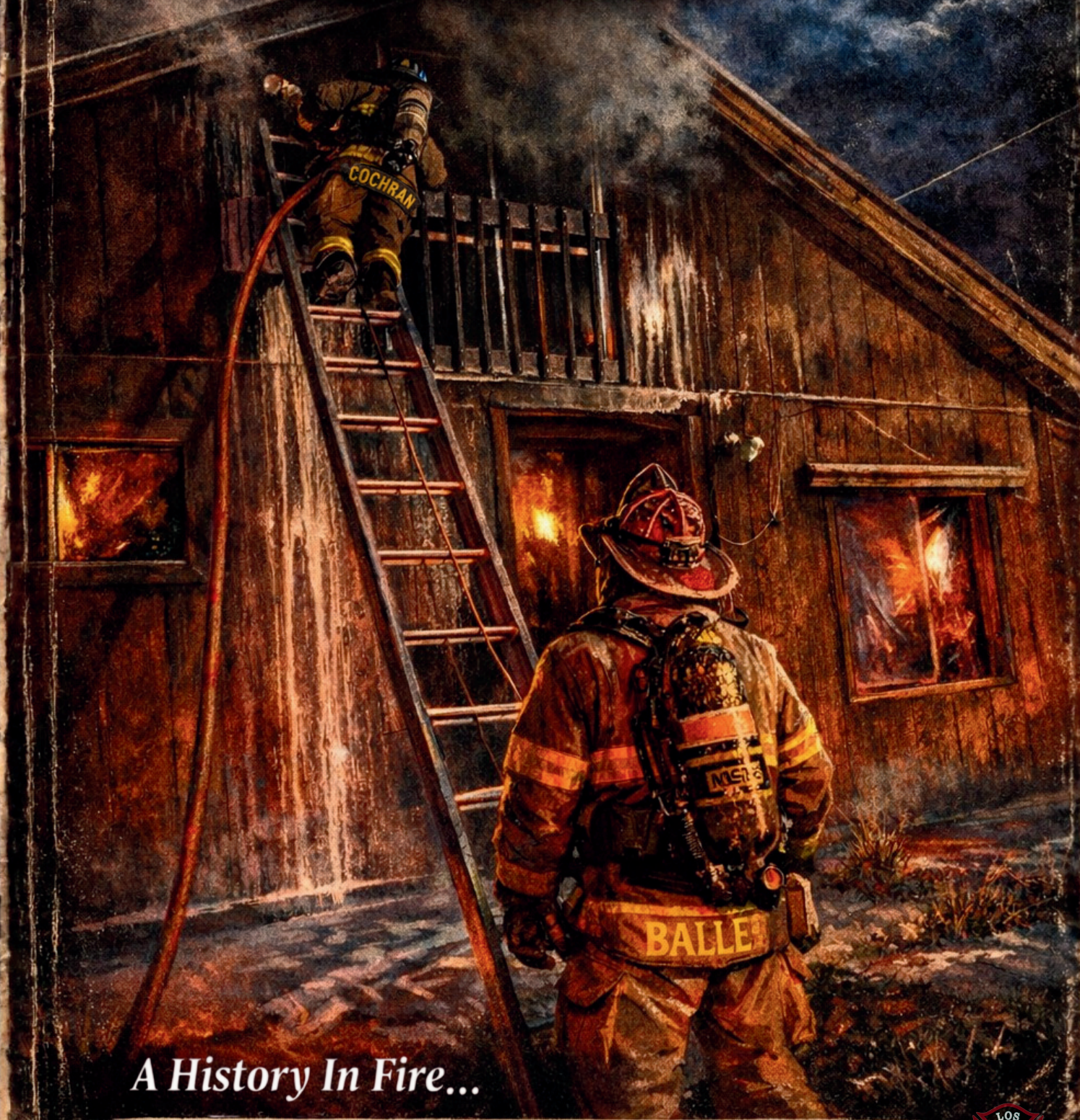


40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

ANNUAL REPORT

1985-2025



A History In Fire...

LOS PINOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



Mission

Los Pinos Fire serves and protects the community through prevention, preparedness, and exceptional emergency services. This is accomplished with professionalism, compassion, and dedication.

Vision

Los Pinos Fire will provide the highest quality of protection to the communities we serve. We remain a progressive organization through enhanced training, knowledge, and equipment.

Values

Reverence

We commit to upholding the trust placed in us by our family, community, and stakeholders while humbly maintaining a steadfast dedication to doing what is right.

Service

We prioritize the safety and well-being of our community above all else, delivering honest and compassionate service with integrity and respect.

Professionalism

We believe in the power of continuous learning, honing our skills, and expanding our knowledge base to provide unparalleled solutions, deliver exceptional service, and adapt swiftly to evolving changes.

Community Engagement

We actively engage with and educate the community on fire safety, prevention, and preparedness, fostering a culture of safety and resilience. This is the foundation of the organization.



Fire District History

Los Pinos Fire District provides fire suppression and emergency services to a 325-square-mile area of Southwest Colorado. The Fire District encompasses portions of La Plata and Archuleta Counties and includes the communities of Oxford, Tiffany, Allison, Arboles, and the Town of Ignacio. A substantial portion of the response area consists of Southern Ute Tribal Lands, Bureau of Land Management property, territory belonging to the U.S. Forest Service, Division of Wildlife areas, and land owned by the State of Colorado.

From the humble beginnings of helpful residents manning a hose cart to today's staff of career firefighters/EMTs, the Los Pinos Fire Protection District remains ready to serve the citizens of the region in any situation.

On November 16, 1917, the citizens of Ignacio formed a bucket brigade to save the Commercial Hotel and Apaas Store from fire. In December of 1922, a fire hydrant was installed at the corner of what is now Goddard Avenue and Ute Street. The hydrant was installed in anticipation of the delivery of firefighting equipment. Prior to the arrival of the equipment, a fire destroyed Fabian Martinez's restaurant in January 1923. A horse cart with 1000 feet of hose arrived in February 1923. It wasn't until 1948 that the Town of Ignacio purchased their first piece of motorized fire equipment, a 1936 Seagrave.

In 1975 the Ignacio Volunteer Emergency Squad (IVES) was formed to provide emergency medical services, followed by the creation of the Ignacio Volunteer Fire Department (IVFD) in February 1977. Recognizing the need for fire services outside the town limits, the Los Pinos Fire Protection District was established in 1985. In 1987 the LPFD Station 1 in Ignacio and Station 2 in Oxford were completed and equipped. In 2002 the Allison and Arboles areas were incorporated into the District and IVES was integrated into the LPFD in 2005.

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A HISTORY IN FIRE**



REPORT



DESIGN



Fire Chief's Message

Dear Community Members,

As we reflect on the past year, I am proud to present this Annual Report highlighting the dedication, professionalism, and resilience of the Los Pinos Fire Protection District. This year brought both challenges and opportunities. Our members remained committed to the well-being of our community and the mission of protecting life and property.

2025 marked Los Pinos Fire Protection District celebrating 40 years of service to the community. The organization has evolved and progressed over the last four decades, going from a purely volunteer organization to the combination department that it is today, providing service for all hazards.

This year, we focused on strengthening emergency response capabilities, improving our training program and systems, updating some of our equipment, strengthening our response and personnel through our Development Team program, and continuing to be active in our fire prevention and public education initiatives. Through our continued community outreach efforts, and partnerships with local organizations, we worked proactively to reduce risk and promote preparedness.

Los Pinos Fire Protection District recognizes that our ability to serve is not possible without the strong support of our Board of Directors, partner agencies, and the residents and community we serve. Your trust and collaboration allow us to continue to carry out our mission effectively and responsibly.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to innovation, operational excellence, and the safety of both our personnel and our community. We will continue to adapt to emerging challenges while upholding our values of reverence, service, professionalism, and community engagement that define the organization.

On behalf of the entire Los Pinos Fire family, thank you for your continued support. It is an honor to serve. We look forward to continuing our service with excellence in the year ahead.

