

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District special meeting, June 4

# Fire Chief Denboske placed on administrative leave

By Bernard L. Minetti  
The Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District board voted unanimously on June 4 to place Fire Chief Robert Denboske on paid administrative leave.

No specific reasons were given. The move was taken at a special meeting called by board President Charlie Pocock and followed an investigation by Mountain States Employers Council

into various complaints. The company, hired last month to conduct the investigation, has prepared a 60-page document with its findings that will be mailed to the board. How-

ever, Pocock said that he had not seen the results of the investigation.

At a previous board meeting, Pocock had indicated that the board, battalion chiefs, and fire

chief were all to be a focus of the investigation following "numerous allegations of misconduct." Only the chief was placed on administrative leave.

This was the first

time that Denboske had been specifically named, even though there were no investigation results available to base the implied accusation on. Pocock gave no reason for recommending that he be placed on administrative leave; Denboske will not need to turn in district property. He is currently on personal leave and was present at the meeting.

Pocock cautioned the board that they "must protect these (documents containing the results of the investigation) from the public." He continued, "Also, the district is bound ... to protect the identity of persons giving testimony." When asked if the identity of those testifying will be known, he said, "We will not know when we read this unless we can divine from the summary ... who

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