



ARIZONA FIRE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

Volume 21, Issue 1
Spring 2014

AFDANews

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President's Message

By Simon Davis, Green Valley Fire District



Happy spring and Easter to all! I have a short President's letter this month as unfortunately; I've been out of

state dealing with family issues for the last few weeks. After yesterday's board meeting, we continue to hear of declining valuations across the state. So, regardless of what you see in the general press about the economy recovering and property valuations climbing, most counties except for Maricopa are going to have to tighten belts yet again for the next fiscal.

Mergers, consolidations and Joint Powers Agreements might be the way of the future to keep adequate coverage throughout the state. I'd advise that you all keep looking for creative solutions to allow us to continue to provide for the safety and care of our communities. My suggestion is to open up a forum for ideas or best practices that can be shared among

Districts throughout the state including different staffing/response models or alternative revenue sources that are sustainable, because the outlook continues to look grim for at least the immediate future. As District leaders, many of you are already working on ideas, so please take a moment to send them along to me (sdavis@gvfire.org) and we will use them as discussion points at the monthly board meetings.

On a more positive note, for those of you who attended the January conference in Laughlin, I hope you had a good time while learning a lot of new information. Many thanks go out to all the folks behind the scenes that make our conferences work so smoothly and provide such great classes. We are already putting the finishing touches on the summer schedule and it's looking to be another varied and helpful line up of classes and speakers.

Please remember that the Association now holds its monthly Board meetings at the Glendale Regional Public Safety Training Center (GRPSTC), fondly known as Grip-stick, located on Glendale Road just west of the 101.

Any member is welcome to attend, and actually, if you are interested in joining the Board at some time in the future, I would highly recommend that you come and learn all about the organization and participate in the lively banter. The meetings usually run from 10am to 12noon and are the first Thursday of the month. Please contact Robin at info@azfiredistricts.org or me if you are interested or need more information.

Stay safe and good luck with your budgets,
Simon

Collaborative Efforts Bring Success to Wildfire Mitigation Efforts

By Shelby Erickson and Brian Katrales Highlands Fire District

No Fire Chief or Agency wants to see the constituents of their Fire District realize the catastrophic effects of a Wildfire. Over the years efforts have been implemented to organize Crews to minimize the effects of catastrophic wildfire by helping eliminate dense stands of trees on and around Private Property. The Communities protected by Highlands, Pinewood, and Summit Fire Districts all formed Fuels Crews at different times. With budget funds from all three Fire Districts and competitive hiring processes for Supervisory Positions, a collaborative organization from all three Districts was created. This newly formed group was named the Bear Jaw Fire and Fuels Crew and was organized in 2008. Bear Jaw is the only Interagency Crew in Northern Arizona and it represents three of the largest Fire Districts in the Flagstaff Area.

Bear Jaw soon surfaced as one of the only three Arizona State Cooperator Fire Crews in 2011. Both Granite Mountain Hotshots and Ironwood Hotshots were the other two. Bear Jaw's classification as a Type 2 Initial Attack Crew differs from a Hotshot Crew and is unique in its own right. The Bear Jaw program has gained a lot of momentum since earning its Type 2 IA status. The Crew has traveled to fires in the State of Arizona as well as to incidents across the West. Those areas include: New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, California and Alaska. Working in these areas has given the Crew invaluable experiences and helped further the Crew Members' education and knowledge in Fuels Reduction and Fire Suppression and Behavior. Bear Jaw has completed nearly 1,000 acres of thinning on and around the Districts' boundaries and helped the Forest Service conduct nearly 8,000 acres of prescribed burning in areas bordering the three Districts as well.

At the end of last year's fire season, Bear Jaw teamed up with the Flagstaff Fire Department and the Ponderosa Fire District and were sent to the Rim Fire in California. This trip marked the first time all Fire Agencies from the Flagstaff Area have joined hands to help other parts of the West in their time of need. This kind of partnership is one that has been discussed for the last decade but has never become a reality until August of 2013. With hope of an upturn in the economy all the Flagstaff Area Agencies can once again be able to collaborate to complete projects in the future while meeting common goals of cooperation. The hope as well is to work on future budgeting to allow cooperation like this to become the norm instead of merely an effort.

Message from the Executive Director

By John Flynn



This edition of the AFDA Newsletter finds the association in the midst of our busiest time of the year. The Arizona Legislature is in session and will be more than halfway to adjournment (Sine Die) by the time you read this. And after having just completed one of most successful AFDA Winter Conferences in memory, we're just three short months from the Summer Conference and Annual Membership Meeting in Tucson.

Elsewhere in this edition you'll find a summary report on the 51st Arizona Legislature – 2nd Regular Session, and the

bills which are most likely to impact fire districts, good or bad (and there are always some of both). Besides all the legislative activity, several key association matters face the membership in the coming months: Voting for proposed AFDA Bylaw changes and AFDA Board Member elections.

Beginning with the 2014 AFDA election cycle, the election of Officers and Directors and the Annual Membership Meeting were moved to summer and coincide with the summer conference, which will be held on June 26, 27 and 28, 2014 at Loew's Ventana Canyon Resort, Tucson (anticipate registration materials in April 2014). And beginning on March 26, 2014, electronic voting for the proposed AFDA Bylaw changes begins. Voting will remain open for 30 days. Each designated AFDA member representative will be sent a ballot via e-mail. Each member fire district of AFDA has a single vote and the voting delegate is the responsibility of the member fire district. Notice on the AFDA website requests that fire districts contact information is up to date with the AFDA Office.

The proposed AFDA Bylaw changes are summarized below (the complete Bylaw strike and add language is on the AFDA website within the Member Section – under the Bylaws, Budget & Governance Policies tab). Fire district voting delegates should carefully read and consider the proposed bylaw changes prior to voting:

Article III Change – establishes dates for payment of membership fees; both Regular members and Corporate members.

Article V Change – establishes criteria for election of AFDA Executive Board positions.

Article VII Change – expands the AFDA Board by adding an eighth Area Director (Gila County) and reassigning responsibilities for Area Directors concerning Pinal and Santa Cruz Counties.

The change to the AFDA Board election cycle was taken based upon a bylaw change which the membership approved on January 17, 2013 (AFDA Bylaws: Article IV – Section 4.1 Annual Meeting). When the AFDA Bylaw changes were proposed and subsequently approved by the membership, it was communicated to the membership that the current Officers and Director's terms of office would be extended by several months to coincide with the new election cycle.

