

Volume 21, Issue 2 Summer 2014



AFDA 2014 Summer Conference

June 26-28, 2014 Loews Ventana Canyon Resort 7000 N. Resort Dr., Tucson

Pre-registration deadline is June 19, see page 6 for schedule and visit www.azfiredistricts.org Meetings and Education page for complete registration brochure.

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President's Message

By Simon Davis, Green Valley Fire District



As I said a couple of years ago, with the smell of smoke in the air it must be summer time in Arizona. As I type this it appears crews

have done a great job containing the Slide fire but we're not out of the woods yet (in more ways than one!). With preliminary reports coming from the weather experts stating a slow start to the monsoons it could be a challenging season. Please stay safe.

As is becoming the new normal, it was another crazy legislative session and thanks should go out to Lee Miller and John Flynn for working to minimize the damage that some of the more unusual bills could have caused Fire Districts. It's interesting, and I'll step on my soapbox here for a moment. I have received several calls since the session ended on why the AFDA Board didn't do anything to raise the levy rate or some other form of tax relief.

In a nutshell we tried with SB1472. However, in a very conservative legislature any attempt to seek positive tax change is an uphill battle, to put it mildly, and having very limited support throughout the State makes it almost impossible. This is where relations with your local politicians are critical!

The other significant issue out of the 51st session was SB1387. Not an original AFDA bill but one submitted to eliminate Fire Districts and create County Fire departments. Through hours of lobbying and negotiations it was tempered down into its current form. Not great by any means, but something that can be worked on. At the summer conference we will be spending time on the implications and various requirements associated with 1387. Please try and attend the conference so that you understand what is happening and find out what you can do to help.

One final legislative issue to mention and that's Proposition 117. The voter-approved initiative that changes property valuation from secondary assessed to primary assessed valuation goes into effect this fall. This will have an effect on your overall District valuation next year and future years. If you're not sure what this is and more importantly how it will affect your District moving forward, you need to do some research. I would suggest chatting with your County Assessor.

Enough of being a killjoy... on to the summer conference in Tucson. We have another great program lined up (a nod here to

the conference committee). With the new election cycle constituted through the by-law changes earlier in the year, the new AFDA Board members will be assuming their roles during the conference and the new Area 8 comes into existence (Gila County). Please try and attend and meet the new Board members and network with your peers. It's always a great opportunity to see what your fellow Districts are up too and see what's working and what's not. Plus we will have a great vendor turnout.

That brings me to my final point of this president's letter. With my planned retirement this summer this is my last letter and I'd like to take the opportunity to say that it has been a pleasure and honor to serve the Arizona Fire District Association. The emergency services in Arizona are experiencing significant challenges in all aspects of the job, but I am extremely confident the leadership has the ability to take on these challenges and improve safety for our constituents and job safety and satisfaction for our employees and volunteers.

Try and have cool and safe summer, and I look forward to seeing you at the conference in Tucson.

Kind Regards, Simon

Sun City West Fire District Personnel Selected for Base Hospital 2014 EMS Week Awards

Sun City West Fire District's base hospital, Banner Del Webb, selects outstanding EMS providers each year as part of their National EMS Week activities. These award winners are selected from among all the paramedics and EMT's from the over fifteen agencies that are based at the hospital. Sun City West was honored to have four of its personnel selected to receive these awards for 2014.

Firefighter/Paramedic Aaron Armstead and EMT Joe Lindquist were selected as CVA (cerebrovascular accident) Patient Management Champions. This award recognizes a crew who provided outstanding patient care to a stroke victim, thus ensuring their best possible management and outcome. These award winners were selected by the Stroke team at Banner Del Webb.

Paramedics John Zerby and Chris Cisco tied for the Customer Service Award presented by the hospital. This award is given to the EMS provider who displays exemplary customer service skills, not only with a patient, but with hospital staff as well. This winner is selected by all the staff in the Emergency Department of the hospital.

Sun City West Fire District is extremely proud of these individuals and all of its personnel who continue to exemplify the District's slogan of "Caring People Providing Quality Service."

