



Microsoft

Volume 23, Issue 3
Summer 2016

AFDANews

2016 Arizona Fire Service Leadership Conference

AFDA Conference Program - July 14-16, 2016

Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa

See page 6 for details

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

AFCA Conference Program - July 12-15, 2016

There is separate registration for each organization's educational programs.

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President's Message

By Mary Dalton, North County Fire & Medical District



It's hard to believe it has been two years since I became president of the Arizona Fire District Association (AFDA). It is a position and representation that I take very seriously and hold in the highest regard and with utmost pride. I want to express my sincere thanks to our Board of Directors, Administrative staff and our entire membership for the opportunity you have provided to me in serving our Association. To serve our members as President is truly an honor that I never take for granted.

The Arizona Fire District Association continues to be a leader in fire service advocacy and education and on the State level, it has never been stronger. In an ever changing and evolving climate of all hazards approach; AFDA is truly living up to its role as a trusted advisor to our state governmental leaders on issues affecting public safety. This has been an extremely busy year for achievements, initiatives and future steps for our association.

Over the years, I have watched AFDA mature and grow. With a board-supported strategic vision and a solid focus on meeting member needs, we have worked collaboratively with our partners (the Professional Firefighters of Arizona, the Arizona Fire Chiefs Association, and the Arizona Fire Service Institute) to promote vital legislative changes and develop new initiatives and projects large and small that will benefit the fire service. Strategic focus towards proactive advancement for Arizona fire districts will remain both a goal and a necessity amongst our membership and stakeholders. Internally, we have formalized our governance structure and adopted an open, transparent culture that welcomes participation and communication from members.

Over the past few months, I have had the privilege of meeting with many of our members and stakeholders. AFDA initiatives range from (but not limited to), promoting legislative changes essential to the long-term sustainability of Arizona fire districts, member-services programs, community health programs, data collection and analysis, volunteer retention and recruitment program, and public and private stakeholder engagement. AFDA is sharing and exchanging ideas to help build relationships that will serve the Association well in the future.

And now... it's conference time! A tremendous amount of work goes into any conference. I want to thank the Association's leadership, educational committee, and Executive Director, John Flynn, in appreciation for their continued tireless commitment to AFDA and the success of our first concurrent and shared AFDA/ AFCA Conference. As a result of their work and the work of many individuals from AFCA, I am sure that the summer 2016 AFCA/ AFDA Leadership Conference will be a great success. On behalf of AFDA, I wish to thank all of our sponsors, supporters and friends that continue to invest in our premier conferences for Arizona fire district leaders in aspiring, developing and executive roles. I hope to see all of you at the conference!

As I continue this journey as president into 2016, I do so with a very positive outlook and with great anticipation of what's ahead. The need for a collaborative approach with our fire service brothers and sisters, as well as numerous stakeholders will be a major priority and AFDA focus. I will continue to work extremely hard along with our new Board and staff; to fulfill member expectations and affect necessary change. I look forward to continuing to represent the great people of the fire service in Arizona and working with all of you in the next year.

Message from the Executive Director

By John Flynn



With 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 (there's a large wildfire burning again in Yarnell as of this writing). This year we've made significant strides to ease the financial burden fire districts have carried. First and foremost, the State Forester has

cleared a majority of the backlog in federal fire payments owed to Arizona fire agencies...from last fire season (thank you Jeff Whitney!), and we gained an essential tool at the legislature for addressing future federal fire contract payment backlogs with the State using Budget Stabilization Funds for "prompt pay" purposes (S1244); AND

2) Implementing new laws and regulatory requirements passed by the Legislature each winter (new enactments become effective August 6, 2016 unless enacted with the emergency clause).

There are a number of new laws passed during the recent legislative session that will impact fire districts. Of immediate significance for fire districts is:

S1244: FIRE DISTRICTS; WILDLAND FIRES; BUDGETS

(AFDA / PFFA / AFCA Position: SUPPORT) Recent Action: Signed by the Governor with the emergency clause (5/12) – Chapter 219, Laws 2016. Link to Chaptered version: [Click Here](#)

S1244 has three (3) main component parts:

1. Wildfire "prompt pay" provisions.
2. Merger / consolidation fire district assistance tax (FDAT) cap adjustment.
3. Voter authorized tax rate cap override (Please note timelines).

