



FIRE FLY - THE MILITARY FIRE INDUSTRY NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 8 NOVEMBER 2005

WHO IS AOS?

AOS a multinational, small woman owned, HUB Zone corporation with the US Headquarters in our new office in Rockport, Texas. AOS has been providing SCBA and ancillary equipment sales, service, inspections, maintenance and training for the USAF, US Marines, US Army, Military Sealift Command, the US Navy as well as many commercial companies and organizations.

All work is performed on-site by highly trained, professional technicians. AOS has the only DOT approved truly portable hydrostatic testing system, which allows cylinders to be tested on site. Upon completion of the service, a comprehensive hard copy and digital report is provided to the department, detailing all work performed. Throughout the year, departments can contact the AOS techs at various DSN numbers for free follow-up support.

AOS offers Interspiro Level B training and compressor operations course on-site. When training is performed in conjunction with service, scheduling can be flexible and in-depth to ensure retention. Training will continue until every attendee has proven proficiency.

Statements of work can be provided to fit each client's specific needs in order to facilitate one year or multiple year contracts to ensure that departments can take advantage of numerous services with one contract at a lower cost. Sole Source Justification is available.

Services provided and companies represented are listed on page two.

**SEND US YOUR COMMENTS,
QUESTIONS AND ADDRESS
CHANGES TO:
KIM@DEEPERTHANTHAT.COM**

IN COMING ISSUES:

- AOS NEW TEXAS FACILITY
- PELICAN CASES
- AIR TESTING
- COMPRESSORS
- NEW AOS PRODUCT LINES
- PROMOTIONS AND RETIREMENTS
- PATENTED AOS PRODUCTS "GEAR THAT WORKS"

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Who Is AOS	1
Give Thanks	
Safety Tips	2
Balad Request	
AOS Services	3
AOS Challenge Coins	
DOD Conference	
Avian (Bird) Flu Resources	4
Contact Us!	

A Time of Giving Thanks...

"O God, when I have food, help me to remember the hungry;

When I have work, help me to remember the jobless;

When I have a home, help me to remember those who have no home at all;

When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer,

And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency;

bestir my compassion, and be concerned enough to help;

By word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted.

Amen."

AOS wishes to express our thanks to our loyal clients, the United States Military Personnel, our fantastic suppliers and vendors and our dedicated support team and staff. The freedom we enjoy in these United States is counted among our biggest blessings. We are so thankful for those who have fought and died for our freedom, and for those who continue that fight today.

Happy Thanksgiving

From AOS Directors & Staff Members



Tire maintenance tips to keep all your apparatus rolling safely.

Matching duals

If you ever have to replace one of the pair of dual tires on each end of the rear axle (s), you need to match both the tire construction and the tire diameter to avoid problems. Different manufacturers may have different requirements, so you need to have a tire manual or contact your tire dealer. In most cases, the construction of the replacement tire should match the construction of the other tires on the rear axles. For example, a bias-ply replacement tire should be used if the other rear tires are bias-ply. Likewise, a radial-ply tire should be used if the other rear tires are radial-ply. Having done that, the diameter of the replacement tire should be close to the diameter of the other tire on that end of the axle. The allowable difference in diameter depends on the tire construction. In general, bias-ply tires have a greater allowable difference than radial-ply. The easiest way to measure tire diameter is to measure the distance around the outside circumference of the fully inflated tires and divide the difference by 3. For example, if one tire measures 128 inches around the outside circumference, and the other measures 126.5 inches, then the difference is 1.5 inches. Divide by 3 and the difference in diameters is 0.5 inches. Based on the manufacturer's requirements, that may or may not be an acceptable match. Improperly matched dual tires can result in poor handling, irregular wear, rapid wear and premature tire failure. Seek help from your tire dealer if you are in doubt.

Watch your speed

Most tires are rated to run at their designated loads for sustained speeds up to 65mph. A few are rated only up to 55mph. Some manufacturers recommend a reduction in inflation pressures and loads to operate tires up to 75mph. Only a very few tires may be operated safely at speeds over 75mph, and running your apparatus at these high speeds is generally not recommended.

