



ARFF WORKGROUP  
"WORLD CLASS" SURVEY  
RESULTS

CHIEF GREG THOMAS

KING COUNTY INTERNATIONAL  
AIRPORT



FRISCO TEXAS





# DALLAS COWBOYS SPRING TRAINING FACILITY



## Q1 What is World class?

\*World Class is establishing standards and then meeting those standards, and proving it with policies, procedures and records.

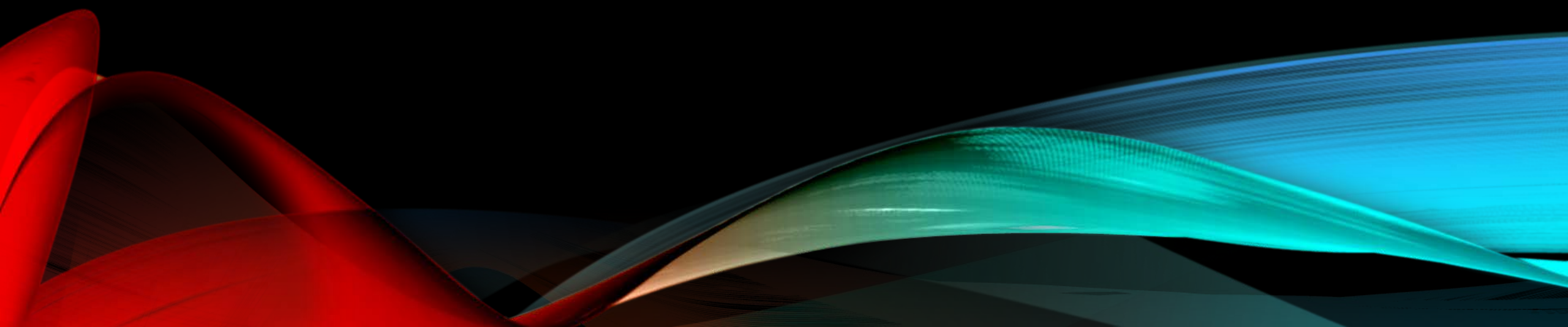
The following is a synopsis of the answers given to the survey Monkey...

### **A WORLD CLASS ARFF UNIT IS...**

- Well trained
- Well staffed
- Equipment less than 10 years old for primary response
- Professional
- Above and beyond
- Dedicated, motivated , specific tasks to fire fighting
- Proficient
- Highest customer service
- The best, nothing or no one better
- Aircraft incident professionals, airport master Fire Fighters
- Protecting life and property, ready to respond quickly
- World Class is Job specific
- Enhanced travelling experience
- To be the leaders in their field
- Competent

Q2 Would all ARFF components (even contracted) need to be ARFF trained?

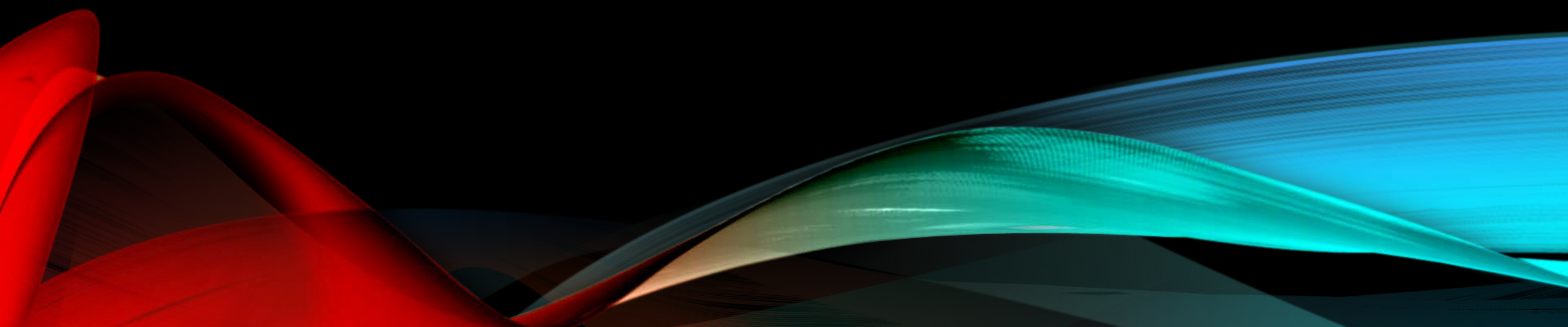
A Resounding "Yes". ARFF work is not the same as structural (Fire Fighting) work. They share many similarities in tactics and operations, but ARFF work requires ARFF training.



