



ARIZONA FIRE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

Volume 19, Issue 2
Summer 2012

AFDANews

2012 Tucson Educational Conference

June 28-30, 2012
Loews Ventana Canyon Resort
7000 N. Resort Dr. / Tucson 85750

Pre-registration deadline extended to:
June 22, 2012
See page 4 for the schedule
On-site registrations will be accepted.

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www.afdanews.org**

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President's Message

By Simon Davis, Green Valley Fire District

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With the smell of smoke in the air, it's summer time in Arizona. As we face yet another 'interesting' wildland season, I hope your communities are safe and we get an early monsoon season for a change!

Well, we made it through another crazy legislative session and in actual fact, came out in reasonably good shape. Commendations should certainly go out to Lee Miller and John Flynn for playing great defense when necessary and even more importantly, getting the \$3.25 over-ride passed and signed by the Governor. While this is a short-term solution, it at least gives some of those Districts that have faced significant devaluation a little breathing room. Please try and attend the conference at

the end of the month for all the particulars and details of the new statutes and how they will affect us moving forward and what you need to do to stay in compliance.

Talking of the conference in Tucson, we have a couple of things going on that I'd like to give you a heads up on. First off, we will be looking for some potential new Board candidates to be able to fill some vacancies coming up soon due to recent or upcoming retirements. If this is something you might be interested in, please submit a resume to the AFDA office or bring one to the conference and we can get to know you. Details of the actual openings will be posted on the AFDA web site as they happen.

One of the other cool things coming out at the summer conference is the new AFDA logo. It's been many years since we've refreshed the logo and based on several factors, the Board decided collectively to come up with something a little more 'colorful', so to speak. I really appreciate Robin coordinating the project with the design folks, and I hope you'll agree it looks pretty sharp. As part of the rollout of the new logo and in an effort to raise some funds for our PAC, we've also had some challenge coins made showing the new logo and recognizing the State's centennial. They'll be available at

the conference (guaranteed to be collector's items!). Many thanks to Chad Drago for spearheading this project. See back cover to see what the coin looks like.

That brings me to my final point of this president's letter. The Association is now almost thirty years old (in 2014) and over the years it has evolved with the times and kept up with the ever-changing needs of the Arizona Fire Districts and the fire service in general. But one thing has remained constant throughout our history and that is the spirit of volunteerism in the Association and the commitment of its board members to serve their fellow members in the interest of just doing the right thing.

Looking through the AFDA handbook history section, there have been, and are, a lot of great folks. Almost a who's who of the AZ fire service and we are way better for it. So a big thank you to past and present board members, and as we move forward toward the next thirty years, please help me in identifying the new future fire service leaders to keep this legacy of the Fire District Association going from strength to strength.

Have cool summer and I hope to see you all at the conference in Tucson.



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2012 Tucson Educational Conference—Schedule at a Glance

Get the complete registration brochure on the AFDA website conference page www.afdanews.org

Thursday, June 28, 2012

8:00 a.m. Golf Tournament—The Lodge at Ventana Canyon Golf
3:00 p.m. –3:45 p.m. Registration
4:00 p.m. –4:15 p.m. Conference Opening
4:15 p.m. –5:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting - All Members Are Welcome and Encouraged to Attend
5:30 p.m. Hospitality Suite
Sponsored by: *Nationwide Retirement Solutions*

Friday, June 29, 2012

7:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m. Registration/Continental Breakfast in AM
8:00 a.m. –9:30 a.m. **KEYNOTE**
Navigating Changes in Fire District Governance & Admin.
Refreshment Break / Visit with Conference Vendors
10:00 a.m. –11:30 a.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
1. Strategic Planning, Part 1 of 3*
2. Tips and Tricks of using QuickBooks for Fire Districts
3. Trying to do more with Less?
4. The Nuts & Bolts of Administering FMLA
11:30 a.m. –1:00 p.m. Buffet Lunch
1:00 p.m. –2:30 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
1. Strategic Planning, Part 2 of 3*
2. Internal Controls for Financial Management
3. Legal Roundtable
4. Harassment/Discrimination/Retaliations: EEOC Claims on the Rise
2:30 p.m. –3:00 p.m. Refreshment Break / Visit with Conference Vendors
3:00 p.m. –4:30 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
1. Strategic Planning, Part 3 of 3*
2. Planning to Stay Afloat; Tax Revenue Forecasting and Strategies
3. Are You Ready for an Audit?
4. HSAs: The Big Winner in Health Reform
4:30 p.m. Hospitality Suite
Sponsored by: *Nationwide Retirement Solutions*

