

THE LOOKOUT



A publication of the Groom Creek Fire District



Proudly Serving Groom Creek Since 1970

Fire Corps Volunteer Program

The Groom Creek Fire District has registered with Fire Corps, a national volunteer program created by President Bush after the September 11th incident. Under this program, the President urged Americans to get involved locally with their emergency service providers.

This initiative has taken on many forms throughout the United States and has evolved into a format that we can now adopt for the Groom Creek area. Beginning in July, the Groom Creek Fire Corps will be established to provide non-emergency support to the residents within the Groom Creek Fire District. We will have positions for volunteers to respond to assist with smoke detector installation, provide traffic control on emergency incidents, help with administrative tasks, perform Firewise Community public education and operate fund-raising events for the Groom Creek Firefighter's Association. Volunteers will be scheduled one four-hour shift per week.

The Groom Creek Firefighter's Association is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization created to provide assistance to the career and volunteer firefighters, their families and the community. We will be using this auxiliary organization to provide assistance to those in our community who are in need with things like transportation needs during winter storms, ensuring our neighbors have fuelwood for heat, continuing to improve our community park and ultimately making Groom Creek a better place to live.

Training will be provided to all volunteers and you will only be asked to perform in those tasks that you are trained and are comfortable performing. Anyone with administrative experience will be able to assist in many ways providing office support. We have plenty of opportunities available.

Assistant Chief Manzanedo will be supervising the Groom Creek Fire Corps program and will have the information about how to apply and position descriptions available at the Firewise Day and Pancake Breakfast on April 25th at the fire station. Information will be posted on our website at www.groomcreek.org after the Firewise Day event. Please feel free to check our website or call Chief Manzanedo after the 25th of April for more information.

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The Groom Creek Fire District Board meets in regular session on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Station 41 on Friendly Pines Rd. and Spur Lane. Public attendance is encouraged and welcome.

Volunteers are always needed. For more information visit www.groomcreek.org

Operations Update

The Groom Creek Fire District has been applying for grants and funding this year as in the past. We are working on fuels project funding from the Economic Stimulus Package that will provide us the ability to operate a 3 person fuels crew for the next year and beyond. This funding comes without the traditional matching funds requirements and will allow us to provide the fuels reductions services at little or no cost to our residents. Our decision to move away from the grants we had been receiving was made to shore up our financial position as we were looking forward to needing financing capabilities for the new station.

There is funding coming from many sources that we will pursue for our new Fire Stations on Spruce Mountain and new Main Fire Station on Senator Highway and Marapai Road. We have applied for a grant from the US Department of Homeland Security for \$1,150,000 for the main station. We should hear more about this application in the summer.

We have entered into an agreement with the US Forest Service to provide the space for a Forest Service Engine Crew to work out of our station. This agreement will help us to provide an increased level of wildfire protection to our community. Engine 3-2 has began the process of moving in and will be staffing their engine year-round. Engine 3-2 is a smaller (Type 6) engine with a 5 person crew. Once our new station is built on Senator Highway, we will provide the facilities for this crew at that location.

During our Firewise Day Activities this year, we will be showcasing some of the new equipment we have received from our grants during the past year. We will have demonstrations with vehicle extrication and stabilization, a thermal imaging camera, cardiac monitor and fire extinguishers. If you would like to see how fortunate we have been to receive all of the new equipment and would like to learn how to effectively use a fire extinguisher, please take some time to stop by on April 25th. The demonstrations will begin at 10:00 am.

Lastly, we have begun the budget process for the next fiscal year and encourage you to attend the Board meetings in the next few months if you would like to know how we are appropriating our revenues.

Member Profile



Captain - Paramedic Luke Wakefield has been a member of the Groom Creek Fire District since 2002. He was initially hired as a volunteer firefighter and then as a defensible space contractor. Luke was promoted to Captain when we hired our first full-time personnel in July of 2006.

