

FIRE CHIEF JENNINGS SELECTED AS GRAND MARSHAL FOR OAKS FEST NEXT YEAR!

Steve Chavez and Laura Stiltner of the Oracle Community Center attended the Oracle Firewise meeting on Tuesday, June 9th, to announce that Fire Chief Robert Jennings had been selected as the Grand Marshal for the 2027 Oaks Festival, which will take place on April 10, 2027. Mark your calendars! 2026 has been a year of recognition for Chief Jennings who was also chosen from multiple nominations as the 2026 Southwest Wildland Firefighter of the Year by the Arizona Wildfire and Incident Management Academy (AWIMA).



According to T.C. Brown, of the San Manuel Miner, Chief Jennings was praised for his foresight and planning prior to incidents in the Oracle area. AWIMA Incident Commander Lathe Evans explained the many facets of preparation overseen and planned by Chief Jennings that made the firefighting process of recent fires in that area easier for all agencies and departments involved. The Chief's personal response to the 2025 Cedar and Cody Fires was a large part of the story.

Additionally, Chief Jennings was requested to attend the 2026 Wildland Fire Outlook Briefing and Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management Dispatch Center Ribbon cutting, attended by Governor Katie Hobbs. This is an honor bestowed upon one Fire Chief, selected from the entire State of Arizona, each year.

Earlier in the year, District 4 Pinal County Supervisor Jeff McClure attended the Oracle Fire District Board meeting on January 20th, 2026 to personally present the 2025 Civic Engagement Award to Chief Jennings for "making a positive difference in the community". Supervisor McClure stated that Chief Jennings has dedicated many years of commitment to the Oracle Fire District and the Oracle community. He was instrumental in communicating with the residents of Oracle, as well as construction crews in dealing with multiple road closures, during the Cedar and Cody fires in May 2025. (Per the San Manuel Miner).

**Congratulations to Oracle Fire District Fire Chief Robert Jennings
for the well-deserved recognition!**