Going forward the schedule for the election of AFDA Officers and

Directors will be as follows (AFDA Bylaws: Article XI – Elections):

- The positions of Vice President; Treasurer; Area Director for area's 2, 4, 6 and *8 will be voted by the membership in spring / summer 2014 (NOTE: Area 8 Director - Gila County: this position is proposed for addition to the board by a AFDA Bylaw change to be voted by the membership and will only appear on the ballot if approved).
- The AFDA Summer Conference and Annual Business meeting is scheduled for June 26, 27 and 28, 2014. The Nomination for AFDA Elected Office deadline for the above referenced positions will be April 27, 2014 (60 days prior to the start of the Annual Business Meeting - AFDA Bylaws: Article XI – Section 11.2). Rick Southey, AFDA Immediate Past President is accepting nominations for the open positions.
- Balloting for the positions of Vice President; Treasurer; Area Director for area's 2, 4, 6 and *8 (8 only if approved) will be conducted electronically. The balloting process is required to be conducted over a 30 day period and must be concluded prior to the start of the Annual Business Meeting (AFDA Bylaws: Article XI – Section 11.3). Balloting therefore will begin no later than May 27, 2014.
- The terms of AFDA elected officers begin upon the ratification of the election results by the current AFDA Board of Directors and upon the adjournment of the Annual Business Meeting following the election (in this case – June 26, 2014).
- The election timeline for President; Area Director for area's 1, 3, 5 and 7 will follow this same process in spring / summer 2015, with the current officers serving several additional months on their respective terms.

These changes to AFDA's business and administrative operations were designed to make your association more responsive and better positioned to address the challenges which will present themselves as we move though 2014 and beyond. I look forward to seeing you all at the AFDA Conference in Tucson on June 26, 27 and 28, 2014 and hearing how we can continue to best position your association for the future.

Mid-Session Legislative Report

By John Flynn, Executive Director

The mid-way point of the 51st Arizona Legislature – 2nd Regular Session will have just passed as this edition of the AFDA News goes to print. This has been a tough session for fire districts as we've had a significant number of bills which have or still may pose a threat to fire districts. We've had some success mitigating a substantial part of the risk, but much remains as we head into the final months.

The first week of March exhibited a flurry of legislative activity, especially in the House of Representatives. The House plowed through 18 Committee of the Whole calendars during the first week of March and an equal number of bills appeared on Third Read calendars. Both chambers have only until March 21 to hear bills from the opposite chamber.

Though rumblings of budget negotiations were heard and members have begun to make budget requests of legislative leadership, no visible movement on the state budget occurred this week (AFDA still intends to seek enhanced funding for wildland fire payments through the budget).

For fire districts, the most important issues are the attack by cities to limit our ability to annex property located within a municipal planning area (H2152) and the three bills Senator Crandell sponsored (S1348, S1387 and S1459) subsequent to completion of the Countywide Fire District Study Committee hearings.

Unfortunately I must report that our efforts to obtain relief from the 3.25 tax rate cap this session are over. **S1472: FIRE DISTRICT ASSISTANCE TAX; LIMIT** (AFDA position: SUPPORT) the AFDA tax rate cap relief bill is DEAD. The tax rate cap relief effort will be attached to a strike-everything (S/E) if we can build the necessary support amongst the majority party to move this issue forward, however that effort appears likely DEAD as well at this point. Here's a recap of the four highest priority bills for fire districts and where we stand at the session's mid-point:

H2152: FIRE DISTRICT BOUNDARY CHANGE (AFDA position: **OPPOSED**) was held by the Rules Committee Chair (Robson, R-18, Chandler) for several weeks as fire districts continued to work towards defeating this measure. H2152 is an Arizona League of Cities and Towns measure to prohibit fire districts from annexing property within Municipal Planning Area (MPA) without the express permission of the city (would require city council action). H2152 is being aggressively worked / supported by the City of Peoria and their lobbyists. Cities and towns have extensive MPA's throughout the state which extend many miles outside their respective jurisdictional / incorporated boundaries. H2152 would in effect ELIMINATE any fire district annexations within an MPA (cities and towns typically view fire districts as an impediment to ongoing municipal annexations). H2152 is a direct and eminent threat to fire districts! H2152 has serious repercussions for all fire districts in Arizona, and even more importantly for unincorporated county residents who want to retain their property rights and option to decide whether they obtain their fire and emergency medical services from a fire district or a neighboring city.

S1387: FIRE DISTRICTS; BOARD SIZE; FORMATION (Fire Districts Watch List) –S1387 stipulates that for any fire district administered by a three-member board that levies taxes in a fiscal year of \$500,000 or

more, the district is required to be administered by a five-member board beginning with the first general election held after the end of that fiscal year. S1387 has an emergency clause which will place it into effect upon the signature of the Governor. It appears at this that the board change requirement will impact approximately 15 fire districts statewide.

S1459: FIRE DISTRICTS; DIRECTORS; REQUIREMENTS; MODIFICATIONS (Fire Districts Watch List Bill) –S1459 specifies that candidates for the position of fire district board member are required to be a resident of the district for at least one year preceding the election, and cannot be related by affinity or consanguinity within the third degree to a current board member. It is a class 2 (second highest) misdemeanor for a fire district officer or employee to appoint or vote for appointment of any person who is related to that officer or employee by affinity or consanguinity within the third degree to any employment or duty in any department of the fire district. Beginning with the 2014 general election, fire district board members and the fire chief are required to attend professional development training provided by an association of Arizona fire districts. Requirements for the training are specified. S1459 has an emergency clause which will place it into effect upon the signature of the Governor.

S1348: SPECIAL DISTRICTS; AUDITS; BUDGETS; BOARDS (Fire Districts Watch List Bill) –S1348 requires that fire districts that receive \$500,000 or more, decreased from \$1 million or more, in total revenues must have an annual audit performed. The county attorney is authorized to investigate any claimed failure to comply with special taxing district audit and financial review requirements. For a fire district that amends its budget after its initial adoption, the district board is required to hold at least two hearings on the revision. S1348 has an emergency clause which will place it into effect upon the signature of the Governor. Fire districts should note an amendment negotiated by AFDA lessens the number of public meetings required for small fire districts (defined as those that levy less than \$500K in taxes annually) to six meetings annually (reduced from monthly meeting requirement). The amendment is part of the compromise AFDA worked with Senator Crandell, the bill's sponsor.

Things move quickly at the Legislature and by the time this issue of the AFDA News arrives, much will have transpired concerning the four priority measures described here. For timely legislative information, please refer to the report posted each week to the AFDA Website.

