

# **Drexel Heights Fire District**

**Drexel Heights 2008—2010**



**To those interested in the history of the Drexel Heights Fire District. We have put together all the information that we have. If you have additional information, articles, photos, etc. we would be very interested in adding them to this collection. Please contact Al Ring, [ringal@comcast.net](mailto:ringal@comcast.net) to make arrangements. We do not have to keep any of the items. We scan copies and return or you can scan them or copy them and mail or e-mail them. Make it easy on yourself.**

Drexel Heights Fire District originally began providing fire and emergency services to the south and southwest areas outside the City of Tucson back in May 1954. The articles of incorporation papers were filed by members of the Drexel Heights Community association. In those days the Drexel Heights Community Association Volunteer Fire Department provided services all the way to what is now the City of South Tucson.

On March 13, 2001, Drexel Heights Fire District merged with the Tucson Estates Fire District. This added a fourth fire station, six more firefighters, and several new communities. Tucson Estates, the Foothills, and the surrounding neighborhoods welcomed Drexel Heights firefighters and have been very supportive of the Fire District and its services.

The District constructed a new station in the ever growing Star Valley Community. In March 2010, DHFD's fifth station was dedicated to the residents and community.

Drexel Heights Fire District has come a long way since 1954. But no one will ever forget the determination and sacrifices made by a handful of daring individuals who saw a community need for fire protection, and found a way to make it a reality.



## Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

### Fall Prevention

Seniors enjoy longer, more fulfilling lives today more than ever before. They place a high value on their independence. For most seniors that means living in their own home.

A fall could change these expectations. In the United States, one of every three people 65 years and older falls each year. Drexel Heights Fire District responds regularly to citizens who have fallen and hurt themselves. While the Firefighter/EMT's certainly don't mind helping anyone when they are in need, they would like to remind the community of some safety tips to help prevent fall injuries.

Some falls result in injuries that seriously impair their ability to live independently. Several factors can lead to a fall, including health conditions, medication use, physical inactivity, and hazards around the home and yard. A combination of risks increases the chance of a fall and injury.

As baby boomers plan for their retirement years, they are looking toward

housing and renovations that will allow them to live independently. Many are also caring for aging family members who continue to live at home. Part of retirement planning is to recognize the risks that exist and to do something about them. The following are some important safety tips to remember.

#### FLOORS

Look at the floor in each room. When you walk through a room, do you have to walk around furniture? Ask someone to move the furniture so your path is clear. Remove any rugs or use double-sided tape or a non-slip backing so the rugs won't slip. Pick up things on the floor such as papers, magazines, books, shoes, boxes, blankets, or towels. Coil or tape cords and wires next to the wall so you won't trip over them.

#### STAIRS AND STEPS

Look at the stairs you use both inside and outside your home. Always keep objects such as papers, shoes, books, etc. off the stairs. Fix any loose or uneven steps.

Have a handyman or an electrician put in an overhead light at the top and bottom of the stairs. A friend or family member can change the light bulb when it burns out. It is helpful to have a light switch at the top and bottom of the stairs. Light switches that glow are a great idea for stairways. Make sure handrails are on both sides of the stairs, are as long as the stairs and firmly secured. The carpet should be firmly attached to every step or remove the carpet and attach non-slip rubber treads on the stairs.

#### KITCHENS

Look at your kitchen and eating area. Keep things you use often on the lower shelves (about waist high). Get a steady step stool with a bar to hold on to if you need to reach items on high shelves. Never use a chair as a step stool.

#### BEDROOMS

Look at all your bedrooms. Place a lamp close to the bed where it is easy to reach. Put in a night-light so you can see where you're walking. Some night-lights go on by themselves after dark.

#### BATHROOMS

Look at all your bathrooms. Make sure you have a non-slip rubber mat or self-stick strips on the floor of the tub or shower. Grab bars can also help prevent falls in the bathroom. They should be located inside the tub and next to the toilet.

You should also remember to exercise regularly. This helps build the strength you need and it improves your balance and coordination. Your doctor can tell you what the best type of physical exercise is for you.

Finally, making sure you take your time can also decrease your chances of having a fall. Don't be rushed or distracted when getting out of a chair or your bed. Instead, sit a moment and stand to get good balance before you walk.

Installing proper lighting, handrails and grab bars will cost money. Spending a little money is certainly worth your independence. If you can't afford the necessary changes, check with the Pima Council on Aging. They have great programs that can offer assistance with these types of expenses. Pima Council on Aging also partners with Drexel Heights Fire and the Pima County Health Dept Public Health Nurses to provide a Fall Prevention Program. Contact Pima Council on Aging for more information.

*Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the training classroom next to Station # 1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your*

## Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

### New firefighters hired

**I**N September of 2007, Drexel Heights Fire District was awarded a SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) grant from the Department of Homeland Security and the United States Fire Administration. The grant allows the District to hire nine new firefighters to increase the staffing levels on the fire apparatus.

The five year grant will start out by covering the salaries for these nine firefighters at a 90 percent rate in the first year of the grant and will gradually decrease until year five. The results of having these new firefighters will mean that there will be three firefighters responding on each engine to emergency calls.

In order to promptly implement the new firefighters, the District started a transitional academy where the new firefighters will be trained. This academy is different from a typical academy where

participants are certified as new state firefighters. The firefighters participating in the transitional academy are already state certified firefighters and emergency medical technicians. They are now employees that are being oriented to the Drexel Heights Fire District.

The transitional academy will last for nine weeks. After successfully completing and graduating from this special academy, the new firefighters will be assigned to different shifts and stations throughout the District to fulfill the new staffing levels.

The District's emergency response will still consist of sending a fire engine and an ambulance on typical emergency calls. "Having an extra set of hands on scene will allow us to do more for our customers," said Captain Mark Fiems. Every emergency responders working for the Drexel Heights Fire District are trained as an Arizona State certified



Firefighter I and II, meeting the National Fire Protection Association's standards. "Our firefighters are also trained as either Emergency Medical Technicians or Paramedics," said Fire Chief Douglas Chappell.

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Station # 1, located at 5030 South Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson Ron Greil, Clerk James Bertrand, Member R.M. Bishman Member Laura Dailey, and Member Jayne Stepnoski.



2008

February 13, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Wednesday, February 13, 2008 / ARIZONA DAILY STAR • B3



GREG BRYAN / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

### ROLLOVER AFTERMATH ON AJO WAY

Drexel Heights firefighter John McGinn carries a child's car seat from the scene of a rollover accident on Ajo Way west of Mission Road. According to Arizona Department of Public Safety Officer Ken Chruscinski, an eastbound SUV pulling a trailer with a car on it lost control and the driver overcorrected, causing it to roll over into the westbound lanes. A male driver and an infant were taken to a hospital with minor injuries. No other vehicles were involved in the accident.



2008

February 27, 2008, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2008/02/27/78027-flames-inside-van-causes-chain-of-small-bush-fires/>

## Flames inside van causes chain of small bush fires

by Carli Brosseau on Feb 27, 2008, under Local, Special



Flaming debris blown from a moving transport van set off a chain of small brush fires on the West Side on Tuesday, a fire department spokeswoman said.

The van's driver, who was in his late 50s, apparently drove a couple of blocks without noticing the beginnings of the fire, Tracy Koslowski of Drexel Heights Fire Department said. Then a wave of flames rolled through the vehicle.

The van was traveling east on Bopp Road and stopped west of the intersection at Kinney Road about 1:30 p.m., Koslowski said. Bopp was closed for more than an hour.

The fire appears to have started inside the vehicle, toward the back, where a copper fuel line for an extra fuel tank was leaking, Koslowski said.

The 15-passenger van had been modified to include the fuel line inside the passenger area and a truck bed, she said. The fuel vapors ignited and a flash fire engulfed the vehicle.

"For it to explode, to go poof like that, there must have been a lot of vapor," Koslowski said.

The driver, who was alone in the van, escaped with minor injuries, Koslowski said. He pulled over quickly when he felt the heat on the back of his body.

Firefighters put out the van fire and the brush fires caused by the blowing fiberglass debris within minutes, Koslowski said.

2008

February 27, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:



MAMTA POPAT / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

### **SOUTHWEST SIDE VEHICLE FIRE**

Vitor Cruz, a firefighter with the Drexel Heights Fire Department, examines the remains of a transport van that caught fire while the driver was headed eastbound in the 5400 block of West Bopp Road, southwest of Tucson. The driver had minor injuries Tuesday but refused transportation to a hospital, said Tracy Koslowski of the Fire Department.



March 2008, *Desert Times*:

S • THREE POINTS • ROBLES JUNCTION • SOUTHWESTERN TUCSON FREE



Photo by Drexel Heights Public Information Officer Tracy Koslowski

Drexel Heights Firefighters responded to a vehicle fire near Kinney and Bopp Roads at about 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 26.

## Truck destroyed in fire at Bopp and Kinney Roads

**TUCSON** — Drexel Heights Firefighters responded to a vehicle fire near Kinney and Bopp Roads at about 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 26. A transport van was fully involved with fire when firefighters arrived.

There were also some small brush fires on the side of Bopp Road because of burning debris coming out of the vehicle.

Drexel Heights Fire Investigator David Stone found that the vehicle fire was started accidentally. The fire began in the

rear interior of the vehicle where a fuel line connection must have been leaking. The initial ignition source of the leaking fuel was not able to be determined but the result was a fire that flash and spread throughout the vehicle.

The driver, who was the only occupant, escaped with minor injuries. Bopp Road west of Kinney was completely shut down for more than an hour because of the incident.

# Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager



## Desert Animals

**W**E live in the Sonoran Desert and there are many wild animals in the area and in our communities. It really is quite a treat to live in an environment that supports a wide diversity of wild life, but we all have to be aware of our wildlife friends and their behavior.

We have both venomous and non-venomous snakes in the area. It is fairly common to see snakes in the spring and autumn in our community. It is not safe, however, to kill any of these snakes. You may actually put yourself in danger of a snake bite if try to kill a rattlesnake. Besides, snakes were actually in this environment first and they can be beneficial. For example, snakes help keep the rodent population down and they will not hurt you if you leave them alone.

If you do get bitten by a snake call 9-1-1 and try to identify the snake and its markings. If you would like the snake

removed from your property because it's venomous (or if you're not sure), call 9-1-1. Residents in the Drexel Heights Fire District will have firefighters dispatched who will safely remove the snake from your property. The snakes are not destroyed; they are re-released into a similar habitat region that is safe for them.

Gila Monsters is one very special lizard and is the only lizard that you should be wary of in Arizona. This beautiful animal is protected in Arizona and it is illegal to disturb it. If you come across one, admire it and leave it alone. It is relatively slow moving and will not harm you if you keep your distance.

Coyotes are another regular visitor in our desert environment. They are wild and should be admired from a distance. Typically they will keep their distance from humans and they don't represent any danger to us. However, they do present a danger to house pets. Be careful not

to let your pets stray too far from your residence.

Javalina's look like wild pigs and they usually travel in a herd. Like all wild animals you should not feed them as this will only encourage them to come back and less able to cope in the wild. Javalinas can be aggressive when they encounter humans especially when in the presence of a juvenile javalina. They have very poor eyesight and rely on their sense of smell. If you encounter a Javalina, the best course of action is to stand still until they pass.

Mountain Lions and Bobcats are also indigenous to the area. Mountain Lions are a top predator and caution needs to be maintained as they are dangerous to humans. If you see a Mountain Lion in the area report it to Arizona Game & Fish. Bobcats are more common and present a danger to house pets but not generally to humans.

Drexel Heights Fire District will be hosting a safety presentation in conjunction with the Desert Museum during the month of March. The presentations will be held at Tucson Estates, Tucson Estates Foothills, Western Way and Mount Zion Church. Please contact the Drexel Heights Fire District Administration Center for more details on days and times at (520) 883-4341.

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The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson Ron Greil, Clerk James Bertrand, Member R.M. Bishman Member Laura Dailey, and Member Jayne Stepnoski.

## Western Way Corral March News

By Martha Kash

Magic in March will be our theme for the spring concerts this month. On March 10, Monday evening at 7 p.m., we will be presenting a program at the Western Way meeting room. Then another concert will be held at Tucson Estates scheduled for 4 p.m. in the multipurpose room, March 13. The forty-voice group will also be singing the Star Spangled Banner at the opening of a Colorado Rockies game on March 5. The concerts are free with a free-will donation available.



2008

March 7, 2008:

SEND THEM AN ANGEL

LORD, WHEN FIRES RAGE THROUGH THE NIGHT,  
GUIDE THEM ON THEIR WAY.  
PROTECT THEM FROM THE FLAMES THEY MUST FIGHT,  
SO THAT THEY MAY LIVE ANOTHER DAY.

AND WITH EVERY NEW DAY THEY WILL LIVE,  
THEY WILL CONTINUE TO ANSWER YOUR CALL,  
TO GIVE THE GREATEST GIFT THEY CAN GIVE,  
WITH THEIR DEDICATION TO PROTECT US ALL.

HOLD THEIR HAND WHEN THE HOURS GROW LONG,  
WHEN THEY FEEL THEY HAVE HAD ENOUGH.  
SEND THEM AN ANGEL TO KEEP THEM STRONG, WHEN THE NIGHTS  
ARE WEARY AND THE DAYS ARE TOUGH.

WHEN A CHILD SCREAMS OPEN THEIR EARS,  
SO THAT THEY MAY SAVE THAT SOUL.  
WASH AWAY A MOTHER'S WORST FEARS,  
AND RETURN TO HER THE CHILD  
THE FIRE ALMOST STOLE.

LORD, SEND THEM AN ANGEL TONIGHT, TO PROTECT THEM AS THE  
FLAMES GROW HIGHER.  
KEEP THEM SAFE WHILE THEY CONTINUE TO FIGHT,  
TO OVERCOME THE DANGER AND FURY OF FIRE.

WHEN AN OLD WOMAN GRASPS FOR BREATH,  
LEND THEM THE COURAGE TO PULL HER OUT;  
AND SAVE HER FROM AN EARLY DEATH,  
IT'S WHAT THEIR JOB IS ALL ABOUT.

AND LORD, IF THEIR WORK SHOULD EVER  
TAKE THEM FROM THIS EARTH,  
SEND AN ANGEL TO HELP THEM SEE,  
THAT FOR WHAT IT ALL IS WORTH  
THEY WILL ALWAYS BE A HERO  
TO THEIR ANGEL  
AND ME.



**FIRE FIGHTER  
TRANSITIONAL ACADEMY  
GRADUATION CEREMONY**

**MARCH 7, 2008, 7:00 PM**



**TRANSITIONAL ACADEMY CLASS 08-01  
GRADUATION AGENDA  
MARCH 7, 2008 7:00PM**

**WELCOME  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
INVOCATION**

**OPENING REMARKS  
INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER**

**CLASS ADDRESS  
CHIEF DOUGLAS E. CHAPPELL**

**PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES  
CHIEF DOUGLAS E. CHAPPELL,  
ASSISTANT CHIEF GARY L. BYNUM  
CAPTAIN BRIAN M. KELLY**

**REMOVAL OF ROPES AND BADGE PINNING**

**STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**

**SLIDE SHOW**

**CLOSING**

**DREXEL HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT  
FIRE FIGHTER  
TRANSITIONAL ACADEMY  
CLASS 08-01**

\*\*\*\*\*

**ALEXANDER CASTRO  
ERIK ENRIQUEZ  
SARAH FLOOD  
DAVID FOX  
ALAN HILDENBRAND  
NATHANIEL HOYLE  
DANIEL MARTINEZ  
JAMES O'SULLIVAN  
DANIEL RASMUSSEN  
DOUGLAS ROOP  
MONICA ROSANO**

\*\*\*\*\*

**WE WISH TO RECOGNIZE AND THANK EACH OF THE  
INSTRUCTORS AS WELL AS THE OFFICERS AND CREWS  
WHO HAVE GIVEN SO SELFLESSLY OF THEIR TIME AND  
EXPERIENCE TO ENRICH OUR TRAINING AND  
EDUCATION.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**TRANSITIONAL ACADEMY CLASS 08-01**

**FIRE IT UP !**

\*\*\*\*\*

**RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN HALL**

2008

March 25, 2008:

25 March 2008

Drexel Heights Fire District Headquarters  
5030 S. Camino Verde  
Tucson, Az. 85735


Dear Fellow Firefighters:

This letter is written to express my appreciation to Maria and Tracey for their willingness to visit Desert Trails RV Park and treat us old folks to classes on fire safety and CPR. Both classes were very informative and well done. I received much positive feedback along with many "when can we expect more" types of questions. I asked them to be patient until next winter so you can all relax for now.

As a firefighter myself since 1966 and a former firefighting instructor I am well aware of the importance of fire safety training and having the ability to react when faced with emergency situations. This is especially important here at Desert Trails since the guests are nearly all elderly and some do have health issues. It is indeed comforting to know that you are able to respond within four minutes. Your greatest problem would probably be in trying to find the exact site of the emergency. There are maps available that I will gladly bring to your station should you wish me to do so.

Again, on behalf of all the guests here at Desert Trails thank you for your service, not only to us, but to the communities that you serve. Hopefully, we will be able to arrange for some more training next winter.

Sincerely,



Gary Richardson, Capt.  
Beecher Falls (Vt.) Vol. Fire Dept.  
3551 S. San Joaquin Rd.  
Tucson, Az. 85735



March 27, 2008:



Special Thanks For Their Assistance:  
 CDBG Day Planning Committee  
 Flowing Wells Community Center Staff  
 Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation  
 Homer Davis Elementary School Choir  
 Lenu's Caterers

Event Sponsored by



National Community Development  
 Block Grant Week

## 2008 Southern Arizona CDBG Celebration



Thursday, March 27, 2008

10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.  
 Ellie Towne Flowing Wells  
 Community Center  
 1660 W. Ruthrauff Road  
 Tucson, AZ.

### AGENDA

10:30 a.m. Registration  
 11:00 a.m. Program  
 12:00 p.m. Refreshments, Exhibits, Tour of  
 Community Center and  
 Entertainment by Homer Davis  
 Elementary School Choir

#### Master of Ceremonies

Honorable Sharon Bronson

Pima County Board of Supervisors, District 3

#### Pledge of Allegiance

Homer Davis Elementary School Choir

#### Speakers

Honorable Gabrielle Giffords U.S. House of Representatives,  
 District 8  
 Ruben Reyes Representing Honorable Raul Grijalva,  
 U.S. House of Representatives,  
 District 7  
 Honorable Richard Elias Chairman, Pima County  
 Board of Supervisors  
 Honorable Robert Walkup Mayor, City of Tucson  
 Noemi Ghirghi U.S. Department of Housing & Urban  
 Development

Ellie Towne President, Flowing Wells  
 Neighborhood Association &  
 Community Coalition  
 CDBG Day Planning Committee Presentation of gift to the Ellie Towne  
 Flowing Wells Community Center -  
 Senior Program  
 Emily Nottingham Presentation of the Diane LeVan  
 Allen Kulwin Lifetime Achievement Award

Program



2008

April 2008:

# *Certificate of Appreciation*

*This Certificate is Presented to*

**DREXEL HEIGHTS FIRE DIST.**

*In appreciation of Devoted and Invaluable Services rendered to*

*Northwest Fire Rescue District's Eleventh Annual*

**BURN BUSTER BLAST**

*Given this 12th Day of April 2008*

*Veronica Rubio*  
Prevention Specialist



*Randy Karrer*  
Fire Marshal



2008

April 19, 2008, [http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/s-side-fires-hit-school-house/article\\_40887051-2687-5036-9370-60817dd2c529.html](http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/s-side-fires-hit-school-house/article_40887051-2687-5036-9370-60817dd2c529.html)  
edited

The fire was reported at 8:44 p.m. when someone noticed smoke coming from the home in the 200 block of East 32nd Street, Anderson said.

No one was injured, but when fire crews arrived they received differing accounts of whether someone was inside.

Searches of the house revealed that no one was home when the flames broke out, Anderson said. Apparently the occupant recently died, but ownership remained in the family, he said.

Seven South Tucson firefighters responded, along with a Drexel Heights Fire District engine crew with three firefighters. It took 25 minutes to contain the blaze, he said.

The fire went unnoticed because it started in the center of the house.

Firefighters encountered heavy smoke when they arrived, Anderson said.

The cause has not been determined, but investigators have not ruled out arson.

So far this week, the Tucson Fire Department has responded to 10 fires; in seven of those the cause was linked to arson, Tracy said.

But, "Nothing confirms that they're linked," she said.

April 30, 2008, [http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/kids-hurt-when-they-lose-control-of-atv-and-it/article\\_53d925a5-8b6c-5d6b-9ef8-e5e379632d7b.html](http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/kids-hurt-when-they-lose-control-of-atv-and-it/article_53d925a5-8b6c-5d6b-9ef8-e5e379632d7b.html)

## 3 kids hurt when they lose control of ATV and it rolls on top of them

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Respond: [Write a letter to the editor](#) | [Write a guest opinion](#)

April 30, 2008 12:00 am • By Alexis Huicochea [arizona dAlly Star](#)

0

An 11-year-old girl suffered serious head injuries Tuesday night when she and two other children lost control of an all-terrain vehicle and it rolled on top of them.

The accident occurred at around 7:45 p.m. in the desert on the Southwest Side, said Tracy Koslowski, a spokeswoman for the Drexel Heights Fire Department.

The children — two girls and a boy — were riding one ATV and were not wearing helmets when the accident occurred in the 2900 block of West Paseo de las Aves, near West Valencia Road and South Cardinal Avenue, Koslowski said. There was no parental supervision.

The 11-year-old girl had to be flown to University Medical Center. The other two kids, who are about 10 or 11 years old, were also taken to hospitals with less serious head injuries — one by ambulance and the other by a parent, Koslowski said.

"The important message is that there shouldn't be three people on one ATV, but the bigger issue is the use of helmets," she said. "Had they been wearing helmets, their injuries could have been eliminated or reduced significantly."

• Contact reporter Alexis Huicochea at 629-9412 or [ahuicochea@azstarnet.com](mailto:ahuicochea@azstarnet.com).

## Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

### Babysitting Program

**T**IMES have changed for older kids who want to start babysitting. Years ago, older kids began their babysitting careers by simply letting parents in the neighborhood know that they were available. The idea of getting training, certificates, or any other kind of preparation was unheard of. How times have changed!

These days, there's far more publicity about safety concerns, with everything from the need to put babies to sleep on their backs to prevent sudden infant death syndrome to the importance of using child car seats properly. That means that becoming a successful babysitter involves some preparation so that your son or daughter can assure parents that they can deal with the behavioral and safety aspects of the job, as well as any professional issues that might arise.

Drexel Heights Fire District now offers a Babysitting Program to participants ages

12-16 years. The program includes classes such as fire safety, kitchen safety, car seat safety, child care, and responsibilities and ethics of babysitting. During the fire safety class participants will get to use a real fire extinguisher. In the child care class they will learn how to diaper, feed and hold a baby. Participants will also learn how to develop a babysitting resume which they can later use when looking for a babysitting job. The Drexel Heights Babysitting Program also includes American Heart Association training in the areas of CPR and First Aid!

The program takes two days to cover all the above mentioned classes. At the conclusion of the program, participants walk away with a certificate listing all of the training and classes they completed. They also receive some safety items to take with them as they begin their babysitting journey.

Drexel Heights Fire District offers

the Babysitting Program during the summer. Class dates include June 4 and 5 and June 19 and 20. The two-day sessions run from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. The cost for Babysitting Program is \$10 for District residents and \$20 for non-District residents. To register visit our Drexel Heights Fire District Administration offices at 5030 S. Camino Verde. For more information about the classes call (520) 883-4341 or check out the website at [www.drexelfire.net](http://www.drexelfire.net)

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### Activities planned at museum

**TUCSON** — Children will delight in using stencils and "spray" paint to make unique art on Saturday, May 10 at the Tucson Children's Museum. This activity is scheduled at 11:30 a.m. and is included in the cost of admission.

#### Tykes, Enjoy the Key to Fun

Tykes will learn about The Key to My Heart and then decorate a special keychain during TARGET Tykes Time at the Tucson Children's Museum. This activity is scheduled on Saturday, May 10 at 10:30 a.m. and Tuesday, May 13 at 11:30 a.m.

#### Free Admission For Moms On Mother's Day

Kids can "treat" mom to free admission to the Tucson Children's Museum on

Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11.

#### X Marks the Bookmark

Children can spark their creativity making colorful bookmarks at the Tucson Children's Museum from Tuesday, May 13 through Sunday, May 18. This featured activity is scheduled at 3 p.m. and is included in the price of admission.

The Tucson Children's Museum is located at 200 S. 6th Avenue. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. Museum admission is \$5 for children (two -18), \$7 for adults and \$5 for seniors. All children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult when visiting the museum.

## 3 kids hurt when they lose control of ATV and it rolls on top of them

By Alexis Huicochea

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

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2008

May 13, 2008, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2008/05/13/85059-best-bets/>

## Best bets

by Tucson Citizen on May 13, 2008, under Family, Local

g+1

0

f Recommend

Share

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Kids can meet Drexel Heights Fire Department's clown mascot, Flame, played here by firefighter Henry Molina.

### Learn not to burn

Folks from the Drexel Heights Fire Department will help kids learn about fire safety. Coloring books, a safety vehicle and the clown mascot, Flame, are part of the fun. When: 1 p.m. Saturday Where: Tucson Children's Museum, 200 S. Sixth Ave. Price: \$7 adults, \$5 seniors and children ages 2-18 Info: 792-9985

2008

May 14, 2008, [http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/school-bus-rear-ended-kids-are-ok/article\\_c4eacf0a-1b5f-57d2-b64e-0d6d8fdd2f05.html](http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/school-bus-rear-ended-kids-are-ok/article_c4eacf0a-1b5f-57d2-b64e-0d6d8fdd2f05.html)

# School bus rear-ended; kids are OK

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PHOTOS BY Benjie Sanders / Arizona Daily Star

May 14, 2008 12:00 am

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A. Jordan sobs with relief as she clings to her son, Max Cardadeiro, 7, after learning that he and the other young children were all right after a car rear-ended their school bus and the car briefly caught fire Tuesday. The 5- to 8-year-old children on the bus were from Johnson Primary School. The accident was reported around 3:30 p.m. on Valencia Road near Camino de Oeste. None of the children was seriously injured, but the driver of the car was hurt and was taken to a hospital. The students were checked out by Drexel Heights firefighters and paramedics, then released to their parents. Those who were not picked up by their parents were picked up by another bus that was sent by the Tucson Unified School District.



May 14, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:

## SCHOOL BUS REAR-ENDED; KIDS ARE OK



PHOTOS BY BENJIE SANDERS / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A. Jordan sobs with relief as she clings to her son, Max Cardadeiro, 7, after learning that he and the other young children were all right after a car rear-ended their school bus and the car briefly caught fire Tuesday. The 5- to 8-year-old children on the bus were from Johnson Primary School. The accident was reported around 3:30 p.m. on Valencia Road near Camino de Oeste. None of the children was seriously injured, but the driver of the car was hurt and was taken to a hospital. The students were checked out by Drexel Heights firefighters and paramedics, then released to their parents. Those who were not picked up by their parents were picked up by another bus that was sent by the Tucson Unified School District.



2008

May 31, 2008, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2008/05/31/86811-casino-hotel-reopen-after-odor-causes-scare/>

## Casino, hotel reopen after odor causes scare

by Ryn Gargulinski on May 31, 2008, under Local, Special



Firefighters work during a gas leak scare at the Desert Diamond casino and hotel, on South Nogales Highway on Friday morning.



Desert Diamond employees and patrons stand outside the casino, on South Nogales Highway, after being evacuated Friday morning. More than 200 people were evacuated because of a possible gas leak.

A gas leak was not the source of a foul smell that caused the evacuation of Desert Diamond Casino's hotel and casino at 7:30 Friday morning.

About 200 hotel guests, employees and early-morning gamblers milled around outside, and new arrivals to the casino were turned away during the four-hour investigation.

A Southwest Gas technician who completed tests inside and outside the buildings found no leak, company spokeswoman Libby Howell said. Four meters were turned back on by 11:30 a.m.

Though the source of the odor remains a mystery, people were allowed back into the casino, said an employee who answered the telephone there.

No spokesman was available for comment.

Howell said the smell could be a number of things, ranging from sewage to insecticide to rotting garbage.

The casino and hotel, 7350 S. Nogales Highway, were both evacuated, said Assistant Chief Gary Bynum of the Drexel Heights Fire Department.

Along with the Southwest Gas technician, emergency crews from the Drexel Heights, Pascua Yaqui, Tohono O'odham and South Tucson fire departments participated.



June 9, 2008, KVOA:

<<Back



**Kristi Tedesco** Reports

## **New fire safety education program for preschoolers hits Southern Arizona**

Fire Safety and prevention is far from contained in Southern Arizona, now that a new educational kit is being introduced to area daycare providers, preschools and firefighters. The "Play Safe! Be Safe!" kit targets 3 to 5-year olds with age-appropriate activities and games.

The Armstrong children are alive and well because 8-year-old Dominique was fire safety trained in school. On Mother's Day, she saw smoke and alerted her mom. Everything burned but Dominique's brothers and sisters were safe.

The Fireproof Children Company, which distributes the "Play Safe! Be Safe!" program, says demand for this type of kit is high in Southern Arizona.

President Robert Cole tells Kristi's Kids, "There really hasn't been a real program designed for this age group." Cole says there are 4-main messages in the kit.

"Kids should tell a grown-up when they see matches and lighters. Stop, drop and roll - that's what you do when fire gets on your clothes. Crawl low under smoke - what you do in a room with smoke. And finally, if you're in a fire... Or emergency... And the firefighter calls to you, go to the firefighter."

Firefighters say, children fear them because of all the intimidating gear they wear... so the kit includes this fun sticker exercise, to show how the good guys look. When flames spread, children are notorious for hiding.

Northwest Fire Captain Adam Goldberg says, "the first place we're checking is under the bed, then the closet, then the bathroom and then on top of the bed because most likely that child is going to try to hide from the scariness."

In the meantime, experts say, it's all about educating our children as early as possible. Exposing them to the "Play Safe! Be Safe!" program.

Parents can't buy the program for personal use but you can get online with your preschooler for some of the activities.

**For more information about the fire safety kit click on the following link**

<http://www.playsafebesafe.com/home.shtml>

→ Attends  
Johnson  
Primary



# Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

## Monsoon Storms

**M**ONSOON season is upon us! The Arizona monsoon officially begins after the third consecutive day of dew points above 55 degrees. Typically, Arizona monsoon storms start with heavy winds sometimes resulting in a visible wall of dust hundreds of feet high moving across the desert. These dust storms are normally accompanied by frequent thunder and lightning which often leading to heavy downpours.

When such high volume rains descend, the ground and most especially the surface streets begin to flood. Most roads are not built to drain water quickly since these rainstorms are somewhat rare. Quite often the rain pools on streets during and for a few hours after the monsoon storms causing dangerous driving conditions.

If you're driving when it's still raining, remember to slow down. Bear in mind that the beginning of rainstorms is the

most dangerous times since that's when oils and other automotive fluids are being washed off the roads causing unusually slick conditions. If your visibility is impeded by heavy rain or blowing dust, slowly pull off to the side of the road as far to the right as possible, turn off your car, turn off your lights, and keep your foot off the brake pedal. Otherwise, drivers may come up quickly behind you assuming that you're still in motion.

The worst areas for flooding are the many washes in the area and small gullies where heavy rains drained off the land long before the roads were built. This is where drivers will normally encounter signs cautioning against crossing the road when flooded. Those signs should be heeded carefully. Even if the water rushing across the road looks only an inch or two deep, it may very well be so deep that vehicles, including high clearance trucks, stall and get stuck in the wash.

Never drive into a flooded wash. The water can be deeper than you think. The pavement below the water can be eaten away by the rushing water causing your vehicle to become stuck in the mud. Additionally, there can be large objects floating down from upstream that can damage or encapsulate your vehicle. If the water is deep it may cause your motor to stall immediately and leave you stranded in the middle of the wash. If you are caught in a wash, try to climb out on the roof of your vehicle and wait for help. Use your cell phone if available to call 911.

Drexel Heights Firefighters have been trained for swift water rescues and are called in to rescue motorists stuck in washes. Television news crews usually try to capture the rescue on videotape to be broadcast, sometimes live, as a warning to others. That's only the beginning of the embarrassment trapped drivers face. In Arizona, under the "Stupid Motorist Law", these drivers can be charged for the cost of being rescued if they fail to observe posted warnings. So remember to avoid flooding areas and obey the street flood warning signs.

It is also important to keep in mind that it is not safe to walk through washes that are flowing. If the rain has fallen upstream

you could get trapped in a flash flood and be taken down stream by the rushing water. This could result in being entangled in debris and cause serious harm or even death. Firefighters are prepared for swift water rescues. However, a successful monsoon season is when their services are not required.

Lightning is another threat during the monsoon season. To avoid being struck by lightning stay away from open fields, high land, trees, poles, other tall objects, standing bodies of water including swimming pools, and metal objects including golf clubs and lawn chairs. Stay off any kind of phone to avoid a shock caused by nearby lightning strikes. In an emergency, cellular phones are the best choice. Stay away from plumbing fixtures including showers, baths, and sinks as lightning can travel through metal pipes.

Remember to turn off all unnecessary electrical equipment during storms to decrease the draw on power companies. This is a prime time for power outages in the area. Because of the risk of power failure, keep batteries, a working battery-powered radio or television, and flashlights handy. If the power goes out, remember to keep lit candles out of direct drafts.

See **MONSOON**, page 10



Photo courtesy of the Drexel Heights Fire Department

Firefighters respond to a mobile home fire on May 22.

## Mobile home destroyed by fire

**TUCSON** — At 11 a.m., on May 22, Drexel Heights Fire District responded to a mobile home fire on 2802 W. Milton, near Cardinal and Drexel roads. No one was at home at the time of the fire but when firefighters arrived there was smoke and flame coming from the home. A neighbor had seen the smoke and called 9-1-1.

With the winds blowing 15-22 miles per hour the firefighters got a quick attack with water to get the fire under control. The fire was completely extinguished at 11:23 a.m. Drexel Heights Fire District had two engines, two paramedic vehicles, special rescue vehicle and a Battalion Chief on scene. Tohono O'Odham also had an engine on scene as back-up resources. Pima County Sheriff, Southwest Gas and Tucson Electric Power were also on scene.

A total of 15 firefighters were on scene battling the blaze.

While the firefighters were able to make a quick stop on the fire, the heat damage destroyed the interior of the home as well as all of its contents. A family of five will be displaced from the home. The parents have a five-year-old, three-year-old and a three-month-old. They have no homeowners insurance and Drexel Heights Fire District called the Red Cross in to provide some immediate assistance to this family.

Drexel Heights Fire District's fire cause and origin investigator Fire Marshal Dave Stone said that the fire was accidental and was started at an electrical outlet. A coffee pot that was left on overheated the outlet and started the fire.

See **FIRE**, page 10

## Monsoon Storms

**MONSOON**, from page 1

So enjoy the beautiful light show that the monsoon season brings from the safety of your home. If possible, avoid getting caught in the monsoon storms outside or in your vehicle. If you do get caught in a storm, try to stay calm and remember the safety tips mentioned in this article. Have a safe and cool monsoon season.

Drexel Heights Fire District Board

meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the training classroom next to Station # 1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde.

The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson Ron Greil, Clerk James Bertrand, Member R.M. Bishman Member Laura Dailey, and Member Jayne Stepnoski.

## Mobile home destroyed by fire

**FIRE**, from page 1

The estimate dollar loss on this family's home is \$20,000.

With such a terrible event like this, Drexel Heights Fire District would like to remind the community to make sure all electrical appliances are turned off before they leave the house.

To place an ad in the *Desert Times*, call  
Kristin at 578-1505.



2008

June 14, 2008, [http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/quick-thinking-helped-in-emergencies/article\\_f5bfc4f7-593f-5f6c-9b4e-303008fc15d2.html](http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/quick-thinking-helped-in-emergencies/article_f5bfc4f7-593f-5f6c-9b4e-303008fc15d2.html)

## Quick thinking helped in 2 emergencies

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June 14, 2008 12:00 am • By Eric Swedlund arizona daily star

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Lauded for his courage and quick thinking in two emergencies last year, 11-year-old Diego Gastelum says he was just trying to keep calm and call for help like he'd been taught.

Diego was presented with a certificate of recognition and appreciation by the Drexel Heights Fire District on Friday afternoon for his "quick and safe response" in activating the emergency system. And while he said receiving an award and touring the firehouse were cool, his first words were to thank the firefighters for helping his family.

The first emergency occurred in February 2007, when Diego was 10 and he and his family were the victims of an invasion at their Southwest Side home. He first pretended to be asleep while the assailants hit his mother, then when the men were near the doorway, he activated his mother's medical-alert device, which she has for epileptic seizures.

