC*) fire fighters. The combined staff of the Department managed two (2) fire stations and 12 Department vehicles. Both fire stations were staffed 24 hours a day, seven (7) days a week. The following chart shows the changes in personnel the Department has experienced over the past four budget years.

Staffing By Program	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
Fire Chief	1	1	1	1
Assistant Chief	1	0	0	0
Administrative Secretary	0	1	1	1
Fire Marshal	1	1	1	1
Fire Inspector	0	1	1	0
Battalion Chief	3	3	3	3
Captain	6	6	6	6
Engineer	3	6	6	6
Fire Fighter	3	4	4	6
Senior Clerk	1	0	0	0
Total Full Time	19	23	23	24
Paid-On-Call Fire Fighters	26	26	18	12

2002 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The year 2002 was a busy one. Through the dedication of Department personnel many of the goals we had set as a department were accomplished. The following are some of those highlights:

- % Upgraded the full-time staffing of EP121 (Station 12) to three personnel per shift.
- % Conducted a captain's certification program.
- % Successfully competed for a wildland* fire mitigation grant.
- % Acquired grant funding to establish a regional hazardous materials response team.
- % Continued to ensure that smoke detectors are available to all citizens.
- % Continued to provide all third grade students with fire safety education classes.
- % Continued with OSHA compliance improvements.
- % Adopted the International Fire Code, 2000 edition; with amendments.
- % Conducted a Department strategic planning meeting.
- % Conducted a Department strategic planning meeting.

2003 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

For 2003 the Department will continue to push forward. Though much was accomplished in 2002, many things remain on the "to do" list. Below are listed some of the goals we have set for the year of 2003.

- % Conduct an ambulance feasibility study.
- % Acquire a ladder truck.
- % Conduct fire inspections in all businesses in Payson.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

The day-to-day operation of providing emergency and non-emergency services, fire inspection and prevention services along with the administration of these services, requires money. Over the past several years the Department has seen an expansion of the services it provides. These factors have contributed to the need to expand the Department's budget. Below is a brief overview of how budget monies are utilized.

Classification	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
Personnel	\$1,370,729	\$1,481,840	\$1,583,060
Supplies & Services	268,960	214,720	157,020
Purchased Services	100,380	111,050	140,410
Total	\$1,748,819	1,807,610	1,880,490

SHIFT PERSONNEL

There are facets to the fire service other than responding to calls for assistance. Many hours go into preparation of personnel, in the way of training for example, and vehicles, in the way of maintenance. Add to these the need to keep facilities in proper condition, fire hydrant inspections, business inspections, pre-plan development, response-map updates and daily physical conditioning for the fire fighters, and one can see that the on-shift* crews have a very full day. And this is above and beyond the 2002 incidents that the on-shift crews responded to in 2002.

Training includes every other Thursday night, assigned monthly trainings and special training events. Vehicle maintenance emphasizes daily checks, twice weekly checks, routine maintenance and repairing breakdowns. Our facilities also require routine maintenance and repairs. And, of course, it is well documented that a physically fit and well-conditioned fire

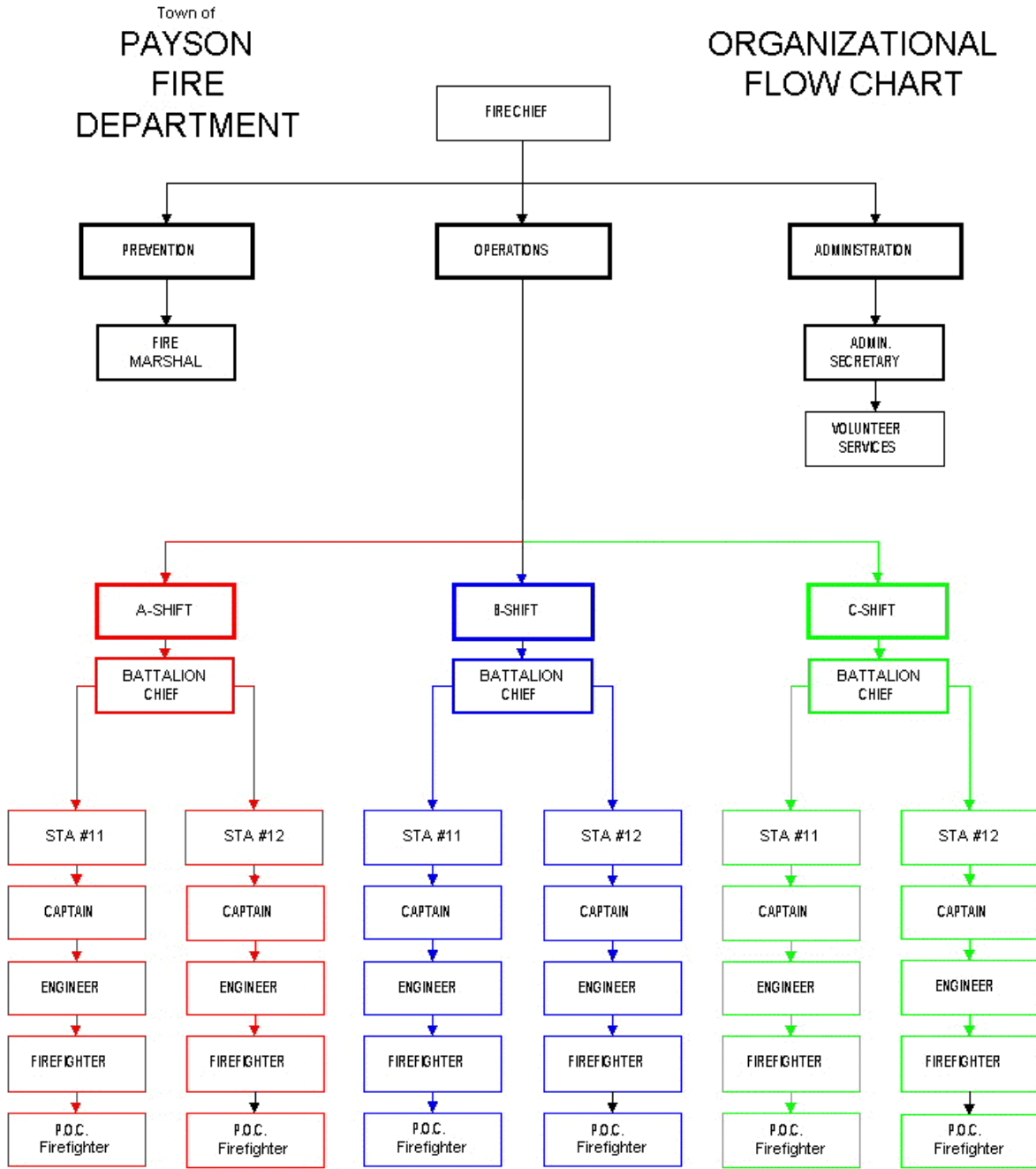
fighter is less likely to be injured on the job. The table below gives the breakdown, by category, of the hours fire fighters gave to each area of their work.

