



## ARIZONA FIRE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

Volume 21, Issue 3  
Fall 2014

# AFDANews

## AFDA 2015 Winter Conference

January 15-17, 2015  
Aquarius Resort  
1900 S. Casino Dr., Laughlin  
Laughlin, NV

Pre-registration deadline is January 8, 2015, see page 7 for conference schedule and visit [www.azfiredistricts.org](http://www.azfiredistricts.org) Meetings and Education page for the complete registration brochure.

See page 6 for important information on the new statutory training requirements.

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### AQUARIUS ROOM BLOCK RESERVATION INFORMATION

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After which all rooms under the room block will be released and you may have to pay a higher room rate. Room block usually fills early – make your reservation today!

#### Aquarius Casino Resort

Single/Double, Sun – Thurs Rates: \$31.00 per night  
Single/Double, Fri – Sat Rates: \$61.00 per night

Group rates are available two days prior to start of the conference and two days after. For reservations call 1-800-662-5825. Reference group code – C-AZF15

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## President's Message

By May Dalton, Sun City West Fire District



I am incredibly honored and excited to have the opportunity to serve the Arizona Fire District Association and all its members as President and genuinely

appreciate the support I have received. I am grateful to those past presidents, board members, section directors, and support staff members who have worked tirelessly and devoted personal resources and expertise to assist in making AFDA the strong, successful organization it is today.

As I assume this role, I keep in mind the trust and belief that I have in the current Board of Directors, Section Directors, and staff. They are a group with exceptional aptitude and a sense of service. I look forward to working with them and the many AFDA members who continue to strive to accomplish the Association's goals and contribute to the overall mission of AFDA.

There are many important initiatives the Association will address in the months and years ahead, from continuing to ensure that fire district voices are heard in critical legislative and regulatory debates, to promoting high standards for the benefit of all our citizens, to providing additional opportunities for members to share in education, best practices and developments.

For some time now, we have been hearing that the recession is over and the economy has recovered. While this may be true for the private sector, the majority of Arizona fire districts have not seen much relief in the way of renewed resources that were lost during the past recession. With the effects of Prop 117 weighing heavily on property value appreciation, and with rapidly increasing pension, health insurance and operating costs; fire districts continue to struggle. In the coming months, legislative issues will be paramount, especially those that address critical financial funding for fire districts.

While we have many active and progressive members doing outstanding work on behalf of

the Association, the numerous challenges necessitates that more members become actively involved in promoting and messaging the Association's legislative agenda. The fire service has a long tradition of working together and I believe it is more important than ever to now develop allies; consider collaborative partnerships; and reach out to your respective communities, legislators, and other public-safety, private sector and non-profit organizations. We must operate as a unified team and, although we may not always agree, we should be pulling the same direction.

Again, my sincere thanks to you, my friends and colleagues, for allowing me this experience and the chance to work on your behalf throughout the coming year. I also want to express a special thanks to our immediate past president, Chief Simon Davis, for his tremendous leadership during his tenure as AFDA President. I welcome your input, thoughts and ideas and look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming January conference.

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## Message from the Executive Director

By John Flynn, AFDA Executive Director



For Arizona's fire districts, the conclusion of the November 4, 2014 general election began setting the stage for moving a challenging legislative agenda through the next two regular sessions of the legislature (52<sup>nd</sup> Arizona Legislature – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular sessions). Planning has been ongoing in preparation for the coming legislative session, which convenes January 12, 2014. AFDA has been working with fire service stakeholders and consultants in developing a robust legislative agenda, one geared towards addressing the issues critical to Arizona's fire districts.

The mission of AFDA is to educate and advocate. This has been the foundation of AFDA since its formation in 1982. Today's AFDA continues a 32 year tradition of preparing Arizona's fire district leaders to govern in a highly dynamic environment. 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. 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.

AFDA is proud to launch another year of informative and timely educational offerings, which includes new requirements mandated by SB1387 for training elected officials and fire chiefs. The SB1387 training, which will be offered at the January AFDA Conference to be held in Laughlin, Nevada on January 15-17, 2015, will continue the association's focus of offering training for elected officials and fire district staff grounded in the essentials of fire district governance, administration and financial management.

