



THE REVIEW

Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – April 26, 2019

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Quote of the Week

“Patriotism means to stand by the country. It does not mean to stand by the President or any other political official.”

Theodore Roosevelt

Fire Ops 101

We are still in need of at least 5 volunteers for Fire Ops 101 on Saturday, May 4th. If you can, please contact Captain Burch to sign up. This is an important event!

Congratulations to our newest recruit graduates!



The Chief's Desk



I have been in Washington D.C. since Tuesday as part of the Congressional Fire Services Institute, CFSI, visiting our Federal legislators. Many may have never heard of CFSI, or may not know what they do here in D.C. The CFSI mission, in short, is to “Educate members of Congress about fire and life safety issues.” You can read more about CFSI by following this link - <https://www.cfsi.org/about-us/mission/>.

I had not heard of CFSI until I moved to Arizona and became involved in AFDA and AFCA – the importance of networking. Every two years a group from our state travels to D.C. to walk the Capitol meeting with our elected officials and/or their staff. Usually the contingent is able to meet directly with the legislators themselves, but due to the Easter Holiday our legislators are back in Arizona while we are in Washington. The upside is that we get to meet with their staff. Staffers are the ones who research the information and provide input to the legislators. So, in reality, being here during a recess week has allowed us more time in each office with those that provide guidance to our representatives. While it would be great to meet with our Arizona folks in their offices, meeting with staff may have proven more productive.

This year the contingent from the Arizona fire service included Wiatt Wong, Chief Brian Savage from Timber Mesa and an E-Board member with AFDA, Chief Simon Davis from Corona de Tucson and an E-Board member with AFDA, Chief Cheryl Horvath from Tubac, Chief Jim Morgan from Pine Top, Chief Brad Bradley from Northwest Fire along with some of his staff, Chief Chuck Wunder from Green Valley, and me representing CAFMA as well as the Arizona Fire Chief's Association.

Over the last few days we've met with staff for Senators McSally and Sinema as well as Representatives Kirkpatrick, Gosar, Grijalva, Schwiekert, O'Halleran, and Lesko. Those I met with now have CAFMA challenge coins gracing their offices – wouldn't want them to forget us. They may lose my business card, but they won't lose our challenge coin.

We initially focused on four main issues put forth by CFSI, however because we had some additional time we were able to expand and ask for support related to funding for wildfire mitigation efforts as well as assistance in providing for timely reimbursement related to response.

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Upcoming Events:

April 29 – Strategic Planning, Interview for Chino Valley Anniversary, meet with Polacek
April 30 – Fire Service Mutual Aid, meet with new DFFM Director
May 1 – Meeting, Strategic Planning
May 2 – AFDA in Avondale, Meet with Phoenix Fire
May 3 – Fire Ops
May 4 – Fire Ops

Board Meeting:

May 23rd Administration

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



Beware of the thermal runaway danger posed by lithium batteries

By: Robert Rielage



Recently, eight Arizona firefighters were injured – three seriously and one critically – when an explosion occurred while they were inspecting a “utility size” lithium battery.

Both the Peoria (Arizona) Fire-Medical Department and the Surprise Fire Department had responded to a report of smoke coming from the APS McMicken Energy Storage facility in Peoria. The explosion apparently occurred as the Peoria Hazmat Team began to enter the building. The explosion knocked the critically injured firefighter unconscious and required three of the firefighters to be airlifted to a burn unit in Phoenix, while the others were transported to a local hospital.

This incident points to the potential hazards of both energy storage systems and the dangers associated with lithium storage batteries.

THERMAL RUNAWAY PHENOMENON IN LITHIUM BATTERIES

Over the past few years, I have written extensively about the hazards of lithium ion batteries. These articles started after the Indianapolis Fire Department responded to a fatal motor vehicle crash and fire that involved a Tesla automobile, and reported how difficult it was to completely extinguish the resulting fire. IFD made several recommendations about how such fires could be handled based on their experience.

[FireRescue1](#)

Finding the why: 4 ways fire chiefs can move the organization forward

By: Marc Bashoor



Why do we use CVFSS nozzles? Why do we have to put numbers on the firetrucks? Why does it matter what color the smoke is? Why do we have to exercise? Why do we have a social media policy? Why are fires in bow-string truss occupancies so dangerous?

There are many questions in the fire service. I may not always know the answer to the question, “why ... ” but I’ll find out the answer. And not all of the questions require a complex scientific explanation – so let’s get to “why.”

Looking at the fire service leadership target – our “what,” “how” and “why” – I think we can all agree that almost everyone knows what we do, most people know reasonably well how we do it, yet few people seem to understand why we do it. In an altruistic para-military organization, one might strive for this paradigm, relishing a blind faith followership.

