



Chief Eder Drawing More Fire

KINGMAN, AZ –

Dozens of firefighters and people who support their cause demonstrated along Northern Avenue in front of Hualapai Valley Fire Station #1 in north Kingman Wednesday. Many of them were members of the professional firefighters union that promises to bring a lawsuit against the fire district. Local Union President Robert Borker has hinted the legal action will contest alleged wrongful terminations of Hualapai Valley Fire personnel. The union says nearly 40 employees have been fired, forced from their jobs or left their positions during Wayne Eder's three plus years as fire chief.

Borker said Eder terminated two young firefighters after the New Year and gave two department veterans (Jeff Campbell and Oscar Lopez) ultimatums to accept severance package departures or face termination. The protest outside the station preceded a joint meeting of the Hualapai Valley and Valle Vista Fire District boards. Members conducted an organizational meeting to move forward with prior decisions to merge the fire districts.

Valle Vista Fire District board members Gene Newman and James McCarthy and Hualapai Valley Fire District board members Edward Schrum, Jimmie Bodenhamer and Chairman Patricia Lewis were selected to serve as members of the new board that will govern the merged districts. Lewis was named Chairman of the new board. The new board decided the new district will be known as the Hualapai Valley Fire District with divisions operating as the Valle Vista and Hualapai Valley fire departments. The merger goes into effect February 9.