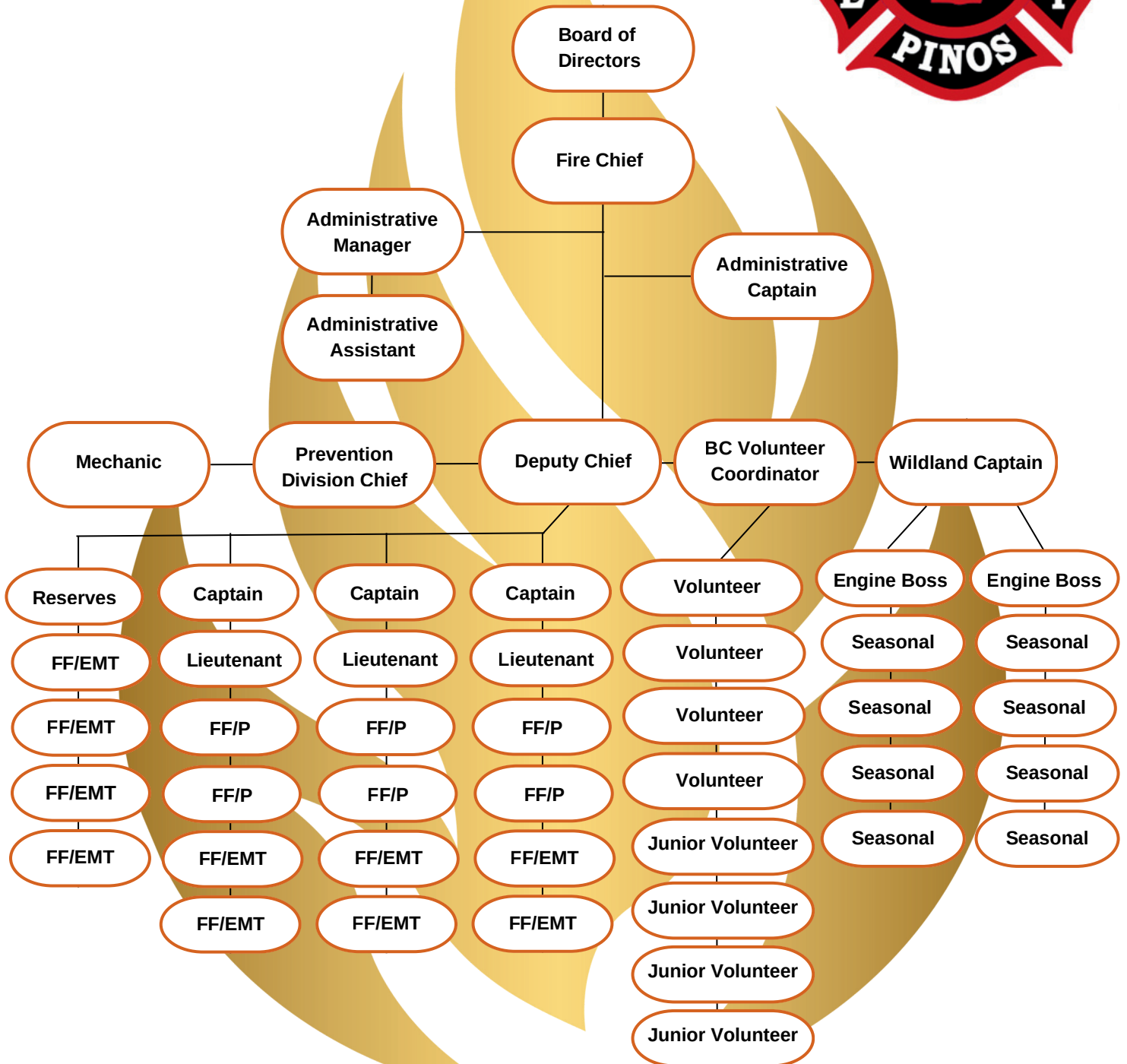
Respectfully,



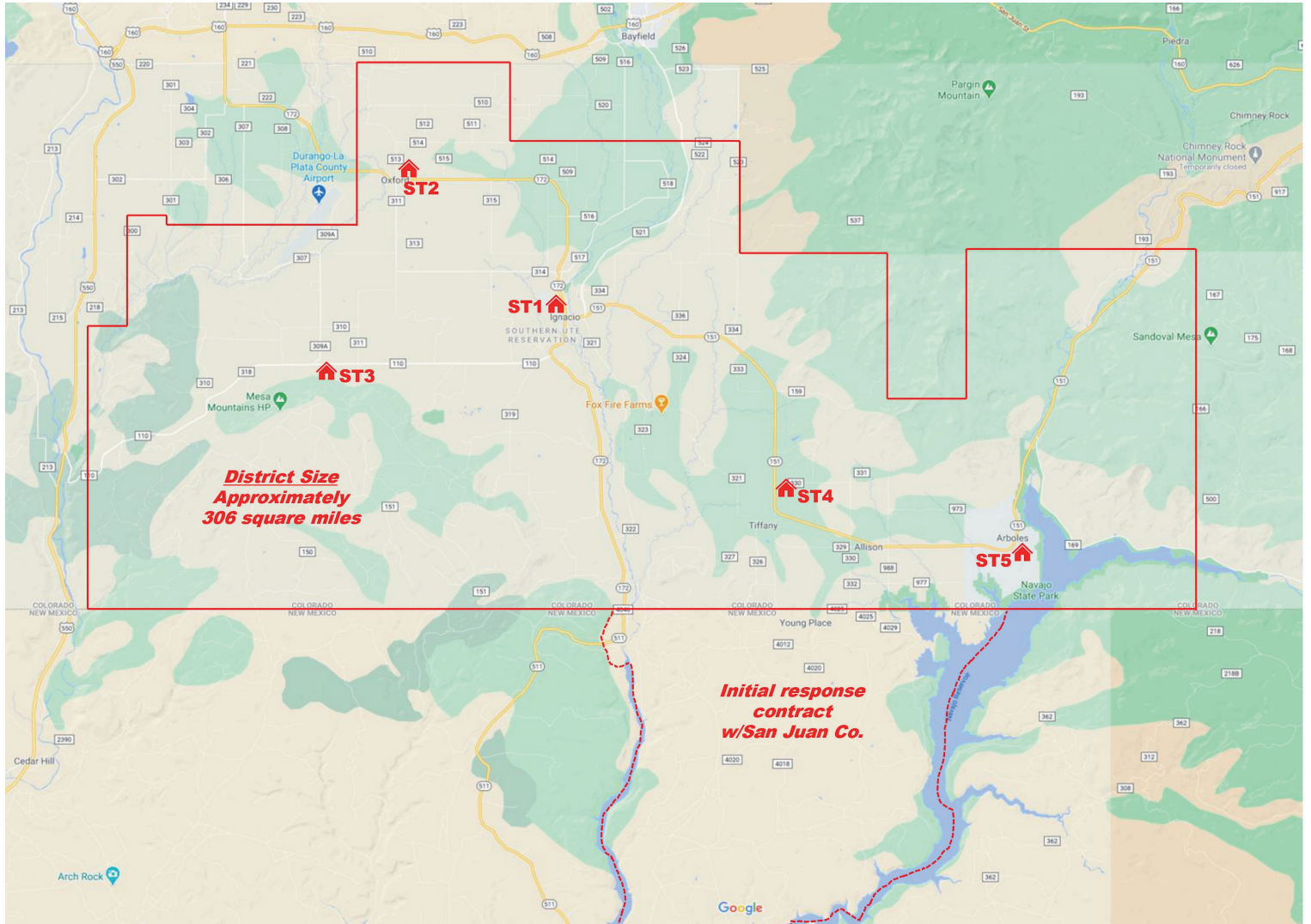
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Lorenzen".

Fire Chief Josh Lorenzen
JLorenzen@lospinosfire.com

Organizational Chart



Fire District Map



STATION 1: 275 Browning Ave, Ignacio

STATION 2: 8018 HWY 172, Oxford

STATION 3: 3072 CR 318, Ignacio

STATION 4: 378 CR 330, Allison

STATION 5: 308 CR 982, Arboles

Station 1

Located in Ignacio, serves as the main business hub. The personnel on duty at this station handle fire and emergency medical services for districts #1, #2, and #3. Additionally, they play a crucial role in prevention, inspection, and public events. Part of this station is the original building from the conception of the Fire district in 1985.

Station 2

Located in the Oxford area near the intersections of CR 513 and Hwy 172, primarily serves as the base for the wildland division. It houses seasonal wildland firefighters and the necessary equipment to handle local and national resource orders. This station is the result of a collaboration with the Oxford Grange organization, where we utilize the bays while the Grange organization use the meeting room and kitchen for their local and organizational activities.

Station 3

Located near the CR 318 and CR 309 intersections, operates as a volunteer station. It houses various apparatus and has a readily available water supply of 80,000 gallons to support the Heli tank at the center of the property. During the summer, the station property was utilized for camping by contracted BIA wildland crews and a mitigation crew.

Station 4

Located in the 300 block of CR 330 in the Tiffany area, serves as a volunteer station, and houses additional firefighting equipment. The strategic placement of this station allows crews responding from Station #1 or #5 to acquire any necessary additional apparatus, particularly a water tender, when responding to incidents.

Station 5

Located in the 500 block of CR 982, recently opened in May 2023 as a manned station. It is currently staffed by two personnel. The station is equipped with a range of firefighting apparatus. It serves as the primary response station from Tiffany to Arboles and along Hwy 151 corridor. The fire district was able to renovate the existing fire station on the property, which had been there since 2005. Initially, two individuals were relocated from Station #1 to Station #5, allowing for the initial staffing level. As the district continues to expand, this station has the capacity to accommodate up to five personnel.

Training-Maintenance Yard

Located in the 17000 block of Hwy 172 just south of Ignacio, serves multiple purposes. Keeping over 35 apparatus in a state of readiness is a full-time responsibility. Approximately 80-90% of the district's repairs can be handled by our skilled mechanic. Over the past decade, we have also assembled numerous wildland apparatus at this facility, resulting in substantial cost savings for the district. In addition to serving as a repair center, the yard provides a dedicated space for training both current and future firefighters. It offers various props and buildings that enable firefighters to enhance their skills through practice sessions, including confined space scenarios, SCBA maze drills, rescue operations, and live fire exercises. Moreover, the facility offers ample space for setting up driving courses and conducting tender operations. This versatile training facility has also been utilized by the CFFA, Red Willow production, and local law enforcement agencies for their employee training needs.

