



Saint David Fire District

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Feasibility Study Between the Saint David Fire District and Mescal-J6 Fire District

The Saint David Fire District recognizes that members of both communities have questions regarding discussions about a possible merger between the Saint David Fire District and the Mescal-J6 Fire District. We are committed to sharing factual information as it becomes available and want to provide an update on where the process currently stands.

Where We Are Today

The Saint David Fire District and the Mescal-J6 Fire District have jointly commissioned a **feasibility study** to evaluate whether a merger of the two districts would be beneficial. At this time, **no decision has been made**, and **there is no approved merger or established timeline**.

The purpose of the feasibility study is to gather objective information so both governing boards can make informed decisions. Commissioning the study does **not** mean either board has decided to merge.

Why Conduct a Feasibility Study?

Like many fire districts across Arizona, both districts face challenges that require long-term planning, including:

- Long-term financial sustainability
- Recruiting and retaining firefighters
- Maintaining and improving emergency services
- Administrative efficiencies that may better utilize public resources

The feasibility study will evaluate both the potential benefits **and** the potential challenges of a merger. It is intended to answer an important question:

Would a merger better serve our communities than continuing to operate as two separate districts?

If the study determines that a merger is **not** in the best interest of one or both districts, the process could end there. Both governing boards are committed first and foremost to making the decision that best serves **their individual communities**, while also considering the overall benefit to the region.

What Wouldn't Change During the Study?

While the study is underway:

- Both fire districts continue to operate independently.
- Emergency response remains unchanged.
- Firefighters, EMTs, and volunteers continue serving their respective communities.
- No changes are being made to stations, staffing, or daily operations as a result of the study.

If a Merger Were Ever Pursued

No decisions have been made, but one of the guiding principles being evaluated is maintaining strong local emergency service.

That includes considering how to:

- Continue providing local emergency response coverage.
- Keep apparatus and equipment strategically located within the communities they serve.
- Maintain or improve emergency response times.
- Continue operating from existing fire stations whenever practical and beneficial to the communities.

These are all topics the feasibility study will evaluate before any recommendations are made.

How Would a Merger Be Approved?

Should both governing boards determine that pursuing a merger is appropriate after reviewing the completed study and hearing input from the community, Arizona law provides two possible paths.



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- If every member of both governing boards votes unanimously to approve the merger, it may proceed through the board approval process.
- If there is **not a unanimous vote**, the proposal would instead be submitted to the voters for approval.

Again, **we are not at that point today**. The current effort is simply to gather information so informed decisions can be made.

Our Commitment

The decision to commission this study was a **joint effort** between the governing boards of both fire districts. Both boards agreed that before considering any significant change, it was important to understand the facts, evaluate all available options, and determine what would best serve their communities.

We understand that this topic has generated questions, and we believe our communities deserve accurate information rather than speculation. As the feasibility study progresses and additional information becomes available, we will continue to provide updates through our official channels.

We also welcome respectful questions from the public. As common questions arise, we plan to publish additional updates and a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) to help keep our communities informed throughout this process.

Thank you for your continued support of the Saint David Fire District and all of the volunteers and personnel who proudly serve our community every day.