



PALMERDALE FIRE DISTRICT

Station 1: 5340 Miles Spring Road, Pinson, AL 35126 Station 3: 8558 Bradford Trafford Road, Pinson, AL 35126

From the Desk of the Chief

Fire Chief Jason Howell
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September 20, 2018

These are exciting times for the Palmerdale Fire District and those we serve. I would like to personally thank each one of our fire dues paying customers. Without your support, nothing we do would be possible. Our District is almost fully funded by our yearly fire dues charges. In 2011, we were able to start providing ambulance transport to our customers. The small amount of income received from this process goes right back into making the service financially possible. The transport unit has allowed us to provide much faster transport times to the emergency department without having to wait on a private ambulance service to respond. However, as we have become busier each year, with emergency runs expected to top 1600 this year, we have recognized the need for an additional ambulance staffed by our personnel. I am pleased to announce, beginning October 1, 2018, we will begin staffing an additional ambulance, with one firefighter and one paramedic, between the hours of 8 A.M. and 8 P.M., to assist in covering the shortages when our primary unit is out of the District on another transport. This is a very expensive undertaking, but we are doing our absolute best to manage and wisely spend the money received from our wonderful customers. We have purchased a new 2018 ambulance to go with our present unit and both will be staffed as much as possible beginning October 1, 2018. With adding the additional personnel for the ambulance, this also gives us more manpower on larger emergencies such as structure fires, which makes the District more efficient and a safer work environment for our personnel.

I am also very pleased to announce we have been awarded a grant through FEMA, in the amount of \$165,000, which will allow us to purchase 3 new heart monitors and 3 mechanical CPR machines that will assist in providing cardiac support in medical emergencies.

Our Fire Personnel will be much more visible in the future as well. We have started several programs with our local schools that we cover, which are Pinson High School, Rudd, and Kermit Johnson. Part of these programs are more frequent fire and life safety inspections, participating in all fire drills, which we now conduct monthly, and various other outreach and safety efforts. You will even notice an improvement in the appearance of our many fire hydrants, doubling our efforts to keep them clear of brush/debris, clean and painted.

From a personal standpoint as the Chief of the Palmerdale Fire District, thank you all for your unwavering support in the past and for all your support to come. If there is ever anything I can do for you, give me a call or send me an email using my information listed above.

Sincerely,

Jason Howell
Fire Chief
Palmerdale Fire District