ON-SHIFT* PERSONNEL HOURS FOR 2002 (NOT CALL RELATED)			
Category	Hours	Category	Hours
Building Maintenance	1,246	Office Work	2,916
Equipment Maintenance	687	Pre-Planning	37
FD Meeting	576	Physical Training	861
FD Training	4,579	Public Contact (2,402 public contacts made)	173
Hydrant Maintenance	12	Public Training (506 citizens received training)	54
Inspection	32	Vehicle Maintenance	1,253

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR 2002

The organizational structure for the Payson Fire Department is, perhaps, easier to visualize then explain. The flow-chart on the next page should be of help.

Organizational Chart for 2002



PFD org chart, 1-29-03

A STATISTICAL LOOK AT 2002

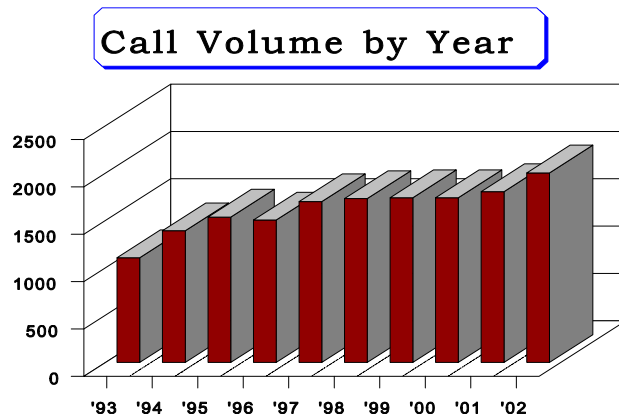
The Payson Fire Department (PFD) finished out the year with a total of 2002 incidents. **Up 11.0%** from last year. Diamond Star Fire District, as per their contract, continued to provide the initial response into Chaparral Pines and the Rim Golf Club; **37 calls** in 2002. This amounts to a **76% increase** in call activity in these two subdivisions on the east side of Payson. Call volume outside the town limits **remained virtually the same**. In 2001 there were 132 calls outside the town limits, and in 2002 that number was 134.

The graph "*Call Volume by Year*" shows the trend of the quantity of calls for the past 10 years. You are looking at a **81% increase** in call volume over those 10 years.

The Department's personnel respond to many different types of calls.

Among these are fires (structural, wildland and miscellaneous) medical emergencies (falls, MVAs*, assaults, sports related, unknown illnesses, cardiac related calls, breathing difficulties, etc.) and motor vehicle accidents. The Department also responds to hazardous situations such as leaking LPG* and electrical transmission lines down.

Service calls such as assisting with flooding, checking smoke or carbon monoxide alarms which are sounding, invalid assists, snake removals and lockouts (Yes, we still do lockouts (in emergency situations only); 18 of them for 2001.) were up; from 173 in 2001 to 248 in 2002, a **43% increase** over 2001.



FIRE RELATED CALLS

Fires are classified as Still Alarms*, First Alarms* or Second Alarms*; in order of increasing magnitude. Still Alarm dispatches (**53 in 2002**) are those that can be handled by one fire apparatus and its crew. Some examples: a trash container fire (dumpster), a car fire with no exposures, small grass fires, etc.

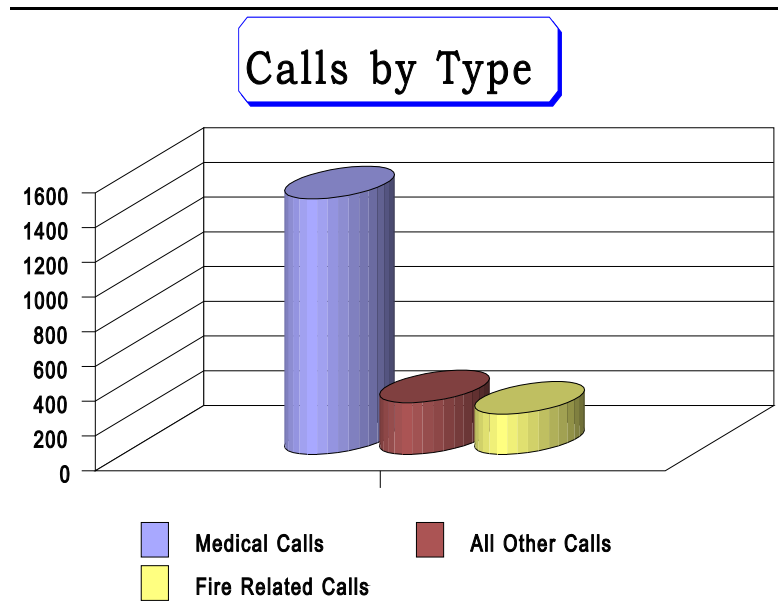
First Alarm* dispatches (**103 in 2002**) are responded to by all available PFD* units and at least one Diamond Star Fire District (DSFD) unit. (First Alarm dispatches **increased by 32%** in 2002.) Several of these were working structure fires* upon the arrival of the Department. Yet, of these 103 First Alarms, many of them had the potential to become a major fire incident. It was through the combined efforts of rapid reporting by citizens, timely responses by the Department and the knowledge of Department personnel who arrived on scene that these incidents were mitigated prior to becoming major fire incidents.

