

# HIGH COUNTRY FIRE RESCUE NEWS

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## Up and Running

High Country Fire-Rescue has been answering your calls since August 28, 2008. Our very first call occurred at 0100 hours, August 27<sup>th</sup>. The evening before we were "open for business". When a call came into the Coconino County Sheriff's Office 911 center for a trash fire next to a house, they called us even though we weren't officially answering calls yet. The reporting party told the Sheriff's office that he could see smoke and flames from highway 64 and Hoctor road. A full 3 miles away ! HCFR Firefighters responded a full residential assignment and found a deep-seated debris fire that had reignited into fresh fuel. HCFR knocked the fire down to prevent it from aggressively spreading, and allowed to burn out. That's the nature of the Fire-Rescue business, you never know what might happen, so you better be ready for anything.

Since that auspicious start, HCFR has responded to 26 calls in 2008. It is estimated that we will respond to approximately 80 to 100 calls per year.

## Parade Honors

HCFR wins "Best Emergency Vehicle" in **Williams Christmas Lights Parade**. 6421 (Engine) was decorated with icicle lights and escorted by to junior firefighter/santa's helpers handing out candy. Thanks to Junior Firefighters Mike Pawlicki and Logan Stiver for their help. It was good cold fun !

## Community Outreach

Not everyone in HCFR is a firefighter. Organizational and administrative expertise are critical functions that make it possible for the Operations personnel of HCFR to answer calls. One of our Founders (and biggest fans) felt a desire to do even more for the community. Enter the Red Badge "E-Pack" and **Mary Kasel**. The "E-Pack" is a means of communicating vital information to rescuers in an emergency.



## Training News

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, HCFR Firefighter's trained on extrication techniques using hydraulic rescue tools (the "jaws"), basic hand tools and other equipment. Much appreciation to **Malone's Towing** of Williams for their cooperation and allowing the use of their facilities.

**Joan Seaborn** (an HCFR Founder) is a newly certified **Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B)**. She completed the EMT course in December of 2008 and was notified that she had passed all of her certification tests in January of 2009. Joan is no stranger to Medicine, she works as a Registered Nurse at Flagstaff Medical Center. Her expertise is a welcome addition to HCFR. Congratulations Joan !



In December, 5 HCFR Firefighters started a 40 hour **Emergency Responder Course**. They completed this course in January 2009. Emergency Responder's learn the basics of medical care necessary at the scene of an emergency. This will be a big help to our 4 EMT's during an emergency call. Approximately 85% of HCFR calls are for a medical or trauma emergency. ER certification is the minimum standard for HCFR Firefighters. Congratulations to **Jay Linse, Robert Small, Jeff Stiver, Judy Small and Tom Stapley** for a job well done. We will continue these classes as our personnel needs dictate.

Two HCFR firefighters have started the spring EMT Class from Yavapai College. We will announce further information later.

## New Equipment

In December, members of HCFR installed a **VHF Radio Repeater**. The repeater is necessary due to our large response area. Normal hand-held radios only transmit at a 5 watt output. The mountain top repeater rebroadcasts the signal at a much higher wattage and from a higher elevation allowing better coverage with the same radio. In an emergency good communication is crucial. Special thanks to **Chief Small and Captain Trotter** for making this a reality and pushing this project through.

## "E-Pack" continued.

Working in partnership with **KPHO-TV** in Phoenix, **Basha's** grocery store in Flagstaff, and the **Governor's Office of Highway Safety**, Mary has brought this valuable tool to our community.



The CBS 5 Red Badge Emergency Pack contains the following:

- One (1) Instruction Sheet
- One (1) Medical History & Information Form (Home Use)
- One (1) Living Will Form
- One (1) Health Care Power Of Attorney Form
- One (1) DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) Form
- One (1) First Responders Survey Postcard
- One (1) CBS 5 Red Badge Emergency Pack Refrigerator Magnet
- One (1) Medical History & Information Form (Vehicle Use)
- Two (2) CBS 5 Red Badge Emergency Pack Window Decals (Vehicle Use)

The "E-Pack" is available at no charge. HCFR is the distributor of these packs in the community and we're proud to have KPHO-TV, Basha's, and the Governors Office of Highway Safety as partners in this endeavor.

We will be distributing these in the community very soon. For more information you can call HCFR Dispatch at:  
(928) 635-9988

## Winter Safety Tips

When driving in icy conditions avoid using Cruise-Control. If your car automatically downshifts, the rear wheels can break traction and cause a loss of control.

Use your headlights in poor weather. Low beams can provide more useful light than high beams and without as much glare.

Make sure your windshield wipers are in good shape before the onset of bad weather.

## Grants

HCFR is the recipient of 2 recent grants.



The **Northern Arizona Emergency Medical Services Council (NAEMS)** awarded HCFR funds to purchase an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and numerous other items for use in emergency calls. Every HCFR response vehicle is fully equipped with Basic Life Support equipment and every member is trained and certified to provide care with the same.



The **100 Club of Arizona** is a benevolent non-profit agency dedicated to providing assistance to public safety personnel and their families in Arizona. In January, the 100 Club of Arizona awarded HCFR funds to purchase Turnouts (firefighter protective clothing). These are the familiar yellow or brown suits worn over street clothes that allow firefighters to brave deadly environments such as extreme heat and flashover. The funds provide for the purchase of brand-new helmets, gloves and boots as well as turnouts. Thank You 100 Club !

## Equipment Profile

6401 (Rescue) is our primary response vehicle for rescue calls. In it's former life it was an ambulance. Now HCFR uses this same vehicle for transporting manpower and equipment to the scene of emergencies. Inside 6401 is equipment used by our EMT's to provide life saving medical care as well as room to transport up to 6 fully outfitted Firefighters.



6401 (rescue)