

The District



The Superstition Fire & Medical District is located on the eastern side of the Phoenix Metro area in the state of Arizona. The District encompasses approximately 71 square miles and serves the City of Apache Junction, the unincorporated areas of Gold Canyon, Superstition Foothills, Goldfield Foothills, and Entrada del Oro in Pinal County. The area within the fire district's incorporated boundaries is primarily a bedroom community, with light industrial. A popular winter visitor haven, the population fluctuates from 65,000 full-time residents to over 95,000 residents during the winter months.

An elected five-member board of directors provides fiscal oversight of the District's budget with administrative support functions through the Fire Chiefs office. Administrative direction for the Emergency Services Division and ancillary programs are divided between two Assistant Chiefs and one Deputy Chief. The District provides Advanced Life Support (ALS) and fire-related life safety functions utilizing a three-platoon system. Each platoon has an assigned Battalion Chief that directs daily shift operations, with station Captains providing supervision of direct service-related operations.

As a member of the Valley-Wide Automatic Aid Consortium, regional operational standards related to critical tasking are contained within the adopted Phoenix Regional Standard Operating Procedures Volume 2 (SOP Vol. II). Critical tasking focuses on providing an effective offensive attack capability during active fire scene operations. Effective scene management for emergency medical operations utilizes accepted standards from the American Medical Association. Dispatch activities are contracted with the Mesa Regional Dispatch Center (MRDC) through the City of Mesa utilizing computer-aided dispatch (CAD) technology.



History

In 1955, the Pinal County Board of Supervisors voted to establish the Apache Junction Volunteer Fire District. From a humble beginning, with little more than two used fire trucks and a dozen volunteers, that volunteer fire district grew with the community to become the Apache Junction Fire District, an all-paid, career fire agency. In 2015, the Governing Board voted unanimously to change the District's name to the Superstition Fire & Medical District. This new name better represents the communities we serve, as well as the essential life-saving services we provide.

Also, in 2015, SFMD seized an opportunity to expand medical services by launching the Transportation Services Department. After working tirelessly for a year to obtain a Certificate of Necessity from the Arizona Department of Health Services, SFMD ran its first ambulance transport in January 2016. The Transportation Services Department has grown in the four years since its launch and has taken this essential service, previously run in the private sector, and moved it under the authority of the District.

In March of 2021, the District successfully annexed a large area of state land which borders Meridian Road, with its northwest corner at Elliott and Meridian, the bottom end at Ray Road, and straddles Ironwood. The annexation increased the size of the fire district from 60.55 square miles to 70.98 square miles.

Organizational Structure and Operations

Under the direction of the Governing Board, the Fire Chief oversees the management of the Fire District and its five divisions: Emergency Services Operations, Transportation Services, Planning & Logistics, Administrative Services, and Financial Services. Each division is led by an Assistant Chief or Director who manages the departments inside their division.

Fire and medical services are deployed from five fire stations working 24/7/365, utilizing a three platoon system, with firefighters working a 48/96 schedule. Three fire stations provide service within the City of Apache Junction while two serve Gold Canyon, Peralta Trails, and the surrounding areas. Stations 261, 262, and 265 are ALS engine companies, station 264 is an ALS ladder company, and station 263 deploys an engine and ladder unit for front-line responses. Additionally, SFMD deploys four full-time ALS ambulances. The shift Battalion Chief and Battalion Safety Officer have daily oversight of emergency service operations.

SFMD currently has 138 full-time employees comprised of 93 suppression personnel, 24 full-time transportation personnel, 15 administrative positions, one Deputy Chief, one Division Chief, two Assistant Chiefs, and one Fire Chief. Also, there are 5 part-time civilian personnel.

In addition to the 5 fire stations, the fire district has a Headquarters Office, Regional Training Center, and Fleet Services Shop. The Senior Leadership Team is comprised of the Fire Chief, Assistant Chiefs, Transportation Services Director, Administrative Services Director, Finance Director, and the Union Vice President. Command Staff consists of the Deputy Chief, Division Chief, and Battalion Chiefs who meet regularly and facilitate and support the delivery of emergency and non-emergency services to our community. Through these roles and in conjunction with the Governing Board, the fire district achieves its mission, goals, and objectives.



Join Our Team

SFMD is committed to creating a diverse environment and is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender identity expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, age, or veteran status.

The Superstition Fire & Medical District is seeking to hire only the best and most qualified candidates to support our vision of being the premier fire district in the State of Arizona. SFMD has proudly adopted the hiring motto: “hire for character, train for skill.” Join our team!