Wildfire "Prompt Pay"

Authorizes the State forester to certify claims for federal reimbursement of wildfire suppression costs to the State Treasurer who will pay federal fire claims from the State's budget stabilization fund.

Process Points

- Requires fire agencies to submit a "complete and correct" claim for reimbursement
- Thirty day waiting period for federal government to pay claim

- Payment for fire suppression services to be paid under a certified claim includes "personnel hours, used supplies and reasonable and negotiated costs of damage to equipment that exceeds normal wear and tear"

AFDA Guidance: Ensuring complete and accurate state cooperator billing documents that can be "certified" by the State Forester will be essential to facilitating timely payment of claims.

Fire agencies currently owed contract reimbursement for federal fires should contact the State Forester for funding through the budget stabilization fund.

Merger / Consolidation FDAT Cap Adjustment

Authorizes fire districts which merge or consolidate to combine FDAT to establish a new "maximum cap" amount based upon a formula which averages the preceding five years of FDAT for each affected fire district in a merger or consolidation, then combines the five-year average amounts to establish a new "maximum cap" notwithstanding the current \$400K annual maximum for fire districts.

The merger / consolidation FDAT cap adjustment is retroactive to those fire districts which merged or consolidated with an effective date of July 1, 2014 or thereafter.

Process Points

- New FDAT levy cap based upon sum of the average consolidating districts received for the five fiscal years preceding the merger or consolidation
- In FDAT tax rate cap counties: Allows merged or consolidated districts to adjust FDAT cap revenue once county values recover sufficiently to tax with an FDAT rate below .10
- Pro-rata share amount remains applicable to merged or consolidated fire districts in counties at the .10 FDAT tax rate cap limit

AFDA Guidance: Fire districts should verify FDAT calculations being made by respective County Treasurer to ensure accurate accounting of FDAT distribution.

Voter Tax Rate Cap Override

Authorizes fire district governing boards to place a question before the voters in the next two general elections (November 2016 or November 2017) whether to allow the district to temporarily override the 3.25 tax cap to a maximum of 3.50 for a period not to exceed five fiscal years following the ballot approval.

Process Points

Deadlines for fire districts seeking a voter approved tax rate cap override for beginning in fiscal year 2018 (July 1, 2017 implementation) are quickly approaching. Fire districts should contact their respective county elections department for county specific guidance. Non-statutory deadlines may exist and are county specific (e.g. Maricopa County requires an additional IGA for ballot measures with a mid-June deadline).

- Limited to next two general elections – NOTE: Short timeline for inclusion on the November 2016 general election ballot.
 - * 120 Day Notice Deadline by law – July 11, 2016
 - * 105 Day Ballot Text Deadline – July 26, 2016
- Temporary measure (session law) with limited effective date for implementation
- Fire district reverts to 3.25 tax rate cap at end of five-year override period

AFDA Guidance: Fire districts should seek legal / professional guidance for implementation as necessary. Timeline is critical for those districts seeking to be on the November 2016 ballot.

Our advocacy efforts this past session were carried out in partnership with the Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona (PFFA) and the Arizona Fire Chiefs Association (AFCA). A continued commitment by AFDA, PFFA and AFCA to work as a single unified voice of the Arizona fire service is essential if we expect to continue the success we enjoyed this past session.

I've listed additional bills passed during the recent legislative session which fire districts should be mindful of. Detail and guidance for implementing these new laws will be provided at the AFDA Conference in July.

- S1428: PSPRS MODIFICATIONS (PFFA / AFDA Position: SUPPORT) Recent Action: Signed by the Governor (2/16) – Chapter 2, Laws 2016. Link to Chaptered version: [Click Here](#)
- S1429: PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEMS; SPECIAL ELECTION (PFFA / AFDA Position: SUPPORT) Recent

Action: Signed by the Governor (2/16) – Chapter 3, Laws 2016. Link to Chaptered version: [Click Here](#)
(Prop 124 was passed by the voters at the May 17 Special Election – here PSPRS Director Jared Smout talk about what we can anticipate from PSPRS post pension reform approval at the July AFDA Conference)