"My mom and dad always told me to call really fast if there's a problem," he said. "I was scared, but I was trying to be calm to do all this."

Drexel Heights Capt. Jeremy Beatty was one of the firefighters who responded to the call, and the one who honored Diego.

"For someone of his age, it's really courageous to have the forethought to call 911, especially in a home invasion," Beatty said. "Who knows what the outcome could have been if he hadn't called? The family should be really proud of him."

Firefighters visit elementary-school classrooms each year to teach children how and when it's appropriate to call 911 but don't always get to see the lessons work so well.

"I'd like to say it's more common, but it's really not," Beatty said. "He did a fantastic job. I don't think most adults would have had the foresight to call 911 during a home invasion. It's a scary and traumatic thing."

Later last year, Diego also called 911 when his mother had a seizure.

"I'm overwhelmed. I can't believe that he was able to think so fast," said his mother, Maria Gastelum.

The Drexel Heights Fire District honors several people each year, said spokeswoman Tracy Koslowski, but it's rare that somebody so young is selected for an award.

Diego's mother, father and two younger brothers were among the 20 family members at the station to see the presentation.

In addition to the award from the firefighters, Diego, who is bound for Valencia Middle School in the fall, was selected for a leadership program that includes time at the University of Arizona in July and a trip to Washington, D.C., for six days in the fall.

2008

June 14, 2008, *Tucson Citizen*:

## Drexel Heights honors 11-year-old

FERNANDA ECHÁVARRI

Published: 06.14.2008

Drexel Heights Fire District honored 11-year-old Diego Gastelum Friday afternoon for his quick response during emergency situations, a spokeswoman said.

"It is an honor to recognize this young man for his quick and safe actions," Capt. Jeremy Beatty (above) said.

Gastelum notified authorities twice last year. First when his mother had a seizure and a second time during a home invasion, firefighter Tracy Koslowki said.

### Tucson Citizen PHOTOS

[Click here to Buy Reprints of the Citizen's Photography](#)



Diego Gastelum accepts an honor from Drexel Heights Fire Capt. Jeremy Beatty.



June 29, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:

## 4 injured in I-19 rollover

JUNE 29, 2008 12:00 AM

Four people were seriously injured in a rollover on Interstate 19 late Saturday, authorities said.

The rollover happened about 9:30 p.m. near Kilometer 82, about a mile north of Pima Mine Road, according to the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Two adults were thrown from the vehicle, and the other two injured people are children, said Tracy Koslowski, a Drexel Heights Fire District spokeswoman.

Emergency crews from the Tohono O'odham Fire Department and Drexel Heights responded.

Three helicopters were dispatched to transport the injured for hospital care, Koslowski said.

No further information was available.

July 2008, *Desert Times*:

Page 4 Desert Times JULY 2008

## Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

### Drexel Heights Fire District receives grant monies for new program

**I**N April Drexel Heights Fire District received word that the District was awarded one of the 07 Fire Prevention Grants. The monies will be used to conduct Senior Citizen Academies.

Seniors were the target audience for the program as they are at high risk nationally for fire and fall injuries. They were also selected because of the growing number of seniors as the baby boomer generation now falls into this category. The program will address the fire and fall issues by using strong educational components.

The Senior Citizen Academy includes 20 hours of instructional time in order to complete the program. One of the main topics covered, fire safety, will include addressing areas of concern like smoke detectors, cooking safety, smoking safety, heating the home, escape plans and fire extinguishers.

The second main area being covered is fall prevention. For this, the District will partner with the Pima Council on Aging and the Pima County Health Department to provide safety educational resources to address the topic.

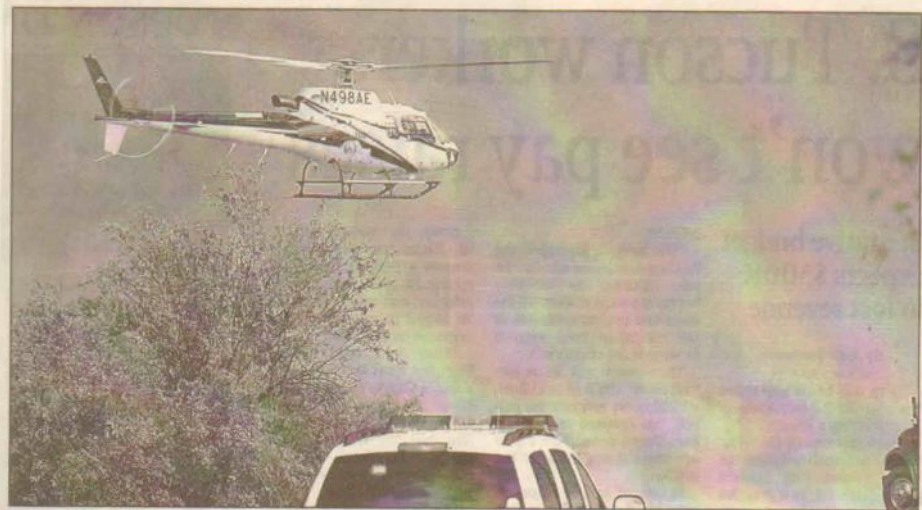
American Heart Association CPR and First Aid training will also be included in the academy. Along with general information about the services and programs the District provides.

The District is proud to be able to offer this program to our senior residents in the community. Drexel Heights Fire District is equally honored to have been selected by the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency as a grant recipient. The Senior Citizen Academy is expected to begin in the fall of 2008. Look for more information and program announcements to come out in October.

Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the training classroom next to Station #1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde.

The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson Ron Greil, Clerk James Bertrand, Member R.M. Bishman and Member Laura Dailey.

July 23, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:



A medical evacuation helicopter lifts off from near the intersection of South Camino Verde and West Bilby Road as it takes a boy to University Medical Center after he was bitten by his family's pit bull. The boy was severely injured in the attack Tuesday afternoon.

## Boy playing in SW Side yard badly hurt in pit bull attack

By Eric Swedlund  
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A young boy was attacked and severely injured by his family's pit bull Tuesday afternoon on the Southwest Side, authorities said.

The boy suffered severe bite injuries to both legs and was flown by helicopter to University Medical Center, said Tracy Koslowski, a spokeswoman for the Drexel Heights Fire District. The boy is 7 or 8 years old; differ-

ent agencies made conflicting statements about his age.

The family turned the dog over to the Pima County Animal Care Center for euthanasia. The center's manager, Kim Janes, said the animal will be sent for rabies testing.

"We hate to see these kinds of tragedies, and we certainly wish the best for the family," Janes said.

The attack happened about 3:30 p.m. at the home in the 6900

block of West Iola Place, near South Camino Verde and West Bilby Road. Deputy Dawn Hanke, a spokeswoman with the Pima County Sheriff's Department, said the boy had numerous cuts from his thighs to knees and a severe loss of blood. The injuries are considered non-life-threatening.

Hanke said the boy was playing in the yard when the dog got out of its pen somehow and attacked. The family told deputies

there had been no previous problems with the dog, but authorities couldn't say Tuesday how long the family had the dog. There were other children in the yard and other dogs at the home, but there were no other injuries.

"It was the mother who pretty much beat the dog off the kid," Hanke said.

► Contact reporter Eric Swedlund at 629-9412 or at [eswedlund@azstarnet.com](mailto:eswedlund@azstarnet.com).



July 22, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:

## **Tucson boy suffers serious injuries when family's dog attacks him**

JULY 22, 2008 12:00 AM • BY ERIC SWEDLUND ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A young boy was attacked and severely injured by his family's pit bull Tuesday afternoon on the Southwest Side, authorities said.

The boy suffered severe bite injuries to both legs and was flown by helicopter to University Medical Center, said Tracy Koslowski, a spokeswoman for the Drexel Heights Fire District. The boy is 7 or 8 years old, but different agencies made conflicting statements about his age.

The family turned the dog over to the Pima County Animal Care Center for euthanasia. The center's manager, Kim Janes, said the animal will be sent for rabies testing.

"We hate to see these kinds of tragedies and we certainly wish the best for the family," Janes said.

The attack happened about 3:30 p.m. at the home in the 6900 block of West Lola Place, near South Camino Verde and West Bilby Road. Deputy Dawn Hanke, a spokeswoman with the Pima County Sheriff's Department, said the boy had numerous lacerations from his thighs to knees and a severe loss of blood. The injuries are considered non-life-threatening.

Hanke said the boy was playing in the yard when the dog got out of its pen somehow and attacked. The family told deputies there had been no previous problems with the dog, but authorities couldn't say Tuesday how long the family had the dog. There were other children in the yard and other dogs at the home, but there were no other injuries.

"It was the mother who pretty much beat the dog off the kid," Hanke said.

July 23, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:

## One man dead, at least 3 others injured in 5-vehicle accident on Southwest Side



JULY 23, 2008 12:00 AM • BY ALEXIS HUICOCHEA  
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

One person was killed and at least three others were injured in a five-vehicle accident on the Southwest Side this morning.

The collision happened just before 8:30 a.m. at South Mission and West Valencia Roads, according to Deputy Dawn Hanke, a Pima County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman.

She gave the following account:

Four vehicles were stopped at a red light on southbound Mission. Two were in the left hand turn lane and the other two were in a straight through lane directly next to the turn lane.

The vehicles in the turn lane consisted of a black GMC pickup with two males inside. Behind that there was a red Chrysler Town and Country car with the sole occupant being the driver.

In the straight through lane, there were two vehicles carrying a total of seven teens who were going to do graffiti abatement as part of a summer program.

The driver of a southbound red Nissan coupe was driving erratically when he gunned the vehicle in an effort to squeeze between the vehicles in the left hand turn lane and the straight through lane, Hanke said.

He collided with all of the vehicles and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Firefighters from the Drexel Heights Fire District had to use the jaws of life to remove the man from the Nissan. He was in his 70s and was not wearing a seat belt, according to Tracy Koslowski, an agency spokeswoman.

A man in his 50s was flown to a hospital with serious injuries, Koslowski said. Two teens were taken by ambulance to area hospitals with non life-threatening injuries.

The name of the deceased will not be released until his family has been notified, Hanke said. Authorities do not know the intentions behind his actions, she said.





July 23, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:

## Driver killed as he rear-ends 4 stopped vehicles on SW Side

DAVID L. TEIBEL  
and SHERYL KORNMAN  
news@tucsoncitizen.com

A driver in his 70s died at the scene of a five-vehicle crash southwest of the city early Wednesday.

He was not wearing a seat belt, according to Tracey Koslowski, a spokeswoman for the Drexel Heights Fire Department.

The agency responded to a report of an accident at Valencia and Mission roads about 8:30 a.m. Paramedics evaluated 12 people. One, a man in his 50s, was airlifted to a hospital with serious injuries, Koslowski said.

Authorities have not released the dead man's name because his family had not been notified, according to Pima County sheriff's spokeswoman Deputy

Dawn Hanke.

She gave this account:

Two men in a black GMC pickup had stopped at a red light in Mission Road's southbound left-turn lane. Behind them was a man in a red Chrysler Town & Country.

In the through lane next to those two vehicles were two vehicles: a white Chevrolet Suburban with four teens and an adult; and a white van carrying three teens.

The teens - all age 15 or 16 - were on their way to clean graffiti as part of a Pima County summer jobs program, Hanke said.

As the four vehicles sat at the traffic signal, a man driving a red Nissan coupe erratically south on Mission collided with all four of the stopped vehicles. The 70-year-old driver of the Nissan was killed.

To everyone at Drexel Heights Fire:

We would like to thank you for coming to visit us at the Southwest Branch Library and for helping to make our summer a little cooler. All of the participants thoroughly enjoyed your program, as did we!

Thanks again ☺

All of us here at SH

Summer 2008:



ARIZONA FIRE  
DISTRICT  
ASSOCIATION

Volume 15, Issue 2  
Summer 2008



AFDANews



President's Message

By Bob Cochrane, Drexel Heights Fire District

## Drexel Fire Receives Grant Monies

By Tracy Koslowski, Drexel Heights FD

In April Drexel Heights Fire District received word that the District was awarded one of the 07 Fire Prevention Grants. The monies will be used to conduct Senior Citizen Academies.

Seniors were the target audience for the program as they are at high risk nationally for fire and fall injuries. They were also selected because of the growing number of seniors as the baby boomer generation now fall into this category. The program will address the fire and fall issues by using strong educational components.

Participants in the Senior Citizen Academy will spend 20 hours of time in the program. One of the main topics covered, fire safety, will include addressing areas of concern like smoke detectors, cooking safety, smoking safety, heating the home, escape plans and fire extinguishers.

The second main area being covered is fall prevention. For this, the District will partner with the Pima Council on Aging and the Pima County Health Department to provide safety educational resources to address the topic. Other safety areas being

covered in the program include CPR and First Aid training.

The District is proud to be able to offer this program to the senior residents in the community. Drexel Heights Fire District is equally honored to have been selected by the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency as a grant recipient. The Senior Citizen Academy is expected to begin in the fall of 2008.

2008

July 26, 2008, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2008/07/26/91959-year-old-boy-nearly-drowns-in-bathtub/>

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# Tucson Citizen

## Year-old boy nearly drowns in bathtub

by Renee Schafer Horton on Jul 26, 2008, under Family, Local



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A year-old boy nearly drowned in a bathtub Friday afternoon in the 7500 block of South Carlisle Avenue, near Mission and Los Reales roads on the Southwest Side.

He was in critical condition at University Medical Center Friday night.

Drexel Heights Fire Department paramedics “found the child unconscious with his heart stopped” about 4:20 p.m., said Tracy Koslowski, the Drexel Heights spokeswoman.

Koslowski said the child’s mother, who is in her third trimester of pregnancy and was suffering from “extreme distress,” was treated at the scene.

No information was available about the child’s father, Koslowski said.

Neither the mother’s nor the child’s name was released by Drexel Heights.



2008

August 7, 2008, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2008/08/07/93003-preventing-drownings-is-campaign-focus/>

## Preventing drownings is campaign focus

by Sheryl Kornman on Aug 07, 2008, under Family, Local, Special



The death last month of a year-old boy who drowned after he was left alone by his mother in a bathtub for “about five minutes” is a sad reminder young children should never be left unattended around water, said Tracy Koslowski, spokeswoman for the Drexel Heights Fire District.

The July 26 incident was first reported as a near drowning but the boy died at a local hospital after paramedics initially were able to revive him.

“It’s heartbreaking to our firefighters and paramedics,” she said.

Some adults think they can hear a child when they are drowning but “it’s silent and it’s quick,” Koslowski said.

The mother of the child, whom authorities are not identifying, was in her third trimester of pregnancy and was treated for stress.

Koslowski said the number of child drownings appears to rise around the state at the end of the summer.

The department is taking part in a statewide safety campaign, called Drowning Impact Awareness Month “to bring awareness about drowning prevention,” she said.

She warned that having an adult present when a child is around a pool, a tub, a cleaning bucket or a toilet is not enough.

An adult has to be a “designated child watcher” who keeps eyes on the child around “any source of water.”

Koslowski pointed out that babies can’t help themselves if they fall into a water source, even a few inches of water in a bathtub.

“They’re top-heavy and not strong enough to pull themselves out,” she said.

“Near drownings and drowning are preventable,” she said.

July 26, &amp; August 1, 2008:



**Armenal Prindle Gorman-Oomens**

Born November 20, 1950 in Tucson, Arizona, a rare breed, a Tucson native, was taken from us all too soon on July 29, 2008. Prindle spent the majority of her life working in the non-profit world both in Tucson and California. After graduating from the University of Arizona in 1972, with a major in theatre, her first love, she worked in California teaching acting students and acting. She returned to Tucson to continue teaching and acting before working for her father, Art Waller, at his advertising agency. She then went on to work for the Arizona Theatre Company, Tohono Chul Park and finally the Tucson Oasis Institute. She loved her work at Oasis and mostly she loved the people that she saw there every day. Tucson was truly her home, the desert, the mountains, the sunsets, and the people. Prindle was preceded in death by her brother Fredrick Gorman, her mother Marjorie C. Waller, and father-in-law Peter A. Oomens. She is survived by her father, Arthur B. Waller; brother, Stuart Waller; husband, Mitchell J. Oomens, and her second family Loretta B. Oomens, Gregory M. Oomens, Randi L. Oomens. She is now free to walk "her" dog Casino, to his hearts content. Many thanks to the paramedics and firefighters of Drexel Heights Fire Department Station #4 and to the staff in the ICU at St. Mary's Hospital for their respect and compassion. Private services will be held with a small memorial service to be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers please make a donation to your favorite meaningful charity or the Humane Society of Arizona.

To express condolences visit the guestbook at [www.Legacy.com/Tucson/obituaries.asp](http://www.Legacy.com/Tucson/obituaries.asp)



**Victoire Helene Janssen VickRoy**

died Saturday, July 26, 2008, surrounded by her loving family, after a brief illness. A native Tucsonan, Vicky was born November 11, 1959, at St. Mary's Hospital. She earned Master's degrees from both the University of Arizona and the University of Phoenix. Vicky enjoyed being an educator in Tucson Unified School District and was the Principal of Laura Banks Elementary School. Preceded in death by grandparents Robert and Kathryn Heineman, Joseph and Helena Janssen, and her father Pierre M. Janssen, she is survived by the love of her life, her husband of 20 years Scott L. VickRoy, their two children Susanah and Jeffrey, and beloved dog Abigail, mother Frances H. Janssen, sister Kathryn L. Janssen (Guy Velgos), parents-in-law Robert and Beverly VickRoy, sister-in-law Sharon Ambrose, brother-in-law Charles Ambrose, nephews Sasha and Misha Velgos and Brendan and Brian Ambrose, and extended family in both the U.S. and Belgium. To know Vicky was to love her. She will be remembered for her generous spirit, kindness and great capacity for love and friendship. The world lost a great friend in her death.

A memorial service will be held in her honor at St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church, 4440 N. Campbell Ave., on August 9, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to a charity of your choice in Vicky's name.

To express condolences visit the guestbook at [www.Legacy.com/Tucson/obituaries.asp](http://www.Legacy.com/Tucson/obituaries.asp)

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

This August, YOU were that change. Not content to watch one single headline more about a child drowning, you were a vital partner in Drowning Impact Awareness Month. Through the discussion you generated, the awareness you created, and the purple ribbons you wore and distributed, you made the Fifth Annual Drowning Impact Awareness Month a success.

Thank you, for your support.



## Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

### Water Safety Tips

**D**ROWNING is one of the leading causes of death for children under the age of four in Arizona. Near drowning is also very tragic and can cause permanent brain damage. Drowning and near drowning can be prevented! Anyone involved with young children needs to be aware of how to prevent this tragedy.

Never leave your child unattended in or near a lake, swimming pool, hot tub, spa, bathtub, toilet, or bucket of water, not even for a second. Make sure you keep toys, tricycles, and other play items away from the pool or spa. Don't allow barriers, such as fences or walls, give you a false sense of security regarding your child's safety. There is NO substitute for adult supervision.

Make sure your pool or spa has an effective barrier, such as a fence, wall, or locked gate that helps to guard against

unauthorized access. Gates should have self-closing, self-latching mechanisms. Latches need to be out of reach of young children. Your pool or spa should have a barrier regardless of whether they are covered. Remember to always drain standing water off the cover of your pool or spa.

Children must also be supervised while bathing. Leaving a child in charge of a younger sibling is not acceptable. Many tragedies occur when the child is left alone in the tub for "just a few seconds" while the telephone is being answered or while the parent or adult caretaker is getting a towel. It is very important to remember to immediately empty the bathtub once the bath is finished. Children have also been known to drown in toilet bowls. A young toddler is inquisitive by nature and is drawn to any body of water, including the toilet bowl. With a toddler's

head and body weight distribution, a child that reaches into the toilet and falls in head first may not have the strength to lift themselves out and escape.

As pool season arrives, won't you take the time to learn CPR and other lifesaving techniques? Contact Drexel Heights Fire District to find out when the next available CPR class is in your community. Post your local emergency number on your phones and consider installing a phone near the pool area. The number to call for emergency help in the Drexel Heights Fire District area is 911. And remember...

Adult supervision is the best approach in the prevention of drowning!

Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the training classroom next to Station # 1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson Ron Greil, Clerk James Bertrand, Member R.M. Bishman, Member Cheryl Cecil and Member Laura Dailey.

## Accident claims life of man

**TUCSON** — Drexel Heights Fire District responded to a motor vehicle accident at 8:30 a.m., on Wednesday, July 23, at the intersection of Valencia and Mission Roads. There were five vehicles involved in the accident; three of them were heavily damaged.

Drexel Heights Paramedics evaluated a total of 12 patients involved. Firefighters had to use the jaws of life to extricate one patient from one of the vehicles.

This patient, a man in his 70s, was not

wearing his seatbelt and died on scene.

Another patient, a man in his 50s, was airlifted to the hospital with serious injuries. Two other patients were transported by paramedic units to area hospitals.

The incident took place on the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation. Other agencies that were involved in assisting with this incident included Tohono O'odham Police and Fire Departments and the Pima County Sheriff.

## Year-old boy nearly drowns in bathtub

RENÉE SCHAFFER HORTON  
rshorton@tucsoncitizen.com

A year-old boy nearly drowned in a bathtub Friday afternoon in the 7500 block of South Carlisle Avenue, near Mission and Los Reales roads on the Southwest Side.

He was in critical condition at University Medical Center Friday night.

Drexel Heights Fire Department paramedics "found the child unconscious with his heart stopped" about 4:20 p.m., said Tracy Koslowski, the Drexel Heights spokeswoman.

Koslowski said the child's mother, who is in her third trimester of pregnancy and was suffering from "extreme distress," was treated at the scene.

No information was available about the child's father, Koslowski said.

Neither the mother's nor the child's name was released by Drexel Heights.

## Tot nearly drowns in bathtub

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A 1-year-old boy nearly drowned in a bathtub in his family's Southwest Side house Friday afternoon, authorities said.

The Drexel Heights Fire District received the report at 4:13 p.m. of the unresponsive child inside a house in the 7500 block of South Carlisle Avenue and arrived within six minutes, said Battalion Chief Mario Acosta.

The child was found in the bathroom by his mother and wasn't breathing when firefight-

ers arrived.

Firefighters began CPR and within a minute had the boy loaded into the ambulance and on the way to University Medical Center, with emergency lights and sirens activated.

The boy, who just turned 1 this month, was revived and began breathing on his own, said Tracy Koslowski, a Drexel Heights Fire District spokeswoman.

His condition at UMC was not immediately known.

July 26, 2008,  
Tucson Citizen:

August 8, 2008:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2008 – 20**

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**A RESOLUTION OF THE DREXEL HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT  
COMMEMORATING AUGUST AS DROWNING IMPACT AWARENESS  
MONTH IN THE DREXEL HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT.**

**WHEREAS**, Drowning Impact Awareness month will raise awareness that the number and impact of child drownings in Arizona affects everyone; and

**WHEREAS**, the drowning incidents in Arizona take the lives of the equivalent of a classroom of children each year; and

**WHEREAS**, a child drowning can happen to any family regardless of education, race or socio-economic background; and

**WHEREAS**, families can take simple steps to protect their children around water to avoid the tragedy of the unnecessary loss of life; and


**WHEREAS**, water safety remains a priority for Arizona families and the community of Drexel Heights Fire District; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Governing Board of the Drexel Heights Fire District does hereby designate August as DROWING IMPACT AWARENESS MONTH in the Fire District.


**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Governing Board of the Drexel Heights Fire District, this 8<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2008.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ron Greil, Board Chair

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James L. Bertrand, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas A. Benavidez, District Attorney



2008

August 24, 2008:



Linda Kaas, PM  
Grand Chapter of Arizona  
6952 W. Flying W  
Tucson, AZ 85757-9512

August 24, 2008


Drexel Heights Fire Department  
Tracy Koslowski  
5030 S. Camino Verde  
Tucson, AZ 85735-8971

Dear Ms. Koslowski:

On behalf of Imogene Richins, Jr. Past Worthy Grand Matron and Ken Aldrin, Jr. Past Worthy Grand Patron, I would like to take this time to thank you for your generous donation of the Vial of Life sheets. They were deeply appreciated by one and all.

It was my privilege to act as a go between you, Drexel Heights Fire District and the Grand Chapter of Arizona in procuring these emergency sheets to be given.

Many asked what they were and how to use them. When I explained that they were to be put into a large empty medicine bottle and put in the refrigerator, they were very pleasantly surprised. I also told them that I carried one in the glove compartment of my vehicle with a strip taped to the dash saying where it was. We most definitely appreciate your generosity. Again, thank you very much.

Fraternally,  
  
Linda Kaas, PM  
Assistant Registration Chairman  
Grand Chapter of Arizona

August 30, 2008:



## CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Awarded to:

**DREXEL HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT**

In recognition of your contribution to the health and safety of Tucson's families

Children's Assistance & Resource Event 2008



Steering Committee

08-30-08

Date

2008

September 11, 2008, KOLD13:

### Tucson firefighters pay homage to September 11, 2001 victims

Posted: Sep 11, 2008 07:42 AM MST

Updated: Sep 11, 2008 11:47 PM MST



By Barbara Grijalva - [email](#)

Tributes in and around Tucson led us in remembering the sacrifice of the firefighters and other first responders who lost their lives trying to save others on Sept. 11, 2001.

As bagpipes played "Amazing Grace" at Evergreen Cemetery, the local ceremonies and remembrances couldn't help but hit close to home.

Far and wide around Tucson, firefighters honored their fallen comrades.

At Evergreen, Tucson Fire Captain Norm Carlton said, "We're here to honor all these firefighters. Whether it be the 343 from the Sept. 11 attacks or our own five here, every one of them gave their life to do their job."

Tucson Firefighter Edward Bell died in the line of duty in 1970.

His widow Amelia Bell attended the ceremony.

"Yes, it's very healing and makes you have a good feeling in your heart to know that he is being remembered by his brothers from the fire department," Bells said.

The Tucson Fire Department also saw this day as a fitting one to place a proper headstone on the grave of their first fire chief, D.J. "Jack" Boleyn.

He died in the line of duty in 1910.

Rural Metro Fire Department observed moments of silence on their radios in the morning.

Drexel Heights Fire Captain Hugh McCrystal is a former New York City Firefighter.

In Tucson on Sept. 11, 2001 he led his department in their annual ceremony.

There were five bells, or five blasts of the fire truck horn, repeated four times, signifying a firefighter has fallen.

As Drexel Heights Fire has done every year since Sept. 11, 2001, they read the names of firefighters and law officers who lost their lives in the line of duty in the past year.

They read 114 names.

Captain McCrystal said, "We should never forget anybody's service whether it's an officer in law enforcement, fire whatever, when they die. Military...the same thing."

He said, "I'm from New York. I watched those towers get built with my dad, eating hot dogs. I knew two members of the FDNY that died that day. I have civilian friends that died that day."

The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 have changed our firefighters in one way many of us might never have thought of.

Captain Carlton explains, "When they go to work they make sure that they say goodbye. You never know. You never know."



September 12, 2008:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2008 – 22**

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**A RESOLUTION OF THE DREXEL HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT  
COMMEMORATING OCTOBER AS FIRE PREVENTION MONTH  
IN THE DREXEL HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT.**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, causing most of its damage on October 9<sup>th</sup>, killed more than 250 people, left 10,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1922, President Woodrow Wilson declared October 9<sup>th</sup> as National Fire Prevention Day, and the week of October 9<sup>th</sup> has since been declared National Fire Prevention Week, becoming the longest running public health and safety observance on record; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board of the Drexel Heights Fire District is committed to the safety and security of all those living in and visiting the District; and

**WHEREAS**, the risk of fire is a serious public safety concern within the District, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire; and

**WHEREAS**, the District's firefighters are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and

**WHEREAS**, there are simple but effective steps that each resident can take to help prevent home fires; and

**WHEREAS**, District residents are responsive to public education measures which enable them to take personal steps to reduce their risk from fire; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2008 Fire Prevention Month theme, "Prevent Home Fires," effectively serves to remind us all of the simple actions we can take to stay safer from fire during Fire Prevention Month and year around.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Governing Board of the Drexel Heights Fire District does hereby designate October as Fire Prevention Month in the District and urges residents and visitors alike to heed the important safety messages of Fire Prevention Month 2008, and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of the District's firefighters and public educators.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all District residents are encouraged to think about and learn the simple steps they can take to help prevent home fires.

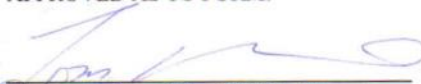
**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Governing Board of the Drexel Heights Fire District, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2008.

  
Ron Greil, Board Chair

ATTEST:

  
James L. Bertrand, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Thomas A. Benavidez, District Attorney

October 2008, *Desert Times*:

Page 4

Desert Times

OCTOBER 2008

## Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

**T**HE history of Fire Prevention Week has its roots in the Great Chicago Fire, which began on Oct. 8, 1871 and continued the following day destroying everything in its path. In 27 hours, this tragic conflagration killed more than 250 people, it left 100,000 homeless, and it destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000

acres. In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, National Fire Prevention Week has been observed the week in October in which the 8th day falls.

Drexel Heights Fire District will be celebrating October as "Fire Prevention Month". This year, the Fire District will be focusing on educating the public and

reinforcing the importance of fire safety. Each year many lives are lost to fire. Often these losses could have been avoided had precaution been taken. Fire Prevention Month is the time set aside to bring fire prevention and awareness to the forefront.

District residents are reminded to have a plan ready for their homes in case of a fire. Knowing how to safely escape your home from fire and remembering to stay outside are two important parts of the plan. Here are some other tips you should remember to prepare yourself should a fire strike your home:

1. Draw a diagram of the layout of your house.
2. Mark all the doors and windows on the plan.
3. It's important to make sure you have at least two ways out of each room of the house.
4. Check the windows and the bars that might be on them to make sure they open freely.
5. Decide who will help small children or older adult escape.
6. Confirm you have smoke detectors in or near all sleeping areas and check them to verify the batteries still work. You can mark them on your floor plan.
7. Select a family meeting place out in the front of your home, a safe distance away from the house, so the fire department can identify you right way.

8. Decide who will call 9-1-1 from the neighbor's house.

9. Practice the plan with all family members regularly to make sure that in the event of a fire, everyone will get out safely.

10. Remind everyone not to go back inside for anything.

Drexel Heights Fire District is kicking off its fire prevention efforts with visits to the area schools with a characterization presentation. The characterization program includes music, characters, and puppets which are used to communicate important safety messages. The children learn in a fun way and they leave the performance singing safety messages.

For more information on these activities or other Drexel Heights Fire District programs, please call us at (520) 883-4341. You can also check us out on the web at [www.drexelfire.net](http://www.drexelfire.net)

Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the training classroom next to Station # 1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde.

The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson Ron Greil, Clerk James Bertrand, Member R.M. Bishman, Member Cheryl Cecil and Member Laura Dailey.

Page 12

Desert Times

OCTOBER 2008

## Drexel Heights Fire District welcomes new Division Chief

**TUCSON** — Drexel Heights Fire District would like to welcome aboard a new Division Chief to the District, Randy Karrer. Chief Karrer comes to the District from Northwest Fire District where he started his fire service career as a firefighter in 1981. During his career with his former department he had progressed through the ranks with his last position as Division Chief and Fire Marshal. His assignment here at Drexel will be to oversee the Operations Division.

Karrer has a background as a

Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue Technicians. He's an instructor for Pima Community College and the Arizona State Fire Marshal's Office. He serves on several committees including Chairman of the Arizona Fire Chiefs Mutual Aid committee and member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs Mutual Aid Committee. Chief Karrer has his Associates Degree in Fire Science and a Bachelor's in Fire Service Management from Arizona State University. He was also honored in 2007 with "Leadership Above

and Beyond" from Dr. Richard Carmona and the Greater Tucson Leadership.

When Karrer was asked how he got into the fire service he said he had been in a near fatal automobile accident while in his freshman year of college. Being the patient made him realize the impact firefighters have on society.

"It was my destiny" he said.

He was no stranger to the fire service though; his father was a Lieutenant with Elm Grove Fire Department in a suburb of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Karrer said that his father was not only his mentor in the Fire Service but also in every aspect of his life.

Karrer has been married to his beautiful wife Rhonda for 22 years and they have two sons. Their older son Mathew is 22 years old and he wants to follow in his father's footsteps and join the fire service some day. Their younger son is Aaron and he is 15 years old. In his spare time, Karrer likes water sports, camping, motocross, photography and traveling.

Karrer added that he is excited to be at Drexel Heights Fire District in this unique opportunity and to be able to serve a community so rich in tradition and culture. He's looking forward to learning more



**Randy Karrer**

about the community and becoming part of it.

The Drexel Heights Fire Board and Staff would like to welcome Division Chief Randy Karrer to the department. His skills and background made him a good fit for the department and the district will benefit from his expertise.



October 7, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:

## **Deputies pull woman, 2 kids from smoke-filled home on Tucson's SW Side**

OCTOBER 07, 2008 12:00 AM • BY ALEXIS HUICOCHEA ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A mother and her two children trapped inside of a home were rescued Monday evening by Pima County Sheriff's deputies after a cigarette nearly started a fire.

The incident occurred around 5 p.m. in the 2600 block of West Vereda Azul, near West Valencia and South Mission roads.

The woman told authorities that she smokes outside and had discarded a cigarette by placing it on the door frame, according to Tracy Koslowski, a spokeswoman for the Drexel Heights Fire District.

The cigarette apparently fell and began smoldering in the door way, creating smoke, she said.

When deputies arrived, they could see smoke coming out of the front of the residence and neighbors were trying to break into the home because the family was still inside, according to Deputy Dawn Hanke, a Pima County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman. The mother could be heard yelling from within.

Security bars on the windows and doors of the home made it nearly impossible for the deputies to get in, Hanke said.

A deputy was able to rescue the woman's 1 1/2-year-old daughter by grabbing her and squeezing her through the back sliding door, Hanke said.

Another deputy got the wrought iron off of the front door by using the winch from the patrol vehicle, which allowed the mother and her 4-year-old son to get out.

This incident is an important reminder that if windows have security bars, they should be equipped with quick-release devices, Hanke said. Additionally, everyone in the household, including children, should know how to use them.

"Thankfully, the quick actions of the Pima County Sheriff's deputies at this scene prevented certain tragedy," Hanke said.

## Generations: Seniors can learn fire safety tips

by Pima Council On Aging on Oct 07, 2008, under Family



Question: What is the Senior Citizen Fire Academy program?

Answer: The Drexel Heights Fire District has put together a valuable training program for residents who are 55 and older. The new Senior Citizen Fire Academy classes will provide up to 18 participants with timely information about their fire service provider, as well as a wide range of home safety issues.

An orientation class will describe the district and its operations. A home fire safety class will teach fire prevention techniques and kitchen safety. Participants also will learn how to properly use a fire extinguisher.

In addition, fall prevention experts from the Pima Council on Aging's Arizona Living Well health promotion program will lead a group education and assessment tool session on how to reduce the risks for falls.

Plus, a first aid class with cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction will be offered.

Why fire safety and fall prevention?

Statistically, older adults are most at-risk for home fires and falls.

The academy classes are free and will be held once a week for five weeks. Each session lasts four hours.

Participants must attend all five sessions. The academy program dates are Oct. 22 and 29, Nov. 5, 12 and 19.

Classes meet weekly from 12:30-4:30 p.m. and session size is limited to 18. There will be several breaks throughout each session.

All classes will be at the Drexel Heights Fire District Training Classroom, 5030 S. Camino Verde. The class will take a field trip next door to the fire station for a tour.

Registration forms are available at [www.drexelfire.net](http://www.drexelfire.net) or you can pick one up at 5030 S. Camino Verde.

For more information, call 883-4341.

The program is sponsored by the Drexel Heights Fire District in partnership with the Pima Council on Aging and the Pima County Health Department, with grant funding provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

*Today's question is answered for Pima Council on Aging by Tracy Koslowski, Drexel Heights Fire District public education and information manager. Send questions for PCOA generations@tucsoncitizen.com.*



2008

October 8, 2008, [http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/certain-tragedy-averted-as-bars-trap-amid-smoke/article\\_a2ec7b4b-e495-533d-849b-2051fb704a96.html](http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/certain-tragedy-averted-as-bars-trap-amid-smoke/article_a2ec7b4b-e495-533d-849b-2051fb704a96.html)

# 'Certain tragedy' averted as bars trap 3 amid smoke

 Recommend

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Respond: [Write a letter to the editor](#) | [Write a guest opinion](#)

October 08, 2008 12:00 am • By Alexis Huicochea [arizona daily star](#)

 0

A mother and her two children trapped inside a home were rescued Monday evening by Pima County sheriff's deputies after a cigarette nearly started a fire.

The deputies' fast action prevented a "certain tragedy," said a sheriff's spokeswoman.

The incident occurred around 5 p.m. in the 2600 block of West Vereda Azul, near West Valencia and South Mission roads.