Message from the Executive Director

By John Flynn



ith the arrival of summer fire districts can depend on two things for certain:

(1) Wildfires, to which we'll be tasked with protecting Arizona's citizens, their property and the state's natural resources (and fire districts will continue to carry a significant share of the initial financial burden of delivering these services – again no relief from the state or the federal government appears forthcoming); (2) Implementing new laws and regulatory requirements passed by the Legislature each winter.

AFDA, along with members of the AFCA worked through the last legislative session and into the beginning of fire season seeking to address the prompt pay issue for wildfire deployments. Getting our legislative and state leaders to recognize the importance of this issue for fire districts has been paramount. Unfortunately, to date we have had little success in resolving the prompt pay for wildfire deployment issue.

On the other hand, there's been no lack of additional statutory and regulatory burdens placed upon fire districts. S1387, which was last session's measure to improve fire districts fiduciary functions, was the result of the ongoing (and failed) attempts to eliminate fire districts and place fire and EMS under the auspices of each of Arizona's fifteen counties. There are several fairly significant changes for fire districts which were included within S1387. Passed by the legislature with the emergency clause, S1387 went into effect upon the Governor's signature (April 30, 2014).

We've fielded quite a number of questions / concerns from fire districts statewide concerning compliance with the requirements of S1387. To assist fire district boards and chiefs with navigating all the various requirements of S1387, the AFDA Board has taken the following steps:

- Established a S1387 Implementation Committee. The committee will work to identify the various actions fire districts must take going forward to be compliant; and
- Asked the Speaker of the House, Andy Tobin to request an Attorney General's Opinion of several components of S1387. AFDA General Counsel Bill Whittington authored the AG Opinion request for the Speaker on behalf of AFDA (sent to AG on June 3, 2014).

By the time fire districts meet in Tucson for the Summer Conference and General Membership meeting, we should be well on our way to having these two items completed. Several of the seminars to be presented at the Tucson AFDA Conference on June 26, 27 and 28, 2014 will address \$1387 compliance issues.

Speaking of the AFDA Summer Conference, we've got another great lineup of classes and speakers for this summer at AFDA. Thanks to the efforts of the Education Committee and our members who facilitate the conferences, we anticipate another great conference event for AFDA members. And a new board of directors will be seated at the AFDA Summer Conference, which will bring with it new ideas and energy to move AFDA into the future. I look forward to seeing you all in Tucson.

Fuels Mitigation Crew

By Katie Goodwin, Administrative Assistant, Sonoita-Elgin Fire District

onoita-Elgin Fire District's Fuels Mitigation Crew has succeeded in treating just over 170 homes and over 600 acres within our District since its inception three years ago. "We are working with our third Fuels Treatment Grant," stated Chief De Wolf. "We've had a number of serious fires within our District during the past 5 years, and our community's response has been overwhelmingly in favor of protecting our resources. Our Battalion Chief, Kevin Venos, manages our Crew which currently includes six individuals who are all certified wildland firefighters; two of whom are also sawyers. BC Venos is the lead contact with our residents, meeting with them, discussing their needs and their situation. BC Venos then determines the most effective use of the Crew. Our Crew just completed our "Chipper Day," the third one we've held to date. Community members bring their slash to the fire house and we chip it. Residents can take the chips home with them or leave the chips for us - a great way to encourage our community to practice Firewise techniques and keep the materials out of our local dump.





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2014 Summer Conference Schedule

Reminder: Pre-registration deadline is June 19—use the registration form at right.

Brochure with class descriptions can be downloaded at www.azfiredistricts.org under Meetings & Education.

