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!! FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE !!

SUPERSTITION FIRE & MEDICAL DISTRICT IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD WOMEN



The Superstition Fire & Medical District is inviting females 16 and older who may have an interest in Fire Service or Emergency Medical careers to participate in a 3 day academy to be held on Saturday & Sunday, November 7th and 8th, and on Saturday, November 14th, 2015. The program will run from 7:00am to 5:00pm each day and will be held at the SFMD Regional Training Academy located at 3700 E. 16th Ave., Apache Junction AZ 85119.

Camp F.I.R.E.S. (Females In Rescue Emergency Services) is an exciting new program geared specifically to expose girls and women to leadership and problem solving skills, basic firefighting skills, emergency medical skills, and CPR. Program Coordinator, and SFMD Captain/Paramedic Amy Brooks shared her optimism about this new program, “We are excited about this opportunity for girls and women in our community to be exposed to fire and emergency medical services and to SFMD.” “Women shouldn’t be discouraged or think they can’t do very well as a firefighter – as the nature of what we do and how we do it has evolved, the need for more female firefighters is evident,” Brooks continued.

SFMD Fire Chief Paul Bourgeois points out that the fire and emergency services in general attract a special kind of person, “Firefighting isn’t for everyone – if you are afraid of heights or confined spaces, or don’t function well in a critical situation, and you’re not an adrenaline junkie, you most likely won’t be attracted to this job. Historically, this was a male dominated world, but not anymore, firefighting is an exciting, ever-challenging, highly rewarding occupation for women and men,” said Bourgeois.

According to the International Association of Women in Fire and Emergency Services (iWomen), the first female career firefighter was hired in 1974. Today, some 11,000 women in the U.S. work as career firefighters and officers, with approx. 40,000 in the volunteer, paid-on-call, part-time and seasonal sectors. Women serve as chiefs of career and combination fire departments in every region of the U.S., along with many dozens more who are chiefs of volunteer departments. Locally, the Phoenix Fire Department, one of the top ten largest fire departments in the nation, recently hired Kara Kalkbrenner as their Fire Chief. There are six other large metropolitan fire departments also with female fire chiefs. SFMD also employs two additional female firefighters besides Captain Brooks.

Captain Brooks noted that there is need to start younger in getting female firefighters ready for the job. “The testing process can be rigorous physically and mentally, and there is no exceptions given for gender. Upper body strength has long been a set-back for females, but with more women engaged in competitive athletics in high school and college, along with more aggressive workout disciplines that females are using to stay fit and healthy, this disparity is disappearing,” stated Brooks.

SFMD hopes that this new and exciting opportunity will help bridge a gap to allow more understanding about fire and emergency services careers available to women. If you are interested in attending, please visit this link to register: <http://sfmd.az.gov/join/camp-fires-application>

If you would like to know more about the SFMD, please visit our web site at www.sfmd.az.gov, or call our offices at 480-982-4440.

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