For an example: A homeowner notices that there is a “burning odor” inside their house. Knowing that the Fire Department has the experience and resources, a call is made to 9-1-1. Upon arrival personnel go to work to find the odor's source. One crew checks the attic while another evaluates the interior. The crews proceed with their tasks while the homeowner is being interviewed by an engine officer. Using the heat detector and the thermal imaging camera, the interior crew locates a hot spot in the ceiling. The attic crew enters and finds smoldering cellulose insulation; this due, perhaps, to being in contact with a woodstove pipe. The smoldering insulation is removed and the trusses are assessed to make sure that no wood is smoldering. Locating a fire at this stage of easy extinguishment probably saved the homeowner thousands of dollars of damage to their home. Perhaps it may even have saved their lives!

Professionalism and customer service.

A Second Alarm*, for which there were no dispatches in 2002, is a type of dispatch that is reserved for those incidents which are beyond the capability of the resources of the PFD* to manage. These incidents require additional apparatus or manpower, or both. When such an incident occurs, additional aid is requested from Diamond Star Fire District, Mesa Del Caballo Fire District and the Pine Strawberry Fire District.

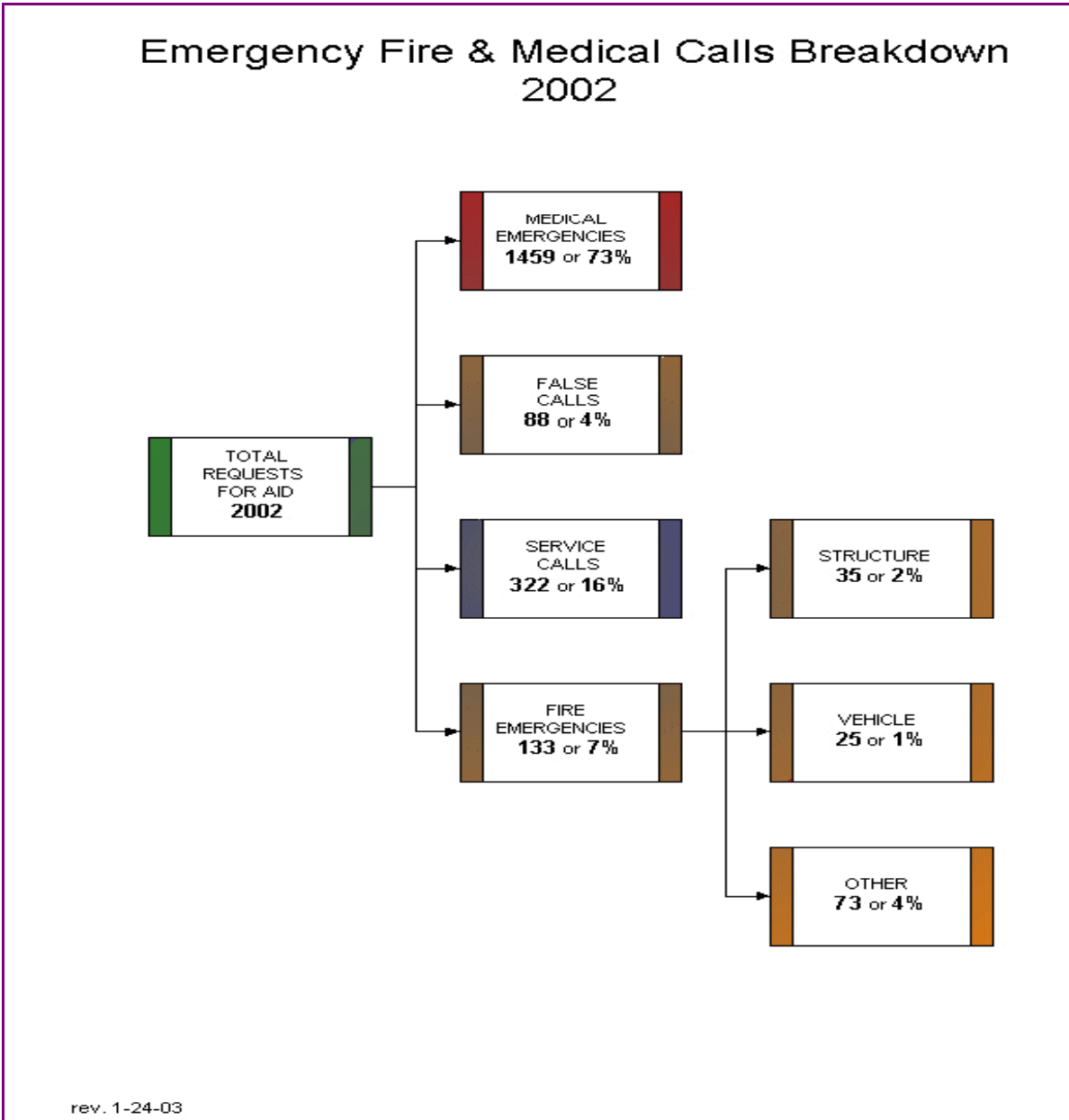
MEDICAL RELATED CALLS



Of the volume of calls that the Payson Fire Department (PFD) responds to, the greatest percentage continues to be in the medical category. This year 1,472 incidents, or **74% of the gross**, were of a medical nature. This percentage is still consistent with the national trend where

70-80% of calls are of a medical nature. Though the percentage of the gross is down by one point (75% in 2001), the total number of medical incidents was up by 115 (over 2001); this represents **an increase** in medical incidents **of 9%** from 2001. In the graph titled "*Calls by Type*" we can see how the volume of "medical calls" compares to that of the "all other calls" and the "fire calls" categories. In addition, the flow-chart on the next page gives a good visual representation of the breakdown of the types of calls requiring PFD* resources.