Thursday, June 26, 2014

8:00 a.m. Golf Tournament—The Lodge at Ventana Canyon Golf

2:30 p.m. –3:15 p.m. Registration/Attendee Check In

3:30 p.m. –3:45 p.m. Conference Opening

3:45 p.m. -5:00 p.m. General Membership Meeting - All Members Are Welcome and Encouraged to Attend

5:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite

Friday, June 27, 2014

7:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m. Registration/Continental Breakfast in AM 7:45 a.m.—8:00 a.m. Announcement & Awarding of Certificates

8:00 a.m. –9:45 a.m. **KEYNOTE**

When a Ship Misses the Harbor, It's Rarely the Harbor's Fault®

:30 a.m. –10:00 a.m. Refreshment Break / Visit with Conference Vendors

10:00 a.m. –11:30 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

HR Back to the Basics, Part 1 of 3*
 Fire District Annexation 101
 EMS Section Roundtable

11:30 a.m. –1:00 p.m. Buffet Lunch

1:00 p.m. -2:30 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

HR Back to the Basics, Part 2 of 3*
 EMS Performance Improvement
 PSPRS Member Benefit Overview

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. HR Back to the Basics, Part 3 of 3*

Legal Roundtable
 Legislative Update
 Hospitality Suite

Saturday, June 28, 2014

4:30 p.m.

7:00 a.m. –1:00 p.m. Registration/Continental Breakfast in AM

8:00 a.m. –9:45 a.m. **KEYNOTE**

The Arizona Legislature, Politics and Fire Districts &

Affordable Care Act Today, Considerations

9:45 a.m. –10:00 a.m. Refreshment Break / Visit with Conference Vendors

10:00 a.m. –11:30 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1. Fire District 101, Part 1 of 3*

2. Ripped From the Headlines! What Employers Can Learn From Recent Employment Crises and

Scandals

3. Administrative Roundtable

11:30 a.m. –1:00 p.m. Buffet Lunch

1:00 p.m. -2:30 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Fire District 101, Part 2 of 3*
 Arizona Wildfire Status and Update

3. Evaluating the Fire Chief

2:30 p.m. –3:00 p.m. Refreshment Break / Visit with Conference Vendors

3:00 p.m. –4:30 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1. Fire District 101, Part 3 of 3*

2. Community Integrated Paramedic – A Paradigm Shift for the Fire Service

3. Combo/Volunteer Districts Roundtable

^{*}This is one of the core classes for our AFDA-CERTIFICATION Program—see right for details

AFDA June 2014 Tucson Conference Attendee Registration Form

AFDA Registration Deadline: Forms & payment postmarked or faxed (with payment to follow) by June 19, 2014 will be pre-registered. We will accept a limited number of on-site registrations. Returned checks will be assessed a \$25 processing fee. Cancellation policy: Full refund will be given for written cancellation received by June 20, 2014.

Please print or type information. Submit a separate registration form for each registrant.

Name:	District:	
Phone:	Email:	
CLASS SIGN-UP AREA For each session time, please rank your class choices 1 - 3. In	the event your first choice is full, you will be assigned	your second choice, etc.
KEYNOTE GE	NERAL SESSIONS - 8:00—9:30 EACH DAY	
FRIDAY JUNE 27	SATURDAY JUNE 28	
10:00-11:30 a.m. HR Back to Basics, Part 1* EMS Update/Round Table Fire District Annexation 101	Ripped From the Headlines!	<u></u>
1:00-2:30 p.m. HR Back to Basics, Part 2* EMS Performance Improvement PSPRS Member Benefit Overview	Arizona Wildfire Status & Undate	
3:00-4:30 p.m. HR Back to Basics, Part 3* Legal Roundtable Legislative Update	Community Integrated Paramedic	·
*Core class for AFDA certification program, must attend & sign receive credit.	in at all 3 parts to	
FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION—\$125	PAYMENT INFORMATION \$	
ONE DAY REGISTRATION—\$90 per day Includes class registration and food & beverage functions on Thursday-s ONE DAY REGISTRATION—\$90 per day Includes class registration and food & beverage functions for the selected of Please check which day you are attending:	\$	
Bringing family members? You can purchase extra buffet lunch EXTRA BUFFET LUNCH TICKET-FRIDAY EXTRA BUFFET LUNCH TICKET-SATURDAY	tickets. X \$25	
GOLF TOURNAMENT—\$80 Have a guest who would just like to golf? Great, sign them up! Name:	x \$80 \$	
Name	TOTAL DUE: \$	CHECK #
3 WAYS TO REGISTER: Check: Mail Registration Form(s) to AFDA, 7225 W. Oakland S Online: Register through the Online Store on the website (pleas Credit Card: Fax to 480-858-1802 (if you are paying for multiple atte	se call 1-888-511-2332 if you have trouble))
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Teen Driving

