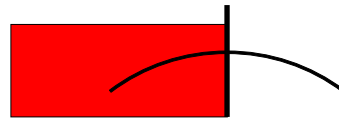


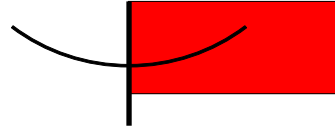


ARIZONA FIRE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

Volume 20, Issue 2
Summer 2013



AFDANews



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Congratulations to the individuals who received their AFDA Certification Certificates:

1. Robert Blean Jr. – Mormon Lake FD
2. Edward Wilkerson – Mountain Vista FD
3. Walter Link – Sun City FD
4. TJ MacKay – Sun City West FD
5. David Burkhart – Pine-Strawberry FD
6. Ed George – Sun City FD
7. Debbie Stoner – Palominas FD
8. Tommy Stoner – Palominas FD
9. Edward Buster – Corona De Tucson FD

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President's Message

By Simon Davis, Green Valley Fire District

Page 3



AFDA Members and Friends:

Well it's been a tough month. The tragedy and sadness from the Yarnell Hill Fire will be with us for many years to come and certainly our thoughts and prayers go out to all the families, co-workers and friends of the Yarnell 19. Much has been written and much more will be written over the ensuing months, but suffice it to say that they were all honorable guys doing something they loved in an honorable profession and they will be sorely missed.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks all of the Districts, Associations and individuals who

stepped up with staff members and resources to work through this tough time. The list is a true reflection of the dedication and commitment the Arizona fire service has to help each other out in time of need and to ensure that no matter what happens, our communities will continue to be protected.

One special mention, and in no way to detract from everybody else's assistance, is a nod to Association VP and Assistant Chief Mary Dalton. Mary has acted as liaison/fixer/ political peacemaker/support services/ scheduler and numerous other roles throughout the entire post-incident management phase. She is a true asset to the Association, but probably more importantly, a true leader in the Arizona Fire Service. With folks like Mary, the future of the Fire Service is in good hands.

Changing gears a little, I'd like to thank all of you that attended the summer conference down in Tucson. The evaluations are in and it looks like most of the participants were very happy with the classes and speaker lineup. Not sure what we can do about the rooms being 'too hot' and 'too cold' at the same time, but we'll work with the host hotel to continue to improve the experience for all of you!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the winter conference, January 16-18, 2014 in Laughlin. The Education Committee is already working on the class schedule and speakers and it promises to be another great conference.

In closing, and especially if you missed the announcement at the conference, the AFDA Board has approved the hiring of an Executive Director to assume some of the association business management responsibilities and to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of our members now and into the future. John Flynn, former AFDA board member, Fire Chief and the current Association lobbyist, has agreed to step in to the ED position and will be working with the Board and membership over the next few months to create a task list and goals for the Association. Please welcome him in this new role.

Stay safe and healthy,

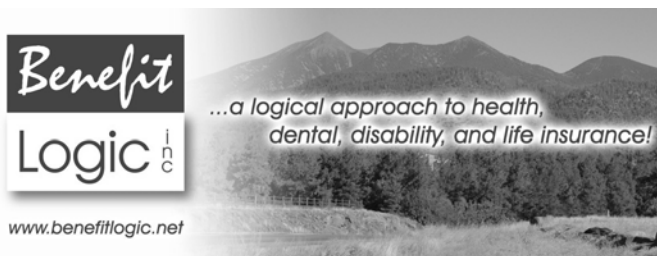
Regards
Chief Simon Davis
AFDA President

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Message from the Executive Director

By John Flynn



I am both pleased and privileged to begin my tenure as the new Executive Director for the Arizona Fire District Association. It has been my pleasure to spend a significant amount of my professional fire service career affiliated with the members of AFDA and the Arizona fire district community. I am honored to be given the opportunity to serve AFDA and its members. In conjunction with the AFDA board, I look forward to leading our great organization into the future.