Superstition Fire & Medical District New Look

The Superstition Fire & Medical District now has a new look! We have recently adopted an updated logo reflecting the new district name, along with a new fire apparatus door emblem, helping us to complete our new brand. The new logo incorporates the tradition of the Maltese-Cross with a silhouette of the Superstition Mts. along with the addition of an EMS 'Star of Life' emblem. Our fire apparatus will now have a top and bottom reflective gold ribbon with the district name and a unique set of district initials in the center. All of these graphics were created by one of our own, Firefighter Nat Erickson, who has his own graphics design business, First Alarm Graphics, LLC. We are extremely excited to have this new look 'out there', and begin to be recognized as SFMD! There is much more to come over time including a new and improved web-site. Stay tuned for new updates as we transition from AJFD to SFMD.

There have been many recent developments that are helping to define SFMD as 'Responsive, Professional, and Innovative' – which are the values we strive to share and represent to the communities we serve. Some of those things are:

- Our Senior Leadership Team was expanded recently with the hiring of a third Assistant Chief. Jerome Schirmer began his SFMD career in early February, taking over the role of Operations Chief. Chief Schirmer came to SFMD after retiring from the Mesa Fire & Medical Department in January 2014. Jerome brings with him nearly 30 years' experience in the fire service, with many of those years being in leadership roles in Operations and EMS. We are excited to have Chief Schirmer aboard!
- SFMD successfully completed its second re-accreditation process and third overall experience through the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE). As the former AJFD, we were the first Fire District in Arizona to become an accredited agency back in 2004. We also successfully re-accredited in 2009. While we would love to say the process gets easier each time, that would be stretching it, but we have learned valuable lessons about our organization and how we have grown and will continue to become better through this process. Representatives from the fire

district will be at the 2014 CPSE Excellence Conference in Henderson, NV in early March to accept the award. \

- As the Alternative Health Care Act continues to define monumental changes to how emergency health care will look in the future, SFMD has joined the Mesa Fire & Medical Dept., and Queen Creek Fire in an exciting grant opportunity to place more Alternative or Transitional Response Units (ARU/TRV) into the field with a Physician's Assistant onboard along with a fire paramedic to allow a more comprehensive range of pre-hospital, post-hospital alternative care choices. Some of the innovative EMS ideas being researched in conjunction with the health-care industry changes are: post hospital discharge monitoring in partnership with local hospitals; disease management monitoring and assessment; in-home health-care services; and community health centers. *"These are new, innovative and distinctly different services than provided by traditional EMS and are absolutely a "Medical" service that provides great value to our customers and to the health-care industry itself,"* said Chief Paul Bourgeois. *"We regularly meet with hospital CEO's and even more recently have met with major international insurance carriers to further define our role in the health-care system."* Championed by Dr. Gary Smith – medical director for several local fire jurisdictions - this \$13 million dollar regional Medicare/Medicaid Grant could save the Federal Health Care System up to \$40 million dollars over three years.
- SFMD recently completed a grant application for the purchase of several new 'Lucas' Devices, a cutting edge, self-contained and easy to use automated chest compression device. For those who may remember the 'Thumper' from 25 years ago, the Lucas Device is a new and much improved version of this same technology. One EMT can easily set the device up and place it on a patient while other advanced life support is being administered, and then manage the device with little further intervention. The units are very compact and light-weight as well.



- SFMD recently had several 'FIDO' Bags donated to the district for placement on our front-line apparatus to help in the event of life saving needs for small household pets. As other jurisdictions in the valley had pet rescues as reported by the news media agencies, several local pet benefactors got together and through the City of Apache Junction, donated these FIDO bags to the district. Crews have been spending time familiarizing themselves with the bags and how they work for the different pets they may encounter.
- SFMD is completing a renovation and remodel project worth nearly \$1 million dollars, turning a vacant middle school into a state-of-the-art fire and EMS training campus. Due to a significant decline in local student enrollment several years ago, the Apache Junction Unified School District had to vacate a new middle-school campus less than 10 years after it was built. As costs involved with building a full-sized, multi-use training campus were considered, the results were staggering. *"With just less than \$1 million left from a tax-payer approved bond from 2006, we had to think out-side the box on how we could get the best bang for our buck,"* stated Training Division Chief Rob Bessee. After talking to AJUSD officials, and getting approved for a long-term lease to use a major portion of the school structure for training, planning began to create the best training facility possible. Upon completion in April, the facility will have approx. 2,000 square feet of new office space, 9,000sqft of classrooms, including a new 40+ occupancy training classroom for multi-use needs, an five-

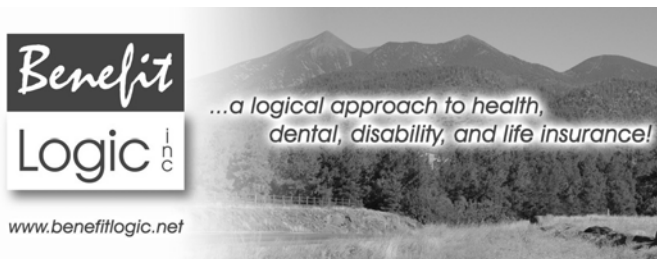
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Drexel Heights Fire District Celebrated 10 Years

By Tracy L. Koslowski



Drexel Height Fire District celebrated the 10 year anniversary of doing characterization programs in all their schools for Fire Prevention Month. Each year the District's Safety Education Team creates a new theme, writes a script, builds a set, casts personal as characters and adds some music for some educational fun. The 2013 program theme was "Pirates of Safety Island".

By using a characterization program, the District gains the kids attention while teaching them important fire and life safety messages. The teacher's evaluations indicated that the children not only remembered the messages but were still singing safety songs weeks after the firefighters visit. This year's messages included water safety, gun safety and escape planning.

Drexel Heights Fire District's Safety Education Team includes both Firefighters and Volunteers. In all, they visited 10 public and private schools, making 14 presentations, and reaching 5,000 elementary children. Each of the children received a trading card that featured the characters from the program along with the safety messages as reminders. The kids look forward to the new themes every year and collecting the trading cards.

Camp Verde Fire District Has a New “Daable Chief”

On January 31st, after 39-years of service with Camp Verde Fire District (CVFD), Chief Clayton Young retired. CVFD's governing board conducted a nationwide search for a replacement for Chief Young, as it turned out, they didn't need to look any further than just up the road.

Although Chief Keller's appointment began on February 3rd, his employment as fire chief with Montezuma-Rimrock Fire District (MRFD) did not end. On January 28th, Camp Verde Fire District's board signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement with MRFD to share “fire chief services”. In effect, Chief Keller will serve as the fire chief of both districts; a move that saves both districts financially while providing a single source of leadership and vision to seek additional options and opportunities for efficiencies through other shared services.

