



THE REVIEW

Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – **November 8, 2019**

This Edition:

The Chief's Desk Page 2
NM ambulance service, fire dept. at odds over
transport authority.....Page 3
As Paradise rebuilds, a divide over safety a year
after deadly Camp FirePage 3
October Call StatisticsPage 4

Quote of the Week

"Speaking my mind is easy. Speaking it tactfully, not so much....."

-Pretty much anyone



Just please, no.....

The Chief's Desk

Good morning from beautiful Glendale, AZ and the Baggers Meeting! Spending two days in the valley with some of the top minds in the fire service from around the United States. Always quality conversation as we discuss challenges facing the fire service. Doesn't seem to matter the state, or even the country, the challenges we face here and the challenges everyone else faces are the same or similar. Change the names and we all have the same players.

Wednesday night this week we celebrated our recent recruit class graduation, Charlie's retirement, and the swearing in of five new planning/logistics, prevention, and administrative personnel. It was fantastic to see how many families turned out along with so many of you. As always, the Honor Guard along with Pipes and Drums did an outstanding job representing our organization. We were fortunate to have a couple of our Captains testing evaluators, one from Scottsdale FD and one from Northwest FD, attend the event. They both approached Chief Feddema afterward to compliment CAFMA regarding our ceremony. Both were impressed by the turn out, as well as the efforts we take to honor our personnel and their families. It's nice to have an outside perspective from a couple of the larger agencies in the state.

We also had two county supervisors, Craig Brown and Mary Mallory, attend Wednesday evening. It was a very nice gesture for them to come out and support our graduates, new hires, and retiree. Additionally, Directors Packard, Zurcher, and Gentile attended to show their support for all of our folks.

Engineers and Captains testing is complete and all participants have been notified of their scores. The Chief's interviews will be scheduled for some time in December. We have to wait for participants to review their test results, and then wait for the 30-day grievance period to end.

Next up will be the Assistant Chief testing process on December 10th and 11th. The AC positions were posted internally yesterday. I believe that BC testing is scheduled for January followed by new firefighter testing. We're also looking at a test for an assistant warehouse position in February. Monies for the warehouse position will come from the budgeted special duty pay for the warehouse that is not used, as well as monies that had been budgeted for Alex's position in Tech Services. Alex will be leaving his position in January or February which opens those funds up for use by the warehouse. We initially thought we might be able to split Andy's time between Facilities and Warehouse, however given the work load in facilities we simply cannot pull Andy to have him spend any time working with the original Erik.

As you can see Patty and her staff are very busy going from one testing process to another while still trying to get the regular duties of Human Resources completed. Thank you all for your efforts!

Continued on Page 4

Upcoming Events:

Nov 11 – Closed for Veterans Day
Nov 12 – Office in the morning, Pinal County Chiefs Meeting
Nov 13 – Coconino County Chief's Meeting, Office in the afternoon
Nov 14 – AFSI Phoenix, Ad Hoc Committee Meeting #2 at Capitol
Nov 15 – AFCA Board Meeting Scottsdale

Board Meeting:

November 25th Admin
CAFMA – 1700-1830



NM ambulance service, fire dept. at odds over transport authority

By: Mike Gallagher

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — “Level Zero” is the phrase at the heart of a legal fight between Albuquerque Fire and Rescue and privately owned Albuquerque Ambulance Service over the city’s proposed expansion of its authority to have AFR rescue units transport patients to the hospital.

In most cases, AFR rescue units stabilize patients on scene and Albuquerque Ambulance then takes them to the emergency room – allowing the Fire and Rescue units to return to service for new 911 calls.

When Albuquerque Ambulance has no units able to respond immediately to 911 calls, its dispatchers announce “Level Zero” over the radio.

The sharp uptick in “Level Zero,” the city says, shows the ambulance service doesn’t have enough staffed units deployed and translates into AFR rescue units spending too much time waiting at a scene for Albuquerque Ambulance to show up and transport a patient.

Albuquerque Ambulance, part of the Presbyterian Healthcare Services system, says the city’s concerns are overblown.

