

SASO Minutes
Meeting June 6, 2008

1. Call to Order:

Present: Brad Bradley, NWFD
Scott Draper, NWFD
Mark Day, GRFD
Ken Ballenger, RMFD
James Stoltenberg, RMFD
Ed Nied, TFD
A Bentiez, ANG
Rick Moreno, TIA

Minutes by: Stephanie McKee, GRFD

2. Packets given to attendees included: SASO minutes from 8/31/07, TFD HazMat FOG “Operational Level – Solaris MultiGas Monitoring Guidelines, TFD Memo “Environmental Study Final Results”, TFD Memo “Treadmill Pilot Program”, TFD Memo “New Record Keeping Standard Operating Guideline”, November 5 SASO letter requesting resources for AZ Fire Chiefs’ website, November 5 letter from Mark Day requesting updates on current projects from all departments, TFD Memo “Aerial Waterway.”
3. October 24, 2007 joint meeting with VSO
- A. Ed Nied needs minutes from this meeting to distribute to SASO.
 - B. The group discussed the benefit of conducting pre-Academy physicals for PCC Fire Academy. A previous student had suffered a cardiac arrest during the academy and after recovery expressed interest to re-enter the Pima Fire Academy program. The resulting costs of pre-Academy screening would run very high. Stoltenberg stated it currently costs near \$600 for departmental pre-employment screening. RMFD has potential employees sign a waiver and provide proof of health insurance. This would be very costly for potential academy candidates if mandated. Nied stated a possible grant program is worth exploring. TFD has those testing for employment sign a waiver and after academy class selection has been made, the department follows the NFPA standard to determine whether someone is eligible for hiring.
 - C. The next joint meeting with VSO should be held in the last quarter of the year, in either October, November or December.
 - D. Nied carbon copies Pima Fire Chiefs, VSO, and SASO for these meetings inviting all to attend. Nied would like the next joint meeting to be in Casa Grande.
 - E. The FESHE model was introduced. It allows experience and training to count towards advanced degrees and certifications.
4. Safety Day in March 2008

- A. Stoltenberg felt the conference went well and had good reviews. There were 68 people in attendance. Based on feedback, Stoltenberg expressed improving upon the PowerPoint presentation by giving handouts to supplement the presentation. There was a desire for follow-up to be tied-in with the fall conference. PITC would like to keep the \$82.50 registration fee the same while providing CEU credit for attendees. This would be a .75 credit from PCC for attending the conference.
- B. November 5, 2008 will be the Fall Officer Retreat.

5. FDSOA

Bryan Parks of Phoenix is the Western States Vice President. He was asked to write an advanced safety officer curriculum for the SASO. This would provide a national cert. 25 hours of education is required to recertify and the certification lasts for a 5-year period. By creating C.E. hours for meetings and conferences, this would allow departments to not have to come up with travel expenses while allowing members to be nationally certified.

6. NFFF Golf/Dinner

The golf and dinner will be held June 12 and 13. Gordon Graham will be the keynote speaker at the dinner. There is still room available. Cost is \$65 per plate. A table of 8 would cost \$500. All spots for the golf tournament have been filled. The event will be emceed by Dan Marries of Channel 13 News.

7. Hose Roller Evaluation

TFD evaluated hose rollers, which are designed to prevent back injuries and reduce back stress to suppression personnel rolling hose. These hose rollers can be found advertised on Janet Wilmot's Command Post online. They cost around \$1800. TFD kept the hose roller on the B.C. vehicle.

8. Injury Study Update

Jerry Poplin is working on the study while completing an internship back East.

9. MRSA Update

- A. TFD is putting up signs at stations at every door between the bays and the stations, informing personnel they are entering the "clean zone." This requires that turnouts are not to be worn in the stations.
 - 1. TFD also replaced cloth material with a "pleather"-like material, which showed no counts of MRSA upon repeat testing.
 - 2. The department is researching a product by Waxie which promises a quicker kill time. This product should act as an all-in-one cleaner. Nied will invite members of SASO to presentation by Waxie representatives, since the decision will affect all departments. (Action item: Nied to send flier on Permablock to SASO.)