Saturday, June 30, 2012

7:00 a.m. –1:00 p.m. Registration/Continental Breakfast in AM
8:00 a.m. –8:15 a.m. Announcement & Awarding of Certificates
8:15 a.m. –9:45 a.m. **KEYNOTE**
Fire Service and Healthcare; What is Our Role?
9:45 a.m. –10:00 a.m. Refreshment Break / Visit with Conference Vendors
10:00 a.m. –11:30 a.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
1. Fire District 101, Part 1 of 3*
2. EMS Issues Leaders Need to Know About
3. Admin Certification Workshop
4. How to Hire a Fire Chief
11:30 a.m. –1:00 p.m. Buffet Lunch
1:00 p.m. –2:30 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
1. Fire District 101, Part 2 of 3*
2. Leaving a Legacy
3. Firefighter Health & Wellness Update
4. EMS Section Meeting
2:30 p.m. –3:00 p.m. Refreshment Break / Visit with Conference Vendors
3:00 p.m. –4:30 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
1. Fire District 101, Part 3 of 3*
2. Open Meeting law
3. Admin Roundtable
4. Vendor Showcase
4:30 p.m. Conference Ends

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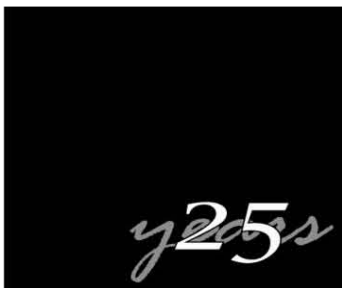
“We use Compass-i and really like it. Like yours, I’m sure, our payroll is not simple. Compass-i has adapted well to our needs. We do all of our maintenance and payroll input online (which is very easy) and they do all the processing, reports, payroll tax deposits and checks to vendors (ie: child support, garnishments). We do the easy part and they take care of all the headaches. They have a human resource specialist, accountant and attorneys at our disposal concerning pay issues. The really nice thing about them is that they are an Arizona company and we don’t have to deal with layers of administration in other locations to work out problems. Other popular payroll companies were a nightmare for us when there were problems, especially with payroll tax reports.

I would highly recommend Compass-i.”

--Laurie Dunham, Drexel Heights Fire



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The Terrorism Threat to Fire Districts

By Chad Dragos, Daisy Mountain Fire District

Terrorism is nothing new. Since the first days of America's youth, the threats posed by those that wish to cause fear have plagued our nation. From political leveraging to religious rebellion, America has a good understanding of the risks capable from those that wish to force belief systems, create populous divide or voice perceived moral wrong doing. Our success from these threats has always been one in the same: understand the threat, understand the Enemy. There has been quite a bit of chatter lately from terrorist groups that direct specifically to fire departments. While fire isn't a new tactic by any means, the direct threat to our homeland is.

'Inspire' magazine is an on-line English publication directed specifically at Americans and English speakers for the spread of jihadist beliefs. Al-Qaida and their associates have long known the value of the 'lone wolf' and recruitment is big business. Last month (May '12) in *Inspire*, two articles talked at length about "burning the forests in the land of kuffar (unbeliever) enemies." The articles were very specific in how to cause the most amount of damage while also minimizing the possibilities of being caught either prior to or after the attacks.

Starting wildland fires has tremendous potential for the terrorist.

- It's very easy and cheap to do.
- It provides for great financial loss while also tying up resources.
- The psychological effects of fear and terror.
- Bringing the fight to the U.S.
- Loss of life to firefighters and citizens.
- Destruction of resources, property and buildings.

The articles were very specific in addressing appropriate situations to include:

- Crown fires in which trees are close together to spread quickly.
- Pinewood forests produce natural accelerants.
- Steep slopes to increase the size quickly.
- Recommends U.S. targets



Combustible areas of the United States, as depicted in *Inspire*.

- Target Timing recommends attacking during the driest seasons.
- Recommends multiple fire bombs to trees close to buildings to maximize casualties.
- Recommends acid bombs, cigarettes, ember bombs and magnifying lenses.

