

To: Yarnell Fire District Board
From: Sallie Foster, Administrative Assistant
Date: December 4, 2002
Re: Arizona Fire Districts Association Statistics

I have reviewed the statistics provided in June of 2002 by the Arizona Fire Districts Association (AFDA) and prepared a several Statistical Tables that I felt you might find useful. Below is a summary of the information you will find in the Tables. If you wish to have other comparisons produced, please let me know. I will be happy to discuss these statistics with you individually or at a Board Meeting.

Base Statistics

Table 1 titled "*Arizona Fire Districts – Base Statistics*" provides a complete list, in alphabetical order, of the 150 Districts that were members of AFDA as of June 2002. This table includes all of the statistics that I felt would be of most interest to the Board.

Table 1A titled "*Yavapai County Fire Districts – Base Statistics – 2002*" provides a subset of the above *Base Statistics* for **Yavapai County only**.

Tax Rates and Budgets

Table 2 and Table 3 titled "*Arizona Fire Districts Tax Rates*" and "*Arizona Fire Districts Budgets*" respectively, are combined in a 4 page document.

Table 2A and Table 3A titled "*Yavapai County Fire Districts 2001 – 2002 Tax Rates*" and "*Yavapai County Fire Districts 2001 – 2002 Budgets*" provide subsets of the above *Tax Rate* and *Budget* data for **Yavapai County only**.

Please note the following

- Of the **148** Districts that provided Tax Rate information, **94** Districts have **higher tax rates** than Yarnell (53 have lower tax rates) [Table 2]. However, **102** Districts have **higher budgets** than Yarnell (only 41 have lower budgets) [Table 3]. This difference between tax rates and budgets is due to the difference in assessed valuation.
- 74 Districts (exactly half) have a tax rate of \$2.00 or more. Only **17** Districts have **tax rates less than \$1.00** [Table 3].
- Of the **15** Yavapai County Districts reporting, 9 Districts have higher tax rates than Yarnell (5 have lower tax rates) [Table 2A]. However, **12** Districts in the County have **higher budgets** than Yarnell (**only two** have **lower budgets**) [Table 3A]. This difference between tax rates and budgets is due to the difference in assessed valuation. For example, Congress has a higher assessed valuation than Yarnell; consequently, Congress is able to support a budget of \$95,000 on a tax rate of \$1.67, while Yarnell must have a \$1.75 tax rate to support it's **lower** budget of \$76,000. Also note that Peoples Valley, one of the two Districts with a lower budget than Yarnell, receives a significant amount of grant money and has a much higher budget than is reflected in these figures from AFDA.

- In Yavapai County **only 5** of the 15 Districts reporting have **budgets under \$100,000** [Table 3A]. (It appears that Congress' budget will soon exceed \$100,000, leaving only 4 Yavapai County Districts with budgets under \$100,000).

Employees

Table 4 and Table 5 titled “*Arizona Fire Districts – Number of Paid Employees*” and “*Arizona Fire Districts – Number of Employees and % of Population Serving Fire District*” respectively are combined in a 3 page document.

Table 4A and Table 4B titled “*Yavapai County Fire Districts – Total Paid Employees*” and “*Yavapai County Fire Districts – Number of Employees ... and Percentage of Population Serving Fire District*” provide subsets of the above data for **Yavapai County only**.

Please note the following

- Of the **129** Arizona Districts that provided employee information, **91** Districts have at least 1 paid employee (only 38 have no paid employees, including **12** that **do not provide Emergency Medical Service**) [Table 4].
- **78** Arizona Districts pay **2 or more employees** (including Congress) [Table 4].
- **12** of the **15** reporting Districts in **Yavapai County** have at least 1 paid employee; 8 of these Districts have 8 or more paid employees [Table 4A].
- **73** Districts have more employees (paid and volunteer combined) than Yarnell; however, the number of employees in **Yarnell constitutes 3.02% of the population** – a very **high percentage** in comparison to most of the other Districts. Only **14** Districts¹ in the State have a higher percentage [Table 5]. 3.02% is the **highest percentage** in Yavapai County [Table 5A]. This suggests that the District is doing extremely well in recruiting citizens to join the District as volunteers.

Percentage of Population Receiving Direct Service

Table 6 titled “*Arizona Fire Districts - Percentage of Population Receiving Direct Service*” and Table 6A titled “*Yavapai County Fire Districts - Percentage of Population Receiving Direct Service*” provide data for the State and for the County illustrating the percentage of the population in the district that is receiving direct service (i.e., the percentage of the population that have actually called 911 and received services). Yarnell provides service to 17% of the population, a very high percentage in comparison to other Districts in the State, particularly given the budget [of the 150 Districts, Yarnell is ranked 28th in the percentage of the population served]. The citizens of Yarnell are making extensive use of the Fire District Services at a very low cost in comparison to other Districts.

¹ If other Districts included Board Members in the total number of volunteers reported this number may be **less** than 14 since Yarnell did not include Board Members.

Note that several of the Districts in Yavapai County provide direct service to a significantly higher percentage of their populations than most of the other Districts in the State [Table 6A]. It would be interesting to understand the reason for this; one might **speculate** that Yavapai County residents have to travel a greater distance to access emergency medical services than residents of other Counties and consequently make greater use of 911 emergency services.