



THE REVIEW

Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – December 14, 2018

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Quote of the Week

"You only need one person to believe in you to succeed. It's a lot easier if that person is you."

Unknown



ACKER NIGHT 2018



The Chief's Desk



Seattle EMTs Set Strike Date

Seattle's fire department will likely be part of the backup plan if hundreds of unionized American Medical Response EMTs walk out Dec. 21.

So the question is; can it happen here? The answer is yes. AMR is a unionized private business which means they do not fall under the same laws as public sector emergency response personnel. To that end, they have the right to strike, whereas union firefighters do not.

A strike is not the only issue that can arise for an area solely covered by a single private provider. We've read stories, mainly back east, reporting on private ambulance providers literally shutting down overnight. Could that happen here? AMR is a very large company so it's not likely they would shut down, but it is possible. They're more likely to reduce services than they are to shut down completely, or simply not add resources to meet increased demand. We're already experiencing some of these issues on a regular basis due to some of the staffing challenges they are experiencing. As with any privately held company, they are obligated to show a return on investment to their shareholders which means they have to weigh their return on investment. That is just good business.

The question that begs to be answered given the information above is; what is our back up plan for the Quad Cities if AMR were to experience a strike, a reduction in services, or if they do not staff to meet demand? Given that we already experience issues with response times in an area that is rapidly growing, any reduction would create significant system wide problems. Answering this question is more difficult, and highlights a serious lack of foresight by the State's Department of Health Services (DHS) as well as deficiencies within their existing regulations.

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Upcoming Events:

Dec 17 – Senior Leadership Academy Preparations
Dec 18 – PRCC Liaison Meeting, Try to get by a station or two – or catch up with crews at CARTA
Dec 19 – PVEDF Board Meeting, Meeting in Phoenix, AFCA Conference Meeting Mesa
Dec 20 – Admin Pot Luck, Board Meeting Day

Board Meeting:

December 20th Chino Valley Town Hall
Swearing in new Board Members

CVFD – 1600-1630
CYFD – 1630 -1700
CAFMA – 1700-1830ish



Seattle EMTs Set Strike Date

By: [Heidi Grover Seattle Time Via Firehouse.com](#)

American Medical Response

Hundreds of unionized emergency medical technicians (EMTs) in Seattle have set a deadline of Dec. 21 to go on strike, calling into question how the city plans to respond to people in medical crisis if they walk off the job.

City officials say they are working on a plan, but won't say what it is until a strike is called. Mayor Jenny Durkan's administration "began its contingency planning over three weeks ago" when officials learned of a potential strike, said Durkan spokesman Mark Prentice. Prentice declined to elaborate, saying in an email, "The city is exploring a range of contingency plans that we will share in the event of a strike."

The EMTs work for American Medical Response (AMR), a private company the City of Seattle contracts with to transport some patients to the hospital.

Teamsters Local 763, the union representing the EMTs, has been negotiating with the company since the start of the year. Members [overwhelmingly rejected](#) the latest contract offer last month and the union notified AMR Monday that they plan to set up pickets beginning at noon on Dec. 21 if a deal hasn't been reached.

The two sides are stuck on issues of pay and health care. According to the union, AMR currently pays starting EMTs \$15.54 an hour and has offered to increase that to \$17 an hour. The union argues that is still barely above Seattle's minimum wage, which will increase to \$16 an hour for large employers in January.

[More](#)

8th firefighter fatality 'too much for one department'

By: [Kim Ring Telegram.com](#)



WORCESTER - It is unfathomable, Auburn Fire Chief Stephen Coleman Jr. said.

"Eight guys in 19 years," he said. "It's too much for one department."

And yet nearly two decades after the Worcester Cold Storage and Warehouse Co. blaze that claimed six Worcester firefighters and changed how fires are fought across the country, and nearly seven years to the day that Worcester lost Firefighter Jon Davies, Worcester is again grieving. This time for Firefighter

Christopher Roy, 36, from Ladder 4 in the Webster Square fire station.

Chief Coleman said crews from Auburn were headed into the city to help their fellow firefighters who were working two structure fires. They were set to cover the station on Park Avenue when they were diverted to the blaze at 7 Lowell St. They were sent to the rear of the building, joined the Rapid Intervention Team from Worcester Fire Department and helped to pull Firefighter Roy from the building.

Things unfolded quickly at the fire, which eventually become a five-alarm blaze. It was a basement fire reported at two minutes before 4 a.m. Then, the old building offered the flames a way out, through its balloon construction and pipe chases. The fire likely hid inside the walls and grew, bursting out through the roof, where it breathed in the frigid air, Chief Coleman said.

[More](#)

Chief's Desk Continued

A few years ago, CYFD Board Chair Steve Rutherford, EMS Captain Doug Niemynski, and I went to visit with DHS personnel in Phoenix. As you are aware, most ambulance services in the State are provided by fire based EMS. In most counties there are layers of EMS response available to provide back up, or the redundancy needed to provide emergency services. Some of these models include a mix of public and private services, which works well. In the Quad Cities we have only one transport provider –Lifeline who is owned by AMR.