As with all threats, mitigation and prevention is the key to reducing a response element and reducing loss of property and life. Understanding some basic terrorism tactics can help out:

- Acquiring unusual amounts of precursor materials used to start large fires (such as foam, clocks or timers, batteries and wires, or sulfuric acid).
- Displaying unusually nervous or suspicious behavior while providing evasive or vague responses to questions about intended use of the products.
- Conducting unusual research or eliciting information related to weather, dry seasons, winds, or types of forests and vegetation.
- Appearing to conduct reconnaissance in remote, wooded areas, especially at night.
- Asking about emergency-response capabilities and procedures or fire department locations, or calling in false alarms to observe response.
- Conducting internet research related to possible target selection, material acquisition, or historical cases of arson.
- Conducting 'practice runs' to test incendiary devices.
- Other terrorism tactics/procedures: 8signs.org

While there is no direct threat to any specific Arizona Fire District, it is our responsibility to understand these new threats and be able to recognize evidence of attacks. Please always conduct an investigation when feasible to do so and contact your local law enforcement or fire Terrorism Liaison Officer when suspecting criminal activity.

Additional resources in understanding and combating terrorism:

<http://www.azactive.gov/Video/>

<http://www.ready.gov/terrorism>

http://hps.org/hsc/documents/TerrorismResponse_GuideForFireChiefs.pdf

Chad Dragos works full time with Daisy Mountain Fire District as its Operations Chief while working part time as a Homeland Defense consultant with Global First Response.

1. al-Malahem Media (al-Qaida in Arabian Peninsula), *Inspire*, Issue 9, Winter 2012.
2. CFI Bulletin 11-03-05 "Forum Chatter: Continued Call for Arson Attacks," August 15th, 2011.
3. Strafor Global Intelligence, "Return of Al Qaeda's *Inspire* Magazine," May 4th, 2012.



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How Fire Districts Can Save Money without Reducing Benefits

By David Spellicy, Benefit Commerce Group

The statistics are staggering:
Healthcare costs for a family of four are projected to exceed \$20,000 this year.

(This includes health insurance premiums plus out-of-pocket costs, based on annual Milliman Medical Index).

An average family's income growth from 1999 to 2009 was largely erased by increased healthcare costs. If healthcare costs had tracked with the Consumer Price Index, instead of escalating far higher, the average family would have had \$5,400 more each year to spend.

(RAND Corporation study)

So, how are Fire Districts going to be able to save money without just passing on costs to employees?

The only way to save on healthcare costs is to get at the core issues that drive healthcare spending. That means establishing a strategy that will work for the Fire District this year and for the long term.

It means using established **"best practices"** that are proven to lower healthcare costs, including:

- Consumer-driven health plan enrollment, with premium savings used to fund employee health accounts
- Annual biometric screenings
- Health risk assessments
- Disease management
- Health advocacy programs
- Healthy lifestyle programs
- Premium differential for tobacco use vs. non-tobacco use
- Employer-sponsored health events

Comprehensive programs that include these features are able to lower costs for the district without reducing benefits to employees. Not only does this type of comprehensive program save money, but it also can improve health; it's the right thing to do for Fire District employees.

Wellness Program Savings Can Now Be Quantified

When wellness programs began many years ago, it was difficult to quantify their value. However, there are now programs that can show, in dollars, how these efforts actually save money on health plan premiums. In fact, for Fire Districts with 50 or more full-time employees, there are programs available that guarantee premium savings when consumer directed plans and comprehensive wellness strategies are implemented. These programs measure and provide credits based on the level of employee engagement and participation.

Medical Cost Comparisons/Estimators

By giving employees and their families a reason to care (consumer directed plans with Health Savings Accounts or Health Reimbursement Accounts) and information to make informed decisions (cost comparisons/estimators), we can control healthcare costs. All of these programs are available today, and the data that proves the programs work just keeps increasing.

Today, many of the top insurance companies include cost estimators on their websites. Employees can compare costs for specific procedures from various medical providers. Many consumers wrongly believe that the cost is the same, as long as they stay within their designated Preferred Provider Organization (PPO). That is not true. The differences can be thousands of dollars, even within the same provider network and the same city.

In addition to detailed cost information, quality of care measures for doctors and/or facilities are readily available.

Doing your homework does save money and improves quality outcomes in healthcare...just like everything else in life.

After all, few of us take our cars in for maintenance or repair work without finding out the cost before the work is done. Why should we be more cost-conscious for our cars than for ourselves?

David Spellicy is Vice President, Senior Benefits Consultant at Benefit Commerce Group, LLC, an award-winning Scottsdale, AZ based employee benefits firm with over 25 years of experience.



