



THE REVIEW



Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – Jan 1, 2021

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As we draw the curtain on 2020, we raise our hopes for a happy and healthy New Year. Cheers to 2021 and whatever shenanigans lie ahead!



The 2020 I wanted



The 2020 I got

The Chief's Desk

Happy New Year!! Here's to a healthy and productive year ahead 😊 I noticed a lack of 'New Year, New Me' resolutions going into this year. Honestly, of all the years, this may be the year to make a resolution. Not "I'm going to exercise and get healthy," or "I'm going to read one book per month," rather, "I'm going to be a better person," I'm going to be respectful of other people's opinions," and/or "I'm going to take the time to do my own research and exercise my critical thinking skills in order to be a responsible contributor to society." Those seem appropriate going into 2021. I'm not saying you shouldn't resolve to be a healthier you. After all, your immune system is much stronger if you are a healthy person. Exercise, eat right, get some fresh air, and reduce your overall stress.

A lot of people would like to forget 2020 ever existed. I do not disagree that 2020 presented some interesting challenges. However, I would argue that the year itself was not the problem. No, I think people were the problem. Why, you might ask? Several reasons from my perspective:

1. We lost the ability to think critically and ask crucial questions.
2. Civil discourse was replaced with virtue shaming and yelling.
3. We allowed fear to run our lives – not everyone – but a large majority of the populace.
4. We witnessed censorship like we have not seen before.
5. We watched as the media spiraled completely out of control, giving new meaning to sensationalism and clickbait headlines.
6. We witnessed the destruction of small businesses, and families, at the hands of government officials making misguided decisions.
7. We witnessed a dramatic increase in drug overdoses, suicides, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, alcoholism, and an increase in deaths related to folks either too afraid to seek care, or unable to get care for long-term illnesses.

This list is not all-inclusive, but I think it paints the picture. These things are not the result of the year, rather they are the result of people. If you want 2021 to be a better year, then we need to stand up, dust ourselves off, and work at being better people. We cannot allow ourselves to be misled and we must start using the critical thinking skills with which we have been blessed. Businesses need to reopen, kids need to be back in school, and we need to start respecting differences of opinion.

Personally, I thought the challenges of 2020 were frustrating. However, I made the choice to control what I could, and not to allow things I couldn't control to run my life. Ultimately, I feel like I accomplished a lot both personally and professionally.

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Upcoming Events:

Jan 4: Senior Staff Meeting and County Mac Meeting
Jan 5: Labor Management, PACCO meeting
Jan 6: Record Podcast, prepare for presentation
Jan 7: Present for the NFA Leadership Program CARTA

Board Meetings:

Jan 22 Administration

CAFMA – 1700-1830

Why We Really Celebrate New Year's Day

By: David Ropeik

At one second past midnight on January 1, the day will change from Tuesday to Wednesday, usually a transition of no special significance. But somehow we've decided that this change, which will end one year and begin the next, is different. This unique tick of the clock has always prompted us both to celebrate and to step outside the day-to-day activity we're always busy with to reflect, look back, take stock, assess how we did, and resolve to do better. Save perhaps for our birthdays, no other moment in our year gets this sort of attention.

Why does the start of the new year carry such special symbolism? And why is its celebration so common around the world, as it has been for at least as long as there have been calendars? Behavior this ubiquitous must surely be tied to something intrinsic in the human animal, something profoundly meaningful and important, given all the energy and resources we invest not just in the celebration but also in our efforts to make good on a fresh set of resolutions, even though we mostly fail to keep them. It may be that the symbolism we attach to this moment is rooted in one of the most powerful motivations of all: our motivation to survive.

psychologytoday.com

My 15 Fire Department New Year's Resolutions

By: Todd Lewis

As firefighters, we have all had associates that we have looked up to. These are the type of individuals about whom you say, "I want to be like him/her when I get older, get promoted, or advance my career." We look up to those individuals that have taken the time to work with us, show us the ropes, responsibilities, and prepare us for our job and our future. There are no better teachers in the fire service than the seasoned veterans who take time out of their days to educate and train us on the way the job was, is, and should be in the future. So this coming year, instead of just sitting in the dayroom complaining of all the things I would fix if I were in charge, I am making 15 New Year's resolutions for my fire department. These are things that I can spearhead to address our issues while imparting camaraderie, fostering a team concept, and promoting an actual desire to be a part of a world-class fire department.

#1. – Squashing the "us against them" mentality:

As firefighters, we have all had associates that we have looked up to. These are the type of individuals about whom you say, "I want to be like him/her when I get older, get promoted, or advance my career." We look up to those individuals that have taken the time to work with us, show us the ropes, responsibilities, and prepare us for our job and our future. There are no better teachers in the fire

service than the seasoned veterans who take time out of their days to educate and train us on the way the job was, is, and should be in the future. So this coming year, instead of just sitting in the dayroom complaining of all the things I would fix if I were in charge, I am making 15 New Year's resolutions for my fire department. These are things that I can spearhead to address our issues while imparting camaraderie, fostering a team concept, and promoting an actual desire to be a part of a world-class fire department.