I believe strongly in the AFDA mission to educate and advocate. This has been the foundation of AFDA since its formation in 1982. I am enthused to step into this 31 year tradition of serving Arizona's fire district community. While fire districts now face some of the most daunting economic and operational challenges in recent memory, I believe we are well positioned to address these challenges. Together we will develop the solutions necessary to effectively deliver fire and EMS to our communities; govern our agencies pragmatically; and prudently manage the resources afforded to us by the taxpayers.

I am sure you will agree that now is the time to strengthen our collective resolve to educate and influence decision makers at every level about the essential services fire districts provide to over one million Arizona

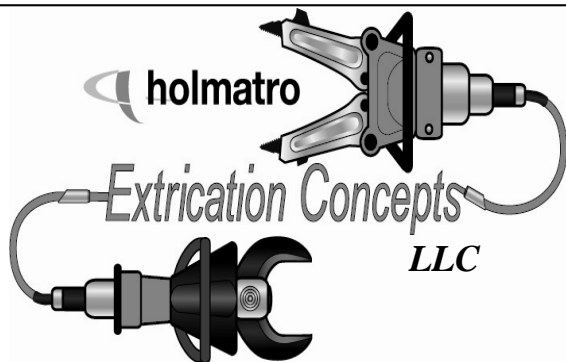
citizens and property owners. In this regard, I will be implementing new outreach strategies on a regional and statewide basis, and supporting the outreach efforts currently underway. As an example, it is the fruit of current outreach efforts which have led to our ongoing success in advocating for fire districts at the Arizona Legislature.

AFDA is proud to launch another year of informative and timely educational offerings. I look forward to supporting the remarkable team whose efforts make our conferences so successful. We'll continue to focus course offerings grounded in the essentials of fire district governance, administration and financial management.

The business side of AFDA will continue to focus on maximizing value and the return on investment (ROI) for our members. It is the business side which affords us the resources necessary to effectively carry out our mission to educate and advocate. I am confident the association will continue to grow and prosper in the coming year. I plan to renew efforts to attract and retain associate and business membership.

I look forward to discussing how we can best serve your fire district in the coming months. Together we can make fire districts stronger and better capable of serving Arizona's citizens.

Be safe
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Legislative Wrap up - Fire District Financial Standards Bill (H2572) Passes as Legislature Adjourns Sine Die

By Lee Miller, Lobbyist and John Flynn, Executive Director

Page 5

The 51st Arizona Legislature – 1st Regular Session adjourned sine die at 12:59 a.m. on June 14, 2013, a day after the Legislature adjourned the Special Session called by the Governor earlier that week to facilitate adoption of the State's budget and Medicaid expansion. The Governor called the Special Session after becoming frustrated with majority leadership's continuing to stall and rebuff her call for action on adopting the budget and expanding Medicaid. Ultimately, the Governor assembled a bipartisan coalition of moderate Republicans and all the Democrats who then "rolled" House and Senate leadership and the remainder of the Republicans in passing her budget and Medicaid expansion. The "rolling" of leadership has its consequences, which played out in the final hours of session and will continue to play out when the 51st Arizona Legislature – 2nd Regular Session convenes in January 2014.

There were 1,158 bills posted during the legislative session which lasted 151 days. The session culminated with 282 bills passed; 256 bills signed in to law by the Governor; and 26 bills receiving the Governor's veto. The general effective date for all legislation passed this session (notwithstanding an emergency clause) is September 14, 2013.

The final days and hours of session saw a big win and a tough loss for the Arizona fire service. In the win column was the language from **SB1057: AHCCCS; AMBULANCE SERVICES; RATES** (AFDA position: **SUPPORT**) was added to the budget reconciliation bill (BRB) for Health Services. SB1057 was the final fire service priority issue remaining.

SB1057 addressed Medicaid reimbursement rates for ambulance services (details provided below). Medicaid expansion was also a win as adding 300K persons to the AHCCCS roles should reduce the amount of uncompensated care and ambulance transports for many fire agencies.

