



# THE REVIEW

Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – Jan 6, 2022

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"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter begins with New Year's Day."

- Edith Lovejoy Pierce



ABC 15 Investigates Level Zero! Year end total 760 instances of Level Zero between Jul 1 and Dec 31.

[ABC 15 Investigates](#)

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## The Chief's Desk

Play Ball!! Start your engines!! Get ready for kickoff!! The season opens next Monday, January 10!! That's right folks, the legislative session is about to begin in the State of Arizona and what a battle it will be. Who will make it into the big finale?? That is a good question, it's going to be quite competitive for sure. On one side you have big money trying to buy votes, and on the other you have people trying to do the right thing. Who will win is anyone's guess. What we do know is that it will be a battle for the ages – or a circus. I mean really, given the historical perspective, it is anyone's guess.

What I can tell you is that the fire service in Arizona is poised and ready to rumble 😊 Let's start with a little pregame warm up. AMR is already hiring more lobbyists and trying to maneuver their way into position so they can pull the wool over the legislator's eyes. Unfortunately for them, the fire service has been laying the ground work for significant change in the CON statute. CAFMA's recent educational efforts have helped daylight what is really happening around the state. At least in the early stages, we are winning in the court of public opinion. Keep those reports coming folks. If you see or experience something out of sorts take pictures, screen grab, call it out over the radio, and get the information to us. The more data and information we have, the better.

We did have a good meeting at the Capitol on Thursday this week. We made our case outlining the challenges we face in our area, which is similar to many other more rural areas around the state. Seems to be something related to having an ambulance transport monopoly. It appears our elected officials and some staff in Phoenix are taking notice. Don't get me wrong, I am not predicting we will win the World Series of legislative games, but we have a good foundation. And, in contrast to AMR, we are in the right. Not just regarding the issues in our area, but the issues around the state that are a result of outdated and poorly crafted CON statutes.

Jim Norton is the lobbyist the Arizona Fire Chiefs has engaged, along with the assistance of local fire agencies, and other associations. He is well known around the Capitol and recognized for his expertise. Having him on board is a significant help, but it certainly does not guarantee us a win. He and I plan to meet over the weekend to strategize more before the session opens on Monday.

Remember, we are working on two issues that are mutually exclusive i.e. our CON and the transport challenges we are experiencing is a CAFMA specific issue, while CON reform is an Arizona Fire Service issue. Yes, our information is helpful in painting a picture of why CON reform is necessary, but they remain separate tracks that simply cross from time to time.

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### Upcoming Events:

Jan 10: Opening Session  
Legislature  
Jan 11: AFCA State Wide  
Mutual Aid, Attend Union  
Meeting  
Jan 12: AFCA Vendor Impact  
Forum via Zoom  
Jan 13: AFSA Meeting,  
Department Head Meeting, PV  
Council Meeting

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### Board Meetings:

January 24: Administration  
CAFMA – 1700-1830

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## **Warrant: 5-Year-Old Might Have Started Deadly Philadelphia (PA) Fire**

By: Associated Press

**(Not a good way for our brothers and sisters with Philadelphia FD to have to start the New Year.)**

Investigators are looking into the possibility that a 5-year-old child who was playing with a lighter set a Christmas tree on fire, sparking a conflagration that killed 12 people in a Philadelphia rowhome, officials revealed Thursday.

The revelation was included in a search warrant application as city and federal investigators sought to determine the cause of the city's deadliest single blaze in more than a century, which took the lives of two sisters, several of their children and others early Wednesday.

Jane Roh, spokesperson for District Attorney Larry Krasner, confirmed the contents of the search warrant, which was first reported by The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Fire officials provided few details at an afternoon news briefing, declining to say how many people escaped the blaze or speculate on a possible cause, adding the fire scene was complex. Officials also did not say where the fire began, calling it part of the investigation.

"I know that we will hopefully be able to provide a specific origin and cause to this fire and to provide some answers to the loved ones and, really, to the city," said Matthew Varisco, who leads the Philadelphia branch of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. ATF specialists and other investigators took photos and combed through the charred, three-story brick duplex.