Chief Keller spent 24 years with Sedona Fire District prior to accepting the fire chief position with MRFD in February 2013. The years of experience that he brings with him will assist him in this new venture of being the fire chief for two different agencies. He says that he is “excited” to work with both CVFD and MRFD, and believes that this agreement “will open up the possibility of many different opportunities.” After his first month, he acknowledges “being a “Daable Chief” is

challenging, but also extremely rewarding by watching the staff in both agencies open their minds to new possibilities or what the future could bring”. Chief Keller also acknowledges he has a new appreciation for what he learned while obtaining his Bachelor's degree in economics prior to joining the fire service. “In simple terms, economics is the study of the allocation of scarce resources. In my fire service career, there has not been a more challenging time than the present with respect to managing scarce resources. Smaller agencies, such as CVFD and MRFD are really struggling to ensure their costs do not exceed their revenues. Sharing services makes economic sense as it enables us to free up monies to ensure the continued delivery of service and to allow us to plan for a brighter future.”

With the sharing of “chief services” being a new concept for these two Verde Valley communities, Chief Keller requested “patience on the part of everyone, both internally within both organizations as well as within both communities.” Chief Keller stated, “The goal is to continue to seek opportunities for exploring enhanced efficiencies by seeking other options for shared services or enhanced efficiencies within each organization in order to either expand the delivery of service, or reduce costs and overhead. Hopefully this approach will translate eventually into lower taxes

and better service.”

CVFD board chairperson, Steve Darby, informed the public that, “under the terms of the IGA, MRFD will pay CVFD, as a fee, one third of the total of the fire chief's cost analysis.” Chairperson Darby also said, “A great deal of hard work, thought, negotiation and research was expended in coming to the conclusion to share fire chief services,” and he is “confident that Chief Keller will be able to effectively provide leadership to both communities.”

MRFD Chairman Ken Krebbs echoed these thoughts, noting “we already signed an intergovernmental agreement, not long ago, for sharing reserve firefighters. We already respond to mutual aid with Camp Verde, so it actually provides better continuity between the two companies”.

Superstition Fire, continued from page 8

position fire simulation training classroom with state-of-the-art technology, a dedicated EMS training classroom with training manikins, a multi-media video production room with green-screen production capabilities, and a maze room with an adjustable maze system for fire rescue training. Other shared areas of the campus available for immediate or future use include a full size gymnasium, additional classrooms that have not been renovated, and 5 acres of open land. *“This is truly a shared resources opportunity we have here,”* said Fire Chief Paul Bourgeois. *“We see this as the tip of the ice-berg with many opportunities to partner not only with the AJUSD, but with the Community College District, with other fire entities, with the City and County, and with EVIT to have continuous, quality educational experiences for our public safety partners,”* said Bourgeois.

- SFMD is proud to announce that we were

named a ‘Premier EMS Agency’ by AZDHS last fall. This AZDHS quality improvement initiative can only be achieved by meeting strict requirements based on an agency's dedication to improving the care they provide to their patients. SFMD is one of only 14 fire organizations in the State to achieve this honor. The final piece that SFMD was able to implement was the integration of our new electronic patient care reporting (ePCR) software on remote tablets carried by paramedics in the field.

- Finally, through the hard work and dedication of all SFMD Paramedics and EMT's, the City of Apache Junction was named a ‘HEART Safe Community’ by AZDHS. This designation is part of a state-wide initiative to increase survivability from Sudden Cardiac Arrest through local Emergency Medical Services and through community preparedness. AZDHS recognizes municipalities that meet or

exceed the Save Hearts in Arizona Registry and Education (SHARE) program with this special designation. SHARE promotes a standardized and comprehensive system encompassing all ‘links’ in the Cardiac Chain of Survival.

So, as you can see, we have been busy ‘rebranding’ ourselves!
Take Care and Be Safe Out There!

Bureau of EMS and Trauma System - Web-Based EMCT Certification

By William R. Anderson, Section Chief, Enforcement/Certification/Ambulance Services, BEMS

Our efforts to transition from a paper-based EMCT certification and recertification process to a computer-based system are preceding nicely, internal Bureau final testing continues with a tentative launch date of March 31, 2014.

The "Train the Trainer" series has begun with the first session slated for large EMS provider employers on March 14, 2014 here at the Bureau Phoenix office. Then the organization trainer will return to their agency and provide that training to each of the certified Emergency Medical Care Technicians under their employ.

Once the system is launched, it is very important to keep your email address for your account up to date, as the Bureau will send out messages related to your account, applications submitted, changes to your certification, and training opportunities provided solely for the Arizona EMS Community by this method. The Bureau will no longer provide approaching expiration reminder letters through the U.S. Mail.

In addition to sending notices to your current email address, the new

system will provide you with a secure message center inside the secure environment which can be accessed from any computer.

While we anticipate a need for our certification staff to maintain both systems up and running for a period of time, at some point over the next year, we will move to an all-electronic certification process. Watch our web page for any changes to paper application forms during this transition period.

The certification web page can be accessed at <http://www.azdhs.gov/bems/certification/index.htm>

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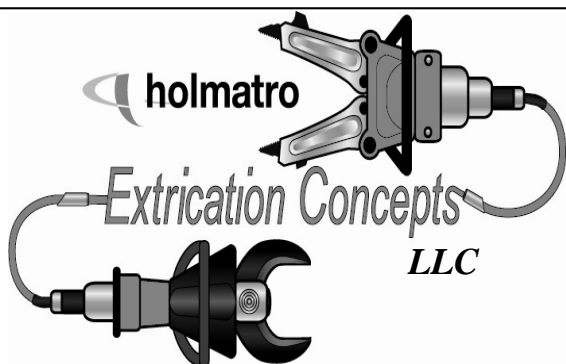
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Forest Lakes Fire District Installs State-of-the-art Safety Equipment in Ambulance

By Dave Rodriguez

On January 17th, 2014, the Forest Lakes Fire District installed a Stryker Power-LOAD cot fastening system for improved patient and provider safety. Stryker representatives advised that Forest Lakes is the first Arizona Fire District to do so. Power-LOAD is the first cot fastening system in the U.S. that meets dynamic crash test standards to maximize ambulance occupant safety. According to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), "motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of work-related deaths in the United States...the risk is even greater for emergency medical services (ems) personnel whose time-urgent responses can themselves be hazardous."