The woman told authorities that she smokes outside and had discarded a cigarette by placing it on the door frame, according to Tracy Koslowski, a spokeswoman for the Drexel Heights Fire District.

The cigarette likely fell and began smoldering in the doorway, creating smoke, she said.

When deputies arrived, they could see smoke coming out of the front of the residence and neighbors trying to break into the home because the family was still inside, according to Deputy Dawn Hanke, a Pima County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman. The mother could be heard yelling inside.

Security bars on the windows and doors made it nearly impossible for the deputies to get in, Hanke said.

A deputy was able to rescue the woman's 1 1/2-year-old daughter by grabbing her and squeezing her through the back sliding door, Hanke said.

Another deputy got the wrought-iron off the front door with the patrol vehicle's winch, allowing the mother and her son, 4, to get out.

This incident is an important reminder that if windows have security bars, they should be equipped with quick-release devices, Hanke said. Additionally, everyone in the household, including children, should know how to use them.

"Thankfully, the quick actions of the Pima County sheriff's deputies at this scene prevented certain tragedy," Hanke said.

2008

October 10, 2008, [http://azstarnet.com/news/home-fire-on-tucson-s-southwest-side-investigated/article\\_fa5d4694-6559-5f2f-bb50-95c24d30cbae.html](http://azstarnet.com/news/home-fire-on-tucson-s-southwest-side-investigated/article_fa5d4694-6559-5f2f-bb50-95c24d30cbae.html)

## Home fire on Tucson's Southwest Side investigated

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Respond: [Write a letter to the editor](#) | [Write a guest opinion](#)

October 10, 2008 12:00 am

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The Drexel Heights Fire District is investigating the cause of a fire that broke out at a mobile home on the far Southwest Side this morning.

The call for the fire in the 5000 block of West Tillery Street — near West Valencia and South Mark roads — came in at 3:11 a.m., according to Tracy Koslowski, a Drexel Heights spokeswoman.

When firefighters arrived, they found the home engulfed in flames, she said.

Fifteen firefighters fought the blaze and had it under control by 3:38 a.m., Koslowski said.

No injuries were reported and no one was home at the time, she added.

October 11, 2008, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/search/?cx=partner-pub-6586634224263809%3Acrjy03-7x23&cof=FORID%3A11&ie=ISO-8859-1&q=drehek+heights+fire&sa=Search&siteurl=tucsoncitizen.com%2F&ref=&ss=4351j1509171j19>

## Fire destroys SW Side mobile home; no injuries

by Ryn Gargulinski on Oct 11, 2008, under Local, Special

 0   0

An early-morning fire engulfed and destroyed a mobile home on the Southwest Side, a Drexel Heights Fire District spokeswoman said.

No injuries were reported and nobody had been inside the home in the 5000 block of West Tillery Street when the fire erupted, Tracy Koslowski said. That address is west of South Camino de Oeste and just south of West Valencia Road.

The fire broke out around 3:11 a.m. Friday and fire crews had it under control by 3:38 a.m., Koslowski said.

She said the fire's cause is under investigation and its monetary damage has yet to be released.



2008

October 23, 2008, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/search/?cx=partner-pub-6586634224263809%3Acrjy03-7x23&cof=FORID%3A11&ie=ISO-8859-1&q=drexek+heights+fire&sa=Search&siteurl=tucsoncitizen.com%2F&ref=&ss=4760j1880436j19>

## Man found dead in SW Side mobile home fire

by David L. Teibel on Dec 22, 2000, under Tucson and Arizona



A 73-year-old man was the sole occupant of the home.

By DAVID L. TEIBEL

Citizen Staff Writer

Firefighters found a man burned beyond recognition in a Southwest Side mobile home this morning after putting out a fire that destroyed the home.

Drexel Heights Assistant Fire Chief Gary Bynum said the man's body was found in a living room chair.

The man's name was not released, but Bynum said firefighters believe he was the 73-year-old sole occupant of the home, on West Camino Tierra, near West Valencia Road and South Camino de Oeste.

The fire's cause hasn't been determined but "it does not look suspicious," Bynum said.

The man apparently had been using his kitchen stove and a space heater to heat the home, and one of those appliances may have started the fire, he said.

The fire was reported at 3:27 a.m. When firefighters arrived, flames already had eaten through the center of the mobile home, Bynum said.

About 15 Drexel Heights and Pascua Yaqui firefighters brought the fire under control in about eight minutes, he said.

2008

October 23, 2008, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2008/10/23/100508-8-year-old-honored-for-alerting-family-to-home-fire/>

## 8-year-old honored for alerting family to home fire

by Ryn Gargulinski on Oct 23, 2008, under Education, Family, Local

8+1 0  Recommend  Share 0



Miller Elementary third grader **Roman Goode**, 8, is honored by Drexel Heights Fire Chief **Douglas Chappell** (left) and spokeswoman **Tracy Koslowski** Thursday morning.

Miller Elementary School third-grader Roman Goode learned all he knows about fire safety from puppets, pirates and clowns.

That was enough to save his family.

The 8-year-old helped his family to safety and called 911 when their home was burning earlier this month.

Thursday, the savvy student was honored by Drexel Heights Fire District Chief Douglas Chappell and a bunch of clowns.

For his heroism, Roman got a certificate and a round of applause from an auditorium full of his classmates at Miller, 6950 S. Camino de la Tierra.

"We are so proud of him," said mom Peggy Goode, who attended with Roman's dad, Ron Goode.

The ceremony was at the tail end of this year's Drexel Heights Fire District's annual fire prevention month assembly, which lights up the stage each October.

For the past several years, Drexel Heights firefighters have donned costumes to put on equally colorful skits, such as "Mr. Willy Wonka and the Safety Factory."

The unit regularly visit seven elementary schools, informing more than 3,000 students about the importance of health and safety.



2008

October 23, 2008, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2008/10/23/100508-8-year-old-honored-for-alerting-family-to-home-fire/>

This year's performance was full of clowns – with the words “Stop, Drop and Roll” emblazoned on the back of their britches.

Safety messages focused on guns, prescription medication and lighters.

“A lot of the novelty lighters look like toys,” fire spokeswoman Tracy Koslowski said.

Roman has seen the skits for the past four years – since kindergarten.

He said they helped him know what to do in a fire – lessons he put to use Oct. 14.

“I learned how to be safe,” he said.

The fire in the Goodes' home began as the family watched television.

Roman smelled smoke, so he and his two older brothers tried to figure out where it was coming from.

“We went in the kitchen and opened the oven, but it wasn't that,” he said. “I was kind of shivering when we went to see what it was.”

The mystery was cleared up when the lights went out and the ceiling exhaust fan fell, in flames, to the bathroom floor.

Ron Goode grabbed the fire extinguisher, put out the fire and the family got out and called for help.

“I was home sick and couldn't smell anything,” Peggy Goode said.

“Thank God we were home,” Ron Goode added.

Both parents said they are grateful for Roman's quick thinking and the skits that helped him do so.

Koslowski said the fire, which was consuming the attic, could have easily gotten a lot worse if it weren't for the boy's immediate action.

In addition to a certificate, Roman received a little red fire hat from the firefighters.

“He puts it on every day after school,” Peggy Goode said. “He won't take it off.”

Fellow students in the Miller auditorium were quick to congratulate Roman and say how they, too, learn a lot from the annual firefighter performances.

“If there's a fire I would 'stop, drop and roll,' ” said fourth-grader Arana Flores, 9. She cited the drill even before the clowns came out to tip anyone off.

“The children look forward to this every year,” said Miller Principal Mary Anderson. “It's nice to know it makes an impact and save lives. Whenever learning is fun, they retain it.”



Miller Elementary fifth graders Alyssa Basurto, 10, Aitana Lucero, 10, and third grader Vanessa Guzman, 8, watch as Drexel Heights firefighters perform in an assembly Thursday morning.

November 2008, *Desert Times*:

Photo submitted

Pictured above is DHFD Fire Chief Douglas Chappell, Ron Goode & Peggy Goode (Roman's parents), DHFD Manager Tracy Koslowski, PCSO Auxiliary members Gerry and Garree Innis, DHFD Firefighters Maria Hawkes and Vitor Ribeiro Da Cruz, Roman Goode, and DHFD Captain Jeremy Beatty.

## Child saves family from fire danger

**TUCSON** — On Oct. 14, Drexel Heights Fire Department responded to a fire call in the 7000 south block of Camino Libertad. Although a small fire had been extinguished before the firefighters arrived, the family was out of harms way because of their 8-year-old son.

Roman is a third grader at Miller Elementary. During the past four years, Roman has participated in Drexel Heights Fire Department's safety programs. This is where he learned about what to do when fire strikes at home. He told fire officials

that when he realized there was smoke in his home, all he wanted to do was get outside and call 9-1-1. He went on to say he remembered these important safety tools from when the firefighters visited his school.

On Oct. 23, the firefighters went back to Miller Elementary for their annual fire prevention month assembly. At the conclusion of the assembly, the Drexel Heights Fire Chief presented Roman with a certificate of achievement for acting responsibly and safely.

See **ROMAN**, page 8

## Child saves family from fire danger

**ROMAN**, from page 1

Fire officials indicated that had Roman not acted quickly there could have been a different outcome. The fire was started in an exhaust fan in the ceiling of the bathroom.

There was a real potential for the fire to spread throughout the attic space without anyone knowing, destroying the home and potentially injuring or killing the family members.

The Public Education Manager for the fire district said that this type of

scenario means a lot to Drexel Heights Fire Department.

"We never really know how many times our messages have resulted in a save", said Tracy Koslowski. "It's easy to count how many fires or accidents we've responded to, but it's another thing to know every time a child wears a bike helmet because we reminded them and it kept them safe."

This is why Drexel Heights FD honored Roman's safety practices in front of his peers after the safety program.

Page 5

*Desert Times*

NOVEMBER 2008

## Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

### Free smoke detectors

**L**IVING in a home without smoke detectors is risky business.

When fire occurs in your home, your chances for survival are two times better when smoke detectors are present than when they are not.

Smoke detectors, when properly installed and maintained (following the manufacturer's directions), provide early warning when fires occur. Early warning increases your chances for survival and allows the fire department to save more of your property.

Time is crucial. Most fatal fires occur between midnight and 8 a.m. Many fire victims die in their sleep from breathing smoke and toxic fire gases. When your smoke detector sounds, you may have 2-1/2 minutes or less to escape. Develop and Practice a Home Escape Plan.

Drexel Heights Fire District offers FREE smoke detectors to district

residents. To find out more about this program contact one of our fire inspectors at 883-4341.

Installation of smoke detectors

Electric smoke detectors should be connected to a lighting circuit with no intervening switches. For this, you may need an electrician. Connections using extension-type cords are not permitted.

Battery-operated models should sound an alert or beeping sound when batteries need replacing. A smoke detector with dead batteries or whose batteries have been removed is no protection at all.

Dual-power models are available which are electrically powered but contain a battery back-up should there be a power failure.

Use only those detectors bearing the label of Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM). The ceiling is the best mounting location at least six inches away from any walls. If detectors

are mounted on the wall, keep them away from corners and at least 6 inches, but no more than 12 inches, from the ceiling to the bottom of the detector.

Help save your life and property from fire

For minimum protection, install a smoke detector outside each bedroom or sleeping area in your home and keep your bedroom doors closed while you are asleep.

Keep your smoke detectors properly maintained. Test them at least once each month to insure that the detectors are working properly. Batteries in battery-operated detectors should be changed at

least once yearly. Use only the type of batteries recommended on the detector.

If your smoke detector sounds an alarm when no smoke is present, consult with the manufacturer or with your local fire department. If smoke from cooking materials causes the detector to alarm, do not remove the batteries or disconnect the power source. Simply fan the smoke away from the detector until the alarm stops. If this happens frequently, it may be necessary to relocate the detector or to install a different type of detector.

See **FIRE SAFETY**, page 6



2008

Undated 2008 & November 14, 2008:



STOREFRONT  
BISBEE

© Richard Sutton

I'm enclosed to thank  
all the Fire men who  
got me to the hospital  
Sunday - 19 Oct.

They were really great

Sincerely-  
June Thompson

November 14, 2008

Drexel Fire District  
Tucson, Az 85735

Today I had reason to call 911 because of tripping over a boundary line  
And being unable to get up because of two recent knee replacements.

The response time was terrific. No sooner did I clear my cell phone and  
Your crew was at my home. They checked me over immediately and before I  
knew it I was on my feet. They asked me some important questions regarding  
My injuries. They asked me if I believed I wished to go to a hospital.

I'm sorry I didn't get their names, but they were here around 1300hrs. They  
Were completely professional and I am very grateful to all three of them.

Enclosed please find a small donation for your department. Again thank you  
Very much for your help and the knowledge that help is close by. It gives me  
A feeling of security.

Yours truly,

John C. Haffner

John C Haffner  
3347 w Grovesnor pl  
Tucson, Az 85746

2008

November 20, 2008:



*Special Thanks and  
Recognition for:*



## **Drexel Heights Fire District**

*for your participation in the*

### **CAP Interagency Table-Top Emergency Drill**



**CAP Tucson Field Office  
November 20, 2008**

December 2008, *Desert Times*:

Page 5

Desert Times

DECEMBER 2008

## **Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT**

*by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager*

### **NEW PROGRAM: Senior Citizen Fire Academy**

**D**REXEL Heights Fire District will be offering a new program for residents 55 and older in our community. The Senior Citizen Fire Academy includes specialized safety training plus a closer look at the local fire department and all of the resources it provides. Program participants will receive not only important information they will also receive free safety resources for their home.

The academy consists of a series of classes. The first time the academy gathers participants will meet fire officials, learn about the history of the organization and receive a tour of one of the fire stations. The second meeting is a fire safety class that includes topics such as smoke detectors, kitchen safety, heating your home, and fire extinguishers. Participants will get to use a real home fire extinguisher.

Another class is on fall prevention and will be taught by a member of the Pima

Council On Aging. This fall proofing class will educate participants on how to improve their balance systems and how to prevent falls at home. An additional class will cover basic first aid skills and the program will conclude with a graduation ceremony making participants official ambassadors for the organization.

The classes are broken up into five, two-hour sessions. The sessions are conducted once a week for a total of five weeks. All of the classes will be located in the classroom next to Fire Station #401, 5030 S. Camino Verde (Ajo and Camino Verde). There is no fee for the Senior Citizen Fire Academy. Registration forms can be picked up at Drexel Heights Fire District's Administration Center (5030 S. Camino Verde), at the front office of the senior communities in the area, or a form can be printed out from the fire department's website at [www.drexelfire.net](http://www.drexelfire.net).

A registration form is required to

hold a spot in the academy. There are three different academy sessions being presented after the first of the year. The first session is offered on Wednesdays from Jan. 7 through Feb. 4, 2009 in the mornings from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. The second session is also offered on Wednesdays from Jan. 7 through Feb. 4, 2009 but in the afternoons from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. The third session is offered on Tuesdays from Feb. 10 through March 10, 2009 in the mornings from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Statistically, senior citizens 55 and older are at risk for home fires and falls. The Senior Citizen Fire Academy will provide education and free resources

related to home fire safety and fall prevention to combat these issues. The program received grant funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to support these efforts. The District is very excited to offer such an engaging program for the senior residents of the community. For program questions call Drexel Heights Fire District at (520) 883-4341.

Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the training classroom next to Station # 1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend.



## Child Saves Family from Fire Danger

Page 7

On October 14, 2008, Drexel Heights FD responded to a fire call in a residential community. Although a small fire had been extinguished before the firefighters arrived, the family was out of harms way because of their 8 year old son.

Roman is a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader at a local elementary school. During the past three years, Roman has participated in Drexel Heights FD's safety programs. This is where he learned about what to do when fire strikes at home. He told fire officials that when he realized there was smoke in his home, all he wanted to do was get outside and call 9-1-1. He went on to say he remembered these important safety tools from when the firefighters visited his school.

On October 23<sup>rd</sup> the firefighters were back at Roman's school for their annual fire prevention month assembly. At the conclusion of the assembly, the Drexel Heights Fire Chief, Douglas Chappell presented Roman with a certificate of achievement for acting responsibly and safely.



*Clockwise in order: DHFD Fire Chief Douglas Chappell, Ron Goode & Peggy Goode (Roman's parents), DHFD Manager Tracy Koslowski, Pima County Sheriff Auxiliary members Gerry and Garree Innis, DHFD Firefighters Maria Hawkes and Vitor Ribeiro Da Cruz, Roman Goode (Award honoree), DHFD Captain Jeremy Beatty*

In this real life fire scenario, had Roman not acted quickly there could have been a different outcome. The fire was started in an exhaust fan in the ceiling of the bathroom. When the firefighters arrived there was already a large amount of heat and smoke building in the attic space of the home. There were concerns that the fire could have spread throughout the attic space without anyone knowing, destroying the home and potentially injuring or killing the family members.

The Public Education Manager for the fire district said that a life-save like this means a lot to Drexel Heights FD. "We never really know how many times our messages have resulted in a save", said Tracy Koslowski. "It's easy to count how many fires or accidents we've responded to, but it's another thing to know every time a child wears a bike helmet because we reminded them and it kept them safe". This is why Drexel Heights FD honored Roman's safety practices in front of his peers and family at the school's assembly.

A life-safety save like this reinforces that the efforts of our department's fire and life safety education programs are vital in our communities. Having a proactive approach to life-safety, as apposed to always being in a reactive state is the future for the fire service.

## Drexel Heights Fire District Welcomes Division Chief Randy Karrer

Drexel Heights Fire District would like to welcome aboard a new Division Chief to the District, Randy Karrer. Chief Karrer comes to us from Northwest Fire District where he started his fire service career as a firefighter in 1981. During his career there he had progressed through the ranks with his last position serving as Division Chief and Fire Marshal. His assignment here at Drexel will be to oversee the Operations Division.

The Drexel Heights Fire Board and Staff would like to welcome Division Chief Randy Karrer to the department. His skills and background made him a good fit for the department and the District will benefit from his expertise.



December 11, 2008, KOLD13:

[<<Back](#)

**KOLD.COM**

LIVE | LOCAL | LATE BREAKING

**KOLD NEWS 13**

## **New Equipment Improves Response to Mass Disaster**

By Teresa Jun - [email](#)

Firefighters in southern Arizona say they are now better equipped to respond to a mass casualty incident, such as a terrorist attack, natural disaster, or bus crash.

Two large semi-trucks full of equipment -- mass casualty response trucks -- are now stationed on either side of town: one at a Northwest Fire District station on the northwest side, and a second at a Tucson Fire Department station on the southeast side.

The vehicles and equipment were purchased under the Metropolitan Medical Response System Grant, administered by the Department of Homeland Security.

Each truck is carrying enough supplies to allow firefighters to treat hundreds of critically injured people at an emergency scene. "(For example,) if we have a bus overturn with 30 critically injured people, then in a minute, I've got equipment (in this truck) that I need to treat patients, rather than waiting for ten ambulances to show up with all the IV's," said Capt. Adam Goldberg with the Northwest Fire District.

The two semi-trucks contain equipment capable of offering advanced life support, and each truck can accommodate the treatment of at least 250 patients at a scene.

Previously, Northwest Fire and Tucson Fire Departments had smaller trailer-trucks available for mass disaster response. The smaller trucks are capable of offering basic life support, and each truck can accommodate the treatment of about 100 patients at a scene. Now, with the arrival of the large mass casualty vehicles, the three smaller trucks are being reassigned to the Drexel Heights, Rural Metro, and Green Valley Fire Districts.

"Having this out there saves a lot of time, getting people treatment they need right away," said Tracy Koslowski, with the Drexel Heights Fire District.

No matter which vehicle is deployed to which district, on Wednesday afternoon, all departments received training on all the equipment.

"By practicing together, being on the same page, knowing exactly where the equipment is, and how to use it, that's going to allow us to serve the community and make everybody safe," said Tricia Tracy, with the Tucson Fire Department.



# Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

## Carbon Monoxide

It's a killer that you can't see, smell, or taste. Initial symptoms mimic the flu, and can include: dizziness, fatigue, headache, nausea, and irregular breathing. High levels of exposure result in the death of approximately 200 people per year in the United States. This "senseless" killer is Carbon Monoxide, and the incomplete burning of solid, liquid, and gaseous fuels produces it. Therefore, any fuel-burning appliance or device in your home or camp is a potential source of Carbon Monoxide.

Carbon monoxide is a by-product of combustion of fossil fuels. Fumes from automobiles contain high levels of CO. Appliances such as furnaces, space heaters, clothes dryers, ranges, ovens, water heaters, charcoal grills, fireplaces and wood burning stoves produce CO. Carbon monoxide usually is vented to the outside if appliances function correctly and the home is vented properly. Problems occur when furnace heat exchanger crack or vents and chimneys become blocked.

Insulation sometimes can trap CO in the home.

### CARBON MONOXIDE FACTS:

- When breathed, Carbon Monoxide attaches itself to your body's hemoglobin and displaces the oxygen that the body organs need. Many people with CO poisoning mistake their symptoms for the flu or are misdiagnosed by physicians, which sometimes results in tragedy.
- Some people are more vulnerable to Carbon Monoxide poisoning: infants, children, senior citizens, and those with heart or lung problems.
- Appliances that are kept in good condition produce little Carbon Monoxide; however improperly operating appliances can produce fatal CO concentrations in your home.
- Using charcoal and/or propane cookers indoors, running a car in an attached garage, or using a portable "camping type" heater, lantern or stove that is not equipped with the new generation of Oxygen Depletion

Sensor (ODS) can cause deadly Carbon Monoxide poisoning in your home or camp.

• Carbon Monoxide detectors are reasonably inexpensive devices, and are available for your home, boat, motor home, or tow able recreational vehicle. It is recommended that a Carbon Monoxide detector be installed adjacent to every separate sleeping area.

### IMPORTANT TIPS:

- Regularly have your fuel-burning appliances (including fireplaces/chimneys) serviced by qualified service personnel with the proper knowledge, skills, and tools. Always refer to the owner's manual

when performing minor adjustment/service of fuel-burning appliances.

- Never burn charcoal inside a home, garage, vehicle, or tent.
- Never use portable fuel-burning camping equipment inside a home garage, vehicle, or tent.
- Never use gas appliances such as ranges, ovens, or clothes dryers for heating your home.
- Never operate non-vented fuel-fired appliance in any room with closed doors or windows or in any room where people are sleeping.

See **CO**, page 18

## Unknown Date:

## LAW AND ORDER

### Little Caesar's workers help cops nab suspect

When Little Caesar's employees saw a man bolt out of a neighboring business Tuesday morning with a bank bag in hand, they sprang into action.

The employees chased the man, identified as Robert A. Pasmino, as he fled from Yoly's Music Shop at 2980 S. Sixth Ave., down the Interstate 10 frontage road to South Fourth Avenue, where police took over.

Officers ran after Pasmino, 50, jumping walls before reaching him, said Sgt. Richard Munoz, a South Tucson Police Department spokesman.

Pasmino didn't comply with officers' demands and was shot with a stun gun.

He faces charges of theft, resisting arrest and providing false information to law enforcement, Munoz said. Pasmino also was wanted by authorities for a parole violation.

The manager of the music shop told police that a man came in, walked behind the counter and grabbed the bag.

No injuries were reported.

### 4-year term for man with hidden cocaine

A man who tried to transport cocaine by hiding it in the roof of a vehicle was sentenced Monday to more than four years in federal prison.

Samuel Esquer-Dominguez, 44, was taken into custody last July when he stopped at a Border Patrol checkpoint near Yuma, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office.

As a Border Patrol agent spoke with Esquer-Dominguez, the agent noticed that the interior roof was abnormally low, the release said.

Upon searching the vehicle, the agent found a false compartment containing 17 wrapped bundles of cocaine, weighing about 40 pounds.

In October, Esquer-Dominguez — a Mexican citizen — pleaded guilty to a violation of importation of a controlled substance.

Alexis Huicochea

### Ina-Thornsdale drill simulates tanker spill

Personnel from four area fire districts will take part in an

emergency response drill Thursday near West Ina and North Thornydale roads.

The fire districts will simulate an emergency response to an overturned gas tanker from 9 a.m. to noon on Regency Plaza Street, according to a press release from the Northwest Fire District.

Regency Plaza Street will be closed from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. from Ina Road to about a quarter-mile west of Thornydale Road.

All businesses will remain open and accessible.

An actual tanker will be on its side, but no hazardous materials will be released, the press release stated.

The districts make up the Pima Regional Hazardous Materials Team, which consists of the Northwest, Golder Ranch, Drexel Heights and Green Valley fire districts.

Jamar Younger

### Man held for re-entry gets 14 years in riot

An inmate who assaulted a corrections officer during a riot in 2005 was sentenced Monday to 14 years in federal prison.

Jesus Manuel Cazares-Salas pleaded guilty to assault on a



2009

January 2009:



Dear Tracy,  
Thank you for  
all that you do  
for KOLD. It is  
always a pleasure  
to work with you.  
Happy New Year. We  
look forward to  
working with you  
in 2009.

Sincerely,

KOLD Assignment Desk

8573588971 R090



Tracy Koslowski  
Drexel Heights Fire District  
5030 S. Camino Verde  
Tucson, AZ 85735





## Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

**T**HE first week in February is recognized as "Burn Awareness Week." Drexel Heights Fire District acknowledges this important safety topic and would like to share some information about a common type of burn, the risk groups most often effected by burns, treatment, and preventative measures to remember.

Burns have long been recognized as among the most painful and devastating injuries a person can sustain and survive. Burns often require long periods of rehabilitation, multiple skin grafts, and painful physical therapy, and they can leave burn survivors with lifelong physical and psychological trauma.

Scald burns (which are caused by hot

liquids) are the most common type of burn-related injuries. Most burn injuries happen in the home with tap water scalds occurring in the bathroom or other bathing areas. Other scalds relating to preparation or serving of food occur in the kitchen. The severity of injury with scalds depends on two factors. 1) The temperature to which the skin is exposed 2) The length of time that the hot liquid is in contact with the skin.

At 120 degrees Fahrenheit, the recommended temperature setting for home water heaters, skin requires five minutes of exposure for a full thickness, or third degree burn to occur. When the temperature of a hot liquid is increased to 140 degrees Fahrenheit, it takes only seconds for a serious burn to occur. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate and other hot beverages are usually served at 160 to 180 degrees Fahrenheit, resulting in almost instantaneous burns that may require surgery to heal. Immediate removal of the hot liquid from the skin may lessen severity, therefore splash and spill burns may not be as deep as burns to someone who falls into a bathtub.

Young children, older adults and people with disabilities are most vulnerable to this type of injury. Although scalds can affect anyone, certain people

are at increased risk. These high-risk groups include infants and young children, older adults and people with any type of disability.

### Young Children

Thousands of children suffer burn-related injuries each year. The proportion of a child's body that is exposed to burning elements is also greater. For example, a cup of hot liquid will result in a larger percent of the body burned on a child than the same amount of liquid spilled onto an adult. Children have little control of their environment, have less perception of danger, and lack the ability to escape a burning situation on their own.

Children grow fast and can reach new, dangerous things every day. They do not realize that hot liquids burn like fire. Therefore, it is up to parents and other caregivers to provide a safe home to prevent scald burns.

### Older Adults

Older adults, like young children, have thinner skin so hot liquids cause deeper burns with even brief exposure. Their ability to feel heat may be decreased due to certain medical conditions or medications so they may not realize water is too hot until injury has occurred.

See **BURN**, page 14

## First week of February is recognized as "Burn Awareness Week"

**BURN**, from page 6

Older adults may also have conditions that make them more prone to falls in the bathtub or shower or while carrying hot liquids.

### People With Disabilities or Special Needs

Individuals who may have physical, mental or emotional challenges or require some type of assistance from caregivers are at high risk for all types of burn injuries including scalds.

The disability may be permanent or temporary due to illness or injury and vary in severity from minor to total dependency on others.

Mobility impairments, slow or awkward movements, muscle weakness or fatigue, or slower reflexes increase the risk of spills while moving hot liquids. Burns to the lap are common when a person attempts to carry hot liquids or food while seated in a wheelchair. Moving hot liquids can be extremely difficult for someone

who uses a cane or walker. Sensory impairments can result in decreased sensation, especially to the hands and feet, so the person may not realize if something is "too hot."

Changes in a person's intellect, perception, memory, judgment or awareness may hinder the person's ability to recognize a dangerous situation (such as a tub filled with scalding water) or respond appropriately to remove themselves from danger.

Drexel Heights Fire District

Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the training classroom next to Station # 1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend.

All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson James Bertrand, Clerk Cheryl Cecil, Member R.M. Bishman, Member Laura Dailey and Member Charles Mendonca.



2-5-09

Dear Tracy,  
 I wish to thank you and  
 the Dept. staff for the most interesting  
 and valuable class for seniors.  
 I will highly recommend the  
 5 week class to my friends.  
 Sincerely  
 Barb Robinson



Undated 2009:



Pascua Yaqui tribal police and officers from the Pima County Sheriff's Department inspect the vehicle that was involved in the fatal chase near West Los Reales Road and South Camino de Oeste. The man driving the car, Orlando Salcido, 26, was pronounced dead at the scene.

## Man dies in Southwest Side police chase

ARIZONA DAILY STAR  
A man was killed Tuesday afternoon on the Southwest Side after he crashed into a culvert while fleeing the Pascua Yaqui tribal police, authorities said.

Orlando Salcido, 26, crashed into a culvert near the 3700 block of West Tetakusim

Road, near West Los Reales Road and South Camino de Oeste, said Deputy Dawn Barkman, a Pima County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman.

The man's car hit a Jeep parked in the street in front of a house before it crashed into the culvert, she said.

There was a woman inside the home, but she wasn't injured, Barkman said.

Salcido was pronounced dead at the scene, she said.

The crash happened about a mile from the reservation, but Barkman did not know where the chase began or how long it lasted, she said.

She also did not know why the Pascua Yaqui police were chasing Salcido.

Officials with the tribal police department could not be reached for comment.

Salcido lived on the reservation, she said.

The crash was still under investigation Tuesday.

to Drexel Heights Fire Dept.

I would like to take this time to personally thank your department for all their assistance on the accident scene March 10<sup>TH</sup>. As I'm sure you know these types of scenes can be very stressful on our department and all the personnel involved. Your department's level of professionalism and concern for the officers of our department was greatly appreciated.

Thank you for all your help and please extend my appreciation to those firefighters on 'A' shift.

Sincerely,

Tracy Nielsen  
Director of Public Safety  
Pascua Yaqui Police Dept.

## PASCUA YAQUI



## POLICE DEPARTMENT



March 2009, *Desert Times*:

*Desert Times* MARCH 2009

# Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Fire Marshal David Stone

Fires started by smoking with the use of home medical oxygen are continually on the rise throughout the United States according to NFPA's Fire Incident Data Base. Adding oxygen makes any fire burn hotter and faster. When medical oxygen is in use, skin oils, hair, clothing, and bedding can ignite at a lower temperature. The resulting fires can progress rapidly to the point of a fatal injury, particularly someone who is already in poor health.

The risk to firefighters responding to a medical oxygen fire also heightens; especially when they are unaware such cylinders are in use. In 2004, a fire/rescue company responded to a house fire with medical oxygen present. They found heavy fire and a severely burned victim in the backyard (victim escaped outside). As the engine crew entered into the house to extinguish the fire, the oxygen cylinder ruptured. The force "lifted the crew off the porch back to the street." Had this cylinder and shrapnel from both the tank and cast metal stand gone right instead of left, the crew could have been severely injured or killed. No firefighters were injured. NFPA Journal January February 2009.

The storage and use of medical oxygen is tightly regulated in health care environments such as hospitals, but to a great extent the safety of home oxygen use depends on the people in the home.

Smoking is a powerful addiction. Almost all smokers have been advised for years to quit smoking before requiring oxygen, and they are instructed not to smoke if they are using medical oxygen. However, information and good intentions are often not enough.

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) National Statistics on Home Burns and Fires Associated with Medical Oxygen involving thermal burns, from 2003 to 2006, 1,190 people on average were seen per year in emergency rooms across the country.

See FIRE, page 15

Page 15

Deser

## Medical oxygen and smoking

FIRE, from page 6

- Forty-three percent were either admitted or transferred to another hospital, 2 percent were held for further observation, and 55 percent were either treated and released or released without being treated.

- Eighty-nine percent of the victims suffered facial burns.

- Smoking material was involved in 73 percent of the medical oxygen-related burns.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) estimates that from 2002 to 2005, oxygen administration equipment was involved in an average of 182 homes fires reported to local fire departments per year, resulting in an average of 46 civilian deaths and 60 civilian injuries per year. When medical oxygen equipment was involved:

- One in every four reported home fires resulted in death.

- Forty-five percent of the non-fatal injuries were categorized as minor, 36 percent as moderate, and 15 percent as life-threatening.

In a study conducted in 2006 patients receiving oxygen therapy for Chronic

Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) showed that, among the patients surveyed and tested, more than 21 percent were still smoking.

In 2007, the US Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations set goals to address this issue. Those goals now require health care organizations to identify risks associated with long-term oxygen therapy, such as home fires. Implementation expectations include home safety risk assessments about the presence and functionality of smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, and fire safety plans; fire prevention education for the patient and family; and assessment of the patient understands and compliance, with concerns reported to the patient's doctor.

Drexel Heights Fire District provides a Home Safety Inspection Checklist in conjunction with the Family Safety CDBG grant through Pima County. Just call the fire district Monday thru Friday and make an appointment with one of our Fire Inspectors and they will gladly conduct a safety inspection of your home to include home oxygen and smoking. Also during their visit, the fire inspector will provide a portable fire extinguisher and smoke alarm.

Undated 2009:

Dear Drexel Heights Fire Fighters,

Thank you so very much for coming to Vesey! The Mini muster was lots of fun and very educational. I think it is a wonderful program! The students loved it! Keep up the great work!

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Culbertson

2009

March 19 & 20, 2009:

### Girl, 3, nearly drowns on Southwest Side

A 3-year-old girl nearly drowned Thursday afternoon at a Southwest Side home, authorities said.

The near drowning occurred at a home in the 5100 block of West Jeffrey Road, near South Mark and West Valencia roads, said Tracy Koslowski, a spokeswoman for the fire district.

The girl wandered into the back yard and fell into the family swimming pool, Koslowski said.

She was taken to University Medical Center and was breathing on her own at the hospital, Koslowski said.

A 3-year-old boy died Wednesday evening, one day after being pulled from an apartment complex pool on the Northwest Side.

Jamar Younger



3-20-09

Dear Tracy - we want to thank  
you so much - for giving us the  
chance to take your class & the  
CPR training - also to your colleagues  
that helped - you are all so good  
& give a great service - Our

deepest thanks to  
you all - very best  
wishes -

Bob & Peggy Hall

3-20-09



SERVING TUCSON SINCE 1877 • MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2009 • REACHIN

# Modern radio system to connect law officers, firefighters in Pima



KELLY PRESNELL / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Michelle Mitchell takes 911 calls in the Sheriff's Department's communications center. Deputies and officers now use 25-year-old equipment.

## Supervisors' vote is set, but details, funding will delay PCWIN until 2012

By Erica Meltzer  
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A new radio system that will let every police officer, sheriff's deputy and firefighter in Pima County talk to one another is about to take a big step toward reality, even though there isn't enough money to pay for it and the users haven't agreed on how to share the cost of running it.

The \$104 million Pima County Wireless

Integrated Network — dubbed PCWIN — has been in the works for seven years, likely won't be running until 2012 and still needs about \$4.5 million in funding.

Details about how the system's operating costs will be shared among the region's police departments and fire districts still need to be worked out.

But the project will take a key step early next month when the Board of Supervisors votes on a \$47 million contract with Motorola for the radio system infrastructure.

"Today, most of the agencies operate on their own systems and their own frequencies. The foremost reason for the project is the future capability for inter-

operability," said PCWIN project administrator Capt. Paul Wilson of the Pima County Sheriff's Department. "The bond election came on the heels of 9/11, and in that attack, we saw what happens when you have interoperability and when you don't, when you compare the problems they had in New York City and the response at the Pentagon."

While the likelihood of such a major terrorist attack in Pima County might be slim, both the Sheriff's Department and the Tucson Police Department are using 25-year-old radio systems whose makers

See PCWIN, A4



March 30, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:

## PCWIN

*Continued from Page A1*

won't continue to support them much longer.

If the systems had to be replaced anyway, it just made sense to develop a regional system that would let responders from different agencies talk to one another.

Voters approved \$92 million in bonds for the project in 2004, the single largest question in that bond package after open space. The county obtained another \$8 million in state and federal grants, leaving about \$4.5 million in unfunded-project costs —

a gap Wilson said the county hopes to fill with additional grant money.

The deficit would have been larger, but the agencies decided not to include mobile data units promised in the bond question.

The Federal Communications Commission took away some of the channels that were to have been used for data transmission and reserved them for a commercial vendor who was to develop a data system for public safety, leaving the status of those channels uncertain.