In the heat of the moment, sure, I’ll accept and expect that blind faith. We need to ensure our leaders and managers are properly trained and respected by the followers, who will follow those emergency orders without qualification ... and those are the truly important moments. They are, however, only moments in the hours upon hours we have together.

Focusing on effective utilization of the past will help mold a solid and productive future, while preserving history and tradition (at least the part that makes sense). I often lament that the past helps some people get to “why,” and thankfully the past also helps people question “why,” because, frankly, “that’s the way we’ve always done it” is a terrible answer to “why.” If the past was always the measure of the future, then we’d still use bucket brigades and horse-drawn steam engines to fight fires.

[FireRescue1](#)

Great Leaders Are Thoughtful and Deliberate, Not Impulsive and Reactive

By: Tony Schwartz and Emily Pines

You set aside the first hour of your day to work on a strategy document that you’ve been putting off for a week. You haven’t been disciplined about getting to it, but you’ve had one crisis after another to deal with in the past week. Now, finally, you’ve carved out 90 early morning minutes to work on it.

First, however, you take a quick peek at the email that has piled up in your inbox overnight. Before you know it, you’ve used up the whole 90 minutes responding to emails, even though none of them were truly urgent.

By the time you walk into your next meeting, you’re feeling frustrated that you failed to stick by your plan. This meeting is a discussion with a direct report about the approach he’ll be taking in a negotiation with an important client. You have strong views about how best to deal with the situation, but you’ve promised yourself that you will be open and curious rather than directive and judgmental. You’re committed, after all, to becoming a more empowering manager.

[HarvardBusinessReview](#)

Chief's Desk Continued

Below are the specific items from the hand out we provided each office:

Protect the FIRE/SAFER Grant Programs

- Many fire departments across the country cannot afford the equipment, training, and staffing necessary to meet a baseline level of readiness. This situation puts firefighters and their communities in danger. The FIRE and SAFER grant programs augment local funding and provide much needed assistance to meet these needs. To date, the programs are working well to improve preparedness and response capabilities, but much more needs to be done. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 116-6) appropriated \$350 million each for the FIRE and SAFER grant programs. For FY 2020, President Trump requested \$344.344 million for each program, a 1% cut.
- The Arizona Fire Service is requesting \$405 million for both Grant Programs

Funding for the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and National Fire Academy (NFA)

- Many fire service leaders have been concerned about the level of funding that the USFA and NFA receive, and whether they will be able to fulfill their missions and respond to emerging challenges. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 116-6) appropriated \$45.679 million for USFA. Of that amount, \$1.5 million is allocated for infrastructure improvements at the National Fire Academy. For FY 2020, President Trump requested \$46.605 million for USFA, a 2% increase.
- The Arizona Fire Service is requesting \$50 million for both the US Fire Administration and the National Fire Academy

Improve Hazardous Materials Response Training for First Responders

- The national energy boom has focused attention on the importance of safely transporting crude oil and other hazardous materials across the country. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), the overall volume of crude oil moving by rail has quadrupled in less than a decade. Recent incidents in the transport of crude oil have demonstrated the need for local fire and emergency services to be prepared for hazmat incidents.
- The Arizona Fire Service your support to s reauthorize PHMSA to use unspent funds under the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grants program to continue funding the ALERT grants.

Supporting First Responder Mental Health Needs

- Firefighters and EMS personnel provide vital services to their communities and, in doing so, regularly experience significant mental stressors. The cumulative effect of these exposures can lead to significant mental health concerns for first responders. Sadly, many first responders struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health challenges. Very few resources are currently available to pre-emptively identify and treat first responders struggling with these challenges. Additional resources also are needed to educate mental health professionals on the mental health needs that are unique to firefighters and EMS personnel.
- The Arizona Fire Service requests your support and co-sponsor the HERO Act (H.R. 1646)



As I stated previously, with our extra time we discussed the need for the Federal Government to properly fund forest mitigation work. We made the point that it is less expensive to invest in mitigation projects than it is to pay for the devastating impacts of a wild fire event. There was overwhelming support from each of the staffers we spoke with, however whether or not that translates into monies set aside in the Federal budget is another question entirely.

We all recognize that our reimbursement issues are a state level issue. However, our lack of response because of outstanding reimbursements becomes an issue that impacts States throughout the west. To that end, we requested that the Arizona delegation write a letter of support urging the Governor and Arizona legislators increase the revolving fund from \$10 million to \$22 million. The increase would decrease the time it takes for us to be reimbursed which would decrease the likely hood that cooperators in Arizona would pull out of our response agreements. As an aside, we recently received a majority of the \$1.2 million we've been owed for over 6 months so I've agreed to release our resources.

Overall I believe our efforts this week have been productive, and the experience not one I will soon forget. I'm looking forward to our next visit in 2021.

