



# THE REVIEW

Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – Feb 3, 2022

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"Insanity Is Doing the Same Thing Over and  
Over Again and Expecting Different  
Results."

- Albert Einstein

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## **The Chief's Desk**

Below is the fact sheet that is being used to educate legislators and others regarding the ambulance reform bill. I thought it would be good information to share with all of you.

### **House Bill 2609 ambulance services; service areas**

#### **Problem**

The Certificate of Necessity (CON) system is broken. The system was designed initially to ensure patient safety through the CON application process but has become a barrier to entry for competitors to make application. Arizona is one of only two remaining states in the country to regulate CON license applications in this way.

Citizens expect to call for emergency transport and be transported to definitive care within a reasonable time. Not hours, nor in a personal vehicle or emergency vehicles not designed for patient transport. They care about receiving timely and proper transport and medical treatment.

#### **Background**

The CON process was initially set up in order to protect the public, but it no longer functions to ensure that adequate services are provided to all Arizona communities. Through excessive regulation, a distinct lack of transparency, and little-to-no built-in oversight, the current statute is a roadblock to competition, and therefore a roadblock to consumers receiving the ambulance services they deserve.

The 1999 Arizona Auditor General's Performance Audit of Emergency Medical Services concluded that oversight is lacking and there are not sufficient procedures in place to monitor and assess response times and response time reporting. The Bureau of EMS reviews CONs every three years, but that review does not have to ensure that response standards meet population growth, geographic expansion, or development.

The CON process allows ambulance response performance to be self-reported annually without oversight or auditing to ensure accurate reporting, and reports do not have to follow governmental accounting standards. This bill will work to ensure transparency regarding response time data and financials. Taxpayers care about transparency. **Cont. Page 4**

#### **Upcoming Events:**

Feb 7- 11: Chief to Facilitate Chief Executive Officer Program (CEOP) at the Delta Hotel and Convention Center in Mesa. Also, traveling back and forth between Mesa and the Capitol to meet with legislators.

#### **Board Meetings:**

Feb 28: Administration  
CAFMA – 1700-1830

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# **Russ Smith Nominated and Chosen for Firefighter of the Year**

**By: Submitted by Chief Davis (This is not the entire nomination, just excerpts)**

Russ is involved in a lot more programs than most and is truly dedicated to serving our community. I will attempt to outline the accomplishments he has had and the many things he is involved in at CAFMA.

This past year, Russ was one of the instructors for our New Hire Academy, where he spent several off duty days instructing and training our new firefighters. Russ has always wanted to help others and invest in our newer firefighters. Russ is also sought out by others as a mentor and also to assist those that are preparing for a fire service career. This includes studying with potential new recruits and helping with mock oral boards.

Last year, Russ was recognized at a CAFMA board meeting for his response to an off duty car accident that him and his family came across while travelling in Northern AZ. We received a letter from the local FD Chief there who spoke very highly of Russ and was appreciative of his efforts in assisting that night.

Russ has a great sense of ownership and has since the day he was hired here. He and his family can be seen at numerous off duty charity and public events throughout the year, representing CAFMA. Here are a few of them: Fill-the-Boot, Turkey Drive, Prescott Christmas Light Parade, helped paint Captain Fields home and assisted with finding volunteers for several community events to include: Fill-the-Boot, 9/11 Ceremony, Patriot Run, Stuff the Bus, the Backpack Stuffing/Giveaway.

I have had the great pleasure of watching Russ progress in these first 5 or so years of his career. Russ is a solid paramedic that has great bedside manner with his patients and family that may be on scene. Russ is calm and cool during stressful calls and does not get rattled. He is very organized as a paramedic and is one of the best I have seen as a "team lead" during cardiac arrest calls. As a FF, Russ can always be counted on to carry out his tasks proficiently and with concern for everyone's safety. Russ is always looking for classes to take so that he can better himself and better serve our citizens. The list of succession plan classes Russ has taken over the last few years is very long and it is because of his own initiative that he gets these classes completed.

Some CAFMA programs Russ is involved include training, mask fit testing, Honor Guard, and Fire Pals. As an Honor Guard member, Russ participates in several events throughout the year, most of them on his days off. Russ also helped with setting up the Honor Watch coverage that we unfortunately were involved in last year with a Prescott FF and also a Verde Valley FF that had passed away. We were successful in both efforts and the neither FF were ever alone until their interment, much because of Russ and his dedication and persistence in getting the needed spots filled.

It is very hard to describe or put on paper just what Russ means to our organization and how much he is deserving of this recognition. What I gave above is a snapshot and most likely missing a few more things that Russ does or is involved in at CAFMA. I see bigger and better things for Russ in the future and know that he will be a Chief Officer for the organization in the future.

If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please don't hesitate to give myself, Chief Cox, or Captain McCarty a call.

Thank you,

Brad Davis  
CAFMA Battalion 3 B-Shift

Congratulations Russ!

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## **Chief's Desk Continued**

There are communities in Arizona that are covered solely by one single CON-holder, oftentimes a private company. The CON process allows for this current CON-holder to intervene in another ambulance provider's bid for permission to operate, lengthening the already prolonged application process. If a community is suffering due to a lack of ambulances and the applicant can prove need, the current CON-holder should not be allowed to extend the process, oftentimes years, especially if that CON-holder is the problem. This serves as a roadblock to competition and interferes with the health and well-being of your constituents.