Operations Division

2025 concluded as a year of continued change and improvements in the organization. One of the biggest improvements was staffing levels. Starting January 1, 2025, we scheduled a permanent reserve position on each shift. This extra position assisted in maintaining minimum staffing levels at Station #1 and Station #5. We operated at this increased minimum staffing level of six Firefighter/EMTs for most of the year. It also assisted in staffing Station #5 and keeping it open 98% of 2025. This was a significant improvement over 2024.

The reserve program further assists in staffing that allows the organization to have a pool of individuals that can assist in filling vacancies as career employees promote or move into other opportunities. Currently we have seven full-time staff, four reserve staff, and two wildland members that started with Los Pinos as Career Development members. This in-house staffing model allows individuals to start their careers and then provides a pathway to making the fire service a career. The advantage for the organization is a pool of prospective employees that are connected to the community. Two career employees left this year, and their slots were filled within a month.

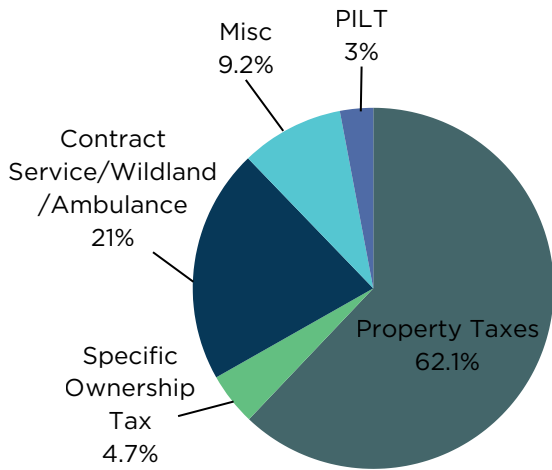
2025 Year in Review:

- We moved our dispatch service to Durango Emergency Communications Center to improve overall communications and response from Mutual aid partners.
- Three structure fires in three weeks with no complete losses, all salvaged.
- The fire district's mechanic retired in March, and a new one was hired within a month.
- Three significant wildland fires in the Wildland Urban interface that no structures were lost.
- ISO evaluation completed on Oct 29th, 2025.



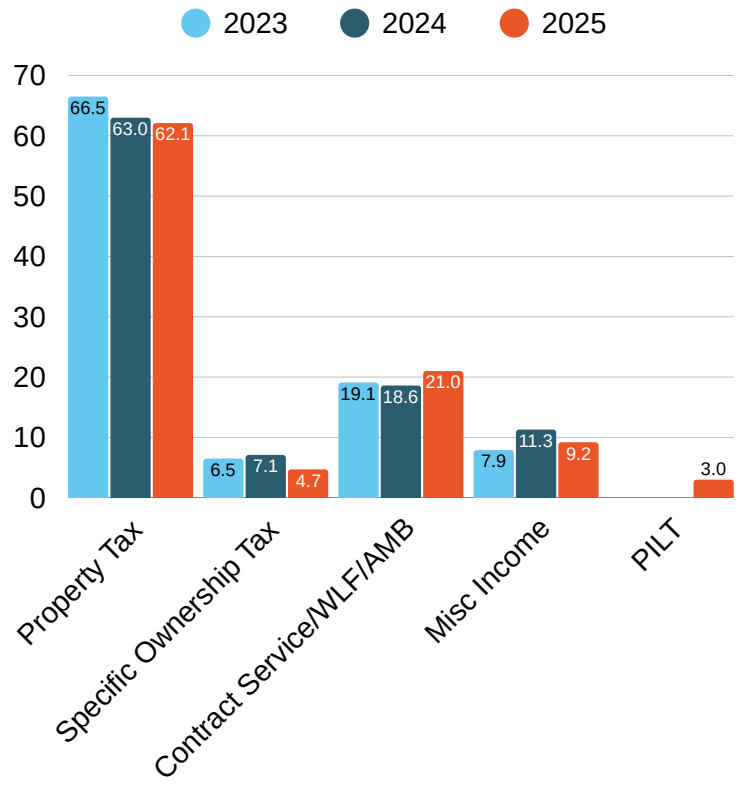
Financial Snapshot

2025 Revenues



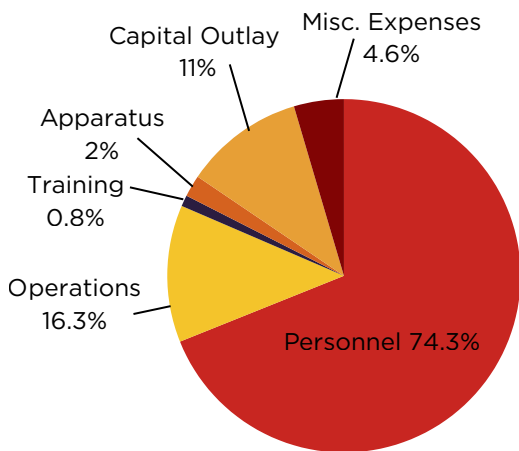
Property Tax: \$3,495,500
 Contract Service/Wildland/Ambulance: \$1,182,500
 Misc. Revenue: \$519,767
 Specific Ownership Tax: \$265,000
 PILT: \$167,309
TOTAL: \$5,630,076

Revenue Trends



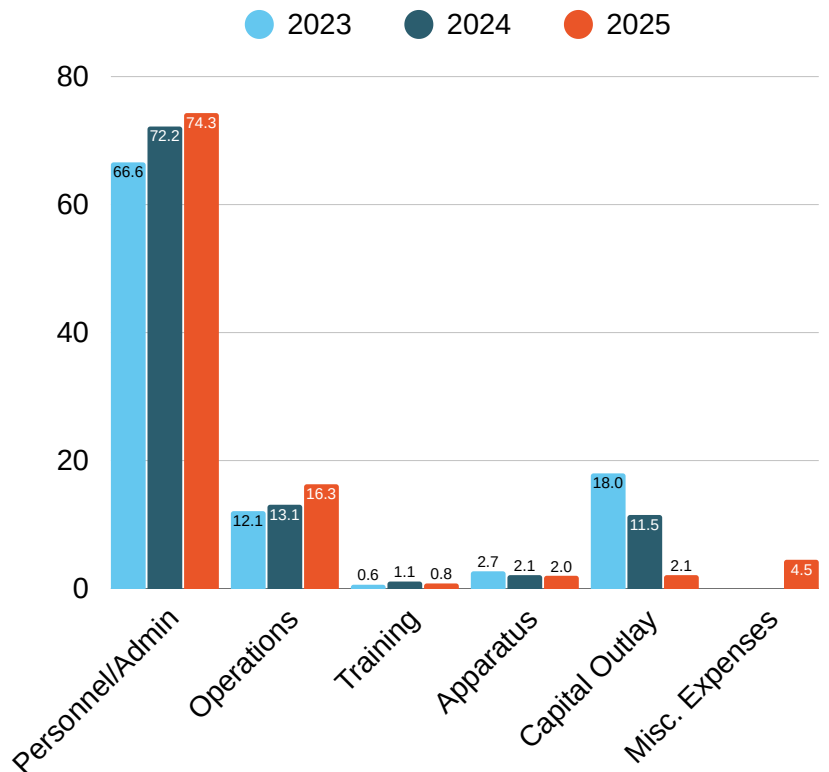
Financial reports are available on the District's website:
[HTTPS://LOSPINOSFIRE.COM/BOARD-INFO.HTML](https://LOSPINOSFIRE.COM/BOARD-INFO.HTML)

2025 Expenses



Personnel/Administrative: \$3,353,754
 Operations: \$737,295
 Misc. Other Expenses: \$202,199
 Capital Outlay Expense: \$93,000
 Apparatus: \$90,000
 Training: \$35,000
TOTAL: \$4,511,248.00

Expense Trends

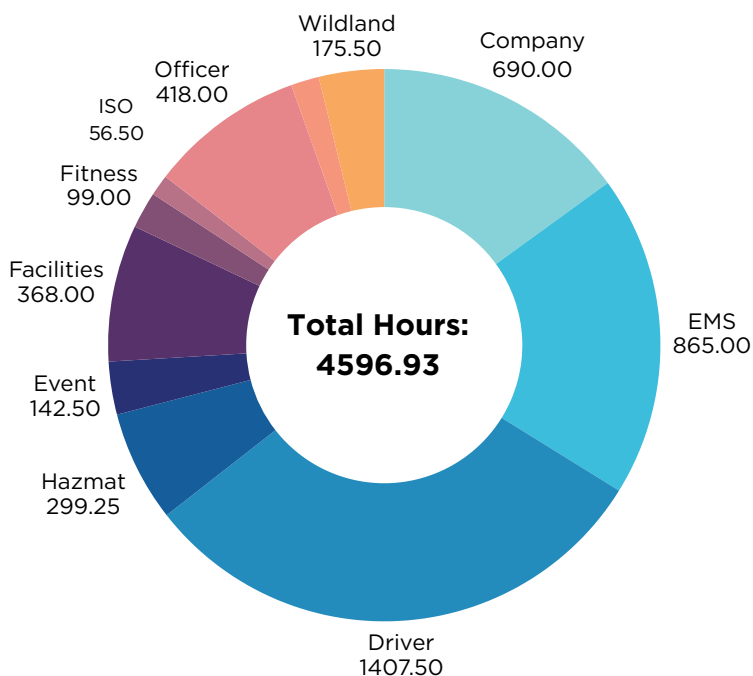


District Training

- We continued to send individuals outside of the local area for Wildland fire, Technology, Investigation, Leadership, and EMS. These training courses provide different aspects and innovation to the overall service.
- We continued to access all the local training courses to maintain our skills and certifications. A lot of these are free or have a small cost. This was additional to the 4400 Hours of in-house training that was conducted while on shift.
- Three individuals completed the National Blue Card Command Certification.
- One individual completed his Paramedic certification. Another finished his Advanced EMT certification.
- The District mechanic attended a five-day training for fire apparatus at Aims Community College.
- 27 renewals and 11 new State Fire Certifications.
- The training yard was used by the Colorado Firefighter Academy, San Juan County Fire, and Upper Pine Fire this year. These Agencies used our Training Tower and Flash-Over trailer for training and the pump test pit to certify their equipment.
- Four separate Fire certification practical testing sessions were completed at the training yard.
- Participated in mutual aid training at the Airport. We also participated in the yearly disaster exercises for Harvest Midstream Plant and Lake Capote's Emergency Response Plan.



