

Daisy Mountain Fire Dept. Celebrates 20 Years



This year the Daisy Mountain Fire Department turns 20 years old. There have been many changes and tremendous growth in its short history. The month of October, Fire Prevention Month, was marked with celebrations as DMFD remembered its past.

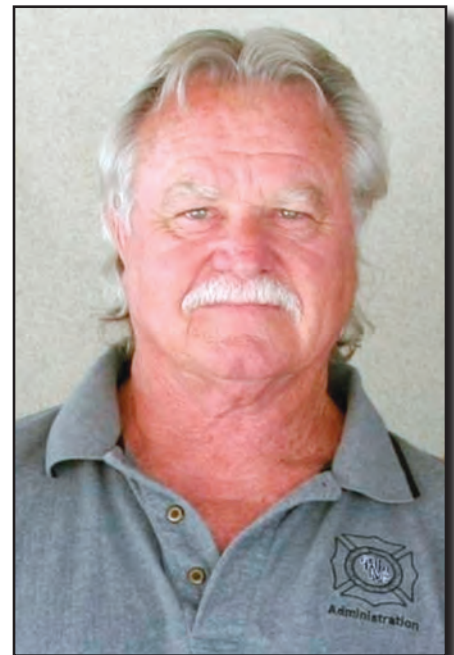
The Daisy Mountain Fire District was created in January of 1988. It encompasses roughly 90 square miles just north of the Valley from Carefree Highway north to the Maricopa County line east of I-17. Over the years, Daisy Mountain has grown from only one station serving a population of about 5,000 to its present size. With the annexation of State Trust Lands in 1998 and the community of Anthem in 2003, the District boundaries increased and the Department now serves approximately 45,000 residents. It currently includes the communities of New River, Desert Hills and Anthem.

With the population growth, the Fire Department also grew in services and stature. In 2005, DMFD formally adopted the 2003 International Fire Code and, in 2007, adopted Policies and Operating Procedures in keeping with those of the larger neighboring Valley Departments. The National Incident Management System (NIMS) was adopted in 2008. This year, the Daisy Mountain Fire District entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City of Glendale to implement services at the new Glendale Fire Health Center.

Tom Healy came to Daisy Mountain as Fire Chief in June of 1999. A former Deputy Chief and a 24 year veteran of the Phoenix Fire Department, Chief Healy was instrumental in establishing what is now the Phoenix Fire Health Center. Recently, he also assisted in the establishment of the new Glendale Fire Health Center.

Under his leadership, and

due in a large part to his budget management and construction expertise, the Fire Department was able to expand. In the past ten years, it has grown from two stations lodged in vintage 1970's doublewide trailers and an Administration Office in a construction trailer to four permanent stations and a full Administration Office, as well as resource and mechanical maintenance buildings.



Chief Healy has been active in the Fire Service both state-wide and nationally for many years. He was selected to be on the 1500 and 1582 committees for NFPA's Occupational Safety and Health Committee. In addition, he has served on Boards for the Arizona Fire Districts Association and for the Arizona Ambulance Association. Currently, Chief Healy actively participates in membership with the National

Fire Protection Association, the Arizona Fire Chiefs Association, the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the National Society of Executive Fire Officers.

This year Tom Healy was named as one of the recipients of the Arizona Chief Fire Officer Lifetime Achievement Award (2009) from the Arizona Fire Chiefs Association. In one letter to the nominating committee, Glendale Fire Chief Mark Burdick wrote, in part, "Tom has had a long, successful, productive career in the fire service. . . Tom's passion to improve the fire service is never ending. With his participation, creativity and innovation, the future of our firefighters looks very bright."

Due to efforts by Chief Healy and the labor force, in 2000 the five-person Daisy Mountain Fire District Board formally recognized labor with a Memorandum of Understanding. Currently the DMFD Chapter of Local 4361 represents 88 sworn employees. The Chapter is active in local and state charities as well as raising over \$12,000 for the



MDA telethon this year. In addition, it supported the annual Burn Camp Charity Ride with donations of more than \$1,700.

The Fire Department currently operates four first-line engine companies, two brush trucks, three engine tenders, one ladder company, two rescue companies and one command vehicle out of four staffed stations. Daisy Mountain Fire is a partner in the Automatic Aid system with other fire departments in the Valley. The Department has a staff of about 100, including the Fire Chief, Administrative staff, mechanics, and line personnel (fire and EMS). Of these personnel, over forty-five are nationally certified Paramedics.

In celebration of its 20 Year Anniversary, DMFD held an Open House event at each of its four stations over two weekends – October 3rd and 4th and 10th and 11th. There were station tours, refreshments and demonstrations of equipment and programs for District residents. The hundreds of attendees



learned about Bike Safety, Water Safety, CERT Teams, the CCR program and equipment (such as the Phillips monitors) used on all apparatus. Native Air and Trauma Flight provided helicopter tours and information. Visiting children had hands-on opportunities to try on turnouts and spray water at the water prop provided by the DMFD Public Education personnel. In the words of one of the youngest attendees, "This is fun. I want to be a Fireman when I grow up!"

As the Daisy Mountain Fire District's communities continue to grow, the Department stands ready to embrace the future and looks forward to many more years of dedicated service. ❖