



THE REVIEW

Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – February 22, 2019

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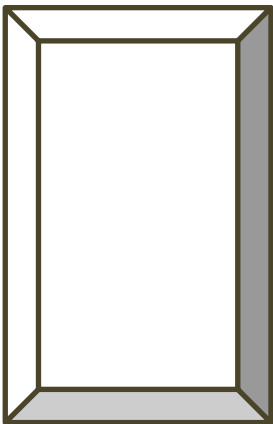
MEME Quote of the Week

"Do you want to build a snowman? No! I don't want to build a @#\$#@ snowman! I want to build a sandcastle on a beach where there is no \$#&@*& snow!"

Unknown

Amazing Images of SNOWMAGEDDON 2019

Images By: Scott Freitag – Artist Extraordinaire – Except for the picture of Baby Evelyn



Katie (in Finance) and Daniel's Baby Girl Evelyn arrived amidst the snowstorm this afternoon☺

The Chief's Desk



It's Snowmageddon, Snowpocalypse, Snowzilla, Snowilation, Snowplosion 2019! Yep, it is a snowstorm the likes of which, to my understanding, have not been seen in this area since the 80's or 90's. No matter what you call it,

it's a lot of white crap on the ground making things a bit treacherous for travel. With any luck it will be gone in a couple of days and we can get on with warmer weather, because this stuff is not for me..... I want a beach and I want it now!!!

I'd like to thank everyone that helped staff additional positions in operations, as well as Eric and Andrew in facilities, Jonah and his team as well as Domenic and his team. The support has been outstanding and is one of the strengths I see with our organization.

It had stopped snowing, but as I sit at my desk drafting this Thursday early evening, I'm seeing more snow headed my way over Mingus. Unfortunately, I probably did not stock up on all the bread, milk and eggs I need so I may have to do without French toast 😊 My wife did leave me bacon before she abandoned me for the Valley, so that's a plus. I've grown up with snow my entire life and never understood the need for so much bread?? In today's world, French toast doesn't even fit the Keto, South Beach, or any of the other diets so why during a potential snow storm do these items become the staple of our food stores? I may never know...

This makes two days this week that we asked non-essential employees to stay home and off the roads. Monday should have been a noon start based on hindsight as a 20/20 thing, but at 0500 you make the best decision you can with the information you have. This time we called for a 0900 start as of Thursday night with a TBD whether or not we would open the office. Chief Bliss and I got up a 0500 to drive Prescott Valley, and areas surrounding Prescott. Given the low visibility, poor road conditions, and weather radar Senior Staff decided it best to shut things down. Understandably, we do not have the same options with Operations and some Planning and Logistics positions. As an aside, for those questioning the concept of a front wheel drive car as opposed to the Tahoe, it did great! That said, the snow, at least at my house, may be about bumper height thereby turning it into more of a plow than a sled at this point 😊 Continued on page 5

Upcoming Events:

Feb 25 – Stakeholders meeting
Admin, Meet Prescott Chamber,
CVFD and CAFMA Board
Meetings
Feb 26 – Managers meeting,
Fireproof Seminar, Town of CV
Council Meeting
Feb 27 – CAFMA/AFMA Meeting
in Phoenix, Fireproof Seminar
Feb 28 – Strategic Planning
Meeting, Meet PFFA Phoenix, PV
Council Meeting
Mar 1 – Captain Dave Johnson
Retirement Sta 63

Board Meeting:

February 25th Chino Valley Town
Hall

CVFD – 1600-1630
CAFMA – 1630 – 1800
CYFD – March 5th Admin – 1600-
1800



Legislative Update

By: AFDA Executive Director John Flynn



The legislative session is approximately a third complete, with House and Senate Committees ending hearings late today on bills in the originating body. Next week (known as transfer week) the House and Senate will work to move committee approved bills through COW and Third Read and transfer those measures to the opposing body. The only committees meeting next week are the House and Senate Appropriations and Rules, where the agendas are extensive. Of the 1,289 bills currently posted for the session, somewhere at or above 50% of those are now dead (bills not heard in committee are dead).

