

History of the Clarkdale Fire District

A page of an old journal records a meeting held on May 5, 1914 to “reorganize the department for protection of the Town of Clarkdale and this department was to be separate and independent of the smelter fire department”. Officers were elected and two fire companies were established. On May 11, 1914, meeting minutes record the use of the Santa Fe whistle and pistol shots to signal for apparatus.

July 1, 1957 the Town of Clarkdale incorporated. The Clarkdale Fire Department operated for many years as a municipal, all-volunteer department.

In February 1996 the first full-time paid Fire Chief was hired. On July 1, 1999 the first full-time paid firefighter/EMT was hired.

In 2003 a group of citizens first came together to begin the daunting task of forming a fire district. Through the tireless efforts of several volunteers, the Clarkdale Fire Department became the Clarkdale Fire District on November 30, 2006.

The District has paid, reserve and volunteer personnel who are dedicated to providing the highest level of professional emergency services 24-hours a day, seven days a week..

Key Lock Boxes

A fairly new tool for emergency responders is key lock boxes. These heavy-duty secure lock boxes are installed at a structure and contain entry keys to the structure. Only emergency personnel have the lock box key, so in an emergency they can easily gain access to the building.

One Fire Department master key will open all the lock boxes installed in the District. This saves precious time and can consequently spare property damage caused for forced entries.

In Clarkdale we already have businesses and homeowners taking advantage of lock boxes. Though every property owner can benefit from this program, it is especially useful for elderly persons who may fall and not be able to let responders into the home.

The District encourages homeowners who have gated driveways to install a similar device that allows personnel to open the gate with a master key. Although some homeowners have given the District gate codes, it is understandably not the best option for personnel to be looking up codes in a book during an emergency.

For more information on key lock boxes contact the Clarkdale Fire District.

Please make sure your address is clearly visible from the roadway.



Fire District

Established
November 31, 2006

895 First South Street
Post Office Box 1236
Clarkdale, AZ 86324
928.639.4591

Services

The Clarkdale Fire District offers the following services.



Smoke Detector Checks

Smoke detectors should be checked once a month and batteries replaced annually. Need assistance? Call us and we will check them and change the batteries for free.



Defensible Space Plans

The Clarkdale Fire District is committed to fire prevention. For this reason, we offer free assistance with developing a defensible space plan for your home or business.



Home Fire Safety Inspections

We welcome the opportunity to conduct a free safety inspection and offer suggestions how to make your home a safer place.



Speakers and station tours available for groups.

Call for more information.

639-4591



Blood Pressure Checks

Need your blood pressure checked? Stop by Station #21 at 895 First North Street, we will check it for free. To make sure we are available call ahead, 639-4591.



CPR and First Aid Classes

The Clarkdale Fire District has instructors certified to teach Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid. According to the American Heart Association, effective bystander CPR, provided immediately after cardiac arrest, can double a victim's chance of survival!

Classes are normally offered monthly, however we will make special accommodations for groups. Please contact us for the class schedule and to register.

Class fee: \$35.00



Burn Permits

Residents of the District may purchase a permit at the Clarkdale Fire Station #21 on Ninth Street. The 30-day permits are \$5.00 each.

Defensible Space Around Your Home

Please take a moment and consider the following information to help protect your home with a defensible space.

Defensible space is the 30 feet around your home that is **Lean, Clean and Green**. The objective of defensible space is to reduce the wildfire threat to your home by changing the characteristics of the surrounding vegetation.

Lean – Prune shrubs and cut back branches, especially within 15 feet of your home.

Clean – Remove all dead plant material from around your home, this includes leaves, dry grass and stacked fire wood.

Green – Plant fire resistive vegetation that is healthy and green throughout the year. See lists of such plants at <http://cals.arizona.edu/pubs/natresources/az1289.html>.

We have seen dry grass several inches high that produces flames several feet high. These flames have reached up to structures and started homes on fire. This type of fire is preventable. With firewise landscaping you can create defensible space around your home.