In the meantime, many agencies bought their own mobile data units and vehicle locator systems using other funds, and

investment in research for new systems stalled because the channels were not available.

That meant spending bond money on mobile data units wouldn't have resulted in a better system.

The radio system selected by the committee overseeing the project will be designed to meet Phase 2 standards developed by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials, meaning the equipment should be compatible with radios made by any vendor, allowing flexibility for future purchases.

The project has three basic components — the radio system, the equipping of radio towers

throughout the county to allow interconnectivity, and the renovation of a former call center at 3434 E. 22nd St. into a centralized communications center. The building currently is the county's election headquarters.

Design work for the renovation already is under way, and construction is expected to start early next year.

Why is the project so expensive?

Partly because of the technology. Each radio unit will cost between \$3,000 and \$4,000, and the project could include anywhere from 5,000 to 7,700 units. And that doesn't include the computer equipment that will go

into the central communications center.

Also, the communications center must be built to high design standards to withstand a wide range of emergencies.

Ongoing operating expenses for the system will be paid through monthly subscriber fees, not bond funds.

Of the 32 regional agencies, 18 have agreed in principle to pay the fees, though exactly how much they will pay hasn't been determined. However, those agencies represent 90 percent of the usage.

Estimates last year put the monthly fee at \$96 per unit, and Wilson said he suspects it will be

less than that.

The contract would allow city and county public works departments to sign on to the system as well, which could bring down the per-unit cost even further.

Wilson said smaller agencies may decide to join later, though they would face more upfront costs compared with piggybacking on the bond project now.

"All of the issues that drive us toward interoperability will drive other agencies to want to participate," Wilson said. "The question is how they will fund their share."

Contact reporter Erica Meltzer at 807-7790 or [emeltzer@azstarnet.com](mailto:emeltzer@azstarnet.com).



2009

April 1, 2009, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2009/04/21/114807-one-dead-two-injured-in-ajo-highway-collision/>

# Mobile home fire leaves Tucson family homeless

 Recommend



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Photo courtesy of Drexel Heights Fire District

April 01, 2009 12:00 am • By Alexis Huicochea Arizona Daily Star



A man and his two young children are homeless today after a fire ripped through their mobile home, destroying it Tuesday.

The fire was ruled accidental, said Tracy Koslowski, a spokeswoman for the Drexel Heights Fire District. She said the man apparently used two matches to light a cigarette but did not get rid of them properly.

The blaze broke out around 1:30 p.m. in the 6800 block of West Flying W, near Ajo Way and Camino Verde, Koslowski said.

The home was engulfed in flames but the resident managed to escape unharmed, Koslowski said. His children, ages 4 and 5 were playing at a neighbor's home.

The man had lit a cigarette in his home and lost track of what he did with the used matches, Koslowski said. He went out to smoke and when he returned, he smelled smoke and realized his home was on fire.

He and his children are receiving assistance from the Red Cross.

Contact reporter Alexis Huicochea at 573-4242 or [ahuicochea@azstarnet.com](mailto:ahuicochea@azstarnet.com).

2009

April 9, 2009, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2009/04/21/114807-one-dead-two-injured-in-ajo-highway-collision/>

## One dead, two injured in Ajo Highway collision

by Eric Sagara on Apr 21, 2009, under Local, Special



One person was killed and two others were hospitalized with life-threatening injuries after a collision on Ajo Highway west of Kinney Road on Monday.

Tracy Koslowski, a spokeswoman for the Drexel Heights Fire District, said the collision occurred at about 4:30 p.m. and closed westbound Ajo Highway.

A minivan and a pickup truck were involved in the head-on collision, Koslowski said.

The driver of the minivan, a man in his 20s, was declared dead at the scene, Koslowski said.

His passenger, another man in his 20s, was taken by helicopter to University Medical Center with life-threatening injuries.

Neither man was wearing a seat belt.

The pickup truck was driven by a woman in her 50s who did wear a seat belt. Koslowski said rescuers had to use the Jaws of Life to get her out of the truck.

She was also flown to UMC with life-threatening injuries, Koslowski said.

April 12, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:

## Tucson toddler drowns in family hot tub

APRIL 12, 2009 12:00 AM

A 2-year-old girl drowned in her family's above-ground spa Sunday afternoon in the backyard of her family's home just south of Tucson Mountain Park.

The girl was playing in the backyard when she somehow fell into the uncovered spa, said Tracy Koslowski, a spokeswoman for Drexel Heights Fire District.

Her grandfather, 61, was in the backyard with her, but was inside a work-shed in the backyard when she fell into the spa. Her other family members were inside the house at the time. The family was celebrating Easter together, Koslowski said.

It was unclear how long the girl had been underwater before her grandfather noticed what had happened. Paramedics went to the house near South San Joaquin Road and West Ajo Way after getting a call at about 5 p.m., she said.

The girl was taken to St. Mary's Hospital where she was pronounced dead. The grandfather was also taken to the hospital after he told paramedics he was suffering from chest pains following what had happened, Koslowski said.



2009

April 10, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:



photo courtesy of Drexel Heights Fire District

April 10, 2009 12:00 am • Jamar Younger From staff reports Arizona Daily Star

0





## Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

### Community Safety Day

**D**REXEL Heights Fire District and United Pima Firefighters 3504 are sponsoring the sixth annual Community Safety Day on Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Manzanita/Safeway shopping center on the northwest corner of Cardinal and Valencia. This vehicle display and safety fair is FREE to everyone!

The goal of Community Safety Day is to provide free safety information and to inform the community about injury prevention. There will be information and resource booths on: fire safety, car seat safety, poison prevention, bike safety, drowning prevention, home safety, gun safety and much more.

Some of the FREE safety resources that will be given out at the fair include smoke detectors, bike helmets, booster seats and gun locks. Free fingerprinting will also be provided at the event.

In addition to the information booths there will also be vehicle displays such as: fire engines, ladder trucks, rescue apparatus, safety trailers, ambulances and canine units. The event will also include mascots and performances by the Singing Fireman Billy Scott.

In conjunction with the safety fair the United Pima Firefighters 3504 will also be hosting a Salsa Standoff! Much like a chili cook off, this salsa competition will bring a variety of entries for everyone to try. If you're a salsa lover come and taste all of the delicious fire house entries. There will also be hot dogs, nachos and ice treats for the kids. All proceeds go to the Safe Kids Tucson Coalition for the purchase of injury prevention products.

Drexel Heights Fire District, United Pima Firefighters 3504 and Safe Kids Tucson would like to invite you to attend this year's event. For more information

you can contact the Drexel Heights Fire District administration offices at 883-4341 or check out the event flyer on the web at [www.drexelfire.net](http://www.drexelfire.net)

Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the training classroom next to Station # 1, located at 5030 S. Camino

Verde. The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson James Bertrand, Clerk Cheryl Cecil, Member R.M. Bishman, Member Laura Dailey and Member Charles Mendonca.



Courtesy photo

### House fire leaves family homeless

**TUCSON** — Drexel Heights Fire District responded to a trailer fire on 6866 W. Flying W (Ajo and Camino Verde) at about 1:30 p.m., on March 31. The manufactured home was fully involved with fire but the resident had safely evacuated. The fire destroyed the home as it burnt through walls and the roof.

The Fire Marshal said the fire was deemed accidental. The cause of the fire was improper use of smoking materials. Estimated dollar loss for this fire is

\$22,000.

Firefighters contacted the Red Cross for assistance for the homeowner and his two young children as the home is unlivable.

Fire Safety Message for the Community: Smokers need to make sure all smoking materials are extinguished and properly disposed of every time. According to the US Fire Administration careless smoking is the second leading cause of fire deaths.

## Drexel Heights Fire Department to host annual Safety Fair

**TUCSON** — The 2009 Drexel Heights Fire Department Safety Fair will be held from 10 a.m. — 2 p.m., on Saturday, April 25, at the Manzanita Plaza, northwest corner of Cardinal and Valencia by the Safeway.

This event is sponsored by Drexel

Heights Fire District, Safe Kids Tucson, and United Pima Firefighters Union Local 3504.

The event will provide free safety information and resources to families who are in need. For information about hosting a booth, contact Tracy Koslowski,

5030 S. Camino Verde, Tucson, 883-4341 or fax 883-3314, or e-mail [tkoslowski@drexelfire.net](mailto:tkoslowski@drexelfire.net).

Do you have the best tasting salsa in southern Arizona? Enter into the United Pima Firefighters Local 3504 Salsa Standoff contest to find out. The Salsa

Standoff event will be done in conjunction with the safety fair. Judges will award prizes to the winner of the "Best Tasting" salsa. Proceeds from the salsa sales will benefit the Safe Kids Tucson Coalition. Contact Henry Molina at 256-6166 for Salsa Standoff registration information.



April 13, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:

# As pool use rises, beware 'silent killer' of kids: drowning

By Jamar Younger  
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Drowning is often referred to by fire officials as the "silent killer."

That's because there usually is no cry for help and very little commotion, other than the sound of splashing.

Most child victims were last seen in a safe area away from the swimming pool minutes before they drowned, said Capt. Trish Tracy, a Tucson Fire Department spokeswoman.

There have been at least 15 reported drownings in the Tucson area and more than 40 near-drownings since 2004, according to data provided by local fire

departments.

The most recent drowning occurred Sunday afternoon when a 2-year-old girl drowned in her family's above-ground spa in the backyard of her family's home, just south of Tucson Mountain Park.

On March 18, a 3-year-old boy died a day after he was pulled from a swimming pool at a Northwest Side apartment complex.

There was a near-drowning on the Southwest Side the next day, when a 3-year-old girl fell into her

See DROWNING, A11

Another drowning occurred Sunday / A13

## BY THE NUMBERS

44

Near-drownings reported by Tucson area fire departments since 2004.

8

Boys under the age of 5 who drowned.

2

Incidents that did not involve a swimming pool or bathtub. One boy drowned in an ice chest, and another was found in a bucket.

3

Adult victims, ages 56, 79, and 80.

15

Drowning deaths reported by local fire departments since 2004.

3

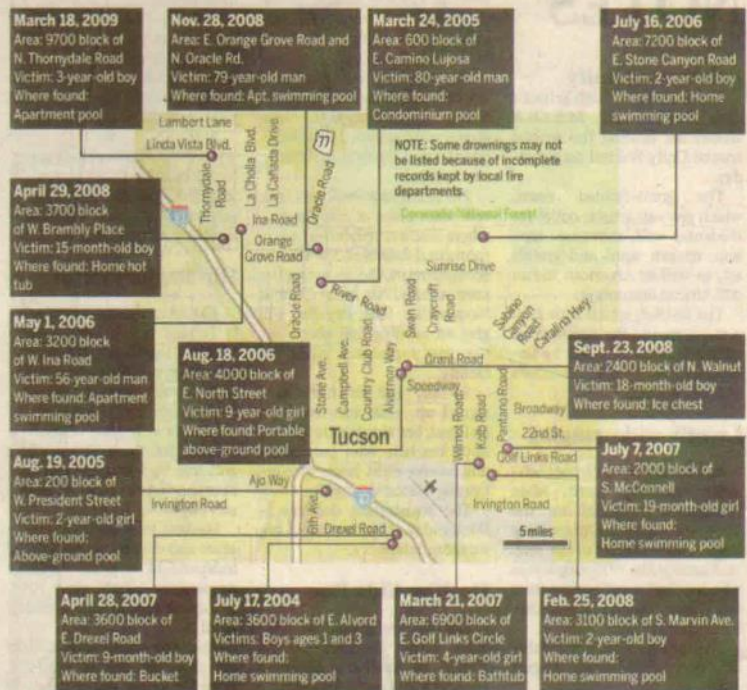
Girls under the age of 5 who drowned.

1

Incident in which a child drowned in a bathtub.

ARIZONA DAILY STAR / Monday, April 13, 2009

## Tucson-area drownings, 2004-2009



4/13/09

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

## DROWNING

Continued from Page A10

family swimming pool.

Following is a list of safety tips, statistics and phone numbers that parents can use to learn more about drowning-prevention and pool safety.

### SAFETY TIPS

#### For swimming pools:

- Install a fence. Every pool within the city limits is required by law to have a 5-foot-high, permanently fixed fence that surrounds the perimeter of the pool. Tucson is the only municipality in the area that requires a fence surrounding the perimeter of the pool.
- Make sure items such as patio furniture, trees, landscape boulders and other items are not near the pool fence. Children can use these items to climb the fence.
- Keep toys away from the pool. Toys, rafts and other items should be removed from the pool area after use. These objects can attract children to the water.

- \* substituted for adult supervision.
- Designate a child watcher. This adult should be assigned to keep an eye on children who are in or around water without distraction.
- Learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Parents should learn CPR in case of an emergency.
- Swim lessons: Consult a pediatrician to determine when it's appropriate for your child to begin swim classes.

#### For bathtubs, buckets and other potential household hazards:

- Never leave a child alone near water. Young children can drown in as little as 1 inch of water.
- Keep children close: Always keep a young child within arm's reach in a bathtub. Never leave to answer the phone, get a towel or for any other reason.
- Don't leave a baby or toddler under the care of another young child.

This scenario has resulted in one drowning and one near-drowning in Tucson within the last three years.

- Never leave a bucket containing a small amount of liquid unattended. Always empty a bucket and store it where a young child can't reach it.
- Remove toys and washcloths when draining a bathtub. These objects can prevent drainage.

SOURCE: Tucson Fire Department

### USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

#### CPR classes

American Red Cross: 318-6740  
Save a Life Foundation: 623-8484  
American Heart Association: 795-1403

#### Swim lessons

Tucson Parks and Recreation Department: 791-5352  
Most area YMCAs also offer swimming lessons. For more information, log on to [www.tucsonymca.org](http://www.tucsonymca.org)



2009

April 13 & 14, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:

ARIZONA DAILY STAR / Tuesday, April 14, 2009

## LAW AND ORDER

### Toddler who drowned in spa is identified

A toddler who drowned in her family's above-ground spa on Easter has been identified as Arianna Core.

Arianna and other family members were inside the home taking a nap when she woke up and slipped out of the house, according to Tracy Koslowski, a Drexel Heights Fire District spokeswoman.

Her 61-year-old grandfather was in the backyard working in a shed at the time but was unaware that Arianna had gone outside, Koslowski said.

Arianna climbed up the stairs into the two-person spa, which was left uncovered, where she drowned, Koslowski said. The spa is about 4 feet deep.

It is unclear how long Arianna was in the spa before her grandfather realized what had happened, Koslowski said.

Paramedics went to the home, near South San Joaquin Road and West Ajo Way, after getting a call around 5 p.m.

Arianna was taken to St. Mary's Hospital where she was pronounced dead. Her exact age

was not available; she was described by officials as either 1 or 2 years old.

This year there have been two child drownings and one near-drowning in the Tucson area.

Alexis Huico

## Toddler drowns in hot tub

DAVID L. TEIBEL  
dteibel@tucsoncitizen.com

A 2-year-old girl is dead after she wandered from her home and fell into the backyard hot tub while family members napped following an Easter dinner, a sheriff's spokeswoman said.

The child's name was not immediately available, said Deputy Dawn Barkman.

Someone from the home found the child shortly before 5 p.m. Sunday and called authorities, Barkman said.

The child was taken to a hospital where she was pronounced dead.

It appears to be an accidental drowning, Barkman said, adding detectives were sent to the home, which is standard procedure in such case.

The child drowned at her home on South Heifner Place, near South Kinney and West Bopp Roads, Barkman said.

She said family members had gathered at the home for dinner and took naps after eating.

Those in the home thought the child also was napping, but

she apparently woke up and wandered outside, Barkman said.

So far this year, Tucson Fire Capt. Tricia Tracy said, there have been one near drowning and two drownings in the metro area of children under the ages of 11, including the child who drowned Sunday.

By this time last year, there were one child near drowning and one drowning, said Tracy, a Tucson Fire spokeswoman who tracks metro area child drownings and near drownings.

ARIZONA DAILY STAR / Monday, April 13, 2009

## Girl, 2, drowns in backyard spa

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A 2-year-old girl drowned in her family's above-ground spa Sunday afternoon in the backyard of her family's home just south of Tucson Mountain Park.

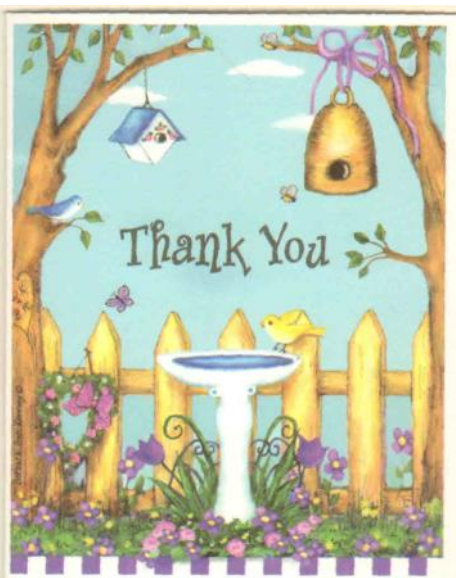
The girl was playing in the backyard when she somehow fell into the uncovered spa, said Tracy Koslowski, a spokeswoman for Drexel Heights Fire District.

Her grandfather, 61, was in the backyard with her but was inside a work-shed in the backyard when she fell into the spa. Her other family members were inside the house at the time. The family was celebrating Easter together, Koslowski said.

It was unclear how long the girl had been underwater before her grandfather noticed what had

happened. Paramedics went to the house near South San Joaquin Road and West Ajo Way after getting a call at about 5 p.m., she said.

The girl was taken to St. Mary's Hospital, where she was pronounced dead. The grandfather was also taken to the hospital after he told paramedics he was suffering from chest pains following what had happened, Koslowski said.



*Thanks for your help.  
Barbara East*



April 21, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:

## Taxpayer Watch: Fire marshal visits 'a mess for years' in neighborhood



APRIL 21, 2009 12:00 AM

A fire marshal on Monday went to a home on West Huxley Drive southwest of Tucson that has been the focus of several neighbors' complaints.

David Stone, the fire marshal for the Drexel Heights Fire District, said he found potential violations on the property, which is enclosed by a chain-link fence, is full of discarded household items, tires, abandoned cars, an abandoned and damaged single-wide mobile home. Clothes hang from the fence.

Stone said he will issue a 30-day notice to the owner to remove combustible materials — including the clothing — that are illegally kept on the property.

Further action could be taken after 30 days if the owner does not correct the violation, Stone said.

Two "yard sale" signs are posted in front of the house and at West Huxley Drive and South Tucson Estates Parkway.

One neighbor said the signs are always up.

"It's been a mess for years," said another neighbor.

A third neighbor, in an e-mail to Taxpayer Watch, said the property owner burns plastic and other materials.

"I called the fire department on the average of once a week and nothing was ever done."

Stone said the dispatch logs show only one call made in February 2007 complained about a fire on the property. A fire crew responded but found no violation, he said.

"I have to have a 911 call in order to pursue accordingly," said Stone in a telephone interview.

Stone has previously been to the property because of calls about excessive junk.

### WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Drexel Heights Fire District. Call 883-4341 or go to: [www.drexelfire.net](http://www.drexelfire.net)



2009

April 21, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:



A Department of Public Safety officer takes pictures at the scene of a head-on collision at Arizona 86 and South Sheridan Avenue. One man was killed and two other people were hospitalized in the accident Monday afternoon.

## LAW AND ORDER

### Agents face inquiry in weekend shooting

Two Border Patrol agents involved in an accidental shooting that left one of them wounded Saturday will not face criminal charges but will face an internal investigation.

The agents, whose names were not released, have worked in the Tucson Sector for less than a year, said Agent Omar Candelaria, a Border Patrol spokesman.

The two were off-duty and the gun involved was a personal firearm, not one issued by the Border Patrol, Candelaria said.

The Tucson Police Department investigated the incident, as it occurred in city limits.

The victim declined to prosecute, so no criminal charges will be filed, said Sgt. Mark Robinson, a TPD spokesman.

Details surrounding the shooting were not released.

One of the agents remained hospitalized Monday, he said.

Alexis Huicochea

### Tucson woman dies in rollover on I-10

A 57-year-old Tucson woman was killed over the weekend in a rollover crash south of Phoenix.

Della Margaret Mays was pronounced dead Saturday at the scene on eastbound Interstate 10 west of Riggs Road, according to the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

The accident occurred around 1:30 p.m. and involved two vehicles, DPS said.

The cause is unknown.

Alexis Huicochea

### Speed cameras down for another week

Speeders are catching yet another break after Pima County's new photo radar enforcement program has delayed issuing citations for another seven days.

The delay is to allow for additional testing on the equipment and a review of each site, said Deputy Dawn Barkman, a Pima

County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman.

Last week, four of the 10 cameras began a testing period that was expected to last seven days, coming to an end on Monday, when citations would be issued for anyone caught going 11 mph or more over the speed limit.

This is the second delay for the enforcement cameras. The first was due to a power supply issue.

The four locations that will begin issuing citations next week are:

- North La Cholla Boulevard near West Sunset Road.
- South Mission Road south of West Irvington Road.
- East Ina Road East of North First Avenue.
- North Swan Road near East Calle Barril.

Alexis Huicochea

### E. Side garage fire injures four workers

Four employees from a water-damage-repair company were injured on the East Side when a flash fire ignited in the garage of the home they were working in Monday afternoon.

Six workers from T&T Emergency Water Removal were working in the home near East Broadway and Houghton Road when flammable vapors inside the garage suddenly caught fire, said Capt. Trish Tracy, a Tucson Fire Department spokeswoman.

Four of the workers were hurt, suffering non-life-threatening injuries, and were taken to a hospital, Tracy said.

The fire burned quickly, probably for less than a minute, and didn't set fire to the rest of the house. The fire did melt some plastic in the garage, she said.

It wasn't clear what started the fire. Vapors from common household products, even oily rags, can spontaneously catch fire on warm days if they are not stored properly, Tracy said.

Alex Dahlenberg

### Police seek man, 18, in Sunday assault

Sheriff's deputies are searching for a teen suspected of shooting a man in the neck at a South Side Quik Mart over the

weekend.

The victim was shot outside the convenience store in the 4200 block of East Benson Highway about 3 a.m. Sunday. He was taken to a hospital with



Emmanuel Pimental

non-life-threatening injuries, a release from the Pima County Sheriff's Department said.

Witnesses told sheriff's deputies the victim was thrown out of a blue Dodge pickup truck and then run over as the vehicle left the scene. Another truck, a red Chevy, was also seen leaving with the Dodge pickup, the release said.

The victim identified his attacker as Emmanuel Pimental, 18. Officials served a warrant at Pimental's home Sunday evening but were unable to find him. They did find the blue pickup truck, the release said.

Pimental is 5 feet 3 inches tall and weighs about 175 pounds. He has brown hair and brown eyes.

Alex Dahlenberg

### 2 Marana men killed in crash near Safford

Two men from Marana were killed last week when they lost control of their vehicle on the dirt road leaving the campground where they were staying southwest of Safford.

Christopher Helwig and Dustin Uselton, both 24, were camping in the Twilight Campground near Mount Graham, a release from the Graham County Sheriff's Department said.

Another man who was camping with the pair told sheriff's deputies the pair left the campground Thursday evening to make a phone call from the Mount Graham Market on state Highway 366, the release said.

When his friends did not return by Friday morning, the man left camp and followed their tire tracks until he found where their vehicle had crashed.

Whoever was driving apparently lost control of the vehicle at a curve in the road. The vehicle went off the road and rolled several times down the steep

hillside before coming to rest in a group of trees, the release said.

Alex Dahlenberg

### Possible overdose kills inmate at jail

An inmate at the Pima County jail died Monday morning after possibly taking an unknown drug, an official said.

Alejandro Antonio Alvarez, 22, died at 5 a.m. He was taken to a hospital Sunday night after he became lethargic, a release from the Pima County Sheriff's Department said.

Alvarez had been using prescription medications and may have overdosed on his medicine, the release said. Investigators are trying to determine the cause of death, the release said.

Alvarez was booked into the jail on Jan. 20, 2008, and was being held on a \$750,000 bond on charges of first-degree murder and physical abuse against a child. He was scheduled to appear in court Monday and was expected to sign a plea agreement on the charges, the release said.

Alex Dahlenberg

### 1 dead, 2 in hospital after SW Side crash

A man was killed and two other people seriously injured in a head-on collision Monday afternoon on the Southwest Side, officials said.

A minivan collided with a pickup truck westbound on Arizona 86, just west of South Kinney Road, said Tracy Koslowski, a Drexel Heights Fire District spokeswoman.

Two men, both in their 20s, were in the minivan. The driver was killed and the passenger was taken to University Medical Center with life-threatening injuries, Koslowski said.

Neither of the men was wearing a seat belt, she said.

A woman in her 50s was driving the pickup truck. She had to be rescued from her truck with a jaws of Life tool. She was also taken to UMC with life-threatening injuries, Koslowski said.

Alex Dahlenberg

**On StarNet:** Find an interactive map of reported crimes in the city of Tucson, updated every morning with the previous day's data, at [go.azstarnet.com/crime](http://go.azstarnet.com/crime)



April 21 & 22, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:

## TAXPAYER WATCH

# Fire marshal visits 'a mess for years' in neighborhood

A fire marshal on Monday went to a home on West Huxley Drive southwest of Tucson that has been the focus of several neighbors' complaints.

David Stone, the fire marshal for the Drexel Heights Fire District, said he found potential violations on the property, which is enclosed by a chain-link fence, is full of discarded household items, tires, abandoned cars, an abandoned and damaged single-wide mobile home. Clothes hang from the fence.

Stone said he will issue a 30-day notice to the owner to remove combustible materials — including the clothing — that are illegally kept on the property.

Further action could be taken after 30 days if the owner does not correct the violation, Stone said.

Two "yard sale" signs are posted in front of the house and at West Huxley Drive and South Tucson Estates Parkway.

One neighbor said the signs are always up.

"It's been a mess for years," said another neighbor.

A third neighbor, in an e-mail to Tax-



ERNEST PORTILLO JR. / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Neighbors of this southwest Tucson property have complained about its excessive junk, abandoned and damaged mobile home, and, among other eyesores, abandoned cars.

payer Watch, said the property owner burns plastic and other materials.

"I called the fire department on the average of once a week and nothing was

ever done."

Stone said the dispatch logs show only one call made in February 2007 complained about a fire on the prop-

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Drexel Heights Fire District. Call 883-4341 or go to: [www.drexelfire.net](http://www.drexelfire.net)

## NEED HELP?

If you have issues with streets, such as potholes, call the city Department of Transportation on its traffic, streets and maintenance line, 791-3154. Do you have a problem but getting nowhere in having government fix it? E-mail [taxpayer@azstarnet.com](mailto:taxpayer@azstarnet.com) with the problem, your name and a phone number where you can be reached. Or call 573-4142.

erty. A fire crew responded but found no violation, he said.

"I have to have a 911 call in order to pursue accordingly," said Stone in a telephone interview.

Stone has previously been to the property because of calls about excessive junk.

Ernesto Portillo Jr.



JILL TORRANCE / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

## WATER SAFETY FOR FIRST-GRADERS

Lifeguard Jayme Squier, left, helps Angelina McEntire, 6, pull another lifeguard to safety during a demonstration at the Water Safety Is for You! event at Reid Park. Angelina is a student at Cavett Elementary School. On Tuesday, about 700 first-graders learned about the importance of swimming lessons and the dangers around water. Activities also included firetruck tours.

April 22, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:

## A14 • TUCSON &amp; REGION

LAW AND  
ORDERSUV driver is critical  
after rollover collision

A 24-year-old man was in critical condition Tuesday after his sport utility vehicle crashed and rolled over near Tucson Medical Center, police said.

The crash happened at 4:25 p.m. Tuesday after the man turned onto East Grant Road out of the hospital's parking lot and headed west, said Officer Chuck Rydzak, a Tucson Police Department spokesman.

The man ran a stoplight and crashed into a car that was making a right turn into the westbound lanes of Grant at North Beverly Avenue, Rydzak said.

The impact of the collision caused the man's Jeep Cherokee to crash into a stoplight and roll over into the eastbound lanes of Grant, Rydzak said.

Two other people, including the man's 20-year-old passenger and a 43-year-old woman who drove the other car, were in stable condition, he said.

All three were taken to University Medical Center.

One dead, one injured  
in carwash shooting

One man was killed and another injured in what appears to have been a random shooting on the Southwest Side late Monday, officials said.

Francisco Antonio Calvillo, 20, and another man were at a carwash in the 2600 block of West Valencia Road, near South Mission Road, vacuuming Calvillo's car, said Deputy Dawn Barkman, a Pima County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman.

Around 11:10 p.m., a black Audi convertible pulled up, Barkman said. A man got out of the car and began firing several rounds at the victims before driving away.

Both Calvillo and the man with him were shot. They were flown to University Medical Center, where Calvillo was pronounced dead.

The other victim did not suffer life-threatening injuries, Barkman said.

The gunman had a dark complexion and was wearing dark

clothing. He also had a bandanna over his face and was wearing a ball cap, Barkman said.

Anyone with information is urged to call 911 or 88-CRIME.

Alexis Huicochea

Homicide suspected  
in North Side death

Tucson man was found dead in his North Side home Monday and police are investigating his death as a homicide, an official said Tuesday.

Austin Wood, 24, had been dead for at least a day when his body was found in the 700 block of East Joan Place, near First Avenue and Prince Road, said Sgt. Mark Robinson, a Tucson Police Department spokesman.

A friend who used to live at the home and still keeps things there let himself into the residence around 2:30 p.m. Monday, Robinson said.

Upon entering, the friend realized something was wrong and immediately called 911, he said.

Officers found Wood dead.

Police declined to release many details on the case. They did say the friend is being treated as a witness, not a suspect.

Alexis Huicochea

Head-on crash kills 2  
on Southwest Side

Two people are dead after a head-on collision on the Southwest Side Monday afternoon.

The collision occurred around 4:18 p.m. on Arizona 86, west of South Kinney Road.

Steven Hernandez, 23, was heading west in a 1999 Dodge van when he drove into the eastbound lanes and hit a 2000 Chevrolet truck being driven by Maria Esperanza Alloway, 64.

Hernandez was pronounced dead at the scene, according to the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Alloway and a passenger from Hernandez's vehicle were taken to University Medical Center. Alloway was pronounced dead at the hospital.

Alexis Huicochea

Killing in Phoenix  
idles radar van here

The Tucson Police Department's mobile radar van is not operating today in light of the fatal shooting of a van operator in Phoenix on Sunday.

The van is provided by American Traffic Solutions, which pulled all of its vans off Arizona

4/22/09



April 22, 2009, *Tucson Citizen*

## 700 students learn water safety at Reid Park

ERIC SAGARA

Published: 04.22.2009

A flood of first-graders descended on the Edith Ball Adaptive Recreation Center Tuesday morning to learn about water safety.

The lessons taught at the Water Safety is for You event will be crucial as Tucson slips into the summer months and rising temperatures make cool water more appealing.

Two children have died this year and a third nearly drowned in the metro area, said Tracy Koslowski, a spokeswoman for the Drexel Heights Fire District.

More than 700 students from eight elementary schools from different districts attended the event, which was organized by Safe Kids Tucson, a network of local organizations dedicated to preventing accidental injuries to children.

It was the second year for the event, held at the recreation center in Reid Park.

Firefighters, police officers, nurses and others in preventive health participated in the program.

Demonstrations on life jackets and water rescues were coupled with skits and games aimed at 6-year-olds while organizers stressed the importance of adult supervision, barriers around pools and swim classes.

The event is the culmination of a month of water safety lessons at the eight elementary schools.

The curriculum, developed by a Phoenix teacher whose 3-year-old son drowned in 1998, uses a book and CD featuring Stewie the Duck.

"They definitely like it," said Alex Edwards, a teacher at Cavett Elementary School in

the Tucson Unified School District. "I've got that Stewie the Duck song in my head, I've played it so many times."

Edwards, who has been using the curriculum for two years, said it is important to teach water safety in the classroom.

"There are a lot of drownings and a lot of those kids are not taught water safety," she said.

Amber Miramontes, a teacher at TUSD's Miller Elementary School, said the curriculum incorporates academic lessons, along with the message of water safety.

"It's a really good unit," she said.

### New Drexel Heights fire station in works

The Drexel Heights Fire District broke ground Thursday on a site in the Star Valley area on the Southwest Side that will hold its fifth fire station, according to a press release.

Pima County Supervisor Sharon Bronson and other community members broke ground on Station 405 in the 7200 block of South Wade Road, south of West Valencia Road. The station will house a paramedic fire engine and an ambulance, the press release stated.

The facility is scheduled to be completed in March 2010.

Jamar Younger



2009

May 13, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:

## **Man struck by SUV southwest of Tucson**

MAY 13, 2009 12:00 AM • BY ALEXIS HUICOCHEA ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A 56-year-old man suffered life-threatening injuries this morning when he was struck by a sport utility vehicle.

The incident occurred about 7 a.m. on Ajo Way at Kinney Road.

A Ford Explorer struck the man as he was walking in the area, according to the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

He was flown to University Medical Center for treatment, according to the Drexel Heights Fire District.

Westbound traffic was blocked and re-routed for about an hour while the DPS investigated. No further information was immediately available.



# Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

## WATER SAFETY TIPS

**D**ROWNING is one of the leading causes of death for children under the age of four in Arizona. Near drowning is also very tragic and can cause permanent brain damage. Drowning and near drowning can be prevented! Anyone involved with young children needs to be aware of how to prevent this tragedy.

Never leave your child unattended in or near a lake, swimming pool, hot tub, spa, bathtub, toilet, or bucket of water, not even for a second. Make sure you keep toys, tricycles, and other play items away from the pool or spa. Don't allow barriers, such as fences or walls, give you a false sense of security regarding your child's safety. There is NO substitute for adult supervision.

Make sure your pool or spa has an effective barrier, such as a fence, wall, or locked gate that helps to guard against unauthorized access. Gates should have

self-closing, self-latching mechanisms. Latches need to be out of reach of young children. Your pool or spa should have a barrier regardless of whether they are covered. Remember to always drain standing water off the cover of your pool or spa.

Children must also be supervised while bathing. Leaving a child in charge of a younger sibling is not acceptable. Many tragedies occur when the child is left alone in the tub for "just a few seconds" while the telephone is being answered or while the parent or adult caretaker is getting a towel. It is very important to remember to immediately empty the bathtub once the bath is finished.

Children have also been known to drown in toilet bowls. A young toddler is inquisitive by nature and is drawn to any body of water, including the toilet bowl. With a toddler's head and body weight

distribution, a child that reaches into the toilet and falls in head first may not have the strength to lift themselves out and escape.

As pool season arrives, won't you take the time to learn CPR and other lifesaving techniques? Contact Drexel Heights Fire District to find out when the next available CPR class is in your community.

Post your local emergency number on your phones and consider installing a phone near the pool area. The number to call for emergency help in the Drexel Heights Fire District area is 911. And remember... Adult supervision is the

best approach in the prevention of drowning!

Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the training classroom next to Station # 1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend.

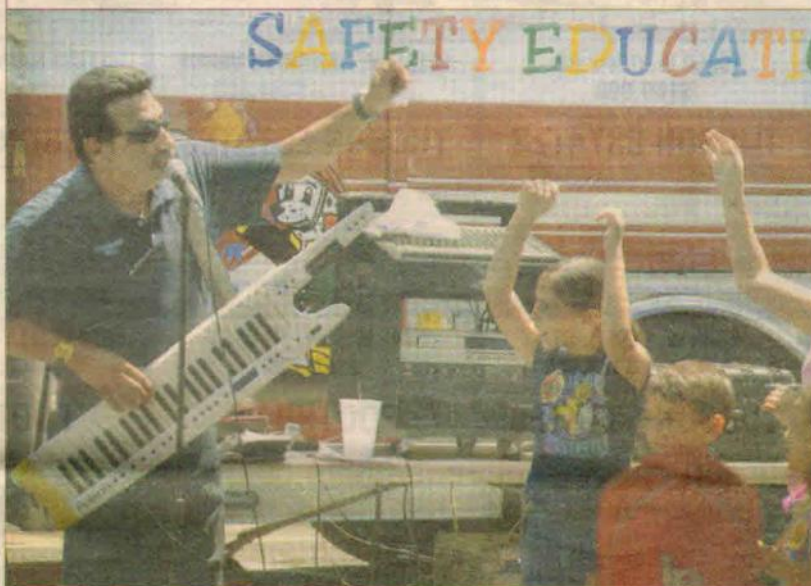
All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson James Bertrand, Clerk Cheryl Cecil, Member R.M. Bishman, Member Laura Dailey and Member Charles Mendonca.



Courtesy photo

During Pima County's Walk N' Roll to School Day, Drexel Heights Fire District visited local schools and encourage the kids to remember the walking and biking safety rules. Banks Elementary School participated and DHFD blocked off the roadway and helped the students cross the street. Firefighters spent some time at Banks after their walk talking to the kid's about safety skills.