[fireengineering.com](http://fireengineering.com)

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## **End of Year Response Numbers**

By: GIS/Statistician Michael Freeman with Notes by Chief Freitag

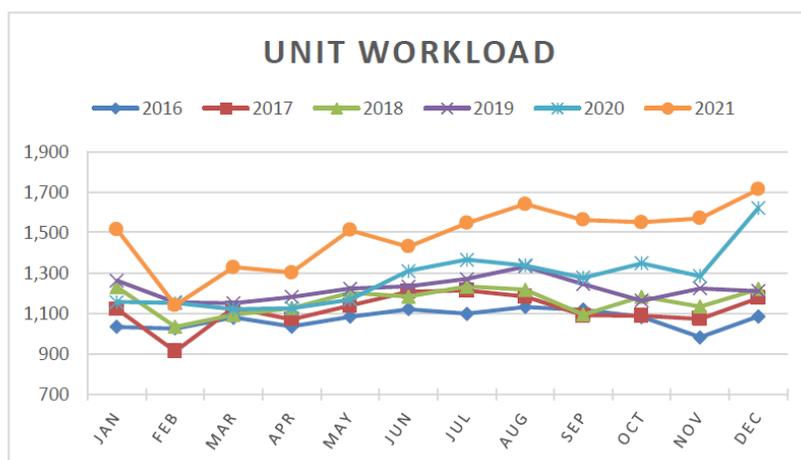
The final numbers are in and we did it!! We beat last year's total calls for service 😊 Not sure if that's good or bad, or if it was even a goal, but either way we finished with 17,814 total calls for service in 2021 compared to 15,272 total calls for service in 2020. For those that do math, that is a 16.6% increase in call volume in one year. In 2016 we ran a total of 12,881 calls for service which means in a five-year period our call volume has increased by 38.3%. This is Google math, so take it for what it's worth.

Call volume is just one data point that we collect and analyze each month. We also review unit hour utilization, reliability ratings, call volume by time of day using heat mapping, response times for both suburban and rural areas, types of calls, etc. This is the information we used to justify the need for Engine 540, and will be the information we use to determine when and where our next station or stations need to be placed.

Has COVID had an impact? Absolutely, I mean you see it in the field. That said, COVID has had an impact beyond the virus itself. We have experienced an increase in drug overdoses, domestic violence, behavioral health, as well as cardiac and respiratory calls just to name a few. At the same time, we have experienced significant growth in our population and increased traffic on our roadways. To that end, it seems we've been responding to an increase in traffic collisions as well.

I expect the call volume will increase again throughout 2022. Will it go up by as much as 16% again? Who knows... Our typical annual increase is 4%-5%. That said, looking at the growth in our area, our call volume will increase.

<b>Unit Workload History</b>						
<b>(RESPONSES BY TYPE-1 ENGINES)</b>						
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Jan	1,034	1,123	1,231	1,263	1,157	1,516
Feb	1,026	913	1,034	1,155	1,152	1,141
Mar	1,080	1,128	1,093	1,151	1,121	1,328
Apr	1,036	1,071	1,127	1,182	1,127	1,302
May	1,084	1,138	1,203	1,223	1,169	1,512
Jun	1,121	1,208	1,183	1,233	1,310	1,431
Jul	1,099	<b>1,214</b>	<b>1,234</b>	1,271	1,366	1,546
Aug	<b>1,132</b>	1,183	1,218	<b>1,332</b>	1,338	1,641
Sep	1,118	1,091	1,095	1,245	1,277	1,563
Oct	1,083	1,088	1,183	1,163	1,348	1,551
Nov	983	1,074	1,134	1,224	1,285	1,570
Dec	1,085	1,177	1,222	1,211	<b>1,622</b>	<b>1,713</b>
AVG	1,073	1,117	1,163	1,221	1,273	1,485
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,881</b>	<b>13,408</b>	<b>13,957</b>	<b>14,653</b>	<b>15,272</b>	<b>17,814</b>





# December Response Report - 2021

Land Area: 369 sq. miles    Population: ≈106,500    Fire Stations: 10 Full-Staffed

### Responses in District

TOTAL FIRE INCIDENTS	9
STRUCTURE FIRE	1
STRUCTURE FIRE; CONFINED	6
MOBILE HOME/PORTABLE BLDG	1
VEHICLE FIRE	1
BRUSH/GRASS/WILDLAND FIRE	0
TRASH FIRE/OTHER	0

*Fire is 0.62% of call volume*

TOTAL RESCUE & EMS	1,005
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*EMS is 69.6% of call volume*

OVERPRESSURE / OVERHEAT	0
HAZARDOUS CONDITION	13
SERVICE CALL	275
GOOD INTENT	110
FALSE ALARM/OTHER	32

*Other is 29.78% of call volume*

TOTAL INCIDENTS IN DISTRICT	1,444
INCIDENT RESPONSES BY CAFMA	1,582
TYPE-1 UNIT RESPONSES BY CAFMA	1,713

### Fire Loss Summary

Residential Fire Loss	\$6,270
Commercial Fire Loss	\$5,500
Vehicle Fire Loss	\$3,500

### Top 5 Call Types

941	EMS
163	Assist Invalid
63	Cancelled en Route
63	Public Service
32	No Incident Found on Arrival

Average total # of calls per day	46.58
Average fire calls per day	0.29
Average EMS calls per day	32.42
Average all other calls per day	13.87

### Call Volume at PRCC

	Month	Year-to-Date
PFD	934	10,243
CAFMA	1,444	15,146
GCFD	6	118
OD	9	102
WKFD	6	53

