



# THE REVIEW

Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – **September 30, 2022**

## This Edition:

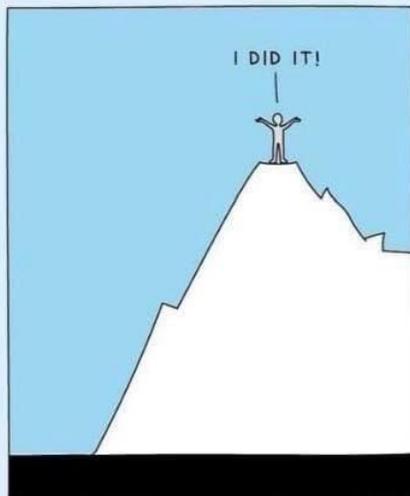
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*"Your degree is just a piece of paper., your  
education is seen in your behavior."*

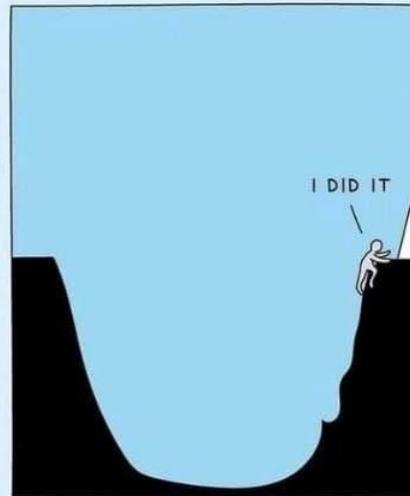
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THE STRENGTH WE'RE  
TAUGHT TO ADMIRE



THE STRENGTH WE  
SHOULD ALSO ADMIRE



LIZ FOSSLIEN

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## The Chief's Desk

A quick note to start this week: We were notified that we were not approved for a SAFER Grant this year. Our intent was to hire five new firefighter positions in spring, but that will no longer be an option. We will try again next year. Prop 310 would certainly help solve some of our funding issues related to staffing.

Okay, I'll just say it – three days of accreditation training is not fun. That said, it's required for us to move forward with the accreditation process. Technically, only Training Chief/Accreditation Manager Dustin Parra is required to go through the training; however, we recognize that accreditation is a team effort, so we sent eight staff members through the class. We did learn that Training Captain Eric Merrill has a new role as the Emotional Support Captain for Dustin as he starts the accreditation journey for us. I'm not sure how that works or if it's even helpful, but that's how Eric introduced himself to the class 😊

Those that were with Central Yavapai when they went through the accreditation process and obtained their accredited status understand the impact of obtaining an accredited status. In fact, it really hasn't been me pushing for us to move toward obtaining accreditation; rather, it has been those who went through the process for CYFD. They truly embraced the process and realized the benefit of the work as well as the status.

The process for becoming accredited is certainly arduous, but worth the effort. Sitting through class this week and looking over the different criteria has highlighted some areas in which we need to improve, e.g., effective firefighting force, community risk reduction, and staffing across the Agency. Is this a big surprise? Absolutely not. Some of these shortfalls were highlighted during our recent ISO review.

If we already know the areas in which we need to improve, why do we need to go through an accreditation process? That's a valid question. Accreditation requires us to do a deep dive into every aspect of our Agency and then have it reviewed by an outside neutral third party. This type of external review is something we can use to support our efforts moving forward to increase staffing, add engine companies, and build infrastructure. I'm sure you've heard this saying before – we don't know what we don't know. What I'm saying is that we know some of the more significant areas in which we fall short, however, as we drill down and evaluate all aspects of our Agency we're likely to find some other areas where we need to improve.

Some of you have likely heard me express some discontent with the accrediting entity. It's true that I have some concerns with the Center for Public Service Excellence (CPSE). The main concern I have is that there is some ability to pencil whip the accreditation paperwork making an entity look better than they truly are allowing them to receive an accredited status. **Cont. Page 4**

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### Upcoming Events:

Oct 3-5: Chief in Flagstaff AFCA Presidents Forum

Oct 4: Labor Management Meeting

Oct 5: Possible Meeting with City of Prescott

Oct 6: AFDA Meeting, Community Meeting, Possible meeting with the City of Prescott

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### Board Meeting:

Oct 24: Administration CAFMA – 1700-1830

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## **This Tesla Model S Caught Fire Three Weeks After It Was Sent To Junkyard**

By: Wilfred Nkhwazi

Electric vehicles have become increasingly popular worldwide in recent years. Following wide and successful EV deployments from brands like Tesla and Ford, there is so much buzz in the EV segment right now. Every now and again, you hear about an upcoming EV, along with simulated videos and images that showcase what the future will look like. Many established automakers continue to shift to the electric segment, creating electrified versions of the cars we know and love. We only expect the EVs to hold a greater market share in the long run. After all, EVs are the future.

However, many adopters and possible eco-conscious buyers have expressed concerns about the reports that a lot of electric vehicles often catch fire, and without any apparent reason. Most people argue that the fire risk of electric cars is much lower than that of their conventional counterparts. But, more often than not, we hear about electric cars catching fire out of the blue. You might also recall a time when a trailer full of Teslas was suddenly engulfed in flames in Nevada. We've also received many first-hand accounts of how electric vehicles often enkindle when they have been exposed to high temperatures. And we have yet another story that confirms this point.