In the loss column was **SB1470: PROHIBITED TAX; DEDICATED PROPERTY TAX** (AFDA position: **NEUTRAL**) which was a measure to address how towns can pay for public safety services in a way that doesn't allow for future mission creep and tax increases. SB1470 would allow a city or town without a general property tax to ask their voters to approve a property tax dedicated to public safety. The tax proposal would have to detail exactly the public safety expenditures to be funded from tax proceeds and only those activities

approved by the voters could be paid for with tax revenue. Anticipate Paradise Valley and other cities will be back next session attempting to advance a like measure which provides a stable dedicated funding source for fire services.

Listed below is a summary of select Fire Service Priority bills.

SB1057: AHCCCS; AMBULANCE SERVICES; RATES (AFDA position: **SUPPORT**) is **DEAD** (however as pointed out above, the deal points were placed into the Health BRB). This was a joint effort by the AAA and AFDA to address ambulance rates for Medicaid insured / reimbursed transport services which were impacted by language in last session's Budget Reconciliation Bill (BRB). SB1057 included the following deal points:

1. Requires that remuneration for ambulance services for persons enrolled in AHCCCS will be 80% of the amounts prescribed by the Department of Health Services (re-couples rates). This is equal to the current statutory formula.
2. The deal set forth in SB1057 not-withstands statutory language and sets the remuneration in the following amounts:
 - a) Contract year October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013 - 68.59% (the current rate)
 - b) Contract year October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014 - 68.59% (the current rate)
 - c) Contract year October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015 - 74.74%.
 - d) Thereafter, the rate reverts to the statutory rate of 80%.

HB2572: FIRE DISTRICTS; FINANCIAL STANDARDS (AFDA position: **SUPPORT**) was signed into law by the Governor on June 19, 2013. HB2572 is an AFDA sponsored bill to address calls for various fire district reforms by legislators which included eliminating fire districts and county take-over of fire districts under specific circumstances such as financial insolvency (see SB1282 below). The call for fire district reform is the result of several high profile fire district financial issues which have occurred recently. AFDA members attending the Tucson Conference learned the details of this bill including recommended implementation procedures. In summary, HB2572 requires all fire districts to do the following:

1. Reconcile all balance sheet accounts for each calendar month.

2. Produce monthly financial reports to include a register of checks, warrants and deposits, a statement of financial activities and a statement of net assets for each calendar month.
3. Produce an annual cash flow projection and update monthly with actual revenue and expenditures from the preceding month. Within 30 days of the close of each month the fire district board must review reconciled accounts and reports.
4. Report any adverse financial impact to the fire district's respective county board of supervisors and county treasurer within 10 days of discovery.

**An implementation guide addressing all the changes required by HB2572 is an insert in this issue of the AFDA News.*

HB2056: PSPRS; AMENDMENTS (AFDA position: **SUPPORT**) was signed into law by the Governor on June 19, 2013. HB2056 is a PSPRS administrative bill run by the system to make various technical changes. AFDA amended HB2056 in Senate Finance Committee to address issues specific to fire service joint powers authorities.

SB1470: PROHIBITED TAX; DEDICATED PROPERTY TAX (AFDA position: **NEUTRAL**) is died on the last day of session. SB1470 was the Town of Paradise Valley's measure to authorize the Town to place a dedicated public safety property tax question on the ballot. The funding from a dedicated primary property tax will be used to pay for fire services which the Town contracts from the City of Phoenix. As noted above, anticipate this measure will be reintroduced next legislative session. A link to the SB1470 bill language is provided below:

HB2562: PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEMS; INELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES (AFDA position: **NEUTRAL**) was signed into law by the Governor on June 19, 2013. If your fire district has retired PSPRS employees on the payroll that are now enrolled in ASRS, you should familiarize yourself with the provisions of HB2562. ASRS plans to cull the roles of ineligible former PSPRS employees post effective date of this legislation (September 14, 2013).