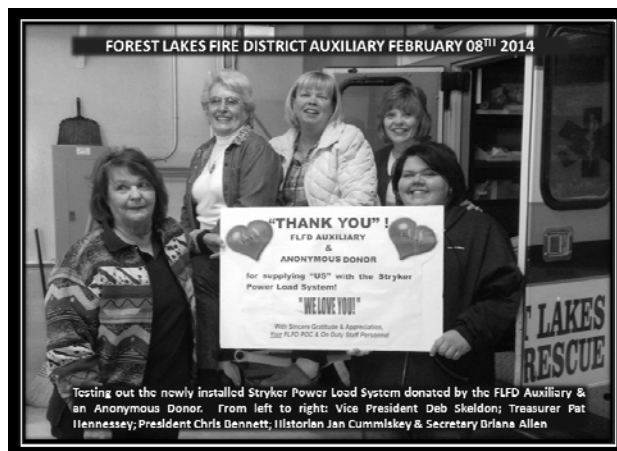
Our thanks go out to our Fire Auxiliary and the very generous anonymous donor who made this possible. The anonymous donation of \$15,000, with matching funds from the Auxiliary, covers the cost of acquisition, installation and initial maintenance and a support contract for the equipment.

The Forest Lakes Fire District provides

emergent ambulance transportation and we pride ourselves on providing best-in-class patient care. The Power-LOAD system is ergonomically designed to reduce operator and patient injuries by hydraulically lifting patients weighing up to 700 pounds into and out of the ambulance. The Fire District has very limited personnel and the Power-LOAD system is truly a force multiplier. Due to the weight capacity of the system, we anticipate that Power-LOAD will increase department efficiency by reducing potential injuries to our members. The Power-LOAD system also supports the cot until the wheels are on the ground, thereby minimizing potential patient drop safety issues.

An added benefit of implementing the system will be for our members. According to EMS World magazine, "if you're an average-size provider, male or female, lifting that patient on a stretcher and loading them into

your ambulance can generate forces on your back that not only exceed the threshold of a potential hazard, but approach the level at which NIOSH advises tasks be redesigned." Implementing the Power-LOAD system will reduce spinal load on providers and help prevent cumulative trauma injuries, which can contribute to an EMT/Paramedic from becoming injured in the field.





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Green Valley Fire District Innovative Community Programs

By Division Chief Katie Sayre

Last fall, the American Heart Association (AHA) contacted us to ask if our BLS Training Center would be interested in teaching the AHA CPR Anytime Hands-Only to two school districts in our area. This effort was jointly sponsored by the AHA, the Marshall Foundation and La Posada Assisted Care to teach CPR to 7th graders using the CPR Anytime kit. As most of us know, cardiac arrest can happen anytime, anywhere, to anyone no matter their age. An incident can happen at home, on a playground, or school function. CPR anytime gives children the knowledge and confidence to save a life when it matters the most. This particular program also allows the children to take what they have learned and share it with their family, friends, and neighbors.

The GVFD coordinated a Save a Life CPR Blitz to the 7th grade classes of both the Anza Trail and Continental Schools, which involved over 300 students and 20 EMS professionals from our area. The students were taught the basics of the new hands-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation in a one-hour training session and learned what to do in the event of a heart attack or stroke. The Anza Trail students taught over

900 friends and family as a result of their instruction. The Continental School will be reporting their success later this week. We have one more 7th grade class in our area and are working on finding the funding to finish this critical project this year.

Each student that participated in this education received a free, American Heart Association CPR Anytime Kit including a personal Mini CPR Manikin, CPR Anytime Skills Practice DVD, and a CPR for Family and Friends resource booklet. These kits are \$37 each and supplied through the generosity of the Marshall Foundation and La Posada Assisted Care.

Premier Provider Designation

The Green Valley Fire District has been recognized by the Arizona Department of Health Services as a Premier EMS Agency. The designation is part of a quality improvement initiative through the Arizona Department of Health Services in the Bureau of EMS and Trauma System. This system is for Arizona fire and EMS agencies who are dedicated to improving the care provided to their patients.

Passport to Promotion

GVFD has recently started a new project to focus on employee development and the promotional process. Through continuing education and employee development practices GVFD's Training Department has implemented a new method for company officer promotions. Coined the "PassPort", this system takes the old way of assessment centers and dimension-based scoring to a whole new level. The new program takes the normal two day, all inclusive assessment centers that most fire districts use and lengthens the process over a one year period to allow for instruction and testing as you go instead of a "your best day" approach. The program conducts training courses such as Strategy and Tactics, Leadership and Administrative Functions in order to develop more versatile, rounded candidates and then evaluate their true potential for promotion. Currently firefighters from Green Valley, Tubac and Rio Rico Fire Districts are participating in this innovative promotional process. We hope that this new approach to training and assessment of potential officers will prove to be exciting and rewarding for our employees.

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Drexel Heights Takes Care of Those Who Can't take Care of Themselves

Drexel Heights Fire District was excited to learn that not one but two resident animal lover families would be donating pet oxygen masks to the District. Many pets die each year of smoke asphyxiation. While firefighters attempt to get pets safely out of burning structures, they are not able to revive them unless they have the proper equipment — pet oxygen masks. These specially-designed animal masks can be used both on conscious pets that have suffered from smoke inhalation and pets that need to be resuscitated after losing consciousness from exposure to the dangerous toxic fumes. Each pet oxygen mask kit, comes with 3 different size masks that can be used on dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits, guinea pigs, birds and more. These durable polycarbonate masks feature dual vents and a rubber mounted 22mm oxygen adapter enabling unrestricted inhalation and exhalation of air. Each mask can also be quickly attached to an "Ambu-Bag" should the pet require manual breathing assistance. The masks are washable and reusable which means they will be around to assist our agency for years to come. DHFD is grateful to residents Roberta Wright and Gail & Marlene Skinner for their generous gifts of these masks. Each ambulance, engine and rescue truck will be equipped with a donated mask kit.



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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



Michael LaVallee
Managing Director
(602) 794-4008
mlavallee@stifel.com



Bryan Lundberg
Managing Director
(602) 794-4007
blundberg@stifel.com



Mark Reader
Managing Director
(602) 794-4011
mreader@stifel.com



Erika Miller
Assistant Vice President
(602) 794-4030
esmiller@stifel.com



Sandra Park
Assistant Vice President
(602) 794-4010
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Risk Management Principles for Emergency Service now available through Distance Learning

Internal and external risk management issues can impact fire department operations. It's important for emergency services to understand both and prepare for both. Risk, is the probability and severity of adverse effects. The risk management process is designed to help implement decisions that minimize the adverse effects of accidental losses to an organization.

Risk management is an administration responsibility. The safeguarding of assets is as equally important to emergency service organizations, as it is to business and industry or to a family. While the fire department protects the community from various risks, it must do the same with its own assets.

The concepts of risk management, related management responsibilities and methods to handle possible exposures are addressed in this course. Specific challenges facing fire chiefs are also discussed.

This program involves seven total segments, which includes a review of departmental risks and a self-assessment. An electronic certificate will be issued for satisfactory completion of the course. Access the program at <http://vfis.sju.edu>.