- B. RMFD is looking into using BioShield 75, which can be sprayed on cloth and promises to clean and disinfect up to 90%.

10. Gas Powered Exhaust Fan CO

- A. TFD conducted a study at PSA testing CO levels with and without extension, with and against wind. The study yielded ways to prevent raising CO levels, including:
 - 1. Switch to electric fans.
 - 2. Monitor all gas-powered exhaust fans.
 - 3. Use the wind to your advantage once fire out for PPV.
- B. The OSHA standard called for CO levels to be below 50ppm, TFD requires the ppm standard to be below 10 to ensure safety of personnel. This would allow personnel to remove SCBAs during overhaul and fire cause operations below 10ppm. "Filter masks should be worn for detectable concentration of CO below 10%," as stated in the TFD HazMat FOG. Nied stated these levels should be documented on the radio and in reports.

11. ISO Classes

There is a continued need for ISO classes. 30 people attended the last ISO class, which was held at NWFD. SASO discussed hosting a north and south ISO class, the north being at GRFD and the south at GVFD.

12. Courage to be Safe

Departments are at compliance, including teaching at academy-level.

13. FGS

Fireground Survival is an IAFF project. This is a 5-chapter DVD with lecture material, which may be a two-day, 16 hour course. Nied is responsible for Chapter 5, "Command's Role in a Mayday." June 16-19 at the NFA the project will wrap-up. The DVD release will be at the IAFF convention in NV. This will begin with Train the Trainer courses.

14. National Update

- A. Fireground Communications are working on digital radio probs to improve communications on the fireground. Best practices have been released.
- B. Studies have shown bladder cancer is a growing trend in firefighters. This screen should be included in annual physicals.
- C. A study from British Columbia showed prostate cancer being a rapidly growing trend in firefighters.
- D. A vulnerability report may be available where departments can input all their demographics and the potential for LODD will be expressed.
- E. NIOSH reports are being generated much faster with an emphasis on developing a better way to investigate and a more practical way to use.

15. Discussion / Tips

- A. NFPA1500 & NFPA1521 call for regular safety meetings and a monthly safety inspection for each station.
- B. TFD – beginning of the month the captains inspect PPE, developing a template to document a safety meeting per station. The minutes are then sent to Nied, who inputs them into a spreadsheet. Follow-up is then performed. NWFD is also holding monthly inspections and safety meetings.
- C. RMFD introduced pptracker.com. This website is designed to track PPE by serial number to show repairs, cleaning, ownership and life of the product. Individual users can update their accounts. Initially personnel and serial codes need to be entered into the database. This would keep departments in accordance with NFPA1581.
- D. RMFD is planning on releasing an action report when possible concerning the tender crash which resulted in a civilian fatality. When this report can be released is pending the investigation.
- E. Stoltenberg of RMFD attended a Freeway Safety Presentation, which he felt was very beneficial. Nied asked Stoltenberg to contact Tom Hand of MFD to come and present this to SASO in a Train the Trainer format if possible.
- F. GRFD is planning on posting its SOPs on the Arizona Fire Chiefs' website and is requesting that other departments send Capt Day their SOPs to use as a resource and comparison tool.
- G. TIAFD has appointed a new position, Public Safety Director, which will serve as a "chief" and oversee the police and the fire departments at the airport.
- H. The military is working on changing helmet color. As it currently stands, the silver helmets do not allow for differentiation between Arizona National Guard and TIA fire departments.
- I. NWFD is changing their B.C. system. All battalion chiefs will have staff positions with 48-hour work weeks. This will include three 8-hour shifts with one 24-hour shift as a shift B.C. This will take the department from two battalion chiefs per shift to one. In order to make this "Madison Plan" work, the department will need seven battalion chiefs. This will include a battalion chief for Logistics, Community Services, Training, EMS, and Special Operations with two serving as District Managers. Tempe Fire Department had been utilizing the Madison Plan for ten years and did so with success, though they are now going away from that plan. NWFD plans to implement this on July 1, 2008.
- J. The next SASO meeting will be held Friday, August 29 at 0830. The location is to be determined, either at RMFD's southwest location or at NWFD. Ed Nied will notify everyone of the location.