Through AFDA, fire district leaders develop the solutions necessary to effectively deliver fire and EMS to Arizona's communities; govern fire districts pragmatically; and prudently manage the resources afforded to us by the taxpayers. Together we can make fire districts stronger and better capable of serving Arizona's citizens. I look forward to discussing how AFDA can best serve your fire district in 2015.

Be safe

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## The National Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Responder Training Program

The National Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Responder Training Program was created as part of the second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP 2). SHRP2 was authorized by Congress in 2005 and has four areas of focus: safety, renewal, reliability, and capacity. In 2006, organizations representing TIM stakeholders formed the National Traffic Incident Management Coalition (NTIMC). The NTIMC developed the National Unified Goal (NUG) document for TIM that includes has three main objectives and 18 related strategies. The three objectives are:

- ◆ Responder Safety
- ◆ Safe, Quick Clearance
- ◆ Prompt, Reliable, Interoperable Communications

The TIM for Responders Course was successfully pilot tested in four cities and subsequently adopted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for national rollout in 2012, targeting all responder disciplines:

- ◆ Law enforcement
- ◆ Fire/rescue personnel
- ◆ Emergency medical services
- ◆ Transportation agencies
- ◆ Towing/recovery professionals
- ◆ Notification and dispatch personnel
- ◆ Hazardous materials management responders
- ◆ Coroners/medical examiners
- ◆ Public works professionals

An injury crash response typically includes 2 law enforcement, 4 fire/rescue, 2 EMS, and 1 tow operator, equating to nine responders potentially in harm's way at each incident. With three injury crashes occurring every minute on average across the nation, there is the potential for:

- ◆ 27 new responders to arrive at new injury crashes every minute
- ◆ 1,620 responders working at traffic-related crashes every hour
- ◆ 38,880 responders in a 24-hour period
- ◆ 14.2 responders million annually

The TIM for Responder course includes 9 modules over a four-hour period in a classroom setting. The student composition includes all of the responders listed above, but generally includes law enforcement, fire/rescue, EMS, transportation, and towing/recovery professionals. These professionals routinely work together at injury crash incidents under austere and time-sensitive conditions. The benefit of placing these same professionals in a classroom environment enables a multi-disciplinary discussion that provides each responder an opportunity to gain insights from responders of different disciplines. Visit the FHWA TIM Website for more information.

### NATIONAL FHWA TIM TRAINING GOALS

The FHWA is setting the goal of training 10 percent of the nation's traffic incident responders in TIM by December 31, 2015. For the first leg in this goal, the FHWA has targeting a national goal of training 100,000 traffic incident responders in TIM by December 31, 2014. As of September 22, 2014, a total of 57,425 responders have been trained (57% of the target). Table 1 describes the numbers by responders trained by discipline as of September 22, 2014.

### WHO TO CONTACT FOR TRAINING

The Traffic Incident Management course is offered throughout the year across Arizona. You can contact Dr. David Harden, JD, NREMT, at the Bureau of EMS and Trauma System, Arizona Department of Health Services, at [hardend@azdhs.gov](mailto:hardend@azdhs.gov) or 602-364-3188 to schedule a class. The Arizona Event Registration & Management Application (ERMA) posts free statewide training courses, including TIM courses, that you can register for. Four (4) continuing education hours for EMT and Paramedic recertification are available when your medical director approves TIM course attendance.





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- ✓ Pre-Election and Voter Pamphlet Preparation Services
- ✓ Debt Structuring and Tax Rate Management
- ✓ Federal/State Financing Assistance (GADA, USDA/RD, etc.)
- ✓ Public Sales and Private Investor/Lender Financings
- ✓ Ongoing Assistance

### FINANCE HIGHLIGHTS

#### Private Placement

\$7,183,402

Mountain Vista Fire District  
Lease Purchase Refinancing

#### Public Sale

\$10,000,000

Green Valley Fire District  
Certificates of Participation (In a Lease Purchase)

#### Public Sale

\$1,695,000

Rio Rico Fire District  
General Obligation Bonds For Ladder Truck,  
Ambulances, Fire Station Facilities Apparatus

