

TO: EEE VOLUNTEERS JANUARY 22, 2022

**FROM: CAROL FONTANA
BOARD CHAIR**

SUBJECT: SUMMARY 2021 ANNUAL UPDATE

OVERVIEW: EEE had a successful year in terms of operational missions accomplished and in upgrading its capabilities and professionalism.

There were seven major named wildfires during the season, (Tussock, Tiger, Spur, Cornville, Backbone, Rafael and Rock Butte). These incidents resulted in a range of responses from EEE.

There was a full deployment with eight rigs with thirty slots to the Spur Fire Bagdad Fire as well as responses to individual requests for evacuation from the other fires. The individual missions included use of our new Large Animal Lift (LAL) and the specialized equipment that the EEE tech rescue teams have been trained on.

Deployment for these events resulted in fourteen reportable actions originated from the EEE Hotline or from Emergency Management. This number does not include numerous Hotline calls where EEE was able to provide information and options to concerned owners that did not require evacuation or transport by EEE. All missions were completed successfully and without

incident. We do not have information regarding calls to EEE that were originally 911 calls that were referred to EEE.

Among the requests for assistance were calls from owners in Gila, Coconino and Maricopa Counties. These owners had searched on the internet and found the EEE website (eeeyc.org).

With the onset of the monsoon rains, fire activity dissipated. Over the balance of the year, EEE conducted three technical rescues and one emergency transportation. All were completed successfully and without incident. In two cases, local veterinarians called the EEE Hotline for assistance. We are gratified that large animal veterinarians in the County are becoming aware of EEE and have confidence in contacting us.

INITIATIVES: Three of the seven named fires were in the Verde Valley, and EEE was able to respond to each although geographically this was a challenge. However, these experiences underscored the importance of expanding the EEE presence in the Verde Valley.

In the fourth quarter of 2021, EEE met with residents and officials interested in establishing an evacuation and technical rescue capability on that side of the mountain. Presentations were made in person and via Zoom. Background checks and documentation are in process for five individuals with excellent equine resumes.

A presence in the Verde Valley will greatly expand the EEE ability to respond promptly and professionally to requests from there. Training is anticipated to commence in 1Q22. It is also planned that a two day large animal technical rescue course will be conducted in the Spring for additional Quad Cities volunteers as well as for the new Verde Valley volunteers.

Modifications and enhancements to the Communications Command Center trailer continue. The tracking and monitoring capabilities continue to be expanded via cell, radio and ham platforms.

Prior to the wildfire season, EEE implemented its County-wide “Eyes on Yavapai” reporting network which immediately proved its value, particularly with the Verde Valley fires. The Comms team was invaluable with its real time monitoring and assessments which were shared with Emergency Management.

OUTREACH: EEE participated in the Rodeo Parade and the Long Rider’s event at the square in Prescott. EEE also distributed rack cards, refrigerator magnets and other materials to various groups and individuals to expand awareness and to socialize our Hot Line phone number

Local media in the County published several articles regarding EEE missions in their localities.