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Clarkdale Fire District

Press Release

Clarkdale Fire District One Step Closer To Goal

Three new firefighters hired with assistance of federal funding.

Clarkdale, AZ March 9, 2009: Three new firefighters have been hired by the District thanks in part to funding from a SAFER Grant. With this hiring there will now be three personnel, including a paramedic, on every shift. The new firefighters will start on shifts beginning March 19th.



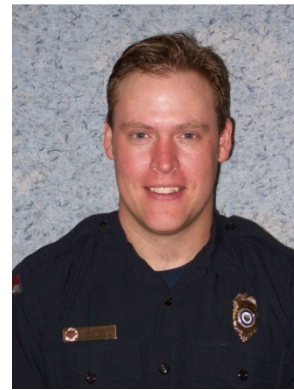
Bradley Johnson
Firefighter/EMT

Brad is passionate about helping others; a trait which has led him into the fire service. He graduated the fire academy in the top ten of his class and was hired by the District in July, 2008 as a Reserve Firefighter/EMT. Brad joined the Army National Guard Reserves in 2006 and currently serves as a Combat Medic.



Steve Trautman
Firefighter/Paramedic

Steve brings extensive medical experience to the District. He has been a Paramedic for 10 years and is a certified EMT and Paramedic instructor. Steve started his career in the New York area and was a first responder during the World Trade Center attacks. Steve is a decorated 12-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps where he obtained the rank of Sergeant.



Mike McClellan
Firefighter/EMT

Mike has a strong commitment to serving the community. Since becoming a firefighter he knew Clarkdale is where he wanted to serve. Mike is a volunteer with the Jerome Fire Department where he has earned the rank of Engineer. He also serves as a mentor for the current fire academy class.

For Immediate Release

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FEMA's SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant was created to provide funding directly to fire departments in order to help them increase the number of trained, "front-line" firefighters available in their communities.

The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) and OSHA. Specifically, SAFER funds assist local fire departments to increase their staffing and deployment capabilities in order to respond to emergencies whenever they may occur. As a result of the enhanced staffing, the District is closer to the OSHA standard of four trained personnel on a first-out engine. Ultimately, this means faster, safer and more efficient incident scenes can be established and the community will have greater protection from fire and fire-related hazards.

The SAFER grant provides partial funding for the salary and benefits for new firefighters over a four-year period. Each year the grant funding decreases and by year five the District must be able to fully fund the positions on its own.

Before accepting the grant (applied for in 2007), the Board of Directors carefully considered the financial impact on the District in light of the current economy. Board Chairman Jim Elmer stated that "The Board previously identified the addition of manpower and the replacement of our first-out engine as key elements of our goal to provide quality service to the community and to improve firefighter safety. This grant, in conjunction with the continued use of a quality reserve program, gives us the opportunity to fill one of these needs".

Note: The District has unsuccessfully applied for a grant every year for the past three years to replace its 20 year old first-out engine. The District will continue to be diligent in seeking grant funding, however financing an engine may need to be considered in the future.

The Fire Station (#21) has three bedrooms, therefore with the addition of the new firefighters we will be at capacity in this facility.