Budget work is anticipated to begin next week as well. We continue to advocate for an increase in the wildland funding Budget Stabilization Fund (BSF) cap to \$20 million from the current \$10 million cap amount. There appears to be support for the BSF cap increase amongst a number of legislators including Senate leadership. We'll continue to advocate on this issue throughout the budget process.

Listed below are select bills with direct fire service impact along with notes concerning outlook for each going into transfer week at the legislature.

- **H2276: AMBULANCES; CERTIFICATES; NAME CHANGE (AFDA Position: NEUTRAL)** Recent action: 2/21 from House Rules OK. Next: House Third Read – TBD (on consent). Outlook: this is the Healthcare Innovations measure to require ambulance name changes administratively, without a hearing. There is no opposition currently and H2276 should pass the House and the Senate.
- **H2469: FIRE DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION, MERGER (AFDA Position: SUPPORT)** Recent action: 2/21 from House Rules OK. Next: House Third Read – TBD (on consent). Outlook: this is an AFDA measure to address various merger and consolidation process items and JPA fingerprint authorization. There is no opposition. I'd anticipate House Third Read early next. Senate Committee hearing anticipated for week of March 11 or thereafter. H2469 should pass House and Senate.
- **S1159: FIRE DISTRICTS; FINANCIAL REPORTS; ALTERNATIVES (AFDA Position: SUPPORT)** Recent action: 2/14 PASSED Senate Third Read 29-0. Next: transmitted to the House. Outlook: this is an AFDA measure to address financial reporting specific to merger and consolidation studies. Passed committee and full Senate without opposition. House Committee hearing anticipated for week of March 4th. Anticipate a AFDA requested committee amendment to address accounting requirements. S1159 should pass House and return to Senate for passage on Final Read.
- **S1231: PUBLIC SAFETY; RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS; PROHIBITION (PFFA Position: SUPPORT)** Recent action: 2/19 from Senate Rules OK. Next: Senate COW - TBD (S1231 amended in committee). Outlook: this is a PFFA measure which prohibits residency requirements for firefighters. Anticipate a Senate floor amendment to add an executive fire officer exemption. S1231 should pass COW and Senate Third Read next week. There is no opposition to S1231 subsequent to the committee amendment and the proposed floor amendment.

- S1301: AMBULANCE SERVICES; CERTIFICATES; NEEDS ASSESSMENT (AFDA Position: OPPOSE) Recent action: 1/30 – referred to Senate Health and Human Services. Next: DEAD. Outlook: this is an AMR measure to make a number of changes to the ambulance CON process. S1301 was opposed by the Az fire service and the ambulance association. Subsequent to a recent stakeholder meeting, S1301 was held from a committee hearing by the sponsor. Anticipate AMR and Dignity Health (whose CON bill was killed early in the session) to look to bring measures forward next session proposing significant changes to the CON process.
- S1348: FIREWORKS; RETAIL SALES; ENFORCEMENT (AFDA Position: OPPOSE) Recent action: 2/21 PASSED Senate Commerce 8-0. Next: Rules hearing – TBD. Outlook: this measure is an expansion of the number of allowable days for retail sales and use of consumer fireworks in Maricopa and Pima Counties. While AFDA and AFCA are registered as opposed, there was no fire marshal or League of Cities opposition. There doesn't appear to be any legislative appetite on either side of the aisle to kill the expansion of consumer fireworks sale and use. Anticipate S1348 will pass the Senate and House. There may be an opportunity to amend the measure to provide for various enforcement and seasonal restrictions.
- S1475: DNA IDENTIFICATION DATABASE; REQUIREMENTS (AFDA Position: OPPOSE) Recent action: 2/21 PASSED Senate Transportation & Public Safety amended on 5-3 party line vote. Next: Rules hearing – TBD. Outlook: as introduced S1475 would require all firefighters to submit DNA samples for housing in a database to be maintained by AZDPS. That version is DEAD. The strike everything amendment, which was further amended in committee, eliminated firefighters and other first responders. This measure is essentially a stalking horse for a DNA vendor. There's a long way to go and S1475 does not have widespread support. Anticipate S1475 will die somewhere along the way.