Q3 Do structural Fire Fighters, not trained in ARFF, respond to your Airport/Area? Do you train with them?

Most common response was that structural FF provide support or Mutual Aid, but many are not ARFF certified, but do get some degree of ARFF familiarization.

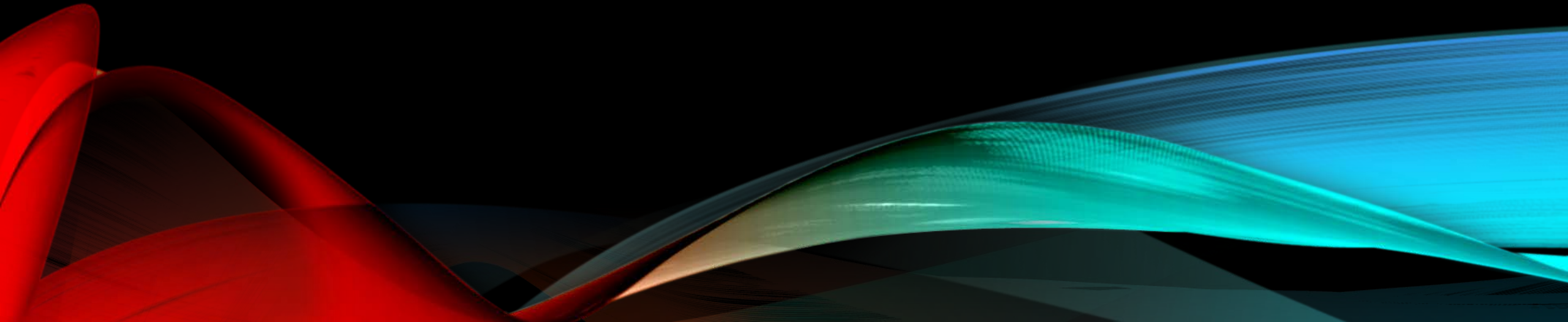
Some structural FF are fully ARFF certified, and some mentioned a good amount of cross-training with annual or quarterly drills.





## Q4 What level of training would be adequate?

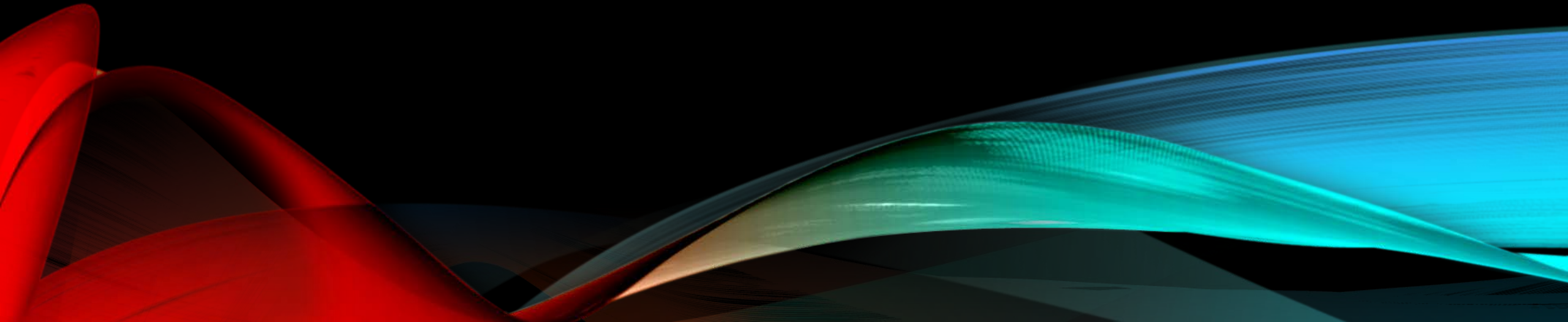
“Advanced” was by far the most common answer. Some responses were for “basic”. One answer was knowing where and how to respond for mutual partners.





