

Valley Safety Officers Meeting April 15, 2009

Attendees:

Dawn Bolstad-Johnson, Phoenix
Dan Davis, Glendale
Ron Deadman, Avondale
Mike Holliday, Harquahala

Jason Jessamine, Buckeye Valley
Robert Olmstead, Sun Lakes
Brian Parks, Phoenix
Keith Rogers, Phoenix

Daniel Seville, Phoenix
Jeffrey Snyder, Sun City
Eric Valliere, Scottsdale
Gary West, Northwest Fire
Hugh Zembruski, Sun City

May Day Training

As the Chair for the West Side Training Consortium, Chief Davis from Glendale presented the air management policy the west side departments are following.

Within two years after the death of Brett Tarver, Phoenix Fire conducted over 200 drills and it was clear that the May Day component needed a change. The important piece is that the work cycle concludes before any firefighter's low air vibe alert sounds. If they are in an IDLH environment and their low air alert goes off, it should be an immediate action item.

The West Side Consortium has trained that anytime a firefighter is inside the hazard zone and their low air alert goes off, they need to declare a May Day -- no exception! They have also trained on how to give a radio report for a low-air May Day. As Incident Commanders, you want to know as soon as possible that there is a firefighter low on air. Transitionally, this may cause more May Day calls but in the long run, it will save our members and we should celebrate when members do it rather than beat them up for it.

This policy is being shared with the ROCC's training subcommittee.

Halo Strap

Captain Mitchell demonstrated the "Halo Strap" which is a 21-foot long fabric "loop" that can quickly be used to pull a downed firefighter. Mesa's SWAT medics use it. Very fast to deploy and could be used if the downed firefighter has removed his/her jacket. It pulls on chest and legs so basically it is a class 3 harness.

ACTION: The group agreed it is worth bringing to ROCC.

FDSOA Annual Safety Forum

Chief Parks handed out the FDSOA brochure. The date has been moved up to September rather than October this year. The first two days are the ISO/Health & Safety Officer Academy and then the three day conference follows. The Chair and Vice Chair positions on the FDSOA Board are opening this year. Chief McLeod from Chandler is running for the Chair position.

Bay Doors

Chief Parks asked what other departments are doing when bay doors are damaged. Due to budget issues, Glendale is not fixing them; they drive out the back door if the front is damaged. Other departments have the light beams but they also have had accidents. The red light/green light signal is easy to install and has been somewhat effective. There have been no accidents with horizontal doors.

Phoenix Dräger SCBA Interoperability

Danny Seville from Phoenix Fire explained some of the interoperability issues with the Dräger SCBAs (which should be in use in June). The Dräger cannot buddy breathe with MSA or Scott; only Dräger to Dräger. Phoenix BCs carry the 3000 and 4500 psi fittings. At the ROCC, the question was asked if there was a universal fitting that would allow buddy breathing for Scott or MSA and the answer is no.

ACTION: A backup plan needs to be in place if a Phoenix BC is *not* onscene during an Automatic Aid call and a Phoenix member goes down as he/she will not be able to buddy breathe with a border department (Tempe/Scottsdale/Chandler/Mesa).

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

Chief West from Northwest Fire District distributed a brochure on the upcoming golf tournament and benefit dinner for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to be held in Tucson June 11 and 12. Gordon Graham will be the keynote speaker. In addition to the tournament and dinner, a safety seminar will be held June 11 and a Firefighter Combat Challenge will also take place June 12 and 13.

Central Yavapai will hold a golf tournament in Prescott on 9/12/09 to also benefit the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. If you have any questions, contact Chief West at (520) 730-1742.

Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week

This year Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival week will be June 14 - 20. It was suggested that this group attend the safety seminar in Tucson on June 11 and then meet immediately afterwards and share ideas/network with the southern safety officers group.

ACTION: Chief West will work with the Starr Pass Resort on providing a room for this meeting.

Roundtable

Chief West is new in the Health and Safety division of Northwest Fire.

Phoenix is offering safety classes for their suppression and civilian staff once a month but anyone is welcome. Dawn Bolstad-Johnson was invited by NIST to assist with the development of a sensor to be placed inside the mask face piece to monitor inward air. She is also working on exposures of fire investigators.