#### Private Placement

\$1,000,000

Drexel Heights Fire District  
General Obligation Refunding Bonds

### GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND ELECTIONS (\$139 MILLION SINCE 2002)



\$4,135,000 | Avra Valley Fire District  
November 2012 – 65.7% Yes Votes



\$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

### CONTACT A MEMBER OF OUR PUBLIC FINANCE TEAM



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## AFDA SB 1387 Statutory Training Roll Out Plan

By Simon David, AFDA Past President

As a result of the passage of SB 1387, the AFDA Board of Directors asked the Arizona Attorney General and AFDA legal counsel for opinions regarding their interpretation of the requirements of the law. Subsequent to those opinions, members of the AFDA Board of Directors, through the Education Committees, have developed the following implementation guidelines in conjunction with the Arizona Attorney General Opinion (No.114-003) for the training component of SB 1387: The following fire district officials will be required to complete six hours of training within the twelve months directly following the November 4, 2014 general election:

Board members elected or appointed (due to running unopposed) as a result of the November 2014 General Election and Fire Chiefs hired on or after November 5, 2014 are required to successfully complete six hours of training as defined by SB1387 within twelve months of election, appointment or hire.

Incumbent board members whose term of office expires in 2016 will be required to complete the six hours of required training within the twelve months directly following after the November 2016 General Election. They have the option of taking it earlier if they so chose but will be required to retake the class after they are re-elected in 2016.

At the January 15-17, 2015 Winter AFDA Conference two complete six hour AFDA SB 1387 training sponsored classes will be offered covering the following subjects:

1. Finance
2. Governance
3. Open Meeting Laws
4. Ethics and Fiduciary Responsibility

Completion of this curriculum will fulfill the SB 1387 statutory training

requirement.

*NOTE: AFDA is required by law to report SB 1387 training compliance to each respective county Board of Supervisors*

The AFDA Education Committee is also in the process of developing a web-based version of this the required curriculum with a delivery target of early summer 2015. The Board of Directors will share the details of this rollout as they become available.

The SB 1387 classroom training course offering will then be repeated during at the June AFDA Conference and periodically thereafter as necessary to ensure availability to fire district elected officials board members and Fire Chiefs.

Attendance, and completion certificates will be tracked by the AFDA Education committee and reported to the appropriate county agency per statute as required by law.

Any further questions, please address them to your respective AFDA Area Representative or the AFDA office. See AFDA web site [www.azfiredistricts.org](http://www.azfiredistricts.org) for actual Senate Bill 1387 language.

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## AFDA Report for Area #2

Serving Cochise, Graham & Greenlee Counties  
Bill Miller, Fire Chief, Fry Fire District

We have a new Fire Chief in Cochise County and his name is Mark Matthews. He is currently the Assistant Fire Chief with Palominas Fire District and will take over the Chief position in November. His career started in 1982 with Ventura County Fire Department concurrent with Ojai Ambulance, he then moved to the sheriff department (that doesn't happen very often).

Mark then moved on to the Lebanon Fire Department in Oregon and was Scio Fire District training officer until he moved to Ashland fire Department and work concurrent at Ashland Life Support. In 1989 he was one of the first/founding members of the OSFM Haz-Mat team in southern Oregon; in 1990 he moved to the City of Albany Fire Department and was on the OSFM Haz-Mat team, water rescue team (diver/SRT/ fire boat/rescue boat trainer) and a fire investigator. He's been a police Sargent, fire board director and the Fire Department's training officer for the City of Jefferson (while at Albany). In the mid 90's he also worked on the OSFM IMT teams. He then retired from Albany Fire Department in June 2014 and moved to Arizona. We wish him well in his new job and welcome him to the AFDA family.

Several of the Cochise County fire districts have been advised of the new requirements regarding SB1387 and we're all looking forward to the new training that the Arizona Fire District Association will be providing.

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## 2015 Winter Conference Schedule

Pre-registration deadline is January 9

Brochure with class descriptions can be downloaded at [www.azfiredistricts.org](http://www.azfiredistricts.org) under Meetings & Education.