## SAFETY FIRST



Tonja Greenfield/Desert Times

The singing fireman helped teach local kids about fire safety during the Drexel Heights Fire Department safety fair on Saturday, April 25 in the Manzanita Plaza.



May 16, 2009:



Drexel Heights Fire District  
Administration Center  
5030 S. Camino Verde  
(520) 883-4341  
[www.drexelfire.net](http://www.drexelfire.net)

## Drexel Heights Fire District



## Fire Station 403

2009 Dedication Ceremony  
May 16, 2009  
10:00-11:30 am

May 16, 2009

### Drexel Heights Fire District Station 403 Dedication Ceremony

1. Pledge of Allegiance— Students from A Child's View School
2. Recognition of Local Dignitaries
3. Recognition of Station Design & Construction Professionals
4. Station and District Overview
5. Blessing— Pastor Kneeland, Abiding Savior Free Lutheran
6. Ribbon Cutting
7. Dedication Plaque
8. Open House

### Drexel Heights Fire District Governing Board:

James Bertrand, Chair  
Cheryl Cecil, Clerk  
Robert Bishman  
Laura Dailey  
Charles Mondoca

### Drexel Heights Fire District Chief Officers:

Douglas Chappell, Fire Chief  
Gary Bynum, Division Chief Technical Services  
Randy Karrer, Division Chief Operations

### Drexel Heights Fire District Residents-

Thank you to all our District residents for your continued support of our mission:

*To minimize the threat to life and property due to fire, medical or other emergencies through education, prevention, preparedness, prompt response, and effective customer service.*

### BUILDING FACTS

- This new facility replaces one of the fire districts original structures which was built by the firefighters.
- The new station 403 is 8,945 square feet which includes the 3 drive through bay.
- Living quarters consist of a reception area, office, 10 bedrooms, kitchen, day room, exercise area, and battalion chief quarters.
- Meets OSHA requirements to include a separate gear room and storage decontamination room.

### FIRE DISTRICT FACTS

- Established in May 1954.
- Providing service to more than 40,000 residents in over a 90 square mile area.
- Services are funded by a secondary assessed property tax.
- All personnel are medically trained and firefighter certified. All engines and ambulances are staffed with a paramedic.
- We have automatic aid agreements with neighboring fire departments.
- Drexel Heights maintains it's own communications center and dispatches for five other fire service or emergency response agencies.



2009

May & June 2009, Star Valley Estates the Elluminator:

## Drexel Heights Fire District New Station 405

On April 30, 2009, the Ground Breaking Ceremony took place for the new fire station that will be located at 7200 S. Wade. The approximate build time is 10 months. The estimated completion date is March 2010. Once operational it will provide Fire and Emergency Medical Services to the Star Valley area. Article continued on page 6



### What to do When Wildfire Strikes

Monitor your local radio and television stations for fire reports and evacuation procedures and centers. Keep an emergency checklist handy and prepare to evacuate if your neighborhood is threatened. Proper preparation includes closing all windows and doors,

arranging garden hoses so they can reach any area of your house, and packing your car for quick departure. Taken from The FireFree Program, sponsored by Safeco Corporation. This was provided by the Drexel Fire Department.

June 22, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:

## Toddler nearly drowns in backyard pool on Southwest Side

JUNE 22, 2009 12:00 AM

A 17-month-old boy nearly drowned Monday after wandering outside an open back door and into the family's pool on the Southwest Side.

The boy's 9-year-old sister found the boy struggling in the water and pulled him from the in-ground pool on the 6500 block of South Portugal Circle, near West Valencia Road and West Ajo Highway, said Tracy Koslowski, spokeswoman for the Drexel Heights Fire District.

The boy's mother called 911 and performed some rescue breaths on her son.

The toddler was alert and conscious when taken to UMC, said Deputy Dawn Barkman, Pima County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman.

This is the seventh water related incident in Pima County this year, two of which were drownings, Koslowski said.

## Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

### Fire Fit Cadet Program

**D**REXEL Heights Fire District will be rolling out a new program this summer called Fire Fit Cadets. The program was created for middle school student's ages 12-14 years.

The academy will provide a better understanding of the fire service with an exciting and packed schedule of hands-on learning. Classes designed especially for cadets include ladders, fire extinguishers, fire streams, ropes and knots, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), first aid, nutrition, and physical fitness.

Partnering with Drexel Heights Fire District is Tucson Medical Center who will be providing nutritional classes where cadets get to do some taste testing to peek their interest in healthy living. Safe Kids Tucson is another community partner who will make sure the program includes an

injury prevention piece on motor vehicle safety. Cadets will see a demonstration of the Jaws of Life being used on a crashed vehicle and learning about injuries associated with vehicle crashes when occupants aren't wearing their seat belts.

Those that are interested in the Fire Fit Cadet program need to complete an entrance application. Applications for this program can be picked up at any one of the four Drexel Heights Fire Stations. Here are the station addresses: Station 401/Administration Center 5030 S. Camino Verde, Station 402 6340 S. Mark Road, Station 403 5960 S. Cardinal Avenue, Station 404 3555 S. Kinney Road. The cost of the program is \$25. Applications need to be submitted to the Administration Center with the \$25 program fee.

There are two Fire Fit Cadet Academy dates scheduled for this summer and the

dates are as follows:

1st Academy dates:

June 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17 (Monday and Wednesday 8 a.m. - noon) and June 13 (Saturday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

Graduation date: June 17 (Wednesday 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.)

2nd Academy dates:

July 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22 (Monday and Wednesday 8 a.m. - noon) and

July 18 (Saturday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)  
Graduation date: July 22, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Drexel Heights Fire District is also offering a Babysitting program this summer. This program is for participant's ages 12-16 years. Classes included in this training are Handling & Care for Babies, Home & Fire Safety, First Aid (American Heart Association certification), Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Ethics of Babysitting, and How to Build a Babysitting Resume. The program meets from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on two days. The

first summer session will meet on June 23 and 25. A second summer session will be offered on July 28 and 30. Babysitting class costs are \$10 for DHFD District residents and \$20 for non-District residents. To register for one of these classes stop by the Administration Center.

For more information on the Fire Fit Cadet or Babysitting programs stop by the Administration Center on 5030 S. Camino Verde (Ajo and Camino Verde) or call (520) 883-4341.

*Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the training classroom next to Station # 1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson James Bertrand, Clerk Cheryl Cecil, Member R.M. Bishman, Member Laura Dailey and Member Charles Mendonca.*

## Drexel Heights Fire District breaks ground on new station

**TUCSON** — Drexel Heights Fire District was established in 1954. Since then the District has seen many new changes. In 2001 the District merged with Tucson Estates Fire District adding a fourth fire station for the growing community.

On April 30, the District broke ground on the site that will hold its fifth fire station in the Star Valley community.

Thanks to the bond voters approved

in September of 2002, the District will be able to build a fire station in this large community located in a very rural side of town. Right now the Star Valley community has over 1,600 homes but when the community plan is completed and built out it will have closer to 7,000 homes.

The Station 405 building project is slated to be completed in March 2010. It will house a paramedic fire engine and ambulance.



Courtesy photo

Pictured at the ground breaking are, left to right, Robert Bishman, DHFD Governing Board Member, Sharon Bronson, Pima County Supervisor, Jeffrey Cesare, Land Developer, Cheryl Cecil, DHFD Board Clerk, James Bertrand, DHFD Board Chair, Lynn Panzica, Platinum Management, Sulynda Evano, Platinum Management, Charles Mendoca, DHFD Board Member, Laura Dailey, DHFD Board Member, and Cindy Borquez, Cadden Community Management.



2009

June 2009, courtesy, <http://www.drexelfire.net/default.htm>

Fire Prevention





2009

June 2009, courtesy, <http://www.drexelfire.net/default.htm>

Fire Prevention





Unknown, July 2009, *Desert Times*:

Desert Times
JULY 2009 *Desert Times*
JULY 2009

## Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

### Monsoon Storms

Monsoon season is upon us! The Arizona monsoon officially begins after the third consecutive day of dew points above 55 degrees. Typically, Arizona monsoon storms start with heavy winds sometimes resulting in a visible wall of dust hundreds of feet high moving across the desert. These dust storms are normally accompanied by frequent thunder and lightning which often leading to heavy downpours.

When such high volume rains descend, the ground and most especially the surface streets begin to flood. Most roads are not built to drain water quickly since these rainstorms are somewhat rare. Quite often the rain pools on streets during and for a few hours after the monsoon storms causing dangerous driving conditions.

If you're driving when it's still raining, remember to slow down. Bear in mind that the beginning of rainstorms is the most dangerous times since that's when oils and other automotive fluids are being

washed off the roads causing unusually slick conditions. If your visibility is impeded by heavy rain or blowing dust, slowly pull off to the side of the road as far to the right as possible, turn off your car, turn off your lights, and keep your foot off the brake pedal. Otherwise, drivers may come up quickly behind you assuming that you're still in motion.

The worst areas for flooding are the many washes in the area and small gullies where heavy rains drained off the land long before the roads were built. This is where drivers will normally encounter signs cautioning against crossing the road when flooded. Those signs should be heeded carefully. Even if the water rushing across the road looks only an inch or two deep, it may very well be so deep that vehicles, including high clearance trucks, stall and get stuck in the wash.

Never drive into a flooded wash. The water can be deeper than you think.

*See MONSOON, page 12*

## Monsoon safety tips

**MONSOON**, from page 4

The pavement below the water can be eaten away by the rushing water causing your vehicle to become stuck in the mud. Additionally, there can be large objects floating down from upstream that can damage or encapsulate your vehicle. If the water is deep it may cause your motor to stall immediately and leave you stranded in the middle of the wash. If you are caught in a wash, try to climb out on the roof of your vehicle and wait for help. Use your cell phone if available to call 911.

Drexel Heights Firefighters have been trained for swift water rescues and are called in to rescue motorists stuck in washes. Television news crews usually try to capture the rescue on videotape to be broadcast, sometimes live, as a warning to others. That's only the beginning of the embarrassment trapped drivers face. In Arizona, under the "Stupid Motorist Law", these drivers can be charged for the cost of being rescued if they fail to observe posted warnings. So remember to avoid flooding areas and obey the street flood warning signs.

It is also important to keep in mind that it is not safe to walk through washes that

are flowing. If the rain has fallen upstream you could get trapped in a flash flood and be taken down stream by the rushing water. This could result in being entangled in debris and cause serious harm or even death. Firefighters are prepared for swift water rescues. However, a successful monsoon season is when their services are not required.

Lightning is another threat during the monsoon season. To avoid being struck by lightning stay away from open fields, high land, trees, poles, other tall objects, standing bodies of water including swimming pools, and metal objects including golf clubs and lawn chairs. Stay off any kind of phone to avoid a shock caused by nearby lightning strikes. In an emergency, cellular phones are the best choice. Stay away from plumbing fixtures including showers, baths, and sinks as lightning can travel through metal pipes.

Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the training classroom next to Station # 1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired.

### SW Side toddler OK after nearly drowning

A 17-month-old boy nearly drowned Monday after wandering outside an open back door and into the family's pool on the Southwest Side.

The boy's 9-year-old sister found him struggling in the water and pulled him from the in-ground pool on the 6500 block of South Portugal Circle, near West Valencia Road and West Ajo Highway, said Tracy Koslowski, spokeswoman for the Drexel Heights Fire District.

The boy's mother called 911 and performed CPR.

The toddler was alert and conscious when taken to University Medical Center, said Deputy Dawn Barkman, Pima County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman.

Stephen Caesar

Unknown, July 19, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:

## LAW AND ORDER

### Not-guilty plea entered in death of Ajo girl, 7

A 19-year-old Ajo man accused of raping and murdering a 7-year-old girl last month was arraigned Monday in Pima County Superior Court.

Pima County hearing officer Roger Duncan entered a plea of not guilty on behalf of Loretto Kyle Alegria and scheduled his next hearing date for Aug. 25.

Duncan also assigned Assistant Pima County Public Defender Michael Rosenbluth to represent Alegria. Alegria was indicted on rape, kidnapping and first-degree murder charges last week in the death of Rhia Almeida.

Rhia was beaten and stabbed to death when she went to visit Alegria's 9-year-old brother to play, authorities say.

Her body was found in a wash behind Alegria's home June 18.

Alegria remains in the Pima County jail.

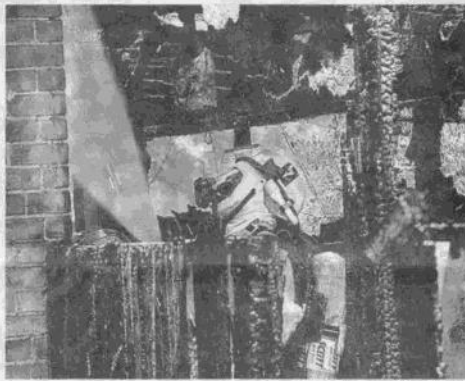
Kim Smith

### Playing with matches leaves boy badly burned

A 5-year-old boy on the Southwest Side suffered burns to 30 percent of his body Monday when his shirt caught fire while he played with matches, a fire official said.

Shortly after 8 p.m., crews from the Drexel Heights Fire District went to the 2600 block of West Old Ajo Way, west of South Mission Road, where they found the boy with mostly second-degree burns and some third-degree burns, said Tracy Koslowski, a Fire District spokeswoman.

The boy's mother had put out the



JAMES S. WOOD / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A Tucson firefighter attacks a fire at a Midtown house, which three people escaped without injury after a smoke detector went off.

fire and sustained some minor burns to her hands, but she refused treatment, Koslowski said.

The boy was flown to a burn center in Phoenix, Koslowski said.

Stephen Ceasar

### Smoke detector alerts 3 who safely flee blaze

A family of three escaped a fire safely Monday thanks to a smoke alarm in their Midtown home.

Shortly after noon, the Tucson Fire Department received several calls about smoke and flames coming from the roof of a home in the 1500 block of North Beverly Avenue, near East Pima Street and North Craycroft Road, said Capt. Tricia Tracy, a spokeswoman.

An 86-year-old woman was inside with her daughter and son-in-law who were visiting from out of state, Tracy said.

Damage is estimated at \$125,000, Tracy said.

Alexis Huicochea

### Nine people displaced by \$50K apartment fire

A family of five and four visiting relatives were displaced after a fire Monday at their Midtown apartment.

The Tucson Fire Department went to the home in the 4000 block of North First Avenue, near East Roger Road, about 3:15 p.m., said Capt. Tricia Tracy, a spokeswoman.

Several adults attempted to put out the fire but were forced out by the smoke, Tracy said. Everyone made it out safely.

Investigators believe the blaze was started by a 5-year-old who was playing with matches in a bedroom, Tracy said. The damage was estimated at \$50,000.

Stephen Ceasar

**On StarNet:** Find an interactive map of reported crimes in the city of Tucson, updated every morning with the previous day's data, at [go.azstarnet.com/crime](http://go.azstarnet.com/crime)

## TUCSON TIME CAPSULE



A.E. ARAZA / ARIZONA DAILY STAR 1994

Tucson Time Capsule is a daily feature, a photographic record of Tucson as it was. It's your chance to relive a memory of an event, place or person.

Find all of the time capsule photos. You can also add your own history photos to the collection. Please observe copyright laws.

When Mary Kay Syster became a Tucson Police Department traffic enforcement officer, she was the only female in the elite "motor unit." In fact, when she made the transition to motorcycle cop, she was one of only three women in the state riding as a motorcycle law enforcement officer. The Tucson native had been with the unit about 7-1/2 years when she was photographed on July 19, 1994, for a Star feature. Syster worked on the commercial vehicle enforcement unit, "so it's not as negative a contact as stopping a motorist on the street for a violation."

## LAW AND ORDER

### Access to Kitt Peak closed by wildfire

Public access to the Kitt Peak National Observatory is suspended because of a fire burning near the access road to the mountain, the observatory's Web site says.

The Kitt Peak Visitor Center is closed and all programs have been canceled through at least mid-Monday, the online notice says. The message at [www.noao.edu/kpno](http://www.noao.edu/kpno) will be updated when the mountain reopens.

The San Juan Fire began Tuesday afternoon and caused the closure of the observatory Wednesday.

The fire was 36 percent contained and burned 4,200 acres as of Saturday, Tohono O'odham Nation spokesman Peter Delgado said.

The resources being used to fight the fire have stayed the same with five engines, a helicopter and three hand crews. No structures have been damaged.

Alexis Huicochea and Danielle Sottosanti

gating the case of the fire and where it started, Tracy said.

The home was destroyed and damage is estimated at \$200,000, she said. The Red Cross of Southern Arizona is helping the man who lived there with food, clothing and shelter.

Tracy gave the following safety reminder: If you see smoke or fire, call 911 before doing anything else because there could be people or animals inside.

Danielle Sottosanti

### 2 boys nearly drown in separate incidents

Two Tucson boys nearly drowned Saturday in separate incidents that both occurred when several adults were nearby.

The first near-drowning occurred in the afternoon on the southwest side, when a 3-year-old boy in a pool with other children and adults took off his "floaties" and slipped under the water, said Tracy Koslowski, spokeswoman for the Drexel Heights Fire District.

A call for help came in around 1:30 p.m. and firefighters responded to the 2900 block of West Holladay Street. The boy's mother said he had slipped under the water for a few seconds, Koslowski said.

The boy's family did not want

him transported to the hospital, as is routine in near-drownings, and said they might take him to the doctor or urgent care, she said. Firefighters said he was doing fine, she said.

The second near-drowning happened to a 2-year-old boy at an apartment complex in the 6200 block of South Campbell Avenue. About 50 or 60 people were at a party at the complex's swimming pool, when a couple of kids noticed that the boy was underwater, said Tricia Tracy, a Tucson Fire Department spokeswoman.

A call for help came in at 7:30 p.m. and the boy was transported to a hospital, she said.

This marked the 16th water incident this year in the county, including three drownings and 13 near-drownings.

Of those 16, 10 occurred when there were many people around a pool. People must make sure there is someone designated to watch the children, Tracy said. People can call Tucson Fire at 837-7075 to receive a designated child-watcher whistle and tag.

"This is the warning shot for all of us. We as a community can do better," Tracy said. "When the drowning happens, you don't get a second chance. ... We've been lucky 13 times."

Danielle Sottosanti



July 26, 2009, Arizona Daily Star:

## Making your pool area safer



## Learn to give CPR

To learn CPR, you need to take a class. Here is some of what you will learn:

### 1 Call for help!

Check if victim is breathing; open airway by tilting head back, lifting chin and pushing forehead down; you may need to move lower jaw forward to keep tongue from blocking airway



### 2 Check if victim has pulse or if heart is beating; place your ear next to victim's face, listen for breathing; observe chest for signs of breathing; feel for air movement on your cheek



### 3 Chest compressions

Position your hands about halfway between the victim's nipples  
 • Place heel of one hand on top of other and press lower breastbone until it sinks about 2 inches  
 • Position your body directly over your hands; two breaths should be given after every 15 compressions  
 • Compressions should be at a rate of 80 to 100 per minute, faster than one per second



### Infant CPR

• If baby is nonresponsive, put on his back and open airway by slightly tilting head and lifting chin  
 • If baby is not breathing, give two gentle breaths; you should see the baby's chest rise with each breath  
 • Use two or three fingers in the center of the chest just below the nipples; press down approximately one-third the depth of the chest  
 • Give 30 gentle but fast chest compressions  
 • Repeat with two breaths and 30 compressions; after two minutes of repeated cycles call emergency assistance and continue giving breaths and compressions



7/26/09 SOURCES: American Heart Association; Associated Press; U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission; Orange County Fire Authority; Orange County Registrar

## WATER SAFETY

Continued from Page B1

safety. That way, if they fall in they know how to get out. They could get carried away with playing, and that all goes out the window, but if you get them early enough we hope they'll remember what to do."

**Q: Many of the pool-related incidents also have involved the presence of adults rather than kids left unattended. What should a parent or adult do if there are more kids than there are adults?**

**A:** "If you have more than one child in the pool, the person in charge needs to be outside the pool so they can react better than if you're in the water," Milke said.

**Q: Would you recommend hiring a private lifeguard if you're having a pool party at home that will include a lot of kids?**

**A:** "Definitely," Snyder said. "The key is that children should always be supervised and always be watched if there's any amount of water."

Contact reporter Brian J. Pedersen at 573-4224 or bjp@azstarnet.com.

## WATER INCIDENTS ON RISE

There have been 19 water incidents — five drownings and 14 near-drownings — involving Pima County children this year, including 10 this month. Water incidents in July:

- **July 4:** A 1-year-old girl drowned in a bathtub in a midtown home, and a 4-year-old girl nearly drowned in a neighbor's east-side pool.
- **July 8:** An 11-month-old boy nearly drowned in a northwest-side pool and a 3-year-old girl nearly drowned in the pool at her midtown apartment complex.
- **July 14:** A 3-year-old boy nearly drowned in a pool at a Corona de Tucson home.
- **July 18:** A 3-year-old boy nearly drowned in a pool at a southwest-side home, and a 2-year-old boy nearly drowned in a pool at a south-side apartment complex.
- **July 20:** A 2-year-old girl nearly drowned in a pool at a south-side apartment complex.
- **July 22:** A 3-year-old girl and her 2-year-old brother drowned in a pool at a Foothills home.

CAN'T AFFORD A

August 2009, *Desert Times*:

*Desert Times* AUGUST 2009

# Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

## Drowning Impact Awareness Month

**D**ROWNING Impact Awareness Month began six years ago through efforts of the Phoenix Children's Hospital. Today city and town mayors from across the state sign proclamations designating August as Drowning Impact Awareness Month (DIAM). Along with the DIAM proclamations, local hospitals and fire departments will be wearing purple ribbons throughout the month to raise awareness. Locally, Safe Kids Tucson Coalition held a press conference on July 31 getting the word out about DIAM and the purple ribbon campaign.

Drowning and near-drowning numbers have typically risen towards the end of the summer which is why DIAM efforts focus in the month of August. In order to be effective, it is extremely important that we, as Arizona residents, are knowledgeable of these measures not only for our children's safety but for helping

to educate the community as a whole. One safety message that the Drowning Prevention Coalition of Arizona wants to get out is Block, Watch and Learn.

**Block:**

The State of Arizona mandates the use of proper pool barriers (i.e., fences, motorized pool covers or self-closing, self-latching doors). Fence should be made of non-climbable material, such as iron, heavy-duty plastic, or non-climbable mesh, with a minimum height of 54" and self-closing, self-latching gate. A four-sided pool fence provides superior protection.

It is important to be knowledgeable of the current building ordinance for pool barriers in your area.

**Watch:**

Most drowning victims are missing for less than five minutes before their absence is noted.

See **DROWNING**, page 8

*Desert Times* AUGUST 2009

## Drowning Impact Awareness Month

**DROWNING**, page 8

Drownings occur suddenly and without warning. There is usually no splash and no cry.

Constant supervision should be practiced near all bodies of water. Drownings frequently occur in buckets, bathtubs, toilets, canals, ponds/lakes, etc.

In most drowning incidents the caregiver admits they were away for "just a few seconds."

**Learn:**

Once an incident occurs, survival depends on rescuing the child quickly, initiating proper CPR. Seconds count in preventing brain damage and death.

Anyone responsible for a child's care should know CPR and recertify every year.

Swimming lessons can be helpful and considered a layer of protection. Children older than three years of age should receive swimming lessons.

However, do not consider children to be "drown proof" just because they have been enrolled in swimming lessons.

**Rescue Steps:**

Yell for help -- get the child from the pool.

Call 911.

Begin CPR if trained. If not, follow the instructions of the 911 dispatcher.

Drexel Heights Fire District will have extra purple ribbons at all four of our fire stations in the month of August in case anyone would like to pick one up and help promote water safety and drowning prevention messages.

**Drexel Heights Fire District**

Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the training classroom next to Station # 1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired.

Your Fire District Board is

Chairperson James Bertrand, Clerk Cheryl Cecil, Member R.M. Bishman, Member Laura Dailey and Member Charles Mendonca.



2009

August 1, 2009, Arizona Daily Star:

August 2009:

# Ribbons promote drowning awareness

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

In a gesture of solidarity against a bad spate of child drownings, law enforcement, medical personnel and others across Arizona are wearing purple ribbons throughout August.

More than 60,000 of the ribbons have been distributed across the state in an effort to prevent further drownings. Already this year, five children have drowned to death in the Tucson area. The most recent deaths involved siblings Paulina, 3, and Sebastian Aldecoa, 2, who drowned in the pool of their grandparents' Foothills home July 22.

There have also been 14 near drownings this year in Pima County. In addition to swimming pools, mop buckets, bathtubs and even ice chests with water in them are risks for children, experts say. Local authorities say about 10 percent of near-drowning victims require hospitalization and suffer brain damage.

Nearly all of the drownings and near-drownings in Pima County have been among children ages 1 through 3.

There are three layers that parents and caregivers can use to prevent drownings — adult supervision, barriers and swim classes — Tucson Fire Department spokeswoman Trish Tracy

See DROWNING, A16

## DROWNING

Continued from Page A15

told reporters Friday.

Tracy said birthday parties at pools and adults turning their heads for even a few seconds are both risk factors for

child drownings. She stressed that children shouldn't be supervising children at pools, that toys should be removed from pool areas and that everyone should know CPR — cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

"What we could really use a

hand with is the public knowing CPR," concurred firefighter/paramedic Sean Culliney of the Northwest Fire District.

Lori Schmidt of the Drowning Prevention Coalition of Arizona said that there has been an unusually high

number of child drownings across the country this year, and that it's not a cultural or socioeconomic issue.

"Always treat your kids as if they have had no swim classes," she said.

Stephanie Innes

*It taken me over six months to take time to thank you for all the care you gave my son. I don't have enough words to say how much I appreciated the way all of you treated my son. You always treated him with care and respect. I know I keep repeating myself, but impossible to find all the words that mean Thanks. May God bless you and keep you safe in whatever all of you. I shall always keep all of you in my prayers.*

*God Bless you*

*...for the generous,  
giving hearts  
of people like you.*

*The Rios Family  
(PABLO RIOS)*



# Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

## 9-1-1 Emergency Response Teams...

### Looking for Right Addresses

**I**f you have a heart attack and call 9-1-1, will the ambulance be able to find you?

Research from Mayo Clinic indicates that someone whose heart has short-circuited has only six minutes to live, but a shock with a defibrillator within that time usually will restore the heart's rhythm. Drexel Heights Fire District is prepared for these types of emergencies by having defibrillator equipment on the emergency vehicles, but will we be able to get to the person who needs the help. The 9-1-1 system saves lives by saving time, but we can't help you if we can't find you.

If a resident does not have an address, whether it's because a new home has been built or a post office box is used, residents should contact the Pima County Zoning Office to get an address. The address also needs

to be correct. The zoning office has the county on a grid system to help properly address homes. This address should be identified on your home and be visible from the road.

Division Chief Gary Bynum oversees the communications dispatch center for Drexel Heights Fire District. "The 9-1-1 system is very accurate the homes in our area have correct addresses in our computer system. And we receive updated information often."

Bynum also mentioned that the enhanced 9-1-1 system, which is now in use, includes Automatic Number Identification (ANI) and Automatic Location Identification (ALI), which will provide the 9-1-1 telecommunicator with your phone number and the location of the phone. So it is important for residents to keep their phone location address

information current as this is one of the ways new information and up-dates are received into the 9-1-1 system. When receiving a 9-1-1 call from a land line the dispatcher will have the callers name, address, and telephone number, the problem is the emergency crews responding can not locate the house if you do not have an address located on the house.

Another issue has to do with 9-1-1 calls from cell phones. While newer technology continues to provide dispatchers with better caller location information, it does not give an exact location. Cell phone callers need to make sure they give dispatchers an exact location when calling in an emergency.

Hopefully the need for emergency personnel never arises, but if it does, homeowners can make the process that much quicker and easier by placing an address number on the house (not just mailbox) in a visible location.

By fire code regulations, residential addressing numbers need to be at least four inches in height, half an inch in width, and in a contrasting color from the house. Reflective numbering also makes it easier for emergency response crews to find an address at night.

There are hundreds of locations throughout the area where two, three or more mailboxes are next to each other. Subdivisions are popping up all over, with houses located right next to each other and a group of mailboxes in one location. They may have the house number on the mailbox, but which house does it go to?

Many homes in the Drexel Heights Fire District area are inadequately addressed, or simply not addressed at all. 9-1-1 dispatchers and emergency response personnel from the Drexel Heights Fire District would like to see house numbers on every mailbox and every home.

### GOVERNING BOARD

**INFORMATION:** Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the training classroom next to Station # 1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson James Bertrand, Clerk Cheryl Cecil, Member R.M. Bishman, Member Laura Dailey and Member Charles Mendonca.

ARIZONA FIRE AND BURN EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION



# AFBEA EDUCATOR

Fall 2009 Issue

Arizona Fire and Burn Educators Association is a 501.c (3) Non-Profit Corporation

## Drexel Heights Fire District's Fire Fit Cadet Program By Tracy Koslowski

Drexel Heights Fire District (DHFD) rolled out a new program this summer called Fire Fit Cadets. The program was created for middle school student's ages 12-14 years who met twice a week for three weeks. The three main goals of the program were to: 1) Expose the kids to the fire service 2) Encourage healthy living by exercising and eating right and 3) Educate them on safety behaviors for injury prevention.

The academy provided a better understanding of the fire service with an exciting and packed schedule of hands-on learning. Classes designed especially for cadets included ladders, fire extinguishers, fire streams, ropes and knots, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), first aid, nutrition, and physical fitness. The academy also intertwined skills throughout the program like being a team player and having a strong work ethic.



September 11, 2009:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2009-15**

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE DREXEL HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT  
RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS FIRE PREVENTION MONTH IN THE DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, Drexel Heights Fire District is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our area; and

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire; and

WHEREAS, roughly 3,000 people die as a result of home fires and burns, more than 200,000 individuals are seen in the nation's emergency rooms for burn injuries; and

WHEREAS, thermal burns outnumber scalds nearly two-to-one, but for children ages five and under, scalds outnumber burns roughly two-to-one.

WHEREAS, cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries, while heating equipment and smoking are the leading causes of home fire deaths; and

WHEREAS, Drexel Heights Fire District's first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and

WHEREAS, Drexel Heights Fire District's residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and

WHEREAS, residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 National Fire Prevention theme, "Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned" effectively serves to remind us all of the simple actions we can take to stay safer from fire during Fire Prevention Month and year-round.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Board of the Drexel Heights Fire District that the Board hereby proclaims and recognizes the Month of October as Fire Prevention Month in the District.

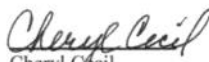
DHFD Res. No. 2009-15

1 of 2

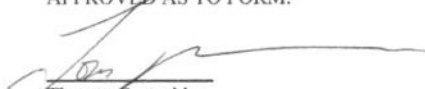
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the Drexel Heights Fire District, this  
11th day of September, 2009.

  
Board Chair James L. Bertrand

ATTEST:

  
Cheryl Cecil  
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Thomas Benavidez  
District Attorney

September 11 & 21, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:

## **Major injuries for woman pulled under moving van SW of Tucson**

SEPTEMBER 11, 2009 12:00 AM • BY ALEXIS HUICOCHEA ARIZONA DAILY STAR

An 82-year-old woman was seriously injured Friday morning when she became trapped underneath a van that rolled over her on the southwest side.

The incident happened in the 2300 block of West Old Ajo Way at 9:30 a.m., said Tracy Koslowski, a Drexel Heights Fire Department spokeswoman.

The woman had gone to a residence in the area and was preparing to leave, Koslowski said.

She was on the passenger side and got caught up on part of the door as the vehicle began moving.

She was pulled underneath the full-sized van, at which time the front tire rolled over her, Koslowski said.

A resident of the home called 911.

When Drexel Heights arrived on scene, the woman was conscious, Koslowski said. She was flown to University Medical Center for emergency surgery.

Her injuries are considered life-threatening.

## **Fire at SW side swap meet under investigation**

SEPTEMBER 21, 2009 12:00 AM • BRIAN J. PEDERSEN ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A fire at a southwest side swap meet late Sunday night is under investigation this morning, a fire official said.

It took 30 firefighters with the Drexel Heights Fire District about 75 minutes to extinguish the three-alarm blaze at the Tohono O'odham Swap Meet, 5721 S. Westover Ave., district spokeswoman Tracy Koslowski said.

The fire was initially reported around 10:30 p.m. Sunday when Drexel Heights received nine separate 911 calls from people living in a residential neighborhood south of the swap meet, which is on the southeast corner of Westover and West Drexel Road.

The fire occurred in a series of storage units on the property, Koslowski said. Koslowski described the structures as "rickety" and contained a heavy fuel load, part of the reason the fire took so long to put out.

No one was on the property at the time of the fire, and no injuries were reported, Koslowski said.

Fire investigators and investigators with the Pima County Sheriff's Department were expected on scene around 7 a.m. today, Koslowski said.

Contact reporter Brian J. Pedersen at 573-4224 or [bjp@azstarnet.com](mailto:bjp@azstarnet.com).



Tuesday, September 22, 2009 / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

# Tohono O'odham Swap Meet fire takes 75 minutes to extinguish

By Brian J. Pedersen  
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The cause of a fire at a southwest-side swap meet late Sunday is under investigation, a fire official said.

It took 30 firefighters with the Drexel Heights Fire District about 75 minutes to extinguish the three-alarm blaze at the Tohono O'odham Swap Meet, 5721 S. Westover Ave., district spokeswoman Tracy Koslowski said.

The fire was reported around 10:30 p.m. when Drexel Heights received nine separate 911 calls from people living south of the swap meet, which is on the southeast corner of West Drexel Road and Westover, a few blocks west of South Mission Road.

The fire occurred in a series of storage units on the property, Koslowski said. She described the structures as "rickety" and



DEAN KNUTH / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A group of storage units on the Tohono O'odham Swap Meet property burned in a three-alarm fire Sunday night.

containing a heavy fuel load, part of the reason the fire took so long to put out.

No one was on the property at the time of the fire, and no in-

juries were reported, Koslowski said.

Contact reporter Brian J. Pedersen at 573-4224 or [bjp@azstarnet.com](mailto:bjp@azstarnet.com).

[<<Back](#)



## Drexel Heights Receives Gaming Money For Purchase of New Ambulance

Posted: Sep 21, 2009 12:34 PM MST

Written By: Ina Ronquillo

Proposition 202, which passed in 2002, will allow the Tohono O'odham tribe to share a portion of their gaming revenue with government agencies. The Drexel Heights Fire District benefitted by receiving \$110,000 in funds to purchase a Paramedic Transport Ambulance. The new ambulance will be housed at Fire Station 403 on Cardinal Avenue and Mossman Road. This location is near the San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham Nation. Both agencies have a great working relationship with an automatic aid agreement for fire and emergency medical response.

2009

September 22, 2009, [http://azstarnet.com/news/killed-when-car-smashes-head-on-into-school-bus-near/article\\_5cde9cd9-062e-51ab-921d-e314a0e06197.html](http://azstarnet.com/news/killed-when-car-smashes-head-on-into-school-bus-near/article_5cde9cd9-062e-51ab-921d-e314a0e06197.html)

# 3 killed when car smashes head-on into school bus near Tucson

September 22, 2009 12:00 am • By Brian J. Pedersen Arizona Daily Star

0

Three people in a sedan were killed Tuesday morning when the driver crossed the center line of Ajo Highway southwest of Tucson and smashed head-on into a school bus.

Two of four high school students on the bus were taken to a hospital as a precaution. Two adults on the bus were uninjured.

The wreck occurred just after 6 a.m. and closed Ajo west of South Kinney Road near Ryan Airfield in both directions for more than three hours, said Officer Brian Jimenez, a spokesman with the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

The passengers in the car — two men and a woman — were pronounced dead at the scene, said Tracy Koslowski, a spokeswoman for the Drexel Heights Fire District. The victims' names have not been released.

Investigators on scene believe the passenger vehicle was heading west when it crossed the center line and collided with the school bus, according to a DPS news release.

A DPS photo radar enforcement van was in the area at the time of the crash, and investigators plan to review footage, Jimenez said.

The Altar Valley School District bus was headed to Flowing Wells High School at the time of the crash, Jimenez said.

Altar Valley, a K-8 school district southwest of Tucson, can send its high school students to any district they choose, said Nic Clement, Flowing Wells School District superintendent.

## Got photos?

Do you have any photos from the crash scene this morning. E-mail them to [metro@azstarnet.com](mailto:metro@azstarnet.com)

Contact reporter Brian J. Pedersen at 573-4224 or [bjp@azstarnet.com](mailto:bjp@azstarnet.com).



September 23, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:



DREXEL HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT PHOTO

The three people in the car died in the crash on Arizona 86. Two of four students in the bus were taken to a hospital as a precaution. Two adults were unhurt.

