



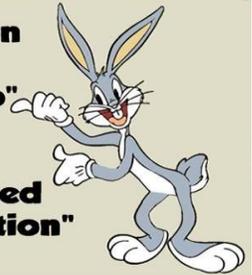
# THE REVIEW

Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – June 12, 2020

## This Edition:

The Chief's Desk .....	Page 2
DEMA, CARES Act, Heroes Act, FEMA .....	Page 3
Accomplish goals by identifying and overcoming your weaknesses .....	Page 3

**Instead of a sign  
that says  
"Do Not Disturb"  
I need one  
that says  
"Already Disturbed  
Proceed With Caution"**



sun-gazing.com  
INFINITY

**DON'T ARGUE WITH PEOPLE  
ON SOCIAL MEDIA.**

**EVERY CLASSROOM HAD A  
KID THAT ATE PASTE.  
THAT'S PROBABLY WHO  
YOU'RE ARGUING WITH.**

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## The Chief's Desk



I go to Zion for five days and what do I find when I return? The country still in turmoil – tried to ignore it while on vacation. I'm not sure, but if Time Magazine actually used a picture of Mayhem, from the insurance commercial, on their cover it would be the first time they've been right about anything in years! If you are not aware, journalism in this country has been dead for a very long time - it has recently been reclassified as a COVID death☺ Seriously,

what happened to journalism???

It was my intention to avoid discussing unrest and anything related to COVID in an effort to focus solely on our organization. However, what is happening around us not only has an impact on our organization today, it has the potential to impact our future. In my opinion, our future still looks great, maybe even better than before, but there are certainly some mine fields out there that we have to traverse. Seems folks from the State of California are fleeing the political and financial mess that is their state. As a result of the great California exodus our housing market remains strong. Don't get me wrong, the situation for municipalities whose main revenue source is sales tax is not great, but at the moment the situation does not seem as dire as it once did.

As we've watched the unrest grow across the country, we've read countless news stories about otherwise good police officers, firefighters, chiefs, etc. losing their jobs for careless social media posts and/or public comments. Please, for you, your family, and our organization, be thoughtful in your approach and do not react emotionally to what you read on line, or hear in public. You cannot now, nor will you ever win a debate on social media. Debates are not won through type, they are won and lost through civil discourse and dialogue. The reality is that we shouldn't be looking for a winner and a loser in this mess. We should be drilling down to the root of the problem, working to address what we find, and from there start to rebuild communities, families, and faith in each other. At this point, there are no winners just loss.

I would ask that you please continue to support our police officers across the country. Our brothers and sisters in blue are taking a beating for the sins of a few. The data shows that our police officers are not the root of the problem. There are some bad officers out there, and police agencies should have practices and procedures in place to ensure accountability – most have them, some are not as strong as they could be and those should be addressed. Finally, do not act out of a place of emotion and jeopardize your position with our agency, your credibility, or the credibility of CAFMA. In short, don't do something or say something stupid.

Continued on Page 4

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### Upcoming Events:

June 15 – Meet with Ron Fain, Interview for Training Tech  
June 16 – AFCA Zone Dispatch Zoom Meeting, PRCC Liaison Meeting, SEGAL Stakeholders Meeting  
June 17 – PVEDF Board Meeting  
June 18 – We shall see what happens

### Board Meetings:

June 22 Admin  
CVFD – 1600-1630  
CYFD – 1630-1700  
CAFMA – 1700-1830

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## **DEMA, CARES Act, Heroes Act, FEMA**

By: Chief Freitag

I was finally able to have a real meeting with real people in person Thursday in Phoenix. Chief Tom Shannon, Chief Jake Rhoads, and I met with the state's new Emergency Management Director, Allen Clark. He replaces Wendy Smith-Reeves who left not long after the Corona Virus hit Arizona. Based on our meeting, I believe we are finally on the path to having the Arizona Fire Service, the Department of Forestry and Fire Management, as well as the Department of Emergency Management and Military Affairs working closely together as a team. We are working to schedule a second meeting with the director as things calm down. He has agreed to engage with the Arizona Fire Service Institute, which is the alphabet soup of the Arizona fire service together in one place. More good things to come!

