



THE REVIEW

Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – **May 17, 2019**

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Quote of the Week

“Human beings, who are almost unique in having the ability to learn from the experience of others, are also remarkable for their apparent disinclination to do so.”
 -Douglas Adams

25th Annual Burn Camp
“Cantina Night”
Friday, May 24th
Fun Starts at 5:00 PM
Holiday Courtyard On Historic Whiskey Row
150 S. Montezuma, Prescott, AZ

LIVE MUSIC
 by Road One South &
 The Groove Kings

Street Tacos
ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT
ARIZONA CHILDREN’S BURN CAMP

For more information visit: www.prescottFFcharities.org

May 18, 2019 **GEAR UP 2019** **1:00 – 5:00 PM**
 The Prescott Club @ StoneRidge

CAR SHOW ON THE GRASS **T-Shirts**

AUCTION ITEMS:

- Hand painted firefighter axe
- Professionally air brushed fire hydrant
- American Flag made with fire hose
- DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO GET ONE OF THESE ITEMS AND MANY MORE!!

CHILDREN'S EVENTS:

- Bounce House
- Face Painting
- Balloon Twister
- Dress up like a firefighter
- Arty and crafts

Live Performances by:

FOOD **DRINKS**

BBQ Chicken Soda
 Cheeseburgers Water
 Hotdogs Adult Beverages
 Cora Dogs

Additional Information Contact:
 Cody Rose (928) 533-3341
 Car Entry Fee = \$25

Sponsored by:
PRESCOTT CLUB **STONE RIDGE**

More information and registration forms on website www.firefighterrangel.org

The Chief's Desk



I'm in Sisters, Oregon this week for the Western Fire Chiefs Presidents forum, and then sticking around for a couple of days to visit friends. We've had a couple of presenters speaking on the topics of opioid abuse, PTSD in the fire service, and the Camp Fire.

Fire Chief Darrell Reid with the Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services serving Vancouver, British Columbia spoke about the opioid epidemic in his city as well as the issues they've faced with PTSD and suicide. According to Chief Reid, Vancouver currently leads the world in opiate related overdoses. He shared one example in which his crews worked five overdoses in one alley all at the same time. Unfortunately, situations like that have become normal for their city with crews running multiple overdoses each day.

Vancouver is host to multiple safe injection sites, and has considered safe drug dispensing machines. It is an interesting approach, but given the sheer number of drug related deaths in their city, something has to be done.

As you can imagine, the types of calls they run along with the sheer volume of calls has contributed to behavioral health issues for the firefighters, and led to at least a couple firefighter suicides. Behavioral health concerns led the agency to start an internal Division of Mental Health. They promoted a Captain trained in mental health issues, hired a psychologist, and staffed specially trained personnel. They also started testing potential new hires using psychometrics. The test is supposed to give an indication as to the person's ability to handle traumatic events – in short, their resiliency.

They also brought back team sports on shift. Most fire agencies have banned basketball, football, and other organized sports due to injury. However, since reintroducing on duty sports within their agency, they have seen improved morale and a decrease in some of the mental health issues they were facing. They've also introduced resiliency training <https://www.resilientmindslc.com/>. According to Chief Reid, since implementation of the program, employees have reported a reduction in disruptive sleep, less anxiousness, and decreased stress levels. I've sent the information to Patty to see if it's a program that would be beneficial for CAFMA. Additionally, the agency started a web-site, similar to Fire Strong, to provide employees access to information related to mental health <http://www.vancouvercism.com/>. You can find additional information on the CAFMA Fire Strong page at <https://www.firestrong.org/department/?search=84>.

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Upcoming Events:

May 20 – Meeting with DHS in Phoenix
May 21 – PRCC Liaison Meeting
May 22 – Water Tank Dedication Blue Hills
May 23 – Board Meetings

Board Meeting:

May 23rd Administration

CVFD – 1600-1630
CYFD – 1630-1700
CAFMA – 1700-1830



Fantastic Failure: Big Stick, Big Mouth

By: Eric Lovgren

I get a lot of use out of this quote. It was penned by the man who reminded us that flying is simply learning to throw oneself at the ground and miss. For me, it perfectly frames our relationship with failure. We love to celebrate our success and to share how we've reached our goals. But what about the times we came up short, or just flat-out blew it? Generally speaking, we try to forget about those moments as quickly as possible. There is a lesson in every failed attempt though. I would argue that we learn more from our mistakes than we do our successes. Most of us have a botched effort somewhere in our past that we'd rather not talk about, but probably should. Today, I'm going to share one of my most fantastic professional failures.

In order to properly set the stage, you should know more about me, and where I work. I've been the wildfire mitigation coordinator in Eagle County, Colorado, for just over 12 years. It's a mountain resort community, home to both Vail and Beaver Creek Ski Resorts, with a year-round population of about 50,000. Our most impressive statistic: the developed properties in our wildland-urban interface are valued at almost \$6.5 billion. In many parts of the county, I have the unique challenge of transitioning gated-developments into fire adapted communities. I'm afforded powerful tools to accomplish this task, though: land-use regulation and building codes.

Fireadaptnetwork.org

Technical Services – VHF Phase I Upgrade Completed

By: Jonah Van Tuyl

In March of 2019, Technical Services put 6 voted-receive sites into service for Alarm Channel 1, Command Channel 5, and Command Channel 8, completing Phase I of our VHF system upgrade. This process has been years-in-the-making, and brings significant benefits to our communications infrastructure.