Current statute does not allow concerned agencies (fire, police, hospitals) without a CON a voice in the CON process. Taxpayers may express concern to a local agency in the hopes of receiving some relief, but that county, municipal government, fire service, or anyone without a CON cannot share those concerns as part of the current CON process. The bill clearly defines interested parties, thereby allowing those that are served by an ambulance service to have input regarding service levels and response times.

Currently, only a CON-holder may request emergency authority to operate ambulances in an underserved area, which limits those that can help in times of need. This bill authorizes the Department of Health Services (DHS) to grant a current ambulance provider, fire department, fire district, or fire authority temporary authority to operate in an underserved area.

The truth is that your constituents want to be able to call 9-1-1 in an emergency and have competent, well-trained ambulance staff at their side in a reasonable amount of time. They don't care if it is a private company or a public entity.

As it stands, the process prevents taxpayers from receiving life-saving medical transport. Arizona is one of only two states still using a CON process. It is well past time for Arizona communities to benefit from necessary ambulance reform.

### **The Solution**

HB2609 will clear some of the unnecessary hurdles and streamline the process by:

**The bill** clearly defines interested parties, thereby allowing those that are served by an ambulance service to have input regarding service levels and response times.

**In the current statute**, response performance is self-reported annually without oversight or auditing to ensure the reports are accurate. **The bill** requires reporting to be reviewed to ensure honest and accurate reporting.

**In the current statute**, expansion of CON boundaries to match jurisdictional boundaries as an area grows is unclear. **The bill** clarifies that CON boundaries expand to meet jurisdictional boundaries as the jurisdiction grows.

**The bill** requires the Bureau of EMS to sit with the provider at each three-year renewal to review and possibly update response times based on, at minimum, population density, geographic, and medical considerations.

**The bill** would require DHS to develop a form that follows governmental accounting standards for governmental agencies who operate transport ambulances.

**The current statute** states that DHS is to regulate ambulance services to “provide for a viable business environment.” **The bill** changes the language to state that DHS will regulate ambulance services maintaining patient care as the priority.

**The bill provides for the free market to function while maintaining / implementing checks and balances. It does not create new regulation.**

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## **January Call Report**

**By: By GIS/Statistician Michael Freeman**

Note from Chief Freitag:

As you will see in the call report starting on the next page, our run numbers are already ahead of where we started last January. Honestly, we do not see things slowing down. Hopefully, we will get something done to fix the ambulance transport crisis in the coming months. You’re all doing a fantastic job in a very frustrating time. I hope you understand that we are doing all we can to resolve the issue.





# January Response Report - 2022

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

### Responses in District

TOTAL FIRE INCIDENTS	5
STRUCTURE FIRE	1
STRUCTURE FIRE; CONFINED	2
MOBILE HOME/PORTABLE BLDG	1
VEHICLE FIRE	0
BRUSH/GRASS/WILDLAND FIRE	0
TRASH FIRE/OTHER	1

**Fire is 0.37% of call volume**

TOTAL RESCUE & EMS	908
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**EMS is 67.26% of call volume**

OVERPRESSURE / OVERHEAT	2
HAZARDOUS CONDITION	12
SERVICE CALL	272
GOOD INTENT	108
FALSE ALARM/OTHER	43

**Other is 32.37% of call volume**

TOTAL INCIDENTS IN DISTRICT	1,350
INCIDENT RESPONSES BY CAFMA	1,494
TYPE-1 UNIT RESPONSES BY CAFMA	1,600

### Fire Loss Summary

Residential Fire Loss	\$325,650
Commercial Fire Loss	\$0
Vehicle Fire Loss	\$0

### Top 5 Call Types

853	EMS
163	Assist Invalid
61	Cancelled en Route
60	Public Service
30	No Incident Found on Arrival

Average total # of calls per day	43.55
Average fire calls per day	0.16
Average EMS calls per day	29.29
Average all other calls per day	14.10

### Call Volume at PRCC

	Month	Year-to-Date
PFD	940	940
CAFMA	1,350	1,350
GCFD	16	16
OD	12	12
WKFD	0	0

### Unit Responses

Unit	District	Total	Move Up
E50	170	181	44
E51	43	203	54
E53	227	230	11
E540	32	33	24
E54	190	190	0
E57	42	48	8
E58	182	183	3
E59	181	190	5
E61	130	134	10
E62	138	147	6
E63	50	58	35
TR50	2	3	0
B3	58	63	0
B6	22	25	0
Rescues	97	98	0

TYPE-1 ENGINES

### Calls by Municipality

Calls in Town of Chino Valley	201
Calls in Town of Prescott Valley	694
Calls in Town of Dewey-Humboldt	65
Calls in District, Unincorporated Areas	390
Calls Out of District	11

### Aid Agreement Summary

Aid Given to Prescott	157
Aid Received from Prescott	76
Aid Given to WVFD	0
Aid Received from WVFD	6
Mutual Aid Given	0
Mutual Aid Received	0