

Cody Treach will always be part of our Rural Metro Fire family, and our thoughts remain with his family, friends, and colleagues during this difficult time.

At the time of this tragic incident, Rural Metro Fire was part Global Medical Response, which conducted an internal review of the event and cooperated fully with the Arizona Department of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (ADOSH). While we respect the investigative process, we are concerned about aspects of the ADOSH findings and the proposal to issue a citation. We believe it is important to clarify some key facts that were overlooked or misrepresented during the investigation. A few of the points we entered into public record today include:

- ADOSH did not request our heat injury and illness prevention policies, but Rural Metro Fire has multiple policies addressing heat illness and injury prevention, in particular the rehabilitation standard operating guideline, which is specifically designed to address the hazards associated with unique heat risks faced by firefighters.
- The instructors who were on the field with the cadets at the time of the incident were a firefighter/paramedic and a firefighter/EMT, both people who by both education and occupational experience are very informed and experienced in observing the signs and symptoms of heat illness and injury as well as treating people suffering from heat injury or illness.
- Before the fire academy began, instructors provided cadets with thorough guidance on preparing mentally and physically, including hydration practices and things to avoid that create risk of dehydration such as alcohol, caffeine, and energy drinks.
- The ADOSH file submitted to the industrial commission indicates that ADOSH was notified by the media, implying that Rural Metro failed to comply with its obligations under the Act to report the hospitalization and the subsequent death, but Rural Metro did, in fact report these as required and has documentary proof of the same.

While we think these facts are important to note, they are overshadowed by Cody's tragic loss, which has deeply affected all of us.

Even as Rural Metro Fire transitioned to the ownership of Brindlee Fire Services in December, our entire organization remains unwavering in its dedication to the health and safety of first responders and continue to prioritize supporting our teams and the communities we serve.