

Southern Arizona Safety Officers  
Quarterly Meeting  
Friday, February 12, 2010  
Rincon Valley Fire  
14550 East Sands Ranch Rd  
Vail, Arizona

Those in attendance: Joseph Linehan, Fred Rodriguez, Arnold Benitez, Edward Cornejo, Scott Laird, Tyler Furstenberg, Aaron Brown, Kenny Quinon, Jon Buonaccorsi, Aaron Sapienza, Jodie Ryan, David Wilcox, John Gulotta, Tom Louis, Matt King, Hugh McCrystal, Ed Nied

Minutes by Brenda Staggs, Training Secretary, Golder Ranch Fire District

Meeting began at 9:00 with a welcome from Chief Lundberg, Rincon Valley Fire. Minutes from meeting on October 9, 2009 were reviewed. Chief Nied suggested changes. The motion was passed unanimously to approve the minutes with changes.

Dr. Peate spoke to the group about MRSA. There has been an increase in MRSA incidents as the bacteria is evolving and becoming resistant to treatment. There are two different types of MRSA that can affect an otherwise healthy Firefighter. One type is the hospital acquired MRSA and the other is the community acquired MRSA. 1,000 swab tests conducted on different surfaces on fire trucks and ambulances revealed a toxic mix that includes both types of MRSA. Dr. Peate encouraged everyone to educate themselves using the MRSA tool located on the Western Fire Chiefs Website to review SOPs. The current treatment for this disease is a "cocktail" of three different antibiotics that seems to be effective. Personal hygiene and station cleaning methods were discussed and suggestions made. Using a 10% bleach solution is only good for 24 hours. Bleach that has been opened loses its effectiveness after 24 HRS. Benzalkonium Chloride is great for killing the virus on hands as is an alcohol based lotion that has 70% alcohol content. However, the alcohol has a tendency to evaporate and denature when exposed to the sun. Husky 814 and 891 was suggested, it has a 3 min kill time and personnel have a tendency to forget to wipe it off of surfaces which can cause a build-up, damage to the surface etc. 891 is acceptable for food surfaces and can be used with septic systems. Special care should be taken on computer screens, keyboards etc. No wood cutting boards should be used in the kitchen.

Chief Nied presented the Reading Risk Power point. Some highlights of the power point include:

- As a Safety Officer, we need to read risks we are taking. We need to not only read the fire and smoke, but also the firefighters.
- Know the rules of engagement—know the difference between danger and risk.
- Engaging the public educators to help educate the firefighters on risk is an option being explored nationally.
- Instead of being arbitrarily aggressive, be intellectually aggressive.
  - Everyone on the fireground has a right to question why or voice when something they see is unsafe
- The community has expectations:
  - They expect us to risk lives to save lives

- Firefighters must:
  - Balance courage and bravery with judgement
  - Avoid unnecessary injury
  - Evaluate strategies and tactics to match decreased revenue resources
  
- As an ISO, pay attention to situational awareness:
  - C.A.N reports are very effective
    - ❖ Keeping information short and sweet increases effective communication
  - Watch fatigue and stress
    - ❖ Body language
    - ❖ Insufficient communication
    - ❖ Task overload
    - ❖ Task underload
      - Rotate crews to help reduce fatigue and engage those not utilized
  - “Press on regardless” philosophy
  - Degrading operating conditions

Use worksheets as a reference tool to remember steps.

Everyone is encouraged to share information they have in this meeting so that we can learn from each other.

Chief Nied showed a presentation on the Rules of Engagement for Firefighter Survival. Some of the rules discussed include:

- Size up your tactical area of operation.
- Determine the occupant survival profile.
- Not risking lives for property that cannot be saved.
- Extend vigilant and measured risk to protect and rescue SAVABLE lives.
- Go in together, stay together, and come out together.
- Maintain awareness of your situation, air supply, location, and fire conditions.
- Constantly monitor fireground communications for critical radio reports.
- You are required to report unsafe practices or conditions that will harm you.
- Declare a MayDay as soon as you THINK you are in danger.
- Conduct an initial risk assessment and implement a SAFE ACTION PLAN.
- Always have a rapid intervention team in place.

Entering and exiting a truck is a process that employees generally don't even think about. It becomes second nature. However injuries can result from not being mindful of how to properly enter and exit a vehicle. It was suggested that placards be added to trucks to instruct individuals on how to properly enter and exit a truck. We all need to think about training and if the procedure is reviewed periodically. A survey may be an appropriate tool to assess where to place a placard and where it may be more beneficial—inside or outside the truck.

There will be an Incident Safety Officer Class on March 30 and 31. Call Angelina to attend.

Flyers for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Benefit Dinner and Golf Tournament were distributed to those attending. It will be held June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at the Starr Pass Resort in Tucson.

- Everyone is encouraged to attend. We need numbers there to help keep this an annual event.
- The silent auction will be bigger and better—the proceeds go solely to the local chapter of the FF Support Cancer Network.
- The Combat Challenge is something we hope to have back. However, because of the economy, it will be tough to obtain it as the costs have risen from \$10,000 to over \$20,000. Gary will be checking with Desert Diamond as well as Oro Valley Marketplace for potential venues to hold the event.
- The website will be up and running in a couple of weeks. It will be user friendly and not connected to the national website.
- The Safety Seminar will have vendor tables.
- We need a logo for the event. Firefighters are encouraged to submit a design for the “official t-shirt”. The winner gets their logo on the t-shirt which will be sold for a profit. Flyers will be sent to all departments/districts to encourage participants.
- Extend an invitation to the event to those districts in outlying areas such as Douglas, Sierra Vista, etc.

#### Round Table Discussion:

A meeting place was discussed, but not decided on. Should we use the June seminar as the next meeting or have one before then? No definite answer was given.

Chief Nied would like to see more people from Southern Arizona attend the Safety Section meeting at the AZ Fire Chiefs Convention in July in Phoenix. The exact dates of the convention will be revealed later. Carpooling could be an option in order to reduce costs as it is a one day item from 1000-1200. Let Chief Nied know if you would like to attend. This is where SASO interacts with the other regional safety associations and has impact on State FF safety.