## Head-on crash kills 3 southwest of Tucson

By Brian J. Pedersen  
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Three people in a sedan were killed Tuesday morning when the driver crossed the center line of Arizona 86 southwest of Tucson and smashed head-on into a school bus.

Two of four high school students on the bus were taken to a hospital as a precaution. Two adults on the bus were uninjured.

Killed were Barbara Jean Scott, 39

and Jerry A. Carrasco, 27, of Tucson, and a 51-year-old man who was driving the car, said the Arizona Department of Public Safety. The driver's name will not be released until his family is notified.

The three were pronounced dead at the scene, officials said.

The wreck occurred just after 6 a.m. and closed Arizona 86 west of South Kinney Road near Ryan Airfield in both directions for more than

three hours, said Officer Brian Jimenez, an DPS spokesman.

Investigators believe the car was westbound when it crossed the center line, the DPS said. A DPS photo radar van was in the area, and investigators plan to review footage, Jimenez said.

The Altar Valley School District bus was headed to Flowing Wells High School, Jimenez said.

Altar Valley, a K-8 school district southwest of Tucson, can send its

high school students to any district, said Nic Clement, Flowing Wells School District superintendent.

Reporter Jamar Younger contributed to this story. Contact Brian J. Pedersen at 573-4224 or [bjp@azstarnet.com](mailto:bjp@azstarnet.com).

**SN** On StarNet: Keep up with other law and order stories by visiting the Police Beat blog at [go.azstarnet.com/policebeat](http://go.azstarnet.com/policebeat)

September 22, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:

## Bus driver in collision that killed 3 may be hero

By Jamar Younger  
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The actions of an Altar Valley School District bus driver possibly saved the lives of his passengers during a collision that killed three people this week on Arizona 86, officials said.

Robert Louis Tessler, 58, was driving four students and two adults to Flowing Wells High School on Tuesday when a car veered into its path and collided head-on with the bus.

The three people in the Saturn, Raymond Kane, 51, Barbara Jean Scott, 39, and Jerry A. Carasco, 30, died at the scene.

But none of the passengers on the bus was injured, and Tessler suffered minor injuries.

The Arizona Department of Public Safety is still investigating the circumstances that led to the collision. No new details were available Friday.

Law enforcement officials credited Tessler with avoiding a worse collision.

"The bus driver did his best to minimize the collision and probably helped to save lives on the bus," said DPS spokesman Bart Graves.

When Altar Valley superintendent Douglas Roe went to the scene, he said, the bus was inches from a ditch on the side of the road.

"What you don't see is how deep the ditch was," Roe said.

A bus surveillance video released by the school district Thursday showed the passengers anticipating the collision as they saw the car approaching.

See SCHOOL BUS, A23

## SCHOOL BUS

Continued from Page A19

Tessler did not move or show any signs of panic.

"His reaction was not to jerk, but very calmly, coolly guide the bus as much as he can," Roe said. "There was no exaggerated motion."

The bus was equipped with seat belts because it was carrying special-needs students, he said.

Tessler was placed on medical leave after the collision, Roe said.

DPS investigators are still trying to determine what caused Kane, the car's driver, to cross over into eastbound traffic and

collide with the school bus.

Investigators have been aided by video taken by a DPS photo-enforcement camera that had been stationed along the highway.

"The fact that we have video is a rare thing," Graves said.

The video showed the car slamming into the bus, but it did not include what happened before the collision.

Kane had been cited in the past for numerous violations, including driving under the influence, driving with a suspended license and speeding.

Kane's Marana neighbors, however, remembered him as a kind man who would help the elderly people on his street.

"He took care of us on this street," said Charlene Conway, who knew Kane for about six years.

"I felt safe. All I had to do was call and he'd be here," Conway said.

Kane was a military veteran who suffered from numerous health problems, including migraine headaches, she said.

He still did everything from fixing flat tires to making sure no one's home was getting burglarized, she said.

"I trusted him with my life," she said.

Contact reporter Jamar Younger at 573-4115 or [jyounger@azstarnet.com](mailto:jyounger@azstarnet.com)



September 23, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Wednesday, September 23, 2009 / ARIZONA DAILY STAR



BENJIE SANDERS / ARIZONA DAILY STAR  
ing a report of a burglary in the 3100  
second from left, and Jeannie Bum-  
idge Drive.

2008, when he veered off the road and launched the SUV over a wash, crashing into the north embankment. The vehicle contained 19 illegal immigrants, 10 of whom died as a result of the crash.

Brian J. Pedersen

## Fire at swap meet is ruled accidental

A fire Sunday night at a south-

west side swap meet has been ruled accidental, a fire official said.

Electrical issues caused the fire at the Tohono O'odham Swap Meet, 5721 S. Westover Ave., said Tracy Koslowski, a spokeswoman for the Drexel Heights Fire District.

No one was on the property at the time of the blaze, Koslowski said.

Brian J. Pedersen

## County sheriff adds Twitter to arsenal

The Pima County Sheriff's Department has joined a couple of other local law enforcement agencies on the Twitter bandwagon.

The department will now provide tweets on incidents such as road closures, areas to avoid, missing persons and department programs, according to a press release.

Tucson police and the University of Arizona Police Department also have twitter accounts.

If you would like to follow the Sheriff's Department, go to [twitter.com/PimaSheriff](http://twitter.com/PimaSheriff).

The Twitter address for the Tucson Police Department is [twitter.com/Tucson\\_Police](http://twitter.com/Tucson_Police); the UAPD's address is [twitter.com/UofAZPolice](http://twitter.com/UofAZPolice).

Jamar Younger

**SN** On StarNet: Find an interactive map of reported crimes in the city of Tucson, updated every morning with the previous day's data, at [go.azstarnet.com/crime](http://go.azstarnet.com/crime)

## LAW AND ORDER

### Video: Bus driver tried to avoid crash

Video of Tuesday's fatal crash involving a school bus and a car shows the bus driver tried to avoid the oncoming car, veering onto the shoulder before being struck head-on.

The Arizona Department of Public Safety also identified the driver of the car as 51-year-old Marana resident Raymond Kane. He and his two passengers, 39-year-old Barbara Jean Scott and 30-year-old Jerry A. Carrasco, were pronounced dead at the scene.

The video, taken by a DPS photo radar enforcement van that had been stationed along Ajo Highway just east of Ryan Airfield, shows Kane's black Saturn had crossed entirely over into eastbound traffic, striking the bus near the shoulder of the road.

The crash occurred at 6:13 a.m. Tuesday.

The school bus was transporting four students and two adults to Flowing Wells High School. No serious injuries were reported on

the bus, though two students were taken to area hospitals for precautionary reasons, DPS said.

According to DPS, no one in the Saturn was wearing a seat belt.

The school bus was equipped with seat belts, and all of the passengers were wearing the safety restraints, DPS said.

Court records show Kane had been cited in the past for numerous violations, including driving under the influence, driving with a suspended license and speeding.

Brian J. Pedersen and Jamar Younger



On StarNet: See the video captured by the speed camera at [go.azstarnet.com/buscash](http://go.azstarnet.com/buscash)

### Tucson police to aid in G-20 crowd control

More than 30 Tucson Police Department personnel are in Pittsburgh to help with security and crowd control for the G-20 summit scheduled for today and Friday.

The Tucson police — 27 officers, two sergeants, one lieutenant and one captain — are part of TPD's Mobile Field Force Unit, which normally handles duties and responds to incidents associated with riots and protests, said

Unknown date, 2009:

100 Club Jason Schechterle Scholarship Ball



### Sarah Kelly

*Romley Family Scholarship \$1,000*

*Attending University of Arizona*

*Major: Political Science, Minor: Music (Freshman)*

*Daughter of Brian Kelly - Drexel Heights Fire Department*



My name is Sarah Caitlin Kelly and I come from a family of seven. I have two sisters, Elizabeth Kelly, and Cassandra Lages and I have two brothers, Cody Medina and Jacob Vandenwalle. My parents are MaryAnne and Brian Kelly. My parents have been legal guardians to Cassie since the age of fifteen. Cody moved in with us when he turned eighteen. Jacob has just joined our family. He is eighteen and "aged out" of the foster care system. We moved him into an apartment with Cody. He will need a lot of help as he has just been thrust into the world with no other form of support. My sister Elizabeth is seventeen and attends Santa Rita High School. My mother is a teacher of mathematics and my father is a firefighter and paramedic working for the Drexel Heights Fire District as the Training Captain.

I graduated high school in May of 2009. I will be attending the University of Arizona beginning in the fall, majoring in Political Science and minoring in Music (including becoming a member of the University of Arizona Marching Band). My eventual goal is to work for the State and/or Federal Government. I want to work in the legislature as a Senator or as an ambassador. If I am not in one of these positions, I would like to be involved in government as an analyst or work in foreign relations. I believe that I will need to complete a Master's Degree in Political Science and participate in an internship before I find a job in my chosen field. In my future, I hope to work for the betterment of our country. In whatever role I pursue I will notice those around me and take an active role in making their lives, all our lives, better. I hope that what little I can do will make a difference in the lives of others. I know that offering to help has made a difference in my life.

This last year I have been the Senior Class President at Santa Rita High School and have had the opportunity to work as co-creator of the Santa Rita Student Closet Program. We collected clothing and sundries for students and their families in need. I have been a member of the March of Dimes Club, the Quilts for Kids by Kids Club, and the Catholic Student Newman.





2009

Firefighter Combat Challenge, courtesy, <http://www.drexelfire.net/default.htm>





October 6, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:



PHOTOS BY MAMTA POPAT / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Capt. Jeremy Beatty of the Drexel Heights Fire District chats with his puppet, Doedoe Head, about how families should have an escape plan for their homes when the smoke detector goes off. It was part of a show at Miller Elementary School.



Bryan Molina's facial expression tells all as third-grade teacher Lorelyn Garbini reveals her card during a presentation about bullying at Miller Elementary School. Nine-year-old Bryan, at far right, was joined by, from left, Vanessa Guzman, 9, Breanna Lopez, 9, and Christopher Velasco, 9.

## Drexel Heights Fire District carries safety rules to nine schools in area

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

As part of National Fire Prevention month, members of the Drexel Heights Fire District are visiting nine schools.

They are performing a show that highlights fire and general safety behavior such as wearing a seat belt and checking the batteries in home smoke detectors.

The fire district personnel use a variety of skits and other interactions with students and teachers to get the safety message across.



October 2009, *Desert Times*:

AVRA VALLEY • COPPER CREST • PICTURE ROCKS • TUCSON ESTATES • THE FOOTHILLS • THREE POINTS • ROBLES JUNCTION • SOUTHWESTERN TUCSON FREE

## Three people die in vehicle and school bus accident

TUCSON — On Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 6:13 a.m. Arizona Department of Public Safety officers responded to a head-on collision involving a school bus that was traveling eastbound on State Route 86/Ajo Road west of Tucson, and a black four-door passenger car. Investigators on scene believe the passenger vehicle was heading westbound when it for unknown reasons, crossed the center line and collided with the school bus.

The exact cause of this collision is still under investigation. Two males and one female riding in the passenger car were deceased on scene.

The school bus which was from the Alter Valley School District, was headed to Flowing Wells High School in Tucson. There were four children and two adults on board at the time of the collision. Two children were transported to the hospital for minor injury evaluation.



Courtesy photo

Drexel Heights Fire District held a 9/11 memorial service on Sept. 11.

## Firefighters and community remember 9-11

TUCSON — Drexel Heights Fire District held a 9/11 memorial service at Fire Station No. 403, 5960 S. Cardinal Avenue, at 8 a.m., on Sept. 11.

A service where on-duty and off-duty members from not only DHFD but also Pascua Pueblo Fire Department and Tohono O'odham Fire Department gathered.

Sept. 11 is a very important day for people who work in public safety, as the World Trade Center attacks claimed the lives of 343 firefighters.

"I don't know of anything, certainly in

my career, that has impacted fire safety like 9/11 has," said Battalion Chief Dane Crouse.

Drexel Heights Fire District urges residents to express their gratitude to those who work in public safety, including police officers, firefighters and military service members.

The ceremony began with firefighters gathering around the flagpole as the U.S. flag is lowered to halfstaff and a moment of silence was observed. The names of the fire service personnel killed in the line of duty since Sept. 11, 2001 were read.

Times

OCTOBER 2009

## Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

### October brings Fire Prevention activities

The history of Fire Prevention Week has its roots in the Great Chicago Fire, which began on Oct. 8, 1871 and continued the following day destroying everything in its path. In 27 hours, this tragic conflagration killed more than 250 people, it left 100,000 homeless, and it destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, National Fire Prevention Week has been observed the week in October in which the 8th day falls.

Drexel Heights Fire District will be celebrating October as "Fire Prevention Month". This year, the Fire District will be focusing on educating the public and reinforcing the importance of fire safety. Each year many lives are lost to fire. Often these losses could have been avoided had precaution been taken. Fire Prevention Month is the time set aside to

bring fire prevention and awareness to the forefront.

District residents are reminded to have a plan ready for their homes in case of a fire. Knowing how to safely escape your home from fire and remembering to stay outside are two important parts of the plan. Here are some other tips you should remember to prepare yourself should a fire strike your home:

1. Draw a diagram of the layout of your house.
2. Mark all the doors and windows on the plan.
3. It's important to make sure you have at least two ways out of each room of the house.
4. Check the windows and the bars that might be on them to make sure they open freely.
5. Decide who will help small children or older adults escape.

See FIRE, page 10

Times

OCTOBER 2009



Courtesy photo

Pictured above are, from left to right include: Garree Innis, CJ Higgins, Tracy Koslowski, Andrew Sepulveda, Hector Munoz, Jeremy Beatty and Gerald Innis.

### October brings Fire Prevention activities

FIRE from page 8

6. Confirm you have smoke detectors in or near all sleeping areas and check them to verify the batteries still work. You can mark them on your floor plan.
7. Select a family meeting place out in the front of your home, a safe

distance away from the house, so the fire department can identify you right way.

8. Decide who will call 9-1-1 from the neighbor's house.

9. Practice the plan with all family members regularly to make sure that in the event of a fire, everyone will get out safely.

10. Remind everyone not to go back inside for anything.

Drexel Heights Fire District is kicking off its fire prevention efforts with visits to the area schools with a characterization presentation. The characterization program includes music, characters, and puppets which are used to communicate important safety messages. The children learn in a fun way and they leave the performance singing safety messages.

For more information on these activities or other Drexel Heights Fire District programs, please call us at (520) 883-4341. You can also check us out on the web at [www.drexelfire.net](http://www.drexelfire.net)

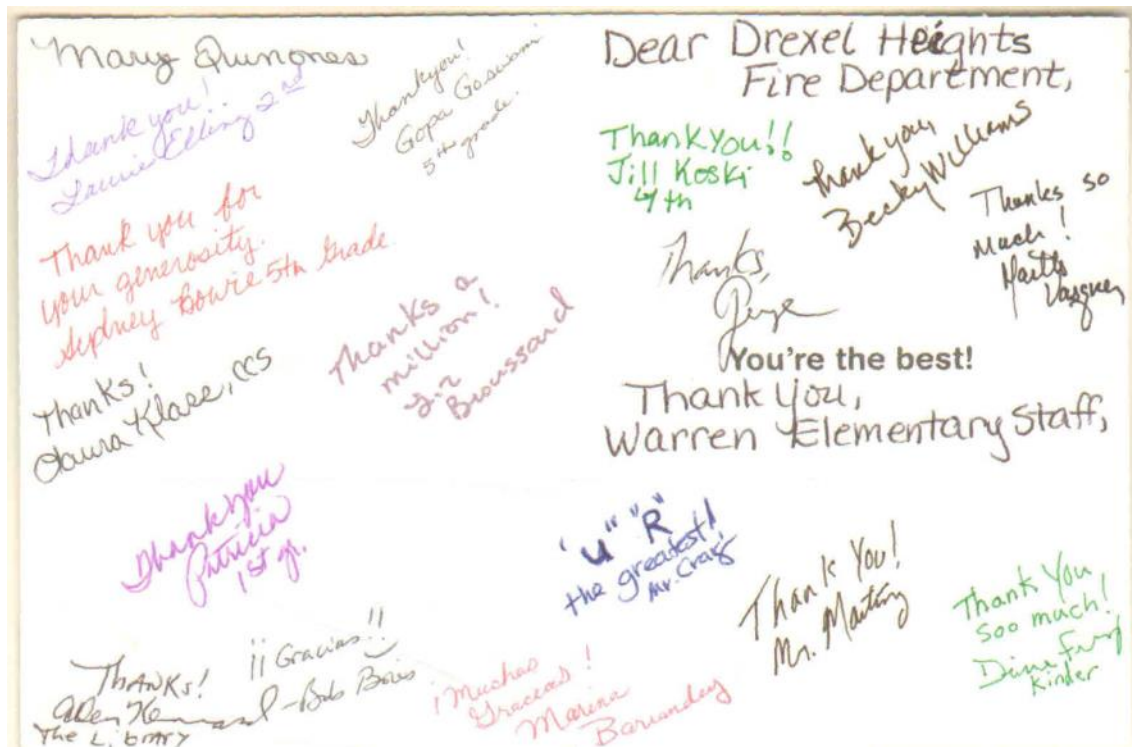
### Need a New Home?

Get a brand new Hallmark S. W. Manufactured Home. Give me a call, so we can start picking out your floor plan, models available to view. MAC'S HOME SALES: 520-883-6670 or 800-678-3890



2009

October 2009:



"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." Sir Winston Churchill  
Thank you, for ten years of support in the prevention of child drownings.



YOU make the difference.  
Water Watchers at Phoenix Children's Hospital



November 2009, *Desert Times*:

Courtesy photo

Pictured left to right, Tohono O'odham Chairman Ned Norris Jr, DHFD Governing Board Chair James Bertrand and DHFD Fire Chief Douglas Chappell.

## Drexel Heights awarded monies for purchasing new ambulance

TUCSON — Tohono O'odham Gaming Grant monies were awarded to Drexel Heights Fire Department for the purchase of a new ambulance.

In 2002, Arizona voters passed Proposition 202 which allows 12% of gaming revenue to be shared with government agencies for the purpose of benefiting the public.

Drexel Heights Fire District and Pima County submitted a successful proposal in 2008 for \$110,000 in funds

to purchase a Paramedic Transport Ambulance.

The ambulance will be housed at Fire Station 403 on Cardinal Avenue and Mossman Road which is directly adjacent to the San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham Nation. Drexel Heights Fire District and the Tohono O'odham Fire Department have a strong working relationship that includes an automatic aid agreement for fire and emergency medical response since 1995.

Page 19

Desert Times

NOVEMBER 2009

## Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

### HOLIDAY SAFETY

**T**HE Holiday Season is on its way and so is decorating and entertaining for family and friends. While safety is important year round it is especially important during the holiday season. Unfortunately this time of year there seems to be an increase in the number of people treated for injuries and a rise in fires caused by candles or Christmas lights resulting in several million dollars of property damage to our country every year.

Keep your family and overnight guests safe during the holidays and year-round with working smoke detectors. There should be one on every level of the house, in every bedroom and in halls adjacent to the bedrooms. Test smoke detectors monthly and replace batteries at least once a year. Overnight guests should be instructed on the fire escape plan and designated meeting place for your home.

Start off the holiday cooking with a clean stove and oven. Try to keep the kitchen off-limits to young children and adults that are not helping with food preparations to lessen the possibility of kitchen mishaps.

While cooking, do not wear clothing with loose sleeves or dangling jewelry, the clothing can catch on fire and the jewelry can catch on pot handles, causing spills and burns. Whenever possible, cook on the back burners and always turn pot handles in so they don't extend over the edge of the stove. Never leave cooking unattended. If you must leave the kitchen while cooking turn off the stove or have someone else watch what is being cooked.

It is always safer to have the smokers smoke outside. If smoking is allowed inside, provide guests with large, deep ashtrays and check them frequently. After guests leave, check the inside of your house and under the upholstery for cigarette butts which can begin to smolder later on. Remember to never empty ashtrays in the house trash.

Keep Thanksgiving, Christmas and holiday decorations and kitchen clutter away from sources of direct heat. Candles are often part of holiday decorations. However candles should never be left burning when you are away from home, after going to bed, and always must be out of reach of children, and where guests

will not accidentally brush against them. The candleholder should be completely noncombustible and difficult to knock over, and should be clear of any combustible decorations.

If purchasing an artificial tree this year, make sure to check for the label reading "Fire Resistant." If your tree does not have this tag, spraying it with a flame retardant is always a good idea.

Live trees should always be checked for freshness, its green needles should not fall off when you tap the tree on the ground. Be sure to keep the stand filled with water and check it daily, a 6' live tree will use 1 gallon of water every two days.

Keep all Christmas trees away from heaters, fireplaces or other heat sources. Finally, safely dispose of your tree before it becomes dangerously dry, however never burn a tree or tree parts in your fireplace.

When it comes to decorations use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim the trees. In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable. Keep trimmings with small removable parts out of reach of small children to avoid the child swallowing or inhaling small pieces.

If using decorative lights, it's important to only use lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory, such as UL Laboratories, as this indicates

conformance with safety standards. Check all your indoor and outdoor lights for frayed cords and replace if necessary. Before using lights outdoors, it's important that the labels on them have been certified for outdoor use. Lights should never be touching any type of combustible materials.

Avoid using extension cords at all when possible; but if you must use them follow the instructions carefully. Do not overload electrical circuits, such as wall outlets and extension cords; always use a circuit strip. Turn off all decorative lights prior to leaving your home or going to bed. The lights could short out and start a fire.

All of us at Drexel Heights Fire District wish you an enjoyable and safe Holiday Season this year.

## Santa Cruz Lutheran Church



6809 S. Cardinal  
Tucson, AZ 85746  
(520) 885-2957

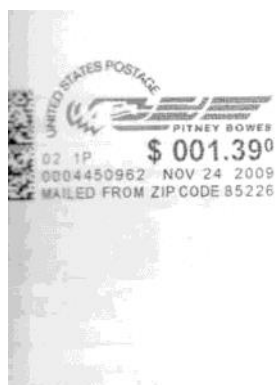
Pastor Jim Dew

Sunday Worship 8:00 & 10:30  
Learning Hour 9:15  
(Summer Schedule - Worship Only 9:15)

[www.santacruzlutheran.net](http://www.santacruzlutheran.net)

*A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Winter 2009:



Volume 16, Issue 3  
Winter 2009



## Drexel Heights Fire District Fire Safety Team

For 2009 fire prevention month efforts, Drexel Heights Fire District coordinated their annual characterization program for area schools. Each year the department's Safety Education Team adopts a new theme for their program that is popular with the elementary kids. This year's program was called "Drexel's Got Talent" and is a stem from the popular television shows America's Got Talent and American Idol.

By using music, characters, clowns, puppets and special effects firefighters gain the kids attention while teaching them important fire and life safety messages. The teacher's evaluations indicated that the children not only remembered the messages but were still singing safety songs weeks after the firefighters visit. This year's messages included escape plans, bicycle helmets, seat belt use and having adult watch you swim. These safety behaviors were selected based on injuries affecting the community.



In total, Drexel Heights Fire District's Safety Education Team visited 9 public and private schools, making 13 presentations, and reaching 5,000 children. Each of the children received a trading card that featured the characters from the program along with the safety messages as reminders. The kids look forward to the new themes every year and collecting the trading cards.



2009

November 24, 2009:



**FREEDOM'S GATE MINISTRIES, INC**

P. O. Box 85538, Tucson, Arizona 85754-5538

5624 South Mission Road

Voice: (520) 579-5379 Fax: (520) 721-8937

E-Mail: [jparker@freedomsgate1.com](mailto:jparker@freedomsgate1.com)

Jerome D. Parker, Pastor

November 24, 2009

Drexel Heights Fire District  
Attention: Tracy  
5030 S. Camino Verde  
Tucson, AZ 85735

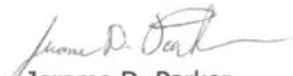
Dear Tracy:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the very gracious and unselfish support of the firemen who attended our Thanksgiving Family Festival on November 14, 2009. They were very cordial and professional in providing blood pressure readings and general information to our participants. Several participants commented on how very nice they are. They even helped us to repair our "dunking booth." They were very informative about what other services Drexel Heights Fire District provides to our communities.

Please thank each one of these gentlemen for us. We will contact you and the firemen again for their assistance for our next Thanksgiving Family Festival. Please know that we pray for the firemen, their families, their service, and their safety.

If there is anything that we can do for the Drexel Heights Fire District please do not hesitate to contact us.

In Christ's Service,

  
Jerome D. Parker  
Pastor

A Christ-centered ministry designed to reach the lost and edify the believers in the Body of Christ.

2009

November 24, 2009:



## RIO RICO FIRE DISTRICT

**Station #1**  
1194 Pendleton Drive  
Rio Rico, AZ 85648  
Phone: 520-281-8421  
Fax: 520-761-1961

**Station #2**  
957 Calle Calabazas  
Rio Rico, AZ 85648  
Phone: 520-281-8194  
Fax: 520-281-8664

and **Station #3, 822 Pendleton Drive** (at the corner of Ruby Road and Pendleton Drive) ...  
coming soon!

November 24, 2009

Ms. Tracy Koslowski  
Drexel Heights Fire  
5030 S. Camino Verde  
Tucson, AZ 85635-8971

Dear Tracy:

On behalf of every one of us at RRFD and especially our Safety Day Committee, thank you for your participation in our annual Fire Prevention & Safety Day in Rio Rico.

Without your participation this event would not have been the success that it was and we look forward to having you join us again next year.

With best regards and best wishes for the upcoming Holidays!

### Fire Prevention & Safety Day Committee:

- Virgil Esmont, Chairman
- Leilani Salazar  
Firefighter/Public Education Specialist
- Patricia Hilton  
Special Projects Manager
- And, of course, Sparky!





2009

November 25, 2009:



**Retired and Senior Volunteer Program**

8467 E. Broadway Blvd. • Tucson, AZ 85710-4009  
(520) 546-2002 • Fax (520) 790-7577



November 25, 2009

Tracy Koslowski  
Public Education/Information Manager  
Drexel Heights Fire District  
5030 S. Camino Verde  
Tucson, AZ 85735

Dear Tracy:

Thought you might like to have the enclosed article (taken from your info) that was placed on the front page of the Pima Council on Aging's December newsletter.

We are very excited about this new partnership with the Drexel Heights Fire District and very proud of our RSVP volunteers that we wanted to share this with the community. I also submitted your article to the RSVP state office, The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) which was then submitted to our national office. As you can see it's been very exciting, not only to us to many others as well.

Tracy, we look forward to a flourishing partnership between Drexel Heights Fire District and RSVP. Thank you for your interest in our program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cecilia Salaz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Cecilia Salaz  
RSVP Program Director

Encl: NTL Dec Newsletter

*Happy Holidays!*

Fall 2009:



## Star Valley Newsletter

P.O. Box 17539 - Tucson, AZ 85731

Fall 2009

### Parking



Parking continues to be an ongoing concern in the Star Valley Master Association.

Although Parking is allowed on the streets you must keep all four tires on the asphalt. It is also important to remember that you must park facing the appropriate direction. If you must park on the street, please be courteous to your neighbors and park in front of your home and do not block mail or trash service.

Parking on the curb strip is strictly prohibited. Parking in the curb strip area is unsightly and dangerous to drivers and pedestrians for visibility reasons. Children are often playing in the area and cars block a drivers ability to see them.

### Fire Station Update



The Drexel Height's Fire Station is under construction and is coming along very nicely! The building was originally set to be completed in the Summer of 2010 but is ahead of schedule and should be completed in the Spring of 2010. We are all looking forward to the completion of the fire station for the safety of all the residents in the Star Valley Master Association.



### Landscaping



Platinum Management is working very closely with your landscaping company Arizona Greentop to keep the community looking sharp in the Star Valley Master Association. The summers are so difficult with rapid weed growth conditions, as you may have even noticed in your front yard. The Association had pre-emergent herbicide applied to all common areas just last month and that will certainly help to reduce the number of weeds that can grow in the community. If at any point you notice excessive weed growth or trash in the Common Areas, please feel free to contact Michael Sgro or Kathleen Lowery at Platinum Management at (520) 623-2324. We welcome your input and observations.

### Important Numbers



Sheriff's Department	(520) 741-4615
Tucson Water	(520) 791-3242
Trico Electric	(520) 744-2944
Southwest Gas	(520) 889-1888
Platinum Management	(520) 623-2324
Platinum Emergency	(520) 205-2285



2009

November 30, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:

# TUCSON & REGION

**Arizona Daily Star**  
 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2009 • PAGE A2  
 Editor: Hipolito R. Corella / 520-573-4101 / metro@azstarnet.com

## 1 dead as gunmen hit SW-side home

By Andrea Rivera  
 ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A teen was killed early Sunday morning when three men burst into a home southwest of Tucson in an apparent home invasion, a Pima County Sheriff's Department official said.

Angel Gonzales, 19, was fatally shot when the gunmen forced their way into the home, in the 4300 block of West Corona Road, just after 5 a.m. and demanded drugs, said Deputy Dawn Barkman, a Sheriff's Department spokeswoman. The gunmen wore disguises on their faces. The home is near West Valencia Road and South Camino de Oeste.

Gonzales was taken to a hospital, where he died. No one else in the home was wounded, Barkman said.

The three men fled in an unknown direction. More details about the shooting were not immediately available Sunday night, Barkman said. No suspects had been identified Sunday, she said.

Anyone with information is asked to call 911 or 88-CRIME, an anonymous tip line.

December 2009, *Desert Times*:

Desert Times

DECEMBER 2009

## Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

### DHFD Senior Citizen Fire Academy

**D**REXEL Heights Fire District will be offering a program for residents 55 and older in our community: The Senior Citizen Fire Academy includes specialized safety training plus a closer look at the local fire department and the services it provides. Program participants will receive not only important information they will also receive free safety resources for their home.

Each academy session consists of a series of five classes. The first time the academy gathers participants will meet fire officials, learn about the history of the organization and receive a tour of one of the fire stations. Another class covers fire safety topics such as smoke detectors, kitchen safety, heating your home, and fire extinguishers. Participants will get to use a real home fire extinguisher. Another class is on fall prevention and will be taught by a member of the Pima Council On Aging. This fall proofing class will educate participants on how to improve their balance systems and how to prevent falls at home. An additional class will cover basic first aid skills and the program will conclude with a graduation ceremony making participants official ambassadors for the organization.

The sessions are broken up into five, 2 ½ hour classes. The classes are conducted once a week for a total of five weeks. All of the classes will be located in the training facility next to DHFD Fire Station #401, at 5030 S. Camino Verde (Ajo and Camino Verde). There is no fee for the Senior Citizen Fire Academy but a completed registration form is required to hold a participants spot in the academy. Registration forms can be picked up at Drexel Heights Fire District's Administration Center (5030 S. Camino Verde) or a form can be printed out from the fire department's website at [www.drexelfire.net](http://www.drexelfire.net).

See **ACADEMY**, page 16

Desert Times

DECEMBER 2009

## DHFD Senior Citizen Fire Academy

**ACADEMY**, from page 8

Statistically, senior citizens 55 and older are at risk for home fires and falls. The Senior Citizen Fire Academy will provide education and free resources related to home fire safety and fall prevention to combat these issues.

The District is very excited to offer such an engaging program for the senior residents of the community. For program questions call Drexel Heights Fire District at (520) 883-4341. Upcoming academy dates are as follows:

**Academy Session 2010-01**  
 Tuesday, January 12, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
 Tuesday, January 19, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
 Tuesday, January 26, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
 Tuesday, February 2, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

**Academy Session 2010-02**  
 Tuesday, February 9, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
 Monday, March 1, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
 Monday, March 8, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
 Monday, March 15, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
 Monday, March 22, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
 Monday, March 29, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

**GOVERNING BOARD**  
**INFORMATION:** Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the training classroom next to Station #1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde.

The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired.

Your Fire District Board is Chairperson James Bertrand, Clerk Cheryl Cecil, Member R.M. Bishman, Member Laura Dailey and Member Charles Mendonca.



December 1, 2009:

A PUBLICATION OF PIMA COUNCIL ON AGING, A NON PROFIT CORPORATION SERVING THE NEEDS OF OLDER ADULTS SINCE 1967

# NEVER TOO LATE

AREA AGENCY ON AGING, REGION II

December 2009

World AIDS Day - December 1

PCOA IS LOCATED AT 8467 E. BROADWAY BLVD. • HELPLINE: 790-7262 • BUSINESS: 790-0504 • HELP@PCOA.ORG • WWW.PCOA.ORG

## Drexel Heights Fire District and Retired & Senior Volunteer Program Partnership

What do local firefighters and experienced volunteers have in common?

Last summer, the Drexel Heights Fire District and RSVP in Pima County, the only Senior Corps program in Arizona that has continued under the same host, Pima Council on Aging, since 1973, joined forces to develop the Drexel Heights public education programs.

The problem was a need to re-tool a fire safety training resource trailer and classes for local older residents to be able to regularly access and use the training trailer.


It took the volunteer leadership of local RSVP volunteers Gerry and Garree Innis and Lester and Norene Craig to begin the re-building process. They quickly got involved with the new project and the two couples tirelessly re-built the Drexel Heights' fire safety training trailer along with organizing classes using this hands-on training resource.

### Volunteer Leaders of the Senior Citizen Fire Academy

The two couples have also become local leaders in the District's Senior Citizen Fire Academy by making presentations about the program to community groups and recruiting older adults as participants.

Both couples will begin teaching portions of the Fire Academy curriculum, freeing up the time of a District firefighter.

Thanks to the new partnership of RSVP in Pima County and the Drexel Heights Fire District, many local residents say they are now safer from fire hazards.


December 13, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Sunday, December 13, 2009 / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

## Suspected arson fire guts vacant south-side home

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A suspected arson fire destroyed a vacant home and damaged another house on the south side early Saturday morning, authorities said.

The fire was reported at about 1 a.m. after a neighbor noticed flames coming from an unoccupied home in the 6700 block of South Plaza Del Ganzo, said Tracy Koslowski, a Drexel Heights Fire District spokeswoman.

The blaze began to spread to a neighboring house, but firefighters were able to extinguish it before it destroyed the home, Koslowski said. Damage there was estimated at \$20,000.

The vacant house was destroyed.



2010

February 18, 2010, [http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/injured-when-vehicle-crashes-into-home-on-tucson-s-southwest/article\\_cb9ee9aa-1cb3-11df-b368-001cc4c03286.html](http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/injured-when-vehicle-crashes-into-home-on-tucson-s-southwest/article_cb9ee9aa-1cb3-11df-b368-001cc4c03286.html)

# 2 injured when vehicle crashes into home on Tucson's southwest side

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0

 Share

Print

Email



Respond: [Write a letter to the editor](#) | [Write a guest opinion](#)

February 18, 2010 10:32 am • Brian J. Pedersen Arizona Daily Star

Two people suffered minor injuries Thursday morning when the vehicle they were riding in crashed into a home in a southwest side neighborhood.

The crash occurred around 10:20 a.m. in the 4200 block of West Jeffery Road, near West Valencia Road and South Camino de Oeste, said Tracy Koslowski, a Drexel Heights Fire District spokeswoman.

The vehicle hit a gas line before crashing into a house emergency officials were able to secure the line before any leaks occurred, Koslowski said.

Koslowski said it was not immediately known what caused the vehicle to run into the house, which did not appear to have been significantly damaged.

FOOTHILLS • THREE POINTS • ROBLES JUNCTION • SOUTHWESTERN TUCSON FREE



Photo courtesy of Drexel Heights Fire Department

## Vehicle crash into power pole leaves area residents without power

**TUCSON** — Shortly before 9:30 p.m., on Dec. 14, Drexel Heights Fire District Firefighters responded to Camino De La Tierra and Avenida Bonita for a vehicle that crashed into a power pole.

Upon arrival they found a sedan car with heavy damage off the road and still smashed into a power pole. The driver, who was the only occupant, was still inside the vehicle. The power pole was snapped in two and the dangling lines just above the vehicle were arching in a tree.

Firefighters stopped the driver when he attempted to exit his vehicle. Pima County

Sheriff Department assisted by evacuating homes in the area.

Tucson Electric Power arrived on scene and de-energized the power lines. Firefighters assisted the driver out of the vehicle and transported him to University Medical Center with non-life threatening injuries.

TEP said 5,000 homes were without power for about half an hour last night because of the incident. DHFD's Communications Center was also affected and using generator power for about half an hour.

## Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

### CPR Training

**C**PR stands for cardiopulmonary resuscitation, which is commonly performed when someone goes into cardiopulmonary arrest. CPR does not have to be performed by a medical professional. Anyone can learn CPR so that they can use it in a situation where a medical professional has not yet arrived on the scene.

Cardiopulmonary arrest basically means that both your heart and your lungs are not working, preventing you from breathing on your own. Things like a stroke, heart attack, near drowning, or choking can all lead to cardiopulmonary arrest. If someone goes without oxygen for six minutes, brain cells begin to die quickly. CPR can help save lives.