### Thursday, January 15, 2015

8:00 a.m.	Golf Tournament @ Laughlin Ranch Golf Club
3:00 p.m. –4:00 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

### Friday, January 16, 2015

7:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m.	Registration
7:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast/Visit with Conference Vendors
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
	1. Soft Skills for a Hard World
	2. <b>Statutory Training: Ethics &amp; Fiduciary Responsibilities</b>
9:30 a.m. –10:00 a.m.	Refreshment Break / Visit with Conference Vendors
10:00 a.m. –11:30 a.m.	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
	1. <b>Statutory Training: Finance</b>
	2. Legislative Update
	3. FirstNet, the National Public Safety Broadband Network—Identifying Arizona Fire District's Needs
	4. Who Is Going TO Take My Place?
11:30 a.m. –1:00 p.m.	Buffet Lunch
1:00 p.m. –2:30 p.m.	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
	1. <b>Statutory Training: Open Meeting Laws (OML)</b>
	2. Advanced Finance, Part 1
	3. Harassment in the Gray Matter, Part 1
	4. Career Fire Districts Roundtable
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. <b>Statutory Training: Governance</b>
	2. Advanced Finance, Part 2
	3. Harassment in the Gray Matter, Part 2
	4. Unintended Consequences of Less Fire Protection
4:30 p.m.	Hospitality Suite

### Saturday, January 17, 2015

7:00 a.m. –1:00 p.m.	Registration
7:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast/Visit with Conference Vendors
8:00 a.m. –9:30 a.m.	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
	1. Employment Law Update
	2. <b>Statutory Training: Governance</b>
9:30 a.m. –10:00 a.m.	Refreshment Break / Visit with Conference Vendors
10:00 a.m. –11:30 a.m.	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
	1. <b>Statutory Training: Open Meeting Laws (OML)</b>
	2. Mergers/Shared Services/JPA's Panel
	3. Anatomy of an Accident
	4. EMS Section Update
11:30 a.m. –1:00 p.m.	Buffet Lunch—Golf Tournament Results, Certificates Awarded & Raffle Winners
1:00 p.m. –2:30 p.m.	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
	1. <b>Statutory Training: Finance</b>
	2. Labor/Management—Taking Your Districts to the Next Level
	3. Leadership Through Change
	4. Community Integrated Paramedicine—A Paradigm Shift for the U.S. Fire Service
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. <b>Statutory Training: Ethics &amp; Fiduciary Responsibilities</b>
	2. Administrative Roundtable
	3. Combination District Roundtable
4:30 p.m.	Conference Close



## Community Supports Mormon Lake Fire Department (MLFD)

On June 15, 2014, Lee Banning, of Banning Charitable Fund handed over the keys to a new type 6 engine to Fire Chief Glen Reagan. Mr. Banning purchased a used 2006 Ford F-550 APS line truck which he painted and refurbished before donating the brush truck to MLFD. Banning also designed and built the skid unit from material resources given to MLFD by Arizona State Forestry.

In addition, the MLFD Auxiliary held their first "Hats and Heels" Fireman's Ball in September of 2013 and in one night raised over \$31,000 in support of the MLFD Wildlands Fire Division. The evening gala began with complimentary wine, a silent auction before a prime rib dinner, then ended with a live auction, and dancing with entertainment donated by Aces N' Eights. The Fireman's Ball was hosted by the Mormon Lake Lodge and the manager of the lodge, Scott Gold, and his staff were instrumental in making this event such a success by donating their time and other services. Auction items included a houseboat on Lake Mead/Mohave for 3 days donated by Forever Living Resorts, a guitar signed by Rascal Flatts, historical photos and numerous other items donated by community members and local businesses.

The donations from this event allowed the Fire District to purchase additional equipment to meet specifications for a type 6 engine and provide the engine with training and equip firefighters with personal protection equipment (PPE) inclusive of the new generation fire shelters and equipment.

In a time of diminishing revenues for fire districts, members of the Mormon Lake Community stepped up to reduce the impact and supplement the Mormon Lake Fire Department (MLFD) budget through donations.



