



THE REVIEW

Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – July 21, 2023

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*"It's not who you are that holds you back,
it's who you think you're not."*

A Meme

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TRAIN TO EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

The Chief's Desk

I received an email from our CON legal team regarding the scheduling of our hearing. As of today, we are scheduled November 27 through December 4, 2023. There will be an in-person option as well as an online option for attendance; our team will be in-person.

It seems like a long way out, but in reality, our attorneys need the time to fully prepare and categorize the vast amount of information and data we have supporting our case. Additionally, we have to gather other important documents. All this means is that we have a lot of work to do between now and then.

As with Priority, once the hearing concludes it could still be an additional 90 days before the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) hands down a recommendation to the Director of DHS. The Director also has, I believe, 90 days to make a final decision. Yes, it's ridiculously long, but that's the current system (HB2609 coming in 2024). I'm hopeful it will not run that long for us, but at this point we should plan for the worst and hope for the best. In the end, I believe we have a very strong case and that we will prevail.

I was at the Bureau of EMS in Phoenix this week with the AFCA, AFDA, PFFA, and AZ Ambulance discussing the draft Article 9 rules (ground ambulance). The meeting was scheduled after two listening sessions conducted by the Bureau of EMS at the AFCA/AFDA Leadership Conference. While there's still a lot of work ahead, we're finally moving in a positive direction.

Regarding response time standards, the Bureau has moved to the widely recognized urbanicity standard with maps based off census blocks. The maps they settled on are very similar to what we proposed in our CON application; ultimately, we had to scrap the urbanicity standards we'd proposed and settle on fractal standards so the Bureau would not kick our application to the curb. In the end, all CON holders will be moved to the urbanicity standard - which is better for anyone who calls 911 because the standards are more stringent i.e., people who call 911 should see better response times. So, win win.

As I mentioned previously, there are other parts of the proposed rules that have been written in such vague terms that it seemingly allows for broad bureaucratic overreach. Our CON attorney, Kathy Steadman, has been working with the Fire Service statewide to review the drafts and offer more appropriate language with a narrowed scope. If we can effect change in the language, and make it match the spirit and intent of HB2609, it'll be a big win ensuring better coverage and oversight of EMS systems across the state.

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Upcoming Events:

July 24 – Housing opportunities meeting with Yavapai College, Board Meeting
July 25 – Develop strategic planning objectives to support goals
July 26 – Record podcast, Article 9 Rules Committee Meeting Phoenix
July 27-28 – New Firefighter Interviews

Board Meeting:

Board Meeting: July 24
CAFMA – 1700-1830

Driver Who Killed Cleveland (OH) Firefighter at Accident Scene and Fled Convicted of Murder

By: Tribune Content Agency

A man who sped through an accident scene on Interstate 90 and struck and killed Cleveland firefighter Johnny Tetrick last fall is now a convicted murderer.

Leander Bissell, 41, faces a mandatory life sentence after Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judge Timothy McCormick delivered his verdict Thursday.

McCormick said that he initially believed that it was “a stretch” for prosecutors to charge Bissell with murder.

“This initial reaction was wrong,” McCormick said. “This turned out to be the right indictment.”

McCormick also found Bissell guilty of felonious assault, involuntary manslaughter, aggravated vehicular homicide, failure to comply with a police order and leaving the scene of an accident.

He set an Aug. 9 sentencing date.

Members of Tetrick’s family, including his widow and three adult daughters, wore T-shirts memorializing Tetrick to the verdict. The family broke into tears as McCormick read the verdict.

Bissell chose to have McCormick render a verdict rather than a jury when his trial began Monday.

Bissell’s attorneys, public defenders Tim Huber and Daryl Dennie, argued during the trial that first responders, including Tetrick and his Engine 22 company crew, did not properly position their vehicles to block traffic and that Bissell had a reason to believe that the lane he was driving in was open.

fireengineering.com

Video: 5 injured in Mo. house explosion

By: Ethan Colbert

Kara Schemkes was sitting on the couch and watching television Monday morning when a thundering boom shook her house.

"It sounded like a big firework had just went off in my ear," said Schemkes, a student at St. Charles High School.

The culprit was a massive house explosion across the street that left five people injured in the 500 block of Transit Street in St. Charles' historic Frenchtown neighborhood.

As Schemkes peered through her living room window and dialed 911, the single-story home across the street appeared to shudder, then began emitting smoke. Schemkes watched as a family poured outside.

"They had only moved in about a month ago," Schemkes said. "I hadn't even went over to meet them yet."

As the family took refuge in her yard, Schemkes said flames began scorching branches of the trees that line the property on a dead-end street.

Investigators are still working to determine the cause of the explosion, but Steve Brown, deputy fire chief with the St. Charles City Fire Department, said it's unlikely the home's age is to blame. The Frenchtown neighborhood, which is a recognized national historic district, features homes built between 1830 and 1940.

Brown added that it's unlikely the fire department is viewing the explosion as suspicious.

firerescue1.com

The Chief's Desk Cont.

I was at Station 51 a few weeks ago on A-shift and was asked when they might expect new Engine 51. There will be more on this topic direct from Fleet and Chief Rose, but in short, the newly designed apparatus requires Fleet to create new brackets, holders, etc. They're trying to create three sets of everything, so it becomes more of an assembly line moving forward. For now, it's just taking a bit longer to fabricate everything. I will say, if you haven't seen Ben's fab work, you're in for a treat! He's a fantastic fabricator.

I don't have a projected date of completion to share at this time. As a side note, Fleet needs a plasma table... It'd create tremendous efficiencies for projects requiring a lot of fabrication. Alas, I've been unable to convince others of the need 😊

Soon you'll see some changes regarding the podcast. For those of you who want the CAFMA Connect shortened to 5-10 minutes – you're out of luck, Kathy tried her best, but we get more positive feedback than we do negative regarding the content and length, even if we only have tens of viewers and listeners.

Kathy has proposed a 5-8 minute (now she's trying to say 3-5 minute) short. The idea is a quick hit on updates relating to the Agency, or a specific topic, e.g., Chief Rose and Domenic discussing when, how, and why we move or replace apparatus. We're also discussing the use of the GoPro to do some on location shorts, e.g., Fleet walking everyone through the new engines.

In the end, we'll continue the CAFMA Connect because it serves a purpose. At the same time, we'll film quick hits that either cover Agency updates or have a specific focus. These short videos will be released internally only via a hyperlink sent directly to you; they will not be searchable online. We hope this additional information outlet may help some of you with shorter attention spans 😊

We have a Board meeting Monday beginning at 1700 in the multi-purpose room at Admin. As always, you're all welcome to attend. This month is a short agenda so the meeting will go quickly.

Finally, thank you to everyone who made it out to the Celebration of Life for Payton. It was a beautiful service.