Continued on page 6

Legislative Update, continued from page 5

HB2347: TAX LEVY BOND COSTS; PUBLIC INVESTMENTS (AFDA position: **NEUTRAL**) was signed into law by the Governor on May 7, 2013. HB2347 addresses local government bonding requirements, issuance and use of proceeds stipulations. Most importantly for fire districts, HB2347 as amended in Senate Finance Committee allows the County Treasurer to invest in the indebtedness of special taxing districts which includes the purchase of registered warrants. This is a critical component in the ability for addressing fire district insolvency / financial distress going forward. A link to the enacted legislation is below.

HB2481: PERMISSABLE CONSUMER FIREWORKS; PENALTY (AFDA position: **NEUTRAL**) received a Governor's VETO on April 30, 2013. H2481 would have standardized the penalties amongst municipalities and counties throughout Arizona for the illegal use of consumer fireworks.

SB1292: FIRE DISTRICTS; TREASURER'S AUTHORIZATION (AFDA position: **NEUTRAL**) was signed into law by the Governor on March 28, 2013. SB1292 specifies that for any fire district that designates one or more board

members to have access to the financial books and records of the district, those board members are authorized to have full access to the financial books and records of the district.

HB2136: FIREFIGHTER & EMT MEMORIAL (AFDA position: **SUPPORT**) was signed into law by the Governor on April 5, 2013. HB2136 specifies that the Department of Administration is authorized to provide for the placement in Wesley Bolin plaza of a memorial dedicated to the commemoration of firefighters and emergency medical technicians. No public monies are authorized for the costs of the memorial. HB2136 self-repeals October 1, 2016.

SB1282: COUNTYWIDE FIRE DISTRICTS (AFDA position: **OPPOSE – now DEAD / is now s/e FD study committee**) was signed into law by the Governor on April 11, 2013. SB1282 establishes a study committee to research the history of fire districts in the state and the viability of alternative models of providing fire and emergency services to unincorporated areas, including the elimination of fire districts and the creation of county fire departments, among other things. The study committee will be comprised of individuals appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, including representatives of fire district associa-

tions, counties and taxpayers. The counties are concerned that a rush to address mismanagement or other issues brought on by financially distressed fire districts will have unintended consequences for county taxpayers. The County Supervisors Association supports a study committee to determine an appropriate solution to those districts that need increased oversight or administrative solutions. AFDA worked throughout the session and continues to work with Senator Crandell and Senate staff to address these issues.

HB2461: FIREWORKS; NFPA; 2013 CODE; ADOPTION (AFDA position: **NEUTRAL**). HB2461 specifies that the national fire protection association code used by the State Fire Marshal is updated to the 2013 edition as published in August, 2012, from the 2006 edition. The diligent efforts of the AFDA Board and membership ensured AFDA once again enjoyed a successful legislative session. Preliminary work is currently underway in planning the legislative agenda for the 51st Arizona Legislature – 2nd Regular Session which convenes on January 13, 2014.

New Fire Chief--a first for this area one District

By Bill Petersen, Board Chairman

The Clay Springs/Pinedale Volunteer Fire District is pleased to announce the hiring of Robert Garvin as their first full time Chief.

Robert is not new to the communities as he grew up in Clay Springs and has been the volunteer Fire Chief since the Rodeo Chediski fire tore through this area. At that time we were dubbed renegades because our fire fighters went against Forest Service orders and went back into the communities, saving many homes that had been written off.

Robert is well known and respected by all the Chiefs and their departments as was demonstrated by the overwhelming endorsements from the surrounding area Districts when the Board was determining whether or not to hire "full-time".

Robert and the Board enjoy a very close working relationship and together we have brought into our District two new First Responders, a Command vehicle, complete remodel and enlargement of the Clay Springs station, actively encouraging our volunteers to enroll in the local community college to further their Fire and EMT skills, maintain a training schedule for all the fire fighters and all the while controlling the budget.