According to the State, every ambulance service must have a back-up. To that end we asked DHS who provided back-up for AMR in our area given there are no other providers. Their answer – AMR out of Maricopa..... Take that in for a moment – their approved back-up plan is for ambulances to respond from nearly an hour and a half away. When we questioned how that could possibly serve an acceptable back-up plan the person we were speaking with said, "It works on paper." What??? I'd be remiss if I didn't point out that the person who made those remarks was working for AMR a year or so later.

The bottom line regarding emergency ambulance response in our area according to DHS is profit. They did say that if you can show a need e.g. lack of services, that a CON may be granted. However, the law allows for interveners to file a contest to any CON submitted. The legal process once a contest has been filed is historically cost prohibitive. The process is not an AMR issue, it's a State issue. In short, my opinion is that the system in its current form is broken. However, the reality is that a lack of real requirements for back-up, and a lack of competition means that service is secondary. In a more recent discussion, the State said that they would consider a CON in an area that needed additional emergency response coverage. There is talk that the process may be revamped in coming legislative sessions. Overall, a CON process is a good thing. However, there needs to be some changes in regards to allowable legal challenges.

If we consider the Verde side of the mountain, we see a system that functions as it should. Most fire departments on that side of the mountain run ambulance services. Additionally, Verde Valley Ambulance, a not for profit, provides inner-facility transport as well as emergency response in areas not serviced by fire based EMS. All providers in that area have mutual aid with each other. This means if one agency's rig is out, another agency's will respond, including Verde Valley Ambulance. The relationship they have is symbiotic and ensures requisite back-up when call volume exceeds any one agency's capacity. It's a model for the Prescott Basin to consider at some point. We did speak with Verde Valley Ambulance about the possibility of them obtaining a CON on our side of the hill for 911 services, but it wasn't something they felt suited their business model.

As stated above, AMR owns Lifeline. AMR's back-up for our area according to the State is AMR in Maricopa. So, if AMR strikes, what's the back-up plan? The State and politics have handcuffed our area in regards to creating needed redundancy for a timely/viable back-up plan. In my personal opinion, the Prescott Basin needs additional resources outside of Lifeline/AMR. This means either another private service, a non-profit company, or fire based EMS. There are business related issues with another private company or a non-profit. Both need some access to inner facility transport as that is the main source of generating revenue. A private company cannot move to our area and not have access to hospital to hospital transports and generate the needed return on investment. I would think YRMC wouldn't mind having options when it comes to ambulance services given at this point they only have one provider to choose from for services. They are hamstrung with only one option, unlike hospitals in the Valley, or even in the Verde.

Should something happen with ambulance service in the Quad Cities area, it would be a scramble to get things operational in order to provide services to our citizens. At least in Seattle, the fire department provides ALS transport so they can absorb some additional call volume in the absence of AMR. .

In the Valley, many municipalities are canceling their contracts with AMR for failure to meet standards and are opting either to work with Maricopa Ambulance – another private provider – or they are planning to submit for their own CON. At this point in time, it doesn't appear we have either of those options.

Until our constituents truly understand the very real concerns that exist by placing all ambulance transport in the hands of a sole private provider with no real back-up, not much for us will change. Unfortunately, this leaves our area and those we protect without a timely/viable back-up plan in case of a strike, or reduction in service.

Do I have an idea for a plan? Yes. Will it work within the boundaries set by DHS in the event of a strike? That is to be determined. Our job is to protect our citizen's, so we will scramble to partner with someone to institute at least stop gap measures. That said, it would be better if we had a more tangible back-up in place, but the barrier is political.

Stuff that's Happening

Please join me in welcoming Leo Basurto as our new Training Technician! Leo started last week and will be shadowing Jim before he moves to the engine. Make sure you get a chance when you are at CARTA to catch up and welcome Leo to our family.

Also, please join me in welcoming Andrew Deering to the CAFMA family as our new Facilities Assistant! I'm not sure exactly when he starts as I'm out of town this week, but I know he will be a welcome addition.

I'd like to thank Karen Viscardi and her committee for another outstanding Awards Banquet!! It was a well-orchestrated event, and a beautiful night with a number of our personnel, their families, as well as some of our retirees. I had a great time, and I hope you did as well!

I know you won't believe me based on our history, but the VHF project is moving along nicely – stop laughing, I'm serious! Our tech division has been doing some outstanding work bringing the system to fruition and expects to be testing it by Spring. We will be going to the board this month to request permission for some planned expenditures to support the project. You laughed when I told you that the mythical data terminals would be installed, and yet they were finally installed. So, trust me on this one. When you give these folks what they need to accomplish something, they will excel! I think we can all agree, they have been doing some outstanding work.



