



THE REVIEW

Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – **May 29, 2020**

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Quote of the Week

“Every human has four endowments – self-awareness, consciousness, independent will, and creative imagination. These give us the ultimate human freedom – The power to choose, to respond, and to change.”
~Stephen Covey



The Chief's Desk

Our Vision: "To be a progressive emergency services agency in Arizona through leadership, cooperation and innovation."

That one sentence says a lot about who we strive to be as an organization, a steward of taxpayer dollars, and a member of our community. As we look to the future and the many changes we will see in the next five-eight years, it is vitally important that we reinforce our mission, vision, values, and overarching philosophy on a regular basis. Knowing, understanding, and carrying yourself both on and off-duty in line with our Compass is an excellent start in your preparation for promotion.

However, there is a lot more to understand than just our philosophical view. This is why we have moved towards requiring higher education and additional certifications. As I've said before, the higher education is not the be all end all, but it does provide a very valuable tool box that you can fill over the years as you continue to expand your base of knowledge.

There are a multitude of other concepts that you need to learn and understand along the way. Many of these are taught in classes, but some rely on your personal philosophy or view of things. The one I'll discuss this week relates to systems thinking.

I've written previously regarding CAFMA as a system. This means that no one division is more or less important than another. It is imperative that at every level within our organization we are driving home the point that we are one team with one mission. We each have a role to fulfill in order to ensure we provide high quality services to our community.

There are however a multitude of other systems in which we are a cog in the wheel e.g. in our community, within the Arizona fire service, as well as our integration with state and federal resources. In some systems we are more integral than others, but no matter the role, big or small, we are an important part. To that end, we need recognize our impact and work to maximize our effectiveness as CAFMA continues to progress.

Let's start by considering the communities that we serve. While we are not the economic engine that drives development, we are part of the consideration for business and industry who consider moving to our area. When a business considers moving to one of the communities we serve they are taking into consideration the talent pool, schools, neighborhoods, as well as job opportunities for spouses or significant others. All vital considerations for a business to be successful. Here is some information you may not consider, but they do. Many businesses when looking at our area consider the property tax rate, ISO ratings, and emergency services capacity. Continued on Page 4

Upcoming Events:

June 1 –Zoom Orientation
Naval Post Graduate School,
Senior Staff Meeting, MAC
Meeting, Meeting with Town
June 2 – Labor/Management,
Meet with PFFA
June 3 – IAFC/FRI Meeting,
Assist with a Fire Chief Hiring
Process via Zoom
June 4 – AFDA meeting via
Zoom

Board Meeting:

June 22 Admin

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

Inspections and Marijuana Facilities: Know before you go

By: Fire Marshal Rick Chase

One of the ways CAFMA provides for the safety of our community is through fire and life safety inspections of local businesses. These inspections give us the opportunity to interact with and educate business owners and their employees about how to keep their businesses safe. Business inspections are designed to ensure fire protection systems are properly maintained and functioning, exits are clear of obstructions, that no electrical hazards exist, that hazardous materials are properly stored, etc. As a result of our ever increasing call volume, engine company inspections generally consist of some of the less complicated inspections e.g. B (business) and M (mercantile). Disclaimer: Other occupancy types may be assigned as necessary. Inspections that are larger, significantly more hazardous, or are more time consuming are generally performed by the Fire Prevention Division. We will reach out to engine companies and offer the opportunity to accompany us on some of our more interesting inspections as a training/learning session. Better to tour a potentially hazardous occupancy and get to know the building during the light of day and not at night when the building is on fire.

If you are performing an inspection in an occupancy and something seems odd to you, please make sure you notify the prevention division as soon as possible. You do not have to complete the inspection; just politely remove yourself from the building. If you see an immediate life safety issue and you are having difficulty getting the business to comply with the code, call prevention and we will be happy to come out and assist.

Recently, we found a business that significantly modified their operations. The modifications they made changed their occupancy classification as well as their zoning requirement. In this instance, it created safety concerns for the surrounding residential structures, as well as for our responders. If you notice hazardous materials or chemicals stored or being used, but don't see any placarding, fire sprinklers, fire alarm or ventilation systems let prevention staff know immediately.

Some marijuana grow facilities as well as some of the dispensing facilities have started to perform extraction procedures which require specific zoning, life safety systems, ventilation systems, and placarding. We all saw the horrific video of LAFD firefighters caught in an explosion less than two weeks ago. The explosion sent 11 firefighters to the hospital, some in critical condition. We know it was a dispensary that was performing extraction, but at this point we do not know exactly how the fire started or how much hazardous material was stored in the building. We do know the building was not placarded for hazardous materials, and it does not appear that all required safety systems were in place.

Most businesses who use or store chemicals or other hazardous items will have an H (High-hazard), F (Factory Industrial) or S (Storage) occupancy classification and in most cases should be in a sprinkled and alarmed building. These are not occupancy inspections that we would assign to an engine company.

The 2018 International Fire Code has a new chapter (ch 39) that addresses processing and extraction facilities. If you are assigned a dispensary and notice any operations outside the sale of product, please notify prevention immediately. This is relatively new to all of us, and not something we would have been expecting you to look for. However, times have changed and the industry has evolved. Now that we are aware, we just wanted to take a moment to provide the information to you for future reference.

L.A. Fire Department to inspect vape and smoke shops after downtown explosion

By: RICHARD WINTON, JAMES QUEALLY

The Los Angeles Fire Department will launch a citywide review of the way certain businesses store volatile materials after an explosion seriously injured several firefighters in a downtown corridor that some consider a haven for supplies used in the creation of unlicensed cannabis products.