But no one disputes the system is under stress as 911 calls for nearly every type of medical emergency – ranging from overdoses to chest pain to shootings to “down and out” on a sidewalk – have increased. Last year, Albuquerque Fire and Rescue responded to more than 96,000 such calls.

[Firerescue1](#)

As Paradise rebuilds, a divide over safety a year after deadly Camp Fire

By: Don Thompson

PARADISE, Calif. — There was “no way in hell” Victoria Sinclair was rebuilding in Paradise.

She’d thought she was going to die during the six hours it took her to escape the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history.

Sinclair and tens of thousands of others in nearby communities fled the wind-whipped inferno that killed 85 people and incinerated roughly 19,000 homes, businesses and other buildings on Nov. 8, 2018.

Despite her vow to stay away, Sinclair’s family was one of the first to rebuild, braving the enduring threat of wildfires, and now, repeated power outages as the nation’s largest utility tries to prevent its equipment from sparking blazes on windy days like it did in Paradise a year ago.

Weeks after the wildfire, Sinclair had an epiphany. She returned to the ruins of her home and felt more at peace than any time since the fleeing the flames, even as she stood in the ashes of her living room.

"I want people to see that Paradise is a place to return home to," Sinclair said. "The scars run deep here, but so do the roots that help it grow."

"Rebuilding the Ridge" is a rallying cry on signs around town, evoking the beauty and peril of rebuilding on a wind-swept jut of land poking out of the Sierra Nevada and begging the question: Will the resurgent community be safer this time?

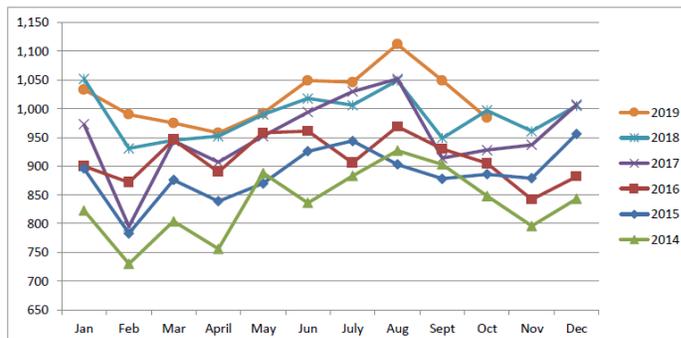
[Firerescue1](#)

October Call Statistics

By: Michael Freeman GIS/Statistician

CALL VOLUME HISTORY

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Jan	823	896	900	973	1,052	1,033
Feb	730	783	872	795	931	990
Mar	804	876	946	944	945	975
April	756	839	890	907	952	958
May	888	870	958	952	990	992
Jun	836	926	961	994	1,018	1,049
July	883	944	906	1,030	1,006	1,046
Aug	927	903	969	1,052	1,049	1,112
Sept	903	878	930	914	949	1,049
Oct	848	886	905	928	997	984
Nov	796	879	842	937	961	
Dec	843	956	882	1,007	1,005	
AVG	836	886	913	953	988	1019
TOTAL	10,037	10,636	10,961	11,433	11,855	10,188





October Response Report - 2019

Land Area: 365 sq. miles Population: ≈100,000 Fire Stations: 10 Full-Staffed

Responses in District		Unit Responses		
		In District	Total	
TOTAL FIRE INCIDENTS	10			
STRUCTURE FIRE	1	E50	145	146
STRUCTURE FIRE; CONFINED	1	E51	25	151
MOBILE HOME/PORTABLE BLDG	1	E53	146	149
VEHICLE FIRE	0	E54	119	120
BRUSH/GRASS/WILDLAND FIRE	4	E57	50	53
OTHER/TRASH FIRE	3	E58	126	131
		E59	118	119
<i>Fire is 1.02% of call volume</i>		E61	105	109
TOTAL EMS	644	E62	131	135
<i>EMS is 65.44% of call volume</i>		E63	42	45
OVERPRESSURE	2	T50	3	5
HAZMAT	5	B3	38	42
SERVICE	183	B6	32	36
GOOD INTENT	95			
FALSE ALARM/OTHER	45			
<i>Other is 33.54% of call volume</i>				
TOTAL # OF CALLS	984			
Residential Fire Loss	\$50,050			
Commercial Fire Loss	\$0			
Vehicle Fire Loss	\$0			
Calls in Town of Chino Valley	180			
Calls in Town of Prescott Valley	479			
Calls in Town of Dewey-Humboldt	53			
Calls in District, Unincorporated Areas	272			
Calls Out of District	5			
Average total # of calls per day	31.74			
Average fire calls per day	0.32			
Average EMS calls per day	20.77			
Average all other calls per day	10.64			
Aid Given to Prescott	124			
Aid Received from Prescott	51			
Mutual Aid Given	0			
Mutual Aid Received	0			

