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If All The World Would Work With This, We Would Have Peace

Summertime in Arizona is a time when those of us who live here become very conscious of and concerned about the fire hazard which is so very real. We are all very pleased when the monsoons arrive and mother nature helps us to deal with this very real danger. We all understand the dangers of fire out of control and yet there are many blessings that we receive from fire which is contained and directed.

It has been said, “Fire is ever ire,” meaning that the emotion that we understand as anger is symbolically associated with fire and we all know how devastating anger out of control can be. It’s also been said that, “Anger gone blind is hate.” On the other hand, anger per se is a clean emotion and very helpful in motivating and activating each one of us. To be able to control it and direct it is our big challenge.

About a month ago I was given the Principles of the Phoenix Fire Department. For me to be aware that our Phoenix Fire Department is working with these inspiring principles is truly heartwarming. These firemen are constantly faced with the danger of fire and know it intimately. It would be very easy for them to be caught up with anger and fear. Instead, they have chosen to direct their energies in a way that makes them and fear. Instead, they have chosen to direct in a way that makes them better people and allows those who come in contact with them to understand how this wonderful energy can be used in healing and a way in which peace and harmony can be brought about. I heard that the fire chief, Alan Brunacini, adopted this code after he had tried other ways of working with his department, ways in which he imposed strict discipline and requirements that were directed and strong. It was only after they failed that he realized he needed to take another approach and came up with these following principles:

Phoenix Fire Chief, Alan Brunacini, Phoenix Fire Chaplain, Rev. Carl Carlozzi, (As reported by Luci Scott, Arizona Republic, June 12, 2002)

1. Treat all people with dignity and respect, not just the people who share your birth.
2. When someone asks for your help, respond immediately because their need is probably more important than your inconvenience.
3. Smile and listen carefully to disagreeable people; you may learn something.
4. Be patient with people who are scared, act irrational or smell.
5. Surround yourself with competent people.

If All The World Would Work With This, We Would Have Peace (Cont.)

6. Work as a team.

7. Share what you have.

8. Save your judgements for yourself.

9. Above all, smile at the customer, be nice to the customer, help the customer; and remember, the customer is a human being and someday you may be the customer **A**