According to the reports issued by the Metro Fire of Sacramento, a Tesla Model S burst into flames spontaneously after sitting in a junkyard for nearly three weeks.

This incident happened on June 12. The Metro Fire of Sacramento rushed to the scene and found a white Tesla Model S engulfed in flames. The vehicle was sitting in a Rancho Cordova junkyard in Sacramento County, California having been damaged in a traffic collision three weeks prior.

[hotcars.com](https://www.hotcars.com)

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## **Retirement Planning: How to Map Out Your Financial Success**

By: Matthew Frankel CFP

Retirement planning is a journey, not a destination.

If even thinking about retirement planning makes you nervous or puts you to sleep, you are not alone. What does retirement planning even mean?

Retirement planning is a broad term that refers to learning about and choosing financial strategies that will enable you to be comfortable and secure in your retirement years. A good retirement plan, executed smartly, can provide you with enough money to cover all of your later-year living expenses.

Let's explore the importance of retirement planning and examine the steps you need to take to prepare for your golden years.

**Why should you plan for retirement?**

Good news! People on average are living longer and are able to remain healthy and active well into their sunset years.

But many Americans haven't saved or invested enough money to retire in their 60s with the confidence that their funds will last. Both the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau have estimated that approximately 50% of today's retirees have cut back on their spending, or will be forced to do so, due to dwindling resources.

Far too many retirees end up relying on Social Security to cover the majority of their living expenses only to find out the hard way that it isn't nearly enough. Social Security retirement income is only designed to replace about 40% of the average worker's salary, but more than one in five married couples and 45% of single retirees depend on Social Security for more than 90% of their incomes in retirement.

The bottom line is that, while many get by without ever making and executing a retirement plan, those who most enjoy their retirement do so in part due to having a retirement plan. Retirement planning is what can help you to be financially comfortable after you leave your job.

[themotleyfool.com](http://themotleyfool.com)

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## **Chief's Desk Continued**

That said, I look at accreditation similar to the way I look at a college degree, i.e., it's not the paper, it's the person. With accreditation, it's not the sticker, it's the agency. For our newer folks, this is why we dropped our accredited status when we created CAFMA. CPSE refused to allow us a deferment while we finalized the creation of CAFMA; however, they did offer to let us half-ass our application which would get us a deferment or allow us to slip by at the bare minimum standard. Senior Staff at the time, along with the Board, made the decision to drop our accredited status rather than doing a half-ass job. We did not want CAFMA to establish "half-ass" as an acceptable standard for our Agency.

We were going to start the accreditation process in 2020, however there was a thing that prevented us from moving forward. We tried to host a class last year so we could start moving forward, however CPSE required participants to wear masks, so we declined. Once CPSE dropped their mask mandates, we were able to partner with the City of Peoria and City of Buckeye to host the training in Peoria.

Dustin's position as the Accreditation Manager is significant, but that doesn't mean he has to do all the work. He will be doing a lot of coordinating and delegating as we build our accreditation team. To that end, we'll be asking folks throughout our Agency to assist in various portions of the process. Additionally, we will be working closely with Prescott to develop a regional Standards of Cover (SOC) document. This is a unique approach, but makes sense given the interdependent relationship we have with Prescott FD.

Accreditation is made up of 11 different categories:

1. Governance and Administration
2. Assessment and Planning
3. Goals and Objectives
4. Financial Resources

5. Community Risk Reduction Program
6. Physical Resources
7. Human Resources
8. Training and Competency
9. Essential Resources
10. External Systems Relationships
11. Health and Safety

Each category has a series of sub-criterion that outlines the specific areas to be evaluated under each. There will be specific personnel assigned to complete each of the sub-sections. Our goal is to bring a variety of people to the table as part of the team as this is truly an opportunity for those assigned to broaden their overall view and understanding of our Agency.

As I mentioned last week, we plan to rotate the Accreditation Manager responsibilities. That said, I don't know how much time will be required of the person in the manager's position. The City of Buckeye is hiring an Accreditation Manager because the workload can be too much for a person who has other daily responsibilities. What I'm learning in this class is that the responsibilities of the manager do not end once an agency achieves their accredited status. In fact, there is work that must be complete annually and submitted to CPSE along with ongoing training for the manager. To that end, we'll need to evaluate how much time Dustin is required to spend obtaining and then maintaining our accreditation.

Other entities who rotate the Accreditation Manager position between their Battalion Chiefs pull the BC from the floor into the office for the first 6-12 months. We'll have to evaluate the time as well as the cost benefit of rotating the responsibility versus looking at a position within the agency that has the responsibility for managing our accreditation as well as managing things like ISO, grant writing, etc. Just to be clear, I did NOT say we are hiring someone. I said we need to spend some time evaluating our needs.

Ultimately, this is going to be a long process that will require a lot of time, effort, and staff to ensure we truly earn our accredited status as was done when CYFD went through the process. When we put the sticker on our engines we want it to really mean something for us and for all those we serve.

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