

Valley Safety Officers Meeting December 9, 2008

Attendees:

Dwayne Bader, Scottsdale	David Givens, Luke	Eric Valliere, Scottsdale
Kevin Bailey, Chandler	Kirk Hover, Phoenix	David Vera, Phoenix
Paul Bourgeois, Mesa	Jason Jessamine, Buckeye Valley	Hugh Zembruski, Sun City West
Craig Caraker, Goldwater Range	Mike Sandulak, Phoenix	

If you haven't sent your RIC bag inventory to Jeff Mitchell, please do so (Jeff.mitchell@mesaaz.gov) so a regional master list can be compiled.

The 11/24/08 federal mandate on the reflective safety vest should not affect anyone in the Valley: what we currently use regionally is compliant. When operating in a hazard zone (i.e. a car fire or Haz Mat call in the roadway) the reflective stripes on turnouts are sufficient so the ANSI Class II vest is not needed.

Roundtable:

Sun City West was visited by OSHA the day after Chandler regarding mask fit testing.

Scottsdale is moving forward with an online ISO program (the Dotson curriculum). They are 80% complete (all Captains will receive this training) and they should finish up end of this month. This is supported by the Department, not a college, so no credits are offered.

Buckeye Valley Fire toured a bio-diesel plant in their area. This plant houses up to 12 20,000 gallon containers of bio-diesel in different stages. There were no fire extinguishers in the facility. They currently ship to distributors but will be selling to anyone in the future. The closest Haz Mat team is 25 minutes away in Goodyear.

Jason is proposing some additions to their RIC bag: 200 ft. of rope, bolt cutters, masks, extra bottle and transfil hoses, 2 flashlights, strobe lights, carry all, webbing, door wedges, rescue tool, flathead and Phillips screwdrivers.

Ten Buckeye Valley members have signed up for the 911 Fitness Challenge (www.911fitness.com) The Challenge starts January 5 and goes until April 1. The team that loses the most weight and gains muscle wins \$5,000, a trip to Las Vegas and tickets to the UFC Live.

Chandler Fire made some changes and Kevin Bailey is now their Safety representative; Chief McLeod is their TLO. Kevin discussed their recent OSHA investigation. The anonymous complaint was regarding mask fit testing completed in 2007. When OSHA came in, they looked at *current* records and found there were four members who had not been tested in the past 18 months. Of these four, one had been on light duty since 2006 and the other three were day staff. The department received a non-serious violation, no fine and also had an "informal counseling" which may possibly wipe it from their record. Fortunately they had documented each time members were notified and/or reminded to complete their fit test. To correct this in the future, they will be changing their SOG to take members off shift until they complete it. Good recordkeeping is key! Millennium masks (for WMD) and N95 EMS masks need to be tested also. Mesa tests their Haz Mat and Squad masks as well. SAR vs. "escape" masks are different.

Goldwater Range recently had a plane that lost its canopy but the pilot landed safely – just messed up his hair.

Luke should be online with their new MSA SCBA by the end of the month. Dave asked about a new standard on securing helmets in the cab of trucks. No one was aware of this but cargo nets were suggested as an option.

Dawn Bolstad-Johnson recently attended a NIOSH DREAM (Direct Reading Exposure Assessment Methods) workshop that discussed the needs of direct-reading instruments for first responders. One presentation was on analyzing exhale breath to identify lung cancer and it has also been used on heart transplant patients to determine if the new heart is being rejected. Dawn asked about using this on firefighters in regard to smoke during and after a fire. The answer was it would cost \$100,000 to conduct such a study.

Due to lack of funding, no additional research has been conducted on a breast milk study.

Phoenix is going through phase 1 of implementing the Dräger SCBA (a PowerPoint, hands on video and distributing a PAC to each station for familiarization). Phase 2 will start after the first of the year which will include fit testing and then MCS. Phase 3 will be live fire training. Once every member is trained, they will put them into service.

Phoenix is also looking at including a heart scan through the Arizona Heart Institute for a \$25 co-pay during their annual physical. Jeff commented on the BraveHEART program which is an aggressive preventive cardiology screening designed to eradicate heart disease and stroke which is one of the greatest dangers facing firefighters today. (www.proeartmd.com/index-3.html)

Chief Vera shared:

- Some Station bathrooms are being remodeled due to mold.
- The light rail will be online soon -- 12/27 is the kick off. It's free to ride 12/27 – 12/31. Phoenix Fire's Great Room will be the command center during this time.
- This is Chief Vera's last meeting. He is retiring at the end of the year and starting his own business (www.fdsolutionz.net). Congratulations on 33 years with the fire service, Chief, and best wishes for your retirement!

Under the Safety, Health and Survival section of the Arizona Fire Chiefs Association, a Northeast Safety Officer Association was recently created which is lead by Chief Clay Wood from Taylor Fire. A Northern Association (Flagstaff/Summit Fire) is also in the works and Yuma has shown some interest in starting a Southwest group. Some objectives for these groups are to sponsor state-wide training, education and development; perhaps host a symposium for safety officers and possibly hold a track at the AZFC Annual Conference on safety officer development.

The next VSO meeting will be February 18 at Phoenix Fire's Great Room beginning at 0930.

107 firefighter fatalities year-to-date
BE SAFE!