# THANK YOU

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## Sun City West Fire District Announces Upgrade in District's ISO Rating to Class 1

Sun City West Fire District (SCWFD) Fire Chief Robert Biscoe announced today that, for the first time in its history, the District has earned the prestigious ISO Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating of 1 from the Insurance Services Office (ISO), indicating an exemplary ability to respond to fires. The Class 1 ISO rating places SCWFD among an elite group of agencies. "We are the first and only fire department in Arizona to ever receive this honor," stated Chief Biscoe. Additionally, the Fire District is 1 of only 195 fire departments accredited internationally by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI).

SCWFD was formed in 1981 and has grown to protect roughly 45,000 residents within an approximate 35 square mile area and includes the communities of Sun City West, Corte Bella, Cross River, Dos Rios, Rancho Cabrillo, Rio Sierra and many other unincorporated portions of Maricopa County. The Fire District is one of 60 fire departments out of approximately 49,000 departments nationwide to receive a Class 1 ISO rating; placing SCWFD in the top .122% (1/12 of one percent) of all agencies across the country.

The ISO ratings range from 1 to 10, with Class 1 representing the best public protection and Class 10 indicating no recognized protection. A score of 90-100 earns a grading of 1; the District score was 95. Since the ISO fire

ratings are used by property insurance companies to set insurance premium rates, the lower the ISO fire rating, the lower the insurance premium. This upgrade indicates that insurance premiums, on commercial and residential properties, could be lowered by year's end. The PPC rating upgrade becomes effective December 1, 2014. The District had previously held a rating of 2 which is also outstanding. However, the District strives for excellence and worked to increase the rating to the highest possible. "I applaud the efforts of the Fire District's personnel for their diligent effort to achieve a rating shared by only 60 departments nationwide and for being the first to achieve this honor in Arizona," said the Fire District's Governing Board Chairman David Wilson.

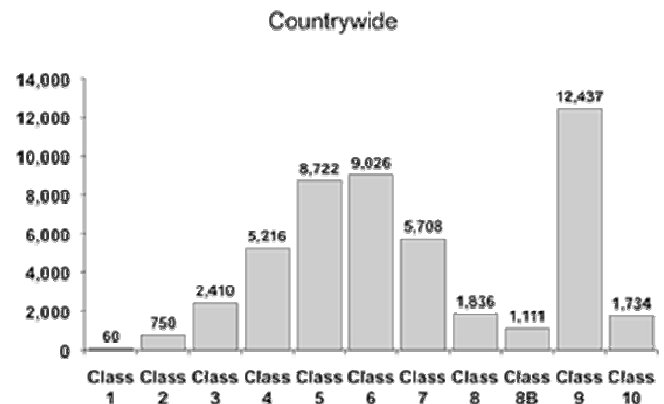
The Public Protection Classification rating is based on three factors: the District's ability to receive and respond to fire alarms, the fire department's first-alarm response and initial attack capabilities; and the water supply system.

"The Class 1 rating reflects the importance the District places on keeping its

residents safe," Fire Chief Biscoe said.

"SCWFD is very proud that our work is being recognized with a Class 1 rating. In the world of the fire service, this is the Gold Medal. We consider this a testament to our hard work in reducing fire loss through firefighting and fire prevention education and the District's commitment to public safety," he further commented.

The chart below depicts the number of ISO classified fire departments nationwide and their associated PPC



## Arizona Ambulance Association Elections

The AZ Ambulance Association will be holding their elections on January 14, 2015, at their winter conference in Laughlin, NV.

The positions up for election are:

President  
Secretary  
Northern Region Director  
Southern Region Director

We have fire-based candidates seeking election to both the southern and northern region positions, and the full slate of candidates will be announced in early December.

Expect recommendations for candidates for each position to come from AFDA once the slate is finalized. It is important for us to support our fire-based candidates to ensure we have a better and stronger voice on the Board of Directors. Fire-based CON holders are the majority of the AzAA membership, and our voice needs to be heard.

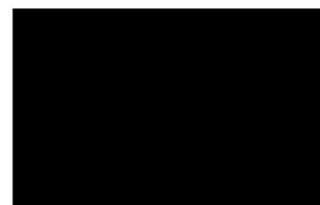
To be eligible to vote, membership dues must be paid prior to December 1, 2014.