Training Hours in 2025





Development Team

The Development Team achieved significant milestones in 2025, successfully transitioning our 12th member into a paid reserve position. The team maintained optimal operational capacity with 8-10 active members throughout the year, reflecting the program's 10-member limit. Despite minimal formal recruitment efforts—relying primarily on word-of-mouth referrals—the program consistently attracts approximately one qualified recruit per month.

Candidate Profile and Training Pipeline

The Development Team recruits applicants pursuing careers in first response. While 75% of 2025 applicants entered the program with no prior certifications or field experience, our structured training pathway addresses critical skill gaps including:

- Wildland, exterior, and interior firefighting operations
- Chain of command protocols
- Authority and accountability frameworks
- Closed-loop communication systems
- Operational timeliness and time management

Program participants work toward Colorado Firefighter I certification, which includes Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations certifications. Combined with Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B) certification, these qualifications meet minimum requirements for paid positions within the fire service.

In exchange for comprehensive training and operational experience, Development Team members commit to a minimum of 16 hours monthly, fulfilled through either on-shift duty assignments or emergency response calls.

2025 Operational Metrics

Development Team members collectively contributed:

- 205.5 hours of formalized training
- 679 on-shift hours (42% increase from 478 hours in 2024)
- 100+ emergency response hours

Calculated at \$18.00/hour (the department's standard entry-level wage), member contributions generated \$14,022 in operational cost savings while simultaneously providing essential professional development.

Strategic Impact

The Development Team has successfully adapted to evolving volunteerism trends by establishing a sustainable pipeline model. This approach consistently develops qualified first responders committed to serving our communities while maintaining operational readiness and fiscal responsibility.



Scot Davis

Scot Davis
Battalion Chief
Volunteer Coordinator

Fire Marshal Report

We had two individuals that obtained their certifications in Arson investigations. One of these individuals also is completing his building inspection certification.

Participated in multiple community events including parades, health fairs, career fairs, and judging at school science fairs. This year we also helped serve Thanksgiving lunch to the High School and Middle School. Fire and EMS standbys for community events like the Bear dance, Sundance, multiple rodeo events, Tribal fair, and the Demolition derby. Active participation in the Safe School meetings, Community Disaster recovery, and the implementation of the Colorado Wildland Resiliency Code.

- **14 commercial business Life Safety and Fire Inspections**
- **6 mobile food establishment inspections**
- **4 Fire Investigations**
- **Completed hydrant tests on= 24 hydrants, 10% of all district hydrants.**
- **37 Community Events**



Brad Egger

Brad Egger, IAAI-CFI, FO1, EMT-I
Division Chief/Fire Marshal

STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

BANNED			ALLOWED	
 <p>All personal uses of fireworks are prohibited.</p>	 <p>Any fire not within a permanently constructed fire pit, ring or grate on public or private land.</p>	 <p>Smoking outdoors in an area that is not cleared of all combustible materials.</p>	 <p>Professional fireworks displays.</p>	 <p>Fires contained with permanently constructed fire pit, ring or grate on PRIVATE land or within a fee-charged PUBLIC recreational site, such as campgrounds.</p>
 <p>Fires contained within portable devices (chimneys, charcoal grills and tiki torches with no shut-off valve) on undeveloped lands.</p>	 <p>Fires contained within liquid fueled or gas fueled stoves, lanterns or heating devices on PUBLIC or PRIVATE land.</p>	 <p>Smoking within an enclosed vehicle, building, developed recreation site or in an area that is cleared of all combustible materials.</p>	 <p>Shooting or discharging firearms on PRIVATE land or at a PUBLIC shooting range.</p>	 <p>Using internal or external combustion engines WITH a spark-arresting device.</p>
 <p>No explosive targets or incendiary (tracer) rounds. These are never allowed in federal lands.</p>	 <p>Using any internal or external combustion engine without a spark-arresting device.</p>	 <p>Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame in an area that is not cleared of at least 10 feet in diameter and not in possession of a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher.</p>	 <p>Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame in cleared areas of at least 10 feet in diameter and in possession of a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher.</p>	

Incident Data 2025

**LOS PINOS FPD
RESPONDED TO
1,042 CALLS**

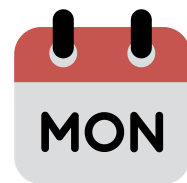


MAJOR CALL VOLUME DECREASES IN:

- HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS: -38.5%
- PRESCRIBED FIRES: -47%
- HAZMAT INVESTIGATIONS: -40%
- EMS OVERALL: -9.7%



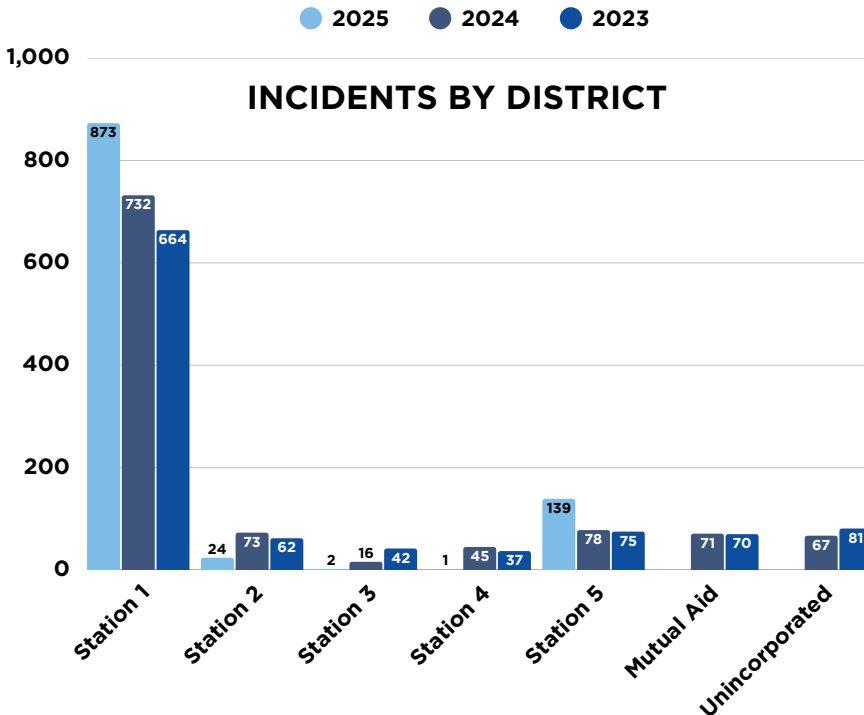
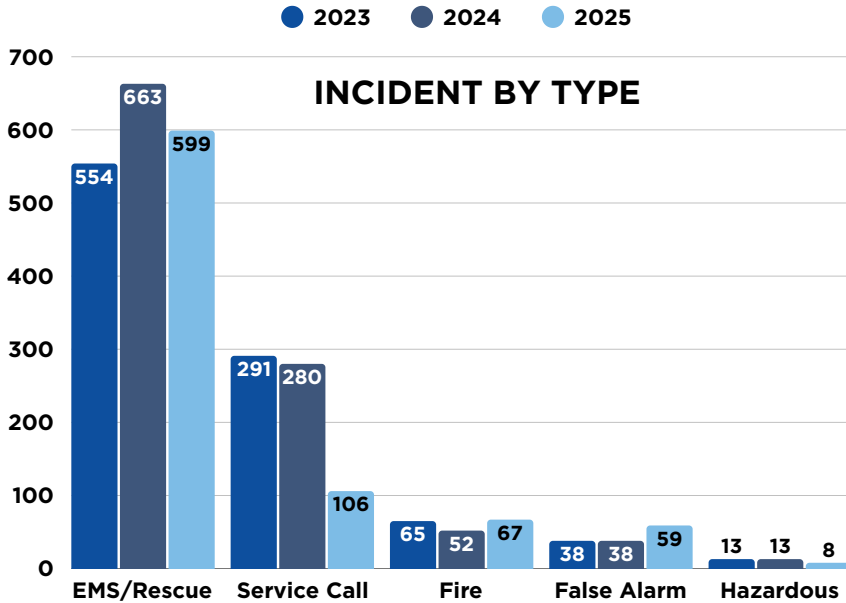
11 A.M-12 P.M. had the highest call volume.- 2 hours earlier than 2024