CPR is a life saving, first aid method that is used to keep air flowing in and out of someone's lung and to keep blood flowing through the body. CPR is usually performed while professional medical

help is on the way. Anyone can learn how to do CPR by taking CPR courses.

### CPR Statistics Prove Lives Can Be Saved

Studies have been done in various communities and it has been learned that early CPR has been beneficial for victims in an emergency situation. It has been discovered that rapid defibrillation and early CPR, when combined with early advanced medical help can end in good long-term survival rates. CPR statistics generally show that early CPR can be an important factor in saving someone's life. It has been shown that CPR can prolong life while advanced care is on its way.

Sometimes it has been said that CPR actually doubles the victim's chance of survival from cardiac arrest. And when considering that 75% of those cardiac arrests occur in people's homes, knowing CPR is really essential.

It has also been noted that if CPR is

administered within four minutes of the victim's collapse and if defibrillation is done within 10 minutes, the victim now has a 40% chance of survival.

By itself, CPR cannot save most cardiac arrest victims. Combined with advanced medical care, soon after CPR is started, survival rates improve. CPR is most commonly performed after someone has suffered cardiac arrest. Knowing these statistics, looking into a CPR group training course is your next step.

### CPR Classes

Drexel Heights Fire District offers monthly CPR classes as well as First Aid training. They are American Heart Association classes. Typically they will be held on the first Saturday of each month. The length of the class is about four hours.

They are held in our Training Classroom at 5030 S. Camino Verde. To register for these classes call our Administration offices at 883-4341.

### GOVERNING BOARD

**INFORMATION:** Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the training classroom next to Station #1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend.

All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson James Bertrand, Clerk Cheryl Cecil, Member R.M. Bishman, Member Laura Dailey and Member Charles Mendonca.

## Desert Crones

The Desert Crones feature programs and meetings for women over 50. All meetings are free. The meeting place is Fellowship Square, Villa III, 210 Maguire Ave. Programs include guest speakers, writing workshops, and drumming circles. Hours are 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. every Thursday.

Jan. 7, Alice Nealan of Bayada Nurses will speak on when you might need a nurse in your home.

Jan. 14, Writing Workshop with Dixie Gilbert. First session of the new year. Bring paper and writing implement.

Jan. 21, Arts & Crafts with Trilby Browning. Personalizing your journal for the new year. Bring photo of yourself, pretty cloth, special charms and ribbons...etc.

Jan. 28, Drumming Circle with Dixie Gilbert. At last after all the holidays cancelled drumming for two months.



Undated 2010:



JEFFREY SCOTT / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

## HEAD-ON COLLISION ON MISSION ROAD

One man was airlifted with serious injuries in a head-on vehicle crash that occurred Saturday afternoon southwest of Tucson. At about 3:30 p.m., a Chevy Tahoe and Cadillac collided head-on in the 8300 block of South Mission Road on the San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham Reservation, said Drexel Heights Fire Department Battalion Chief Lee Rau. A passenger in the back seat of the Cadillac was airlifted to University Medical Center and was expected to survive, Rau said. Four other people were transported by ground ambulance to hospitals. The driver of the Tahoe suffered a broken leg and the driver of the Cadillac had a broken wrist and arm, he said. Both had to be extricated from the vehicles, Rau said. The section of South Mission Road where the accident occurred was closed both ways for at least one hour while police and firefighters treated patients and cleaned up debris.

# Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by David R. Stone, Fire Marshal

## Prevent Oven Fires

**N**O matter how many precautions we take, the day comes when a meal boils over onto the bottom of the oven. In that instant, we feel powerless. We can't stop and wipe up the spill due to the burning risk in a hot oven. We can only stand by and wait as the oven cools down, and the spill burns on. Then we assess the damage and start to clean. However, in most instances, we make a determination of the spill and leave it for another day, as we continue to use the oven; and have more spills. At some point we finally make the decision to clean the oven.

Due to the technologies of today, oven cleaning is no longer the arduous task it once was; for our grandmothers, it was a day long chore and they needed a lot of elbow grease.

### KNOW YOUR OVEN TYPE:

Before you can clean your oven,

find out what type you have to prevent damage. Oven manufacturers often equip ovens with a continuous clean mode. Some ovens are called self-cleaning, which is, of course, not completely true. But, they certainly make the job easier. Determine if your oven is a self-cleaning model, textured model or regular non self-cleaning model oven. Always follow manufacturers instructions for maintaining your oven.

To save clean-up time when you know you are cooking something that could overflow, you could cover the bottom of the oven with aluminum foil. Note: make sure the foil does not touch the electric element and/or block or cover any vents. Another method is to line a cookie sheet with foil and put it underneath the rack you are cooking on.

### SELF-CLEANING OVEN:

Self-cleaning ovens assist you by making spills easier to clean. Depending

on the make and model of the oven, you take out the wire racks, set the timer to clean mode and in 2-6 hours your oven is done with it's self-cleaning. Some ovens, during the cleaning mode, will produce smoke and/or fumes, so be sure to open windows and ventilate the kitchen.

After the oven has cooled from the self-cleaning process, you are now ready to wipe the oven interior clean. The self-cleaning oven turns spills into a gray, ash residue. All you need is a lightly dampened sponge and wipe. Don't use abrasives or oven cleaners on the interior of the oven.

In addition to cleaning the interior, be sure to clean the inside of the door. Scrub the seal around the door with a gentle cleanser. Rinse the gasket with a damp sponge.

### TEXTURED OR CONTINUOUS CLEANING OVEN:

Continuous clean or textured ovens are just that. They have a special surface that has a rough porcelain layer that is supposed to burn off food gradually as you continue to use your oven. They stay clean with a little dishwashing soap and water. The ovens maintain the stains so they do not harden and become difficult to clean. Do not use

abrasive cleaners, scouring pads, or oven cleaners.

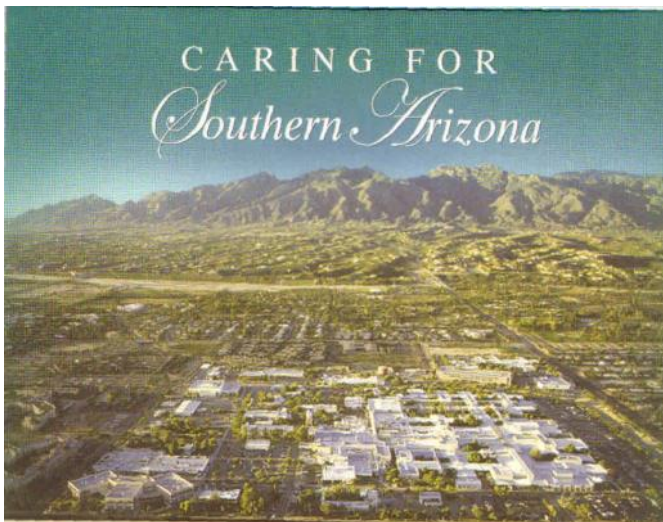
### REGULAR NON SELF-CLEANING OVEN:

Each time the oven is cooled off, wipe any spills with a hot, wet cloth. If you do this each time, food will not build up or burn onto the oven surfaces. For stubborn stains and build-up, you will need an oven cleaner and plastic scrubbing pad or brush. Make sure you use good ventilation when using an oven cleaner. ALWAYS REVIEW THE MANUFACTURES MAINTENANCE MANUAL BEFORE CLEANING YOUR OVEN.

### GOVERNING BOARD

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Your Fire District Board is Chairperson James Bertrand, Clerk Cheryl Cecil, Member R.M. Bishman, Member Laura Dailey and Member Charles Mendonca.



Dear Chief Chappell,

I can't thank you and your team enough for the continued partnership with TMC. In today's tough economic environment, your commitment of DHF staff and resources is tremendous! With your help we'll be able to reach 192 potentially at risk families needing smoke detectors.

My thanks,

*Hope Thomas*



March 2010, *Desert Times*:

Page 5

Desert Times

MARCH 2010

# Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by David R. Stone, Fire Marshal

## Fire Station Dedication Ceremony

ON Tuesday, March 16, Drexel Heights Fire District will be dedicating Station 405 located at 7200 S. Wade Road, in the Star Valley Community.

The station will be the fifth for Drexel Heights Fire District, which serves the unincorporated area of Tucson's southwest side. The district was established in 1954 by community residents and was originally a volunteer force. Today the district serves an area of 90 square miles with a population of approximately 40,000. Costs associated with the station construction came from a voter-supported bond initiative approved in September of 2002.

Station 405 is located in the heart of the Star Valley Community. A family-friendly master planned community, Star Valley has over 1,000 homes. The community has been excited about the addition of the fire station to the

neighborhood. Many residents attended the District's ground breaking ceremony in April of 2009 and have been eager to see the results of the project.

The dedication ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. on March 16. The Drexel Heights Fire District Governing Board along with Fire Chief Douglas Chappell will dedicate the new station to the community.

A ribbon cutting, station blessing and revealing of the dedication plaque will all be part of the ceremony. Station 405's dedication event is open to the public and will conclude with a tour of the facility. Community members will be able to meet the firefighters and emergency personnel that serve them.

### GOVERNING BOARD

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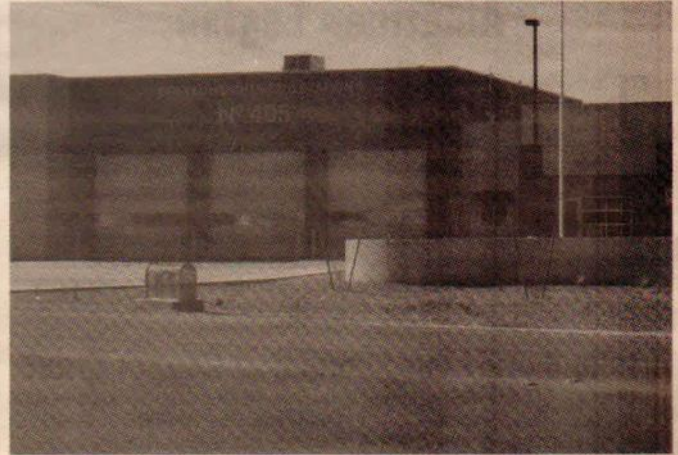


Photo courtesy of Drexel Heights Fire District

On Tuesday, March 16, Drexel Heights Fire District will be dedicating Station 405 located at 7200 S. Wade Road, in the Star Valley Community.

#1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the

hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson James Bertrand, Clerk Cheryl Cecil, Member R.M. Bishman, Member Laura Dailey and Member Charles Mendonca.

March 16, 2010:



Drexel Heights Fire District  
Administration Center  
5030 S. Camino Verde  
(520) 883-4341  
[www.drexelfire.net](http://www.drexelfire.net)

## Drexel Heights Fire District



## Fire Station 405

2010 Dedication Ceremony  
March 16, 2010 at 10:00 am

March 16, 2010

### Drexel Heights Fire District Station 405 Dedication Ceremony

1. Pledge of Allegiance— Second Graders from Desert Mosaic Charter
2. Recognition of Local Dignitaries
3. Recognition of Station Design & Construction Professionals
4. Station and District Overview
5. Blessing— Pastor Kneeland, Abiding Savior Free Lutheran
6. Ribbon Cutting
7. Dedication Plaques
8. Open House

#### Drexel Heights Fire District Governing Board:

James Bertrand, Chair  
Cheryl Cecil, Clerk  
Robert Bishman  
Laura Dailey  
Charles Mondoca

#### Drexel Heights Fire District Chief Officers:

Douglas Chappell, Fire Chief  
Gary Bynum, Division Chief Technical Services

#### Drexel Heights Fire District Residents-

Thank you to all our District residents for your continued support of our mission: *To minimize the threat to life and property due to fire, medical or other emergencies through education, prevention, preparedness, prompt response, and effective customer service.*

### BUILDING FACTS

- Station 405 is located in the heart of the Star Valley Community which has over 1,000 homes.
- The station is almost 10,000 square feet under roof which includes the 3 drive through bay.
- Living quarters consist of a reception area, office, ten bedrooms, kitchen, day room and exercise area.
- Station 405 meets OSHA requirements which include a separate gear room and storage decontamination room.

### FIRE DISTRICT FACTS

- Established in May 1954.
- Providing service to more than 40,000 residents in over a 90 square mile area.
- Services are funded by a secondary assessed property tax.
- All personnel are medically trained and firefighter certified. All engines and ambulances are staffed with a paramedic.
- We have automatic aid agreements with neighboring fire departments including Pascua Pueblo, Tohono O'odham and Three Points.
- Drexel Heights maintains it's own communications center and dispatches for five other emergency response agencies.



Spring 2010:



ARIZONA FIRE  
DISTRICT  
ASSOCIATION

Volume 17, Issue 1  
Spring 2010

# AFDANews

## Fire Station Dedication Ceremony

On Tuesday, March 16, 2010, Drexel Heights Fire District will be dedicating Station 405 located at 7200 S. Wade Road located in the Star Valley Community. This will be Drexel's fifth fire station.

Station 405 is located in the heart of the Star Valley Community. A family-friendly master planned community, Star Valley has over 1,000 homes. The community has been excited with the addition of the fire station to the neighborhood. Many residents attended the District's ground breaking ceremony in April of 2009 and have been eager to see the results of the project.

The dedication ceremony will begin at 10:00 am on March 16<sup>th</sup>. The Drexel Heights Fire District Governing Board, along with Fire Chief Douglas Chappell, will dedicate the new station to the community. A ribbon cutting, station blessing and revealing of the dedication plaque will all be part of the ceremony. Station 405's dedication event is open to the public and will conclude with a tour of the 10,000 square foot facility.

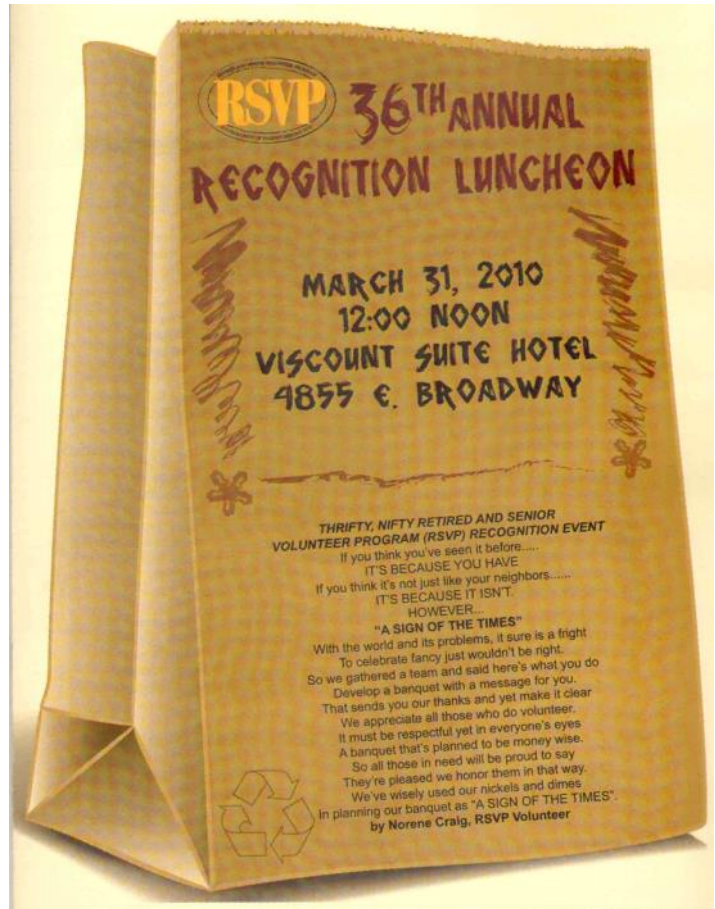
Community members will be able to meet the firefighters and emergency personnel that serve them.



2010

March 31, 2010:

Booklet not included here.



April 2010, *Desert Times*:

Page 6

Desert Times

APRIL 2010

## Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

### Community Safety Day

**D**REXEL Heights Fire District and United Pima Firefighters 3504 are sponsoring the seventh annual Community Safety Day on Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Manzanita/Safeway shopping center on the northwest corner of Cardinal and Valencia. This vehicle display and safety fair is free to everyone.

The goal of Community Safety Day is to provide free safety information and to inform the community about injury prevention. There will be information and resource booths on: fire safety, car seat safety, poison prevention, bike safety, drowning prevention, home safety, gun safety and much more. Some of the free safety resources that will be given out at the fair includes bike helmets, booster seats and gun locks. Free fingerprinting will also be provided at the event.

In addition to the information booths there will be vehicle displays such as: fire engines, ladder trucks, rescue apparatus, safety trailers, ambulances and canine units. The event will also include Spark the fire dog, shriners clowns and performances by the Singing Fireman Billy Scott.

In conjunction with the safety fair the United Pima Firefighters 3504 will also be hosting a Salsa Standoff! Much like a chili cook off, this salsa competition will bring a variety of entries for everyone to try. If you're a salsa lover come and taste all of the delicious fire house entries. There will also be hot dogs, nachos and ice treats for the kids. All proceeds go to the Safe Kids Tucson Coalition for the purchase of injury prevention products.

Drexel Heights Fire District, United Pima Firefighters 3504 and Safe Kids Tucson would like to invite you to attend this year's event. For more information you can

A group of youth leading the Pledge of Allegiance at the Drexel Heights Fire District station. The photo shows several children standing in front of a fire station, with one child holding a flag.

Photo courtesy of Drexel Heights Fire District

**The Drexel Heights Fire District dedicated its new station located at 7200 S. Wade, on March 16. Pictured above, youth lead the Pledge of Allegiance.**

contact the Drexel Heights Fire District administration offices at 883-4341 or check out the event flyer on the web at [www.drexelfire.net](http://www.drexelfire.net)

Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the training classroom next to Station #1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson James Bertrand, Clerk Cheryl Cecil, Member R.M. Bishman, Member Laura Dailey and Member Charles Mendonca.



April 20, 2010, KVOA.com:



[Back to KVOA.com](#)

## 800 1st graders get life saving lessons

Posted - 4/20/2010 at 7:52PM

Tucson - Last year in Pima County there were 7-child drownings and 16-near-drownings. To prevent these tragedies from happening this year, News 4 is getting the word out about water safety.

Today 800 first graders descended on the Edith Ball Pool at Reid Park where they learned some live saving lessons.

The first graders came from schools from all over the county and are learning the A.B.C.'s of water safety.

"Now today they're going to get a reward event to reinforce those messages," says Tracy Koslowski from Drexel Heights Fire Department.

'A' is for adults, "that means an adult should watch you swimming," says 1st grader Cariza Dominquez from Los Ninos Elementary.

'B' is for barrier. The kids are reminded to never cross or climb a fence to go swimming.

And 'C' is for classes.

Koslowski tells us, "We're really encouraging them to take swimming lessons. Get comfortable in the water and learn some of those survival skills."

The students have 8 stations to go through each with an important lesson. Such as water rescue.

"If somebody is in trouble in the water, it's never safe for them to jump in the water and try to rescue them," says Koslowski. "It's always better to reach something out to them, throw something to them that floats so that the person can get to safety."

And it is not just swimming pools, "any kind of body of water. And here the kids are learning about open water safety."

Parents and teachers agree this is the perfect age for kids, "who really don't want to have to be wearing life vests and think they know how to swim," says Arcenia Hernandez, Cariza's mother. "They try and start being independent, so they just want to be swimming on their own all the time."

Barbara Hawley is a 1st grade teacher at Banks Elementary. "They're not quite sure if they can swim. They all think they can do anything. And this is a good time, I think, in their life to learn these safety rules."

The good news is, so far this season, there has not been any water related incidents.

2010

April 21, 2010, *Arizona Daily Star*:



JAMES GREGG / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

### KIDS GET MESSAGE ON WATER SAFETY

Shyanne Hightower practices tossing a milk jug as a lifesaving device during the "Water Safety is For You!" training at the Edith Ball Pool at Reid Park. Safe Kids Tucson put on Tuesday's event for about 800 first-graders. The children learned the dangers of open water, got to see firetrucks close-up and recited a water-safety pledge. The session came in advance of the active summer pool season, during which many incidents involving kids occur. In Tucson last year, there were 14 near-drownings and six actual drownings.



2010

April 21, 2010, Fox11AZ:



## Water safety put to use

Fox 11

Posted on April 21, 2010 at 6:50 PM

With summer right around the corner many area kids will be looking to hop in the pool to cool off, that's why a local organization invited nearly 800 kids to learn about water safety.

Tuesday Safe Kids Tucson put on their third Water Safety is for you event...

Around 800 first-graders have been learning about water safety in the classrooms the past month. Tuesday it was time to put that knowledge to use.

A photograph of a handwritten note on lined paper. The text is written in cursive and reads: "Dear Drexel Heights Firefighters, Thank you so much our Second Grade Mini-Muster. The students and I had a wonderful time. We learned so much too! The dog tags were a huge hit! Sincerely, Jennifer Culbertson".

Dear Drexel Heights Firefighters,  
Thank you so much  
our Second Grade Mini-Muster.  
The students and I had  
a wonderful time. We learned  
so much too! The dog tags  
were a huge hit!  
Sincerely,  
Jennifer Culbertson

2010

April 24, 2010, courtesy, <http://www.drexelfire.net/default.htm> 2010 Safety Fair





2010

April 24, 2010, courtesy, <http://www.drexelfire.net/default.htm> 2010 Safety Fair





May 2010, *Desert Times*:

The Drexel Heights Fire District, United Pima Firefighters and Safe Kids Tucson held their 7th annual safety fair on Saturday, April 24, at the Safeway Plaza on Valencia and Cardinal from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. In conjunction with the safety fair, United Pima Firefighters hosted a Salsa Standoff. By selling samples of salsa entries from fire departments, the United Pima Firefighters raised \$1,000 for Safe Kids Tucson. Above, Bill Scott "The Singing Fireman" performs a number with help from local youth.

## Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

### Babysitting Program

**T**IMES have changed for older kids who want to start babysitting. Years ago, older kids began their babysitting careers by simply letting parents in the neighborhood know that they were available. The idea of getting training, certificates, or any other kind of preparation was unheard of. How times have changed!

These days, there's far more publicity about safety concerns, with everything from the need to put babies to sleep on their backs to prevent sudden infant death syndrome to the importance of using child car seats properly. That means that becoming a successful babysitter involves some preparation so that your son or daughter can assure parents that they can deal with the behavioral and safety aspects of the job, as well as any professional issues that might arise.

Drexel Heights Fire District now offers a Babysitting Program to participants ages

12-16 years. The program includes classes such as fire safety, kitchen safety, car seat safety, child care, and responsibilities and ethics of babysitting. During the fire safety class participants will get to use a real fire extinguisher. In the child care class they will learn how to diaper, feed and hold a baby. Participants will also learn how to develop a babysitting resume which they can later use when looking for a babysitting job. The Drexel Heights Babysitting Program also includes American Heart Association training in the areas of CPR and First Aid.

The program takes two days to cover all the above mentioned classes. At the conclusion of the program, participants walk away with a certificate listing all of the training and classes they completed. They also receive some safety items to take with them as they begin their babysitting journey.

Drexel Heights Fire District is offering

the Babysitting Program during the summer. Class dates include June 14 & 16 and July 12 and 14. The two-day sessions run from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. The cost for Babysitting Program is \$10 for District residents and \$20 for non-District residents. To register visit our Drexel Heights Fire District Administration offices at 5030 S. Camino Verde. For more information about the classes call (520) 883-4341 or check out the website at [www.drexelfire.net](http://www.drexelfire.net)

#### GOVERNING BOARD

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2010

May 6, & May 9, 2010, KGUN9:

5246 W. Flying Circle  
Tucson  
(Tucson Estates)

Dear Members of the Ambulance  
Team,  
On Thursday, May 6, 2010 I  
had need of an ambulance.  
I want to thank you  
for your quick response,  
professional care and  
confidence you gave me  
on the way to the hospital.  
Keep up the great work!  
Sincerely,  
Loene Jennings

**KGUN9**  
ON YOUR SIDE  
Tucson | www.kgun9.com

## Wind fuels Tucson Estates mobile home fire

Posted: May 09, 2010 6:12 PM MST

Updated: May 09, 2010 6:12 PM MST

Reporter: [Sheryl Kornman](#)

TUCSON (KGUN9-TV) - A fire at about 4 p.m. Sunday at Tucson Estates destroyed a woman's mobile home in the 5800 block of Circle H St., near Kinney and Bopp roads.

Drexel Heights Fire Department spokesman Tracy Koslowski said "high winds" caused the fire to spread from one room throughout the entire home and destroy all its contents.

The home is a total loss, Koslowski said. No one was hurt.

The home's sole resident was displaced and is getting help from the Red Cross, she said.

The cause of the fire is under investigation. A candle was lit in the bathroom and there were some electrical problems, Koslowski said.

Watch KGUN9 at 10 p.m. Sunday for more on the fire.

2010

May 27, 2010, [http://azstarnet.com/news/local/fire-engulfs-trailer-home-on-southwest-side/article\\_26f4085a-6a00-11df-a20d-001cc4c03286.html](http://azstarnet.com/news/local/fire-engulfs-trailer-home-on-southwest-side/article_26f4085a-6a00-11df-a20d-001cc4c03286.html)

## Fire engulfs trailer home on southwest side

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Respond: [Write a letter to the editor](#) | [Write a guest opinion](#)

May 27, 2010 7:19 pm • Arizona Daily Star

0

The Drexel Heights Fire District is fighting a fire that has engulfed a double-wide trailer home on the south side, authorities said.

The fire was reported this evening in the 3200 block of West Century Drive, near West Valencia Road and South Cardinal Avenue, said Tracy Koslowski, a Drexel Heights Fire District spokeswoman.

The home's gas meter also was on fire, Koslowski said.

No injuries have been reported.

May 27, 2010, KVOA.com

### House fire on southwest side ruled suspicious

Posted - 5/27/2010 at 9:53PM



TUCSON - The house fire at the 3200 block of West Century Drive has been contained.

Drexel Heights firefighters, with the assistance of Pascua Yaqui Fire, Tohono Oodham Fire, and Northwest Fire will continue extinguishing hot spots overnight.

The structure was actually a double-wide mobile home, enclosed within an exterior structure with walls and a roof, according to Drexel Heights Fire official Tracy Koslowski. The nature of this structure has made it very difficult for crews to contain, she said.

The cause of the fire is being ruled as suspicious, as neighbors in the area reporting seeing kids "messing around the exterior of the home," Koslowski said.

SHARE THIS

[SHARE](#) [Share](#) [0](#) [tweet](#)

The fire had spread to the property's gas line, and technicians with Southwest Gas assisted in temporarily shutting down the gas line.

The property is currently vacant, and the owner lives in California.

Tune in to News 4 Tucson at 10 pm for the latest details on this developing story.

Photo courtesy Roberta Goveval.



2010

May 27, 2010, KGUN9:

## Fire destroys home in West Tucson

[Recommend](#)

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

Posted: May 27, 2010 6:25 PM MST

Updated: May 27, 2010 11:15 PM MST

### Video Gallery



#### Fire destroys home in West Tucson

0:23



Photographer: Joel Waldman

Reporter: [Brian Pryor](#)

Photojournalist: [Alfonso Sahagun](#)

TUCSON (KGUN9-TV) - Firefighters with the Drexel Heights Fire Department battled a structure fire near Valencia & Mission Thursday evening.

KGUN9 News had a crew on the scene just as firefighters arrived just after 6 p.m. , Joel Waldman observed a trailer home fully involved with lots of black smoke in the area.

Tracy Koslowski with the Drexel Heights Fire Department says that the fire occurred in the 3200 block of West Century in a double-wide mobile home with add-ons attached.

Investigators do not have any information on the cause for the fire. Firefighters from several nearby fire departments provided assistance.

The Pima County Sheriff's Department is investigating the cause.



Photographer: Joel Waldman



Photographer: Joel Waldman



Photographer: Joel Waldman



Photographer: Joel Waldman



# VOLUNTEER VOICE

Published to enhance the relationships, awareness, goals and activities of volunteers and staff at the  
**DREXEL HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT**

Volume I, Number 1

May 2010



## MEET YOUR VOLUNTEERS

With the current budget crisis, it has become more and more important that we invoke some innovative thinking and planning in order to continue offering fire and safety education in the District. The newly established volunteer team is here to assist us in serving the community and expanding the diversity of programs offered.

**LES AND NORENE CRAIG**, are retired from the Department of Corrections. Les served in the U. S. Marine Corp. Norene's thrust has been in the area of secretarial and administrative tasks. The Craig's primary assignments will be the Senior Academy, EDITH trailer and special events.

**GARREE AND GERRY INNIS**: You may not always recognize them at work. They are experienced, busy Shriner clowns who share their talents with the District. Before they began clowning around at DHFD, you could find them volunteering at the Pima County Sheriff's Department. Gerry is a certified car seat technician and Garree's thrust is home safety inspections plus the special event programs, fairs, etc.

**ANGIE FIMBRES**: The newest member of the team recently retired from White Elementary School where she was employed for many years. She works hand in hand with Garree in the home safety inspections and is a willing volunteer at other special events. You may recognize Angie as the gal who is the enthusiastic assistant with Billy Scott, The Singing Fireman who performs at many of our District activities.

*If you have an idea of areas where the volunteers may be of help to you, or if you see a need that they may be able to fill, please feel free to contact Tracy Koslowski with your suggestions. It's a new and developing source of help, and your comments are solicited.*

## SO WHO IS THIS EDITH?

*Should my wife/girl be jealous?*

EDITH has been around the District now for a couple of years. We've not heard a lot about her until recently when she took on a new look and suddenly she is taking an active part in children's fire safety education.....Ya gotta love this gal! No, guys – no jealousy here.



Meet EDITH – Exit Drills In The Home – a new and exciting learning tool for youngsters of preschool age through 2nd grade. EDITH is a small trailer that has been designed to give children practical knowledge about fire safety.

Groups of about 15 or so are shown into the living room where they are taught about the "big nose" in the corner that spends 24 hours a day sniffing for smoke. When there is smoke, they learn they must get low and crawl to safety. In the kitchen they learn not to touch the hot items that could burn them. Continuing on upstairs a volunteer waits to tell them about how to be observant of ways to exit should there be a fire. Concluding the tour, they exit onto EDITH'S balcony and down the ladder and to a designated meeting place. In the meantime the rest of the group will be touring the fire station and learning about the ambulance and fire engine.

This past school season 290 students have been EDITH'S guests. She's looking forward to the coming school year.

## JUNE ACTIVITIES

- 3 AFBEA Meeting – Pine Strawberry FD**
- 5 CPR & First Aid (public)**
- 14 Babysitting Program (part 1)**
- 15 Volunteer Meeting & Neighborhood Heroes Event**
- 16 Babysitting Program (part 2)**
- 21 Home Safety & Car Seat Inspections**
- 26 Apartment Pool Safety Presentation**
- 30 Summer Reading**



May 2010, *Volunteer Voice*:

## *This 'n That.....*

**HEY, WE DUN GOOD** in the United Pima Firefighters Local 3504, 4<sup>th</sup> annual bowling tournament May 16<sup>th</sup> at Golden Pins! While we must congratulate Corona De Tucson FD for overall performance, we made our presence known as well:

**High Series Trophies:** 1<sup>st</sup> Corona De Tucson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Finley Distribution and 3<sup>rd</sup> place DHFD Station 403-A

**Lowest Team score:** Pin Demolishers (Frank Mendez' team)

**Highest Game:** Corona De Tucson FD

**Lowest Game:** Peace, Love and Rock & Roll (Deyo Family)

**Best Dressed** The Doobies and Peace, Love and Rock & Roll (Deyo Family), 2<sup>nd</sup> place DHFD's own Carl Brown, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place DHFD's own Dan Martinez.

**WINNER OF THE 50/50 RAFFLE** was Marcella Ritter (Deyo's Grandmother)

There will be some happy, deserving people who will benefit from the \$\$\$\$\$\$ raised by this event. Thanks to all who participated!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Kristi Plimpton, Diane McKenzie and Loraine Shaw who have been given position upgrades from part-time telecommunicator to fulltime.

**NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK!** Welcome Carol Overpeck, Jaleen DeMeritt and Patrick Smith part-time telecommunicators AND as full-time telecommunicators: Andy Reidy and Penny Rapp.

**THE FIRST WATER INCIDENT** for Pima County was May 23<sup>rd</sup> inside the city limits. A three-year old girl was pulled from the backyard hot tub by her mother who saved her with CPR. DHFD will continue to promote the ABCs of water safety (adult supervision, barriers and classes, CPR and swimming). Help us to make known that **WATER WATCHER TAGS** will be available to District residents at each of our stations. Last year Pima County and DHFD saw record water incidents with 16 near drownings and 7 drownings in the county while the district had 3 near drownings and 1 fatality.

### **FEDERAL GRANT AWARD**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) awarded DHFD a regional grant for equipment for a county wide interoperable radio communication system that is part of the Pima County Wireless Integrated Network (PCWIN). The award amount is \$1,034,803 which funds split 80% federal and 20% agency. In 2004, voters in Pima County approved a general obligation bond project to design and build the PCWIN project Pima County Bonds will provide \$92M for the estimated \$11.5 M project. The grant funds will provide supplemental funding for interoperable communications equipment, a funding and strategic priority of the DHS.

The PCWIN project includes communications centers with 9-1-1- public safety answering points and dispatch operations for the City of Tucson and county public safety agencies include the County Emergency Operations Center. The regional radio system will provide countywide mobile radio coverage and portable in-building coverage in the populated areas. The grant includes funding to purchase mobile radios and control stations for participating fire agencies in the new regional interoperable radio system. Funding for the law enforcement participants have been requested via other grant programs.

DHFD was the lead agency in making this regional grant request for the PCWIN project. Agencies from as far away as Mt. Lemmon and Ajo/Gibson, Green Valley and Golder Ranch and two Native America nations will be involved.

**WOULDN'T YOU FEEL BETTER** knowing your young babysitter had been certified in Babysitting Classes offered by DHFD? The program targets 12-16 year olds and includes classes such as CPR, First Aid, Child Care, Home Safety, Fire Extinguisher use, Ethics and Responsibility, Car Seats and Resume Building.

The first session, June 14 and 16 is full. Administration is accepting applications for the second session, July 12 and 14.

We urge you to encourage your youngsters or one who may be a babysitter to attend these valuable classes.



June 6, 2010:



## Officials work to reduce Valley drowning cases

by Michael Ferraresi - Jun. 6, 2010 09:15 PM  
The Arizona Republic

Five children have died in drowning incidents this year in the Valley, raising alarms with firefighters and water-safety experts who say the numbers could signal the beginning of a summer filled with preventable tragedies.

The fatalities included four toddlers who were left unsupervised around backyard pools, according to reports from Maricopa County fire departments. Near-fatal cases left several children on life-support, their families faced with the possibility of long-term brain damage.

Parents rarely face criminal charges in drowning incidents. Valley agencies reported 17 child drowning deaths in 2009 though spokesmen for Phoenix police and the county prosecutor's office said it was unclear if any adults faced charges in those cases.

Proving neglect or endangerment is challenging. A Tucson mother and father, distracted by watching a movie and other household tasks, were sentenced in April to two years in prison in the bathtub death of their 1-year-old daughter after prosecutors highlighted the family's history of negligent behavior.

Tiffany Isaacson, water-prevention coordinator at Phoenix Children's Hospital, said she was frustrated by this year's rash of drowning calls but encouraged a continued push in public-education programs as a way to keep families accountable as more people opt to stay home around the pool this

summer.

"There's been a failure on some level when a child goes into the water," Isaacson said. "Often it's the person who was watching the child, and in some cases, the community that could have been educating that person."

In two separate incidents Wednesday, family members found toddlers floating unresponsive in backyard pools at opposite ends of Phoenix. Firefighters said one victim's father fell asleep on the couch at a home near Greenway Road and 42nd Avenue.

Last month, a 6-month-old boy was left in critical condition after his mother left him in the bathtub as she went to check her e-mail at their home near Bell Road and Seventh Street, police said.

However, it's unclear if those adults would face any criminal penalty, or simply have to live with painful memories.

"A typical drowning is not prosecutable," Isaacson said. "It happens too quickly and it's so silent. It often happens when a parent didn't know the child was near the pool."

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June 6, 2010:

Phoenix Fire Department inspectors respond to an average of 3 1/2 calls each day on prevention issues, such as broken pool fences or loose gate handles. Inspectors try to get to the calls within two hours to put up a temporary fence, but the city can take up to 30 days to notify homeowners, which can be difficult in cases where the homeowner lives out of state or the property is in foreclosure.

Phoenix Fire Capt. Jay Arthur, who oversees pool-safety educational programs for the department, said the down economy has kept homeowners from adequately equipping their homes with proper pool barriers.

"If you had multiple locks on the door, even if you fell asleep, the child wouldn't make it to the backyard," Arthur said. "It's a gate issue right now. You have to monitor that gate, keep it closed and locked."

