



THE REVIEW

Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – **May 4, 2018**

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Quote of the Week

"My people skills are just fine. It's my tolerance to idiots that needs work."—
Unknown

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR EVT CERTIFICATION TRAVIS KOHLER!

The following have recently certified or re-certified the requirements for EVT Level Certification as:

Master Fire Apparatus Technician

Travis Kohler Chino Valley, AZ

motor vehicle accidents, burn victims, severely injured victims, and violent deaths. On the job, it's very likely that firefighters will face a number of different traumatic situations.

Post-traumatic Stress Disorder

It's no surprise, then, that firefighters are at high risk for developing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). In fact, an International Association of Fire Fighters' report released in September 2016 found that firefighters exhibit levels of PTSD rivaling that of combat veterans.

Should we be sounding the alarms? Is this something to be concerned about? On one hand, yes - this is a startling statistic. When it comes to firefighters, the brave men and women who protect and serve us, any number above 0 is a cause for concern when we're talking about mental health. Protecting those who protect us should be our top priority.

PTSD has been studied extensively among various at-risk populations, including veterans, but there is a lack of research on PTSD for emergency responders such as firefighters. Even though we know the hazards that firefighters face on a daily basis, there are shockingly few studies that look at mental health issues, such as PTSD, within firefighter populations.

However, there is good news: More and more steps are being taken today by fire departments to study PTSD, recognize signs and symptoms, and take action to treat it.

[More](#)

Fleet Report: Fleet Manager Domenic Scaife

Update from month of April: Annual Ladder testing was completed the first part of April. Only one ground ladder failed. The truck company passed its annual as well. The truck had a couple of cracks that needed to be welded, but that was it. Battalion 3 was in for service and upholstery work. Engine 58 was in for service and repairs as well as some graphics updating. Engine 50 was in for service, upholstery work and repairs. Upon inspection it was found to have quite the oil leak. This engine was still under warranty from Cummins so we had them repair it. If not under warranty the cost on this one repair was almost \$8000.00 Most of the month was spent on in-service work on the new engines.



Outside agency repair: With the new vehicle in-service work, on top of day to day service and repairs, we have stopped bringing in outside work. We hope to be able to offer those services once the new budget year starts, but for now there is just not enough time.

Update on the new apparatus order: The new Truck Company has arrived. The Type 3 shouldn't be far behind. The new engine 62 has been completed and we are just awaiting a couple of pieces of equipment. Engine 54 is right behind and should be completed within a week or so. We have also received bids back on a new Utility truck for Battalion 6. This truck will be identical to Utility 53 if we move forward with it.

Next on our fleet list:

- E-59 service
- E-53 service
- B-6 service
- Warehouse delivery truck service
- Mechanic 51 service
- Radio Tech service
- Mechanic 5 service/ freeze plug install
- New engine in service
- Type III outfitting
- Ladder truck outfitting
- P-62 Pump replacement from Cascade to Darley
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Polaris XP1000: We took delivery of a Polaris side by side. It will be outfitted with an EMS transport bed built by KIMTEK. This unit is for in district use for EMS/ Rescues on trails etc within our response area. Dan Gnagey has helped out a lot with ordering different items for this unit. We will be putting on DOT approved tires, a top, a windshield and a winch. IT/COMM will be installing a district radio in it as well. I believe it is to be stationed at station 50.

Chiefs Desk Continued

To be honest, I don't think we can paint a clear picture simply by talking. Think about it for a moment..... Unless you've played football you don't really know how much study and preparation goes into each plan and each game – although there are numerous arm chair experts every Sunday who purport to know much more than the players and/or the coaches. In a similar way, we cannot expect the public to truly understand what our job entails, if they've never been in our position.



Photo Credit: Torrence Dunham

Fire Ops 101 is a tool developed to pull back the curtain and give community leaders, elected officials, and the media an opportunity to experience our job first hand. Through the program we are able to demonstrate why it takes resources to properly address EMS calls, why the road's blocked for a car crash, what it's really like to be in a strange place with no visibility searching for a victim, and/or why CARTA is an important asset to the fire service. When someone is able to don our gear, manipulate a hose line or rescue equipment,

and search a smoke filled room with zero visibility they get to feel what it's like to do our job – not just hear what it's like. Participants do not develop expertise about our profession through the program, but they do gain a keen understanding of what it's really like to do the job.