2
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A Conversation on Drug Box Compliance and Security

By Dr. David Harden, JD, NREMT, Section Chief, and W.R. Anderson, Section Chief

We have all heard the saying, "A stitch in time, saves nine." That applies to EMS in a million different ways, including in our efforts to ensure that the controlled substances in your drug boxes are not diverted. The best way to prevent unauthorized use of these or other drugs in the drug box is to follow your own policies and procedures EVERY TIME.

Having to explain why the controlled substances in your drug box are missing or inappropriately stocked can be a nightmare if not supported by inventorying and documentation – with game-changing results to your career and reputation. The Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System (Bureau) sees common trends in drug box compliance and security issues that can be prevented by proper inspections, inventorying, and maintaining chain of custody of controlled substances.

Whenever you take custody of controlled substances – whether at the beginning of a shift, when an unexpected exchange of the drug box occurs during your shift, or if the security device/seal is accidentally broken, you're required to inspect and inventory the drug box and controlled substances or return to the base hospital pharmacy for an exchange or resealing.

It's important that you understand the prescriptive criteria for controlled substances in the Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.).

Regular training on drug box and controlled substance security policies and procedures that explain controlled substance oversight and requirements for witnessing is essential.

Do your drug box compliance and security policies and procedures reflect best practices against diversion? Do you consistently inspect and inventory your drug box in a manner that complies with prescribed rules? The Bureau challenges you to review your policies and procedures on drug box compliance and security. If your review identifies potential risks, point them out to your EMS agency.

For more information related to your responsibilities with the drug box and its contents, please review A.A.C. Title 9, Chapter 25, Article 2, available in the Bureau statute and rule book at: <http://www.azdhs.gov/bems/documents/statutes-rule-book.pdf>.

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An Innovator in Public Education is Chosen Educator of the Year

By Doug Chappell, Chief, Drexel Heights FD

Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager and Fire Marshal for the Drexel Heights Fire District has been named the 2013 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year by the National Fire Protection Association. Each year the Association selects one Fire and Life Safety Educator to recognize with this award.

Manager Koslowski's career spans more than 20 years, starting with Tucson Fire, Northwest Fire and the last 10 years with the Drexel Heights Fire District on Tucson's southwest side. Koslowski has a Bachelors Degree in Fire Science, several certifications, and is currently participating in the Greater Tucson Leadership Program.

In response to various safety concerns in the Drexel Heights community, Koslowski implemented various programs that provide information and training for all age groups in the community. Programs for school age children include babysitter classes, FireFit Cadet Program, bike helmet and car booster seats distributions, and drowning prevention and awareness programs. For seniors, Koslowski drew guidance from NFPA's "Remembering When" program and created a Senior Safety Academy. Koslowski has also implemented a monthly CPR and first aid training program for District residents.

Manager Koslowski has developed a number of the programs utilizing grant funding including grants from Pima County Community Development Block Grants, Federal Emergency Management Agency Fire Prevention Grants, Governor's Office of Highway Safety Grant programs, a National Fire Protection Association grant along with several regional safety related grants. Recently, Koslowski has developed and nurtured a Public Education Volunteer Team to assist with program delivery. These Volunteers were the group that developed

the nomination application for Educator of the Year which Manager Koslowski is now being awarded.

Manager Koslowski said that she *"was honored by the support and effort of the Volunteers in submitting the application for this very prestigious award"*. Drexel Heights Fire Chief Douglas Chappell said that *"Manager Koslowski has a very special gift for getting the message of safety spread to all age groups and for getting people to follow her as she spreads the safety message"*.

Koslowski and her husband will travel to Chicago in June where the award presentation will take place during the Opening General Session of the annual NFPA Conference & Expo. Drexel Heights Fire District will receive a \$1,000 donation to support public education activities.



Sun City West Fire District Top Ten of the Valley's Healthiest Employers

By Deb Johnson, Admin Coordinator, SCWFD

On Thursday, March 21, 2013, the Phoenix Business Journal honored the Sun City West Fire District as one of the Top Ten of the Valley's Healthiest Employers for 2013. Competing against other employers with 250 employees or less, the Fire District placed 6th in the Valley. The competition categories were split into three (3) categories – small employer with 2-250 employees, mid-size with 251 – 1,499, and large with 1500 or more employees.

