



ARIZONA FIRE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

Volume 23, Issue 1
Spring 2016



Arizona Fire Service Leadership Conference

AFCA Conference runs July 12-15, 2016

Visit www.azfirechiefs.org for schedule and to register.

AFDA Conference runs July 14-16, 2016

Schedule:

Thursday, July 14, 2016 - Opening/Membership Meeting starts at 4:00 pm

Friday, July 15 & Saturday, July 16, 2016 - Educational Offerings from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Look for registration information soon.

Joint Expo runs from 12:00 pm July 14 to 1:00 pm July 16.

There is separate registration for each portion organization.

Hotel Reservations - \$99 per night

623-937-3700—ask for the AZ Fire Service Leadership Conference rate

Or you can book online through the Arizona Fire Service Leadership Conference portal. The link is on the conference page at www.azfiredistrict.org.

Book by June 19, 2016

Corporate Members:

Sponsorship Opportunities are available! Go to www.azfiredistrict.org conference page for details on the various levels and benefits.

Exhibit space can be booked through the AFCA website—find the link on the conference page on the AFDA website. The expo is a pipe and drape space except the hall tables in which there is a limited amount available. Space pricing starts at \$400.

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President's Message

By Mary Dalton, North County Fire & Medical District



As we move towards spring 2016, I would like to share some things that have been happening in the Association and the Arizona Fire Service since the publication of our last newsletter.

After a great deal of hard work, various key pieces of legislation to benefit Arizona Fire Districts have been presented for consideration during this year's legislative session. I would like to express my thanks to everyone who assisted with these efforts including, but certainly not limited to,

Executive Director John Flynn, Professional Firefighters of Arizona President Bryan Jeffries, the AFDA Board of Directors, and the numerous Arizona fire district fire chiefs who have dedicated a myriad of hours.

A number of fire districts are beginning new and innovative service delivery through shared services and community paramedicine programs. These programs are being developed not only to provide additional services to residents but to assist in the ongoing struggles many districts are having due to the financial constraints being caused by current revenue funding methods. Although the Association's effort to seek legislative relief is ongoing, many Districts continue to seek alternative revenue stream options to assist with their financial issues.

We had a very successful January conference with an excellent attendance and good reports on the educational

offerings. We are now looking forward to the summer conference which, for the first time, will be a joint conference with the Arizona Fire Chief's Association in Phoenix instead of a standalone conference in June. We feel this joint effort will maximize what can be offered at the conference as well as enhancing the collaboration of the Arizona Fire Service entities. Working together increases everyone's effectiveness and influence. I hope that we have a great attendance and hope to see you all there.

Here's wishing everyone a great spring and summer. Thanks again for all that you do for the fire service here in Arizona. Never doubt that your efforts are appreciated!

AFDA Board Elections 2016

In conjunction with the 2016 Arizona Fire Service Leadership Conference and Expo, AFDA will hold its' annual membership meeting in which a new slate of association Officers and Directors will be seated. The positions of Vice President; Treasurer; Area Director for Area 2 (*Cochise, Graham & Greenlee Counties*), Area 4 (*Maricopa & Pinal Counties*), Area 6 (*Pima & Santa Cruz Counties*) and Area 8 (*Gila County*) will be voted by the membership prior to the annual meeting pursuant to AFDA Bylaws. Members interested in running for a seat on the AFDA Board, please contact Simon Davis, Immediate Past President. The AFDA Board election process for 2016 has several key dates for members to note:

- The Nomination deadline for AFDA Elected Office for the above referenced positions will be May 15, 2016 (*60 days prior to the start of the Annual Business Meeting - AFDA Bylaws: Article XI – Section 11.2*).
 - Balloting for the positions of Vice President; Treasurer; Area Director for area's 2, 4, 6 and 8 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 June 14, 2016.
 - 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 (*July 14, 2016*).
-

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 approaching adjournment (*Sine Die*) by the time you read this. With elections upcoming for all 90 seats at the Legislature in November, we can anticipate the 52nd Arizona Legislature – 2nd Regular Session will wrap up their business in around 100 days or less so members can begin campaigning.