## Q5 How often do you conduct live fire training?

Most answers were once per year, as required by the FAA. Some reported twice a year or several times a year. There were some who answered that they did not do live fire training.



Q6 Should ARFF units (or Airport contracts) do tabletop exercises? When and how often? Do you keep records of the training and lessons learned? Who would want to look at these records?

(first of all, I asked way to many multi-part questions in this one question!)

A. Yes (they are excellent for poor weather days)

B. how often? Most had annual or twice per year. Some had different types of drills based on size of the training (mutual Partners etc.) One reported doing table tops daily. One mentioned doing table tops as a shift. Many discussions on finding the budget to do the training.

C. most records are recorded (course outline, lessons, rosters, sign-in sheets)

D. not a lot of response to who would want to look at these records (except in conversation...NTSB, risk management, FAA, Airport admin., attorneys, Internal investigators etc.)


Q7 Do ARFF units keep records of their EVIP(Emergency Vehicle Incident Prevention) training? Where are they stored? Do you require annual recertification on all types of vehicles?

\*my first take away is we don't all use the acronym EVIP to describe vehicle training...My bad!

- A. Yes to records
- B. On Paper and in Computer Data
- C. Yes to many, No to a few, some "not Yet". Record to meet Part 139 requirements or state requirements, some not yet required annual recertification.
- D. Training is a condition of employment, FF can be relieved from duty if training is not met.

Q8 Do you practice using all of the systems on the vehicle?

How often?

- A. Not all systems but the majority
  - B. Bi-annually, some daily, some monthly
  - C. No. Especially no practice with AFFF or dry chemical during re-cert
  - D. 2 years of hands on skills before certified. daily checks
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Q9 do you use an input based foam tester for your re-cert? What records do you keep?

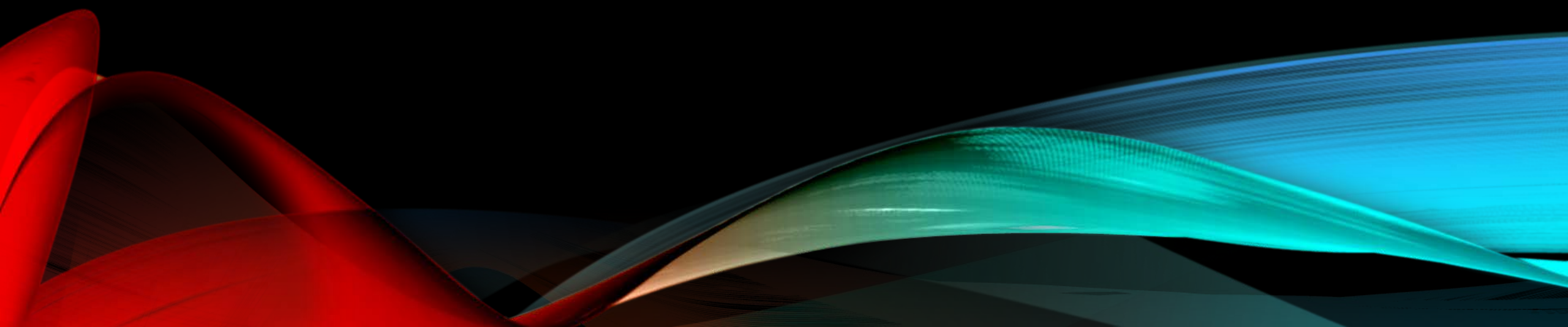
- A. FAA approved "no-Foam"
- B. Maintain data from "No Foam" for DoD
- C. Twice yearly
- D. Oshkosh EcoEFP installed
- E. Those without a system of their own, share them with outlying agencies

Q10 Does your ARFF unit have a specially trained rescue unit? Who maintains it? Is the maintenance documented? Where are the records kept? Who would want to look at those records?

- A. heavy rescue and ambulance. Basic fire training. Rescue trailer with supplies
- B. Hazard tech, rescue tech. all are trained
- C. Mutual aid partners have rescue Techs
- D. several units responded that they do not have a specially trained rescue unit.