FLOWCHART: Breakdown of All Calls by Their Type



Medical calls are quite varied. We respond to such things as: abdominal pain (23); back pain (41); cardiac chest pain episodes (68); difficulty breathing (67); fall injuries (111); head injuries (39); seizures (58); weakness (13) (which could be cardiac related in the senior population); motor vehicle accidents (171); cardiac arrests (14) and more. Of the 14 patients found in cardiac arrest, five (5) of them survived to be transferred out of the emergency room.

Motor vehicle accidents are an excellent example of the benefits of having personnel cross-trained in both fire and pre-hospital* disciplines; 136 times the PFD* was dispatched to a motor vehicle accident; **a decrease of 18% from 2001**. While some of the personnel are plying their medical skills by treating the injured, others may be using extrication skills to free those who might be trapped. Still others may be standing by with a charged hose line in order to rapidly extinguish a fire that might occur as a result of sparking electrical equipment or hot engine parts igniting fuel.

In addition to the previously mentioned types of patients the PFD* continues to provide a medical service referred to as "citizen assist" (125 times); **an increase of 51%** compared to 2001. This service is provided to those who do not have any need for medical treatment yet are unable, without assistance, to accomplish their current need. Such a scenario might be a person returning home from the hospital and because of their condition they need help getting out of the car and into their home. Or perhaps they need help getting up off the floor after slipping out of their wheel chair or bed. Occasionally we are dispatched to "citizen assist" calls and we find a patient with a much more severe problem than was reported initially, one that does require medical treatment.

As an example: perhaps an elderly male has an ongoing problem with his balance and falls on occasion. Today the wife hears him fall in the shower. Alone, she is unable to get him

up because she is not strong enough. So this time when personnel arrive on the scene they recognize, due to their medical training, that the patient has had a stroke (the reason, this time, for his loss of balance and resulting fall) and needs to go to the hospital for medical assessment. In these instances the benefit of paramedic* cross-training of fire personnel is well justified.

SPECIAL DUTY CALLS

The second largest number of incidents goes under a category called Special Duty* (356); **an increase of 29%** from 2001. This one-unit call can be for any type of assistance which is not of a fire or medical nature. In this category we have such calls as: broken gas (LPG*) lines; check for smoke or odor of smoke in, around or outside a structure; assist with: flooding, snow removal or other weather related problems; check wires from a power pole which are now on the ground; assist the police with ladders or lighting; help citizens with smoke or carbon monoxide detectors which are sounding an alarm; snake removals; check for possible hazardous materials; etc.

CALLS OUTSIDE OF THE CORPORATE TOWN LIMITS

The Payson Fire Department responds outside of the corporate limits to render aid to other entities. Assistance to these other entities comes in four basic forms: Mutual Aid*, Contract Services*, Highway Calls* and Automatic Aid*. In 2002 the PFD* had only one "automatic aid" area, Diamond Star Fire District (DSFD). The PFD responds on the initial dispatch to assist the DSFD on all structural fire* alarms. The DSFD reciprocates by responding to all of Payson's structural fire alarms. The PFD responded to 12 calls in the DSFD this past year; **an increase of 50%** over 2001.

While neither department charges a fee for the exchange of services as discussed in the preceding paragraph, the PFD* does pay a fee to the DSFD. A contract exists between the PFD and the DSFD wherein the DSFD has agreed to be the “first in*” engine company* to the developments on the east side of Payson. In exchange for this contract money, the DSFD responds, staffed at the paramedic* level, to all one-unit calls in the Chaparral Pines and Rim Golf Club developments. This service reduces response times to these areas without the Town having to build and staff a new fire station on the east side of town. Between automatic aid* and contract services*, the PFD and DSFD function, operationally, as one department.

“Mutual Aid*” is a term used to identify service commitments (as opposed to obligations) between entities. The fire departments in Gila county have entered into an association called the Gila County Fire Chiefs Association (GCFCA). Part of the charter is an agreement, in principle, that the resources of member departments are available to any of the other departments when a need arises. The total of mutual aid* calls the PFD* responded to was 33; **an increase of 43%** over 2001.

In practical terms, if Whispering Pines Fire District (WPFD) (which has very few apparatus) experienced a structure fire* which they felt was beyond their resource capabilities to handle, they could request additional resources from any, or all, of the fire departments in the GCFCA*. This, in effect, increases the “size” of any of the departments many times above what their budgets could possibly afford. There are no fees charged or received between districts when providing or receiving these services. Also involved in the mutual aid* arena are the USFS* and the ASLD*; either of which may provide or request assistance to or from any of the departments in the GCFCA. The mutual aid category only comprises 2% of our call volume.

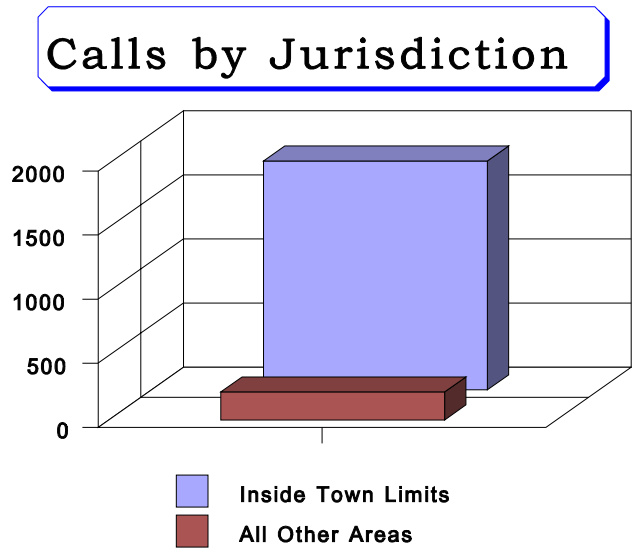
A “Contract Area*,” of which there were three (3) during 2001 (East Verde Park Fire

District (EVPFD), Round Valley Oxbow Fire District (RVOFD) and the Tonto Apache Reservation (TAR)), refers to an entity which has contracted the Payson Fire Department to provide all of its emergency medical and fire suppression services. In return for the provision of these services the PFD* collects an annual fee.

