



# THE REVIEW

Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – **May 18, 2018**

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## **Quote of the Week**

"I can explain it to you, but I cannot understand it for you."— Unknown

Falls under something we'd like to say to some people.....

## **Remember this Memorial Day: Some gave all**



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# This is the one thing Veterans want you to know about Memorial Day

By: [Paul Szoldra](#) May 29, 2017 ([businessinsider.com](#))

Do not thank me for my service because today is not about me at all.

That's what a number of fellow military veterans said, when I asked what they wanted people to know about Memorial Day.

"It's not about us," said Staff Sgt. Jay Arnold, a soldier with the Illinois Army National Guard. "It's about those who went before us."

While often seen as just a day off work or great time to barbeque, Memorial Day — not to be confused with Veterans Day— is a day of remembrance for approximately 1 million men and women who have died in defense of the United States since 1775.

"Memorial Day isn't about romanticizing war or worshiping military veterans. It's a day to recognize personal sacrifices of veterans and active military alike, regardless of their inclinations toward war," said Tech Sgt. Bill Monahan, an airman serving at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. "Too often today, ones political beliefs skew opinions on what constitutes honorable service so it is important to have a day where we can look back at who laid it all on the line."

[More](#)

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## The Chief's Desk

I returned from the Western Fire Chief's Forum in Idaho last week just in time to attend the Baggers meeting in Glendale along with Chief Feddema. During the meeting a Chief Officer from the UK posed this question – "what is your/our purpose?" The gentleman has been part of Baggers for years; however since the death of our long time facilitator Ret. Chief Alan Brunacini there has been some question as to where we go from here. Since the last meeting in Fort Worth immediately following his death much of our conversation has been focused on Chief Brunacini rather than on more recent trends in our profession – which is to be expected.

In an effort to move the conversation along and challenge our thinking, the gentleman had posed a very good question. The dialogue that followed concerning some of the history behind the group was rather interesting. Did you know that NFPA 1500 was in part born from conversations and because of members

### Upcoming Events:

May 28 – Memorial Day Office Closed  
May 29 – Office  
May 30 – ZOOM meeting  
Yavapai College, Radio meeting  
Prescott FD, PNF Forest Meeting  
May 31 – Legislative meeting in Phoenix

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### Board Meeting:

June 25<sup>th</sup>

CVFD – 1600-1630  
Joint Budget – 1630-1700  
CAFMA – 1700-1800  
CYFD – 1800-1830

from Baggers? Or that some of the firefighter safety standards we still follow today were pushed by members of Baggers? It's not that Baggers is a lobbying organization – it's not even "officially" organized. However, it is conversations in these meetings where fire service leaders from around the country discuss challenges and opportunities that help foster ideas to improve our profession.

As we continued around the room I kept thinking back to the question posed by our counterpart from the UK. Fortunately, or unfortunately for some, I was the last to speak. What I said was by no means earth shattering, but I think it fits. I told the group that based on the question posed earlier in the day I believe the answer is that our purpose is to be disruptors. To understand my point, we first need to look at the definition of disruptor. The



Cambridge Dictionary defines Disruptor as - **a person or thing that prevents something, especially a system, process, or event, from continuing as usual or as expected.**

Based on that definition disruptors can be good or bad. It depends on the persons motivation for the disruption e.g. personal gain, temper tantrum, or desire to derail are all reasons someone may have to disrupt something, but none of these are considered appropriate. However, preventing something that is unhealthy from continuing, or preventing something that does not aid in accomplishing our mission from continuing are appropriate reasons for disruption. In reality, disruption is a part of leadership.

In the fire service, we historically hold on to the idea that "we've always done it that way." Generally Firefighters want two things. First, we want things to change. Second, we want everything to stay the same. The two are obviously in direct conflict with one another. We cannot keep doing things the same way as everything around us is changing and expect to be successful.