Sun City West Fire District Happenings

Inter-Facility Program

In May of 2013, the Sun City West Fire District (SCWFD) launched its basic and advanced life support inter-facility non-emergency transport service program in addition to its 9-1-1 and emergency transport service. To date, the District has completed approximately 500 inter-facility transports.

Patients are transported from any Sun City West facility to any hospital or care center in the Valley and beyond. All inter-facility ambulances are staffed by certified paramedics with advanced equipment such as ventilators, IV infusion pumps, and other devices found in critical and intensive care settings. Inter-facility transports are generated from hospitals and care facilities. The District is currently working on agreements with additional facilities and insurance carriers.

The initiating facility obtains the appropriate insurance authorizations and signed Physician Certification Statement. They then call the District with the appropriate information available regarding the patient including any information necessary for the transfer.

The program is proving to be even more successful than the District had projected and is obviously providing a needed service as well as an additional revenue stream.

HERO Award

Sun City West Fire District (SCWFD) and Holli Bishop, the District's Community Outreach Specialist and District blood drive coordinator were awarded a United Blood Services (UBS) 2013 Hero Award on February 14, 2014 during the UBS Valentines for Life Awards Ceremony. The Valentines for Life Awards were established to recognize blood drive coordinators and organizations that reach significant milestones in recruiting blood donors through education and inspiration. This award is given to an organization and their blood drive coordinator in recognition that they have performed above and beyond to encourage participants to participate in their blood drives. Blood drive coordinators are the key influence in the success of organization-sponsored blood drives. The SCWFD is the first fire service organization to win this prestigious award. The Fire District has been coordinating blood drives with United Blood Services for the past 5 years and has received the UBS Platinum Award each year from 2009-2013. The District organizes 5 scheduled blood drives each year.

With more than 1,110 organizations hosting a blood drive last year in Arizona, only 29 organizations and coordinators qualified for this award. That placed the SCWFD among an elite group of exceptional organizations.

The District's donors are heroes to Arizona hospital patients and their families and all of the donations are utilized in Arizona.



Sun Lakes Fire District Awarded S.C.B.A. Cylinders from the Gila River Indian Community & Awarded a Thermal Imager Camera from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety

By Paul S. Wilson, Fire Chief

The Sun Lakes Fire District (District) was recently awarded a Gila River Indian Community Grant of \$23,750. to replace self contained breathing apparatus (S.C.B.A.) cylinders, used to support the Sun Lakes and Gila River Indian Fire Departments.

The District is a neighboring fire department and automatic / mutual aid partner with the Gila River Indian Community (Community) Fire and EMS Agencies.

The District and Community firefighters use S.C.B.A.'s for respiratory protection, in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association Standard 1981: S.C.B.A. for Emergency Services.

The S.C.B.A. air cylinders are worn by firefighters to supply them breathing air, in hazardous environments. The air cylinders are essential equipment for firefighters, to make a rescue from the interior of a house fire or a burning vehicle.

The air cylinders will facilitate improved automatic / mutual aid and interoperability between the District and Community Fire Departments.

The Sun Lakes Fire District is pleased to acquire the new forty-five minute air capacity and lightweight composite cylinders thanks to the Gila River Indian Community.



The Sun Lakes Fire District, located southwest of Chandler AZ, provides emergency response to motor vehicle accidents, on state and federal highways, under mutual aid arrangements with the; AZ. Department of Public Safety; Maricopa and Pinal County Sheriff Offices; and the Gila River Indian Community, in Maricopa and Pinal Counties.

A Governor's Office of Highway Safety Grant of \$9,751. was recently awarded to the Sun Lakes Fire District for a thermal imaging camera. The imaging camera will be used on emergency scenes to safely locate and remove accident victims from vehicle crashes on state and federal highways.

The imaging camera detects body heat and will support the Department of Public Safety by providing rapid location and extrication of patients from motor vehicle accidents on; Interstate 10 and State Highways AZ. 87, AZ. 587 and AZ. 387 in Maricopa and Pinal counties. The Sun Lakes' firefighters and paramedics are often the first and sometimes the only emergency medical services personnel at the scene of motor vehicle accidents. The accidents often involve multiple vehicles with high speed injuries.

The thermal imager is used to safely locate patients so they can be rapidly transported by ground or air ambulances to trauma hospitals. The Sun Lakes Fire District is pleased to acquire this state of the art thermal imager camera, thanks to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

From the Verde Valley Fire District

Fire Marshal Flummer will be retiring in March after 36 years in the fire service. Once Flummer became a firefighter he never looked back.

Flummer started out in Bullhead City, where he worked as a firefighter for several years. He ended his career working for Verde Valley Fire District (VVFD) for 11 years. His position was filled with not only Fire Marshal duties but many other responsibilities to support the fire district and the community. Many hours of his spare time included helping with the Guardian Angel Program, Care Givers and a soccer referee. Flummer was also very instrumental in supporting the ADFA Conferences for many years.

The Verde Valley Fire District recently received an abandoned house to utilize for training. This opportunity was quickly put to use by Captain Chambliss (Training Officer). The first exercise included Search and Rescue of a live victim. This was followed by 5 Mayday props. The props were created by Chambliss based on firefighter's high risk low frequency situations that ultimately kill firefighters. Because of the extreme challenge of this exercise it brought competency to a higher level for the Verde Valley District firefighters. The next two exercises will include vertical roof ventilation and then live burns.

Marilyn J. Price: Arizona's First Female Fire Chief

by Amie Rodgers



There is something truly rewarding about doing a job you love. I couldn't help but appreciate my job when I got the opportunity to meet Marilyn J. Price, Arizona's First Female Fire Chief, a woman who truly loved her job as Fire Chief of the Linden Fire Department for twenty seven years. Of course, a special thanks is due to subscriber and frequent photo contributor Jane Harris who invited me to interview this remarkable woman.

Marilyn was born on March 19, 1932 in Winslow, Arizona. Her father was an engineer on the Santa Fe Railroad and she had an older brother. "We played tag every night underneath the street lamp like all kids do. In those days, it was safe to go out into the street. The ice man would come by and give us chunks of ice, which ended when ev-

everyone got a refrigerator... All in all, Winslow was a good experience for me. When I was in the seventh grade, we moved to Fontana, California where I finished school. I migrated down to the San Diego area where I got married and raised kids. I modeled for eight years and raised four children, a son and three adopted daughters. They all did fine even though it was difficult growing up in the sixties and I raised them by myself. They were good kids and didn't get into any major trouble," she smiles.