- H2197: FIRE DISTRICTS; MERGER; CONSOLIDATION (AFDA / PFFA Position: SUPPORT) Recent Action: Signed by the Governor (5/11) – Chapter 183, Laws 2016. Link to Chaptered version: [Click Here](#) (NOTE: H2197 language is mirrored in S1244 and therefore is effective May 12, 2016).
- H2198: FIRE DISTRICTS; VACANCIES; BOARD OPERATIONS (AFDA / PFFA Position: SUPPORT) Recent Action: Signed by the Governor (4/5) – Chapter 97, Laws 2016. Link to Chaptered version: [Click Here](#)
- S1137: CPR; SCHOOLS (AFDA / PFFA / AFCA Position: SUPPORT) Recent Action: Signed by the Governor (5/12) – Chapter 216, Laws 2016. Link to Chaptered version: [Click Here](#)
- H2350: PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES; COUNSELING (PFFA / AFDA position: SUPPORT) Recent Action: Signed by the Governor (5/12) – Chapter 240, Laws 2016. Link to Chaptered version: [Click Here](#)
- H2233: PUBLIC BUILDINGS; APPLICABLE FIRE CODES Recent Action: Signed by the Governor (5/12) – Chapter 234, Laws 2016. Link to Chaptered version: [Click Here](#)

AFDA has another great lineup of classes and speakers this summer at the 2016 Fire & EMS Leadership Conference, our joint endeavor with the AFCA located at the Renaissance Hotel & Conference Center, Glendale, AZ (AFDA educational programs run July 15 & 16, 2016). 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 Conference, which will bring with it new ideas and energy to move AFDA into the future. I look forward to seeing you all in Glendale.

AFDA Board Elections 2016—Ballots Due by 5pm July 7, 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) are on the ballot. Appropriate electronic ballots have been emailed to districts and are due by 5pm July 7th. If you did not receive the email, please contact Robin at the AFDA office to request your ballot—info@azfiredistricts.org

2016 Arizona Fire Service Leadership Conference—AFDA Program

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.azfiredistricts.org.

Book by June 19, 2016

Note: the hotel is sold out for the night of the 14th. See the AFDA website for a list of overflow hotels.

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.

**To Register:
Visit**

www.azfiredistricts.org

**Meetings &
Education/Conferences**

**Pre-registration deadline:
July 8, 2016**



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2016

12:00 p.m. –5:30 p.m.
12:00 p.m. –3:00 p.m.
3:30 p.m. –3:45 p.m.
3:45 p.m. –5:00 p.m.
5:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m. –9:00 p.m.

AFDA/AFCA Expo Open
AFDA Registration/Attendee Check In
Conference Opening
General Membership Meeting - *All Members Are Welcome and Encouraged to Attend*
AFDA/AFCA No Host Reception
Inaugural AFDA/AFCA Bowling Tournament
Main Event Entertainment—10315 W. McDowell Rd., Avondale

FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2016

7:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m.
7:00 a.m. –5:30 p.m.
8:00 a.m. –9:30 a.m.
9:30 a.m. –10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. –11:30 a.m.

Registration/Continental Breakfast/Visit Expo
AFDA/AFCA Expo Open
JOINT KEYNOTE SPEAKER WITH AFCA—Step Up & Lead
Refreshment Break / Visit Expo

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1. Health Care Cost Reduction
2. Planning to Stay Afloat: Financial Forecasting & Strategies
3. Preventing Member Derailment and Embarrassment in the Fire Service

11:30 a.m. –1:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. –2:30 p.m.

Buffet Lunch / Visit Expo

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1. Harassment: Is It Unlawful?
2. Legislative Update
3. "Where the Hell is My Cheese?" Understanding NAV Limitations & Impacts

2:30 p.m. –3:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m. –4:30 p.m.

Refreshment Break / Visit Expo

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1. Insurance: You Can't Live With It, You Can't Live Without It!
2. Legal Roundtable
3. Providing Fire-Based Urgent Medical Services with a Nurse Practitioner

4:30 p.m. –5:30 p.m.

AFDA/AFCA No Host Reception

SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2016

7:00 a.m. –1:00 p.m.
7:00 a.m. –1:00 p.m.
8:00 a.m. –9:30 a.m.
9:30 a.m. –10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. –11:30 a.m.