By Battalion Chief Jacki Bisnar, Fire Marshal/PIO, Rincon Valley Fire District

In 2013 Rincon Valley Fire District established the Office of Community Risk Reduction overseen by the Fire Marshal. As part of our Community Risk Reduction Plan we set out to address the two teen fatalities in 2013 in hopes to raise awareness of impaired and distracted driving. While we have conducted "mock crashes" in the past this new program will create a wider reach to our community not just the students attending the event.

During the month of April we conducted a "Mock Crash" with one of the high schools in our district with coordination from University Arizona Medical Center and LifeNet air medical service, and Pima County Sheriff. Our focus was on Districted Driving. There are many statistics available that show texting is 23 times (23X) more likely to cause a crash than even driving under the influence which is 5 times (5X).

Over 2,000 students and staff members were present to witness this event. We conducted several interviews with KOLD 13/Fox 11 news and asked that students give us feedback on our Twitter page @RinconFire (#MockCrash) on what they thought of the event and the information conveyed. All of the responses were positive.

During the mock crash, emergency staff with vehicles and a helicopter responded as though it was an actual accident scene and gave students a firsthand look at the potential

tragedies that could result from impaired and distracted driving.

That evening a fatality was reported involving 2 teens that go to another high school in our school district. The crash was due to high speed and the injuries/fatality due to the lack of seatbelts. This unfortunate and unnecessary tragedy drove home the message from our event. We can only hope that everyone in our community will drive with more caution and responsibility in the future.

It is our mission to Prepare, Prevent, and Protect our Community from Harm.





Mountain Vista Fire District Hires Its Own Personnel, Moves Forward to a Full Service Public Model

By Laura Halady, PIO/Pub Ed/Special Projects Coordinator, Mountain Vista Fire District

ountain Vista Fire District has hired all its own personnel in advance of the July 1 changeover that signals the end of the staffing contract with Rural/Metro Fire Department. "We are fully prepared to transition to a full service public operation," CEO/Fire Chief Ed Wilkerson said.

The decision-making process to move to a full staffing model took place over a period of two-and-a-half years and involved the community, the Board, the Chief, Rural/Metro and the MVFD employees. The final decision to not renew the contract with Rural/Metro was made in August of 2013.

"The staffing model change will allow for local control of all decisions concerning the District to include planning, personnel, finances, equipment and maintenance," Wilkerson said. "This will ensure continued quality emergency services for our residents."

MVFD hired two Battalion Chiefs earlier in the year to play a key role in moving the District through its transition and beyond. The 33 additional employees hired include six Captains, six Engineers and twenty-one Firefighters, 15 of which are paramedics.

"Nearly all the personnel hired have worked or lived in our community," said Wilkerson. "We are gratified that these highly qualified firefighters want to work for MVFD."

Additionally, new agreements with Northwest Fire as lead agency for the Southern Arizona Fire and Emergency Radio Communications consortium (SAFERC) and University Medical Center (UMC) for medical control are in place. Tucson Fire 911 will handle dispatch and UMC will provide the medical direction and EMS training to the personnel.

Although the contract will end with Rural/Metro Fire, MVFD will continue its relationship with them through Southwest Ambulance, a subsidiary of Rural Metro Corp. Southwest Ambulance will continue to

provide medical transport for the residents of MVFD.

"We have a good relationship with Rural/Metro Corporation and we will maintain that good standing as we move forward," Wilkerson said.

The change to a fully operational model aligns with a new Strategic Plan adopted by the MVFD Board of Directors last November. The plan clearly states the MVFD focus areas of fiscal and resource management, communications, customer service and sustainable growth. The plan will take the District through fiscal year 2016 to effectively meet the goals set for the organization.

The transition to a fully operational model is also in accord with the MVFD values statement: "MVFD will be driven by Integrity, Partnership, Innovation and Service." Additionally, it reflects the MVFD Mission: "Community First."

