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Waterous consolidates, expands Arizona operations into Glendale facility

Phoenix Business Journal - by [Angela Gonzales](#)

The Waterous Co. is consolidating its Arizona operations into a much larger Glendale facility.

The South Saint Paul, Minn.-based company is moving out of a 10,000-square-foot space in Peoria and leasing that property to Frontier Emergency Products, a fire truck dealership. It's also leaving a 5,000-square-foot space in Peoria and moving all of its Arizona operations into a 51,000-square-foot industrial building in Glendale.

It's like a homecoming for Geary Roberts, president and CEO of Waterous Arizona, who served as Glendale's fire captain from 1978 until 1993.

Before he retired from that post, he started a company in 1992 called Pneumax, which manufactured compressed air foam systems. In 2000, Waterous bought the company from Roberts, who continued to run the Arizona operations out of a building he owned in Peoria. The company produces a variety of foam equipment used by firefighters around the globe.

All 32 employees will move to the new building at 7612 N. 74th Ave. on Thursday, Roberts said.

Frontier Emergency Products will move into his building in Peoria by Oct. 1, he said.

Roberts recently donated \$60,000 worth of training equipment to the Glendale Regional Public Safety Training Center, including a metal burn building used to train firefighters how to extinguish structure and vehicle fires.

Brian Friedman, Glendale's economic development director, said it took Roberts some time to find the right building there.

Waterous Arizona's expansion into Glendale will result in direct revenue of more than \$700,000 to the city over 10 years, Friedman said.

Glendale's industrial buildings are nearing 95 percent occupancy, he said.

During fiscal 2010, which ended June 30, Glendale filled 776,000 square feet of industrial space.

"We also have other significant transactions in escrow in the remaining industrial market," Friedman said.

While he said it is too soon to name those companies, he said they are in the solar renewable, advanced technology manufacturing, restaurant support services and general manufacturing industries.

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