



2007 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

WEST PULASKI FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #23



News:

New Equipment:

- West Pulaski received a new pumper truck for our **Station 3** located at Hwy 10 and Ferndale-cutoff. The truck is a combination of a fire engine & rescue vehicle that arrived on December 23rd 2006. It was a very nice Christmas present for all.



- West Pulaski has also put into service 3 of 4 newer 'Brush Fire' 4x4 pickup trucks. We expect to have the next vehicle ready for **Station 1** later this year.
- **Station 4** (Wye Mtn/Little Italy) has recently put into service a 1985 Pierce Mack Custom Chassis pumper to replace the last of the ailing 70's era fleet of "pumper" fire trucks.

Firehouse News:

- **Station 2** in Ferndale has been making plans to expand its building to add office space and a restroom later this year. Thanks to all of those that have contributed to our station improvement fund and given building materials toward our project to update this station. The project is planned to begin later this year.
- **Do you have a private gate or use a restricted entryway to your property?** West Pulaski now offers fire access padlocks dedicated for emergency access only. Cost for the lock is a one-time charge of \$5.00 per lock and we will bring it to your home and install it. Please call **501-821-9320** for more info.

Technology Can Improve Firefighting Success

Fire departments today have more challenges than ever with rapid population growth in suburban areas. Rural areas are even more challenged when growth occurs without major infrastructure improvements like municipal water supply. Rural areas like the one West Pulaski serves continue to see larger numbers of homes & businesses to an area that was just a small blip on a map just twenty years ago.

With residential and commercial development, increases in local population, and vehicle traffic, the challenge for a fire department is to grow with its community while continuing to maintain the highest level of service possible. Continually improving/upgrading the fire equipment remain the goal of small and large departments alike, because the task of life and property protection are the same no matter what size community you live within.

Large equipment like fire trucks (pumpers) and rescue vehicles continue to be the largest expenditure of any department because those vehicles are the primary response units. Other than the trucks themselves, the tools they carry make a major difference in getting the job done right once they arrive to the scene of response.

One new tool called a Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) has introduced a new technology that is similar to adding super powers to our fire fighting toolbox that previously only a comic book hero could offer. Thermal Imaging Cameras are not simply a video camera you might have at home to capture family activities.

Firefighters can use a thermal imaging camera viewing heat patterns in a

manner similar to the way 'night vision' goggles see in low lighting.

Using FLIR (Forward Looking Infra-Red) capabilities, differing heat intensities can then create a real picture that needs no traditional lighting. Viewing heat signatures on a hand-held display, users see color images based on varied temperature ranges in a structure fire. Using this technology firefighters can now walk through the complete darkness and bright fires to help find the source of a fire, rescue a trapped occupant, or remove an injured/lost firefighter in an area that has low visibility. Such uses also include the ability to see varying differences in heat within an enclosed walls, ceilings, and floor spaces that can help find hidden fire that is not yet become visible and/or smoking.

These cameras have become effective tools for fire departments that can afford to acquire them, however, the average cost of these cameras can average \$10,000 or more.

WPFDF does not have a Thermal Imaging Camera, yet, but we have set some aggressive goals to acquire one as soon as possible to help save lives and property. We at West Pulaski Fire Dept. are continuing to work toward bringing technology like this to the front lines of firefighting.

Proceeds from our Fish Fry dinner on Sept 29 and community donations toward this effective life saving technology will be applied toward the purchase of this amazing tool that will help us serve our community better.



MSA Model 5600 Thermal Imaging Camera

PERSONNEL NEWS:

Volunteers Needed

WPFDF is always looking for people in our community that want contribute their time, energy or resources to help our ALL volunteer fire department continue to grow and improve it capabilities. You can contribute your time and dedication and we will provide all the training and equipment necessary to help provide this valuable service to protect our friends and neighbors. We always need more fire department personnel. Additionally, if you want to help but cant see yourself driving a truck or fighting a blazing fire, we still have a need for community volunteers as auxiliary members that support our fire-fighters and first responders in other ways. Your assistance is always valued and appreciated. Contact us today and we can find a way that you can contribute in your own way.

VENTURERS CREW

The West Pulaski Fire Department Venture Crew is a youth organization (ages 16-18) that is sponsored by the West Pulaski Fire Department and chartered by the Boy Scouts of America, to train teens about the fire service. Venture members learn and serve their community with adult Fire Department supervision and learn the many skills used by the fire service. Upon their 18th birthday, Venture members can apply to become can become fully trained firefighters with WPFDF If you are interested in a future in fire fighting or just want to have a great time serving your community, **contact Steven Craig at 821-9320 for more information.**

ANNUAL MEETING:

West Pulaski Fire Department will host its annual meeting on October 25th 2007 at 7pm. It will be held at the Ferndale Community Extension building located at 27015 Kanis Road near the intersection of Kanis & Ferndale Cut-Of. This meeting is open to the public and we welcome your attendance.

Learn more about West Pulaski Fire Department online at www.wpfirerescue.org

FIRE DEPT. INFO

West Pulaski Fire Protection District #23 is a subscription based volunteer fire department and proudly protects 9000+ people living in an area of 160+ square miles. We operate out of 4 stations that protect primarily rural areas around/near non-incorporated areas of Pulaski, Saline and Perry Counties west of Little Rock, Arkansas. Our service is a public department whose members are dedicated volunteers with formal fire, rescue and medical training.

WPFDF is classified as a public charity under section 501©3 of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Contributions to the department are tax deductible.

WPFDF is also eligible to receive tax-deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Internal Revenue Code.

WHO'S WHO:

Board of Commissioners:

Chairman: Greg Brewer
Treasurer: Ronnie Wheeler (Fire Chief)
Commissioner: Chris Smith
Commissioner: Clay Gilliland
Commissioner: Steve Brown

Dept. Secretary: Deb Crow

CONTACT INFO:

Send Mail Correspondence to:
**2810 Whispering Pines Rd
Little Rock, AR. 72210**

**Non-Emergency Phone:
(501) 821-9320**

**For ALL Emergencies:
Dial 911**

Email: wpfd@sbcglobal.net
Newsletter: wpfdnewsletter@sbcglobal.net

HELP US HELP YOU...

Can emergency services find and access your home or property when valuable minutes and seconds count?

Can we find your home quickly?

- **At night?**
- **During bad weather?**
- **When the life of you or a loved one depends on fast response?**

CHECK YOUR MAILBOX RIGHT NOW!

- **Is your mailbox clearly marked with LARGE address numbers on BOTH sides?**
- **Is each address number a minimum of 3-inches tall?**
- **Are your address numbers reflective or clearly contrasting to be read quickly?**
- **Are your address numbers clearly visible at a distance?**

In an emergency, be sure to dial 911 for a quick response, but before you need to make that call, please consider these hints should you need emergency assistance-

- We respond in all weather situations, your address is the primary way for us to locate YOU quickly. Please ensure it is clearly marked with LARGE NUMBERS to be readable at a maximum distance from the highway.
- If we cannot clearly read your address numbers, we could be delayed in located your exact address.
- Do you have a security gate? We cannot access your residence unless you provide a pass-code or unless a gate/fence 'FIREBOX' is installed to allow emergency responders to open the gate. Contact us today for info on improving emergency response in any situation.Ensure that once responders arrive that there is enough access road and area around your home to bring several large vehicles onto your property.
- Make sure your driveway is clear of trees (12' Clearance) and wide enough for equipment to access.