Fire Chief Ralph Terrazas said Tuesday that every fire station in Los Angeles would work to identify businesses similar to Smoke Tokes, an East 3rd Street wholesaler that went up in flames Saturday night.

An explosion there left a dozen firefighters injured, including several who were severely burned. Carbon dioxide and butane canisters were found inside the building, though investigators have yet to determine the cause of the blaze, authorities said.

“Those types of businesses pose a threat to the people who work there, the public that goes there, and firefighters if they have to respond there,” Terrazas said.

The review will involve each fire station in the city identifying businesses that store volatile chemicals and ensuring they are stored properly. Those businesses are required to display a diamond placard, which would alert emergency personnel that there are potentially flammable and hazardous materials inside.

Smoke Tokes did not have such a placard, which is normally issued by the city after an inspector confirms the business is housing volatile materials properly, the chief said. In Los Angeles, there is a permit system for the storage of large quantities of flammable gases, and proprietors are required to document what they have on site.

[latimes.com](https://www.latimes.com)

Chief's Desk Continued

If a property tax rate is too high, they may decide not to move their business to our community. If the ISO rating is too high meaning their insurance rates will be higher, they may look to move somewhere else. Finally, if we cannot provide the services needed to meet the demand of a high hazard occupancy, they will move to a place that can provide the service.

We have to find balance in each of these areas. The property tax rate has to be such that it will cover the services our community expects, as well as allow us to pay a competitive wage that will attract the best talent. At the same time, it cannot be so high that our area is not attractive to businesses or developers.

If we do not maintain proper coverage, reliability ratings, training, etc. our ISO rating will increase thereby increasing insurance rates. The lower number is the better number in the insurance rating world. We must maintain a well-trained staff as well as have organizational capacity to serve high hazard occupancies. Just to be clear I'm not necessarily talking about an industry that produces methal ethal bad stuff. Low-rise high-rise industrial buildings e.g. ACE Distribution, multi-story office buildings, and manufacturing plants are all considered higher risk occupancies.

We are fortunate to have our own internal IT/Communications Division. It's our system and the expertise of our staff that helps to ensure not only our safety, but the safety of our LEO and other fire service partners. They also ensure interoperability between us and just about everyone else. An interoperability meeting was held yesterday, Thursday, with our partners serving the I-17 corridor. To my understanding, it was our very own Dave Legge that drove the meeting. We're all familiar with our Basin Operations and how well that system works to integrate local, regional, state, and federal resources from a communications perspective. Dave is trying to drive the same idea with all of the partners along I-17 as well. We may not respond for motor vehicle crashes out there, but we certainly respond for wild fire events.

The above is a vital communications system that keeps us safe, allows us to seamlessly integrate with other responders, and ultimately helps to ensure the safety of everyone on the incident scene. If we lived in a silo rather than taking part in the system, meetings like the one Thursday would never happen.

I have had questions from some of our LEO partners in the past about responses along the 169 corridor. At one point, the common thought within our agency was that we would run 169 to I-17, although to our knowledge that was never codified with Copper Canyon Fire and Medical. Over the last several weeks, there have been a couple of car crashes outside our jurisdiction and beyond our normal 5-mile limit. Chief Keller happened to be in the interoperability meeting Thursday, which gave Chief Feddema an opening to discuss opportunities with him for enhancing our response capabilities along the entirety of 169. Ultimately, you will likely see an aid agreement inked between our agencies that will ensure an improved response in the area. This is better for everyone that travels that route, as well as our LEO partners who have expressed some concerns when responding toward 169 and I-17. No silo, just system.

Finally, involvement in our communities, as well as at the regional and state level are vital to ensuring the sustainability of our agency, of our systems, and can serve to enhance our organization. Chief Feddema and I were discussing the future and our need to recruit and retain top quality talent. It's a conversation Chief Polacek and I had on several occasions prior to his retirement. One of our ideas includes gaining access to some of Yavapai College's systems outside of the Firefighter 1 and 2 program.

I serve on the Prescott Valley Economic Foundation board with the President of the college, which allows me to build a mutually beneficial relationship. Had I not taken the opportunity to serve on the board, I would not necessarily have been able to build the network that allows for access to other community leaders. At the same time, being on the board of PVEDF allows me access to information

that will help guide how we plan our future. And, they get up to date information from and access to CAFMA. It's a win/win situation as Stephen Covey would say.

We need you to think globally about our future, and CAFMA's place in our communities as well as in the state. We cannot think inside a fire service silo, rather we have to understand systems, how they work, and where we fit. It is vitally important that we maintain a 30,000' view and are continually looking to take advantage of or create opportunity. Think about Chief Tharp's vision of a statewide fire district workers compensation pool. It is because of our involvement around the state, and the relationships we've created that his vision became a reality. No, we didn't create the latest firefighting tactic, but working with our partners we helped create a sustainable system focused on the wellbeing of fire service personnel across the state.

We will never truly achieve our vision, because it's not a destination. Rather, our vision will guide us into the future and drive us to continue seeking ways to improve our agency as well as the systems we serve. We may be a small cog in the wheel at times, but we're there, we're strong, and we will help keep the wheel moving.

If you want to promote in this organization, you need to think of CAFMA internally as one team with one mission. You also need to think about our role in any number of systems. An organization will never be sustainable if it silo's itself or its people. Think bigger, dream bigger, and achieve bigger!