Membership applications are not being mailed out to agencies this year. Renewal Notices were emailed to each agency's current point of contact (as is listed on the AzAA website). Membership fees can now also be paid online. Fees are \$55 per DHS-registered ambulance. You will find the membership renewal application form on the AzAA website, [www.azambulance.org](http://www.azambulance.org).

The person listed as the agency contact on the membership application will be mailed the ballot for this election. Please ensure this individual knows the recommended candidates endorsed by AFDA.

Please direct any questions to Rebecca Haro, the AFDA EMS Section Director, at [rhara@scwfire.org](mailto:rhara@scwfire.org) or 623-544-5400.

# ARCHITECTS FOR ARIZONA'S BRAVEST



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## Superstition Fire & Medical District New and Innovative Projects

The Superstition Fire & Medical District has been extremely busy and involved with many new and innovative projects. We are very proud to announce that we have 8 new firefighter-recruits attending the Mesa Regional Training Academy. They will complete their 14 week academy shortly after the first of the year and should be working their first days on shift the week of the AFDA Winter Conference.

Since the summer meeting, it has been a whirlwind last 7 months and we are pleased to report the following good news to all:

SFMD, in partnership with Mesa Fire & Medical have now been awarded \$12.5 million dollars to test an innovative new medical response model that focuses on in-home health care and reducing the number of non-critical admissions to local emergency rooms. This opportunity came through the National Health & Human Services (HHS) Department and The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), under the HHS Health Care Innovation Awards program, funded through the Affordable Health Care Act.

**The Community Care Response Initiative** will consist of four units operating 24 hours per day 365 days per year throughout the East Valley area. A Physician Assistant (PA) and an SFMD Captain/Paramedic will respond in a modified ambulance to less critical EMS calls and perform post discharge check-ups for people recently treated in local hospitals. The services provided by this unit will include; in depth patient evaluations, behavioral health evaluations, suturing, minor trauma evaluations, cardiac diagnostic capabilities, pain management, prescription services, immunizations, health education, referral services, primary care consultations, sepsis evaluations, post discharge follow ups, and minor diagnostic testing.

"This is an historic effort we are lucky to be a part of" stated SFMD Fire Chief Paul Bourgeois. "We appreciate our partners at Mesa Fire & Medical for including us in this grant. "Our goal is to improve the delivery of healthcare in our community," "With this new model, we can bring not only immediate relief to those who need it, but be part of the bigger solution to our health-care crisis," stated Bourgeois.

SFMD is moving forward with immediate plans to ensure that patients we treat have not

only the highest level of pre-hospital medical care available, but also a reliable and timely transport to an appropriate hospital for more advanced care. SFMD anticipates having a completed Certificate of Need (CON) Application in the hands of AzDHS before November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

SFMD as well as other local fire entities, are positioning themselves to take over the transport of critical patients. SFMD has prepared one of its rescue units, that is transport capable, to pass all of the State of Arizona certification requirements for transport vehicles, and has also begun the purchase process for another new ambulance to strengthen its fleet capabilities.

"This is a basic expectation that anyone should have – to be able to have timely and efficient emergency medical transport when you call 9-1-1 for a medical problem," said Fire Chief Paul Bourgeois. "We believe this is a natural progression for our agency," - "It is consistent with our existing automatic aid system and will allow us to transport patients in a timely and efficient manner,"

SFMD has also received funding through the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program receiving \$600,000 to purchase new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA's). SFMD was able to work closely with the Mesa Fire and Medical Department, joining them in a regional grant application that requested \$2.8 million for the replacement of hundreds of SCBA's for both jurisdictions. These SCBA are critical to firefighter safety and current equipment had reached the end of its serviceable life. SFMD had fallen behind several generations of new equipment through the years due to high replacement costs.

SFMD entered into an educational and training agreement with the Central Arizona Community College District – Superstition Mountain Campus that will bring a strong Fire Science degree program to the local campus, and enable those seeking classes in fire service and emergency medical service training more access to local educational opportunities. Bringing this highly sought after degree program back to the local community college campus culminates a long effort by SFMD staff to have this educational choice available to those interested in a fire service career.

