

# Pine-Strawberry Fire District

P.O. Box 441  
6198 W. Hardscrabble Road  
Pine, AZ 85544  
Phone: 928-476-4272  
Fax: 928-476-4634

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To the Citizens of Pine & Strawberry:

I recently heard a rumor about our wildland fuel reduction efforts that requires me to respond to ensure that there is no misunderstanding. The Pine-Strawberry Fire District is committed to reducing the risk we all face from wildfire. To this effort the Fire District employees three people who this is the sole focus of their efforts. Supporting them, the District utilizes the services of wildfire specialists and the Arizona State wildfire crew as well as other specialists to help our cause. This program is funded by a federal grant that is administered by the State of Arizona.

One job the three employees assigned to fuels reduction conduct is the brush pick up route, thus this program is grant funded. To secure the grant funding for this effort the District must reapply each year for each period of time between October and September. The current grant is funded and approved through September 30, 2011. The District has submitted an application to continue this operation into the next year beginning in October 2011 and ending September 2012. The District has no plans to discontinue this valued effort to reduce our risk from wildfire; however the funding for this effort is currently a grant that the federal government provides to high risk communities.

To sum up this discussion, the rumor that the Fire District is ending the brush pick up route is false. Can I guarantee the brush pick up route will continue after October 2011? No, I cannot guarantee that it will continue as it currently performs because of the grant funding; but I can tell you that discussion are already underway between the Fuels Reduction Committee and the District about how we can continue this program without the grant funding and I will guarantee you that I will inform the community as soon as we find out if there is any interruption in the funding and then we as a community can decide how the program works after the grants. I hope that this clears up some of the confusion over this vital program, if I can answer any other questions you may have please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

David Staub  
Fire Chief