In a 500 word essay and a 75 question survey, the Fire District cited what changes have been put in place over the past two years to qualify for this honor. Over eighty-nine percent of the District employees have elected to participate in a Health Savings Account (HSA), as well as annual biometric screenings, health assessments, online healthy lifestyle programs, and telephone phone coaching on chronic disease management. Additionally, the District has promoted a tobacco free environment with a higher premium cost to those employees who elect to use tobacco and by putting a policy in place that states all future employees will be tobacco free.



Photo L-R (Kane Nixon, Cheryl Brands, and Jared Randall)

"Congratulations to the employees of Sun City West Fire District for making this a reality. There have been a lot of changes in the past two years and it could not happen without the cooperation of each and every one of the employees and the support of the Chief Biscoe and the Board of Directors", praises Cheryl Brands, HR generalist.

Call for Presentations

Arizona Fire District Association Annual Conference and General Membership Meeting

Laughlin, Nevada – January 16 – 18, 2014

The AFDA Board and Education Committee is soliciting proposals for presentations / speakers for the winter 2014 conference and general membership meeting. The proposed educational session must clearly apply to the target audience (fire district elected officials, fire chiefs and senior staff) and fit into one of three general categories:

- ♦ Fire district governance
- ♦ Fire district administration / management
- ♦ Fire district financial management

Proposals should meet the following criteria:

- ♦ Content that is current and practical, cutting edge or innovative as it relates to fire district governance, administration or finance.
- ♦ Programs and initiatives that demonstrate measurable business impact and results.
- ♦ Delivered by a speaker with substantial topic knowledge and experience facilitating learning experiences and/or speaking to large groups.



Anyone interested in presenting an educational session should submit an AFDA Speaker Application Form to the AFDA Office at: info@azfiredistricts.org

AFDA Speaker Application Forms can be found on the AFDA website at www.azfiredistricts.org

FAQ to Quality Assurance AND a Data Contributor's Bill of Rights

By Rogelio Martinez, Section Chief, Data and Quality Assurance, BEMS

How many times have you wondered about a patient you dropped off at the hospital? The Data and Quality Assurance Section (<http://www.azdhs.gov/bems/data/index.htm>) in the Bureau of EMS and Trauma Systems has published a guidance document on receiving outcome data for agencies involved in a patient's care. More information can be found on the Bureau's website or by visiting <http://www.azdhs.gov/bems/documents/data/users/faqs-quality-assurance.pdf>

The Arizona Pre-Hospital Information & EMS Registry System (AZ-PIERS) is a quality assurance initiative dedicated to provide EMS agencies the tools to improve the care for their patients in a non-regulatory, non-discoverable method. More information about this initiative can be found by searching for AZ-PIERS. The Data and Quality Assurance Section in the Bureau of EMS and Trauma Systems has published the rights and obligations for all data contributors in the following document <http://www.azdhs.gov/bems/documents/data/PIERS/piers-rights.pdf>





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Sun City West Fire District Wins 2013 Fire Corps Award of Excellence

By Deb Johnson, Admin Coordinator, SCWFD

Fire Corps, in partnership with the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) and Fire Protection Publications (FPP), would like to congratulate the Sun City West (SCW) Fire District Fire Corps program (AZ) for being selected as the 2013 Fire Corps Award of Excellence winner!

Sponsored by IFSTA/FPP, this award annually honors a Fire Corps program whose remarkable achievements in the fire and emergency services and community exemplify outstanding performance. The SCW Fire Corps will be recognized at the upcoming National Volunteer Fire Council's Award Reception and Dinner on May 10 in Alexandria, VA. The Community Assistance Response Team (WA) and the Loveland-Symmes Fire Department (OH) both received honorable mentions.

