

# PINOS ALTOS VOLUNTEER FIRE RESCUE

# VOLUNTEER NEWS



VOLUME V SECOND QUARTER

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## Did you know?

Aerial fireworks are illegal in county areas at any time of year. If you receive this newsletter, you own property that is in the Grant County jurisdiction and the Pinos Altos Volunteer Fire Rescue District. As such, your property is subject to the county's fireworks ordinance that prohibits certain types of fireworks, such as aerals, and restricts other types, such as ground fireworks, to specific times of the year. Before purchasing fireworks, be sure to become familiar with the county ordinance, as the Silver City fireworks ordinance does not apply. The county ordinance number is 1989-12-30-B and can be found at:

[www.grantcountynm.com/grant\\_county\\_nm\\_ordinances.php](http://www.grantcountynm.com/grant_county_nm_ordinances.php)

And, that the open burning of household waste is prohibited by state law. One of the frequent causes of wildland fires in Grant County is the burning of household trash in burn barrels. If the open burning of household waste on your property causes a fire, not only does it pose a threat to you and your family, you could be liable for damages to your neighbors and their property as well. Be smart; do not burn outdoors, especially during the prolonged dry and windy conditions we now face.

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Fire and Rescue Volunteers,*

*PO Box 4012 Silver City, NM  
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*Pinos Altos Volunteer*

*Fire Rescue Officers*

*Lucy Whitmarsh - Chief*

*Ernie Booth - Battalion Chief*

*Frank Ferrara - Battalion Chief*

*Marc Levesque - Battalion Chief*

*Harvey Bates - 1st Lieutenant*

*Bruce Fahrlender - 1st Lieutenant*

*Gina Gregg - 1st Lieutenant*

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*Steve White - 2nd Lieutenant*

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*Ellen Cline - Treasurer*

*Newsletter Editor, Lucy Whitmarsh*

*Newsletter Contributor, Marc  
Levesque*

## Have an interest in radios? Want to provide a valuable community service?

Pinos Altos Volunteer Fire Rescue is seeking individuals to serve as radio dispatchers for our department. You would be part of a rotation schedule and provide a valuable service of tracking department resources when they are called to the scene of a fire or medical event.

No experience is necessary but a willingness to learn, the ability to pay attention to details, and a willingness to be part of a coverage schedule are required. Training in the use of the radio and call taking will be provided.

Interested? Contact Chief Lucy Whitmarsh at 574-8394 or [lmwk@dishmail.net](mailto:lmwk@dishmail.net)

## TOP SEVEN BENEFITS OF BECOMING A RECOGNIZED FIREWISE COMMUNITY

- Framework for Action

Meeting the criteria for becoming a Firewise Communities/USA site helps communities get organized and find direction for their wildfire safety efforts. Like the first rungs in a ladder, the criteria help get a community started toward annual, systematic action to reduce their risks from brush, grass and forest fires.

- Learning About Wildfire

As people go through the Firewise process, they learn about wildfire risks in the community and the simple things they can do to reduce them. They connect with experts—local fire fighters, state forestry professionals, and national researchers—to continue to learn about fire and find resources to accomplish Firewise actions.

- Peace of Mind

People who work with experts to learn about wildfire and take action start to see results quickly. Knowing that they are using the best information available and actually taking steps to reduce the risk of damage from fire helps people start to feel safer in their environment and in their homes. Having a plan for what to do in the event of a fire helps people become calmer and more prepared to act quickly.

- Community Building

As neighbors get together to do Firewise work, often meeting one another for the first time, they build a stronger bond with each other. Firewise activity can help rally people to a common cause for the good of the neighborhood. This strengthening of community ties can benefit residents in many ways, and is especially helpful during an emergency.

- Citizen Pride

While Firewise can be fun, it isn't always easy. Neighbors work very hard in Firewise Communities to remove brush and debris, clean up common areas, and dispose of green waste. They are rightly proud when they achieve national recognition for their efforts

- Publicity

The national Firewise program provides communities with metal signs, a plaque and other materials that can be presented publicly to honor their status as an official Firewise Communities/USA recognition site. These recognition ceremonies are great ways to shine the spotlight on community efforts. All the publicity results not only in satisfaction for the residents involved, but also provides one more way to reach others with information about wildfire safety.

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- Access to Funding and Assistance

Preference is sometimes given to official Firewise Communities/USA sites over other candidates when allocations of grant money are made for wildfire safety or fuel mitigation. The reason is that there are frequently more requests than available funds when grants are available through state or federal agencies. If requests are equally worthy, some officials tend to have more confidence in communities that have demonstrated the foresight of becoming a recognized Firewise Communities/USA site.

To find out more about Firewise Communities/USA, explore their website at

<http://www.firewise.org/USA>



**BE FIRE WISE!**

 Each property owner needs to remember that they are their own first line of defense 

 when a wildfire occurs. The survivability of a home during a wildfire is not random. 

 Rather, it is how the house is built, the characteristics of the adjacent vegetation and  other fuels, and routine maintenance that determine what home burns: not how many  engines or firefighters are present.

 Homeowners should maintain defensible space by: 

- Moving grass and weeds regularly.

 • Keeping gutters and decks free of debris. 

 • Placing woodpiles at least 30 feet from structures on the uphill side or at the same  elevation.

 • Keep shrubs and trees spaced a minimum of 10 feet apart to reduce the fuels that  can spread to the crowns of the trees.



**Do you want to give back to your community and help your friends and neighbors?**

**If you are not already a member, why not join the Pinos Altos Volunteer Fire Rescue and become a valuable contributor to the safety of our fire district?**

**For additional information on how to become a member of Pinos Altos Volunteer Fire Rescue and the membership requirements, contact Chief Lucy Whitmarsh at 574-8394 or by email at [lmwk@dishmail.net](mailto:lmwk@dishmail.net)**

Long Time Fire Department Members Fred Potter and Tony Medina Retire



Fred Potter and Tony Medina Receive Recognition Plaques presented by Chief Lucy Whitmarsh

Retirement parties were held recently for Fred Potter and Tony Medina.

Fred Potter retired after ten years of service, having been the chief, Training Officer, First Responder and Structure Fire Fighter.

Tony Medina had been with the department for twenty years. He had served as Assistant Chief, First Responder and Fire Fighter.

Both Fred and Tony will be missed and it will be difficult to find replacements with their skills and depth of knowledge that so greatly benefited the department over the years.