

## Pagosa Fire Protection District

191 N Pagosa Blvd.

Pagosa Springs

(970) 731-4191

Fax (970) 731-4194

The Pagosa Fire Protection District was originally organized as a Colorado special district in 1975 to serve the Pagosa Lakes Community. It now provides fire protection to approximately 160 square miles in Archuleta County with 5 fire stations and 65 volunteer firefighters. The District is governed by a five member board of directors. These directors serve 4-year terms.

There are five full-time paid employees. Diane Bower, District Manager, handles all administrative details including finances for the District. She has over 20 years experience working with various special districts and is also the Investigator with the volunteer fire department. Warren Grams, Fire Chief/Fire Marshal, has over 19 years firefighting experience including 4 years as the Pagosa Springs Town Fire Chief. His responsibilities include command and training of the volunteer fire department as well as conducting fire code inspections on approximately 350 commercial and multi-family structures. Manny Trujillo, Assistant Chief of Maintenance, retired from the U.S. National Guard with 20 years of service. He performs weekly vehicle maintenance checks on the District's fire apparatus, flow tests hydrants on an annual basis and also maintains all stations. Duwane Ranney, Captain is the Department Training Officer. He has been with the department 14 years. The District also employs an office assistant and receptionist.

Perhaps the most significant events in the past few years have been the inclusion of the Town of Pagosa Springs and the Aspen Springs area into the District. The Division of Local Government has awarded the District a total of \$131,000 to assist in the construction of Stations #3, #4 and #5. The northern area of Piedra Road has also been included

The District does have a **burn permit fee system**. If you have brush or tree limbs which you wish to clear off your property by burning, the Chief or Assistant Chief will inspect your burn site and issue a burn permit which costs \$5.00 per year. Restrictions applying to this permit are: (1) the burn site must be 50 feet away from any structure or overhanging trees; (2) there must either be a readily available water supply (water hose which reaches to the site) or you must have a fire extinguisher on hand; and (3) the fire must not be left unattended. You may call the administrative office at 731-4191 should you need a burn permit. Other services offered by the District include free residential wood stove inspections, installation of smoke detectors (limit 2 per household) and educational programs on fire prevention, use of fire extinguishers, detection of carbon monoxide, etc.

If you are interested in joining our fire department, please stop by and talk to one of the employees. The District provides each firefighter with a full set of NFPA approved firefighting gear and a pager. The current pension plan (which requires 36 hours per year) pays \$450 a month after 20 years of service prorated for service over and beyond 10 years if you resign prior to reaching the 20-year mark.