If your apparatus has to be operated at highway speeds for prolonged periods -- for example, while responding over long distances as part of a statewide or regional response team -- you need to be aware of the speed rating of your tires. Keep in mind that reducing the tire pressures to meet the manufacturers' recommendations for operation up to 75mph will also reduce the load rating of the tires, and you may end up overloading your tires. Operating tires at speeds beyond their speed and load ratings can result in poor handling, rapid tire wear and premature tire failure. Talk to your tire dealer or manufacturer to understand what speed limits and load limits apply to the tires on all your apparatus.

Replacing old tires

Tire age can be a serious problem, but it usually doesn't show up in preventive maintenance checks. Old tires can appear to be in good condition with little or no damage and wear, yet can fail suddenly, causing apparatus to go out of control. A rough rule of thumb is that tires that are more than five to seven years old should be considered for replacement, no matter how much tread is left on them. The next edition of the new and expanded NFPA 1911 standard is expected to specify a similar maximum tire life starting in January 2007. To determine the year a tire was made, check the DOT code on the sidewalls. For tires manufactured before the year 2000, the last 3 digits represent the week and the year of production. For example, if the last three digits are "229," the tire was produced in the 22nd week of 1999. For tires made after Jan. 1, 2000, a four-digit code is used. The first two digits represents the week of production, and the last two digits represent the year of production. So, if the last four digits are "2205," it means the tire was manufactured in the 22nd week of 2005. At this point, there are no procedures or tests you can use to determine if an old tire is still safe to operate. Replacement is the best and safest procedure.

Reprinted from: Fire Chief INService Online Newsletter



A LETTER OF REQUEST..... FROM BALAD IRAQ

"I have sent the attached pictures of our Air Force Theater Hospital so you can see for yourself the conditions our medical staff work their magic in. We have 3 surgical operatories in full swing 24 hours per day, supported by a myriad of hospital staff and volunteers from all over the Balad Air Base and Camp LSA Anaconda, located on the same installation about 55 miles north of Baghdad and 10 miles south of Balad Iraq. We have between 22-30,000 troops on this installation at any one time and are one of the largest and busiest bases in the entire AOR. Almost all of the wounded, civilian and military, come to Balad for treatment and preparation to be transported out of the theater.

*There is a need for **pajamas, loose fitting warm up pants and jackets, t-shirts, underwear, toys, clothes and school supplies for the kids.** We promise not to play with the toys here in the Fire Station (well not all of them). Don't concern yourself about getting things here before Christmas, just gather it up and send it and the Firedawgs will get stuff to where it it's needed."*

Thank you and God bless you and God bless America.

CMSgt Daniel G. Raymond

*Chief, Fire & Emergency Services
Balad AB/LSA Anaconda, Iraq
USAF 332 ECES/Fire
APO AE 09315-9997
DSN 318-443-6409 (Voice)
DSN 318-443-6627 (FACC)*



WHAT DOES AOS OFFER?



SERVICES OFFERED ON-SITE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

- Annual Service of Complete SCBA's
- Annual Service of J-Fire Masks
- Visual Inspection of Cylinders
- Hydrostatic Testing Of Cylinders
- Compressor Service & Training
- Fit Testing of Masks
- Level A & B Suit Testing
- Air Source Carts
- Spiroline Hoses
- Confined Space Equipment
- Equipment & Gauge Calibrations
- Interspiro Level B Training (Spiromatic, S & Divator)
- Hose Testing
- Ground Ladder Testing
- Fire Apparatus Pump Testing
- Compressor Installation, Repairs and Servicing
- Air Testing Service



