

**Valley Safety Officers Meeting
April 16, 2008**

Attendees:

Stuart Bishop, Pinetop	David Givens, Luke	Jeff Mitchell, Mesa
Craig Caraker, Goldwater Range	Daniel Guerra, Sun Lakes	Chuck Montgomery, Glendale
Ron Deadman, Avondale	Kirk Hover, Phoenix	Kore Redden, Rural Metro
Jeff Freundlich, Scottsdale	Dawn Bolstad-Johnson, Phoenix	Mike Sandulak, Phoenix
Phillip Georghiou, Surprise	Rob McLeod, Chandler	David Vera, Phoenix
		Hugh Zembruski, Sun City West

Miscellaneous

Jeff Mitchell shared a sample door wedge with a strobe light and alarm that a Mesa Safety Captain picked up at FDIC. The cost is \$100 and includes two wedges and a pouch. Something to consider for your RIC bags.

A couple months ago, Mesa experienced 8-9 mask strap failures with their SCOTT AV3000 masks. Jeff spoke with other agencies that experienced similar problems with the straps: Phoenix also experienced problems and has switched back to the old masks. OSHA requested that SCOTT have the masks tested at a lab and it was determined these were not manufacturer defects but user error by over-tightening.

RIC Bag Compatibility

At the last Valley Safety Officers meeting, information was shared regarding the inability to buddy breathe between the SCOTT and MSA. You can, however, transfill between these two. If transfilling at the chest, it goes faster than transfilling at the base of the bottle. The group determined that the standard pressure should be 3,000 due to the possibility of over-pressuring a bottle with 4,5000. It was also recommended that the ROCC RIC Bag Committee reconvene to review what is carried (determine what size bottle, what mask, etc.).

ACTION: Jeff Mitchell will bring to ROCC in order to standardize RIC bags across the valley.

NFPA 1561 – Evacuation Signal

The use of the air horn to notify crewmembers on the fire ground to evacuate is commonplace in fire departments back east. Locally, Luke Air Force Base has used this method as well as Avondale and Pinetop. This is in addition to emergency traffic tones and is a no-cost option.

An example of how this could be effective was a recent apartment fire on the Mesa/Tempe border. Two 2-story buildings were well involved and there were interoperability issues between the VHF and 800 MHz radios (VHF has priority and will step over 800 MHz). When the incident changed to defensive mode, Command could not get in touch with E218 so this type of signal might have assisted in this situation.

Multiple blasts would be more effective due to accidental sounding or mechanical error of the airhorn. Some departments base the use of this method on the size of the structure, however, on a high-rise fire, all four sides would be best. Even though this would be most effective for non-high rise events, which is the majority of incidents, the blasts from several trucks can vibrate glass on windows up to 5-6 stories or more depending on the echo.

Phoenix may incorporate this in their high-rise training coming up to see how it works.

ACTION: Jeff Mitchell will present this to ROCC for inclusion in Volume II.

NFPA 1584 - Rehab

On a trial basis, Mesa is using the forearm immersion during rehab. After removing turnouts and bunker pants, members will immerse their arms (up to the elbow) for 10 seconds in a 5-gallon bucket.

The following points were made regarding Rehab:

- Command needs to assign a Sector Officer to ensure that Rehab gets set up.
- Rehab has been a cultural thing: some departments don't set it up while others are not as strict with it.
- Some members may think if they go to rehab, they don't get to go back in the firefight so they may not admit that they need rehab.
- By giving bottled water in rehab, you know exactly how much water/replenishment has been given/received.
- Considering the 4,500 bottle keeps members in the firefight longer, increasing the work cycle, they can become more fatigued so the need for rehab is even more necessary.
- Rehab starts with the Incident Commander! Change the way we do business!

Another hydration study was conducted with fire recruits through the University of Illinois. Members were monitored throughout the week and given the same amount of fluids Monday through Friday. When they reported to work on Friday morning, they were more dehydrated than they were Monday. In the Orange County study, 90% of the crews were dehydrated prior to the start of the drill (<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=58378>).

ACTION: Jeff Mitchell will recommend to ROCC adopting NFPA 1584 into Volume II.

Stand Down

Stand Down week is now called Safety, Health and Survival Week and will be held June 22 – 28. Information is available on the www.ichiefs.org website. Mesa is working on a video, which Jeff will share at the June 18 meeting.

Eye Protection

Jeff Freundlich from Scottsdale shared that one of their firefighters had a piece of hot slag enter his goggles (Bullard brand) through an opening along the nose area during a drill. Unfortunately goggles only come in one size and one size does not fit all. The elastic straps can become compromised if left on the helmet while in heated atmosphere. Because each task requires different tools, i.e. extrications = goggles, fires = face shield, to avoid debris in eyes, it may be best to wear goggles and a face shield (Lexan or Bourke eye shield). It really depends on what task is being completed as to what should be worn.

Roundtable

A CrossFit seminar will be held on May 10 and 11 at Mesa Fire Training. The cost is \$595 per person. Contact Lori Miller at (480) 644-4694 for more information.

The Phoenix Health Fitness & Safety Symposium will be held May 20 - 22.

Stuart Bishop from Pinetop reminded everyone to ensure your wildland firefighters are prepared and have all the tools they need for this season.

Chuck Montgomery is new to this group and has been assigned to Safety/Health for Glendale. He shared a dangerous situation one of their crews recently responded to: a home that appeared to be vacant from the exterior had a fire. When the crew entered the home, they found many people inside and the windows covered with plywood, screwed in from the *inside* over the window coverings. Due to the number of vacant and foreclosed homes, these “drop houses” may appear all over the valley.

Chief McLeod shared a near miss in Chandler. Dispatch received a fire alarm from a building that has several false alarms on a weekly basis. When the crew arrived, there was no evacuation in progress. When they recalled the elevator with the fire department key, a fireball came out driving the company officer to the floor and singeing the carpet. The fire went up two floors in the elevator shaft and melted the plastic light coverings and the wall within the elevator. Smoke was at waist level on the 4th and 5th floors. Because crews respond to this building often on false alarms, they were not turned out. The lesson here is: Nothing is ordinary!

Chief McLeod asked for suggestions on what would you like to see over and above what is offered at the National Fire Academy. What would you like to learn more about or assist with your job better in moving to the next level as a Safety Officer? Send your ideas to Rob.mcleod@chandleraz.gov or Brian.p.parks@phoenix.gov.

There will be a 40-hour ISO class in Peoria 5/5 – 5/9. The cost is \$400. A national cert exam will take place on May 30 at Tempe Fire Training and is open to anyone. The cost is \$95.00 and the test application is available at www.fdsaa.org. Tucson is holding a test in May also --contact Chief Nied for further info Ed.nied@tucsonaz.gov. If you have a need to certify members, contact any of the valleys Certified Safety Officers and they can proctor an exam.

The next Valley Safety Officers Meeting will be June 18 beginning at 9:30 at Phoenix Fire's Great Room.