The PFD* responded to six (6) calls in the EVPFD (**exactly the same as** in 2001); 33 calls to the RVOFD (**an increase of 32%** from 2001); and 51 calls to the TAR (**an increase of 6%** from 2001). This adds up to a total contract area response of 90 calls; **an increase of 10%** from 2001. Contract services amounts to about 4% of our call volume. Total fees collected in 2002, from these contract service entities, along with dispatching service fees collected from DSFD, MDCFD and WPF, contributed approximately \$xxx,000 to the PFD's annual budget.

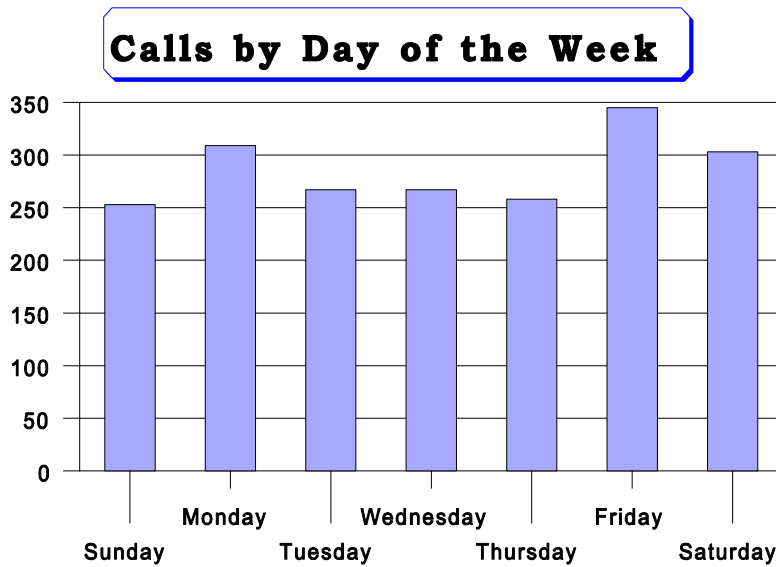
The last of the service categories provided outside of Payson is referred to as "highway calls*." The PFD* responds north on Highway 87 halfway to Pine and south on Highway 87 to Sunflower. This makes for approximately 38 miles of state highway coverage. (There is an additional four (4) miles of Highway 87 inside of the Payson Town limits.) Within this category, motor vehicle accidents are the most common responses. The total number of highway related calls responded to in 2002 was 91 (**down 5%** from 2001); 5% of our call volume.

The total of “out of jurisdictions calls” was 218. By looking at the graph titled “*Calls by Jurisdiction*” we can see that these 218 calls comprise a small part of our service; just 11% of our call volume; **a decrease of 1%** from 2001.

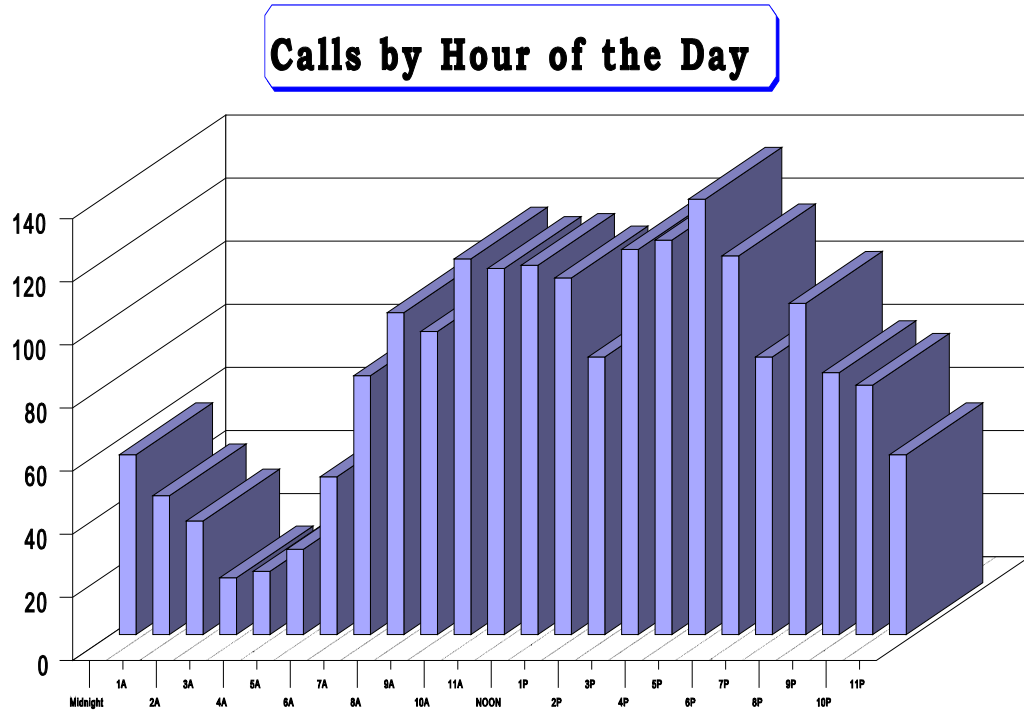


WHEN CALLS HAPPEN

So, when do all these calls happen? Looking at the graph, titled “*Calls by Day of the Week*,” we see that Friday was the busiest day with Monday and Saturday close behind.



In the graph below, "Calls by Hour of the Day," the first bar in the graph represents midnight. The low bar in the middle of the graph represents the hour of 2 PM.



RESPONSE TIMES

Response time is one tool for monitoring trends within the Town of Payson. For example: the increase or decrease in the number of calls; simultaneous calls in a response district*; or calls occurring farther from a fire station. The importance of maintaining an efficient response time is obvious, the sooner we can get to a fire or medical emergency the more effective our tactics are. This time is an average and it is only calculated for emergency calls and only those within the corporate town limits of Payson.

