

July Chief's Report

July was a busy month. I attended the Pima Chiefs meeting on July 28th in Tucson. It was very informative and it gave me the chance to network with other Chiefs in Pima County. They were all very nice and supportive. They were very pleased that Arivaca Fire was once again being represented. They had not had a representative at the meetings since Kathleen Brumagin. Jeff Whitney whom is the new State Forester was in attendance and gave a short presentation. He stated numerous times that his door is always open and he is always willing to help anyone who needs it. He discussed the changes in wildland billing that will be taking affect. First, the process will be all web based. Second, the turnaround time for reimbursal will be 17-20 days as opposed to 30 days as in years past. He mentioned that his goal is to be more personally involved with departments. He mentioned that there were a lot of rumors flying around that he hoped his attendance at this meeting would quash. He realizes that the previous State Forester preferred to stay and work from his office in Phoenix, he, however, is the opposite. Chief Karr with Golder Ranch Fire District mentioned several upcoming events for departments to participate in such as the 9/11 Memorial Climb in which firefighters climb flights of stairs in full turnout gear in memoriam of the fallen firefighters, police officers and other public safety personnel who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. The climb4thefallen Group is made of local firefighters from the Tucson area that all share the same goals. We all have a strong passion for giving back to the public safety community we are a part of. We have many programs and have been able to help some of our fellow brothers and sisters in their time of need. In the meeting it was also mentioned that you could purchase a new license plate for your vehicle that honors firefighter safety. The plate is \$25 but \$17 goes to the AFCA (Arizona Fire Chiefs Association). It is available for purchase on servicearizona.com or at any DMV location.

I met with Bill Spurbeck CEO of CPR2U and was able to work out a partnership between Arivaca Fire and CPR2U. A Training Site Agreement has been signed and is in effect. This means that provided there is an individual (AFD currently has two) who has completed the BLS instructor course we are now able to teach CPR (All forms) and First Aide in Arivaca. This will benefit the community greatly because they will not have to travel out of town for this training. We could charge \$30 (\$25 cheaper than the same course in Tucson) for the course plus books and the class could be taught in a day. This would generate some income for the department. The instructors would volunteer their time to teach. The department would only need to

purchase the cert cards and the training video. The cost would be less than \$200 which could be reimbursed to department with class registrations.

I am still working on obtaining a medical director for the training center so that AFD can produce an EMR and EMT course. Since the takeover of UMC by Banner they no longer supports pre-hospital training which is who our previous medical director, Dr. Gaither, was employed. I have spoken with Mary Ann Matter who states that “Unfortunately, at this time we are not able to assume any additional responsibilities. I know your area can be geographically challenged, and recruitment and retention are ongoing issues, but we are still working through our Banner transition and just don’t have the resources currently to commit to supporting a training program.” So with that I have been researching other alternatives. The problem I am having is that to obtain medical direction the physician needs to be affiliated with a base hospital and they also need to be certified as an emergency physician. I have spoken with TMC and Dr. Ottman is unable to help us for that reason. TMC is not our base hospital. We may have to consider changing base hospitals in order to move forward with having an active training center.

We had training in July whereby 5 employees showed up. Several employees were unavailable but did make arrangements to attend training with me one on one. For those that didn’t make arrangements and had missed two trainings in a row were placed on suspension until they made arrangements to make up the missed training’s. Last month’s training consisted of Pump Operations, SCBA donning and doffing, scenario based questions and going over the proper use of the cascade system for refilling O2 tanks.

The O2 cylinders were taken to AirGas to be refilled. The batteries were replaced in R501 and E502. AFD was able to procure a new company Battery Systems on the advice of Judith Lawson (FireDrake) which gave the department great pricing on the batteries. This company delivered them and installed them at no extra charge. They also beat their competitors by \$80/battery.

There were 22 calls for the month of July.

Beckham-3 transports

VanPraag-3 transports

Castro-3 transports

BLS Transport-1

Burn-1

Swift Water Rescue-1

Pt Refusal-6

**Non-Transport-4 (Code Arrest, Cancelled enroute, Pest Removal,
Transferred to LN6)**

Cancelled enroute-1

Code Arrest-1

Pest Removal-1

Transfer to LN6-1