"In order to prepare the next generation

of fire service professionals, we want to have a robust post-high school education program specializing in the skills and tools they will need to be successful in not just getting hired by us or another fire service entity, but throughout a long fire service career," said Bourgeois. "This will be a great value added for the community, as we enhance our ability to attract and keep top-notch students from all over the East Valley and even the state."

CAC has past experience in providing fire service related education from the Superstition Mountain Campus, but in recent years, had placed less emphasis at this location to focus on their Signal Butte Campus programs.

SFMD has partnered with Mountain Vista Medical Center in an effort to improve stroke patient outcomes in our community by obtaining Complete Blood Count (CBC) specimens at the emergency scene, rather than waiting to reach the hospital. "These efforts will help stroke victims to receive more efficient and rapid treatment once we get to the hospital," said Captain/Paramedic Mark Gomez. "As part of the Mountain Vista Medical Center Stroke Team, we have been working on this implementation for three months, and we have everything in place to provide the immediate level of care that stroke victims require," continued Gomez. All SFMD Paramedics have been educated and trained on best practices and precautions for obtaining CBC/blood specimens. This plan was implemented on October 1, 2014. SFMD is the first emergency responder in the state to test this new treatment protocol. The CBC/blood specimens will only be taken on suspected stroke patients being transported to MVMC.

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## Newly Formed Timber Mesa Fire and Medical District

By Chief Bryan Savage

In 2014, the community members and the Fire Boards of the Lakeside, Show Low and Linden Fire Districts each committed to work together to improve the quality of their local fire and emergency medical services by merging the three fire districts into one. As of September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 that merger was effective and the Timber Mesa Fire and Medical District (TMFMD) was formed.

The TMFMD is a full-service fire and emergency medical provider serving the communities of the White Mountains. This professional organization is an example of the efficiencies that can be gained, and the progress that can be made, when neighbors come together to work on behalf of the community. Through merger we were able to continue to provide outstanding service to our customers while saving nearly \$2 million annually for the tax payers in our communities.

The TMFMD provides service to more than 200 square miles from four stations located throughout the White Mountains:

- ◆ Station 13 in Lakeside has a crew of six members to staff a fire engine and an ambulance and is also the location of the District's administrative staff.
- ◆ Station 14 located in Show Low on Fawnbrook Dr. has a crew of six members who staff a ladder truck and an ambulance.
- ◆ Station 15 in down town Show Low has a crew of four to staff an engine; this site also includes the operations staff, logistics staff and the fleet services staff.

- ◆ Station 17 in Linden has a regular staff of three members to staff an engine.

Each of our stations includes a crew of full-time professional firefighters with a captain, an engineer and a paramedic assigned to each engine or ladder and a paramedic and an EMT on each ambulance.

Training for TMFMD personnel is handled by our training staff located at the Show Low Airport (Station 16). The training staff includes a Division Chief of training, a Training Captain and an administrative assistant. They are responsible for planning, developing, conducting and tracking all training related activities for our 75 firefighters and members of staff.

The history of the fire service is one of constant change and progress toward making our communities safer from the threat of fire. As time progressed firefighters took on the responsibility of emergency medical services as well as hazardous materials response, technical rescue, fire prevention and public education. The commitment to keep our communities safe will continue with the Timber Mesa Fire and Medical District as we, along with the rest of the American Fire Service, adopt modern-day risk reduction strategies. Our commitment to the people we serve is to be proactive in our efforts to reduce the risk to our community and to always be ready to protect our customers' lives and property.

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## AFCA and Division of Forestry Wildfire Committee Update

By Don Howard, Summit Fire District

The committee that works to enhance the communication and cooperation between the fire departments of Arizona and the State's Division of Forestry met on October 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss the 2014

Wildfire Season and discuss the issues that have developed. We are now in our third year of work and the fire districts have tremendous representation from around the State on the committee. Jayson Coil, a Battalion Chief with the Sedona Fire District was elected as the new Chairperson and has begun the transition from Don Howard, the past chair. We think that this statutorily mandated committee has been a solid step in the right direction to help develop better communication and cooperation.