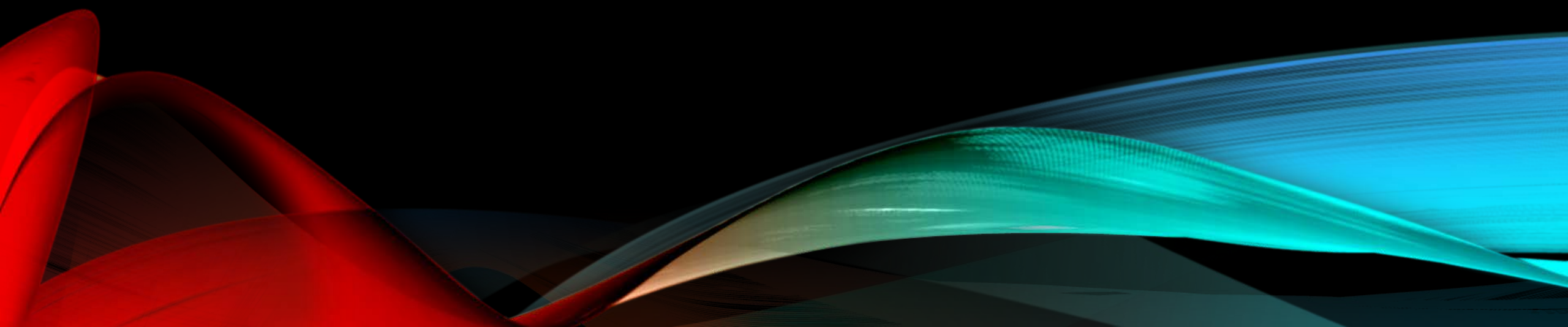
Q11 Should the ARFF unit have formal ICS training (for example "Blue Card" ICS/Nims)

- A. A resounding "Yes". All are NIMS, Not everyone takes Blue Card training.
- B. Everyone responding supported the training.
- C. ICS 300-400 minimally.



Q12 should ARFF and the Law Enforcement element at your airport be combined? What are some advantages or disadvantages?

- A. No LE, Just TSA
- B. No, the two disciplines are separate





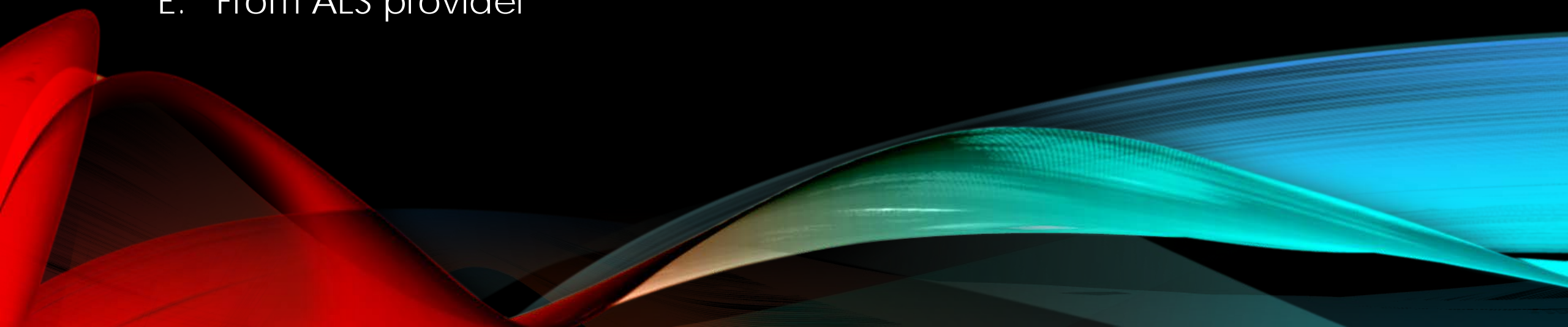
Q13 Who provides EMS services? Do they transport? What training is required? Who maintains records? Who is responsible to audit the records?

\*again I asked too many multi-part questions!

- A. The fire department has Ambulance and transport
- B. The County
- C. ARFF does EMS, District Fire provides transport
- D. all EMT's meet state standards and records are kept.
- E. the naval hospital oversees and the federal FF support ALS.

Q14 Who purchases medical supplies? Who maintains/upgrades or disposes of materials? Who tracks these medical items?