About the District

Sun City West, Arizona is an active adult retirement community that was established 30 years ago. The Fire District covers 35 square-miles and has approximately 42,000 residents of which 32,500 are senior citizens - 82% are 65 years or older. This demographic is one of the highest at risk groups identified for falls as well as fire and burn injuries. The SCW Fire District proactively addressed these issues, and in May 2008, established its Fire Corps program primarily aimed at injury prevention in the District's service area.

About the Program

The goal of the SCW Fire Corps program, alongside Fire District personnel and the Sun City West Citizen Corps Council, is to assist the Community Risk Management Division with programs and services that will reduce physical trauma and death due to injuries among the senior population while providing rewarding opportunities for volunteers to give back to their community and nurture camaraderie. The program provides a myriad of volunteer opportunities for community members to support programs and services, including: blood pressure screenings, lockbox installations and maintenance, smoke alarm and battery checks and installations, home safety assessments, chest-compression-only CPR and AED training, traditional CPR/first aid/AED training, emergency preparedness awareness training, fire extinguisher training, falls and burn prevention education, public education at community events, child passenger safety seat installation and loaner program, community partnerships, public relations, and administrative duties. See *About the Impact* for additional details about these services.

About the Members

The District's Fire Corps volunteers offer services that produce positive changes in the retirement community of Sun City West and the SCW Fire District as a whole. From January 01, 2012 to December 31, 2012, the 50 members of the District's Fire Corps volunteered approximately 5,213 hours, adding approximately \$113,591.27 worth of value to the District and community (www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time). The SCW Fire Corps members are seniors serving seniors. The ages of the volunteers range from early 60 to the late 80's.

Community members are very appreciative of the programs offered by the volunteers as seen by the myriad of thank you letters, accolades through

the District's customer survey program, and donations made by community members to support the program. The individual satisfaction of the volunteers and appreciation of the community has helped to grow the program since the initial 14 members started in January of 2009. Members join the Fire Corps after hearing about the program from dedicated volunteers, being the recipient of services provided by current volunteers, or reading about the program in the newspaper. Since the inception of the program, volunteers have donated over 12,915 hours.

Fire Corps members take the initiative to register for monthly volunteer opportunities as the need for community services are requested. The volunteers proactively, and with a glad heart, help the community by being available to support its programs Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., along with other volunteer opportunities requested by organizations like the Salvation Army and local food bank during evenings and weekends. The Fire Corps members also participate in various training opportunities throughout the year to stay current with needed skills necessary for effective, efficient, and successful job performance.

These Fire Corps volunteers have accomplished remarkable achievements working alongside the SCW Fire District. Members receive accolades from the community, media, and the District's governing fire board for their professionalism, effectiveness, and efficiency in providing lifesaving services that make Sun City West a better community for people to work, play, live, and visit.

About the Impact

The impacts of the programs listed below are far reaching and will continue to provide life saving benefits in the future. Statistical evidence is demonstrated to show the group's commitment to their community during 2012 (2009-2012 totals are in parenthesis):

- ◆ 3,257 (6,511) smoke alarms installed; 1,107 (2,972) checked and/or battery changed. A FEMA grant was awarded and Fire Corps member's contribution to its success by visiting 4,207 homes in 18 months.
- ◆ 660 (2,815) lockboxes installed; 437 (1,126) keys updated. Lockboxes are safe, virtually impenetrable devices containing the resident's door key and installed at a home's front entrance. A master key to open all boxes in the community is contained in a similar box in every fire vehicle and ambulance; the driver of the vehicle is the only one who has the combination to the vehicle box. The lockbox can be especially important in a medical emergency in which the resident in the home is unable to unlock the door for EMS personnel and time is of the essence to address the emergency.
- ◆ 1,754 (10,983) blood pressure checks at regularly scheduled sessions.
- ◆ 495 (1,740) child passenger safety seats installed.
- ◆ 409 (1,749) people trained in chest-compression-only CPR (also referred to as hands-only CPR). 203 (250) people trained in traditional CPR/first aid/AED.