The Wildfire Resource Groups (WRGs) that have been established around the state have helped to enhance communication among the fire departments in the state and are the representatives for you to express concerns or issues that you would like to have addressed. They will also even accept compliments if you have them!

Quick payment for our wildfire responses is always an issue, especially for the smaller fire departments and we saw a much quicker turn around for payments this past year. If you continue to have issues with this or any other issues, please raise those concerns with your WRGs so they can be addressed. We will be sending out an informational report to the WRGs in the next month after we have some of our questions answered from last month's meeting.

## The Arizona Wildfire and Incident Management Academy (AWIMA)

By Don Howard, Summit Fire District

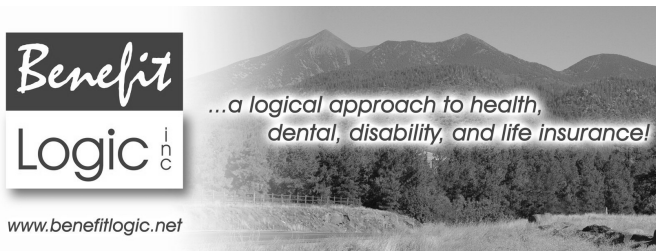
The AWIMA will be held for the 13<sup>th</sup> time this coming March at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. There are 42 course offerings and many of the classes fill up quickly so register soon. Registration opened on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The AWIMA website has all the information you need for seeing all of the offerings. Scholarships are available to those in need and we think this year's Academy will be the best yet.

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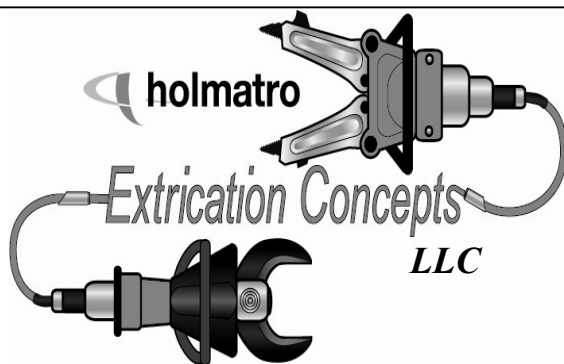
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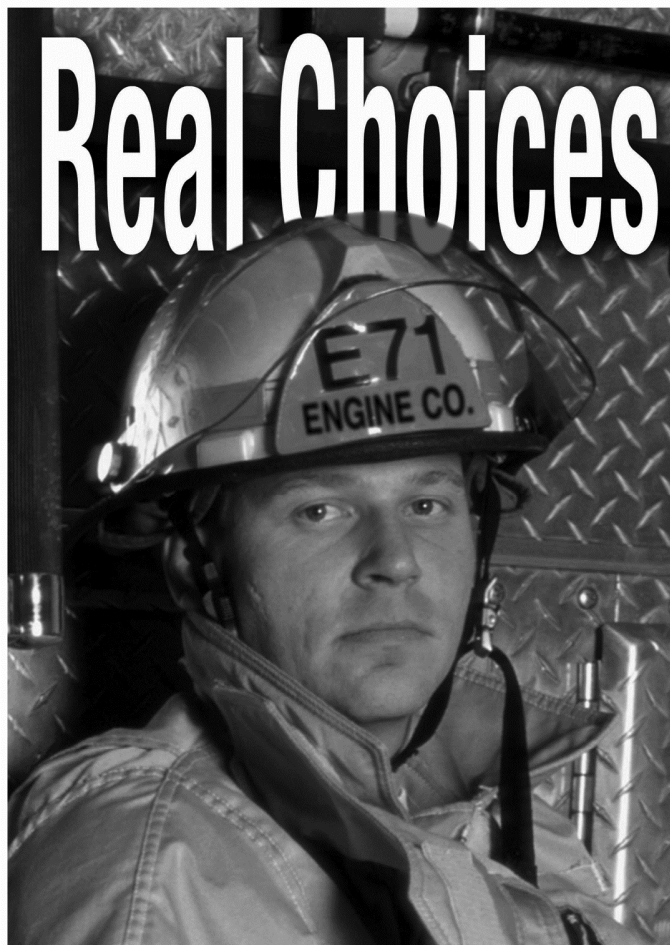
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