- A. EMS coordinator
- B. The fire department
- C. The Chief of the department with staff
- D. Dept. of health affairs
- E. From ALS provider

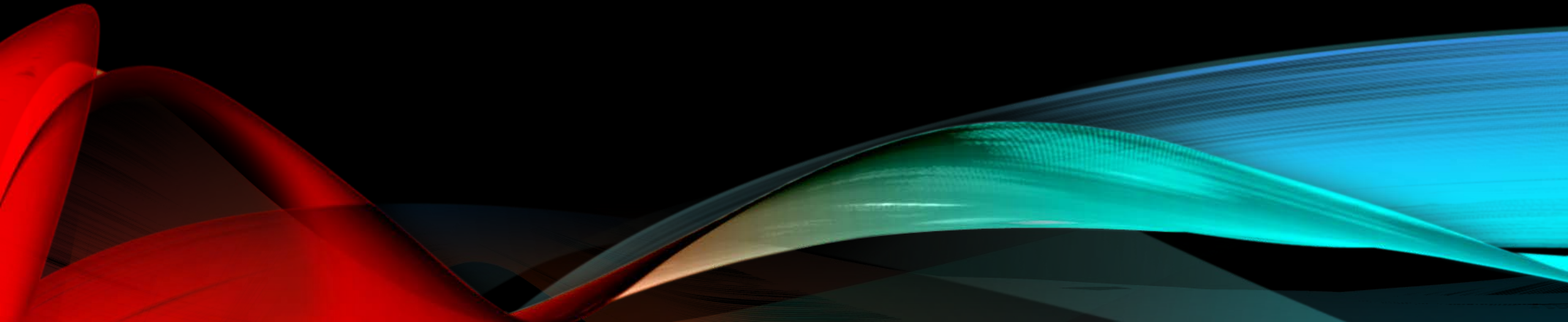


Q15 Anything else you would like to add?

- A. World class unit would have 2 sets of bunker gear available. One to wear should the other become contaminated.
- B. World class ARFF would be involved in community outreach. Something as easy as providing tours of our facilities to local groups.
- C. World Class ARFF unit would consider being staffed by a diverse work force using equity in social justice standards
- D. We do not have a fire training officer that position has been vacant for 10 years. But I believe you have to have a good trainer.
- E. Our department covers a GA airport.They are not indexed it is one of the top two busiest airports so we cross staff REDS and respond to the airport for any incidents.
- F. Keep cops as cops and fire fighters as fire fighters.

Q: What is "world Class":

Establishing standards and meeting those standards and proving you meet those standards by having a written record of important training, drills and events





- A world class airport would have after career medical care (for cancers incurred while in service)
- WHAT I LEARNED FROM YOU:
- You are all proud of what you do.
- Being the best is important. Some of you are frustrated because you lack the resources to be the best (staffing and modern equipment).
- To be "World Class" you need to be well trained, well equipped and drilled. You need to keep accurate records. Who looks at your records? Attorneys, Judges, Jurors, NTSB, FAA, local officials, Supervisors and their bosses, Subject matter experts. ARFF goals are safety and enhancing the travelling experience. Gaining Trust from your customers.
- ARFF training and structural fire training are different. If supporting an ARFF component, everyone needs to be ARFF trained, at least at the basic level and drilled together.
- We want to do more live-fire drilling and training, beyond what is required by state, county or FAA. Table top drills are cheap, easy and effective training. Records of training is important.
- Everyone needs to know how their vehicles work. They need to know where equipment is kept on those vehicles and they need to be tested as to locations of items for practice. There should be a daily check of equipment on the trucks.
- We are afraid to drill with AFFF, so we are using closed "NO foam" systems, and we are sharing those units when we can.
- Specialty unit availability is very different between agencies. We all agree that ICS training is Vital. Some also train on NIMS.
- The general consensus is Law enforcement and ARFF are needed, but not together per se. Some agreed that both police and FF in one FTE is a very sellable benefit to an airport.
- Most of you perform EMS/EMT services and there is a variety of transport arrangements. There seems to be good practices in managing, upgrading and replacing medical supplies. Old medical supplies make great aids for drills and tabletop exercises.
- ARFF expects to be supported in keeping its members well. They need to be supported in Exercise, diet and mental wellness.





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# SHERIFF

KING COUNTY



## AIRCRAFT RESCUE & FIRE FIGHTING

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