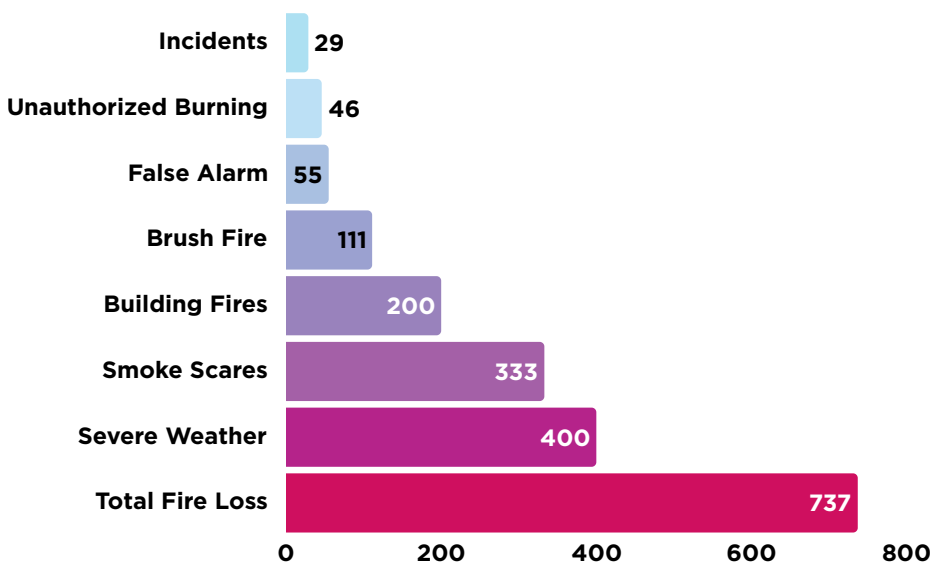
Mondays had the most calls during the week- 2 days earlier than 2024



**ASSIST
POLICE
CALLS
INCREASED
1900%**



Largest Increase % By Incident



RECOGNITION AWARDS



FIREFIGHTERS OF THE YEAR:
NICK ESTRADA & ALISSA MENDEZ

CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR:
CPT. DAKOTA BALLEW

LIEUTENANT OF THE YEAR:
LT. JAMES O'CONNOR

PARAMEDIC OF THE YEAR:
LANDRY BRAKE

EMTs OF THE YEAR:
CALLIE DECKER & ALISSA MENDEZ

DEVELOPMENT TEAM MEMBER OF THE YEAR:
JOSH FANNING

MEMBERS OF THE YEAR:
REBECCA FLINDERS & JARED HANSEN

WILDLAND MEMBER OF THE YEAR:
REES BECK

RESERVE MEMBER OF THE YEAR:
ROBYN GURULE



Newly Certified



Torrey Schaefer FF/EMT-B
F.I.T. - Fire Investigation Technician



Matt Fudala FF/EMT-B IV
F.I.T. - Fire Investigation Technician



Scot Davis, Battalion Chief
AEMT Certification



Tyler St. Cyr FF/EMT-B
Paramedic Certification

Los Pinos PPD Board Members



Treasurer
Chelsea Caler



Board Member
Preston Rea



Board President
Tom Arthur



Secretary
James Brown



Vice President
Don Woodmansee

Retirement



Troy Brady, Serving since 2015
Mechanic

Troy has a well deserved new title, retiree.
Thank you for your years of dedicated service.



Meet Our New Mechanic



MECHANIC, Jared Hansen, Serving Since 2025

Jared was hired in March 2025 after the retirement of Troy Brady, who served as the district mechanic for nearly 10 years. Jared holds an Associate Degree in Diesel Technology and is experienced in heavy and light duty diesel repair. Additionally, Jared possesses skills in welding and fabrication and holds a Class A CDL with tanker endorsement. His experience includes over 15 years as a mechanic.

Fleet Services

- Finished dispersing equipment that we had placed out of service over the last 3 years. The equipment was donated to a small department on the western slope. They were using it to replace some of their 30-year-old equipment.
- The Type-1 Tactical tender upgrade was completed. It officially started servicing the district at the end of August. The 1991 5-ton military truck went to auction and now has a new home in Florida.
- Annual apparatus pump testing was completed. This test not only meets the requirement but provides data to make future apparatus decisions based on current equipment condition.
- Ambulance repurposing project was completed by the end of 2025. The district now has a Utility truck that has multiple purposes.

Wildland Report

The 2025 Los Pinos Wildland Division operated with a dedicated team comprising a full-time wildland coordinator, one full-time engine boss, and eight seasonal wildland firefighters. Throughout the 2025 fire season, our personnel responded promptly to incidents at the local, regional, and national levels.

Wildland Assignments

The Wildland Division of Los Pinos Fire continued with a support role with both the US Forest Service Columbine Ranger District and Southern Ute BIA.

While on assignment with the Forest Service we provided equipment and personnel for the annual prescribed fire burns. The crew and equipment were utilized in preparation of RX burns east of Bayfield, Colorado.

Sending out engines, overhead, and crews is a great way to add depth in experience and to bring in revenue back to the district. Along with the local severity assignments with the BIA and Forest Service, when conditions were favorable in our region we were able to send crews out of our area. Our crews went to fires in California, Colorado and New Mexico. With a total of 205 days on fire assignments.

Training

The Wildland Division of Los Pinos Fire is continually participating in training activities with the rest of the department. All of our crew members are encouraged to have tasks books open for their next qualification, and we look for opportunities for our crew members to complete those tasks as much as possible.

Community Burns

The Wildland Division of Los Pinos Fire provides an engine crew (when available) that performs agricultural burns in our district. The engine crew also assists with slash pile burns for those that feel uncomfortable burning piles. In 2025 the crew accomplished about 100 acres burned.

"We had experienced two wildland fire incidents, covering a total of 50 acres, within the first four days of February. Wildfires thrive under conditions characterized by warm, windy days, dry and plentiful vegetation, and low humidity levels. It is crucial to exercise increased caution when engaging in outdoor activities that could generate sparks or intense heat. If you plan to conduct a controlled burn, your responsibilities are to inform Durango Emergency Communication Center at 970-385-2900 before initiating the burn, ensure you have the necessary tools and water supply ready to manage and extinguish the fire, and importantly, do not leave the fire unattended."



What Causes Wildfires?

A spark, in the presence of fuel and oxygen, can cause a fire, which can further spread depending on various weather conditions.

A SPARK + FUEL & OXYGEN = FIRE! X WEATHER CONDITIONS

Fires can be sparked by natural causes, but most wildfires in the U.S. are caused by human activity.

Natural causes:



Lightning strikes



Heat from the sun

Human activity:



Vehicles & machinery



Cigarette butts



Fireworks



Campfires & burning brush

Fuel is usually dry vegetation.



Grass



Brush



Trees

Oxygen is almost everywhere.



Certain weather conditions can make fires bigger, faster, and more dangerous.



Strong wind



Drought



High temperatures & low humidity

weather.gov



64,000 Wildfires

Average number of wildfires per year

6.8 Million

Average acres burned per year by wildfires

WHAT IS A RED FLAG WARNING?

A warning issued when **critical fire weather conditions** are happening or about to happen.

It does not necessarily mean there is a fire, but that conditions will be very dry and windy. If a fire is present, it can become extreme!

Avoid activities that could spark a wildfire!



Take Action!

- ✓ Make your wildfire plan, with at least 2 evacuation routes
- ✓ Maintain your go kit
- ✓ Follow fire prevention tips and regulations
- ✓ Listen to local officials for updates and evacuation orders

weather.gov



Colorado Wildfire Resiliency code was signed into law on May 12th of 2025. The code is a state statute to promote resiliency to wild land fire in the Wildland urban interface areas. This code requires the Authority Having Jurisdiction to adapt by April 1st and implement by July 1st.

Key Points

The code (8 CCR 1507-39) is governed by the Wildfire resiliency Code Board which will promulgate these rules to accomplish the following:

- Identifies areas of the state that are WUI
- Adopts a set of minimum codes and standards that apply to permitting and inspections of new construction and new external additions, alterations or repair to existing structures. The code also addresses defensible space around these structures based on best practices to reduce risk to life and property from wildland fires.
- Identify the range of hazards and the type of buildings, entities, and defensible space around the structures within the WUI to which the codes apply.
- Establish a process by which a governing board may petition the State Board for modifications to the code. This includes criteria and process for the board to deny or grant appeal from a decision by the State Board on a petition of modification.
- Establish criteria and parameters for expedited consideration or approval of an exemption from the code for activities or investments related to existing utility infrastructure.

Code applies to the following that have been identified as in a WUI area:

- New construction of structures
- Significant alterations or repairs that increase footprint by 500sq ft or 25% of the exterior or structure are affected.

