



Superstition Fire & Medical District

Serving the Communities of Apache Junction and Gold Canyon since 1955

Phone | (480) 982-4440

Website | sfmd.az.gov

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

JANUARY 21, 2026

PURSUANT TO A.R.S. §38.431.02, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE SUPERSTITION FIRE & MEDICAL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELD A MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026. THE MEETING WAS HELD AT THE SUPERSTITION FIRE & MEDICAL DISTRICT'S ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 565 N. IDAHO ROAD, APACHE JUNCTION, ARIZONA.

[THIS MEETING WAS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND BEGAN AT 5:30 PM.](#)

A. Call to Order

Chairman Chamberlain called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance led by retired Firefighter Mark Widick

C. Roll Call

Board Members in attendance were Chairman Kathleen Chamberlain. Clerk Connie Van Driel and Director Shawn Kurian attended via conference phone.

Senior Leadership Team in attendance were Fire Chief John Whitney, Assistant Chief Brian Read, Assistant Chief Richard Mooney, Deputy Chief Dave Pohlmann, Battalion Chief Ryan Ledbetter, Transportation Services Director Billy Warren, Administrative Services Director Anna Butel, and President Colt Weddell. Also in attendance was Tanya Anderson, Administrative Specialist, HR / Board Secretary. Ben Archer, with James Vincent Group, and Attorney William Whittington attended via conference phone.

1. Review and approval of the December 2025 financial reports and bank reconciliations.

Motion by Clerk Van Driel to approve the December 2025 financial reports and bank reconciliations.

Seconded by Director Kurian

Vote 3 ayes, 0 nays, **MOTION PASSED.**

Administration Office
565 North Idaho Road
Apache Junction, AZ 85119

Regional Training Center
3700 East 16th Avenue
Apache Junction, AZ 85119

Fleet Services
1455 East 18th Avenue
Apache Junction, AZ 85119

2. Recognition of employee performance, achievements, and special recognition for community members.

Retirement Recognition

Firefighter Mark Widick

Promotions

Ryan Philips / Captain

January Service Anniversaries

37 Years of Service

Engineer John Christensen

23 Years of Service

Engineer/Paramedic Chuck Hanson

4 Years of Service

Administrative Specialist-Accounting Miki Klemesrud

3 Years of Service

Firefighter Andrew Hayes

2 Years of Service

Firefighter Frank Garduno

Firefighter Nick Pyles

Firefighter Greg Scerbo

Transport Paramedic Gabe Weaver

1 Year of Service

Firefighter Armand Moini

Firefighter John Price

Firefighter Spencer Tufts

3. Call to the Public.

None

4. Consideration and possible approval of all consent agenda items listed below:

A. Board Meeting Minutes from December 17, 2025

B. Approval to replace the concrete at Station 262

Motion by Clerk Van Driel to approve all consent agenda items for January 21, 2026.

Seconded by Director Kurian

Vote 3 ayes, 0 nays, **MOTION PASSED**

5. Discussion and possible approval of changing the July 2026 Board Meeting date:

Motion by Clerk Van Driel to approve changing the July 2026 Board Meeting to July 22, 2026

Seconded by Director Kurian

Vote 3 ayes, 0 nays, **MOTION PASSED**

6. Senior Leadership Team Reports

Fire Chief Report

- Fire Station 266
- Bond Meetings
- Contractor Meetings (FS266)
- Silver King Energy Discussions
- Budget Process Plans
- DHS Meeting
- Crest Insurance
- AFDA Conference – NextGen

Emergency Services

District

- ACLS/CPR Recertification
- RTC Discussion with AJPD
- Fire Chief Forum
- Operations Meeting
- Professional Development Series
- AFDA Winter Conference

Regional Partners

- CALSC – Central Arizona Life Safety Council
- EVAC – East Valley Assistant Chiefs
- Queen Creek Fire Drone 411

Significant Incidents

Working Fire

Date: 12.20.25

Location: Radiance – W. Seaver Ave

Response: BC261, LT263, M262, E221, E414, E215, BC411, L411, U251, E224

Report: Working garage fire with heavy smoke from the roof. The crew performed a search and rescue and a fire attack. Fire located in the garage, fire control announced. Fire contained to garage with no extensions to the attic.

No injuries reported.

2n1 Medical

Date: 12.26.25

Location: US 60 EB near Signal Butte

Response: L219, E263, BC261, M263, M262, LT263

Report: MVA accident with extrication.

3 patients – 1 pediatric (immediate) found walking around the scene. 1 delayed patient requiring mechanical extrication. 1 deceased. Patients were transported to Banner Desert.

Working Fire

Date: 12.29.25

Location: Plaza Dr.

Response: E263, LT263, E262, BC261, BC203, T261, E222, T220, E217, L264, U208, M261, E261

Report: Fire started in the water heater cabinet, extending into the shed and into the interior. Crews made an aggressive attack obtaining fire control. 2 residents displaced, Red Cross called for support. No injuries.