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Central Yavapai Regional Training Academy is Complete

By Aileen Casillas, Office Assistant-CYRTA

In October 2003, it was determined that a training facility was needed for the Central Yavapai Fire District. Through the combined unrelenting efforts of the Fire Board members, Chief Officers, Training Captains, architects, builders, administrative staff and the community, in three phases and 9 years later, the facility is complete. We are proud to introduce the Central Yavapai Regional Training Academy (CYRTA).

CYRTA offers a premier facility to train not only CYFD employees but other agencies' as well as the community. There are diverse opportunities available for collaborative training between agencies. At CYRTA, one will find a variety of classes being offered such as Basic CPR, Leadership Skills and Technical Rescue.

The CYRTA campus is equipped for different types of training:

- Class A
- Class B Tower
- Confined Space/TRT
- Extrication
- Computerized Training
- Incident Management

The training grounds consist of 9,700 sq. ft. of training classrooms, a 500 and 1300 sq. ft. strip mall, vehicle extrication area, variable hydrants; 11,200 sq. ft. Training Tower, Flashover Chamber; 15,000 sq. ft. warehouse; 4,000 sq. ft. Residential Burn Building and outdoor props.

The classroom building offers advanced audio and visual equipment for use by instructors. For students, there are a number of computers readily available for their use. The classrooms can be configured to the needs of the user. CYRTA also has an outdoor classroom that provides shaded seating for 35 people during training activities.

CYRTA's Strip Mall is a one story building that simulates an industrial complex or strip mall, as it's named. The roof on this building houses ventilation and penetration props. Within the strip mall is a maze that has both upper and lower portions.

The Vehicle Extrication Area is utilized in the training of extricating the demolished vehicles that are housed here. Numerous types of vehicles are being used within this area. The Arizona X-treme Extrication School is one such course that is offered by CYRTA on an annual basis.

The Training Tower is a 5 story Class B tower. It has many rooms that are configurable for a variety of training scenarios. Skills training on this tower includes high rise, industrial, commercial, and residential. With regard to the environment, CYRTA pumps through the building an environmentally friendly artificial smoke. The

tower offers three computerized interior burn props-living room, bedroom and a kitchen. The props are completely controlled by a training officer on site and within close proximity to the evolution being conducted. There are stairwells with standpipes, an elevator shaft, hazardous materials/high piled storage room and collapsed structure space. Within the tower building there is both a burn prop and a sprinkler prop demonstration area including movable partitions to create maze rooms.

For Class A Live Fire training, CYRTA has a Residential Burn Building. This building is block construction with 3 burn rooms constructed of CONEX boxes. The basement contains a structural collapse ceiling prop. There is a tunnel entrance into the confined space maze. This maze is utilized for Confined Space training exercises. It is 400 feet of underground tunnel structures ranging in 36" to 60" diameter with a series of manhole covers.

This is just a small sampling of what CYRTA has to offer. CYRTA is a reliable facility well-equipped to handle training exercises both large and small. It is entirely capable of functioning at full capacity in the event of a disaster. In conjunction with the local college, Yavapai College and the U.S. Forest Service we're able to meet the needs of the region-home to both the Reserve Academy and Wildfire Academy.

CYRTA's goal is to continually provide prepared and trained public safety officers so that our community, our personnel and our state remain safe.

For more information on how CYRTA can meet your agency's training needs, please contact: Training Chief Gary Cordes, 928-759-6934, Gcordes@centrallyavapafire.org

For more information on Training Classes scheduled at CYRTA, please contact: Training Officer Alex McKinnon, 928-759-6934 AMcKinnon@centrallyavapafire.org



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Sun City West Fire District Receive Honors

Sun City West Fire District Received Prestigious Financial Reporting Award

The Sun City West Fire District was recently awarded its second consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011. This Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a governmental agency and its management. The CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

Sun City West Fire District Recognized by Arizona Department of Health Services

The Arizona Department of Health Services/Bureau of EMS and Trauma System recently designated the Sun City West Fire District as a Recognized Premier Agency of the Premier EMS Agency Program (PEAP), the Department's prehospital care quality improvement initiative. To achieve this designation, the District had to meet all four of the PEAP requirements which include: 1. Documenting agency leadership commitment; 2. Developing a Quality Improvement (QI) program; 3. Collecting and submitting electronic EMS patient care reports as an AZ-PIERS participating agency; and 4. Ensuring data are fed back into the QI program to inform the analysis and improvement of care.