As the President of the AFCA and in coordination with AFDA, I have been in contact with Senator Sinema's office, as well as the President of the IAFC regarding the CARES Act and the Heroes Act. As it turns out, the language in the CARES Act and the Heroes Act left out Fire Districts. This means money provided to the states by the feds to help with the impact of COVID and COVID response will go to towns, cities, and counties, but not to fire districts responsible for much of the response outside the urban hubs. As Senator Sinema's representative said, it was not anyone's intention to exclude fire districts, it was instead an oversight that they see all too often at the federal level. John Flynn with the Fire District's is working with Senator McSally's office.

While it doesn't help us today, we are at least getting the attention of our federal elected officials in hopes that future acts will be inclusive of fire districts. If you don't let people know the issue, they don't know it needs to be addressed. There are conversations on the state level as well, but since these are federal acts, it's the feds we need to remind. Fortunately, we do have support.

I am working with Senator Sinema's office to set up a meeting between the executive boards of the AFCA and AFDA to discuss a 30,000' view of grants and grant processes moving forward. Viruses and riots have a tendency to mess with things. Once we understand their vision of the future, and we share our thoughts with them, we will work to set-up individual agency meetings with FEMA for agencies needing additional assistance. As an example, Pine Top FD was awarded a grant for training. Unfortunately, COVID shut the training down which means they will not meet the requirements of the grant within the period provided. The question to FEMA is, can the time period be extended? It's not that they don't want to move the training forward, it's that they cannot move the training forward right now. These types of issues need to be addressed directly.

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## **Accomplish goals by identifying and overcoming your weaknesses**

By: ROBERT CHEN

Do you ever find yourself consistently falling short to achieve your goals? If you can identify any patterns, you have likely hit upon one way to uncover your weaknesses. Understanding your weaknesses is perhaps important than knowing your strengths.

Here are a few other ways to diagnose your weaknesses.

Ask yourself:

What do you struggle with that others seem to find easy to do?

What activities do you find draining and cumbersome?

On what behaviors do people constantly give you constructive feedback?

In traditional learning settings, are there topics in which you consistently perform poorly?

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## **Chief's Desk Continued**

COVID has not gone away, nor has it “re-emerged” as the media would like you to believe. Remember, at one time journalism was a medium used educate the public regarding issues facing our communities and country – not anymore. Today, the media resembles the movie Anchorman. Drama and fear sell and are easy to get across in the short sound bites needed to grab attention and fill a 24-hour news cycle. Headlines and half-truths do not make for a complete or unbiased story.

To that end, I spoke with a high-ranking person who is very familiar with what is happening around the state. Yes, we are seeing a spike in numbers, which by the way was expected based on predictions provided by John's Hopkins. Their predictions were not based on the state reopening; they were based on the natural life cycle of the virus, although some spread was expected when restrictions were lifted. The spike appears to be following the predicted trajectory. A majority of the new cases are coming from our southern border communities and two counties up north that border the Navajo Nation. Not a big surprise that we are seeing spikes in those areas. Maricopa is seeing increases in cases each day, but not to the extremes some would like you to believe. Increased testing is another reason for some of the rise in numbers.

Hospitals are fuller today, but that is not solely the result of increased COVID cases. Remember when they shut down the hospitals and people were afraid to seek care? Well they're open and people are seeking care. Partially because of delayed treatment, more folks are requiring inpatient services. These are not COVID related; rather they are the result of other disease processes made worse by the lock down. Elective surgeries have resumed, which has resulted in additional admissions as well. Its nice outside and more people are taking part in outdoor activities as well as travel. To that end, we are seeing an increase in injury rates, heat related illnesses, and car crashes all of which result in additional hospitalizations. So yes, hospitals are seeing an increase, but the media is not providing you the rest of the story. In fact, hospital administrators for some of the largest facilities in the Valley reported in the last few days that they have ample capacity to handle the demand.

The largest majority of hospitalizations for COVID are those in our at risk elderly population who have underlying conditions e.g. obesity, diabetes, preexisting respiratory issues, cardiac illnesses, chronic

smokers, etc. Typically, these folks are not the people you find at bars, clubs, protests, or riots. Those in the younger healthy population generally have mild symptoms that clear up in a few days to a few weeks. I'm not downplaying the severity of some of the cases, or the deaths, just pointing out that what's being reported by the media only includes pieces of the truth using numbers that support their narrative as opposed to real statistical data. A couple questions that may need to be answered: Of the spike in Maricopa, how many are nursing home patients? Of those in the most critical condition, how many are from nursing homes? Depending on the answer, there may be a need to rethink how those facilities are handling their COVID and non-COVID patients.

