

Eagar Fire Department

Annual Report 2022

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to outline the Call Volume, progress on Eagar Fire's ability to respond to EMS emergencies and calls, improvements to our Reports systems, training plan and goals, and the progress we've made in Shared Services with Springerville Fire Department since I started as Chief of Eagar Fire Department on September 21st 2022.

Calls

Since September 21, 2022 Eagar Fire Department responded to multiple emergencies including three structure fires. Crews were able to make interior fire attacks on all 3 structures, leaving parts of all three buildings with salvageable items.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

The need for Eagar Fire Department (EFD) to begin responding to medical calls was identified as a top priority in 2022. Since September of 2022, we have implemented the processes necessary to allow the Department to respond to medical calls. Before that time, neither Eagar Fire Department or Springerville Fire Department had Medical Direction. This meant that any of the First Responders, EMTs, or Paramedics working for our two agencies were not able to function in these roles, as state law dictates that they be overseen by a Medical Director to perform any medical assistance. We reached out to Summit Healthcare and Associates to obtain Medical Direction Services. On November 11, 2022 we were approved by the Eagar Mayor and Council to enter into a Basic Life Support (BLS) contract for Medical Direction.

Since obtaining a Medical Direction Contract, Eagar Fire Department has assisted on multiple EMS calls with White Mountain Ambulance Service (WMAS). We are now capable of performing all skills covered in an EMT scope of practice. EFD has purchased enough medical equipment to stock two trucks for BLS calls. We currently have three paramedics and two EMTs.

A contract with Bound Tree Medical Supply was created with EFD, and now that we have Medical Direction, we are able to order other medical equipment and drugs for use on EMS calls. EFD was able to get our contract with Bound Tree Medical at Phoenix Fire pricing, which reduced the costs of our supplies by over one-third of the cost we would have obtained on our own.

Reporting

Prior to September 2022, EFD was compiling reports and all other paperwork with a pen and paper reporting system. We were able to join with Timber Mesa Fire and Medical's ImageTrend account. Doing this allowed us to save thousands of dollars and have all of the add-ons for a much lower price. After implementing the ImageTrend system, we can now turn in National Fire Incident Reporting System

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(NFIRS) compliant fire reports. We also established an AZ-NFIRS account that gives us the ability to send our electronic patient care reports from our EMS calls to the state. This type of reporting allows the reports to be immediately available to the hospitals and also to be used for research and quality control. In addition, truck checks are now completed and saved in this system.

Our future plans are to also utilize the ImageTrend system to test and log all hydrants in Springerville and Eagar. This system also will allow us to complete mobile inspections on business properties and also offers an online burn permit system.

A system called E-Dispatch was already in place with EFD, but it was not being utilized by the Department. This system is shared by Eagar, Springerville, WMAS, Greer and Alpine. After making the use of E-Dispatch mandatory for EFD members, we can now see who is available or unavailable for calls. The app for E-Dispatch sends dispatch information to each member's phone and gives them the option to select if they are responding to the scene, station or if they are unable to respond. This information is critical to EFD Officers, as it provides them with the information needed to quickly determine if more resources are required for a particular emergency.

Training

The Town of Eagar is currently paying for two Department members to attend Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training through Northland Pioneer College. We have two other members who are currently going through a Paramedic program with Timber Mesa Fire and Medical.

We have a Wildland 130/190 class scheduled for the end of February 2023. This class will be for all Department members and the class will be hosted in-house. No cost will be incurred for this training. After getting all members Wildland certified, the town will be able to be reimbursed when our crews/trucks are on grassfires around town. Without certified personnel on the trucks, the town would not be eligible for any reimbursement.

After our most recent structure fire, the need for a Fire Investigator was identified. Timber Mesa Fire and Medical is conducting an online course for Fire Investigators at a cost of \$500. We plan to send two members through the course. After the members complete the course, we will have two certified investigators to service the Round Valley area.

Our goal is to expand and continue our training in every area that makes sense for the department in the year to come. We have plans to have myself and other members that are certified to instruct, teach an in-house Fire I & II course to all members that still need this certification.

Shared Service

Eagar and Springerville Fire Departments began planning to merge their services in the late fall. We took preemptive steps and have worked diligently to make the merger as collaborative and straightforward as possible. We integrated our trainings and talked and collaborated on our purchases/department needs. Grant efforts were coordinated to ensure that our efforts were not duplicated. Both

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Departments were made aware of our plans to explore merging services, and as a result of that transparency and collaboration, we were able to secure almost 100% buy-in and support from our members. I feel this was imperative to a smooth transition to Round Valley Fire and Medical Department (RVFD).

One week after the Eagar and Springerville Councils voted in favor of the Shared Service IGA, Round Valley Fire and Medical Department is officially re-organized by NFIRS and AZ-NFIRS.

Conclusion

I would like to thank the Mayor and Council for voting to approve the IGA with the Town of Springerville. This agreement and merger of services is something that both Eagar Fire Department and Springerville Fire Department needed to have happen to grow and improve the service we can offer the Round Valley community. Together, we will be better. We will be able to eliminate the waste of funds and resources due to duplicated equipment and fire apparatus. We will have more members available to respond to emergencies within the community. The combining of resources and personnel will give us our critical first step and the opportunity to become a professional Fire and Medical Department.

Thank you,

Levi Penrod

Fire Chief – Round Valley Fire and Medical Department