

HILDALE - COLORADO CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

October 31, 2023

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS: Kevin attended the Rural EMS Directors meeting in Heber City on September 25 and 26. There are several changes being made at the state level of EMS, including moving the Office of EMS from the Department of Health and Human Services into the Department of Public Safety. It is important for us to be aware of the impacts it may have on our services.

Kevin attended the Washington County meetings on October 12, including the EMS Council, Fire Chief's Association and the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

A meeting of the Utah CISM Executive Board was held in Salt Lake City on October 13. Kevin attended in person.

The Hildale City Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Apple Valley as part of their application to the Utah Office of EMS to become a designated Quick Response Unit. Our permission is required because Hildale holds the license for ambulance transport in their area. We met with Chief Gross to coordinate how his crews will be dispatched to all EMS calls within their response area. We will continue to respond as we have done, but it will put providers on scene a few minutes sooner. We have assisted them with a few of our surplus EMS bags.

Kevin attended the October meeting of the Mohave County Fire Officers Association in Mohave Valley on October 26.

Due to ambulance revenue reduction and the need to cut budget expenditures, the Fire Marshal position was discontinued until funds are available. Jesse Barlow, who had been a half-time Fire Marshal was appointed to fill the full-time Volunteer Coordinator position that is funded by the SAFER grant. This was effective October 8, at the beginning of a new pay period. Fire Marshal duties will be covered by staff.

Porter attended a Traffic Incident Management Coalition meeting in St. George.

In September Washington County invited all public agencies to help them liquidate surplus furniture at the old justice court building on St. George Boulevard prior to them remodeling the building. Several nice chairs and tables and a desk were picked up for use by the Hildale Fire Department.

TRAINING REPORT: The October ALS Inservice included a safety message, communications message and 12 Lead ECG review. The IHC Life Flight helicopter crew based in St. George flew in and provided training on trauma topics. They also gave both the members and the new MCC EMT class tours of their helicopter and the equipment they carry.

Fire training included Firefighter Survival and drills on Smoke Inhalation patients.

Special Operations training was a trench rescue drill. An open trench in one of the subdivisions was used for realistic training.

The UFRA Apparatus Driver-Operator course finished. Testing will be in October.

An MCC EMT class is underway, with several possible candidates for our help included.

On October 5, Kevin and Dan S. were invited to be exercise evaluators for a major hazardous materials drill in downtown Kingman. The drill was a simulated train derailment that put a gas cloud over downtown and shut down both the Kingman and Mohave County dispatch centers. The hazmat teams from Northern Arizona FD, Lake Havasu City FD, and Golden Valley FD were also on scene. State DPS and ADEQ were involved.

A planning meeting was held to outline a Recruit Academy in 2024 for the new recruits. There was discussion on the process for recruiting and selecting recruits under the SAFER grant. It was decided that we would sponsor at least 10 candidates (8 under the grant) and allow up to 4 additional trainees from other agencies.

MAINTENANCE REPORT: The mechanic truck has been out of service for several weeks waiting for repairs. Several units in the fleet have received services based on time or mileage.

Radios have been installed in several of the support apparatus, including the TRT truck (SU1031), Squad 1031, and Ambulance 112. The 800 mhz side of the dual band radios are not yet programmed, awaiting capacity on the Utah radio system.

Hildale City approved the lease purchase contract with REV Financial for the new ambulance. Though the lease is under their name, as it is a Utah ambulance, we will be responsible for the payments over the five year contract. There is still no final delivery date set.

FIRE PREVENTION: 79 community students attended CPR/AED courses in September. 37 students were from one construction company. We try to incorporate the “Stop-the-Bleed” program into our classes.

October is typically the month with the most effort for fire prevention, with Fire Prevention Week being the second week of October. On Tuesday, we had a good day of our personnel supporting a community-wide effort. We went to five large schools with apparatus and crews and met their students as they came outside in response to a school fire drill. With a loudspeaker system, a brief fire safety message was given and the apparatus left in a “blaze of glory”. Over 1,200 students were contacted.

In the late afternoon, our annual Fire Prevention Drive wound its way through Hildale, Colorado City, and Centennial Park.

Fire Prevention activity during September includes:

- Fire & Life Safety Educator Training
- 3 Commercial Fire Inspections & Sprinkler System Tests
- 4 Plan Reviews
- Set up FD Facebook account for public education

While crews were gathered for the Fire Prevention activities, group photos were taken at Maxwell Park. We have been invited by the Utah Fire & Rescue Academy to be their *Straight Tip* winter edition fire department highlight. The photos will be available for that article.

OTHER: We have been on standby at several high school football games. Ambulances have been used for two community trunk-or-treat events. We have worked with the Creek Valley Clinic as their vehicle at the Cottonwood Park.

At 08:00 am on October 26, the IHC Hurricane Emergency Department opened for business. Many crew members have attended their open houses over the past few weeks. The majority of our patients will be transported there, with specific types of illnesses or injuries bypassing directly to St. George. There will be a significant drop in transport revenue due to the reduced mileage fees, but it will also get the units back in service sooner.

On Sunday, October 29, during a wind event, there was a large brush fire in Leeds that drew resources from several communities. Hildale FD moved an engine, brush truck, and ambulance up to cover calls in Hurricane. Our units responded to four calls during the standby.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Kevin J. Barlow, Chief



10/24/23 – Two patient ATV crash south of the South Reservoir.

10/10/23 – Group photo.