Registration/Continental Breakfast/Visit Expo
AFDA/AFCA Expo Open
KEYNOTE—Emotional Intelligence in the Fire Service
Refreshment Break / Visit Expo

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1. Career Districts Roundtable
2. Diversity & Inclusion: Beyond the Checkbox
3. Public Safety Personnel Retirement System Update

11:30 a.m. –1:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. –2:30 p.m.

Buffet Lunch / Visit Expo

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1. EMS Roundtable
2. Fire Service Ethics
3. Volunteer Recruitment & Retention

2:30 p.m. –3:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m. –4:30 p.m.

Refreshment Break

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1. Administrative Professionals Roundtable
2. Big Incident in a Little Town: Colorado City Flood
3. Combination & Volunteer Districts Roundtable

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- ✓ Ongoing Assistance

FINANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Private Placement

\$7,183,402

Mountain Vista Fire District
Lease Purchase Refinancing

Public Sale

\$10,000,000

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

Public Sale

\$1,695,000

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

Private Placement

\$1,000,000

Drexel Heights Fire District
General Obligation Refunding Bonds

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND ELECTIONS (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

CONTACT A MEMBER OF OUR PUBLIC FINANCE TEAM



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Capstone Internship Project

By Tracy Koslowski, Drexel Heights Fire District

In hopes of clearing up many common misconceptions regarding calling into the 911 system, Valley Emergency Communications Center (VECC) and Drexel Heights Fire District (DHFD) wanted to do something. Together they submitted a Capstone Internship Project through the University of Arizona.

Each year, University of Arizona School of Government and Public Policy, Masters of Public Administration candidates participate in this Capstone Internship Project. Projects are submitted by local non-profits and government entities. The professor selects the top ten worthy projects. Class candidates then sign up for and work on transforming the projects into a reality. VECC and DHFD's submittal, based on a public service announcement campaign which would educate the public on what to expect when calling 911, was selected.

The results were a media packet which included video, radio and print materials which were distributed. The dedication of these Capstone Candidates seeing the project mission thru was exceptional. The feedback on the quality of the finished materials was tremendously encouraging. Not only did the media pick up and run the PSA, but many Arizona fire agencies shared the PSA on their websites and social media. You can preview the 60 second video version on the VECC (www.veccaz.org) and DHFD (www.drexelfire.org) websites. If your Fire District is interested in sharing this universal message, please email PSA format requests to Tracy Koslowski tkoslowski@drexelfire.org.

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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CONTACT

Scott Ghan
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ONE TESTIMONIAL THAT SAYS IT ALL!



Bryan Savage

**Fire Chief, Timber Mesa Fire
Vice President AFDA**

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In addition to our computer hardware and software, Comp Tech has installed a new VOIP phone system and they are working now to bring video conferencing to all of our worksites. They have assisted us in [many ways to] lower our expenses. I would absolutely recommend Computer Technologies to any fire district struggling to keep up with their IT needs."

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Treat & Refer Update

By David Harden, Bureau of EMS & Trauma System Section Chief

EMS providers routinely encounter patients who need the social or health services offered in their community, but because EMS was created and organized around the transport of patients to an emergency department, they have not been able to meet that need. That may be about to change.

Last year, EMS providers approached the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) to review the potential benefits to AHCCCS clients if the EMS organization implemented a Treat and Refer program. Soon afterwards, AHCCCS and the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) met to identify how an initiative like this could be supported and organized and the Treat and Refer Steering Committee was born.

Invitations were sent to the Arizona Fire Chiefs Association, Arizona Fire Districts Association, Arizona Ambulance Association, and the Arizona Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians asking for representatives to participate in the development of the treat and refer manual. Other content experts were also asked to participate.

The first of three planned discussion and development meetings was hosted at the Phoenix Fire Training Center in December 2015. Attendees rotated through four discussion workgroups: Education, Medical Oversight, Data Collection, and Recognition. The output of this meeting December was a set of writing tasks for each of the four workgroups. Two subsequent meetings were held on February 23 and May 6, when the final draft was presented to the Treat and Refer Steering Committee for comments.