Members can access the weekly Fire Service Bill Tracking Reports on the 52nd 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*) on the AFDA website. Additionally, weekly and daily legislative updates are transmitted to members as necessary (*send me an email to add your name to the distribution list to receive these communications*). Weekly and daily AFDA legislative Updates are retransmitted courtesy of the AFCA Quick Connect on a Monday thru Friday basis. Besides all the legislative activity, several key items of note for AFDA members will occur in the near term:

1. This is the final print edition of the AFDA Newsletter. All future issues will be in an electronic format. This will allow for improved “real time” information sharing for our members.
2. The AFDA and AFCA will hold our first co-located conference in Glendale, Arizona. The 2016 Fire and EMS Leadership Conference and Expo (*July 12-16, 2016*) replaces the AFDA Summer Conference which has traditionally been held in June in Tucson. AFDA and AFCA will share the vendor expo and hotel facilities to better serve our members and the Arizona Fire Service community. This partnership continues our efforts to build a unified Arizona Fire Service.

In conjunction with the 2016 Fire and EMS Leadership Conference and Expo, AFDA will hold its’ annual membership meeting in which a new slate of association Officers and Directors will be seated. The positions of Vice President; Treasurer; Area Director for area’s 2, 4, 6 and 8 will be voted by the membership prior to the annual meeting pursuant to AFDA Bylaws. If you’re interested in running for a seat on the AFDA Board, please contact Simon Davis, Immediate Past President to be included on the ballot. The AFDA Board Election process for 2016 has several key dates:

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- 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 (*July 14, 2016*).

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. Please make sure your fire district has up-to-date contact and designated representative information on file with the AFDA Office.

And speaking of the 2016 Fire and EMS Leadership Conference and Expo, we’ve got another great lineup of classes and speakers for the AFDA. Thanks to the efforts of Brenda Tranchina and the Education Committee we anticipate another great conference for AFDA members. I look forward to seeing you all at the 2016 Fire and EMS Leadership Conference and Expo in Glendale.



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Are You in Control of Your Employee Health Plan, or Is It Controlling You?

By David Spellicy

Like all employers, Fire Districts continue to face a cost dilemma with their health plans each year:

- **Health plan costs are increasing at least 6 percent a year** (many times the regular inflation rate).
- When claims experience is factored in, **many Fire Districts face even higher increases**. In fact, many of them receive a double digit percentage increase.
- **Average healthcare costs for a family of four were well over \$24,000 in 2015 and projected to reach \$25,000 this year.** (*This includes health insurance premiums plus out-of-pocket costs, based on annual Milliman Medical Index*).
- **Employees can face a doubling of their total health cost outlay in 5 years**, if employers simply pass on a portion of the increased costs.

Controlling those costs and your health plan for your employees is a major undertaking for Fire Districts.

Some insurance brokers will tell you that you can't do anything about it. But that's just not true. Working with a knowledgeable benefits consultant, you can develop both short-term and long-term strategies that fit your Fire District.

STRATEGY & OPTIONS

To develop an effective strategy for your Fire District, you and your benefit consultant must conduct a needs analysis to look at what will work for your organization's culture and workforce and what will truly benefit you and your employees.

This strategy development also will require that the benefit consultant have expertise in all aspects of Fire District needs, including administration, firefighters, emergency personnel, union leadership and members, the budgeting process and funding challenges.

Once you have a strategy, the options available may be different if you have a small District (less than 50 employees) or a larger District. However, there ARE options for any size District to gain greater control over their health plan costs. These options can include creative plan structure and/or pooling or funding methods that help you maintain the level of your benefits without adding to the cost.

IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT COST

While the cost of your health plan is often one of the top considerations, there are additional aspects that can create headaches for your staff, if they also are not being controlled.

Compliance

Benefit plans have been hit with many new regulatory requirements, and complying with all of these requirements has become a large task. Your Fire District needs to know that your benefit consultant has your back and can keep you updated and assist you with compliance issues.

Project/Process Management

Uncertainty about WHO does WHAT and HOW and WHEN to implement and maintain your benefit program can cause long days and sleepless nights. That's why it is very important that your benefit consultant have strong project/process management, including an annual calendar of activities, regularly scheduled meetings, documented "to-do" lists, milestones and priorities.

In summary: controlling your health plan requires strategy, review of options, compliance and project/process management. If you have those tools available to you, you can control your health plan, instead of allowing it to control your District.