### Unit Responses

Unit	District	Total	Move Up
E50	198	209	28
E51	32	208	42
E53	249	252	11
E540	43	45	25
E54	183	184	0
E57	54	54	0
E58	220	227	1
E59	176	179	3
E61	122	128	13
E62	145	149	4
E63	69	73	35
TR50	5	5	0
B3	54	58	0
B6	35	37	0
Rescues	124	127	0

TYPE-1 ENGINES

### Calls by Municipality

Calls in Town of Chino Valley	206
Calls in Town of Prescott Valley	758
Calls in Town of Dewey-Humboldt	67
Calls in District, Unincorporated Areas	413
Calls Out of District	9

### Aid Agreement Summary

Aid Given to Prescott	172
Aid Received from Prescott	89
Aid Given to WVFD	0
Aid Received from WVFD	4
Mutual Aid Given	0
Mutual Aid Received	1

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## Chief's Desk Continued

I will be in Phoenix Monday with Senate President Fann for the opening of the legislative session. Since coming to Arizona, I have been her guest for every opening day with the exception of when COVID shut things down. We can't let her last opening session commence without me gallivanting around the Capitol grounds. I'm sure she is questioning her decision to hang out with me at all, I mean you are judged by the company you keep..... Just saying, she may want to be more careful in the future.

As many of you are aware, the PFFA will be running the Arizona Fire District Safety Act. If successful, a referendum would be referred to the ballot by the legislature. If approved by the voters, the referendum would result in a 1/10 of a cent sales tax state wide to help fund fire districts. This would allow agencies like ours to better control the property tax burden for our constituents. It would also mean that people who do not live in a fire district, but utilize the service would also help pay for said services. Approval by the voters would provide the additional funding we need to provide additional staffing and stations.

Our fire district risk pool, SECURIS, has hired a lobbyist to help seek funding to ensure the financial security of the pool. Last year, the state repurposed the fees they charge municipalities for collection of TPT funds. Those monies were redirected into the municipal risk pool to help cover firefighter cancer claims. That amounts to approximately \$20 million in additional annual revenues to ensure the financial security of their pool. The fire districts have received no assistance.

We now have a work around that does allow Fire Authorities to receive the "Free the Weed Monies," more formally known as the Smart and Safe AZ Act. Fire Authorities were not specifically identified in the ballot measure. The Arizona Fire Districts Association (AFDA) is sponsoring a bill that will add specific language regarding fire authorities.

It is amazing how many folks are not familiar with fire authorities. Fortunately, I had the opportunity to work closely with the legislative attorney who crafts most of our bills. She is now intimately familiar with fire authorities, how we work and how we are formed under Arizona law. We added fire authority in a number of places throughout the CON bill to ensure we are properly included.

AFDA is also running a bill that would address general obligation bond payments after a merger or consolidation. Currently, if CYFD and CVFD were to merge, the responsibility for the repayment of the bond debt would be spread equally among all tax payers. That caused significant consternation with some agencies and communities after a few merged or consolidated. Apparently, someone had to go deep into the archives to find a court ruling from the early 1900's that said the debt would be spread equally and not stay with the initial borrowers. All these years, no one was aware that while the law said one thing, the court had said another. So, here we are. Personally, I don't think spreading the debt is bad, but a lot of people don't agree with me on that one. Don't hate, it's just an opinion 🤔

There will be two separate bills introduced addressing PTSD benefits. I'm not clear on this one yet, but I will let you know when I have more clarity.

Six bills does not seem like a lot, until you look closely at what's contained in each one. This will be a heavy lift on all fronts and a very busy session. I anticipate a lot of traveling back and forth to Phoenix

over the next several months. That said, if we are successful, it will be time well spent. If we are not successful, it will still be time well spent. I mean, at least we will have a better idea of how to approach the issues during the next session.

On a final note, we are working on an agreement with Start Moving-on Counseling, Trauma Center, and TelePractice; many of you already know Dr. Debbie Ritterbush and her staff. The agreement will provide even better access for your behavioral health needs. Additionally, Dr. Ritterbush and her team will provide coordination, support, and on-going training for our Peer Support Team. They will also provide annual training for all personnel regarding behavioral health and wellness. You will still have the freedom to choose whomever you want for counseling services. This agreement simply provides a more readily accessible option as well as better coordination of our behavioral health programs.

Welcome to 2022 folks, this is going to be a fun year! Again, keep those cards and letters coming. If an AMR unit is marked on scene prior to their actual arrival, call it over the air so we have it recorded, take a screen grab of the MDT, and take a photo. Send that information directly to Chief Niemyński asap. We have filed our concerns with the state, but need to continue compiling evidence. As a reminder, it is not the crews in the field marking the units on scene.

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