As members of Baggers, we sit together for two days going one by one around the room discussing our challenges, our opportunities and our philosophies. Each of us leaves after the two days and heads back to our agencies reenergized and ready to face another day with a new perspective. We also have the responsibility to use our knowledge to challenge the norm, advance concepts, and completely change or improve the system. In short, we prevent the status quo by asking, "is this the right thing, the right way, or right process?" If not, then we need to work towards implementing change. Things like NFPA 1500 and firefighter safety interrupted the system, made some people mad, and saved countless firefighter lives.

We are all members of CAFMA. I am proud to proclaim that we as a collective worked as disruptors. We identified a problem, determined that the model we were working under was not sustainable in its current form, and we created something brand new. No, CAFMA is not ground breaking, and outside the State of Arizona we are certainly not the first. But did we disrupt something from continuing as usual? Hell yes we did and we needed to. And you know what, we need to continue disrupting by letting go of what's normal or comfortable and continuing to question so we move forward. Staying in our comfort zone means we become stagnate, and in the fire service stagnate means falling behind.....



As my good friend and mentor Chief Scott Ferguson shared with me, “we need to constantly evaluate our traditions in the fire service keeping the ones that are still relevant and discarding those that are harmful.” Sometimes it even means bringing back long forgotten traditions e.g. apparatus christening ceremonies.

In reality, disruption is part of leadership. It’s often said that leaders have vision. Vision is not allowing things that do not work, or are outdated to stay the same. It is calculating a plan for disruption so we remain sustainable and relevant. Maybe disruption seems too extreme, or maybe it’s just overly philosophical. Either way, I believe we as CAFMA embrace the idea of being disruptors.

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## Stuff That’s Happening

At the board meeting May 24<sup>th</sup> the CAFMA board approved the purchase of a new utility. The cost of the utility was a little more than what was budgeted, but the engines came in less than what was budgeted. In the end, we’ve purchased the two engines and the utility and did very well financially.

We dedicated engines 62 and 54 this week in our first ever christening ceremonies. These ceremonies date back hundreds of years and have been a source of pride for firefighters and communities. I did some research into each portion of the ceremony so I could remind everyone present why the transferring of water, wetting down the engine, and pushing it into the station is important. What I found was varying reasons depending on the agency. To that end, I adopted the spirit of the tradition, while explaining it in our own CAFMA way.

For CAFMA, the transferring of the water from the old to the new represents transferring some of the wisdom, strength and courage from the engine that used to grace the station house, safely ferry its crew from call to call, and stand watch over its community to the new engine that we pray will do the same. This is not unlike the senior firefighter who is leaving the station passing on their knowledge of the house, equipment, and area to the new firefighter walking through the door.

The wetting of the engine is much like breaking a bottle of Champagne over the bow of a boat as it is launched for the first time to wish it good fortune on its journey. We wet the new engine down from the hose and water of the old just before its maiden voyage to wish it good fortune and safety for the future.

Pushing the apparatus in the station was reportedly done because horses don’t have reverse so crews had to push the apparatus into the station daily – since I don’t know a lot about horses I did confirm that they don’t have reverse with Dean Steward. While originally out of necessity, the tradition of pushing a new engine in the station stuck around even after moving from horses to horse power. That said we use a little horsepower today to assist – especially since we do have reverse.

I’d like to thank retired Captain Dean Steward for making the bucket, which makes it even more special, and for bringing forward the idea of instituting a ceremony. Additionally, I’d like to thank Captain JK for developing the ceremony and making it something for which we can all be proud. Firefighter/Medic

Copenhaver and the Pipes and Drums band chose several great tunes to play during the ceremony. Two of which are:

- "When the Battles Over" played as the old engine is retired
- "Dawning of the Day" played when the new engine is pushed into the station

As always, the Pipes and Drums along with the Honor Guard represent us well and help instill pride in both our profession and organization. We are happy to show them the same support that they show our organization. You guys make be proud to be part of all of this!