Continued on page 13

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SCW Fire Corp—Continued from page 12

- ◆ 13 (51) emergency preparedness training sessions attended by 158 (1,174) residents. The training is based on FEMA's Are You Ready curriculum emphasizing local vulnerabilities. Use of the Community Emergency Notification System and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration radios is encouraged.
- ◆ District Fire Corps members have had opportunities to participate in community education and community relations during 289 (584) presentations connecting with 10,691 (38,650) community members.

Support tasks and projects at the Fire District Administration Building include shredding, scanning, filing, answering phones, and program maintenance and management. Fire Corps members help with the EMS supply program; support community and safety events; contribute to the Holiday Community Fill-a-Need program; support the District's toy, food, bike, and blood drives; fundraising; and more.

"The SCW Fire Corps is a remarkable program," said Fire Corps Director Sarah Lee. "The District has done a fantastic job utilizing its residents to enhance their services while also giving these members an opportunity to give back to their community. It's amazing to see how the volunteers embraced the program and selflessly and enthusiastically stepped up to help not only the District, but each other and their fellow neighbors."

Award Sponsors

IFSTA's mission is to identify areas of need for training materials and foster the development and validation of training materials for the fire service and related areas. IFSTA is an association of fire service personnel who are dedicated to upgrading firefighting techniques and safety through training.

FPP, a department of Oklahoma State University, is the headquarters for IFSTA. FPP's primary function is to publish and disseminate training manuals as proposed and validated by IFSTA.



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Backing the Apparatus...A Dangerous Assignment

By Bill Tricarico, Director, Loss Control Services, Emergency Services Insurance Program

Putting your fire apparatus in reverse seems to be a dangerous move. A recent report by the International Association of Fire Chiefs indicated that 16% of all emergency vehicle accidents involved backing the apparatus. Most of the time, damage is minimal since the vehicle is travelling a low rate of speed; however the results of such an accident can be catastrophic. Most backing accidents involve the vehicle striking a fixed object such as a pole, guardrail, parked vehicle or the fire station door. We tend to sometimes look at these types of accidents as minor in nature and not to take them too seriously. If your department is having a frequent number of these types of incidents, remember that the object struck could also be a child on a tricycle, a baby carriage, or an elderly person unable to move away quickly. As a result, you must take a pro-active stance to reduce such accidents.

First, decide whether you need to back the apparatus at all. If you do not need to back up... don't. Go around the block if at all possible. When parking, position the vehicle so you will not need to back up when you leave. Always look

into the option of going forward before attempting to back up.

If you must back up, always use a spotter if one is available. With the advent of enclosed cabs, members sometimes would rather not step outside in the cold or wet weather. This is not an excuse, spotters are mandatory. Look at it this way...you would never drive the apparatus forward if there were a blanket covering the windshield and you could not see. But everyday, emergency vehicle drivers back their rigs in this exact condition.

The driver's window should always be open while backing so as to hear verbal warnings from the spotter. Do not begin to back until the spotter is in place and visible in the driver's mirror. Make sure that both the driver and the spotter understand both the hand and verbal signals that will be used. After the spotter has had the opportunity to check the rear of the vehicle for obstructions and overhead clearances, proper hand and verbal signals should be given to the driver to begin moving at a very slow rate of speed. Should the spotter go out of the mirror, the driver should stop the vehicle immediately.

If no spotter is available, and the vehicle must be backed, the driver should walk completely around the apparatus checking for obstacles including overhead clearances to the rear and on both sides of the vehicle. Proceed slowly, using caution at all times.

As with any other facet of fire service management, a policy on backing the apparatus should be developed covering all of the items previously mentioned. This should include hand and verbal signals. And finally, no matter how minor, backing accidents should be investigated in accordance with your department's accident investigation policy. There is a tendency to forego investigations since the damage was so minor, but the next time you might not be so lucky.

Backing accidents are preventable in almost all cases. Use common sense. It's too late when you hear a thud or even worse...a scream. Drive safely.



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