In each of the four years CAFMA and Prescott FD have worked together to put on the program, we have received feedback beyond what we had anticipated. Each station is important, however it seems the EMS station tends to open more eyes than most. I remember Dr. Lampe asking when the additional resources would arrive as he and his team worked through the EMS scenario. Answer, sorry doc, you folks are it until you get to the hospital. I loved Senator Fann's response after completing the EMS station - I get it, you have my support. This is exactly why we incorporated the station into our Fire Ops program.



Photo Credit: Torrence Dunham

Other feedback has included, “wow this stuff is heavy and hot,” and “I have no idea how you all can communicate in this type of environment.” I think the one statement that stands out most to me was something Ron Fain shared, and still shares to this day. He said that he was most amazed at the level of knowledge we must possess to address each situation, and then employ that knowledge quickly in so many different situations that require us to draw from different banks of expertise at any moment day or night. While not an exact quote, it does capture the essence of his statement. We had a few participants this past weekend make similar statements concerning the amount of expertise required to make sound decisions in chaotic environments in rapid succession.



Ladies and gentlemen, Fire Ops 101 is a premier tool in our tool box that gives us the opportunity to pull back the curtain and allow others to hear, feel, touch, and breathe what we do. In the end we are often asked what we need. I tell them the same thing every time, “we’re not asking for anything other than for you to understand more clearly what we do, and share that knowledge with others.” We

generally only reach 1%-3% of our populous through emergency response, and maybe another 1%-3% additional through other events. What we create through Fire Ops are ambassadors who have experienced what it's like to be a professional firefighter/paramedic/ EMT who can help us reach more people than we can on our own.

I would like to personally thank Captain Brian Burch for his leadership in developing this program. What an outstanding job he did again this year! I'd also like to thank all of the volunteers from Prescott and CAFMA for taking time out of your weekend on your days off to ensure the program was a success – you all did a fantastic job and represent your profession well! And finally, I'd like to thank my counterpart Chief Light for his on-going efforts and support to ensure the program is run each year.

If you were unable to attend this year, I hope you can find time next year to come out and have some fun with us!

Stuff That's Happening

Thank you to Chief Davis, Captain Burch and their crew for going above and beyond to help a family! Engine 53 and B3 ran a cardiac arrest over the weekend. The patient had a heart attack while painting his home. After the ambulance left for the hospital with the patient and most of 53's crew, Chief Davis and Captain Burch noted that the man was only 10' from completing the paint job. So, what did they do? They finished painting the house, cleaned all the paint and paint tools, and then got the crew and engine back in service. Unfortunately the gentleman passed, but at least the family didn't have to deal with a paint mess when they returned to the house. This is just one example of what we know you do every day – thank you!

We are entering Stage 2 Fire Restrictions today! The little bit of rain we had helped a little bit. However, as we all know, the winds and temperatures will pick back up next week with no additional moisture in the forecast. Conditions are not good, so maintain your situational awareness, hydrate, and come to work ready for anything. Chief Polacek has put a temporary moratorium on any additional crews going off district because of the conditions in our area, as well as the number of folks out on injury. It's going to be a long season, so be ready.

The IT Audit is underway and is expected to conclude on June 6th. It seems like longer than anticipated, but it really isn't. The other companies had projected a similar time frame, but since they were from out of State, much of the work was going to be completed off-site. Personally, I much prefer having them on site so they have hands on the equipment and direct access to our personnel whenever they need.

I have reached out to Chief Karrer with Golder Ranch about a joint SCBA purchase for next fiscal year, and he has reached out to Tucson Fire. We will be scheduling a meeting between the three agencies sometime in the coming weeks to discuss particulars and devise a plan to move forward.

The graphics on for the ladder are nearly approved – should look nice and maintain the same theme as the engines, only bigger.

Chief Feddema and I met with our friends at Yavapai College via Zoom Video conference to discuss particulars related to the development of the Senior Leadership Academy. We are specifically looking at a leadership certificate through them utilizing their three part leadership program. Additionally, we will use their professors to teach a few of the other sections e.g. communications, dealing with diversity, etc. Chief Feddema presented the idea of seeking a Fire Officer 3 and/or 4 certification for completion of the program through the State Training Group. Since those levels do not exist within this State, we might as well see if we can create them.....