



## Pleasant Valley Fire District

47529 N. AZ Highway 288  
PO Box 303  
Young, AZ 85554

928-462-3678 Office/fax  
928-462-3489 Control Burns  
PVFD@mtecom.net

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Proudly serving Young, AZ since 1977

Administrative Office  
47529 N. AZ Highway 288  
PO Box 303  
Young, AZ 85554

(928)462-3678 office/fax  
(928)462-3489 controlled burns  
(928)951-4830 cell



### PRESS RELEASE

*Becky Woolsey-Cottom, Administrator*

The Pleasant Valley Fire District is located in a remote area of the Tonto National Forest, serving a year round population of approximately 700 which more than doubles during certain times of the year. Pleasant Valley is seated in the heart of Unit 23, a prime and highly sought after area for hunters. Annually, there are approx. 1300 deer tags (mule deer & white tail) and 800 elk tags issued, along with hundreds of permits for javelina, turkey, mountain lion & bear. The Tonto National Forest is the fifth largest forest in the United States, and one of the most visited forests in the country. PVFD has a massive EMS response coverage area of 640 square miles, and most times are the only EMS that will respond.

Pleasant Valley is made up primarily of cattle ranchers and self-employed with a high retired population. EMS calls equate to 95% of the emergencies that they are dispatched out to, with our high elderly population as a major contributing factor.

PVFD a volunteer department, funded through Gila County property tax dollars. Unincorporated areas of Gila County are approx. 3% privately held, so their tax base is miniscule to start with. They run on an incredibly small annual budget of \$102,277 and were forced to raise property taxes this year just to keep the same tiny operating budget as last year. They are in a scary situation right now, their 12 lead heart monitor is malfunctioning, unreliable and needs to be replaced, to the tune of \$13,000. It would be devastating financially for this District to have to expend 13% of their budget on this medical equipment. They are desperately seeking donations for a new unit.

"Pleasant Valley is extremely remote, it takes us an hour and a half to reach our closest hospitals by vehicle (Globe & Payson), most acute emergencies earn a helicopter ride out. Our community cannot be without this crucial piece of lifesaving equipment, if this heart monitor/defibrillator is not working properly it could cost one of our beloved community members their life." -PVFD Administrator, Becky Cottom.

A fundraising account has been set up at <http://www.gofundme.com/wpbj0>