AOS CHALLENGE COINS ARE AVAILABLE



In keeping with the USAF tradition, AOS has designed their own challenge coin in commemoration of our years of service to the USAF, US Navy, USMC, US Army and MSC. One side has the AOS logo with a star incorporating the US flag symbolizing our commitment to serve the United States. Circling the flag are our four offices as well as our 2004 theme, "PROTECTING YOUR ASSETS!!! FOR WHEN YOU NEED THEM MOST". Side two is dedication to all of the armed forces with the US Flag and Yellow Ribbon and our statement that We Support our Troops along with our mission of "Worldwide servicing of Fire Equipment * NOWHERE IS TOO REMOTE. The coin is silver with enamel finish and has been used for our 2004 awards. There are a limited number of coins in protective pouch still available and these are available for FREE to our Firefly subscribers. Should you wish to have your own AOS 2005 collector's coin, please send an e-mail to susan@deeperthanthat.com and provide either your APO or stateside address and one will be sent to you FREE of charge. Please also feel free to request our 2006 Collector's coin which will be available in March of 2006. Just one of the many ways that AOS tries to give back to all of those who serve along side our techs while they serve the USA.

Ode to Thanksgiving

To our national birds
The American Eagle
The Thanksgiving Turkey
May one give us peace in all our states
And the other a piece for all our plates



Department of Defense Fire & Emergency Services Training Conference:

The official conference for the military fire and emergency service, the DoD conference includes training, meetings and networking opportunities for Army, Navy, Marine Corp, Air Force and Coast Guard fire service personnel. The Department of Defense also presents awards for best fire department, military and civilian fire fighters, military and civilian fire officers and heroism. The conference is co-located with Fire-Rescue International, and DoD attendees have the opportunity to participate in FRI general sessions, workshops and exhibits (additional charge required).

September 14-19, 2006
Dallas Texas





AOS Inc.

PO Box 2549
Rockport, TX 78381

TEL: 361-727-1645

FAX: 361-727-1646

24 HOUR CELL HOTLINE

361-389-5258

EMAIL:

KIM@DEEPERTHANTHAT.COM

"WE PROTECT THOSE WHO PROTECT THE US"

Visit us on the web: www.deeperthanthat.com

IAFC Provides Resources on Avian (Bird) Flu

Fairfax, VA November 2, 2005... For several months, the EMS Section of the IAFC has been gathering information on the potential pandemic issues surrounding the avian (bird) flu. A task force was assembled at Fire-Rescue International in Denver to develop a plan to disseminate the information to our members and other allied public safety groups. A series of articles has been published in the IAFC bi-monthly newsletter, On Scene, and will continue throughout the remainder of 2005.

In order to get this information to all fire stations and IAFC members, a brochure has been developed that provides information for agencies and providers on influenza. The information focuses on planning, infection control, signs and symptoms, and other related information. These can be posted in your facility, and we encourage you and your department to share this information with all of your members and their families. These are set to be mailed the week of November 7, 2005.

Another information tool that has been established is a special section on the IAFC home page, www.iafc.org. On the home page, go down the right side to "What's Hot" and click on "Avian (bird) flu." This will link you to each of the articles, a resource list for additional information and a PDF file of the brochure that you can download if you wish to have additional copies. Please use 8.5" X 14" paper for the best resolution.

On Nov. 1, President Bush released the national readiness plan. The national strategy can be viewed at <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/> or <http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland/pandemic-influenza.html>. You can also download the entire document in PDF form from this Web site. Within the plan, the president calls for \$7.1 billion dollars:

- \$1.2 billion for 20 million doses of vaccine against the current strain of bird flu
- \$1 billion to stockpile anti-viral drugs
- \$2.8 billion to speed vaccine development and research
- \$583 million for state and local governments to prepare plans to address a pandemic.



The IAFC Board of Directors and the EMS Section will continue to monitor the progress at the federal level and support initiatives that improve the health and safety of our members.



ULTRA
SONIC
CLEANERS

AOS are Distributors

BRANSON
A Subsidiary of EMERSON



Laboratory Analysis and Results

Don't Leave Anything to Chance.

Compressed Air Testing
Medical Gas Testing
Indoor Air Testing

OSHA • ADC • Navy

NFPA

TRI

TRI/Environmental, Inc.

AOS IS A TRI DISTRIBUTOR