The next stop for the document is the EMS Council and Medical Direction Commission, where members will be asked to review and approve the document during the May 19, 2016, meetings. For further information, please contact David Harden at hardend@azdhs.gov or 602-364-3188.

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AFDA CONVENTIONS

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

Glendale, Arizona 85304

Phone: 623-476-8660

Fax: 602-926-2431

E-mail: JamesH49@aol.com

The Arizona Local Assistance State Team (AZ LAST)

The Arizona Local Assistance State Team (AZ LAST) was formed in 2006 as a collaborative effort between the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) and the Arizona Fire Chief's Association (AFCA). The Team is also supported by the Arizona Fire District's Association and for years has worked in close partnership with the 100 Club of Arizona. 2016 marks the 10th anniversary of the team.

The Team provides support to Arizona fire departments who have suffered the loss of a firefighter. Services include expertise in funeral planning, ceremonial support, as well as honor guard, grief and survivor support and chaplain services. Additionally, the team provides assistance with filing for the Department of Justice's Public Safety Officers (PSOB) Benefit. Over the past decade the Team has **responded** to an estimated 100 calls for assistance.

The AZ LAST also provides three fully stocked funeral support trailers equipped with all the supplies necessary to facilitate a firefighter funeral. The AZ LAST trailer contains items such as pall-bearer platforms and staircases, a diamond-plate casket stand, a 15' x 25' American flag, a ceremonial bell, chrome pike poles, stamped ceremonial axes, apparatus and station bunting, badge shrouds, and much more. Trailers are stationed throughout the

state in the North, Central and South regions of Arizona. These trailers, and other team resources, are made possible through the generous donations received from the Steve Alley Memorial Golf Tournament and the 100 Club of Arizona.

Today, the AZ LAST is comprised of fire service professionals from across the state and in addition to LODD support; the team may also provide assistance with non-LODD and retiree funeral services. Since 2006, we have assisted dozens of agencies including Phoenix, Tucson, Mesa, Yuma Co., Surprise, Clarkdale, Three Points, Prescott, Drexel Heights and the Bureau of Indian Affairs and have even escorted Arizona survivors to the NFFF Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

As always, we thank those who support the golf outing. The Steve Alley Memorial Tournament is the primary source of funding for the AZ LAST Team. Your contributions enable the team to continue to provide the high level of support the Arizona fire service deserves. We truly do take care of our own and we couldn't do it without you!

The AZ LAST Team will have a table at the AFCA/AFDA Desert Southwest Fire & EMS Expo and we invite everyone to come by, meet the team, see the trailer and maybe purchase a souvenir t-shirt. Thank you for 10 years of enduring support.



Reflection on My Career - July 26, 1976 to July 24, 2016

By Bill Miller, Fire Chief, Fry Fire District

On July 22, 2016 Fry Fire Chief Bill Miller will be retiring with 40-years of service and 15-years on the board of AFDA.

Family first, community, and then the job, sometimes it was quite the opposite.

I thank the many friendships that were formed through work and outside of work. Those relationships I will continue to appreciate long after my retirement. I thank my wife for taking care of me, putting our family first in her life, and making sure that my outfits matched. She's the rock of our family and the rock that I felt against my head a many times for disagreeing with her. I thank my daughter Samantha and my son Sean for always being there for me and supporting me when I needed them. I thank them for being my friend and making me proud every day for the things they now do for their communities. Samantha is a school teacher and Sean is a Deputy Sheriff.

I thank all those working relationship within the City of Sierra Vista management, the Sierra Vista, Palominas, Fort Huachuca Fire Departments, CCSO, SVPD and the many other Fire and EMS agencies in Cochise County and Arizona. I also want to express my appreciation to all the current and past Fry Fire District Board members, Fire Chiefs and employees who have served with pride, respect, integrity, dedication, and honor. They have been very supportive of me during my career.

During my career I have seen the expansion of fire district services; Ambulance service, EMT's and Paramedics, Hazardous Materials Team, Tactical Rescue Team, SWAT team medics, out of State Wildland assignments, Ambulance billing services, a fleet maintenance program, annual employee recognition and awards, additional personnel, newer apparatus and remodeled fire stations.