Call Volume at PRCC		
	MONTH	YTD
PFD	633	7,262
CAFMA	984	10,188
GCFD	13	123
OD	8	76
WKFD	0	32

Top 5 Call Types	
590	EMS
98	Assist Invalid
55	Cancelled en Route
53	Public Service Assistance
27	Vehicle Accident w/Injuries

Move Ups by Station			
50:	39	57:	12
51:	48	61:	7
53:	19	62:	7
54:	0	63:	47
58:	1		
59:	3	TOTAL:	183

Chief's Desk Continued

Station 53's remodel project is complete and the crew is back in quarters. I have not had a chance to see it in person, but the pictures I've seen look really nice. Hopefully the crews like the way it turned out and are comfortable in their new digs. Station 61 crews may be a bit jealous of 53 since they've spent four months and counting in the conference room in Chino. That project has drug along at a snail's pace for any number of reasons. Chief Bliss met with representatives of Haley Construction this past Monday to express his concerns about the delays. We certainly understand the difficulty in finding subcontractors, and working with a remodel project. However, things have taken longer than they should even with the aforementioned issues. Haley understands our concerns, and is working to address them the best they can at this point. The quality of the project is not in question, just the time.

Tech Services is working to update all of our Microsoft Systems. As you saw from an email Jonah sent this week, there have been some challenges with the Outlook Calendar. They have a tool to fix the issue and can walk you through the process over the phone. If you have not checked your calendar, I would highly recommend that you take a close look.

Fleet is getting closer to having two rescues up and ready for service. One was donated by Sun City Fire and the other is the unit from CARTA that has been used for training. We may have at least one of them in service by the first part of December, or sooner. Daisy Mountain FD has donated the use of a couple older gurneys for the rescues. We certainly appreciate their support.

As you may recall, in September the Bureau of EMS put out a survey asking about changes related to Certificates of Necessity (CONs) as outlined in Article 9. They sent a link to the results on October 24th, and requested additional input related to the results. The latest survey will close on November 18th. In short, respondents recommended sweeping changes to Article 9 to include defining geographic areas, tightening response times based on national standards, and changing the CON process to allow the Director to determine need.

In its current form, an applicant submits an application for a CON with a \$100 fee. The Bureau then sends letters to CON holders in or surrounding the area included in the application. If any of the current CON holders choose to intervene, your application is sent through a court process with an administrative law judge (ALJ). Court costs for many applicants have exceeded \$1 million dollars. Once the ALJ hands down their recommendation, the Director of DHS has the opportunity to review the application, the ALJ's recommendation, and determine need. The Director does not have to follow the ALJ's recommendation.

Unfortunately, the system in its current form is backwards, costly, holds communities' hostage, does not take into account community or patient needs, and prevents competition even from other private entities. This was all outlined in a 1999 AZ Auditor General's Report. The report was also critical of the Bureau's lack of handling of complaints. Twenty years has passed since the report and nothing has

changed. Honestly, replace 1999 with 2019 and you have an up to date report critical of the Bureau, DHS, and their processes. It's truly unfortunate.

The board requested at our September meeting that I draft a White Paper related to ambulance issues in our areas, and what we have done to address them. A draft is complete and has gone through a couple of peer reviews. It is currently being edited by Susanne/Kathy, and then will be sent out for another peer review prior to being submitted to the board. If the board approves the document, it will be made public and be shared with our elected officials as well as state associations. I'll ensure it goes out to all CAFMA employees as well.