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# The Yellow Sheet

Phone: 928.671.1894

PO Box 425, Yarnell, AZ 85362

E-mail: [publisher@yellowsheet.net](mailto:publisher@yellowsheet.net)

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## Peoples Valley Fire Department Fire Season Safety, Lew Theokas

During this cold weather we recently had it may be difficult to imagine that fire season is just around the corner. But with that in mind, it may be a good idea to remember some of the safe practices we can do to ensure that our community does not join the ranks of those that have suffered from wildfire. Here are some tips on how you can prevent a fire or keep it from spreading.

**-Dispose of cigarette butts properly.** While walking through the community I have noticed many cigarette butts by the side of the road. During cold, damp weather they go out almost instantly. But, soon they will land on dry grasses and brush and can quickly grow to a brush fire. Please use your ashtrays.

**-Clean out rain gutters.** The fall saw leaves and needles filling them and they can easily be ignited by embers that travel from another source. The roof of a house will take a lot of sustained heat to ignite but not the dried leaves and needles in the gutter.

**- Clean the dried brush and needles away from the house.** Don't give embers and firebrands a fuel source.

**- Clear brush near a structure so that there is plenty of space between bushes.** Try to keep shrubs and bushes at least 3 feet from siding.

**- Notify the fire department and get a permit if you plan on burning any brush, no matter how small a pile.** Follow the directions on the form and never use an igniter such as gasoline or diesel fuel.

**- Trim trees that are within 100 feet of a structure at least four feet up.** Lower branches can act like ladder fuels that fire can climb up to ignite the upper branches. By eliminating these ladder fuels brush fires remain just that, brush fires, and are less likely to turn into house destroying conflagrations.

**- Keep containers of flammable fluids secure and in a safe place.** A plastic gas can may explode if subjected to enough heat.

**- Finally, practice fire safety at home.** Most wildfires are ignited from house fires that grow out of control and ignite the surrounding environment. Make sure smoke detectors are in good working order and keep at least one fire extinguisher handy.

Please contact your fire department if you have any questions about fire safety. 623-910-0339.

## Country Hoedown Bar-B-Q - Peoples Valley Fire Auxiliary Marcie Theokas -623-910-0338

Over 100 people enjoyed our Country Hoedown Bar-B-Q Saturday, March 24th at Model Creek School which was decorated with checkered and bandanna tablecloths, serape and quilt covered hay bales and a variety of western and country centerpieces. 26 racks of pork ribs and 100 pieces of chicken were smoked by Shawn Bomar and homemade sides and desserts were provided by other Peoples Valley Fire Department Auxiliary members and their families. Todd Peroud, accompanied by John Boyd and John Rasco provided dinner and dance music. This event was a change-up from our usual formal Spring Dinner Dance fundraiser and there was rousing support for a repeat of the Bar-B-Q next spring. Proceeds from this spring's event will be used to purchase an Automatic External Defibrillator for the MountainAire in Peoples Valley. Peoples Valley fire personnel will train on its use and maintain the unit periodically. Many thanks to all who donated Silent Auction Items, cash and, of course, all of you who attended this event. Hope to see as many at our annual fall Chili/Bingo Night sometime in October.

## PEEPLS VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT, Judy Garner

The Peoples Valley Fire District Board is pleased to announce that **Bob Brandon** has accepted the position of **Fire Chief** starting April 1, 2018.

Bob comes with over 20 years of Firefighting experience and has served in several capacities for the Department in past years. He has also served both the communities of Peoples Valley and Yarnell as a volunteer in other capacities during his 25+ years of residence in the community.

We would like to thank **Bob Heckman** for his many years of service with the Department including 5 years as chief. We wish Bob and his wife Barbara wonderful times in their retirement.

The Peoples Valley Fire District Board meets at 6 pm on the third Wednesday of each month. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings. To find out more information you may call the Board Chairman, Judy Garner, at 928-899-7355 or any other Fire Board member.