As a general rule, the busier an emergency response agency gets the greater their average response time. However, throughout all of this year's activity, the PFD* was able to maintain a very respectable response time. For the year of 2002 our average overall response time to an emergency call within the town limits was four (4) minutes and 0 seconds; an **increase** of 8 seconds over 2001's average. Though not a large amount of increase (3%) we must remember that 2002 saw **an increase of 11%** in overall call volume. (A historical reminder: In 2000 we were able to reduce overall response time by 34 seconds (to 3 minutes and 54 seconds) due to the addition of Station 12.)

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION MISSION STATEMENT:

“The Fire Prevention Division of the Payson Fire Department is dedicated to improving life safety and reducing the cost of fire loss to the citizens, visitors and the business community through public education, inspections, plan reviews, fire investigations and aid to the community.”

FIRE PREVENTION

The Fire Prevention Division consists of two positions (one full-time and one part-time), with Fire Marshal Jack E. Babb administering this division's responsibilities. (Early in the year, Fire Marshal Babb lost Fire Inspector Rick Winton as he was re-assigned to work in fire suppression.) Not only are fire inspections performed, along with the related plans reviewing, but this division also does fire investigations, coordinates public education and is involved with certain special events.

In order to meet his goals, Fire Marshal Babb must also utilize the on-shift* as well as POC* personnel. Battalion Chiefs* assist Fire Prevention by conducting access and driveway inspections and overseeing blasting operations. POC fire personnel assist in a variety of assignments-- from the flow testing and routine maintenance of fire hydrants to conducting public education.



Fire inspections are broken down into three categories: general, construction and miscellaneous. General inspections are conducted by either Fire Prevention personnel or on-shift* personnel. These are most commonly annual or return inspections.

Construction inspections include fire protection systems (sprinklers, for example), restaurant kitchen hood fire extinguishing systems, and final inspections. These inspections are handled by Fire Prevention personnel.

Miscellaneous inspections include such things as requests for burn permits or flammable material storage and are handled by either on-shift* or Fire Prevention personnel. Fire hydrant flow-testing is performed to check for adequate water output to combat fires with (280 hours in 2002). Complaints about grass and/or weed overgrowth are also dealt with. Fire Marshal Babb logged 1203 hours performing inspections in 2002.

PLAN REVIEWS

Jack's part-time helper is Plans Examiner "Woody" Harris. Woody is a retired plans examiner from the Phoenix Fire Department. Some of the items that Woody checks for include: fire protection systems and the adequacy of public entrance and exiting points. Such items can be over or under engineered or just plain forgotten. All of the items for which plans are reviewed are to make buildings safer for the public. These items are all identified in the currently adopted fire code requirements. Between code consultations and plan reviews, Jack and Woody logged 699 hours in 2002.

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

The Department responded to 22 structure fires* in 2002. Damage to various structures ranged from minimal to major. Structural fire dollar loss for the year 2002 was just short of \$194,000.

The table below shows loss trends for an eight year period.

YEAR	TOTAL FIRES	STRUCTURE FIRES	STRUCTURE FIRES AS % OF TOTAL	TOTAL LOSSES	STRUCTURE LOSSES	STRUCTURE LOSSES AS % OF TOTAL
1995	119	43	36.1 %	\$ 34,920	\$ 14,955	42.8 %
1996	95	34	35.8 %	\$ 99,500	\$ 90,750	91.2 %
1997	88	29	33.0 %	\$ 434,900	\$ 434,100	99.8 %
1998	83	29	34.9 %	\$ 79,650	\$ 78,050	98 %
1999	100	23	23.0 %	\$178,460	\$160,635	90 %
2000	180	56	31.1 %	\$251,750	\$127,750	51%
2001	78	19	24.4 %	\$402,425	\$399,625	99%
2002	120	22	18.3%	\$237,115	\$193,985	81.8%

The Department investigates all structure fires to determine cause and estimate dollar loss. A side benefit of investigations is that once this information has been collected and analyzed it is given back to the public in the form of methods to prevent fires in their homes and businesses. Fire Marshal Babb logged 104 hours investigating fires in 2002.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Public education is the least expensive method of preventing fires and injuries. “Adopt-A-School” is a safety education program geared towards third grade children. This program is taken to all three of Payson’s elementary schools along with the Special Needs class at the high school. The program covers such topics as fire safety, water safety, 9-1-1 and its proper use, and bicycle safety. (Other Topic Specific programs are available at the request of the contacting group.) And not to be left out, pre-schools, private schools and home based schools were



also able to take advantage the Department’s educational opportunities.



Station tours, where a group makes arrangements to come directly to one of our fire stations, accounts for the majority of our public visitors; which are mostly youngsters. Along with the station tour, a safety message is also shared. But the big draw remains the fire engines- for both child and adult!

Various groups often request that the Department provide a speaker for one of their regular get-togethers. The Department likes to take advantage of this type of public education opportunity and strives to be present. Such groups include, for example, the two Rotary Clubs, the Kiwanis and youth organizations such as the Boy Scouts.

The Public Service Announcement (PSA) is our means of getting information disseminated to the general public. When we need information released immediately, a press release is sent to KMOG radio station (perhaps there is an emergency in progress and the public, for their own safety, needs to stay away). When the need is not immediate, the Payson Roundup newspaper might run an article regarding a specific incident that occurred, such as a major fire.

The Payson Fire Department has safety information on a variety of subjects available to the public. This information is designed to help people help themselves (skills, knowledge, etc.). Such

information can range from smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to home fire extinguishers to holiday safety. We feel that such information helps the public to better protect themselves.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Special events held within the Town of Payson are many and occur throughout the year. For the Payson Fire Department, several of these events got more of our attention than the rest.

Independence Day in July brings a unique hazard to Payson – fireworks. Should the monsoon season decide not to begin until a later date, this

holiday often occurs during some of Payson’s very driest weather. Working with other Town departments, the Fire Prevention Division strives to assure a safe and enjoyable pyrotechnic display for all viewers. We not only provide spark and brand patrol for the fireworks display perimeter, we are also on hand to handle any medical emergencies (firework related or not) that might occur.