Since then, Captain Wakefield has successfully completed the paramedicine program at Yavapai College and became the District's first Paramedic. Luke and his wife Brooke have a young daughter and live in the Groom Creek area.

Luke level of professionalism and knowledge of Emergency Medical Service has proven to be invaluable to the fire district and the residents of our community.

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2009 Fund Raising Events

April 25th Pancake Breakfast / Firewise Day - Traditional Breakfast with pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage and beverage. Event begins at 7:00 a.m. Firewise Day presentation to begin at 9:00 a.m. \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under.

May 23rd Chili Cook-off and Pie Auction - Entries to be ready at 12:00 at the park across from the Fire Station. We will have a traditional chili and exotic chili category. Pie Auction will begin after the judging of the chili. Entry fee of \$10.00 for the Chili and please bring a pie to be auctioned. By a cup and vote for your favorite chili.

Movie Nights - Saturday June 6th, July 11th and August 1st. Titles will be announced.

Bingo Nights - Saturday June 20th, July 18th and August 15th. \$1.00 per card entry (per game) and winner will split the pot for each game with the Firefighter's Association. Cards and accessories will be sold at the fire station.

September 5th Spaghetti Dinner - 2nd annual spaghetti dinner with meat sauce, garlic bread, salad and beverages. Serving begins at 5:00 p.m. Adults \$10 Children 12 and under \$5.

Groom Creek Community Classic 10k Run - To be held on Saturday, September 26th at 7:00 at the fire station. Community volunteers are always needed and welcome.

Groom Creek Golf Tournament - October 3rd. Details to be announced in the next Lookout issue.

December 19th Christmas Caroling in the Park - Scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m.

Groom Creek Firefighter's Association

The Groom Creek Park Committee has received a very generous \$20,000 donation from a community resident. There will be playground equipment and landscaping installed in the park before the end of spring. Since the fund raising for the park is now complete, the members of this committee will assume the fund raising duties for the Groom Creek Firefighter's Association. All funds raised in the future will be used for the purpose of supporting our firefighters, their families, members of our community and other charities as the organization deems appropriate.

The Groom Creek Firefighter's Association will be meeting regularly to discuss the upcoming events. There are many possibilities being explored at the present time. If you would like to provide input, this organization meets the first Monday of every month at 4:00 p.m. at the Fire Station. Although this organization has the same Board as the Fire District Board, we want the efforts of the Firefighter's Association to meet the needs of our firefighters, their families, the community and our residents.

If you know of a special need in the community where the fund raising efforts can be directed, please contact the members of the association. If you would like to join the fund raising committee please feel free to attend any of our meetings on the first Monday of the month.





Groom Creek Fire District

1110 E Friendly Pines Rd
Prescott, AZ 86303

Phone 928.778.6519
Email gcfid@cablone.net

www.groomcreek.org

CPR Classes

Thanks to all members of the community who have attended our CPR and First Aid classes. We will continue to offer these classes to all residents of the fire district and their families at no cost and for those outside the Groom Creek area for \$25. The curriculum includes CPR for adults, children and infants, environmental emergencies, basic first aid skills and use of an automated external defibrillator (AED).

Our next class is scheduled for Saturday, **June 6th** from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. and will include lunch. If you are interested, please call the fire station at 778-6519 and speak with Todd Bentley. Leave a message if we are not available and we'll get back with you to confirm your attendance.

Class space is limited, so reserve your place as soon as possible.



Firewise Day 2009

The Groom Creek Firewise Day activities will be held in conjunction with a Pancake Breakfast on April 25th beginning at 7:00 am.

Presentations will take place starting at 9:00 regarding the upcoming fire season, Groom Creek Fire Corps volunteer program and the Groom Creek Firefighter's Association fundraising will be discussed.

There will also be demonstrations with some of the newly acquired grant equipment. The demonstrations will begin at 10:00 after the Firewise presentations.

We will have information packets for all participants and have some prizes for those in attendance.