

“Facing the Future; How to get there from here?”

The first ten years of the 21st century has seen the fire service challenged, as never before in its history. From terrorist attacks, hurricanes of unprecedented power and devastation, wildland fires with enormous destruction, as well as the daily challenge of community fire protection, emergency preparedness, emergency medical response and budget challenges, now requires fire departments of the future to generate the utmost effort in; Forecasting; Planning; Preparing; and Response. During this presentation, we'll explore the past, where the fire service is poised today, identify, through group interaction, what the fire service currently does well and in some cases not so well, and most importantly what leadership skills will be needed to lead your fire departments successfully, in the identified challenges of this next decade! That's not a headlight coming down the tracks, that's your future challenges headed straight towards you and your department!



Scottsdale AZ. Deputy Fire Chief Garrett Olson

Deputy Chief Garret Olson has been with the City of Scottsdale since December 2004 when he left one outstanding organization, the Mesa Fire Department, to help reshape another, the Scottsdale Fire Department. He is currently honored to service as the Operations Chief and oversees emergency response personnel operating from Scottsdale's fourteen fire stations. Chief Olson firmly maintains that Scottsdale fire companies are what make his department a quality service organization. If you don't have a positive relationship with your crews, you don't have a relationship with your customers.

A second-generation firefighter, Chief Olson's fire service career began twenty-one years ago as a 9-1-1 dispatcher in Long Beach, California. He joined the Mesa Fire Department in 1990 and held the positions of firefighter, fire engineer, fire captain, battalion chief, and deputy fire chief. He was a certified paramedic and technical rescue technician. He was deployed to New York to assist as the liaison between the City of New York and the American Red Cross in the city's Emergency Operations Center following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Chief Olson is member of the Rotary Club of Scottsdale and serves as the Chair for a Rotary youth service-leadership scholarship program. He serves as a board member for a charitable foundation and has held positions of leadership for public school advisory commissions.

He holds a bachelor's degree in business management and a master's degree in organizational management. He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's *Executive Fire Officer* program.