FRIENDS OF ORACLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Firewise News

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

VOLUME II / ISSUE NO. 2   FALL 2007

COMMUNITY MAPPING

OFD has a new map of the Oracle area that is compatible with the Sheriff's Department section map. Knowing the sections is an invaluable tool for coordination efforts when there is an emergency, or to locate streets. New maps of Oracle are available at The Station, Winding Roses, Oracle Library, and Oracle State Park, as well as OFD.

SPECIAL NEEDS INDIVIDUALS

In cooperation with C.A.H.R.A., Oracle Triad, and Oracle Fire Dept., individuals with special needs or limited mobility are able to have a "home alone" unit installed in their homes which can be activated by a touch in case of an emergency. OFD is also providing a secure lock box to hold house keys, so emergency personnel can enter when requested without having to break in should the individual be unable to open the door. For more information contact OFD.

FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING

Firefighter and EMS Coordinator Cheryl Primero and Battalion Chief Larry Southard are training twelve students to be First Responders with OFD. The training is eight Saturdays, having started September 1 and will be completed on October 27. CPR training is also included. Certificates will be issued to all who pass the test.

THE DOC CREWS

Arizona State Land has been a great asset to Oracle by providing Department of Corrections (DOC) crews from Florence and Tucson to assist homeowners in removing fuel from their property at a price that is quite the bargain. Presently, there is a seven-month waiting list. Everyone who has used this service has been extremely pleased. Please contact OFD at 896-2980 if you have an interest.

KID'S SAFETY HOUSE

The Kid's Safety House continues to be a favorite and has been traveling to various places throughout our community for children to experience safety and firewise lessons.

"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."
– Benjamin Franklin

THE AUTO-DIALER

Auto-Dialer Systems are similar to Reverse 911 systems in that they use a combination of database and GIS mapping technologies to deliver outbound notifications. Users can quickly target a precise geographic area and saturate it with thousands of calls per hour.

The OFD Auto Dialer (Phone Tree) is up and running with several people trained to use it in case of emergency. Please complete the form on the backside of this newsletter if you wish to be included in the system.

CERT TRAINING

Eighteen residents have completed the CERT classes (Community Emergency Response Team) and are involved in continuing classes when available. These are people that will assist the Fire Dept. when there is an emergency. Like the Fire Explorers, they are another support team for helping in the office or non-hazardous tasks. Battalion Chief Larry Southard is a CERT certified trainer and will hold another CERT training for Oracle residents during 2008. If you are interested, contact Vivien Mayer at 896-3692.

The latest CERT class of Oracle 2007.

WHAT'S NEW?

The **land** east of OFD is being used for Fire Dept. staff and vehicles. This lot has now been purchased for OFD and it is greatly needed for expansion.

A new **hydrant** is being installed in front of OFD that was mostly donated (parts and installation). This will be used to test hoses and for training purposes.

There have been some **promotions** at the Fire Dept. Captain Larry Southard is now Battalion Chief; full-time firefighter Jamison 'Sly' Slyter was recently promoted to Captain; and Robert Miller and Terry Richards are now Engineers.

This Fall, we are hoping to have Firewise **Neighborhood Meetings** again so people can talk about their own areas and how neighbors can help one another during an emergency. This is also a time to voice any matters that you may be concerned with during an event. Contact OFD or we will let you know when we are in your area.

Larry Southard, Jaimison 'Sly' Slyter, Terry Richards, and Robert Miller have recently been promoted.

Friends of OFD is a group of volunteers that support the Fire Dept. by assisting in non-firefighting services. If you are interested in volunteering with Friends, contact Larry Southard at 896-2980.

THE MEETING, THE BOARD, & THE BRUSH DUMP

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

We had a very successful Town Hall Meeting at the Community Center May 30 of this year with an estimated 250 people in attendance. Personnel from Coronado National Forest spoke about mapping and current plans on fuel reduction in Oracle. Representatives of State Land and Arizona State Parks presented their firewise goals, and Senator Rios spoke on how to help Oracle.

The 2007 Firewise Board was elected at that time and the community was notified of some problems associated with the Brush Dump. Issues have been worked out and the Brush Dump was reopened, being even more successful than ever. We continue to work on getting it more efficient and cost-effective. Stop by the firehouse and get a list of the rules and costs (right now, a run to our Brush Dump costs $2 – a real bargain considering the alternatives.) We have lists of people that can help clear your yard as well as information on the DOC crew clearing.

THIS 2007 FIRE SEASON

Well, we made it through another summer and the dry heat with lots of fuel on the ground. While it was not totally without incident, we can say that this summer was a safe one. We have had rain and there are grasses; these will dry up and create more ground fuel. We need to constantly prepare for the next season. We should be proud of our firewise town and the efforts of all the residents. It is really amazing to see so many people out in their yards pruning away, weedwacking, or collecting brush. The number of runs to the dump is awesome in itself. We are truly a Firewise Community! Let's keep it up.

ARIZONA FIREWISE COMMUNITIES™

- -

GETTING ON THE AUTO-DIALER WITH YOUR OTHER NUMBERS:

If you want your *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. It can be dropped off at the fire station or sent to POB 977, Oracle, AZ 85623 . You can also fax this form to: 896-2749.
Fire department personnel will not accept verbal requests. *If you wish, fill in this request and mail or drop off to the Oracle Fire Dept:*

☐ 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 Adr: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Tel: (home) _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____