



FRIENDS OF ORACLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Firewise News



News from your local Fire Department and the community . . .

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The Oracle Fire Department – serving Oracle for 40 years!



Starting in 2005, after seeing the need for more involvement in our community due to the increased risk of fire, The Oracle Firewise Board was started in March by a group of volunteers. They created the Firewise Community Program designed to include homeowners, planners and developers, state land and national forest service personnel. The goal of this program is to educate community members on how to protect people and property from the risk of wildfires before fire starts. As a result of this effort and with the assistance of the UA Cooperative Extension, we were declared a nationally-recognized firewise community from Firewise Communities USA.

What has been done since March 2005?

- Two grants have provided much-needed support to the Oracle Fire Department.
- Two “Firewise Days” in Oracle were held on May 7 and Dec. 4, 2005 that created liaisons among neighboring agencies such as the Arizona State Land Department, Coronado National Forest, and the UA Cooperative Ext.
- The Oracle fire station was expanded to accommodate new and improved firefighting equipment and vehicles.
- The OFD offers a site near the entrance to Oracle for Oracle residents to bring natural vegetation (brush, cactus, leaves, and grass) for safe burning. (Garbage and lumber products are not included.) Oracle residents may use the site by checking out the key between 7am- 5pm any day.
- The new Heli Spot, located near the Courthouse was dedicated in May of 2006.
- The Department of Corrections of Picacho Prison deployed a work detail of 15 low-security inmates to assist the OFD by trimming ladder fuels in Oracle.
- Firewise Neighborhood Meetings were started. The first one was at the Opinsky’s home in August 2006. At these meetings, neighbors discuss local firewise problems and identify fuel reductions. OFD provides educational material and answers questions.

ORACLE KID’S SAFETY HOUSE



The new Oracle Kid’s Safety House is here! It has been provided by a grant from FEMA. It will be used at local schools to teach fire prevention and safety. The Safety House will also be used to educate the elderly and disabled of Oracle.



Features of the Safety House include:

- Kitchen with simulated appliances
- Living room with artificial fireplace
- Bedroom with heated door and escape ladder
- Control room for simulating emergency scenarios
- Artificial smoke which can be ducted into each room
- 911 telephone system
- Manually controlled smoke alarms
- Decorated with safety/ hazard props and safety posters
- Audio/ video fire prevention training



The graphics on the House are illustrated and designed by Kate Horton and will be showing up soon. We hope it will create a southwest look and be a unique addition to the Fire Dept.’s educational program.



Our first “stop” will be at the Calabazas Fiesta at Oracle State Park.

The Oracle Emergency Communication Committee (OECC) . . .

The Oracle Fire Dept., with the assistance of Kate Horton, Vivien Mayer and Evaline Auerbach, formed the "Oracle Emergency Communication Committee," (OECC). This phone tree program consists of forming a database of email addresses and phone numbers. The primary use is to pre-alert local residents of potential or actual emergency situations. A secondary use is for informational messages, such as Red Flag Warning Days and storm warnings. OECC has also formed other committees that will specialize in outreach, animal rescue, and guides to assist the fire dept. in emergencies. For information on how to be included on the list or for more details on any topic listed here, contact Larry Southard at OFD at 896-2980.

Our new website has been developed by Kate Horton which can be utilized by Oracle residents to get the latest update on fires and emergency evacuation information and general information on the Fire Dept. The website may be used instead of calling OFD when firefighters are busy fighting fires. check it out at:

www.oraclefire.org

Friends of OFD is a group of volunteers that support the Fire Dept. by assisting in non-firefighting services. If you are interested in volunteering with Friends, contact Larry Southard at 896-2980.



FRIENDS of Oracle Fire Dept.

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Tasks of the OFD . . .

Our fire fighters do many things as shown here. Some of which are:

- taking care of the brush dump
- continually updating the Heli Spot
- clearing land near historic landmarks
- fire danger status
- enjoying their new kitchen
- snake removal
- new equipment such as pet respirators