"As we enter the final 30 days in our transition to a full public model fire service organization, we are grateful for our fire service neighbors who have helped us in so many different ways to get to where we are and we are most thankful for all of the emergency responders who do the work of responding to the fire and life safety needs of our citizens on a day to day basis" said Chief Wilkerson.

MVFD owns and operates two stations and serves 40,000 residents over a 20-square-mile area on the northwest side of the Tucson. The MVFD fleet includes three pumpers, a Quint/Ladder Truck, a Type 3 engine, a Water Tender and two Ford F150, quick response Rescues and three command trucks.

EMS Update

By Will Humble, Director, ADHS

Every year during EMS Week, I highlight an initiative or group that plays a key role in transforming how we care for the ill and injured in Arizona. This year I want to recognize the life-saving work of our 9-1-1 dispatchers.

The First Link in the Chain of Survival: The 9-1-1 dispatchers in Arizona have been quietly improving the way they provide CPR instructions to 9-1-1 callers who have come to the aid of cardiac arrest victims. Over the past couple of years, the Save Hearts in Arizona Registry and Education (SHARE) Program has worked with several 9-1-1 dispatch centers to implement the latest guidelines for telephone CPR – a cost-effective intervention that can dramatically improve survival from cardiac arrest. It turns out that every 60 seconds you shave off the delay in starting CPR results in a 5-10% better chance of survival. Here is a http://azdhs.gov/azshare/911/Info4Dispatchers.htm to the SHARE's telephone CPR resource page and hear directly from one of our many cardiac arrest survivors.

9-1-1 Dispatchers = **Telemedicine Pioneers**: Usually when we think about telemedicine, it involves a physician in one location speaking with a patient in a hospital far away using a laptop or smart phone. A better public health example is a 9-1-1 dispatcher giving telephone CPR instructions to the panicked wife of a cardiac arrest victim who otherwise would not have performed life-saving CPR. The National Center for Biotechnology and Information defines telemedicine as *"Delivery of health services via remote telecommunications. This includes interactive consultative and diagnostic services"*. That sounds like what our 9-1-1 dispatchers do every day.

While I have focused on the 9-1-1 dispatcher for this letter – and I hope that you will join me in acknowledging their important work - EMS Week is about everyone involved in the Chain of Survival who care for the sick and injured. All of us at ADHS want you to thank you for your service to Arizonans.



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CF9 - Yuma AZ

CF14 - Kingman AZ

CF20 - Parker AZ "Fixed Wing" CF70 -

Yuma AZ "Fixed Wing"



Firefighters Receive Awards

By Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager & Fire Marshal, Drexel Heights Fire District

Several Drexel Heights Fire District
Firefighters were recognized this year after their heroic life saving actions. In March 2014
Drexel Heights Fire District units were dispatched to a southwest side house fire with a person trapped inside. Pima County Sheriff's Office also responded.

The first Drexel unit on scene was the squad truck. Firefighter/EMT John McGinn and Firefighter/Paramedic Mark Cowan began rescue efforts immediately by trying to gain access to the security front door. The Sheriff's Deputy then told them there was noise closer to the back door. These firefighters switch efforts and began to work on access to the rear security door.

Once the door was breeched they made entry and began their rescue search. During that search they found the sole occupant underneath the kitchen bar area. They quickly began to pull the adult male victim from the home. Firefighter/EMT Chad Bailey and Sheriff's Deputy joined them at the back door to

assist with getting the victim to safety.

Ouick survey of injuries by Firefighters McGinn, Cowan and Bailey, revealed that the man had suffered severe burns to his upper torso. While he was unconscious, he was still alive. These firefighters knew that his only

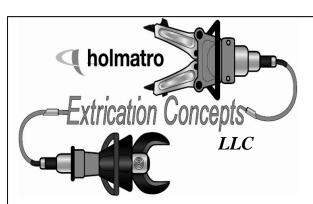
chance of survival was to get him immediate medical treatment. So they transferred care to a Drexel ambulance for transport to a local hospital that provides burn care.

