

Valley Safety Officers Meeting January 26, 2010

Members Present:

Jackson Bearden, Surprise	Robert Olmstead, Sun Lakes
Janet Bennett, Sun Lakes	Brian Parks, Phoenix
Dawn Bolstad-Johnson, Phoenix	Clarence Tucker, Phoenix
Ron Deadman, Avondale	Hugh Zembruski, Sun City West
Jeff Mitchell, Mesa	

Identify 2010 VSO Goals:

One goal is for the satellite Safety, Health & Survival sections (Phoenix Regional, Northern AZ, Southern AZ, and Northeastern AZ) under the Arizona Fire Chiefs Association to share/post all their information in one place such as the AFCA website. Members can then log in and review what is going on statewide.

Another goal discussed was to educate members on the potential changes in the fire service in the next couple years. National standards (i.e. 2 In 2 Out) don't hold the same weight as they did five years ago due to tough budget times. It is important that members buy-in to their own safety. Websites such as firefighternearmiss.com and Firehouse.com are good resources.

Daily communication with neighboring agencies is another goal. Some departments are shutting down units, including BCs, on a daily basis due to constant staffing cuts. It is helpful when crews announce they are 3-person: this assists Command as well as other units responding.

ACTION: Due to increasing the use of BCs as Sector Officers on major incidents, bring up to ROCC the concern of staffing levels and how it affects neighboring agencies.

A meeting will be set up in March, bringing all the safety sections under the AFCA together.

RIC Bags:

Due to recent pack failures on incidents in Gilbert (Queen Creek Firefighter) and Mesa, a group was formed to review the east valley RIC bags. This committee recommends a MSA Rescue Aire II, MSA mask and one transfill hose be placed in each RIC bag to allow the east agencies to work together.

Jeff Mitchell shared a close call incident in Mesa:

A 1,200 square foot house with an attic fire. Zero visibility. Initial crew goes in and 20 feet inside the door, the Captain had air one minute and in the next breath, he didn't. He exited (not following the hose line) rather than buddy breath or call a Mayday. If he had turned left instead of right on his way out, it would have become a Mayday. This took place without Command knowing.

It appeared this SCOTT pack was not properly seated so when he checked it in the air pack in the a.m., it powered up fine, and at the fire it was good but when he flexed, it may have popped out.

2010 Safety, Health and Survival Week:

Disburse the information through the state sections, combining resources. Brian Parks will find out who the Phoenix contact will be; Paul Bourgeois will be the Mesa contact and Ed Nied for Tucson.

Drive Cam Footage:

Chief Zembruski presented footage on their Drive Cams. These cameras are mounted on the windshield and have a 180° view inside and outside the cab. G-forces set the cameras off and will record the preceding 8 seconds and 4 seconds after for a total of 12 seconds – they are not on all the time. It then uplinks to the Drivecam website for 90 days and are reviewed only by Drivecam employees. If they see a violation, they notify Chief Zembruski or two other members of the department. The videos are not public information but can be subpoenaed. They have found that 90% of the events do not require coaching (i.e. turned wheel too hard or broke too hard). The videos can be saved to a hard drive. The program is designed to change driving habits and has been a good tool for Sun City West.

Roundtable:

U of A is applying for a grant to look at what contaminants may be found in female firefighter's breast milk.

ACTION: Dawn will send a note asking for members to participate once the study has started.

ASU is applying for a grant to do monitoring for formaldehyde. Dawn is also doing a study with Phoenix's Fire Investigators on formaldehyde and they are finding it in the air hours and days after fires.

There will be an Advanced 40-Hour ISO Class on the west side April 12 - 16. Contact Chief Deadman for information.

Effective 1/14/10, Sun Lakes went to 800 MHz, however, not every firefighter has one – just one per unit which has been a safety issue on calls.

The next meeting will be March 30 beginning at 0930 at Phoenix Fire Administration's Great Room. The following are the meeting dates for the remainder of the year:

May 25

July 27

September 28

November 30