Up until March 2019, all field units communicated through a VHF receiver on top of Glassford Hill. While this was adequate in many places inside of our service area, there were dead zones where radio traffic was not possible on a portable / handheld radio.

With the upgrade, instead of a field unit having to talk into the receiver on Glassford Hill, they now have the ability to also talk into Mt. Francis, Table Mountain (Chino Valley), Station 54, Spruce Mountain, and YCSO (downtown). This is a seamless (though very complex process) that involves equipment in our data center that selects which receive site should be used for any transmission. Within 250 milliseconds (1/4 second) of someone keying up their radio, the best possible receive site is automatically selected.

This significant upgrade allows area personnel, including CAFMA and Prescott Fire, to communicate much more reliably, even in areas once known to be dead zones. During our testing we found that areas that could not call out at all were able to call out loud and clear.

The magnitude of this accomplishment cannot be overstated. I would like to recognize Dave Legge and Tony Frazier for their dedication to see this project through to completion. It greatly increases our ability to communicate and makes a safer community for all of us.

Fire officials: PG&E equipment sparked deadly Calif. Fire

By: Kathleen Ronayne and Janie Har - Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — As California fire investigators officially concluded that the deadliest U.S. wildfire in a century was caused by Pacific Gas & Electric Corp. power lines, lawmakers expressed deep skepticism about whether the utility had made the dramatic changes needed to prevent another deadly blaze.



AP Photo/Noah Berger,File

The company's new chief executive, Bill Johnson, made his first appearance before lawmakers Wednesday, who peppered him with questions on his plan to lead the troubled utility.

In this Nov. 8, 2018 file photo a home burns as the Camp Fire rages through Paradise, Calif. California fire authorities say that Pacific Gas and Electric equipment was responsible for the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in state history. Cal Fire said in a press release issued Wednesday, May 15, 2019, that electrical transmission lines in the Pulga area sparked the Nov. 8

fire that wiped out most of the town of Paradise and killed 85 people. (AP Photo/Noah Berger,File)

"We shouldn't have to be reliving this," said Democratic Assemblywoman Eloise Reyes. "We need to know what the lessons learned are."

State fire officials said transmission lines owned and operated by the San Francisco-based utility started the Nov. 8 fire that wiped out nearly 15,000 homes in the town of Paradise. Many of those killed were elderly or disabled; the oldest was 99.

"Investigators determined there were violations of law," Cal Fire deputy director Mike Mohler said relating to Wednesday's report, but he said he hadn't read the report and didn't know the nature of the violations.

[Firerescue1.com](http://firerescue1.com)

Chief's Desk Continued

The other keynote speaker we had was Cal Fire's Butte County Chief David Hawks. It was his agency that was the lead during the Camp Fire. What we see, or hear from the media is not always how things went on the ground – I know, shocking right?? The fire was first reported at 0630 in the morning and within one hour had moved 4.2 miles due to wind and fuel conditions. Their first in company officer reported heavy fire conditions with the potential for the fire to become a significant event. He immediately ordered another 15 engines, hand crews, overhead, etc. More resources were ordered by the incoming IC. Ultimately they ended up with over 1000 firefighters on scene http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_details_info?incident_id=2277.

The Camp Fire claimed 85 lives, and over 18,000 structures. It stands as the most destructive wildfire in California history. While 85 is a lot of people, according to Chief Hawks, he believes that number would have been much higher had they not planned for an event like this well in advance.

Paradise had been divided into well-defined evacuation zones, with clearly defined routes and methods for evacuation. They had notification systems in place, and an array of educational materials that had been produced and distributed. Unfortunately, the intensity and speed of the fire knocked out some critical communication lines, and spot fires were developing miles ahead of the main body of fire. At the same time, as orderly as could be expected, they were trying to evacuate 26,000+ people. They did try a tanker drop, however because of the wind speeds the aircraft was not effective, and it was unsafe to try additional passes in those critical early hours.

In the end, the loss could have been far worse had they not done all of the work to plan for evacuation up front. Unfortunately, as Chief Hawks pointed out, the fire had the upper hand from the start aided by extremely high winds, topography, and fuels.

I attended an evening event at Ret. Fire Chief Jeff Johnson's house. The evening served as a great networking opportunity with past IAFC Presidents, the incoming IAFC President, and the executive board of the Western Division. Fire Chief Gary Ludwig is the incoming IAFC President, and someone that I've known from St. Louis for nearly my entire career. At one point he mentioned the IAFC's plans to broaden their relationship with AMR..... Ummmm, what???? This prompted a dialogue concerning the issues we are facing in our area as well as across the State of Arizona. Gary did reach out to AMR and then hosted a conference call between me, him, and an AMR executive. The individual from AMR stated he

would follow-up on the issues with their CEO and get back to me. Just as a point of interest, we've had this conversation with the same people previously without result.

We have a meeting with DHS and AMR Monday afternoon to follow-up on our complaints. As I told the Bureau of EMS Chief, unless they are coming to the table with a CON in hand for a different provider, or a significantly modified CON for AMR to include a contract for services, I see little that can be gained. That said, we will have the meeting and see what happens. In the meantime, AMR continues to have an inability to staff and/or respond to calls not only in our area, but around the State. Stay tuned next week for an update to the on-going drama that is our *current* ambulance transport provider.