Captain Halver's final incident with SFMD.

Trail Rescue

Date: 01.17.26

Location: Silly Mountain Trails

Response: L264, BC261, E262, L217, Drone 411

Report: Injured Hiker, approximately 10-foot fall. Patient extracted from the trail. Patient treated and transported to Four Peaks for further treatment.

No reported FF injuries.

1st Alarm Fire

Date: 1.20.26

Location: Skyview/Gold Canyon

Response: E263, E262, E261, R266, E217, E212, L264, L219, BC261, BC202, BC203, CRV201, U251, EDC, Drone 411

Report: Initial dispatch, home with dark smoke and ammunition going off. Incident upgraded to 1st alarm fire. Crews on scene reported fully involved garage fire. Primary all clear obtained. Fire extended to second floor and attic. Defensive strategy declared. Drone 411 used for observance and recon.

No injuries reported.

Divisional Report Training & EMS

District

- ACLS/CPR Refresher
- Professional Development Series
- Fire Chief Forum
- Operations Meeting
- NERIS Transition Complete
- ImageTrend AI ASSIST

Regional Partners

- AFDA Conference
- East Valley Agency

Training

District

- Tactics Tuesday Workshop
- CABC/CAC Final Tacticals
- Engineer Process Outline and Development
- Professional Development Series
- Candidate Development Program
- CAE Pumping Practical
- Fire Chief Forum
- 2nd Quarter Training: Breathe Down Completed
- 3rd Quarter Training: EVOC/Hydraulics
- Operations Meeting
- Firefighter Hiring Process Outline
- ACLS/CPR Recertification

Regional Partners

- Pre-Academy for 26-1
- Captain Nelson and Engineer Nelson RTO Week
- Gilbert Mid-Rise Live Fire Completed
- E262 Quarterly TRT: Rigging, Pickoffs, Rope Ladders/Lead Climbing
- L264 East Valley Cadets: Extrication Drills
- Arizona Fire District Association

EMS

District

- CPR and ACLS Recertification
- Professional Development Series
- Can-Act Captain Evaluations
- Can Act BC Evaluations
- Implementation of Station EMS ordering

Regional Partners

- East Valley Agencies
- EleGARD User Group Meeting

- AFDA Conference

Transportation Services

- Fire Chiefs Forum
- Deferred Compensation Meeting
- East Valley Agency Meeting
- EMS ROCC Ambulance Billing Sub-Committee Meeting
- AEMS Functional Group Meeting

Support Services

- Superstition Mountain HOA Pancake & Toy Drive
- Fire Station 264 Tour
- Sunrise RV Resort Coffee w/ Friends
- E263 Delivered Santa to Boy's & Girl's Club Holiday Party
- L264 Lead Montessa's Golf Cart Parade
- Fireworks Show at Superstition Mountain HOA
- Special Events Meeting
- CALSC
- CPR & ALS Recertification
- Architect Meeting
- Fire Chief Forum
- Meeting with Stantec to Discuss New Contract & Upcoming SFMD Projects
- Pinal County Planning & Zoning Meeting
- Meeting with Building and Planning Review Departments

Resource

- Investigator Update
 - Working with AJPD & PC on Fire Investigation w/in FD & County
- Annex Update
 - Annual Pump & Ladder Testing
- Uniforms
 - Preparing Recruits for 26-1 Fire Academy
 - Test Item Surveys
 - Preparing Budget for Next Year
- Facility Updates
 - Station Repairs/Replacements: Garage Doors, Showers, Water Heaters, Station Appliances, & Fitness Equipment
 - Painted Station 262
- New Fire Station Build Team Meeting
 - City of Apache Junction
 - Water District
 - Weekly Internal Meetings

Administrative Services

- Fire Chiefs Forum
- Deferred Compensation Meeting
- Budget Planning Meetings

- Perlman Architect Meeting
- Onboarding New Recruits
- Payroll (End of Year, W2s, OBB OT Report)
- Recruit Firefighter Process
 - Over 200 applications – closes February 8, 2026
- Engineer Promotional Process – 7 Candidates
 - Written test/Practical assessment/Fire Chief & Labor interview
- Professional Development Series
 - Ethics, harassment, discrimination, communication, team building, leadership, & conflict resolution

7. New Business / Future Agenda Items

Need a special board meeting to approve an item that was missed on this meeting's consent agenda. Suggested special board meeting to be held on Monday, January 26, 2026.

8. Announcements / Document Signing


9. Adjourn

Motion by Clerk Van Driel to adjourn the board meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Seconded by Director Kurian

Vote 3 ayes, 0 nays, MOTION PASSED

Governing Board Approval:

DocuSigned by:

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Board Clerk Connie Van Driel