



# PECOS CANYON FIRE AND RESCUE

*JANUARY 2014*

## PECOS CANYON FIRE AND RESCUE RECEIVES THREE GRANTS

We qualified for a grant from the New Mexico State Fire Marshall's office to purchase a new rescue vehicle which will replace our 1982 Chevy 3500. In addition to fire protection, the department also provides medical assistance and rescue. Having a well-equipped rescue unit will improve our response to our district's residents' and visitors' needs. We also qualified for a State Forestry grant which will assist us in the purchase of a much needed wildland water tank, wildland pumps and radios. Additionally, the department was awarded a grant from the Phillip R. Jonsson Foundation which will allow the department to install three emergency phones in the canyon which we anticipate will dramatically cut the time it takes for visitors to call 911 in case of emergencies. For the first two grants, the department must provide 20% in matching funds. Please consider a tax deductible donation to PCF&R.

### Cowles Structure Fire

Pecos Canyon Fire and Rescue members were aided by Glorieta, Pecos, Rowe and Ilfeld department personnel in extinguishing a cabin fire just north of Cowles in July. The main structure on the site was completely destroyed, but, fortunately, the fire did not spread to the surrounding forest. A suspect in the starting of the fire was arrested and is currently incarcerated in Las Vegas, NM, awaiting a determination of whether or not he is mentally able to stand trial.



*Firefighters use a portable tank as a water source to attack the structure fire at Cowles.*



### Pecos Canyon Fire and Rescue Honors Fallen Emergency Responders

PCFR members honored victims of a Careflight crew with whom they had worked on many emergency calls after that crew was killed in a helicopter crash near Tucumcari, NM, last summer. Those honored included David Cavigneaux, Jamie Butler and Rebecca Serkey. A memorial was created and erected near the helicopter landing zone on the Monastery property by volunteers from PCFR and a dedication ceremony was led by other volunteers from the department and the community of Pecos and the Canyon. Speakers reminded those attending of the dangers emergency workers willingly face in the daily work they do in service to the community.



*Medical Captain Laurie Vigil, Chief Eric Roybal and Assistant Chief Randy Varela field questions from home owners regarding fire prevention measures.*

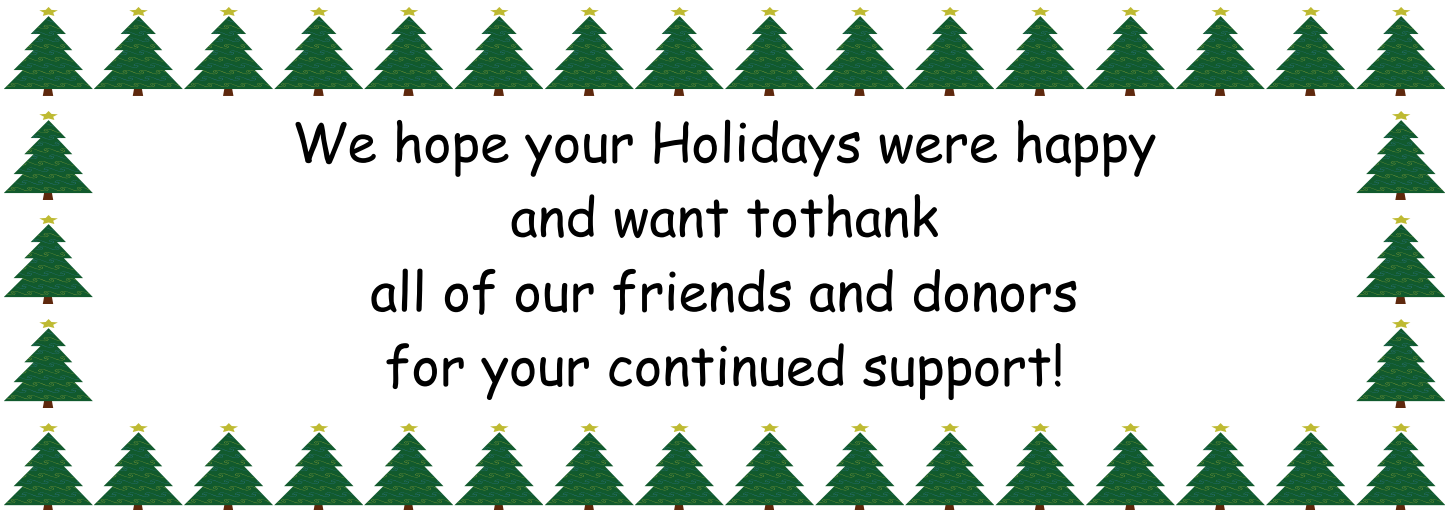
## Pecos Canyon Communities Meet with PCFR Staff

