

## Big Pine Volunteer Fire Department



July 20, 2018

Inyo County Grand Jury  
C/O Superior Court of California  
Dept. 1, Box U  
Independence, Ca 93526

**FILED**

JUL 30 2018

INYO CO. SUPERIOR COURT  
PAMELA M. FOSTER, CLERK  
DEPUTY  
BY 

The Big Pine Volunteer Fire District (BPVFD) appreciates your reports on the Inyo County Special Districts and the Loss of Ambulance Service and EMT Shortages. Pursuant to Penal Code section 933.05 we acknowledge your findings and responds as follows:

Inyo County Special Districts -

F3 - Partially disagree - This concern does not apply to BPVFD as all paid employees have all deductions withdrawn at every pay period.

F4 - Agree – There is a constant struggle with filling positions with qualified personal. People no longer feel the need to volunteer and chose to assume someone else will do it.

R2 – Agree – After reviewing the Closed Session Agenda Requirements of the Brown Act it has been determined by the Board Chairman and the Secretary that BPVFD was not following correct “notice” obligations or description requirements. We have made changes to the way that the minutes of our monthly meetings are recorded and reported. We will also post all notices as required. We have also received copies of the Legislation section 54954.5 which establishes a model format for Closed Session Agendas.

R3 – Agree – After reviewing the IRS website the BPVFD Board feels that we are in compliance with all requirements in regard to employee vs contractor.



Loss of Ambulance Service and EMT Shortage –

F1 – Agree – There has always been a need for EMTs. It takes a very special type of person to do what may be required of EMTs. Dealing with injury, pain, suffering sickness, and death is not for the faint of heart. Add to that the training time needed, tests that must be passed, and personal time that is lost and you can start to see why there is a shortage. There will always be a need for EMTs.

R1 – Agree – BPVFD has tried many different ways to recruit EMT candidates. Posters, flyers, newspaper ads and articles, Facebook, word of mouth, increased pay, and anything else we could think of. We have had limited success. People start the classes but lose interest or find it is too much work and quit.

Easing the requirements, helping with the costs, and reducing the time needed to certify are things to consider.

Meetings with fire district and county officials for “brain storming” might be considered.

Meeting with high school districts about including EMT/ First Aide classes for credit could be a possibility.

R2 – Agree – The only way any lasting solution to this problem will be found is if all parties involved can sit down and work together to find a plausible solution. BPVFD suggests a meeting with county and fire district officials to “brain storm” as a starting point.

The BPVFD Commissioners would like to THANK the Inyo County Grand Jury for their service.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Bird". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Greg Bird

Chairman of the Board

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Damon Carrington". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Damon Carrington

Fire Chief