Here is my crazy idea for a better approach to our COVID situation. As it stands, appropriate masks e.g. N95 and high grade surgical masks are in short supply. That means people are using whatever they find to create masks because the CDC has recommended everyone wear one. However, supply cannot keep up with demand. This means those at higher risk are unable to get the protection they need. We know at this point that you cannot and will not get those who chose to wear a mask or those forced to wear a mask to don them properly. It just does not seem possible to educate the masses. We also know that masks are generally not very effective based on the types of materials being used, lack of proper fit, lack of proper decontamination, lack of proper use, and there is some concern about long-term use. Theory in a lab is **not** the same thing as reality. We've all witnessed how masks are actually being used by the general public – it's not good.

Understanding the limitations, why don't we focus on those at risk? Let's get the supply chain in order and ensure those who need masks get them from an appropriate health care provider, to include pharmacists based on a physician's recommendations. The health care professional will ensure the patient is provided the correct type of mask, is educated in the use of the mask, and is fitted for an appropriately sized mask. In short, use a targeted approach to care for people using appropriate PPE and education. I know, crazy talk. Mandating people wear a mask is not effective, not appropriate, not healthy, and it doesn't appear to be working based on what I've witnessed. People who need to wear masks should, and they should have access to one on one education, fit tests, and the correct PPE. In my opinion, we need to be more strategic in our approach.

If the spike were actually a result of mass community spread, one would think that we would see a marked increase as a result of the protests and riots. Two different things in case you are wondering. Apparently, COVID is a very smart virus and knows which large gatherings to avoid. So, if you are going to have a BBQ this weekend, call it a protest and invite 200 of your closest friends. COVID may visit a BBQ, but not a protest or riot – seems about right.

So, other states are seeing even larger protests and riots than Arizona, but not seeing spikes. In Arizona, we are seeing spikes, but not as a result of the mass gatherings during protests or riots. Obviously then the spikes are because you are not wearing a mask and you are exercising your right to go out to dinner, shopping, the park, or the gym. Makes sense????? No, no it doesn't. It doesn't seem we are drilling down to the root of the issue. It seems more like the experts are throwing things at the wall to see what will appease those applying pressure to take measures that are more radical. The result of this is not what I would consider a success.

It is amazing to me that politicians are trying to pick winners and losers. A police officer or firefighter killed in the line of duty cannot be honored utilizing our traditional memorial services because of limitations related to mass gatherings. A father, mother, or sibling dies and you cannot have more than

few people at the funeral because of limitations on gatherings. Even the world's oldest rodeo has been reduced to 25% of the normal attendance, and there will likely be additional limitations in place at the annual memorial for the Granite Mountain Hot Shots. However, there was a funeral televised recently attended by thousands of people, politicians, and celebrities. That gathering was not only condoned, but celebrated. They wore masks..... Whatever, most were not made of material meant to block viruses, or were worn improperly rendering them ineffective. Hypocrisy is running rampant in our country. My hope is that we will stand together, calm the storm, and rebuild our faith in humanity. Yes, we need to be smart about it, but we cannot not pick and choose.

Most Americans believe that we are a great country built on the promise of freedom. Many have fought and died for the principles represented by our flag, our Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. This means freedom to protest, it also means freedom to gather, to run our businesses, and to make choices about our own lives. We also enjoy freedom of speech, but not the freedom from consequence. Please remember that point and do not let emotion override your professionalism or the oath you took when you were sworn in as an employee of CAFMA. We don't have to lie down and be silent, but we do have to be smart in how we approach the mayhem that seems to be enveloping our country.

As I stated, I was in Zion Friday through Tuesday. You know what I saw? People of every race, religion, cultural background, and sexual orientation. Everyone was smiling (few were wearing masks), exchanging pleasantries, and enjoying the beauty our country has to offer. I see the same thing in my interactions within our community. This gives me hope for a better tomorrow and a better future because I know a majority of the people in this country care for one another, appreciate our freedoms, and respect what we have.

I hope that things will calm down some next week. Right now, like the rest of you, I'm frustrated and unsure of what's to come. However, based on our history as CAFMA and as a country, I know we will get through this together and that we will be stronger on the other side.

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