During the month of August department members spoke with residents of Pecos Canyon Estates and also of Winsor Canyon regarding what they could do and what they could expect from government agencies in order to insure the safety of their homes and properties in the event of fire. Members of the fire department were pleased to have the opportunity to meet and get to know residents of both communities.

Pecos Canyon Fire & Rescue is always looking for volunteers. Anyone, regardless of age and physical condition, can help as long as they have a sense of commitment and can participate in regular department training and activities. Please see our website for more information or contact us today for information on how you can become a member.

## Additional Training and Certification Continues

Members of your volunteer fire department continue to train and learn new skills. Since the last newsletter, the department has gained additional training and certification for its members in Search and Rescue, First Aid, Propane Fires, High-Angle Rescue, Structure Fires at Night, Emergency Medical Technician and Safety.



We hope your Holidays were happy  
and want to thank  
all of our friends and donors  
for your continued support!

Contact Pecos Canyon Fire and Rescue

Website: [www.pecoscanyonfire.org](http://www.pecoscanyonfire.org) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PecosCanyonFireAndRescue](https://www.facebook.com/PecosCanyonFireAndRescue)

Station phone: 505-757-2591 Email: [info@PecosCanyonFire.org](mailto:info@PecosCanyonFire.org)

If you need to update or provide your email, please go to [www.pecoscanyonfire.org](http://www.pecoscanyonfire.org), click on

**Register to Receive Emergency Alerts** and then click on

**Register for Email Alerts from Pecos Canyon Fire and Rescue.**

## **The Importance of Water Agreements**

The culmination of the many hours of training we do, the many thousands of dollars we spend on equipment and the time we spend on Pre-Incident plans and public education comes together when responding to emergencies. Everything we do is to better prepare us, the fire department, to help you in your time of need.

Since we have no municipal water systems and therefore no fire hydrants in our district, we depend almost completely on natural water sources such as ponds, creeks and the Pecos River in order to fight fires.

In regard to preparing for fires, both structural and wildland, one of the most important items in our arsenal are water agreements. When we have water agreements in place for an effected structure or property, we can save time by having the option of "Drafting" water from the immediate area. In areas where we either do not have a water source or a water agreement in place, our response will be significantly hindered because we will have to haul in the water we need to fight the fire.

There is often a misconception about how much water a typical structure may require if it were on fire. As an example, the structure fire we fought in the Pecos Canyon in July was a standard sized log cabin with some wildland exposures and we used approximately 20,000 gallons of water. Of course, the bigger the structure and the more fuel we are trying to extinguish, the more water we need to fight the fire. Some structures in the Pecos Canyon can require up to 100,000 gallons of water to fight.

Another misconception is that permission to access a water source can be granted to the fire department at the time of an emergency; therefore, a written water agreement is not necessary. This is simply not true. During an emergency is not the time to be signing water agreements and because of liability issues, we will not use a water supply without a written document granting us permission to use or access a specific water agreement.

If you have a good water source on your property, this is also a way you can assist your neighbors who do not. Property owners, please help us help you by granting us water agreements before an emergency occurs on your property. We have a standard agreement and will be happy to work with you to get this in place. Other things you can do to help are to provide us with gate combinations and/or keys and to mark your property with reflective numbers so they can more easily be seen in the dark.