

Valley Safety Officers Meeting

October 15, 2008

Members Present:

Jim Arbagey, Phoenix
Janet Bennett, Sun Lakes
Stuart Bishop, Pinetop
Dawn Bolstad-Johnson
Craig Caraker, Goldwater Range
Jay Evans, Maricopa

Jason Jessamine, Buckeye Valley
Steve Leitzell, Scottsdale
Rob McLeod, Chandler
Jeff Mitchell, Mesa
Chuck Montgomery, Glendale
John Pantoja, Maricopa

Sal Salese, Phoenix
Ernie Sevilla, Phoenix
Jeff Snyder, Sun City
Bill Stipp, Goodyear
Clay Wood, Taylor
Hugh Zembruski, Sun City West

Dräger Presentation:

Chief Gleason shared the review process Phoenix went through before choosing the Dräger PSS7000 as their new SCBA. Currently there are only three other departments using this particular model. Vendors had 45 minutes to present their product to 6 evaluation groups (5 members in each group). Another week was spent discussing future options with the top 2 contenders. Phoenix's "wizbang" communications guy (Mike Worell) believes these options will revolutionize the fire service. After further testing and checking references, Dräger was chosen. The following are current and future highlights of this unit:

- On inter-crew communication, every mask acts as a repeater and ties into a tactical radio channel.
- Clear coated bottles show blunt force trauma so you'll know if it is damaged.
- On buddy breathing, there is a 3 ½ foot tether attached to the pack with a male and female connect so you don't have to mess around with a medium or low-pressure hose (you won't have to take a deep breath, disconnect and then match up).
- Dräger is making a "y" (similar to the Ts in the RIC bags) connection at the bottom which will attach to the female end of the buddy breathing hose. You won't hook into the UAC or the quickfill connection. The RIC bag will have a UAC connection.
- The FTR1000 feature is the firefighter tracking device. A round "puck" fits on the firefighter's belt. It starts on a transmit mode but when a firefighter is motionless for 30 seconds, an alarm sounds (similar to the PASS alert). When this happens, each firefighter can manually change their own FTR to a honing device which will lead them to the downed firefighter. This is done by LED readout and works off radio frequency. The range is 60-80 feet.
- This is a 45 minute bottle, 4500 PSI. Harness adjusts to fit firefighter size. 95% of the weight is on the waist which pivots with movement. Voiceless amplifier on the mask allows members to talk in normal voice and be heard 20 feet away. Has a cross-contamination valve to prevent pass of airborne illnesses.
- If a Phoenix member runs out of air, bottles can be filled by another agency after a minor adjustment.
- Once all members are trained, bottles will go into service (tentatively February/March 2009).
- In Phoenix's contract with Dräger, they included any public safety agency within the state can purchase off their contract (airpack, mask and 3 cylinders is \$4900).
- Contact Chief Gleason @ Chipgleason@phoenix.gov if you have any questions.

Old Buisness:

At the last meeting, Phoenix Firefighter Nicole Minnick had inquired about how long carcinogens stay in the body: as a new mom, she is concerned about her breast milk. Dawn Bolstad-Johnson researched local labs as to the cost to analyze this. The estimate is \$1,500 per sample. There are no grant funds available through NFPA for this. Phoenix has some funding available for “testing” so they may move forward.

This type of research could benefit ALL firefighters in determining what remains in your system and for what length of time. The question was raised regarding the legal aspect of this.

RIC Bag Update:

Chief McLeod shared that during some recent training with Mesa, they were not able to buddy breathing. You can transfill into the SCOTT but you cannot get air from the SCOTT. The one-way valve on the buddy breathing system does not allow air to come into the MSA. Chandler has the reducer regulator to bring pressure down to 2200 so if pressure is higher from the other SCBA, you won't get any air transfilled (which is why they still carry the “T handle”). This is why it is important to train with your neighbors to see how compatible you are.

ACTION: Each agency to compile a list and take photos of what is in your RIC bag and send to Jeff.mitchell@mesaaz.gov by the next meeting.

New Traffic Vests:

A handout was provided describing the new Federal Rule 23 C.F.R. Part 634 regarding worker visibility (high-visibility vests). This new rule takes effect 11/24/08 and requires all workers within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway to wear an ANSI 107 (2004) class 2 or 3 high-visibility vest. The problem with this is wearing this type of vest when wearing an SCBA (during a Haz Mat or vehicle fire on the roadway). It was recommended to educate your members on general roadway safety.

Biofuels:

Homemade diesel is becoming increasingly popular. Currently there are no fire codes on these biofuels, however, Gilbert is working toward limiting how much you can store. Hydrogen separation is also becoming an issue.

ACTION: Notify Jeff Mitchell if you run on any of these types of calls and he will put together a presentation for a future meeting.

Roundtable:

Chief McLeod mentioned the Annual Safety Officer Conference will be held in Orlando 10/27-10/31. He also announced that Jeff Clark has become Chandler's new Fire Chief.

Chief Bishop introduced Clay Woods from Taylor Fire.

Eight more miles have been annexed into Buckeye (Jackrabbit Trail to Perryville and Van Buren to Camelback). They are looking at building a new station within the next two years.

Maricopa is revamping their SOPs and working on hybrid training.

Sun City West looking to annex to the northwest; going to bid on a new pumper and possibly a ladder; currently going through the Accreditation process and working on a rehab plan (vehicle/supplies).

Phoenix gave an update on their Captain who coded during a structure call. He did have a stint put in but is making a full recovery.

Steve Leitzell expressed the loss Scottsdale Fire is feeling with the unfortunate death of DPS Paramedic Bruce Harrolle. Bruce had worked for Scottsdale in the past. Steve reminded everyone there are no "routine" calls!! Always consider risk vs. gain.

Glendale had an incident where a firefighter needed to move seats (unrestrained) while putting on his SCBA so the Captain instructed to have the truck pull over. The Fire Chief sent a two-page letter to members stating this was the right thing to do. Another reminder that we should not risk a lot to save a little.

Scottsdale Captains have gone through the ISO program (in-house).

Dawn will be attending a DREAM (Direct-Reading Exposure Assessment Methods) workshop in Washington DC 11/13 & 11/14. Issues relevant to the broad range of employment sectors and occupational hazards, such as method selection, validation, data handling, interpretation, data integration, etc. will be discussed.

Chandler promoted Jeff Clark to the position of Fire Chief.

Jeff Mitchell mentioned the Membership Marketing Manager for the IAFC, Heather Westphal, was killed while vacationing with her family in Hawaii on October 12.

The next VSO meeting will be December 9 in the Great Room at Phoenix Fire Administration beginning at 0930.