

SASO Meeting notes 3/6/09 RMFD 0900

In attendance:

Ken Ballenger, RMFD
Heath Evans, NWFD
Dave Padilla, NWFD
Joe Ketterle, PRFD
Rick Moreno, TAAFD
Arnold Benitez, ANG
Alex Dunn, DHFD
Alex Catalan, Rio Rico FD
Craig Encinas, TONFD
Brad Bradley, NWFD
Brenda Staggs, GRFD

Erika Jaramillo, ANG
Christian Christensen, Raytheon, FD
Mark Day, GRFD
Scott Draper, NWFD
Phil Bingold NWFD
Robert Corbell NWFD
Tom Louis, GVFD
Donnie Gordon, Fry Fire District
James Stoltenberg, RMFD
Ed Nied TFD

- Meeting called to order at 0905. Chief Nied welcomed all in attendance.
- Motion to approve meeting minutes from 08/29/08 as written was seconded and passed.
- An example of the logo was distributed. The floor was opened up to the members of the committee for discussion regarding the logo. A motion to approve the logo was seconded and passed.
- Safety Day – An announcement was distributed to all committee members regarding the 2nd Annual Firefighter Safety Day Seminar on June 11, 2009. Discussion surrounding the Safety Day included:
 1. The acceptance of credit cards for payment.
 2. CE credits.
 3. Topics that will be covered such as MRSA, cancer in the fire service, near miss incidents.
 4. Presenters.There will be the 3rd annual NFFF Golf Tournament/Benefit Dinner/Silent Auction held in association with the Safety Day on Sunday, June 11 & 12. Spouses are welcome to attend the dinner which is \$65.00. All members were encouraged to think of possible sponsors for the event.
- Discussion surrounding study updates included:
 1. MRSA – Study one is complete. Work is in progress to apply for another grant regarding the use of UV light to kill the bacteria.
 2. Injury Study – Emphasis on not getting hurt while doing physical activity that is not associated with being out on a call. Company officers are encouraged to manage injuries not relating to calls or on the job duties.

3. Cardiac Study – Drs. Burgess/Peate, PFD and TFD are working on a carotid intimal wall study to evaluate data regarding core body temp and potential inflammation of arterial walls as a possible precursor to cardiac events. Discussion also included issues as firefighters age and how that effects the tests done for VO2max test.
 4. Sleep Study – Discussion involved sleep deprivation and how it affects firefighters.
- A member of the committee questioned C. diff. (Clostridium Difficile) and how it relates to MRSA. It was suggested that perhaps Dr. Peate could address this issue at the Safety Day Seminar.
 - ISO – Drexel Heights Fire District will be conducting an ISO on 24th and 25th of March. It is unknown if it is open to others outside of their district. Northwest Fire District is to have an ISO on June 2nd and 3rd. It was unknown whether it was open to outside personnel as well. Sierra Vista will be having an ISO on July 9th and 10th. Discussion surrounding ISO and HSO credits was introduced. The fact that personnel have to be ISO certified before they can be HSO certified was reiterated. All districts were encouraged to bring hard copies of their ISO procedures to the next meeting for discussion.
 - Bradley presented the topic of Infection Control. It was mentioned that Dr. Peate's attempt to address provider hospitals regarding source testing and an IC plan was unsuccessful. Bradley proposed that there should be a drive towards a system in which all employees are being handled consistently regarding the exposure to communicable diseases. He informed the committee that inconsistent protocols exist between hospitals and Emergency Services with source testing. An infection control plan is being prepared and upon completion (estimated 45 days) will be presented to Gary West. Upon his approval, the plan then will be distributed to districts. This plan includes putting ownership back onto the employer as opposed to the receiving hospital. All members agreed that prevention is the key when it comes to being exposed to communicable diseases and that the majority of exposure is preventable.
 - A video was presented showing the dangers of wall collapse. FF Life Safety Initiatives 2, 4, and 9 were discussed. The issue of safety observations and the culture of hierarchy in fire organizations was discussed. Members of the committee were invited to present suggestions on how to improve the communication of signs of danger from "booters" to higher ranking associates without being penalized.
 - Communication issues regarding the release of information for injury to fire personnel was discussed. Advancing technology i.e. traffic cameras, television coverage etc. poses difficulties and safety concerns when it comes to informing families of injured fire personnel.

- Chief Nied to check with FDSOA regarding one hour CE for this exercise. He invited members of the committee to inform him of any ideas they may have for Continuing Education at future meetings. Some future suggestions presented:
 1. Respiratory protection
 2. Roadway safety
 3. OSHA regulations regarding Turn Outs.

- National update was not covered due to time.

- Website – Captain Day is to communicate with Ron Dennis regarding website. Chief Nied to obtain information for USFA website in regards to up-linking information to it.

- Each member of the committee received a Courage To Be Safe So Everyone Goes Home Instructor Presentation CD. An instructor overview of the program was presented.

- Roundtable – All members of committee shared new and current events happening with in their districts.

- Next Meeting Date – currently scheduled for June 5th 0900-1200; If you wish to host, please email Ed at ed.nied@tucsonaz.gov

Meeting was adjourned at 1215.