In 1979, Marilyn decided it was time to move closer to home when her mother developed Alzheimer's. They bought a hilltop property in Linden and Marilyn unknowingly began her role in the story of the Linden Fire Department. "Living out and up on a hill with mom, I thought it important to brush up on safety skills so I took an EMT course at Northland Pioneer College. When I finished it, they suggested I go volunteer at my local fire department. So, I did and was the only EMT the department had. There were four volunteers and I made five," she chuckles. "Some time later, the volunteers recommended me to the board when the fire chief quit. I became the fire chief and received a small salary. We had grown to twenty one volunteers, which we have always been fortunate to have around that number during the time I was fire chief and we were operating a volunteer fire department."

Eventually, Linden grew to the point that it required a paid fire department. "Most of my volunteers were in their sixties and consequently, I couldn't send them into a house to fight a fire so we had to pay some younger people," she laughs. "The Linden Fire Department has definitely come a long way. When I started as fire chief, there were no house numbers. Calls would come in with directions like, 'Go past Aunt Nellie's place where the big oak tree is and turn left...'. We made our own maps and the county eventually came in and we had addresses. It was quite interesting. The volunteers worked really hard on that map system. The department has now grown to a station in Timberland Acres and one on Burton Road. They are not manned, but house equipment. When I retired six years ago at seventy five, I believe we had twelve paid staff."

When asked what it was like to fight fire, Marilyn grins. "During my first fire, I had to crawl up on the roof and I hate heights," she laughs. "We fought fires and had a lot of EMS calls with accidents on the highway. All in all, it was a great experience and I ended up with a fire science degree. I was the first fire chief on the mountain to have a degree in fire science. We started the EMS/First Responder Unit in Linden. I sat on both the Arizona Fire District Board and Arizona EMS Board for twenty years. In a lot of ways, I don't know how I came to be a fire chief. It certainly wasn't something I would have expected. Being the first and only female fire chief, it did take a while before my peers would recognize me, but eventually they realized I wasn't going anywhere and even gave me a little credit over the years. All my fire fighters have always respected me and we had very little problems. I enjoyed every minute of it. Every day was a different day."

As Linden Fire Chief, Marilyn found herself in a front row seat for the Rodeo Chediski Fire. "It was definitely interesting. Everyone had to deal



Some of my favorite ladies carry fire axes: Marilyn shows off her weapons of choice at her home in Linden.

with me and no one was used to dealing with a woman in my position. We lost twenty seven homes in Timberland acres, one on this street and the fire stopped right here on the back of this mountain," she says as she points towards the not too distant horizon. "In my opinion, God came down and saved Linden because nobody else was going to. We worked tirelessly, but in the end, man alone couldn't have done it with the wind and the fire's heat. However, my guys worked 24/7 clearing brush and saved a lot of Timberland Acres. We were very fortunate to save Linden. We were lucky to have local guys with bulldozers come in and help clean out areas and make fire breaks. The community really came to help in every way they could. There was a kitchen set up that fed hundreds of firefighters and the Salvation Army was wonderful. After the fire, a group of Mennonites from back East came in, camped out and rebuilt five or six entire houses for people who didn't have insurance. The ranchers came in with huge dutch ovens and set up a kitchen. We had lots of good biscuits and gravy at the fire house."

Given her experience, I asked Marilyn for the best advice when it comes to making your home safer against fire. "Clean the brush away from your house. We call it Clean Green and encourage property owners to clear areas and plant grass around their homes. Homes with clean green yards did not burn in the Rodeo Chediski Fire. It is up to you to save your home by removing dead trees and shrubs from around your house," advises Marilyn. "You also want to make sure to clean out and close off the space under your deck because fires often wick up the side of a home from under a deck."

Today, Marilyn hangs out with the feisty Mrs. Harris and enjoys painting. She attends fire department meetings and is still close to her fire fighting buddies in Linden.

Junior Fire and EMS Camps

By William F. Jenaway, Ph.D., CFO, CTO, CFPS, CSP

Although the weather just started getting colder in most parts of the country, this is the time of year when emergency service organizations may want to consider planning for their summer camps. Summer brings with it the opportunity for the future of the fire and EMS community to inspire youth in the spirit of public safety. With students out of school, camps abound attracting their interest – swim camp, adventure camp, tennis camp, soccer camp, summer baseball academy and the list goes on. Yet, how many communities actually capitalize on the idea of hosting a fire, EMS or law enforcement camp?

Surprisingly, more communities than one might think are hosting such camps. In fact, a recent Internet search found some 2,000-plus communities involved in junior public safety camps. The goals of such camps vary, but typically involve:

- ◆ Increasing youth awareness about volunteering and supporting fire and emergency services.
- ◆ Educating parents, the community and organization mentors of the importance of encouraging volunteerism.
- ◆ Enabling local youth to gain insight and interest in becoming long-term members of emergency services.
- ◆ Providing fire and EMS agencies with additional help in accomplishing non-firefighting or non-emergency tasks.
- ◆ Assisting in developing leadership for America's youth, who are tomorrow's leaders.

Since so many communities are involved, it is important to assure the proper actions and precautions are taken to protect those future public safety members, the instructors/counselors and the organizations during these events, making them as valuable as possible to all involved.

The camps are typically designed to introduce the participants to the roles, responsibilities and duties of public safety personnel. However, their activities MUST be limited to what is permitted by law in each state's child labor laws. In addition, appropriate "sign offs" must be obtained by the parent/guardian of each participant and it's important for those providing instruction or serving as camp counselors to have background checks completed. Identify any camper with physical

limitations to verify proper precautions are taken.

Once the camps are active, the youth are involved in many age appropriate activities such as:

- ⇒ Physical training (exercise).
- ⇒ Fire safety and prevention scenarios.
- ⇒ Learning basic First Aid and CPR.
- ⇒ Creating fire escape plans.
- ⇒ Walking through the smoke maze.
- ⇒ Water games.
- ⇒ Running obstacle courses.
- ⇒ Doing a radio search.
- ⇒ Tying rope & knots.
- ⇒ Thermal imager training and use.
- ⇒ Observing a live fire scenario.
- ⇒ Working with the fire and EMS equipment.
- ⇒ Tours of 9-1-1 centers.
- ⇒ And more.

Design activities to be fun and imitate skills and tasks that real firefighters use every day. It's helpful for the campers to receive hands on training and experience in what a firefighter does daily by interacting with active firefighters. In addition to learning about fire safety, they find out what to do in an emergency situation, acquire basic first aid skills and learn more about the tools and equipment used by firefighters. One of the biggest parts of camp is teamwork. Successful camps include lessons in team building and leadership. Having a successful outcome as a firefighter requires well-rounded team skills. These programs typically conclude with an awards ceremony that parents/guardians are encouraged to attend and, in some cases, demonstrations are provided by the campers.