Firefighters McGinn, Cowan and Bailey remembered what the number one priority is that dreadful day, life safety. By staying focused, these firefighters gave the resident the best fighting chance he had to be able to survive his injuries. Their heroic actions were recognized by Drexel Heights Fire District's Governing Board and they received the "Heart of Gold" award from the Stronger Than Steel Project.

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Left to Right: Chad Bailey, John McGinn, Mark Cowan



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FINANCE HIGHLIGHTS

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\$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 ISTRICT 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

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Station No. 6 Dedication

By Chief Kris Kazian, Sedona Fire District

or many of us, the Dedication Ceremony of our new Sedona Fire District Station No. 6 on Saturday, April 26, 2014 was a surreal experience. Numerous people worked hard for almost eight years to see this day come to fruition. Two different citizen advisory committees provided the community with an in-depth study of the need for a station and the potential mission critical features. The land on Highway 179 in the beautiful Chapel area of Sedona was purchased in 2007 for this project. The funds were set aside and the architect and contractor were selected. Ironically, they were not the architects or contractor who designed and built the building you see today.

Fire Board elections happened, different directions and priorities were to stop by Station No. 6 at 2675 State Route 179 in Sedona; like you, we established, and the project was shelved – but not forgotten. The need for a station in the Chapel area remained a priority for the Sedona Fire District and the community.

In 2012, the Sedona Governing Board voted to move forward with a new architect and went to bid for a contractor. The low bid was accepted and the Board voted to allocate \$2.25 million through a 10-year loan to finance the building of the station. The project began and before we knew it, dirt was being moved and bricks began to fly. In the end, there were over 7 miles of wire, 17 tons of steel, 23,000 concrete blocks, and 35,000 hours of labor put into the project.

This was not an easy task. Every day, SFD staff was working to assure the building was being built as designed, making sure the functionality was being calculated into the project, and taking advantage of long term efficiencies to ensure the building would function for our needs and not have a future strain on our budget or operational abilities down the road.

As we got down to the wire in opening the station, there were challenges for us to work through, such as delays in approval by regulating agencies, obtaining specialized equipment, and other necessary infrastructure elements

critical to the project.

The morning of the dedication, Sedona had its first rainfall in weeks. Some would have thought that would dampen the excitement and detract from the event. However, to the contrary, due to the fact our mission is public safety, it was considered a blessing as we need the rain to reduce wildland fire potential. The morning started with a pancake breakfast put on by SFD and family members. We served more than 300 people breakfast and all enjoyed the inaugural meal at the fire station. As all AFDA members know, meals are always an important time in any firehouse!

The ceremony was full of pride and traditions treasured by the fire service – the Sedona Verde Valley Honor Guard posted the colors, Glendale Pipe and Drums provided traditional bag pipe music, and a local radio personality (and step-daughter to an SFD firefighter) sang the National Anthem – to say it was quite moving would be an understatement. We had representation from local, state, and federal lawmakers including Arizona Speaker of the House Andy Tobin and U.S. Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick, hundreds of members of the community, and great representation by SFD employees and their families. Beyond the speeches and words spoken, the overwhelming feeling of family throughout the event was quite abundant.

This new station will serve our community well, provide a better balance of resources ready to respond to calls throughout our District, and represent what we expect of our emergency provision – quick and effective service. We encourage AFDA members

work hard to provide the best and most cost effective services for our community and we are dedicated to safety each and every day.

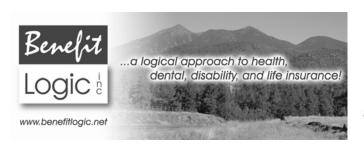




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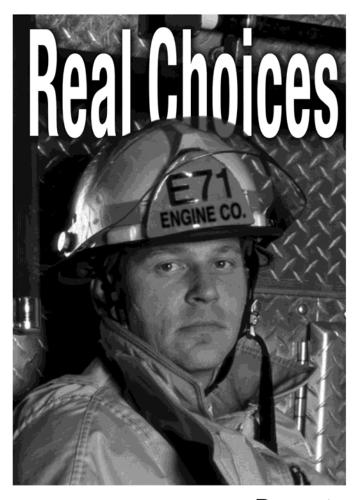




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