#2. – Creating a conduit to admitting wrong-doings:

Whether it is up or down the chain of command, whether it is a captain or a chief, this is a big issue; never admitting you're wrong. So as a leader, don't fall into that trap. Admit your mistakes, take ownership, and move on. Be a leader. A leader is a person who has integrity, vision, honesty, trustworthy, has a drive, and a commitment to achieve that vision. They have the skills to make it happen. As a leader, first and foremost, lead by example. Don't expect your crews to do things you wouldn't do. Instill trust in your crewmembers. Your crew will realize that you have their best interest at heart and they will be more likely to follow you into hazardous situations once you have gained their trust. This also applies to vehicle checks, station cleaning, morning stretching and planning the day. Be present and involved. You must not be afraid to make a decision. Whether it is the right one or the wrong one, you must be able to decide and justify it, if questioned. A decisive officer instills trust and leadership with the crews. I am going to do a better job of making informed decisions. When I am wrong, I will admit it, correct it, and grow from it.

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Chief's Desk Continued

As for CAFMA, we have continued to progress as an organization. While we've had to make a few adjustments, we did not allow ourselves to be paralyzed by situations or circumstances outside of our control. We believe that the path we chose was the correct one for our organization and for you. It was our decision to treat you like responsible, educated, professional adults by allowing you to make your own decisions about how to best protect yourself - when not on a call. Basically, we are treating you the way we wish we were treated outside of CAFMA. We are committed to that approach and have no intention of changing course.

Our training programs, while slightly adjusted, moved forward. We believe that in our profession if you're not moving forward, you're falling behind. CAFMA was one of the only organizations to host an NFPA 1403 class this year, which turned out to be an amazing opportunity. Chief Feddema, along with Chief Temerowski, hosted a successful Battalion Chief Academy in partnership with Tempe Fire and Medical. We also held a fire officer class as well as the Engineer's Academy. Our training staff made adjustments to their schedule, but have continued with quarterly training for our personnel.

After five years of working to prove a need, we were granted approval by our Board to move forward with the Certificate of Necessity (CON) application in 2020. That process will continue throughout 2021.

Yesterday, New Year's Eve, serves as just one more clear example of why we need a CON to serve our community.

Because we look at CAFMA as a system, meaning all cogs in the wheel need to be in place to operate, we kept our offices open and everyone coming into work. Ultimately, I think we have developed a stronger team dynamic as a result. It also provided some sense of normalcy as the world around us seemed to implode.

We will continue our forward progress in 2021 no matter the challenges that lay ahead. Captain Merrill is putting the finishing touches on the NFA Leadership series that we will host starting the first full week of January, and we are finalizing a CAFMA only leadership program that will begin in the spring. We continue to work on our hiring and recruitment process for the year to include some pretty cool ideas for a couple firefighter recruitment videos. Patty and her team have been working on a one-day session for all new employees that we will debut in 2021 as well. We hope to offer the Partners Academy later in the year, as well as other yet to be determined training opportunities.

I continue to work with a small committee from the AFCA to develop a statewide Fire Chief's Academy. We've been working with the League of Towns and Cities, City Manager's Association, the PFFA, as well as the metro agencies through a survey to solicit feedback. We will spend 2021 putting the program together, and will debut the academy in spring of 2022.

Building continues at a steady pace and our call volume continues to increase. Based on the call numbers through November, our call volume has increased by an estimated 6% - 8% in 2020. That is much greater than our typical 4% annual increase. There are a significant number of building projects on the drawing board for our area, one of which is something we've never worked with before. If it moves forward, it will be an exciting project to watch.

The Town of Chino Valley has some new faces on the council, a new mayor, and a new town manager. Not to be outdone, the Town of Prescott Valley has a number of new folks on their council, and will be seeking a new town manager later in the year. We're still a bit challenged with being able to meet all these new folks in person because of COVID, but hopefully things will open up in the coming months.

There is a lot more in store for 2021 than what I've listed here. I think the important thing to remember is that if we stick together, we can continue to make positive strides for all of CAFMA over the next 12 months. As for a 'new year and a new you' for 2021, well, that's up to you. Personally, I will continue to question, and will continue to push in all areas. Things do need to change this year, but it will take all of us working together to make it happen. Remember, we only have control over our little part of the world, but that little part impacts more than you realize. Don't give up, don't give in, continue to question, and think for yourself. And, whatever you do, limit your time on social media and ignore the fearmongering media. My life has been so much better by just doing those two things.

As for me, 2020 was challenging, but not all bad. I will make 2021 a good year no matter what happens because ultimately, it's my choice.