The American Cancer Society’s annual “Relay For Life” fund-raiser comes next. Here the Department aids by assisting with the logistics and safety; or however else we can be of service during the event. And in August there is the rodeo which brings a parade and a dramatic increase in tourists. During football season, we do our part for school spirit by providing medical standby during the home football games.

Last in the year is, of course, the holiday seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas. This is a time of year to reflect back and give thanks for not only what we received from our community but also what we were able to give to our community. During the Christmas season, our fire fighters often doubled as reindeer and sleigh to ensure Santa Claus was on time to his appointed rounds; regardless of the weather.

Even with the loss of Inspector Winton Fire Marshal Babb was able to provide the following hours to public education:

Adopt-A-School	48
Firefighter Training	15
Juvenile Firesetter	18
Special Events	32
Special Requests	9
for a total of	122 hours.

SUPPORT/REHAB UNIT

The Support/Rehab Unit is composed of citizens from the Payson area who volunteer to assist fire, medical, or law enforcement personnel working at the scene of long-duration incidents. Such services include arranging for and delivering meals to the scene and staffing an on-scene rehabilitation area (so personnel can take rest breaks, drink fluids and eat). Medical monitoring is also provided in the rehab area. This is to assure that personnel do not become over-stressed or dehydrated.

The Support/Rehab Unit consist of fifteen volunteer personnel. The Department's Administrative Secretary, Carol Longacre, who left the Department at the end of January 2003, served as the unit's coordinator during 2002. Included in this group are two EMT*s; with all members being CPR* certified.

Support/Rehab is considered to be an "area wide resource," and can be

requested to respond to any fire, medical, or law enforcement incident in northern Gila County. And, as such, Support/Rehab personnel can be "paged out" 24 hours a day.

A retired prisoner transport bus (a State Surplus vehicle) serves as the mobile Support/Rehab Unit. The inside was converted by fire fighters to include the necessary storage, counter top and seating areas. A generator, awning and other items, including a "porta potty," allow this mobile unit to be self sufficient.

Through fund-raising, grants from the Lutheran Brotherhood (Cactus Wren Branch 8437), the Thomas P. Waters Foundation and a donation from Wal-Mart, Support/Rehab was able to contribute nearly \$4,200 to the Department. This money is being used to fund a public outreach program. For 2002, the monies were used to purchase medic alert kits which are referred to as Guardian Angels.



These Guardian Angels are provided at no cost to Rim Country residents who are referred by an approved agency or who contact the Fire Department directly and demonstrate a need. Guardian Angels are installed as a community service project by members of the IAAF Local #4135 (Northern Gila County Fire Fighters Association). There is no monthly monitoring fee to users, since family and friends are on the phone chain if the unit is activated. We continue to accept donations for this program.

The volunteers in the Support/Rehab Unit are proud to serve the community through their association with the Payson Fire Department.

Amber
Bruce
Carol
Chris
Denise
Diane
Doug
Ev
Georgie
Jennifer
Judy
Kim
Lee Ann
Luann
Sandy

TRAINING IN 2002

OVERVIEW

Ongoing training is mandatory for the members of the Payson Fire Department. New fire fighting or medical equipment, along with new or updated techniques, requires that all personnel be trained in its use. New personnel must attend training classes to bring their operational knowledge up to par with the experienced members. And, of course, refresher training is always a good thing. Training objectives are accomplished in three basic ways, relying heavily on the in-house cadre of 14 State certified fire instructors..

First, at least twice each month, on Thursday nights, the Department conducts training from 7pm to 10pm for all personnel. These Thursday night training sessions focus primarily on department-wide education and multi-company operations. Occasionally a daytime training supplants a Thursday night, usually to take advantage of a special opportunity such as a structure donated for training purposes. We use donated structures to practice such skills as search and rescue, ventilation and fire extinguishment.

Second, each month full-time personnel receive, from the training officer, a new On-Shift Training Schedule. Included within the monthly training objectives are routine inspections of Payson businesses. This provides the opportunity for crews to familiarize themselves with the internal layout of commercial structures in their response districts* as well as the exact locations of these businesses. SCBA* training keeps personnel well acquainted with this vital piece of equipment. Monthly videos from the TOP safety committee reminds all to be diligent, as well as vigilant towards safety.

Third, there are special classes available to all personnel which are sponsored and conducted by outside agencies such as the Arizona State Fire Marshal's Office, Arizona State Lands Department, Payson Regional Medical Center, United States Forest Service or one of several private contractors. Though sponsored and conducted by outside agencies, often these classes are held at Fire Station 11 due to Payson's central location within the area and the availability of a large classroom facility. Combine the total hours for the three different training formats and they add up to more than 4,400 hours.

Maintaining the cost effectiveness of the training program is an important budgetary concern. This has to cover the costs of materials, registration fees, travel, instructional aids and props for any and all training classes. Also this year, four (4) members completed the arduous, and expensive, process of paramedic training and certification; with the cost for this expected to be recouped through a grant from the Arizona Department of Health Services. The Department has an annual training budget of \$21,500. This amount, divided among the Department's members, equates to an average annual expenditure per member of \$537.00.

The following listing shows the special training opportunities which PFD* personnel had the opportunity to attend in 2002. For the most part these classes were separate from regularly scheduled Thursday night training. In addition, it is not uncommon for personnel from other agencies to also attend these training sessions.