Most organizations charge a small fee to cover the expenses of this program, similar to other summer camps. The fee typically includes a t-shirt or two for the participant to wear during the camp, a hat and may include lunch.

The camps are designed to be educational, fun and safe. Chief Chip Lillie of the Middletown Volunteer Fire Company in Middletown, Delaware County, PA, indicated the key to success in his camp was using qualified "younger" college and high school age members to work with the participants, moving them through the activities. They formed a bond. One parent of a program remarked "My

son had a great time and understands what firefighters do and why, while learning about volunteering."

From a chief officer and administrator standpoint, an important part of developing a successful camp is taking the right risk management precautions and assuring insurance protection is in place. Consider the following:

1. Activities are consistent with state child labor law provisions and camp related requirements.
2. If affiliated with a municipal park and recreation program, verify the previously mentioned items are addressed.
3. Complete and review permission and restriction forms.
4. Have sufficient counselors (male and female) for the number of participants with supervision 100 percent of the time.
5. Have a safety officer assigned to ALL activities.
6. Have fun!

Chief Lillie noted, "Hopefully we see these campers back in the future, as firefighters. That is the real goal."

Early Spring Brings Out Critters

By Tod Dennis, CopperPoint Association Coordinator

As a warmer than normal winter continues in Arizona, plants, insects and snakes are all fooled into thinking spring is here. Insects, rodents and snakes can bite, sting and spread illness, which means outside workers need to take extra precautions as they keep a lookout for those swarming bees or slithering snakes.

To protect yourself from biting and stinging insects:

- ◇ Wear long pants, socks and long-sleeved shirts.
- ◇ Use insect repellents that contain DEET or Picaridin.
- ◇ Treat bites and stings with over-the-counter products that relieve pain and prevent infection.
- ◇ Avoid fire ants; their bites are painful and can cause blisters.

Severe reactions to fire ant bites can include chest pain, nausea, sweating, loss of breath, serious swelling or slurred speech. In cases such as these, medical treatment should be sought immediately.

After hibernating for a few months, snakes are feeling the warmer temperatures and are emerging from their underground lairs earlier than usual; and they are hungry. Landscapers, gardeners and other outside workers need to keep a watchful eye for these creatures, which can blend in with rocks or dead branches. If you see a snake, step back and allow it to go its way. Follow these tips:

- Watch where you place your hands and feet when removing debris.
 - If possible, don't place your fingers under debris you are moving.
- Wear heavy gloves and shoes that will protect your ankles.

If you – or a co-worker – are bitten by a snake, remain calm to slow the spread of venom, should the creature be poisonous. Most snake bites are not fatal, but they can be very painful and can damage body tissue. Seek medical attention as soon as possible.

If snakes are present, their food source – rodents, such as rats, and other wild or stray animals – also likely are scurrying round fields. Dead or alive, these creatures can carry diseases such as the Hanta Virus and rabies. Follow these tips:

- Avoid contact with wild or stray animals
 - Avoid contact with rats or rat-contaminated buildings. If you can't avoid them, wear protective gloves and wash your hands regularly.
 - If you find dead creatures, dispose of them as soon as possible
- If bitten or scratched, seek medical attention immediately

One pesky problem that presents itself prominently in the pollinating weather is the reappearance of bees, wasps and hornets. Stings by bees that are swarming can cause illness and death, to precautions should be taken not to disturb areas where aggressive bees are hiving.

If you are allergic to an insect sting and can't avoid getting stung, seek medical attention immediately. This is because the allergic reactions can cause a sharp drop in blood pressure, unconsciousness and even cardiac arrest.



OFFICERS

Simon Davis

President

Green Valley Fire District
(520) 625-9400

Mary Dalton

Vice President

Sun City West Fire District
(623) 584-3500

Rob Biscoe

Treasurer

Sun City West Fire District
(623) 584-3500

Rick Southey

Past President

Bullhead City Fire District
(928) 758-3971

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(928) 368-6112

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Director, Area 2

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(520) 378-3276

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Coconino County
Pinewood Fire District
(928) 286-9885

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Director, Area 4

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(480) 895-9343

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Mohave County
Northern Arizona Consolidated Fire
District
(928) 757-3151

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Pima, Pinal Counties
Green Valley Fire District
(520) 625-9400

Jerry Doerksen

Director, District 7

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Verde Valley Fire District
(928) 634-2578

SECTION DIRECTORS

Doug Chappell

Career Districts Rep.

Drexel Heights Fire District
(520) 883-4341

Glenn Brown

Combination Districts Rep.

Mayer Fire District
(928) 713-4043

Joseph DeWolf

Volunteer Districts Rep.

Sonoita-Elgin Fire District
(520) 455-5854

Rebecca Haro

EMS Rep.

Sun City West Fire District
(623) 584-3500

Karen Alexander

Admin. Professionals

Buckeye Valley Fire District
(623) 386-5906

AFDA Executive Director

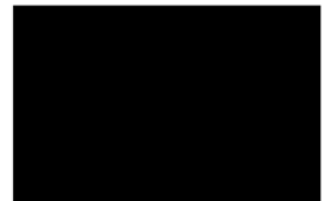
John Flynn

ed@azfiredistricts.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Audit - Simon Davis
Budget - Simon Davis
Bylaws - Rick Southey
Conference - Rob Biscoe
Education - Brenda Tranchina
EMS - Rebecca Haro
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ARCHITECTS FOR ARIZONA'S BRAVEST



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leading insurer of non-profit Emergency
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JOHN@AZVFIS.COM
JODIE@AZVFIS.COM
WIATT@AZVFIS.COM



ARIZONA FIRE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

7225 W. Oakland Street
Chandler, AZ 85226-2433
(480) 496-4331 Local
(888) 511-AFDA (2332)
Email: info@azfiredistricts.org
Web Site: www.azfiredistricts.org

MEMBER NOTICES

Proposed AFDA Bylaw Changes – January 2014

At the January 16, 2014 meeting the AFDA Board voted to place before the membership proposed bylaw changes. Pursuant to AFDA Bylaws ARTICLE XII – Section 12.1 the proposed changes are required to be posted to the AFDA website for 60 days to provide members notice. The proposed changes to AFDA Bylaws Article III, Article V and Article VII can be found on the website on the in the Members Section under the Bylaws, Budget & Governance Policies tab. **Look for your ballot voting link (through Survey Monkey) to be emailed to the district email on file on March 26th.**

AFDA Board Elections 2014

Nominations are now open for the positions of Vice President, Treasurer, and Directors for Areas 2, 4, 6, and 8.

Nominations close on April 27, 2014. For complete details please see the AFDA 2014 Elections notice in the Members Section, Bulletin Board, Announcements page on the website.