



FRIENDS OF ORACLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Firewise News



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

VOLUME III / ISSUE NO. 1

SUMMER 2008

BRUSH DISPOSAL SITE

The Oracle Fire Department Brush Disposal site is located west of Calle Valencia, left of American Ave, just before the Oracle entrance. This is a courtesy program, open to Oracle residents only, to take branches, leaves, and other brush from your property. You may not dump cactus, lumber, or garbage. The fee is \$3 per load and hours are 7am-5pm everyday. Stop by OFD to pick up a key to the site.



COMMUNITY MAPPING

The Oracle Firewise Board and CERT team have prepared evacuation and notification maps for the town which are divided into zones. The maps are color-coded and utilize the same zones prepared by the sheriff's dept. The maps have been provided to all CERT members, fire dept. vehicles, and the main fire station.

CERT TEAM (Community Emergency Response Team)

In 2007, a group of Oracle residents completed training in various aspects of emergency assistance. This group continues to train and take ongoing classes such as radio communication, community mapping, and the auto dialer. They are there to assist OFD in case of an emergency in a non-hazardous capacity.

FIRE EXPLORERS

Another support group to the Fire Dept. is the Fire Explorers. During the mid 70s, OFD started a "Junior Firefighter" division. The Junior Firefighters range in age from 14 to 18 years. In 2003, the Junior Firefighters joined a national group of Fire Explorers through the "Learning for Life" program. OFD was the first in Arizona to have such a program. They recently received a grant from the Pinal County Attorney's office for new helmets.



CLASSES

Ongoing training for Fire Dept. staff, CERT, Firewise Board members, and Junior Explorers has continued since 2007. The Wildland Fire Basic class was completed prior to Dec. 2007. Sixteen people participated and completed the course work involving both classroom and practical application activities in an intensive program. A basic EMT class and a

First Responder class have also been completed. A swift water rescue class is planned for late 2008 for firefighters, Explorers, and CERT members.

WILDLIFE WARNINGS

'Tis the season for snakes, of course. Be aware of your surroundings and step carefully. If you want to remove a snake, OFD will attempt to relocate it for you. Please keep an eye on its location until they arrive without putting yourself in danger. We have had a lot of rabies cases in our area. Rabies is found mainly in wild animals such as bats, skunks, foxes, raccoons, bobcats and coyotes. Unvaccinated cats, dogs and livestock can become infected if they are in contact with rabid wild animals. Avoid touching, handling or adopting wild or stray animals. If you suspect an animal is rabid or have a dead wild animal on your property, be sure not to touch it or your pet after contact, and call Pinal County Animal Control at (888) 431-1311. For more information go to the AZ Dept. of Health website at www.azdhs.gov/

GETTING FIREWISE

There are several ways to get rid of fire fuels: the Brush Disposal site, the local landfill, the DOC crews, or meet with neighbors to make your neighborhood area safer. Arizona State Land provides DOC crews to assist homeowners in removing fuels from their property for a fee. There is a waiting list. They also help make community-related breaks such as the latest area surrounding the Brush Disposal site. Contact OFD for more information or to sign up.



FIRE STATUS THIS SUMMER

Even though we had a recent break with some rain, we need to remain vigilant for fire danger this summer. Recent local fires are just an indication of how fast something can happen.

THE AUTO-DIALER/ Phone Tree is a system OFD is prepared to use to contact Oracle residents in case of various types of emergencies. It has proven to be highly successful in other communities. If your 896 landline is new since January 2008, please complete the form on the backside of this newsletter if you wish to be included in the system. If you want your cell phone included, you can use this form as well.

SPECIAL NEEDS RESIDENTS

Residents with special needs or limited mobility have several helpful options available to them in Oracle for general assistance or in an emergency: Telephone Reassurance, Home Alone Kits and Pendants, and the Cell Phone Program. If you would like to find out more about these programs, please call Karen Lombardi at 896-9470 or fill out the form to the right and mail to OFD.



If you anticipate special needs during an evacuation, please fill out this information, mail to OFD, and we will contact you OR you may contact Karen Lombardi at 896-9470. All information is strictly confidential.

Name _____

Mail Address _____

Physical Address _____

Phone _____

Emergency Needs _____



FRIENDS of Oracle Fire Dept.
 1475 American Ave.
 Oracle, AZ 85623

Friends of OFD is a group of volunteers that support the Oracle Fire Dept. by assisting in non-firefighting services.



**CURRENT RESIDENT
 BOX HOLDER
 ORACLE, AZ 85623**

Greetings from Oracle Fire Department – serving you since 1966!



We are proud of how far the Oracle Fire Department has come and appreciate the support that you have given us. Shown here is Fire Station One with just some of our equipment.

You are receiving this newsletter thanks to a grant from the Arizona State Forester's office. We hope that we can reach those that are not always aware of what OFD does and inform you of what is going on and coming up. More information is available at our website at:



www.oraclefire.org

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Hopefully you have all seen our new marquee, fire hydrant, and lighted flag at the station. In addition to our fire fighting efforts and training personnel, we have been busy with events throughout the year.

Here are just some of the events this year; hopefully, we will continue them annually:

- Thanksgiving Dinner
- BBQ and Car Wash
- Santa's visit for kids
- Halloween Party for kids
- Kid's Tours of the Station



Arizona Daily Star



Oracle firefighter Cheryl Primero sprays smoldering hot spots at a brush fire along State Route 77 at milepost 100 this past spring.

Congratulations to Chief Albert Ortiz and Assistant Chief Will Ramsey for 20 years of service each to the Fire Dept.



Albert Ortiz Will Ramsey

GETTING ON THE AUTO-DIALER WITH YOUR NEW OR ALTERNATE NUMBERS:

If we do not have it already and you want your *new landline number* (new since January 2008), *work number*, and/or *cell phone number* programmed in the **Auto Dialer System**, you will need to provide a *written request* to the Oracle Fire Department. Fire department personnel will not accept verbal requests. Fill in the form below and you can fax it to 896-2749, or mail to POB 977, Oracle, AZ 85623, or drop it off to the Oracle Fire Department at 1475 W. American Avenue.

Yes, I wish this information to be given to the Oracle Fire Dept. for use in the Auto Dialer System in case of emergency. I understand that this information is kept strictly confidential.

Name (please print) _____
 Address (mailing) _____ Physical Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Tel (home) _____ Work _____ Cell _____
 Signature _____ Date _____