



PECOS CANYON FIRE AND RESCUE

APRIL, 2014

Insurance Service Office Inspection Brings Good News to the Pecos Canyon Community

Chief Eric Roybal is very proud to announce that Pecos Canyon Fire & Rescue has just received our new ISO Community Report. The report is the culmination of years of hard work from our members and highlights an inspection that was conducted in December, 2013.

The inspection consists of reviewing training hours, training types, apparatus and the equipment each unit is required to carry, Pre-Incident plans of businesses and private homes in our fire district, our dispatch center and water supply.

Fire departments are rated from 1-10 with 1 being the best. Some, including ours have a split class.

Our previous ISO rating was a 9/10. Our new ISO rating (To go into full effect on 8-1-14) is a 6/10.

You might ask, what does this mean for residents of the Pecos Canyon? What this means is that if you live seven road miles from our fire station at mile marker 16.4, you may be eligible for a considerable discount in your insurance premiums beginning on 8-1-14. Unfortunately, those residents who live outside the 7 miles will remain an ISO Class 10. Please call your insurance company and advise them of this change as soon as possible.

What does this mean for Pecos Canyon Fire & Rescue? ISO ratings determine the amount of money fire departments receive from the NM Fire Fund. The lower the rating, the more operating money the department receives for each fire station in operation. We currently have one station in operation. The new classification means that our annual funding will increase by about \$30,000.00 per year which translates to better equipment and training for our department which in turn means better service to the community we serve. In San Miguel county, Pecos Canyon Fire & Rescue and Conchas Fire Department have the lowest ISO rating.

We are currently in the process of trying to secure a location for a second fire station at the Lisboa Springs Hatchery. If we can accomplish this, the additional station will provide better fire protection and lower insurance rates to the south end of our fire district and provide additional money to the department.

I would like to thank all those who assisted the department with monetary contributions and support. Those contributions were a huge help in getting the reduced ISO rating. I would also like to thank our members who contributed their time and talent to improve our department.



Josh Ingersoll and Doug Gonzales dousing a smoldering stump during the Tres Lagunas Fire, summer 2013



Members of Pecos Canyon Fire and Rescue training for wildland incidents



Wildfire Season Is Here

The loss of lives, homes and businesses in recent wildfires in California, Arizona and Colorado and in many other states around the country serves as a sobering reminder of the destructive effects of wildfire. It is not a matter of if a wildfire strikes an area but when, and many Americans are looking for more information on what they can do to reduce their risk before the next wildfire burns.

Protecting Your Home From Wildfire

The Pecos Canyon is almost exclusively a wildland area. In the wildland/urban interface, fire is a natural force that cannot always be stopped. Firefighters do not have the resources available to save every home; some homes are so closely surrounded by flammable vegetation that they cannot be saved. You must take responsibility to reduce fuels that could carry a wildfire to your home.

Start by **CREATING A DEFENSIBLE SPACE:**

- Remove all trees and large shrubs within 20 feet of the home.
- To a distance of 100 feet (200 feet on steep lots), remove some trees and shrubs to create 10 feet of space between adjoining trees' outermost branches.
- Prune lower branches of remaining trees up to 10 feet off the ground.
- Remove ladder fuels, young trees and shrubs planted close to larger trees, that could carry a ground fire into the tops of large trees.
- Minimize flammable debris.
- Keep roofs and rain gutters free of needles, leaves, and other flammable material.
- Wood shake shingle roofs are highly flammable. Convert roof to Class A fire resistant materials such as fiberglass-asphalt, metal and tile.
- Keep firewood and other flammable debris a minimum of 50 feet from the house, preferably on the uphill side.
- Mow grasses to a height of less than 6 inches within 50 feet of the home.



Hugo Ableson adjusts nozzle.

Continuous Training

As was pointed out in the last newsletter, Pecos Canyon Fire and Rescue is made up of a highly trained and dedicated group of individuals. Members are prepared and ready, especially during wildland fire season, because, in addition to covering emergency incidents, they are continuously training year round.



Eric Lucero and Doug Gonzales get hose ready to lay.

Huie Ley Meets Qualifications As Engine Boss

Huie Ley has met the qualification for Engine Boss, a qualification shared with only two or three other firefighters in San Miguel County. The position is the result of years of experience, many hours of classroom time and the completion of two task books. This qualification brings added professionalism to Pecos Canyon Fire & Rescue and allows us to more readily respond to Wildland fires in our district as well as other areas. In addition, there are five other members of our department who are also in the process of becoming Engine Bosses.



Jason Lombard and Raphael D'Amato work on a yearly pressure test.

Maintenance of Equipment Contributes to Preparedness

Your PCFR organization is constantly maintaining and updating equipment. Each vehicle has an extensive checklist that must be reviewed bi-monthly for contents and equipment. Each firefighter's gear must be checked on a regular basis. Below Raphael D'Amato and Jason Lombard are helping to perform annual pressure tests on tanker vehicles.

Contact Pecos Canyon Fire and Rescue
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