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

Arizona Realizes Decreases in Trauma-Related Deaths

Arizona's injury mortality rate per 100,000 residents decreased from 84.6 in 2006 to 71.0 in 2014, a 16% reduction. Similarly, Arizona's trauma mortality rate per 100,000 residents—a measure that includes a subset of injury patients likely to be treated at a trauma center—decreased from 58.0 in 2006 to 41.2 in 2014, a 29% reduction. These rate reductions represent an estimated 5,214 potential lives saved. Several inter-related factors may have contributed to the reduction, including increased designation of rural hospitals as trauma centers, improvements in care coordination, enhanced data collection, implementing patient care best practices, and engineering safer roads and vehicles. For a detailed analysis of the reductions, please see Arizona Injury and Trauma Mortality Report 2006-2014 on the Bureau's webpage (callout box) at <http://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/emergency-medical-services-trauma-system/index.php>.



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- Camp Verde Fire District
- Central Yavapai Fire District
- Clarkdale Fire District
- Highlands Fire District
- Montezuma-Rimrock Fire District
- Northern AZ Consolidated Fire District
- Pine-Strawberry Fire District
- Rio Rico Fire District
- Verde Valley Fire District

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Aaron Genaro

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Mountain Vista Fire District Welcomes New Fire Chief

Chief Cheryl Horvath has been in the fire service since 1992, working as a full-time firefighter in Illinois where she served as union president for four years and as a field instructor for the Illinois Fire Service Institute. Chief Horvath is the past President of the Board of Trustees for the International Association of Women in Fire & Emergency Services (www.i-women.org) and a frequent speaker at the conference in leadership and fire-ground tactics.

For the past seven summers, Chief Horvath worked with other local women firefighters and police officers to coordinate a public safety camp in Tucson for high school girls. The camp is designed to encourage girls and young women to consider non-traditional occupations. Camp Fury, initially funded through a grant

from the Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona, is sponsored by local fire and law enforcement agencies and the Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona. Camp Fury is a national program available through local Girl Scout councils.

Chief Horvath serves as Vice Chair on the Board of Directors for the Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona and as treasurer on the Board of Directors for the January 8th Memorial Foundation. Chief Horvath was the recipient of the 2010 YWCA Women on the Move Award, for her service to the greater Tucson community.

Chief Horvath holds a Master's in Public Administration degree from Anna Maria College; a Bachelor's of Science degree from the University of Illinois; an

Associate's Degree in Fire Science from Parkland Community College.



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James H. Saunders, CPA, CFE, CFF, CGFM, PI.

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Drexel Heights & Green Valley Fire Districts Share Fire Prevention Responsibilities

By Tracy Koslowski, DHFD

In 2015, Green Valley Fire District's (GVFD) Fire Prevention Division included a Deputy Fire Marshal and a Fire Inspector. Both who had been with GVFD for a number of years and both who would be retiring in December of 2015. This led the department to look into options for replacing these vital roles within the organization.

The first step GVFD took was to reach out to neighboring jurisdiction Drexel Heights Fire District. Fire Chiefs Chuck Wunder of GVFD and Douglas Chappell of DHFD discussed the possibility of sharing fire prevention resources. One of the resources considered was the Fire Marshal responsibilities. DHFD's Fire Marshal, Dennis Stiegleiter met with the retiring GVFD fire prevention staff regularly to get an understanding on the issues and processes involved. Then GVFD hired a new full-time Fire Inspector, Roger Thompson who has an extensive fire service background. The new positions worked diligently with the outgoing staff, making a seamless transition process as the retirements took place in December.

The process of shared Fire Marshal duties between the two organizations continues to be evaluated. Fire Chiefs Wunder and Chappell continue to meet to explore options in expanding the program and finding more ways to consolidate functions between the organizations. The next course of action will be an upcoming Intergovernmental Agreement between the two Fire District Governing Boards sometime in Spring of 2016.



Fire Marshal Dennis Stiegleiter



YARNELL, AZ SATURDAY JUNE 4TH, 2016

On June 28th, 2013, a lightning storm sparked what would become the deadliest wildfire in Arizona history. The Yarnell Hill Fire claimed 127 structures and the lives of 19 brave men as the country watched in helpless shock. These men belonged to the Granite Mountain Interagency Hot Shot Crew, based in Prescott, AZ, where many of them also resided. An outpouring of support from all over the world showered the grief-stricken families and those who lost their homes in the fire.

On June 7, 2014, the first Yarnell Memorial Run was held in Memory of the Hot Shot Crew to raise funds to support the work of local firefighters. The success and support was overwhelming, prompting the Memorial Run to become an annual event. Participants have the privilege of running through the area of town known as Glen Ilah, which is where much of the burn robbed residents of their homes. In 2014, the burned area was still quite noticeable, but as time's magic healing process has taken effect, flowers have bloomed, grass has returned with vigor and homes have been rebuilt. The Yarnell Memorial Run has evolved, giving runners and walkers four different options including a 5k, 10k, 19k and family/child friendly Fun Run & Walk.