Code does not apply to:

- Interior alterations
- 35-acre parcels with 1 residential structure not abutting a residential or commercial area.
- Exterior maintenance work
- Fences located more than 8 feet from habitable structure
- Homes built to HUD Manufactured home construction and Safety standards.

C.R.S. 24-33.5-1237

- Requires local governing bodies in the WUI to adopt a code that meets or exceeds the 2025 code by April 1, 2026.
- The governing body must begin enforcing code within three months of the adoption of the code.

SB25-142 -allows governing bodies to enter into cooperative agreements to enforce the code.

Summary:

To implement this Statute has required Los Pinos Fire to be part of many meetings over the last year. Every month, there were two separate meetings that we attended. One was the PEER support meeting that was hosted by the Colorado Department of Fire and Prevention. The goal of this group was to bring different organizations and agencies together to formulate plans for the individual agency to enact the Code. Attendees were from Fire agencies, Building departments, and Town governments. Each month, there were presentations and question sessions to help these organizations develop the route for their specific organization to implement the Code.

The second monthly meeting was the Task Force of agencies in La Plata County. This task force had representation of four Fire districts and the building departments that serve the county. This Task force was formed because there was no single department that had the expertise, manpower, and ability to enforce. It was through these meetings that a unified plan was formulated to implement the Code, and which agency was responsible for specific piece.

Conclusion:

By adopting the code, we will be taking actions in addressing the growing Wildland /Urban interface issues and it will strengthen our relationships with our regional partners.

Preventing wildfires involves a series of proactive measures aimed at reducing the risks and mitigating the potential impacts. Here's a brief bulleted list of actions that can be taken:

Maintain Clear Surroundings:

- Clear dead vegetation and other flammable materials from around homes and buildings.
- Create a defensible space by maintaining a buffer zone, free of flammable materials, around structures.

Follow Local Fire Regulations

- Adhere to local guidelines and restrictions on burning and fire usage, especially during high-risk periods.
- Obtain necessary permits for controlled burns and ensure they are conducted safely.

Safe Campfire Practices

- Always check if campfires are allowed in the area.
- Keep campfires small and manageable, and never leave them unattended.
- Completely extinguish campfires before leaving, ensuring ashes are cold to the touch.

Equipment and Vehicle Safety

- Ensure vehicles and equipment are properly maintained to prevent sparks or mechanical failures that could ignite a fire.
- Avoid using lawn mowers or other machinery that could create sparks on dry, windy days.



Report Hazards

- Report downed power lines, unauthorized fires, or any other potential fire hazards to authorities immediately.

Use Fire-Resistant Materials

- For new constructions or renovations, use fire-resistant building materials and design to help structures better withstand fires.

Community Preparedness

- Participate in local fire prevention programs and initiatives.
- Develop and practice community evacuation plans in case of wildfire emergencies.

Education and Awareness

- Educate yourself and others about wildfire risks and prevention techniques.
- Promote fire safety awareness through community programs and social media.

Plant Fire-Resistant Vegetation

- Landscape with fire-resistant plants and trees to reduce the likelihood of fire spreading.

Regular Maintenance

- Perform regular maintenance and clearance of roofs, gutters, and decks to remove leaves, needles, and other flammable materials.

By implementing these measures, individuals and communities can significantly reduce the risk of wildfires and mitigate their potential impacts.

WELCOME TO LA PLATA COUNTY!

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT WILDFIRES



www.lpcfireprepared.org

1 KNOW THE RISKS

The National Weather Service issues a Red Flag Warning when temperature, humidity and wind create conditions that increase the risk of wildfire. Know and obey fire restrictions in our County and on the National Forest.



2 GET PREPARED



Sign up for local, La Plata County CodeRED Notifications. Have an evacuation plan including routes.

3 GET INFORMED

Access local resources for wildfire updates and support during emergencies.

www.lpcfireprepared.org

4 PREVENTATIVE TIPS

- Maintain your vehicles and equipment to reduce friction, sparks & overheating
- Ensure vehicle chains don't drag
- Practice firearm safety by avoiding conditions for sparks
- Properly dispose cigarette butts
- Dispose of ash in a tightly sealed metal container
- Do not leave campfires unattended
- Use water and shoveling until your campfire is no longer hot to touch



5 EMERGENCY SITUATION

Call 9-1-1



THANKS FOR VISITING LA PLATA COUNTY!

My Personal Wildland Fire ACTION PLAN

Ready Before a fire occurs

Prepare yourself and your household

- Create a Wildland Fire Action Plan, visit wildlandfireRSG.org.
- Know multiple evacuation routes.
- Keep emergency supply kits on property and in personal vehicles.

Prepare your property

- Ensure your address is clearly marked and visible from the street.
- Establish and maintain mitigated firebreaks around your pastures and structures.
- Assess your property for ignition sources.
- Create defensible space around all structures.
- Clearly mark water tanks, ponds, and other water supplies available for firefighting use.
- Reinforce bridges to ensure that fire engines or other fire suppression equipment are supported. Post bridge load limits and bridge heights.

Prepare your livestock

- Create a livestock relocation/evacuation plan.
- Ensure proper registration and branding of livestock.
- Establish a contingency plan for feeding livestock if grazing land is destroyed.

Set As the fire approaches

- Monitor local radio or television stations for weather updates.
- Load vehicles with emergency supplies and valuables.
- Alert your household and workers of any changes in the situation.
- Turn on irrigation.
- Open gates to give access to firefighters.
- Relocate livestock.
- Close all doors and windows and turn on all lights in homes, barns, and other structures.
- Shut off propane tanks.
- Ensure all water source connections and locations are identified and operational.
- Move heavy equipment into non vegetated areas such as crop fields or mowed pastures.

Go! Act early

- Leave early enough to avoid being caught in the fire.
- Do not go back to open gates or evacuate animals.

Remember: During a wildland fire, responding resources may not be from the immediate area or have local knowledge. Clearly marked addresses, water supplies, and bridge load limits save valuable time.

If you are trapped or unable to evacuate:

- Call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Wear long sleeves and pants made of natural fibers, such as cotton. Boots, gloves, hats, goggles, and bandanas are also helpful against smoke and embers.
- Stay hydrated.
- Patrol your property for fires, if it is safe to do so.
- Take refuge inside a structure, away from outside walls.
- Place wet towels under doors to keep smoke and embers out.

Remember: The best thing you can do is evacuate early and let firefighters do their jobs. If you choose to stay, understand that severe fire behavior could prevent firefighters from rescuing you or other members of your household.

This IAFC Wildland Fire Program is funded through a DHS/FEMA/AFG/FP&S grant awarded FY2018 and in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Contact your local fire department to learn more about how you can reduce wildland fire risk and to get your own copy of the RSG! Program National Action Guide.
Visit wildlandfireRSG.org today!

A History In Fire



The history of the Los Pinos Fire Protection District is preserved not only in records and reports, but in the pages of local newspapers that chronicled its journey. Each headline represents a moment in time, capturing the growth of the fire district to what has become today, the dedication of its personnel, and the evolving needs of the community.

Presented chronologically, these articles trace the district's path from its early years to the present day, illustrating a continued commitment to excellence in service and the community's recognition of the need for fire and emergency services. These clippings reflect more than headlines. They capture dedication, resilience, partnership, and progress. Together, they tell the story of a district built by its people and strengthened by the community's trust.

IT BEGAN WITH A BUCKET BRIGADE

Los Pinos Fire Protection District

Raison D'être

Simply stated, a *raison d'être* is the thing that is most important to someone or something. It is the reason for which a person or organization exists. In the case of the Los Pinos Fire Protection District, examining our history can be of great assistance in communicating our mission to the public, as well as the members of the organization.

On November 16th, 1917, the citizens of Ignacio, Colorado had to form a bucket brigade to try to save the Commercial Hotel and Aspaas Store from fire. The Durango Fire Department was contacted for assistance to bring that blaze under control. While Ignacio had been thriving as a community since 1913, this seemed to be the first incident that caused the population to think about fire protection. In December of 1922 a fire hydrant was installed on the corner of what is now Goddard Avenue and Ute Street. The hydrant was installed in anticipation of the delivery of firefighting equipment. Prior to the appearance of that equipment, a fire destroyed Fabian Martinez's restaurant in January of 1923.

Los Pinos Fire Protection District

LPPFD Policy Manual



The Los Pinos Fire District

In February of 1923 a hose cart, equipped with 1000 feet of fire hose, arrived and was stored in a shed behind the Ignacio State Bank. Significant fires occurred in January of 1931 at the L. M. Wayt and Wm. Bryan store; in September of 1935 at the Commercial Hotel; and again, in February of 1937 at the D. E. Printz home and the D. S. Potter house. News reports indicate that firefighting efforts at the time were impacted by water system issues, as well as the availability of firefighters and equipment. On October 8th, 1948, the Town of Ignacio voted to purchase its first piece of motorized fire equipment, a 1936 Seagrave.