SPECIAL TRAINING EVENTS HELD IN PAYSON DURING 2002	
Month	Course
January	Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment (START)
January	Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) training
January	Paramedic class began at EAC (5 from the PFD)
February	Hydraulics course at EAC
February	Mass Casualty Incident drill at Frontier Elementary School
February	Intermediate Incident Command (I-200) course
February	Started Captain's Academy
March	Crew Boss
March	Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior
March	Wildland/Structure Protection Drill with the ASLD*
March	Airport and Aircraft Familiarization with the Payson Pilots Association
March	Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS*)
April	Basic Wildland Firefighter
April	Basic Air Operations (S-270)
April	Vehicle Extrication
May	Propane Safety Training with Energy West
May	Live Vehicle-fire Training

June	Wildland initial-attack drill with the USFS*
June	Rope Rescue Training.
August	Driver training
August	ALS* skills lab at PRMC
September	State Fire School in Mesa
September	Multi-company drill at the Hopi House
November	Paramedic refresher training
November	Initiated fire-based training for Dispatchers
December	Portable Pumps course (S-211)
December	Incident Command & Tactics course
December	Four members completed process for paramedic certification

CPR & ACLS COMMUNITY TRAINING CENTER

The Payson Fire Department, under the oversight of the American Heart Association (AHA), serves as the region's training center for CPR* and ACLS*. This means that, in addition to training our own personnel, the Department is responsible for: training instructors in CPR and ACLS, as well as monitoring those instructors; coordinating classes area wide (This "Area" includes Pine/Strawberry to the north, Christopher Creek to the east, as far south as Tonto Basin, as well as the greater Payson area.); maintaining an inventory of CPR manikins, instructional videos and informational handouts; compiling the data on the various classes taught; and forwarding this information to the AHA.

WILDLAND

OVERVIEW

The 2002 Wildland fire season for Payson Fire Department started in March and ended in September. This long fire season was due to the prolonged drought affecting the entire Southwest United States. Nationally there were 71,160 large (>100 acres) wildland fires reported this year with 7,112,733 acres burned. This is the third highest year since 1960. In Arizona we had 2,860 large wildland fires reported



with 650,466 acres burned, this set an all time record for Arizona.

The Rodeo-Chedaski fire on the rim set a record for the size of a fire in Arizona by burning 467,066 acres of the nearby Rim Country. As large as this was, it did not set the record for the year. This dubious honor goes to the Biscuit fire in southern Oregon; 499,965 acres. The Payson Fire Department supplied personnel for both of these record setting fires.

The Payson Fire Department currently has 20 personnel qualified as Wildland firefighters and/or supervisors. The fire department also hired two seasonal firefighters on a part time basis.

The fire department utilized three Wildland type fire engines along with a water tender and structural fire engines on these fires in Payson, surrounding areas and the Southwest United States.

INTER-AGENCY FIREFIGHTING AGREEMENTS

The potential wildfire problem in the local area is larger than the fire department, or any of the surrounding fire departments, can handle on a local or regional basis. Due to the large amount of equipment and personnel required for fighting a wildland fire the Payson Fire Department currently has two agreements in place.

The Northern Gila County mutual aid agreement is in place between all of the fire departments in Northern Gila County. This agreement is that any local jurisdiction may call on another for firefighting resources when they are overwhelmed by either a wildland fire, structural fire or other disaster.

The Payson Fire Department also has an agreement in place with the Arizona State Lands Department. This formal agreement says that, if we have a fire locally that will utilize all available equipment or firefighters, we may call in other firefighters and equipment from anywhere in Arizona; or on a larger scale anywhere in the United States. The other side of this agreement is that if the Payson Fire Department's equipment or firefighters are needed outside the local area, they may be requested for use anywhere in Arizona; or the United States. The State of Arizona or a federal agency funds this program depending on the area.

WILDLAND FIRES

Payson:

In the Payson area, during the 2002 fire season, the Payson Fire Department responded to a total of 16 small Brush/Wildland fires. Fifteen of these were in Payson. One fire was along South State Route 87.



Rim Country:



On a larger scale the fire department responded to eight fires in and around the Rim Country. These ranged from the Rodeo-Chedaski fire on the rim, the Pack-Rat fire above Washington Park to several smaller fires under the rim.

Statewide:

Statewide, the Payson Fire Department responded to eight large fires under the State Lands agreement. The locations of these fires ranged from the Mexican border to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.



Nationally:



On a national scale, the fire department responded personnel and equipment to five fires around the country. We helped with fires in New Mexico, Utah, and Oregon. The fire in Oregon being the largest in the United States at 499,965 acres. This fire burned for 120 days and utilized more than 7,000 firefighters from around the United States.

WILDLAND BUDGETING

The Wildland program is one of the few programs utilized by the Town of Payson that brings State and Federal funds into the local community each year, while protecting our Town and surrounding areas from devastating Wildland fires.

During the calendar year of 2002 the total federal and state funds brought into the local economy from this firefighting program totaled nearly \$156,000!

This breaks down to \$\$85,560.30 paid to Town of Payson firefighters for wildfire coverage. The federal agency requesting equipment and firefighters pay both the overtime for the firefighter and also the overtime portion of a firefighter to cover in Payson. This outside money is a direct benefit to the Town of Payson employee and the local economy and helps the fire department recruit firefighters to increase the level of service locally.

The Town of Payson also leases to the state and federal government the equipment that these firefighters use. The total amount received back into the town from this during 2002 was \$70,388.65. This is a direct benefit back to the Town of Payson and allows the fire department to update and purchase equipment that is used for local fires. These funds also go toward training to improve the capabilities of the fire department in suppressing wildland fires.

SEVERITY PATROL PROGRAM

During the 2002 wildland fire season the State of Arizona declared extreme fire danger for the Payson area. The State funded a program for Wildland fire protection in the Payson area. This entailed three of the local fire departments (Payson, Diamond Star, Pine Strawberry) patrolling the local forest area below the Mogollon Rim on a daily basis.

This patrol is responsible for manning roadblocks, patrolling campgrounds and the forest area, and initial attack on any Wildland fires in the patrol area.

This year the Payson Fire Department patrolled the forest area for eleven days during the times of the highest fire danger. During this time our personnel's timely response directly resulted in keeping several small wildland fires from becoming major incidents. The Town of Payson received from the State a total of \$3,272.88 for this duty. Of this \$1,652.01 was paid out to the firefighters patrolling, the remained of \$1,620.87 was paid back to the town for use of its wildland engine.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Federal Monies Received for Wildland Fires:		\$155,948.95
State Monies Received for Severity Patrol:	+	\$ 3,272.88
Total Outside Monies Received:		\$159,221.83
Wages paid to personnel	-	\$87,212.31
Net Profit paid to the Town of Payson:		<i>\$72,009.52</i>