Public speaking: 3 things I learned from TEDx

By: Ben Thompson



In October of 2017, I walked out into an unusually warm winter morning. My hands were shaky and I could feel my heartbeat pounding up into my throat.

This was the moment when I had learned that I had been selected to speak at TEDx Birmingham 2018. I stared up to the blue sky with a big smile and imagined myself standing on the bright red dot in the middle of a dark stage.

Suddenly a chill shot through my body. I thought, “my God, what have I done?”

If you aren't afraid, you're probably crazy

Public speaking is terrifying. But whether you are leading a fire department or EMS agency, defending a purchase or building a community paramedicine program, a day is going to come when you'll need to step up to the podium.

Whether it be at your own local TEDx event, in front of hospital administrators, or local officials, a great presentation can be the catalyst that brings your program closer to achieving its goals.

The good news is, even if you feel like you are horrible at public speaking, there are a few things you can do to make you look like a pro.

But more importantly, you'll have the ability to convey your passion and show that what you are doing really matters.

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Chief's Desk Continued

As you saw from Patty, we hired Bree Olson as our new Administrative Assistant 1. She is the daughter of Captain Mongo so we have high expectations – and she knows how to keep him from becoming hangry. When you stop by the office, please make sure you take a moment to welcome her.

Captain Dave Johnson's retirement ceremony will be next Friday as part of his flag lowering at Station 63. Captain Johnson is moving out of state the following day and will not be able to return for our normal ceremony, so we are adapting. If you can make it, we'd love to see you there to celebrate his many years with our agencies! No Costco cake, but we will apparently have power rings (donuts).

Chief Tharp, Debbie, Dana and I met with PSPRS this week to get a better understanding of how their systems work and what direction they are heading. It is clear that they have a number of issues they have to work through (understatement), but I give them credit for coming to visit with us in person – they were warned by several people in advance about what they would be walking into. Hey, we are a hospitable bunch! That said, we do have high standards both internally and externally. Soooo, if we see a problem, we are more than likely going to call it out through whatever means possible and at whatever volume is needed to get someone's attention.

Dave and I will be meeting with PSPRS again on March 7th along with their actuarial firm in an effort to better understand their numbers – which are baffling. This means I may once again have to bale on Chief Rhoades and Chief Karrer who will be giving an overview of the Fire Service Mutual Aid Plan to AFDA that morning.

I drove down to Phoenix Monday with Director Packard to meet with Senate President Karen Fann along with John Flynn and James Candland to discuss payment concerns related to off –district response, as well as concerns about AMR. She is working with us in an effort to increase the revolving fund which would free up money to start reimbursing fire agencies across the state the \$12.5 million total that is outstanding. CAFMA's portion is just under \$1.2 million. Hopefully we will be able to get some dollars freed up soon.

In case you are not aware, the Feds work via reimbursement i.e. we pay you and submit to the State – the State is supposed to pay us and seek reimbursement from the Feds. Somewhere in the process there is a significant issue. What we usually get is the State saying it's a Fed issue and the Fed's say it's a State issue. Meanwhile we are stuck in the middle holding the debt. The reality is that our cooperator agreement is through the State, so fault is not relevant to us at this point as the bottom line is the State is responsible for paying us. As far as AMR, we simply provided her an overview of our issues so as we continue the process of trying to hold DHS and AMR accountable, she knows what we are doing. Amazing how things can get twisted sometimes, so better to inform her upfront.....

The permit for 61 is done and will be picked up Monday, if it wasn't picked up yesterday. Now it's a matter of getting us on their schedule – which they are working on.

Prevention staff and I met with YCCA and a few sprinkler contractors for 3hrs Wednesday morning to review the new fee schedule as well as reviewing policies and processes. It was an extremely beneficial meeting for all involved as those in attendance walked away with a much better understanding of our processes, and we came away with an understanding of some of their concerns. My hat is off to Chuck and Brett for the presentation they put together, as well as Rick and Andie for their efforts and leadership. Its things like this that helps us with our community partners.