The provision of Emergency Services in the Ignacio area was at best, dependent on available and willing citizens. The 1970's saw some formalization of fire and emergency medical organizations. In 1975 the Ignacio Volunteer Emergency Squad (IVES) was formed to provide Emergency Medical Services, followed by the creation of the Ignacio Volunteer Fire Department (IVFD) in February of 1977. The IVFD firehouse was located at the present site of Ignacio Town Hall. Recognizing the need for fire services outside of the Town of Ignacio limits, the Los Pinos Fire Protection District (LPPFD) was established in 1985. In 1986 the LPPFD moved out of the firehouse in Ignacio and was located at the Bureau of Indian Affairs firehouse, situated on the Southern Ute Tribal Campus. In 1987, LPPFD Station #1 in Ignacio and Station #2 in Oxford were completed and equipped. In 2002, the Allison and Arboles areas were incorporated into the District and IVES was integrated into the LPPFD in 2005.

Today, The LPPFD provides fire suppression and emergency medical services to a 325-square mile area of Southwest Colorado. The Fire District encompasses portions of La Plata and Archuleta Counties, and includes the communities of Oxford, Tiffany, Allison, Arboles, and the Town of Ignacio. A substantial portion of the response area consists of Southern Ute Tribal Lands, Bureau of Land Management property, territory belonging to the U.S. Forest Service, Division of Wildlife areas, and land owned by the State of Colorado.

From the humble beginnings of helpful residents manning a hose cart, to today's staff of career Firefighter/EMT's, the Los Pinos Fire Protection District remains ready to serve the citizens of the region in any situation.

THE IGNACIO CHIEFTAIN

AND THE BAYFIELD BLADE

IGNACIO, LA PLATA COUNTY, COLORADO, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1929

Week of October 6 to 12 Is Fire Prevention Week

The week of October 6-12 has been designated by President Hoover as Fire Prevention Week. The annual observance of this week, says Secretary of Agriculture Arthur M. Hyde, undoubtedly has contributed materially to the cause of human safety and well-being.

Following the President's announcement on fire losses in general, Secretary Hyde called attention to farm fire losses in the following Statement:

"The farmer has as much reason as the city dweller or any other owner of property, to interest himself in these special annual campaigns against fire.

"The loss on farms and in rural communities due to fires has been estimated to have been as high as 3,500 lives and \$150,000,000 worth of property in a single year. The rural population of our Nation should give serious and constructive thought to this problem and make special efforts to eliminate needless fire losses.

"Lightning, defective chimneys and flues, sparks on combustible roofs, matches, smoking, spontaneous ignition of agricultural products, careless use and storage of gasoline and kerosene, faulty wiring and improper use of electric appliances, continue to be the principal known causes of fires on farms.

"The individual has it in his power to combat these hazards, and I urge that he do his utmost to safeguard his family and property against the fire menace. Periodic clean-up and inspection of premises will remove many serious fire hazards.

"The U. S. Department of agriculture has a special committee on farm fire protection, which is actively co-operating with interested national organizations in an effort to reduce the losses from fires on farms and in rural communities.

"Rural volunteer fire departments, equipped with modern motorized apparatus, are receiving merited and widespread attention, and represent investments which pay dividends in fire protection, especially where good roads have been provided.

"The rural fire prevention and control movement calls for concerted and continuous effort by all concerned, with the common end in view of conserving national resources, both in lives and materials."



On January 8, 1931 a fire started in the Wyatt hardware store from coal being left unattended and spread to the adjacent Bryan store causing \$20,000 in damages.
-Voices of Ignacio

This fire damage would total \$426,476.32 in damages today.



Ignacio Chieftain, October 4, 1946

The Ignacio Chieftain

AND BAYFIELD BLADE

IGNACIO, (La Plata County), COLORADO, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1947

Annual Observance Seeks Curb On Skyrocketing Fire Damage

Careless Habits Blamed as Toll Hits High Peak

WNU Features.

With the dual objective of ridding homes and communities of the hazards which account for the majority of fires and of focusing attention on the careless habits which take an increasingly alarming toll of life and property, Fire Prevention Week will be observed on a nationwide scale during the week of October 5-11.

During an average year, fire:

- Takes 10,000 lives . . .
- Maims or scars 40,000 persons . . .
- Destroys or damages 350,000 homes, 2,700 churches, 2,600 schools, 9,500 hotels and boarding houses, 10,500 restaurants, 1,000 hospitals and 3,100 amusement places . . .
- Destroys 90 million dollars worth of farm property . . .
- Burns forest lands equal to an area the size of Virginia . . .
- Destroys enough timber and lumber to build 150,000 five-room houses.

An intensive campaign to curb this mounting fire loss will be conducted during National Fire Prevention Week, which is held annually during the week containing October 9, anniversary of the great Chicago fire of 1871. National Fire Protection association, with headquarters in Boston, a world-wide, non-profit fire control information center, has been official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week since its inception during President Wilson's administration.

The 1947 fire toll is zooming to an all-time peak of 700 million dollars, an increase of 25 per cent over 1946, the previous peak.

Containing that the fire loss forecast for 1947 will be a 17-year high, NFPA blames the skyrocketing damage on substandard construction, public indifference, inadequate protection and maintenance, undermanned and underequipped fire departments and a let-down of periodic fire inspections.

Careless fire is upping the U. S. cost of living, NFPA charges, adding that a study by the association reveals that the average American family of five will pay a 1947 fire tax of more than \$50 on the basis of the 700 million dollar fire loss forecast.

Fire causes waste of thousands of tons of food urgently needed to feed the hungry here and abroad. Annually fires occur in 2,000 flour mills and elevators, 200 packing plants, 900 bakeries, 10,500 restaurants, 32,000 barns, 500 creameries and dairies and in thousands of groceries, warehouses and farms.

Chief causes of fire, according to the National Board of Fire Underwriters, are matches and smoking, which account for 30 per cent of all fires from known causes. Other major causes are defective or overheated stoves, furnaces and flues, misuse of electricity, flammable fluids and open fires.

Children are the most frequent victims of fire, with children under five years accounting for 20 per cent of all fire fatalities.

Smoking Labeled No. 1 Fire Hazard

Careless smoking was labeled fire hazard No. 1 by Percy Bugbee, general manager of National Fire Protection association, in urging a concerted Fire Prevention Week campaign to halt this practice.

Quoting department of agriculture reports disclosing that Americans smoked 327 billion cigarettes last year, Bugbee insisted: "Every one of these cigarettes when lit is a potential fire hazard unless careful smoking is practiced."

The careless smoker is responsible for more than 100,000 of the approximate 650,000 building fires which ravage the country every year, Bugbee charged. Nine out of ten of the approximately 200,000 annual forest fires are man-made, most of them resulting from careless smoking in the woods.

Ignacio Chieftain, October 3, 1947

PATH OF DESTRUCTION

Toll of Farm Fires Estimated At 90 Million Dollars Yearly

Death and destruction follow in the wake of farm fires, the catastrophic blazes taking the lives of 10 farmers every day and causing property damage estimated at 90 million dollars a year. The 1947 dollar loss from farm fires would permit construction of 50,000 barns costing \$2,000 each, it is estimated by

National Fire Protection association. Placed end-to-end, the barns would form an unbroken wall 500 miles long.

Insisting that the increasing fire loss is not inevitable to life on a farm, NFPA contends that "90 per cent of the fires which are taking such a high toll of life and property are caused by the farmer himself.

"Farmers who are interested in protecting their property, their family and themselves can eliminate the causes of all but 10 per cent of these devastating fires practically overnight," NFPA declares. "All that's needed is common sense and constant vigilance."

During Fire Prevention Week, October 5 to 11, NFPA in cooperation with the U. S. department of agriculture urges farmers to become cognizant of the hazards which threaten to engulf their farmsteads in flames.

The causes of 90 per cent of fires on farms are almost equally divisible between faulty building construction and bad habits, NFPA reports. Emphasizing that farms normally are far removed from organized fire protection, NFPA advises farmers to give first consideration to use of fire-resistant materials in building construction and suggests inspection of the farm home and other buildings to eliminate these structural hazards:

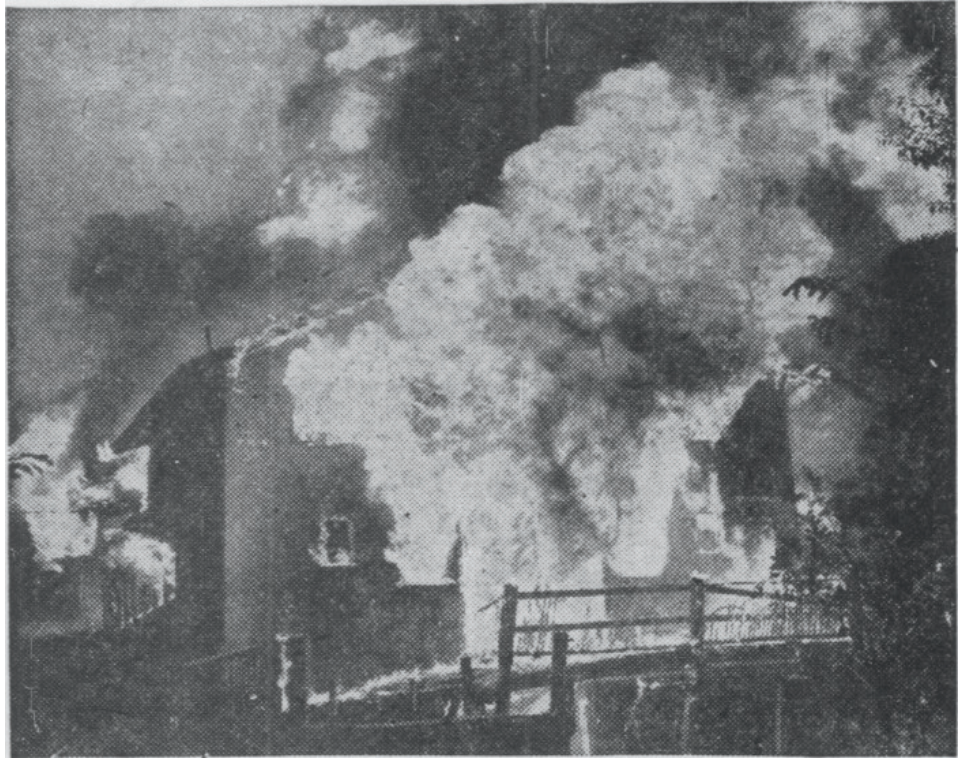
1. Be sure the heating plant is properly installed with adequate safeguards. Keep it clean and in good repair. Use only metal barrels for ashes and rubbish.
2. Don't use flammable wood shingles on the roof of any farm building. In new construction, repair and remodeling work, use only fire-retardant roofing, such as asphalt shingles or some other fire-resisting material. Sparks from the chimney or brush fires falling on flammable wood shingle roofs are a major cause of farm fires.
3. Check the wiring system to make sure it is adequate and ready to carry the expanded electrical load needed to service the modern farm and that newly installed systems meet the requirement of the national electrical code.
4. Build chimneys with sturdy foundations. Set them on the ground, not on timbers, and build of fire-safe materials. Clean the chimney at least once a year.
5. Install and properly maintain lightning rods on all main buildings.

If these fire-breeds were eliminated, NFPA insists, the number of farm fires would be cut in half.

Among the bad habits which account for the rest of preventable fires, NFPA lists the following:

1. The careless smoker. He smokes in bed and in the barn; discards lighted cigarets and matches; fails to keep matches out of reach of small children.
2. The thoughtless farm wife who stacks papers, rags, old clothing, broken furniture and toys in the attic, closets, barn or other outbuildings — debris which is tinder for any spark and often the source of spontaneous ignition.
3. Dangerous storage of gasoline and kerosene, and use of flammable cleaning fluids. Store flammable liquids in metal containers away from main buildings; never use kerosene to quicken a fire, and be sure cleaning fluids are non-explosive.
4. Clean dust and cobwebs always from motors, appliances and machinery to avoid the danger of flash fires. Don't attempt to operate defective electrical equipment, and replace frayed cords promptly.
5. Properly cure hay and keep it under a weathertight roof to avoid spontaneous ignition. Water seeping through a roof and dripping into hay can start the heating process.

These farm fires from 1947 would cost \$1.31 billion dollars today. Those 50,000 barns would cost almost \$30,000 each if kept to the same standards. It wasn't just livelihoods, but lives at stake that drove these fire prevention articles urging the community to take action.



ANOTHER NEEDLESS BLAZE . . . Destruction like this is unnecessary, maintains National Fire Protection association, sponsor of Fire Prevention Week. NFPA insists that 90 per cent of all fires are preventable. Common sense and constant vigilance will solve the problem.



CATASTROPHE ON THE FARM . . . Fire guts a farm barn, one of the many blazes which cause an estimated 90 million dollars property damage on farms every year.

The Ignacio Chieftain

AND BAYFIELD BLADE

IGNACIO (La Plata County), COLORADO, FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1949

Check Fire Equipment, Farmers Are Advised

Farmers are urged by county agents to check fire extinguishers to be certain they are approved.

These warnings are based on reports from Fire Protection Institute, a national fire safety organization, that many "unapproved" extinguishers have been made available during the past few years. It was pointed out that an undependable extinguisher is about as useful as a counterfeit dollar.



Local publications such as the Ignacio Chieftain, Bayfield Blade, Southern Ute Drum, Intertribal News, and The Thoughtful Years played an essential role in connecting residents to the evolving story of fire protection in our region. Through coverage of emergency responses, advancements in fire prevention, the introduction of ambulance services, and calls for volunteer support, these publications served as a vital link between the department and the community it protects.

Long before instant alerts and digital communication, newspapers were the primary source of information and reassurance. They informed families about new safety initiatives, highlighted the dedication of volunteers, and fostered a shared understanding of the importance of organized fire protection. In doing so, they strengthened public trust and encouraged community involvement.

Thanks to the efforts of these publications many lives were changed and potentially saved. They contributed to the growth of what would decades later become the Lost Pinos Fire Protection District. Without the support and information gathered by these community driven entities the level of progress and preparedness we have today wouldn't be possible. Their reporting not only documented history, it helped shape it. The collaboration between local media and community members stands as a lasting example of how shared information and civic engagement can advance public safety and improve lives. The visibility provided by these outlets helped lay the groundwork for sustained growth, increased preparedness, and broader support for what would ultimately become the Los Pinos Fire Protection District.

Ambulance is available

If ever the need arises in which an ambulance is required, the Civil Air Patrol has provided the town of Ignacio with ambulance service. This service is available to anyone, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In emergency situations, the Tribal Police Department, telephone 563-4401 or the town marshal, telephone 563-4223, may be contacted.

Civil Air Patrol members may also be contacted. Members are: Tommy King, Joe Romero, Abel Atencio, Lawrence Wiseman, Jose Candelaria, Eugene Naranjo, Fred Lucero, Larry Wright, Arnold Lucero, Lou Ainsworth, Glen Payne, Leonard Burch and Arthur Payne.

*Southern Ute Drum, May 9, 1969
Vol. 1 Issue 1*

Fire volunteers, both men and women, are needed in Ignacio. If you are interested in serving your community in this way, you are invited to a meeting at the town hall at 7:00 on Thursday evening, Jan. 30. Rich Sellee, an experienced volunteer fire organizer, will be present to give information on what is involved in this service and to begin initial training for those interested. If you've always wanted to be a fireman, this is your chance! Pass the word.

Jan 1975 -The Thoughtful Years

8.



SHELL FIRE

Published: August 4, 1977

The Southern Ute operated Shell Station was gutted with fire and three employees were taken to the hospital with burns on Monday, July 31, 1977. It was unknown at the time what caused the fire as multiple factors could have been the cause.

Southern Ute Drum

This represents just a small portion of the recorded history of the fire district. From the humble beginnings of a bucket brigade and hose cart to the highly skilled firefighters and EMS providers of today, the Los Pinos Fire Protection District will continue to evolve and grow to protect and serve our community, friends, and neighbors.

It is an honor to be part of this area's history and to contribute to its growth and preservation. The foundation laid by those who served before the Los Pinos Fire Protection District was established made this organization possible, and their courage and dedication continue to shape who we are today. Though technology and education will advance, the heart of a firefighter remains unchanged. Honor, duty, compassion, and professionalism will continue to guide us, with the community's well-being always at the forefront in the decades to come.

We are grateful for the community's unwavering support of our mission. Thank you to all the volunteers who stepped up and answered the call. Your hard work and dedication are the inspiration and motivation that keep this fire district thriving. Your service stands as a testament to the strength, unity, and enduring spirit of this district.



Jenny Gummersall/SU Drum archive

20 years ago

The Los Pinos Fire Department, Ignacio Police Department, SUCAP and other organizations in the Ignacio community staged a mock car accident in the Ignacio High School parking lot. The mock accident was held the day before prom and was used to bring an awareness to drinking and driving.

This photo first appeared in the May 7, 1999, edition of The Southern Ute Drum.

Southern Ute Drum



Island in Jurisdictions Burns

By Tallas Cantsee
Ignacio, Colorado

On my way to school one morning, I happened to notice that one of the buildings was smoking and smelled like burning plastic.

My intertribal senses started to tingle, so I hurriedly pulled over and whipped it out. The camera, that is.

Once I saw that the Chief of the Ignacio Police department, Kirk Phillips, had taken an interest in the Ignacio Movies building I knew something was about to happen.

Around 7:10am the Los Pinos Fire Protection District arrived as well as the Upper Pine Fire Protection District to assess and control the blaze which, if uncontained, could have decimated the reservation's only grocery store.

The Ignacio Movies unfortunately was a total loss as the building was gutted by flames.

Ignacio Chief of Police, Phillips, stated that this was the first major structure fire in Ignacio in a while.

Within 45 minutes the flames were suppressed, and calm restored to this "island of State Jurisdiction within the reservation", Phillips said of Ignacio.

Not only did I get to cover a full blown fire, photo-journalistically, I also was given the chance to engage in a conversation with the Chief of IPD, a non-tribal member who was well versed in the area of federal Indian law. He even cited *Ex Parte Crow Dog*, in relation to jurisdictional issues within the reservation. As I am a American Indian Studies Major, here at the fort, I was stunned to hear that a non-tribal member was engaging with me in our discourse.

If it wasn't for Chief Phillips quick actions in calling in the fire, many lives would have been effected tribal and non, the entire connection of buildings would have been in ruins.

TO PROTECT & PRESERVE



IGNACIO, COLORADO
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