

Valley Safety Officers Meeting October 21, 2009

Members Present:

Dwayne Bader, Scottsdale	Hank Oleson, Sun City
Jackson Bearden, Surprise	Robert Olmstead, Sun Lakes
Janet Bennett, Sun Lakes	Eddie Quintero, Mesa
Patty Frey, Glendale	Eric Valliere, Scottsdale
Randy Frassetto, Surprise	Hugh Zembruski, Sun City West
Val Gale, Chandler	

Review of August Minutes:

Departments will continue to carry a universal connection in their RIC bags. Can buddy breathe with your own crew (i.e. Dräger to Dräger) or transfill (i.e. Dräger to SCOTT). Air management is key.

Solar Panel Hazards:

ROCC asked the Valley Safety Officers to research the inherent dangers of solar panels. The Ladder Committee has already researched and included solar panel devices in their Task Manual. Captain Randy Frassetto distributed a handout regarding photovoltaic/thermal devices that was put together with assistance from APS, NAU, the Arizona Solar Energy Association and the California State Fire Marshal's Office.

The following are some of the highlights discussed:

- Panels weigh approximately 40 lbs per cell.
- The average panel is 4 x 8.
- The average house has 2-3 of these cells.
- Secure the AC power and shut it off.
- If they catch on fire, they are toxic so it's important to watch out for citizens standing by.
- Don't operate on the same truss as a panel due to the additional dead load.
- Each module is connected with high voltage.
- There are not many regulations on the installation of these devices here in Arizona.
- Commercial buildings are set up the same as residential however the panels are bigger (normally 100 x 100).

A video with pictures showing the hazards and shut off process was suggested.

A representative from Tempe Fire is working with APS and SPR to put premise alerts on each business and house that has these devices since they can't always be seen. Glendale requires permits for the installation and then Fire is notified and they are entered in CAD.

Sun City Fire will be hosting a free half-day training seminar on solar photovoltaic safety for firefighters on December 3 and 4. The instructor is Fire Captain Matthew Paiss from San Jose Fire Department. Captain Paiss holds a degree in Solar Energy Technology.

Ladder Committee Update:

This committee has been working on the Ladder Task Manual for two years. There are representatives from 42 cities within the state. The manual has 13 chapters and all but two are completed. Each chapter is sent to ROCC for approval. It will be going to Life Safety Council for their approval in the near future. A 112-hour Ladder Academy will be offered in the spring of 2010 through the Community Colleges. www.LadderOps.com is the website.

Roundtable:

Chandler's Val Gale has been temporarily assigned to days assisting Chief Bailey for the next 3 months.

Patty Frey from Glendale asked if there is a Valley standard on filling SCBAs on or off firefighters' backs. The consensus is it is up to each department: the west valley removes them, Phoenix leaves them on and the east side removes them also.

Patty also asked if Utility Trucks responding code 2 or code 3. Phoenix is the only department where Utility Trucks respond code 3.

Sun City has had their drive cams up and running for 2 months. With these installed, you can see if members are wearing their seat belts. The camera sits just below the mirror and shoots forward as well as backwards. If the truck stops hard or turns too sharp it activates the camera. You can view 8 seconds prior to the activation and 4 seconds after (with audio). It does not collect data from the onboard computer but it will give GPS and how fast the vehicle was traveling. It is downloaded once at night to a video up-link. An outside agency reviews the videos first and then notifies the Department of a concern (i.e. following too close). The cost was \$500 per unit and \$500 per unit per year to maintain it.

Chief Parks shared that Rob McLeod of Chandler was voted in as Chairman for the FDSOA. Conference attendance was up from last year and there were several presenters from the Valley. The Board will meet next week to set the agenda for next year. Brian has one more year as the Western Director and Rob will have a three-year term. Consideration will be made regarding moving this conference to a more central location but the contract with the Rosen Plaza in Orlando is set for another couple years.

Chief Parks provided a brief update on the E910 accident. Based on PD's investigation, E910 did stop on the west side of the freeway but not on the east side. It was also determined the Captain was not wearing a seatbelt. Phoenix's Professional Standards Committee is reviewing training, procedures and equipment and will draft a report to the Fire Chief. That particular intersection is different; it's the length of a football field and has one light signal located in the middle of the intersection.

Phoenix is working out some bugs with the Dräger. One of the complaints has been that the alarms go off too often.

Sun Lakes experienced a recent near miss. On this incident, there was an acting Captain and acting Engineer. They responded to a mutual aide call with another agency. The other agency had an acting BC. The Sun Lakes Engine crew's assignment was to vertically ventilate the roof. Once on the roof, the pike pole went through when the Firefighter was sounding the roof but he did not communicate this to the Captain (who was also on the roof). Captain became aware of the hole but directed the Firefighter to poke another area. Incident Commander pulled them off the roof after determining a hole is not needed. If there had been active fire under that area of the roof, they could have all fallen through.

The next meeting will be December 16 beginning at 0930 at Phoenix Fire Administration's Great Room