



Many of you may have noticed our absence from social media posts related to COVID 19. We have remained out of the fray in an effort to avoid any potential that we might increase public concern related to the virus. There are a variety of sites posting or sharing information from the CDC and other organizations. We would urge you to please choose your sources carefully. Today, Yavapai County confirmed its first case of COVID 19 in the City of Sedona.

It can be difficult to find the happy medium between apathy and hysteria, but we must as a community and a state find that place. It is likely that some may have already had the virus and recovered, while others have been exposed but never developed symptoms. Generally speaking, children without preexisting conditions and persons of certain ages without preexisting conditions may experience cold or flu symptoms, some could be severe. Like other viruses, there are no cures for COVID, so the medical community is treating the symptoms as necessary. That said, we must take appropriate precautions to protect those at risk and slow the spread. To that end, basic hygiene practices e.g. washing hands, covering our mouths when we cough, and not sneezing on others have proven effective.

CAFMA has had an infectious disease response protocol in place for many years. Each time we have the threat of a pandemic, or face the threat of a new virus we measure our protocols against the new threat. Once again, our protocols have proven sound and are being followed by our personnel. This means they have the appropriate personal protective gear and training to protect themselves as well as our community. Our organization continues to operate under a "modified" business as usual routine across all divisions.

To ensure the sanctity of our 911 emergency response system, we would respectfully request our constituents follow these simple practices:

1. If you experience cold or flu symptoms, please contact your primary care practitioner and not 911.
2. If you are in distress, please contact 911.
3. Please clearly and completely answer the questions posed by our 911 dispatchers. They are trying to protect everyone involved and ensure you get the proper care.
4. If possible, do not go directly to the Emergency Room. This creates challenges for other patients as well as hospital staff. If at all possible contact your primary practitioner, or if provided by your health insurance, the on call hotline. They can direct you to the appropriate care facility, or prescribe treatment for your symptoms.

If we all work together, and practice some basic principles we will get through this stronger than we were before.

Respectfully,

Scott Freitag
Fire Chief