

Buckskin Fire receives \$2.6M grant to help response, staff

The Buckskin Fire Department was awarded more than \$2.6 million to help maintain or increase firefighters, and comply with national standards.

The department was awarded the \$2,648,852 by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant on Aug. 28. BFD Chief Chris Chambers said that it is a competitive grant, in a news release.

The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire department's abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by the National Fire Protection Association.

The SAFER grants was created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to help them increase or maintain the number of trained, "front line" firefighters available in their communities.

This grant will cover the wages and benefits to fill 14 trained and certified firefighter positions to comprise the adequate staffing of four responding firefighters from each station.

Chambers thanks Barb Madison for her work writing the grant application.

Buckskin Fire has two stations: Station 11 is located at 8500 Riverside Drive and Station 211 is located at 3350 Parker Dam Road, Parker.

The benefits of this grant are immeasurable to personnel and community. BFD will for the first time meet NFPA regulation for staffing of fire engines.

Buckskin Fire also responds to medical emergencies, boat assistance, vehicle accidents and Haz Mat response. The department has dive and rescue teams and is prepared for search and rescue aid.

According to the press release, "More personnel equals better service to our community. The increased staff will also have a decisive advantage during fires, enabling first responders to perform diverse rescue and fire suppression operations in a safer manner. The ability to produce more work in less time will equal greater life safety and property conservation. Emergency services are time sensitive and workload intensive. Buckskin Fire Department is thoroughly excited for the future of this community. Taking steps for a SAFER community."

The Buckskin Fire District is located north of Parker, Ariz. and is 15-miles long and covers over 32 square miles.32 square miles.