

Valley Safety Officers Meeting
June 16, 2010

Members Present:

Robert Acosta, Scottsdale	G. Howes Jr., Phoenix
Jim Arbagey, Phoenix	Mark Keough, Mesa
Kevin Bailey, Chandler	Pamela Lansbury, APS
Jackson Bearden, Surprise	Jeff Mitchell, Mesa
Dawn Bolstad-Johnson, Phoenix	Jeff Perry, Scottsdale
Ron Deadman, Avondale	Justin Swenson, Goodyear
Patty Frey, Glendale	Leonard Vargas, Mesa
Bryan Gernet, APS	
Chris Herman, APS	

East Valley RIC Bags:

Members from Mesa, Gilbert, Tempe, Queen Creek and Chandler gathered last year and determined the air piece of the RIC bag had the most inconsistency. There were two events in the East Valley in 2009 that would not have been solved interior: failure of a pack connection in one and possibly a failure in the connection in second incident as well (unable to determine due to bottle being refilled and redistributed). In both cases, members were not able to breathe out of their pack -- not because there was a lack of air. Rescue was deployed in the first incident and in the second incident, the member removed his mask and self evacuated because he was only 10 ft from the door (no rescue deployment).

With the new recommendations, basically any interior air emergency can be handled either by 1) taking high pressure and lowering it to a mask, firefighters can breathe without the whole pack mechanism or by 2) transfilling (actually equalizing the two bottles).

Cost is low because older components can be used. As long as the threads work, the bottles are interchangeable. Tool kit is not changing.

Suggested making the hoses (low pressure/high pressure) two different sizes or of different texture so that they can be identified with structure gloves on rather than sight (by color).

ACTION: This group approved to move forward to ROCC.

Photovoltaic Devices

Bryan Gernet and Chris Herman from APS presented on the components of photovoltaic systems, how they work, what the dangers are and what labeling to look for.

Due to the economy, these systems have become more popular. APS has their own set of requirements in addition to what the code requires including a DC disconnect switch. If the DC disconnect switch is *not* located at the service entrance, they are required to install

a plaque at the service entrance with specific directions as to where the utility disconnect switch is located. Securing the main electrical does not shut down the photovoltaic modules. The safest place to cut the power to a photovoltaic is on the DC side closest to the building.

Covering these devices with salvage covers does not block enough sun so there can still be current running through.

Work lights (from Utility Trucks) at night do not generate enough light to generate an electrical hazard in these devices. However, if the system is still intact after an incident, when the sun is shining, these systems are still producing current.

There are several inhalation hazards (Boron, Cadmium Telluride, Gallium Arsenide and Phosphorus) from combustion of photovoltaic panels so it is highly recommended that SCBA and full protective clothing be worn.

Check out the “Fire Fighter Safety and Emergency Response for Solar Power Systems” article @ <http://www.nfpa.org/foundation>

Arson Investigator Study

Phoenix Fire has investigated 16 fires during this study which began in January 2009. The N95 mask is probably the most misused form of PPE as it doesn't do anything for chemical exposure, it takes out particulates only. Because Arson Investigators work after the fire is out, sometimes for many hours or even days, it is impractical to ask them to where their SCBA when there is no support for them on scene (Utility Truck).

This study concluded that the SCBA still provides the best protection during the first hour of the investigation then use a CBRN canister cartridge thereafter.

Safety Health & Survival Week:

Phoenix provided copies of the video they will be sharing with crews during the week. They will also cover mental health due to recent suicides.

Roundtable

The study on carcinogens in breast milk has been approved and will be conducted by U of A. Let Dawn know if any female firefighters have interest in being a part of this study.

Effective July 18, Chandler will start the 48/96 schedule on a trial basis. 72 hours will remain as the maximum limit of consecutive hours allowed to work.

Chief McDonald will begin his new position of Fire Chief in San Jose, California on August 1.

Next meeting will be August 18, location to be determined.