So, I had a plan to move more of the administrative vehicles to the long standing Impala line under GM. As you know we received two late in November. In early December, GM announced the end to the Impalas. Best laid plans as they say. Since many automotive manufacturers are signaling an end to their sedan lines, I've recommended Challenger Hellcats as the next step 😊 I'm kidding of course, but it does kind of make sense, if you employ my logic related to efficiency, environment and safety..... I digress, not a big deal we will figure it out. All that said, Domenic sent me the below picture with

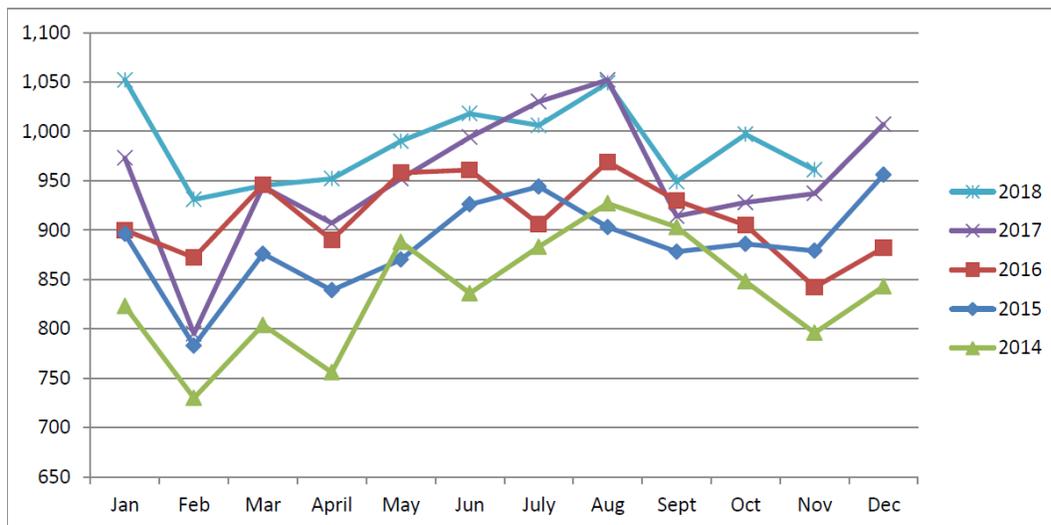
caption, "I hope Chris remembers how to put it back together."

Hmmmm, depending on how many spare parts there are, maybe Tharp gets the first one..... Seriously though, our fleet personnel are outstanding, so I have no doubt it will go back together one way or another.

November Call Statistics

CALL VOLUME HISTORY

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Jan	823	896	900	973	1,052
Feb	730	783	872	795	931
Mar	804	876	946	944	945
April	756	839	890	907	952
May	888	870	958	952	990
Jun	836	926	961	994	1,018
July	883	944	906	1,030	1,006
Aug	927	903	969	1,052	1,049
Sept	903	878	930	914	949
Oct	848	886	905	928	997
Nov	796	879	842	937	961
Dec	843	956	882	1,007	
AVG	836	886	913	953	986
TOTAL	10,037	10,636	10,961	11,433	10,850





November Response Report - 2018

Land Area: 365 sq. miles Population: 86,865 Fire Stations: 10 Full-Staffed

Responses in District

TOTAL FIRE INCIDENTS	11
STRUCTURE FIRE	2
STRUCTURE FIRE; CONFINED	2
MOBILE HOME/PORTABLE BLDG	0
VEHICLE FIRE	2
BRUSH/GRASS/WILDLAND FIRE	2
OTHER/TRASH FIRE	3

Fire is 1.14% of call volume

TOTAL EMS	661
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EMS is 68.78% of call volume

OVERPRESSURE	0
HAZMAT	14
SERVICE	163
GOOD INTENT	83
FALSE ALARM/OTHER	29

Other is 30.07% of call volume

TOTAL # OF CALLS	961
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Residential Fire Loss	\$103,452
Commercial Fire Loss	\$0
Vehicle Fire Loss	\$17,500

Calls in Town of Chino Valley	171
Calls in Town of Prescott Valley	472
Calls in Town of Dewey-Humboldt	43
Calls in District, Unincorporated Areas	277
Calls Out of District	2

Average total # of calls per day	32.03
Average fire calls per day	0.37
Average EMS calls per day	22.03
Average all other calls per day	9.63

Aid Given to Prescott	102
Aid Received from Prescott	64
Mutual Aid Given	0
Mutual Aid Received	0

Unit Responses

	In District	Total
E50	122	125
E51	30	135
E53	154	159
E54	124	125
E57	31	33
E58	141	143
E59	99	105
E61	114	114
E62	125	138
E63	37	39
T50	17	18
B3	49	53
B6	27	28

Call Volume at PRCC

	MONTH	YTD
PFD	690	7,914
CAFMA	961	10,850
GCDFD	5	111
OD	4	92
WKFD	2	39

Top 5 Call Types

603	EMS
98	Assist Invalid
47	Cancelled en Route
45	Public Service Assistance
24	Vehicle Accident No Injuries

Move Ups by Station

50: 62	57: 7
51: 54	61: 6
53: 16	62: 1
54: 0	63: 33
58: 0	
59: 6	TOTAL: 185