

**Valley Safety Officers Meeting  
June 18, 2008**

**Members Present:**

Stuart Bishop, Pinetop	David Givens, Luke	Jeff Snyder, Sun City
Craig Caraker, Goldwater Range	Christopher House, Luke	Eric Valliere, Scottsdale
Dawn Bolstad-Johnson, Phoenix	Jason Jessamine, Buckeye Valley	David Vera, Phoenix
Ron Deadman, Avondale	Jeff Mitchell, Mesa	Joseph Wilson, Glendale
Ron Dennis, Avondale	David Nunez, Phoenix	Mike Worrell, Phoenix
Scott Collins, Surprise	Brian Parks, Phoenix	Hugh Zembruski, Sun City West
Phillip Georghiou, Surprise	Kore Redden, Rural Metro	

**Health, Safety and Survival Week Review:**

In Mesa, the Chiefs will be going to each station and showing a video reviewing emergency vehicle operations, NFPA 1500 and the wellness and fitness initiative. Messages will be announced from the Alarm Room throughout the day. Southwest Ambulance is being included as well.

In Sun City, the BCs and FITs are receiving a packet with a video and a PowerPoint presentation along with handouts on key points to cover (focusing on rehab).

Pinetop Fire will review wellness. Several of their members are training for the Firefighter Fitness Challenge in San Diego next month. Nutrition, supplements and various cancers will also be a topic of discussion.

Scottsdale is providing similar information and also including some NIOSH reports and covering driver safety.

Buckeye Valley will cover driver safety and rehab. Due to limited resources, they have experienced fires where crews went through 5 - 6 bottles of air.

Glendale will place an emphasis on driver safety and use of seatbelts in patient transports (ambulances).

Phoenix will be showing a video covering health and safety issues (being fit for duty).

Chief Nunez also shared the following:

- Phoenix now has Car 959 and part of their responsibility is to manage rehab during any 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm or greater. They also act as a liaison between the fire department and the hospitals (i.e. regarding long wait times for transferring patient care).
- A video is available through Phoenix Fire on the light rail system. Each car weighs 100,000 lbs and travels at 35 mph. In this video, if involved in an accident, this could cut a fire truck in half. The electrical component of these cars is critical if they derail because you can easily get electrocuted.
- They have experienced failures with their XTS 5000 radios due to the small battery contacts. If the contacts become dirty or scratched, the radio may lose contact. An option to correct this is to have the contacts coated with a chemical to prevent problems. Another problem they have had is that members could receive but not transmit. This problem appears to be heat-related (these radios are rated up to 140 degrees). Once the

radio cools down, it will work again. If other agencies experience these same problems, Chief Nunez asked that you document specifically what happened and share it. They would like to conduct some testing with other departments to determine when failures occur and also come up with alternatives for the radios such as the lapel mic, or placing the radio in a pocket or provide a cover for the radio. Phoenix will accumulate all the data and present it to Motorola.

**ACTION:** Chief Nunez will send all the information regarding radio issues to the group.

Sun City West will be providing a packet for Health, Safety and Survival Week which includes a health and fitness component, driver's training, the seatbelt pledge, a couple fire scenarios and a CISD component.

Phil Georghiou introduced Scott Collins who will be taking over Safety for Surprise Fire. They will be concentrating on health and wellness during Health, Safety and Survival Week. Also reviewing the effects of energy drinks.

Goldwater Range is working on response issues with Border Patrol. As first responders, they have arrived on calls for camp fires that has actually been lit by drug smugglers who are armed and the area is not secured. They will be receiving training on explosive devices in order to keep their members safe during these responses.

Luke Air Force will share a PowerPoint presentation on the 3 initiatives; focusing more on the emergency vehicle initiative and they are 100% committed to the seatbelt pledge.

Chief Vera announced that Phoenix will be switching their SCBAs to Dragers. He also shared that Car 959 will be on a 56-hour week and will coordinate with the hospitals on industrial evaluations. Another change Phoenix has made is documenting exposure calls via their MCTs. This should be available to anyone on the Automatic Aide system using Phoenix MCTs. Ron Burch is the one who developed this system so contact him with questions.

Chief Dennis of Avondale challenges everyone to get 100% compliance on seatbelts. One thing they do year round is a "Friday Vitals Check" which provides baseline vitals (temperature, pulse and blood pressure) on everyone. This information is entered into Firehouse and can assist if a member is transported; these records can be accessed to see what their normal vitals are. Each member also updates an employee data sheet on a yearly basis which lists who they would like to notify their family if they should be killed in the line of duty.

Chief Dennis mentioned the AFCA Leadership Conference will be held in Glendale 7/29 – 8/2. Friday, August 1 is the Equipment and Technology Expo which is free for all fire personnel. This year there will also be a 5K run, Fun Walk and a Centipede race on Friday with all proceeds going to the 100 Club.

Chief Dennis will be retiring the end of August so this is his last Valley Safety Officers meeting. We wish you well, Ron, and thank you for all the years you dedicated to keeping members across the country safe!

**Rehab:**

The new standard requires: provide shade (doesn't have to be enclosed), provide cooling, rehydration and nourishment as well as check vitals (medical component).

Captain Mitchell showed photos of how Mesa is setting up Rehab: after two work cycles, members strip down, removing bunker pants and boots (reusable sandals are provided). Racks are provided to hang gear. Two tents, aligned with chairs, and high-powered oscillating fans on each end with misters are used for cooling. For hydration, water and Gatorade are provided and they are experimenting with Cliff Shots for nourishment. Forearm immersion is also used for cooling.

**Accident Investigation:**

A Coastal video production was shown on “Accident Investigation: The Big Picture.” This is available for purchase on [ecom.coastal.com](http://ecom.coastal.com).

The next VSO meeting will be August 20 at Phoenix Fire’s Great Room beginning at 0930.