Some of my most memorable calls:

- ◆ The death of a fellow Firefighter "David Deary" April 28, 1979 while trying to rescue two teenagers off the Carr Canyon Falls.
- ◆ Miracle Valley Shootout early 1982, I still remember all the tension in the community and in the Sheriff's Department. All the Firefighters wanted to carry weapons for our own protection, but we didn't. We always had the Sheriff Officers by our sides.
- ◆ The old barracks fire on Fort Huachuca July 5, 1987 (23-buildings totally involved with fire). I remember filming part of the fire with my old VHS tape recorder and the amount of fire and heat was just unbearable.
- ◆ November 12, 1990 a 9-year old boy name Justin Steiner jump off his grandparent's roof and accidental fell onto a steel rod that had pierced his heart and jugular vein while still

being impelled until we were able to cut it off at the ground level. We transported him to the hospital where he survived! This incident made national headlines. God was with him and us on that day.

- ◆ Multi-vehicle accident October 2004 on Hwy 90 and the East gate that resulting in 6-deaths.
- ◆ Monument Fire June 2011, the largest most complex fire I have ever dealt with during my entire career. The community lost over 72-structures and several thousand acres of wildland. But we didn't lose any lives and we had no major injuries. We also saved several hundred homes from the fire. I can express how proud I am of all the Firefighters and Police Officers that maintained their professionalism during this fire. The Monument fire affected every community member in one way or another, but I am also very proud of our community members and businesses that came together not only for the emergency workers but for all the families that lost homes or businesses.



What I enjoyed:

- ◆ Taking emergency calls. I really enjoy taking calls and being a part of a team of professions that help individuals in their time of need. This was not a job but an exciting and caring professional career.
- ◆ Keeping our taxing rate as low as possible while providing exceptional service to the community which at times has been difficult
- ◆ My administrative team in the office
- ◆ Receiving over \$2.7 million dollars in grants over the last 12-years
- ◆ Increased our capital reserve fund from just under \$300K to just over 1.2 million dollars and we have also started a leave reserve fund during my time as Fire Chief
- ◆ Creating no fire district DEBT, our citizens own everything free and clear
- ◆ Employees, each one of them I have learned from, both the bad and good
- ◆ Working with the City of Sierra Vista to create an emergency response plan that has no boundaries when dealing with someone's emergency (closest unit response) that has saved several lives and homes.
- ◆ Committees I have served on; Cochise County Emergency Medical Council-Chairman, Southern Arizona Emergency

Medical Council Vice Chairman, Arizona Fire District Association Board serving Cochise, Graham, Santa Cruz and Greenlee counties, Canyon Vista Medical Center Board of Trustees-Vice Chairman, Cochise County Building Code Advisory Board-Vice Chairman, Arizona Ambulance Association and past President of the Sierra Vista Rotary club.

- ♦ Working with the many non-profit community organizations in the area that help so many people in Cochise County.

My plans now will be focused on my two granddaughters Charlee who is three years old and Loucee who is 1, my wife Patti, daughter Samantha and Son Sean, and of course getting in a few more rounds of golf. We be moving to the Queen Creek area in August of this year.

What I won't miss:

Budget restraints, employee problems and listening to the fire radio every night. During my career I have seen us go from 1 or 2 calls a week to over 25 calls a day.

Also back in 2005 when I was promoted to Fire Chief I also promote myself to the head janitor job by coming in on weekends to clean the offices, classroom, and bathrooms. That I surely won't miss, but that was my promise I made to the guys so they all could get raises by all of us doing more around the stations to save money anywhere we could and that would be my contribution for them to receive a pay raise.

Unfortunately I have seen many calls involving multiple deaths caused by fires in our community and the deaths caused by serious injuries or accidents. Those are the things I'd like to forget about. I have seen families that have lost loved ones, loss property due to fires, and damage from high winds and flooding. I have also seen the good in families and our communities come together for others in their time of need during emergencies. I'll be forever grateful for to all those who have help others. I've been very blessed and I am very grateful to my family and community. I can't begin to express the gratitude and respect I have for serving our community for the past 40-years.