Sun City West Fire District Utilizes Fire Corps Volunteers to Install Approximately 3000 Smoke Alarms Purchased with FEMA Grant Funding

The Sun City West Fire District reported in the AFDA newsletter in June 2011 that they had partnered with the Sun City West Rotary Club in submitting an application to the FEMA Fire & Life Safety Grant for funding to mount a concentrated smoke alarm replacement program in approximately 3,200 homes in the older section of the senior citizen community of Sun City West. Many of these homes are over 20+ years old and the residents had neither the means nor the ability to replace their existing smoke alarms. To date, with the assistance of the District's Fire Corps volunteers, approximately 80% of those smoke alarms have been installed. Without the assistance of the District's volunteers, this massive project would not have been possible. The commitment and dedication of the volunteers to this project has been outstanding. To date, during Fiscal Year 2011-2012, District volunteers have contributed almost 600 hours to the Fire District for the smoke alarm project and various other District programs. The District plans to complete the initial phase of this project by December 31, 2012.

Wittmann Fire District was Awarded the Rural EMS Award



EMS Coordinator Carl Lind, Secretary/Treasurer Rachelle DeMoss and Fire Chief Eddie Rios

On May 22nd during EMS Day at Del E. Webb Hospital, the Wittmann Fire District was awarded the "Rural EMS Award".

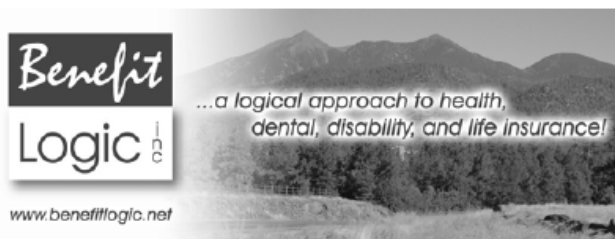
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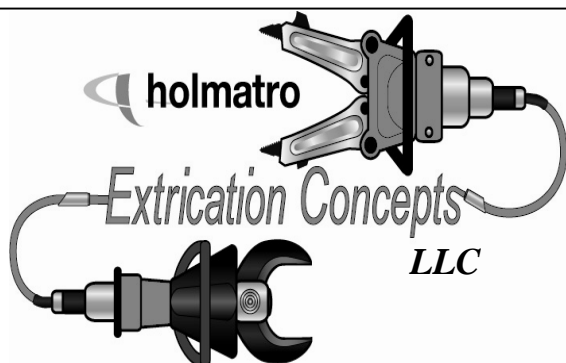


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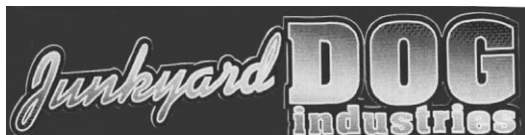
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\$15,000,000 Tubac Fire District
November 2008 – 57.9% Yes Votes



\$5,000,000 Picture Rocks Fire District
November 2007 – 77.1% Yes Votes



\$17,000,000 Rincon Valley Fire District
November 2007 – 73.3% Yes Votes



\$10,000,000 Chino Valley Fire District
November 2006 – 68.4% Yes Votes



\$17,220,000 Central Yavapai Fire District
November 2004 – 76.6% Yes Votes



\$13,800,000 Golder Ranch Fire District
November 2004 – 80.8% Yes Votes



\$10,000,000 Maricopa Fire District
November 2004 – 81.0% Yes Votes



\$37,525,000 Northwest Fire District
November 2004 – 73.6% Yes Votes



\$6,500,000 Three Points Fire District
November 2004 – 63.7% Yes Votes



\$6,440,000 Drexel Heights Fire District
September 2002 – 78.0% Yes Votes

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- ✓ Pre-Election and Voter Pamphlet Preparation Services
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- ✓ Federal and State Financing Assistance (GADA, etc.)
- ✓ Bond Sale Management and Underwriting
- ✓ Ongoing Assistance

Lease Purchase Finance Highlights



\$10,000,000
Green Valley Fire District
Certificates of Participation
(In a Lease Purchase)

Projects entailed constructing and equipping two new fire stations and acquiring vehicles.



\$5,280,000
Pinetop Fire District
Certificates of Participation
(In a Lease Purchase)

Projects entailed demolition of an existing fire station, acquiring adjacent land, and constructing a new fire station.



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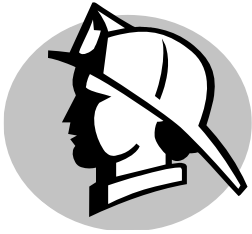


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EMS - Rebecca Haro
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Budget - Simon Davis
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