The Memorial Run is scheduled for Saturday, June 4, 2016 at the Yarnell Assembly of God, 17125 W. Fountain Hill Road. Opening ceremonies will begin at 7am. The 19K, the newest addition to the event, will begin at 7:15am. Each kilometer will honor one of the Granite Mountain Hot Shots. This run will take participants through the entire West side of town. The 10K and 5K will follow, with a family and stroller friendly fun run/walk as the final event. Prizes will be awarded in several categories. Music and food are planned, along with the option of overnight dry camping. The Memorial Run raises money for the Eric Marsh Foundation, the William Warneke Foundation and the Yarnell Fire District.

Yarnell, AZ, is akin to a modern day version of Mayberry - complete with Technicolor hues. Nestled discreetly in the Weaver Mountains, Yarnell is situated approximately 89 miles north of Central Phoenix, on AZ State Highway 89. Founded in 1865 by Harrison Yarnell, the unincorporated town became known for the potato sized gold he discovered on Rich Hill, at the south east end of town. Highway 89, which stretches from Mexico to Canada, was paved through Yarnell in 1933. Due to its elevation of 4,780 ft, Yarnell enjoys cool, clean air, boasting an average temperature of 85 in July and 60 in January. There are 649 full time residents in the community in addition to several unique shops, eateries, an American Legion Post and the Shrine of St. Joseph. Visitors enjoy Yarnell's spectacular views and small town ambiance. It is a hot spot for cyclists, runners and hikers from all over the United States.

We are seeking both participants and sponsors for the 3rd Annual Memorial Run. For information, registration fees, and sponsorship opportunities, please visit our website: <http://yarnellmemorialrun.com> or contact the Race Directors:

**Denise Roggio, 928-427-6578, d.roggio@yarnellfire.com
OR Chuck Simonette, 520-414-3744, chuck@simonette.net.**



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Golder Ranch Providing Educational Opportunities to Residents

The Golder Ranch Fire District is a full-service, community-based emergency services provider which is funded through property taxes, ambulance transport revenues, and serves approximately 60,000 residents. The District's 222-square-mile service area includes a diverse blend of urban, suburban, and rural communities in the Northwest portion of the Tucson Metropolitan Region. The Fire District proudly serves the communities of the Town of Oro Valley, Catalina, Saddlebrooke and vast portions of the Catalina Mountains.

Golder Ranch Fire District wants to make it as easy as possible for residents to receive services; namely, CPR training and certification. According to the American Heart Association, more than 326,000 people in the US suffer out-of-hospital cardiac arrests each year. Statistics prove

that if more people knew CPR, more lives could be saved. Our goal is to provide as many educational opportunities as possible to reach as many residents as possible. Therefore, we've expanded our course offering this year.

Through collaborative efforts with our partners, such as the Northwest Fire District, and the support of our governing boards, it is our aim to continue to increase the number of CPR classes offered to the community. These partnerships allow us to effectively reach a greater number of residents and provide more flexibility to those looking to attain CPR training.

The skills residents learn in these classes will provide them with the foundation they need to spring into action not if, but when the emergency occurs. They will learn that the first thing they need to do is direct someone to call 911.

A medical emergency is frightening and people want to believe that it will never happen to them, but if it does, they will be the difference between life and death. CPR saves lives!



Update from Superstition Fire & Medical District

The Superstition Fire & Medical District (SFMD) had a very active and productive 2015, and continues to move forward with a number of initiatives and programs.

To start off 2016, the SFMD began providing our own ambulance transportation services. In March 2015, our organization was granted a certificate of necessity (CoN) through the Arizona Department of Health Services (AzDHS). Obtaining this CoN was a historic moment for our organization and community. As part of this new service, the SFMD hired 12 civilian full-time Transportation Services Personnel (TSP) and 30 part-time civilian TSP. Our new employees will work out of two full-time ambulances, and one part-time ambulance housed in our Fire Stations 261, 263 and 264. Needless to say, we are extremely excited to provide this important service to our community.

