

Resource Management Section Meeting

Minutes from 4-30-10, Tucson Fire Department

Introduction: Introduction and welcome to the group from Chief Jeff Shiple

Goodyear Fire Department. Thank you to Chief Joe Gulotta with Tucson Fire Department and for hosting the meeting at their brand new 72,000 Square Foot Tucson Fire Central Facility. Also thank you to Daniel Matlick and Staff from United Fire for hosting this meeting.

United Fire: Daniel Matlick of United Fire Equipment talked about the history of the company. Jim Bronomen and John Cole were the Founders of United Fire. In 1977 Senior Matlick purchased United Fire and Daniel Matlick is now the president/CEO. United Fire has been in the fire industry for 34 years. They were the first in Arizona to sell Hurst Extrication Equipment (“the Hurst tool”). United Fire is dedicated to providing sales and service on all fire equipment to the fire professionals of Arizona. They sell PPE equipment, Station Uniforms, Fire Equipment, including SCBA’s, Extrication Equipment, Breathing Air Compressors, Thermal Imaging Cameras, Fire Extinguishers, etc. with the exception of fire apparatus. They still do however offer EVT Certified Apparatus Service and Repair on all fire apparatus. They provide in house Hydro Testing service of all SCBA air bottles. They are now offering in house screen printing for station uniforms to speed up orders for better service to the fire personnel. Dan talked about their new website that they have brought up and how you can now go online to order products instead of having to call. Dan Matlick is also the creator sponsor of the “Arizona Firefighter of the Year” Award which was started in 1994 and has continued this prestigious award every year since.

Blauer Uniforms: Ryan Reynolds from Blauer Uniform Company came down to present their uniforms and discuss their commitment to quality uniform products. They stated that their products are made in the USA in New York Plant or in Mexico Plant from the same processing mills and using the same cotton dyed material to have complete consistency across the board on their products. Their products are treated with a fabric protection called Jareff. Blauer states- they are the most expensive Uniforms on the Market, the service life is greatly increased due to the quality and this allows changing uniforms less throughout the year, and that longer service life means fewer purchases that leads to savings. A little history of the company is that Blauer got their start selling raincoats to the US Navy 73 years ago. The company is a family owned business and they are the only uniform company that has NFPA complaint garments in the industry to date.

2010 Emissions/Regeneration Issues: Chief Jeff Shiple discussed the new 2010 Emissions Standards/Regeneration cycles and if there were any policies being generated for new Fire Apparatus with the apparatus going into regeneration cycles while in service, and if the Fleet Departments were addressing this issue during preventive maintenance servicing. Jerry from Tucson Fire Fleet Division advised that when the Fire Apparatus comes in for Preventive Maintenance Service they are putting the apparatus through a regeneration cycle as part of incorporating that into the regular PM Service. No one else expressed that they have any policies on this issue to date.

Open Discussion: **Tempe FD:** Alan Shrock advised that they are getting a Rosenbauer "GreenStar" Pumper on a one year lease to test. The apparatus is built on a Spartan Chassis which also is about 10,000lbs lighter than a conventional fire apparatus. The price range is \$340,000-380,000 and allows the apparatus, after arriving on scene to Medic calls, to shut the main engine down and start up the 3 cylinder Onan engine mounted on top to run the air conditioning, as well as maintain all the emergency lighting which saves fuel and reduces the impact on the environment. This will be E-271 for Tempe Fire Department.

Daisy Mountain FD: Danny from Daisy Mountain Fire advised they worked with the city lawyer and with E-One and were able to turn their Bronto, which was plagued with many problems, back to E-One. E-One is now building them a replacement apparatus. He advised they also have hired a new Support Service person and are restructuring their Support Services Division.

Rural Metro FD: Rural Metro advised they are currently refurbishing a 1998 Fire Truck from the ground up. They are doing this instead of replacing fire apparatus at a cost of about \$50,000 per unit.

Green valley FD: Chief Katie Sayer, from Green Valley Fire District, advised they are purchasing 2 new Sutphen Fire Apparatus.

Tucson FD: Chief Joe Gulotta advised they are moving into medium-duty Ambulances (International 4300). Jerry Drake from Fleet advised they are reducing in-house Parts Stock Levels and currently re-working class codes for vehicles for Preventive Maintenance needs.

Scottsdale FD: Scottsdale advised they are building 2 new fire stations and have a total of 15 stations.

Peoria FD: Chief Bjerke advised they have 2 new Rosenbauer simple base trucks on order and two more that they will order in July 2010. Chief Bjerke also advised that they are trying to keep up with NFPA Standards and that is a constant struggle in today's economic climate.

Goodyear FD: Chief Jeff Shiple advised of Chief Mark Gaillard recent move up from Fire Chief to Interim Deputy City Manager with Chief Paul Luizzi moving up to fill the Interim Fire Chief position for our department. Ron King advised that in the near future he will be putting together an SCBA Air Management Technician Resource Group and hold some meetings in the future for different departments Air Management Technicians to get together and discuss SCBA related issues. Steve Feniello advised that they are feeling the effects from the economy and struggling to provide current PPE turnout gear to line personnel with new NFPA Standards and shrinking division budget accounts.

Glendale FD: Rich from Glendale advised that he has a new SCBA room to work out of.

North Western FD: Jamie advised they are limiting take home vehicles and limiting cell phone usage. They currently have four take home vehicles now. John advised they have budget money to replace apparatus that is at the end of their service life and will be ordering trucks this next budget year.

Grainger selling Fire Equipment: Talk was brought up about Grainger entering into the Public Safety sales side of the fire business.

United Fire Tour: After the open discussion, United Fire provided the group with lunch and a thorough tour of their Tucson facility. Their facility is in old downtown Tucson, which is very colorful with lots of art displayed throughout this corridor. Dan Matlick advised they have parades in this part of old downtown Tucson. The tour of the facility was great. For such a small facility they have made a great deal of room to encompass all aspects of their business. They sell PPE, uniforms, fire extinguisher/service, fire equipment and they have in house EVT Technicians that work on all fire truck apparatus even though they do not sell any Fire Apparatus at this time. Their dedication to the fire industry is seen when touring their facility. Dan was grateful for having the opportunity to host this month's meeting and for the local Phoenix area fire departments to get a chance to come down and see their facility in person, some for the first time.

Next Meeting: Next Resource Management Section meeting will be held at Arizona Fire Chief Association, 2010 Fire Service Leadership Conference on July 30th in the Aurora A room. Information pertaining to this event can be found on the AFCA website <http://www.azchiefs.org/>