Consolidation of Clarkdale & Verde Valley Fire Districts

By Nazih M. Hazime, Fire Chief, Verde Valley Fire District

With the direction from the Board of Directors from both Clarkdale Fire District (CLFD) and Verde Valley Fire District (VVFD), Fire Chief Joe Moore and Fire Chief Nazih Hazime have been working with staff and to evaluate the operational and financial aspects of both Fire Districts. A preliminary report appeared to be favorable and allows us to move forward into a feasibility study. This directive from the Board Members followed a resolution from CLFD Fire Board requesting VVFD's Fire Board to consider consolidating with CLFD. The VVFD Fire Board adopted a resolution considering a consolidation with CLFD. This was the first step of many to follow based on the Arizona Revised Statutes §48-822 which revealed consolidating will enhance service efficiency and increase cost savings through identifying redundancy within both Fire Districts. This study process encompasses all areas of the fire districts which exposed areas for improvement. The process resolved with both Fire Boards unanimously passing the resolutions to consolidate the Districts. Effective July 1, 2016 Clarkdale Fire District will dissolve and be absorbed by Verde Valley Fire District. This will increase the VVFD to 104 square miles and serve 21,300 residents. Almost everything was in line with both fire district including the Mil Rates which help streamline the 11 month process. Both fire districts are very excited to come together for the betterment of the community we serve.



New consolidated fire districts training together on water supply operations



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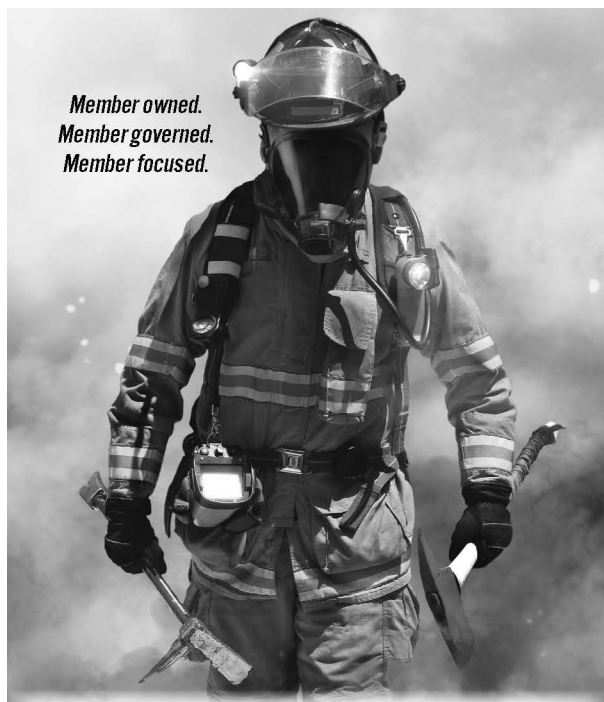
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- Clarkdale Fire District
- Desert Hills Fire District*
- Highlands Fire District
- Montezuma-Rimrock Fire District
- Northern AZ Consolidated Fire District
- Pine-Strawberry Fire District
- Rio Rico Fire District
- Verde Valley Fire District

*new member effective July 1, 2016

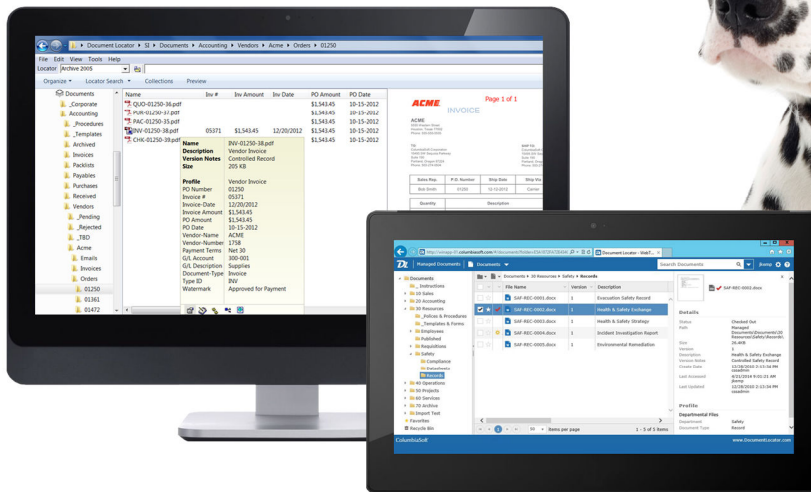
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