We continue to participate in the Community Medicine grant program in coordination with Mesa Fire and Medical Department. Nearing the halfway point of this three year grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, this \$12 million grant is designed to prove how this program can save the health care industry \$40 million. The intent is to keep low level, low acuity type patients out of the hospital. The results of this program have been extremely positive, and the feedback from our community has been wonderful!

The SFMD will be the first Fire District in Arizona to implement the use of ventilators in our community. The new portable ReVel ventilator will be in operation starting April 1st 2016 as part of

every front line fire apparatus. These new devices will provide yet another option for our paramedics to deliver appropriate treatment to our patients who are experiencing respiratory difficulties.

The SFMD recently hosted “Exceeding Customer Expectations” presented by the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) at our Regional Training Center on January 29th, 2016. This incredible class was taught by Chief Randy Bruegman from the Anaheim Fire Department and Chief Jake Rhoades from the Kingman Fire Department. We had a great turnout, with over 40 attendees representing 12 different agencies from across the state of Arizona!

Our organization continues to move forward with implementing Blue Card Hazard Zone Management. To date, we have certified over 30 of our members including all Chief Officers, all Battalion Safety Officers, and a number of Company Officers as well. 2015 marked the first year in which our Captains promotional process required the candidate to be Blue Card certified prior to the testing process, while no longer requiring a tactical assessment. We experienced very positive feedback; in fact, many taking the class stated “this is the best training I have ever received”! We are very pleased with the results Blue Card has provided our organization, and hope to have every Company Officer and actor certified by the end of 2017.

Below you will find a photo of our new Medic Units used to provide ambulance service to the customers of the SFMD.



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- ✓ Ongoing Assistance

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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 (OVER \$150 MILLION SINCE 2002)



\$16,230,000 | Daisy Mountain Fire District
November 2015 – 65.6% Yes Votes



\$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



\$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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DISPATCH**THE CHALLENGE**

Fire dispatch is a critical need in every Fire-Rescue operation. Budget constraints are forcing tough decisions in every department. Many departments struggle with demands for new and expanded services while available resources continue to shrink. Departments everywhere are hard pressed to align operations with the need in our community and deliver services in an efficient and cost effective manner that is sustainable.

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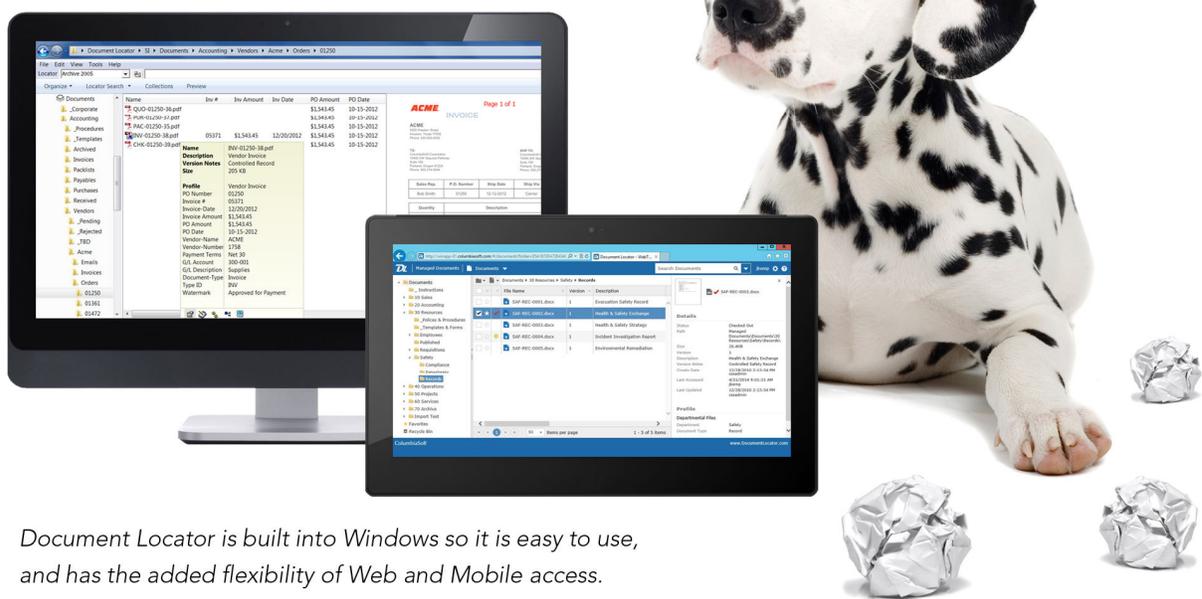


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