Firefighters stand a good chance at resuscitating a child if family members provide initial CPR. A child's brain begins to die after only a few minutes without oxygen. Many children who survived drowning incidents won't live past their teens, according to some estimates.

As the Valley copes with child drowning deaths, agencies in Pima County have reported only one near-drowning this year after a record seven child drowning deaths last year.

Many of the Tucson-area drowning calls involved children who fell into pools or hot tubs with family members close by, said Tracy Koslowski, who leads drowning-prevention programs for the fire district in Tucson's Drexel Heights community.

---

"In those kinds of situations, the parents or families might say they thought with so many adults around that someone was watching the kids, but they're not watching the kids, they're socializing as well," Koslowski said.

"These happen to good parents in some situations, where they're making the right decisions but for some reason they change what they were doing that day."

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and

June 14, 2010, KVOA.com:



[Back to KVOA.com](#)

## BBQ sparks fires that destroys mobile home

Posted - 6/14/2010 at 2:07AM

TUCSON- Firefighters suspect a mobile home fire Sunday evening was sparked by a backyard barbeque.

It happened around 6:30 Sunday evening at the 7900 block of south Camino de Oeste in southwest Tucson.

The mobile home was destroyed. Damage is estimated at \$150,000.

The people inside managed to make it to safety, but it looks like three family pets were killed. Firefighters say it's possible the pets could have just run away from the fire.

**Original URL** - <http://www.kvoa.com/news/bbq-sparks-fires-that-destroys-mobile-home>

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Summer 2010:



Volume 17, Issue 2  
Summer 2010

# AFDANews

## This Newsletter is Dedicated to the Memory of Bob Weber

The Arizona Fire Service says Farewell to Bob Weber  
By Arizona Fire Chiefs Association

It's never easy to lose someone who is important in your life, even when the loss is not unexpected. When it does happen, you suddenly discover a void where none existed before. At approximately 1:45 a.m. on April 21, 2010, the Arizona fire service community suffered the loss of one of its best and most popular leaders, Robert J. (Bob) Weber. The void created by Bob's passing was a huge one, and probably will be there for a long time.

Bob had been diagnosed with cancer nearly two years earlier. Being aware of what inevitably lay before him, Bob and his wife, Joyce, began to plan what he liked to call his "party." His first move was a decision to utilize the National Incident Management System and to enlist Fire Chief Don Howard of the Summit Fire District as Incident Commander.

After Bob and Don (along with many others) had the plan finalized, the only remaining unknown was the date of the party. Bob made it clear that it was to be on a Saturday, because he didn't want to be the reason for anyone having to miss work. When he passed away early on the morning of April 21, 2010, the decision was made to immediately put the plan into effect for the following Saturday, mainly due to the fact that many of Bob's family members were in town from out of state.

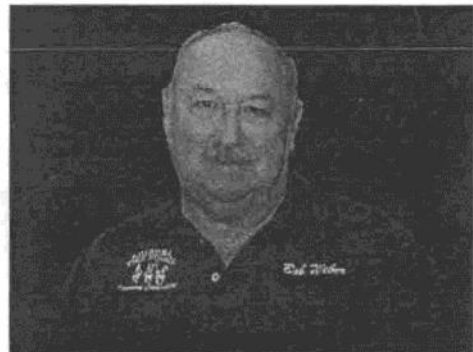
April 24<sup>th</sup> dawned sunny and warm after an unusually cool and damp spell throughout most of Arizona. A large crowd gathered at 10 o'clock at the Phoenix Memorial Park on West Beardsley Rd. for a fire apparatus procession down to the North Hills Church on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue for the Memorial Service. At the entrance to the church, ladder trucks from Show Low and Mesa crossed aerials and provided an arch from which hung a huge American flag.

Approximately 300 of Bob's family and friends met at the church and informally reminisced before the service began. As we made our way into the beautiful sanctuary, Bob's casket was brought in to the accompaniment of the pipes and drums of the Mesa Honor Guard, led by old friend Dewey Ray, as well as the Lake Havasu City Honor Guard. Chief Mel Epps delivered the invocation and Don Howard brought us a moving eulogy. Dan Matlick of United Fire presented a touching slide show that captured many great moments in Bob's life as a youngster growing up in Wisconsin, Bob and Joyce together with their family, and lots of highlights of his 54-year fire service career.

Many of Bob's family members and old friends spoke about their memories of Bob and his influence on their lives. The service concluded with Blue Penrod explaining the significance of the ringing of the fire bell, followed by Lea Browning doing the actual ringing of Bob's last alarm. From there we adjourned to a catered lunch with many of Bob's favorite Mexican dishes. It was a fitting tribute from Joyce, knowing how much Bob loved his spicy Mexican food.

They say that all firefighters are Irish in their hearts, and as the haunting strains of the bagpipes playing Amazing Grace faded away, the legacy of Bob Weber began. Each of us will remember Bob as a relative, a friend, a mentor, a coach, a co-worker, or as a man whose heart was surely shaped like a Maltese Cross. Bob devoted his life to helping his fellow man. He set a standard that will be hard to reach but worth the effort. He will neither be replaced nor forgotten.

We offer Joyce and her family our heartfelt condolences and a promise to continue to serve our communities with the same spirit that Bob displayed for his entire life. In Bob's honor, we can do no less.



### Inside this issue:

President Message	3
Legislative Session Recap	4
Election Law Compliance	8
Legislative Mandates	10
Verde Valley FF Pass on Raises	10
Housing Recovery Critical	14
Introducing APEHP	16
AFDA Board of Directors	18



## Summer 2010:

## Federal Grant Award to Drexel Heights Fire District

US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) awarded Drexel Heights Fire District a regional grant for equipment for a county wide interoperable radio communications system that is part of the Pima County Wireless Integrated Network (PCWIN) project. The award amount is \$1,034,803, with funds split 80% federal and 20% agency. In 2004, the voters of Pima County approved a general obligation bond project to design and build the PCWIN project. Pima County Bonds will provide \$92M for the estimated \$115M project. The grant funds will provide supplemental funding for interoperable communications equipment; a funding and strategic priority of the DHS.

The PCWIN project includes communications centers with 9-1-1 public safety answering points and dispatch operations for the City of Tucson and county public safety agencies including the County Emergency Operations Center. The regional radio system will provide countywide mobile radio coverage and portable in-building coverage in the populated areas. The grant includes funding to purchase mobile radios and control stations for participating fire agencies in the new regional interoperable radio system. Funding for law enforcement participants have been requested via other grant programs.

Drexel Heights Fire District was the lead agency in making this regional grant request for the PCWIN project. The fire agencies involved in the project includes: Ajo/Gibson Volunteer Fire Department, Arivaca Volunteer Fire Department, Avra Valley Fire District, Corona De Tucson Fire District, Drexel Heights Fire District, Elephant Head Volunteer Fire Department, Golder Ranch Fire District, Green Valley Fire District, Helmet Peak Fire District, Mt. Lemmon Fire District, Northwest Fire District, Picture Rocks Fire District, Rincon Valley Fire District, City of South Tucson Fire Department, Three Points Fire District, Tucson Airport Authority Fire Department, City of Tucson Fire Department and two Native American nations, the Tohono O'odham Nation and Pascua Yaqui Nation.

July 2010, *Desert Times*:

Page 19

Desert Times

JULY 2010

## Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

### DHFD VOLUNTEERS

**I**N July of 2009, Drexel Heights Fire District's public education team started a volunteer program. The volunteer program has allowed the department to continue to provide public education programs to the community even after the budget took a hit as a result of the poor economic conditions. The program began with five volunteers who had the heart to serve and a willingness to give their time. Meet your DHFD Public Education Volunteers...

Gerry and Garree Innis are district residents who recently retired from the Pima County Sheriff's Volunteer Program. Garree has been a volunteer through the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) for 7 years and has given over 8,000 hours of service. Her husband Gerry has also been volunteering through RSVP for the past 8 years and has given over 16,000 hours of service. Gerry is also a certified car seat technician for DHFD. The couple have an interest in clowning and have used their characterization skills to incorporate safety messages and teach fire and life safety.

Les and Norene Craig are both retired from the Department of Corrections. Les served in the United States Marine Corp and was a Navy Cross recipient. Norene was the editor for newspapers in Arizona and Iowa. The Craigs have been volunteering through RSVP for over 13 years and Les has given over 7,000 hours of service. They have both taken a real interest to DHFD's fire safety trailer.

Angie Fimbres, who is also a district resident, joined the volunteer team this year after retiring from her job at White Elementary. Angie worked at White for 19 years. She has experience with working with children who have special needs. Angie is also currently a Pima County Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteer and board member.

The public education programs that the volunteers help with include babysitting programs, bike rodeos, car seat inspections, characterization programs, the community



Photo courtesy of Drexel Heights Fire District  
Gerry and Garree Innis, Les and Norene Craig, and Angie Fimbres began the volunteer program.

safety fair, drowning prevention efforts, the fire safety trailer, home safety surveys, mini-musters and the senior citizen academies. Collectively the team has already given over 1,000 hours to these programs since July of last year. Without the volunteers many of these programs would suffer and not receive the attention they need.

**GOVERNING BOARD INFORMATION:** Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the training classroom next to Station #1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson James Bertrand, Clerk Cheryl Cecil, Member R.M. Bishman, Member Laura Dailey and Member Charles Mendonca.



July 9, 2010:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-08**

---

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE DREXEL HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT DECLARING THE MONTH OF AUGUST AS "DROWNING IMPACT AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, tragically, accidental drowning incidents take the lives of the equivalent of a classroom of children each year in Arizona; and

WHEREAS, loss of a child due to accidental drowning can happen to *any* family regardless of education, race or socio-economic background; and

WHEREAS, all families can take simple steps to educate and protect their children from accidental drowning; and


WHEREAS, water safety remains a priority for Arizona families, communities, and the Drexel Heights Fire District; and

WHEREAS, by declaring August as Drowning Impact Awareness Month the District hopes to raise public awareness of the number, and profound impact, of accidental child drowning incidents in Arizona; and

WHEREAS, keeping children healthy and safe around water is the goal of the Drexel Heights Fire District, and increased public education will raise awareness of effective means that each family can employ to prevent drowning.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** the Governing Board of the Drexel Heights Fire District hereby designates August 1st through 31st, 2010, as DROWNING IMPACT AWARENESS MONTH.

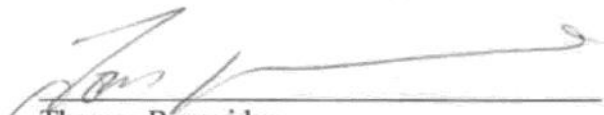
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the Drexel Heights Fire District, this 9th day of July, 2010.

  
James L. Bertrand  
Board Chair

ATTEST:

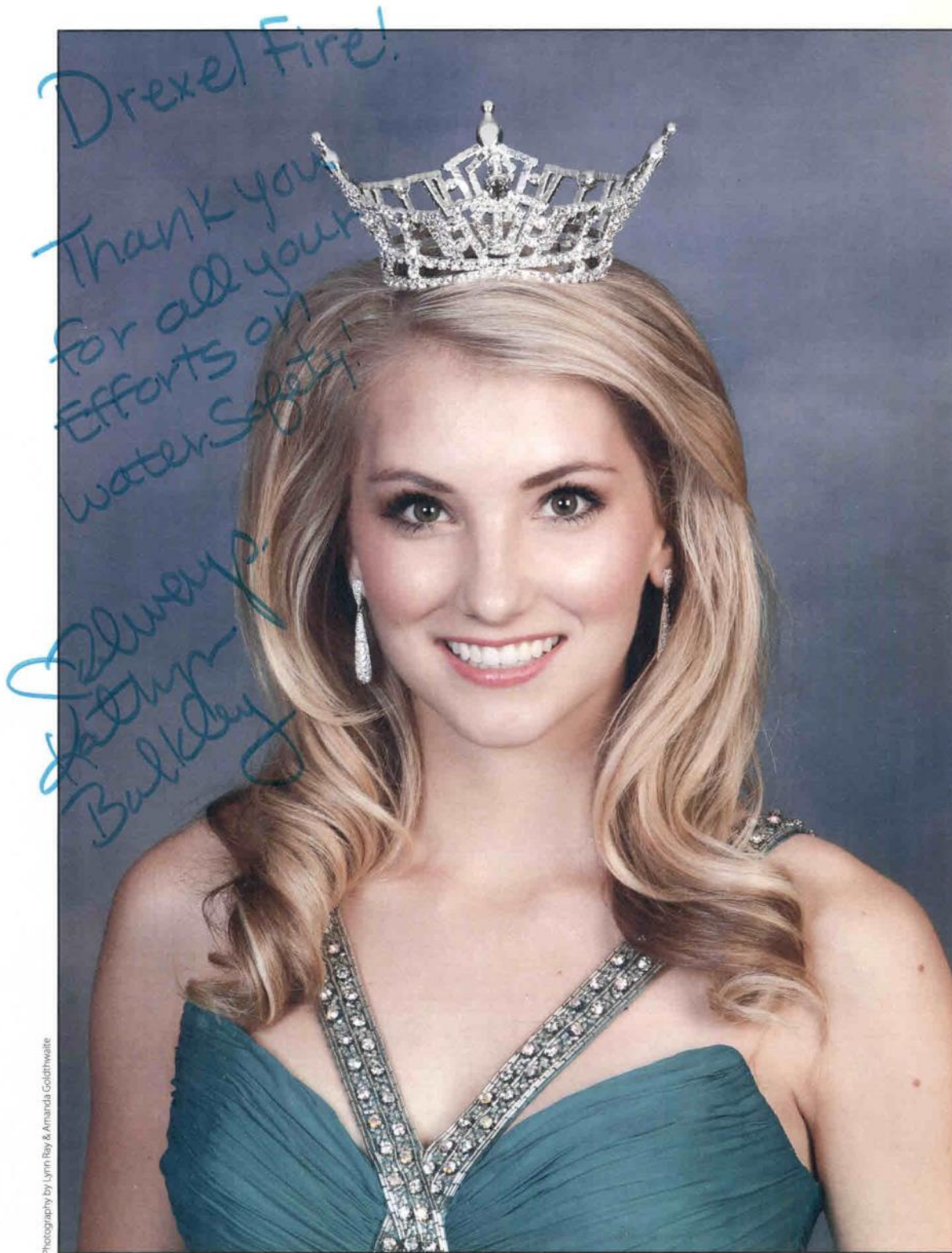
  
Cheryl Cecil  
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Thomas Benavidez  
District Attorney

2010

July 2010:



Photography by Lynn Ray & Amanda Goldthwaite



*Kathryn Bulkley*  
*Miss Arizona 2010*





2010

July 19, 2010, News 13:

[<< Back](#)

**NEWS 13**

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## 12th drowning for Pima County

Posted: Jul 19, 2010 3:49 PM MST

Updated: Jul 19, 2010 5:27 PM MST

By Christina Stymfal - [email](#)

PIMA COUNTY, AZ (KOLD) - Pima County had its 12th water incident on July 18, according to Drexel Heights Fire Department spokesperson Tracy Koslowski.

All 12 incidents in Pima County were non-fatal, and ten of the 12 involved children that were 14 and under.

Maricopa County currently has had 75 water incidents, 22 of which were fatalities including 9 children.

Remember the ABC's of water safety:

- A= Adult Supervision
- B= Barriers
- C= Classes (swimming & CPR)

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# VOLUNTEER VOICE

Published to enhance the relationships, awareness, goals and activities of volunteers and staff at the

## DREXEL HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT

Volume I, Number 2

July 2010

### I GOT A FACE LIFT!

In the words of a famous starlet of years past –“Why don’t you come up and see me sometime, big boy?”

With efficiency, service and security in mind, Administration has taken on a new look. No longer will there be a need to walk through the conference room to go from one side of the building to the other with a hallway now built between conference and the reception area. There will be two positions in the reception area where you will find the most significant of the changes. There has been a buzzer type system in place which will monitor access to the offices.

Rumor has it that this may have been required after the attempted run away of Tracy’s Dalmatians on one side and Laurie’s pigs on the other. COME LOOK IT OVER AND YOU BE THE JUDGE.



### SITTERS’ CLASS BIG HIT

The first class of 12 for babysitters has certified. According to instructors, this was “An exceptionally enthusiastic group who were eager to learn.” One grandparent who delivered

three participants to class was astounded when all three left class and crowded into the back seat of the truck. Questioning their motives, grandmother was quickly told “Well Grams, we’re not old enough to sit in the front seats.” Gram was pleased and said of the class, “they are being taught so much more than babysitting. They are learning life skills as well.” The next babysitting session will be July 12 & 14. Contact Admin for registration information.

### HOME SAFETY SURVEYS

A volunteer team is engaged in checking Drexel Heights Fire District homes for hazards that could pose a danger for fire or injuries. According to one team member, “It is possible for a person to live in an area that has such obvious safety threats and just not be able to see the problems”. The team encourages you to help get the word out about this valuable service available for DHFD residents. There is no charge and smoke alarms and fire extinguishers are installed if needed. Refer residents to the administrative office to inquire about getting an appointment.

***DON'T FORGET TO ENCOURAGE  
RESIDENTS TO STOP BY THE  
STATION TO GET THEIR WATER  
WATCHER CARDS AND WHISTLES***

### JULY ACTIVITIES

10 Public CPR & First Aid classes  
12&14 Babysitting Classes  
19 Home Safety Surveys  
19 Car Seat Appointments  
20 Volunteer Meeting  
29 Drowning Prevention Press Conference



# Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT



by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

## Drowning Impact Awareness Month

**D**ROWNING Impact Awareness Month (DIAM) began in August 2004 through the efforts of the Phoenix Children's Hospital. Today, DIAM is the largest collaborative water safety effort in the state of Arizona. Governor Brewer and Mayors across the state have signed proclamations designating August as Drowning Impact Awareness Month.

Along with the DIAM proclamations, Safe Kids Tucson Coalition held a countywide press conference and kick-off event on July 29th in order to get the word out about DIAM. Miss Arizona,

Kathryn Bulkley, was among the speakers at the press conference.

Having been Miss Pima County in 2009 she upgraded her crown as Miss Arizona in June 2010 but has maintained her speaking platform about water safety.

Why August for DIAM? June, July and August are peak times for child drownings in Arizona. Back-to-school distractions in August make it a high risk month for child drownings.

DIAM efforts include wearing purple ribbons to remind everyone about water safety and to recognize the impact fatal and non-fatal drownings have had.

Drexel Heights Fire District will have extra purple ribbons at all five of our fire stations in the month of August in case anyone would like to pick one up and help promote DIAM.

Every child drowning is preventable – but sometimes, little can be done for a child once he or she has fallen into the water. Prevention is the cure, and awareness is free. To prevent child drownings, follow the ABC's of Water Safety:

Adult supervision when children have access to water

Barriers between children and water  
Classes in CPR for adults, swimming

lessons for children at the appropriate age

Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the training classroom next to Station #1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde.

The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible

and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson James Bertrand, Clerk Cheryl Cecil, Member R.M. Bishman, Member Laura Dailey and Member Charles Mendonca.

# VOLUNTEER VOICE

Published to enhance the relationships, awareness, goals and activities of volunteers and staff at the

## DREXEL HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT

Volume I, Number 3

August, 2010

### IT'S FRIGHTENING!

Yes, it is an alarming thing when you realize how few parents actually know the complexity of properly installing car seats for their children. But educating the public is what our DHFD Firefighters and Volunteer Gerry Innis are dedicated to do.

How often have you seen someone grab a car seat and seemingly just click it quickly into a car and consider it ready for a child's use? According to the Car Seat Technicians, the proper installation takes a minimum of 20 minutes per seat.

DHFD has seven car seat technicians, certified after four days of intensive training. They are required to pass tests both written and on installation. Certification must be renewed every two years. Classes are taught by personnel from DHS and the police department.

We need your help to encourage parents and guardians to call Administration for an appointment. August appointment dates are the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Hours are conveniently set at 3 until 6 pm at Station 401. It is necessary for the children to be with the parent or guardian at the time of the appointment. Open to any District resident at no charge.



### YA GOTTA LAFF AT HENRY

Comic Fireman Henry Molina, from Station 404A is returning to Laffs Comedy Caffe in Tucson August 29, 6 pm to do a benefit event for MDA through Drexel Heights United Pima Fire Fighters.

Henry J, who has proven to be a crowd pleaser when he performed before, said that

they have raised as much as \$4,000 one year for the MDA program and \$3,400 during another. His hope, of course, is to top those records this year.

Tickets are available from any DHFD firefighter for \$10. Doors open at 6 pm with the show starting at 7 pm.



### "I SHALL WEAR PURPLE"

The Governor of Arizona and the mayors throughout the state will sign proclamations declaring August Drowning Impact Awareness Month. There will be 100,000 purple ribbons distributed to draw attention in support of the campaign.

Miss Arizona was a keynote speaker at the July 29 press conference and kick-off event which was held at Demont Swim School. She talked about the ABC's of water safety and introduced the grandmother of a young boy who was a near-drowning last year and suffered permanent injuries which left him confined to a wheelchair. The grandmother will speak on "Life After a Near Drowning."

With the tendency of the number of water related accidents going up at the end of the summer, DHFD joins the Safe Kids campaign in programs to keep Pima County's record unblemished completing the summer of 2010 without a child water related death.

According to our Public Information Officer, August was chosen for water safety awareness largely because it typically is a month that sees an upswing in incidents. It may be, Tracy Koslowski says, because 1) Public education efforts focus on the beginning of pool season; 2) Families become lax in our observations feeling more comfortable after a child has taken



August 2010, *Volunteer Voice*:

swim lessons; 3) The family's focus shifts to getting the youngsters back in school.

Purple ribbons will be available at every DHFD fire station and other public places throughout the state.

### HOME INSPECTION REPORT

Thanks to the Family Safety Grant, volunteers Angie Fimbres, Garree Innis and Les Craig have completed another round of home safety inspections in the District.

While the program name implies that the thrust is simply inspections of the home to check for safety, it goes beyond that. Providing an opportunity to ensure that smoke detectors are installed and the resident has a working fire extinguisher with knowledge of its use. It also provides an opportunity for the team to explain and encourage residents to take advantage of other DHFD programs.

More information is available in brochures and on the district's website.

Any resident interested in the program will need to complete a Family Safety Program grant form and sign a liability waiver. An inspection form is completed on site and provided to the residents.

Anyone interested should call Administration to make an appointment with the Home Safety Team. Inspections dates in August are the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

## JEST STUFF...

### WE WELCOME & CONGRATULATE New Part-Time telecommunicator:

James Bable

A second Baby Sitters Class of twenty graduated in July. In addition to the dos and don'ts of babysitting, they learned life skills and first aid techniques.

The summer of 2010 has seen a dramatic drop in water involved deaths. There have been 13 incidents in the Tucson including one adult death. 10 of the 13 incidents involved children. Please help us get out the purple ribbons for the water safety campaign to every one you know.

It is interesting to note that Miss Arizona, formally Miss Pima County, has asked that she be made aware of any opportunity to talk about the ABC's of water safety.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

Aug. 2	Home Safety Inspections Car Seat Appointments
Aug. 7	CPR & First Aid (public)
Aug. 12	Pub Ed Team Meeting
Aug. 16	Home Safety Inspections Car Seat Appointments
Aug. 29	Henry Molina at Laffs



August 4, 2010:

# SPORTS & RECREATION

THE EXPLORER, AUGUST 4, 2010

37



Attendees at a Safe Kids Tucson press conference tied purple ribbons around a flotation ring in remembrance of Pima County's fatal drownings over the last 10 years. Each ribbon represented one lost life; 27 in total were tied, 10 representing children.

*Photos by Mandy Roth/Special to The Explorer*

## DROWNING IMPACT AWARENESS MONTH

### 'No roadmap' when a child nearly drowns

#### GRANDMOTHER SAYS ETHAN 'LOST IN A WAY'

By MANDY ROTH  
*Explorer intern*

**W**hen Cheyenne Arreola awoke the morning of June 2, 2009, she had no way of knowing the next time she set her head on a pillow, her life would be forever altered.

That day began without distinction. Arreola's daughter prepped her 6-year-old son Ethan Bennett for his first day of summer day camp. The camp's activity that day was swimming.

Ethan nearly drowned on June 2, 2009, rescued after one of his fellow child campers noticed him struggling beneath the water's surface. Ethan survived, but has a severe traumatic brain injury.

"I really wish I wasn't here," Arreola told a crowd at Safe Kids Tucson's Drowning Impact Awareness event last Thursday. "I wish I didn't have this experience to share."

On June 2, 2009, "my world stopped," said Arreola. "Prior to that date, I was like all of you. I watched the news reporting drownings and thought that could and would never happen to



Cheyenne Arreola addressed a crowd at Safe Kids Tucson's Drowning Impact Awareness Month press conference last Thursday on the effects on child drowning. Arreola's grandson, now 7, suffers from severe traumatic brain injury as a result of a near-drowning last June.

my family. My grandson Ethan is lost in a way. He's still the same person, the same spirit, of which we thank God for, but I haven't heard his voice in one year."

After Ethan's accident, he lost motor-function ability, affecting not only speech but all movement including walking. Ethan is reliant on a wheelchair and his family to perform every

function of daily life.

"It's something so preventable," Arreola said. "We thought we were a safe family, we would never let the kids take a bath alone. I have no answer to him as to why his life was turned upside down. Those few minutes we will never get back."

According to Safe Kids USA, drowning is the second-leading cause of unintentional death among children ages one to four years and 10 to 14 years. For infants less than one year old, drowning is the third-leading cause of death.

In the past year, Pima County has had 13 water incidents and one fatality. Water incidents are events in which a person is submerged, inhales water or loses breath.

"That seems bad enough," said Tracy Koslowski with Drexel Heights Fire District, "but I want to remind you all that last year, there were 23 incidents."

Maricopa County had 79 water incidents last year and 23 deaths. Nine were children.

"All of these were preventable," Koslowski said. "Arizona has the second highest child drowning rate in America, second to Florida." The average age of a drowned child is 6.

See POOL SAFETY, P38



August 4, 2010:

THE EXPLORER, AUGUST 4, 2010

SPORTS

# Pool safety: Drowning is a silent event

Continued from P37

Fifty percent of drownings occur in home pools, "but spas, buckets, canals, rivers" can all be the mediums. Ten percent of children who survive near-drownings will have permanent damage.

"We need to let go of the misconception that when drownings happen, it's a loud event. It's silent," said Lori Schmidt, president of the Drowning Prevention Coalition of Arizona. "If you (can't find) your child, check the water hazard areas first."

Andy Reidy with Safe Kids Tucson shared the "ABCs of water safety." A is for adult supervision, B is for barriers around pools and bodies of water, C is for classes including swimming, CPR, and other safety lessons.

In 2004, August was named drowning impact awareness month by Phoenix Children's Hospital, and it was proclaimed recently by Gov. Jan Brewer.

Thousands of health care and law enforcement professionals across Arizona are wearing purple ribbons during August to promote drowning awareness. At Thursday's event, the ribbons represented

## Arizona water safety facts

- June, July, and August are peak months for child drownings in Arizona. Distractions such as back-to-school make August a high-risk month for child drowning.

- Drowning is a top cause of injury-related death for children in Arizona, especially for children in the age 1-5 group.

- Every child drowning is preventable. Sometimes, little can be done for a child once he or she has fallen into the water.

- To prevent child drownings, follow the ABCs of water safety.

A — Adult supervision when children have access to water.

B — Barriers between children and water. C — Classes in CPR

for adults, swimming lessons for

children.

Three basic steps can be followed to prevent drownings:

1. Block access to swimming pools with layers of protection such as pool fence barriers and childproof locks on gates and doors leading to the pool.

2. Watch children closely when they have access to water. More than two-thirds of children who drown in Arizona were not expected to be near the pool.

3. Learn what to do in an emergency. If a child is missing, check water hazard areas first. Keep CPR skills fresh by refreshing them once a year, and teach children to swim at the appropriate age.

the lives lost to drowning in Pima County over the last 10 years.

Twenty-seven ribbons were tied around a flotation ring. Ten of the ribbons represented children.

"It doesn't end at drowning," said Arreola, "there's life after, consequences of which there is no

roadmap."

Drownings happen, fatal and non-fatal, Reidy said. But they shouldn't, according to the Drowning Impact Awareness Month slogan, "Because when a child drowns, it hurts us all."



August 2010:

Oro Valley VISTA Magazine

August 2010

## Constituents' Corner

by Pat Klein

*"Like a welcome summer rain, humor may suddenly cleanse and cool the earth, the air and you."*

—Langston Hughes

Last week, I saw the Golder Ranch Fire Chief wearing a purple ribbon. Purple... hmmm... I'm familiar with yellow and pink, but couldn't put my finger on why he was wearing a purple ribbon.

Now I know. August is Drowning Impact Awareness Month. I did some homework and found that Arizona ranks second in the nation for child drownings, and, of course, summer months bring increased incidents. In 2009, there were seven drownings in Pima County.

That's seven too many, as far as I'm concerned.

There are several things we can do to raise awareness of the impact on each drowning and near-drowning on family, friends, emergency personnel and our community.

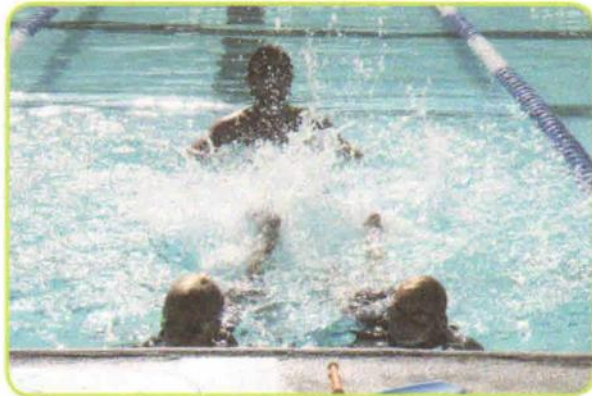
Town Council has taken a leadership role by declaring August as Drowning Impact Awareness Month and issuing a proclamation at its July 21 regular session.

We can wear a purple ribbon. If someone asks why, tell them that you are raising awareness of the impact of drownings and near-drownings.

The Golder Ranch Fire Department is supporting the Purple Ribbon Campaign, which supports increased discussion and sharing prevention information to avert future water-related incidents for kids. Purple ribbons are available at each of the Golder Ranch Fire



At the July 21 Council meeting Mayor Hiremath (center) presented the proclamation to Tracy Koslowski (left), of Drexel Heights Fire District, and Yolanda Hallberg (right), of the Police Department. Stop by the administration building today to get your purple ribbon!



Swim lessons are available at the Oro Valley Municipal pool.

stations, as well as at the main Administration building at Town Hall, 11000 N. La Cañada Drive.

Be sure your children know how to swim. The Town's Parks and Recreation Department offers group swim lessons in the summer and private lessons are available year-round. A tip from the Town's Aquatics manager, Catherine Atalla: "Children should not be allowed to use air-inflated floating devices like the popular 'water wings'. They may deflate and children may slip out of them. Any Coast Guard-approved flotation device is recommended."

Get the fence around your pool inspected. The Town's Inspection and Compliance division is offering free barrier inspections and will provide information that will assure safe installation of your pools and spas. To schedule a free pool barrier inspection, call (520) 229-4800, and press "8" to reach a representative who will assist you.

As always, if you have a question or concern involving the Town, please contact the Constituent Services Office at (520) 229-4711, on the Town's website at [www.orovalleyaz.gov](http://www.orovalleyaz.gov) or the Constituent Services Coordinator, Pat Klein, at [pklein@orovalleyaz.gov](mailto:pklein@orovalleyaz.gov).

## Communications Receives Awards for VISTA, 35th Anniversary



At the July 21 Council meeting, Mayor Hiremath (left) presented Communications Administrator Mary Davis (center) and Communications Specialist Kelsie Hanson (right) with two Communicator Awards that honor creative excellence for communications professionals.

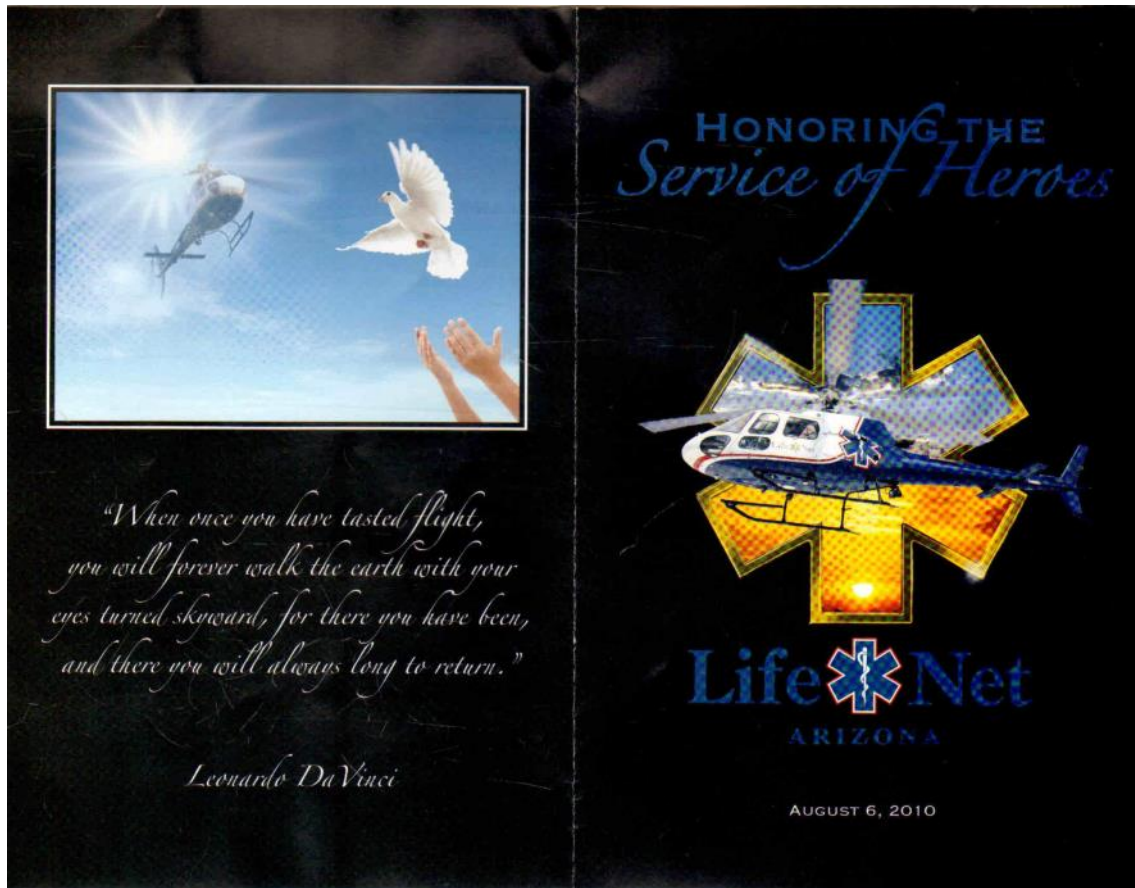
The Communicator Awards are presented by the International Academy of the Visual Arts (IAVA). The IAVA is an assembly of leading professionals from various disciplines of the visual arts dedicated to embracing progress and the evolving nature of traditional and interactive media.

The Award of Excellence (left) was awarded for the Town's 35th Anniversary event and all of the planning and materials that went into the April 2009 event. The Award of Distinction was awarded for the Oro Valley VISTA. It took into consideration the articles, editing and design of the newsletter. Both the Communications team and 35th Anniversary Planning Committee are proud to accept these awards.



2010

August 6, 2010:



<b>HONORING THE Service of Heroes</b> AUGUST 6, 2010	
REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS BRENDA FRENCH, PARKER SUMMONS, ALEX KELLEY	LAYING DOWN ONE'S LIFE.....CRAIG YALE VP AIR METHODS CORP
SEATING OF UNIFORM SERVICE PROVIDERS	THE LIFENET FAMILY.....SARA PEROTTI FIELD OPERATIONS MANAGER, LIFENET AZ
SEATING OF FAMILIES	AIR MEDICAL MISSION EMS.....TAYLOR PAYSON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SAEMS
PIPERS.....HONOR GUARD	AIR MEDICAL MISSION COMMUNITY.....DR. MICHAEL GOMEZ MAYOR, DOUGLAS, AZ
POSTING OF COLORS/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.....HONOR GUARD	CLOSING REFLECTION.....SR. PASTOR ROBERT FURROW CALVARY CHAPEL
NATIONAL ANTHEM.....KRISTINE MARRIOTTI & PAUL ALMQUIST	PRESENTATION OF FLAGS.....HONOR GUARD
WELCOME AND OPENING.....RICK WEILER BUSINESS MANAGER, LIFENET AZ	LAST CALL.....LIFECOM
INVOCATION.....SR. PASTOR ROBERT FURROW CALVARY CHAPEL	CLOSING PRAYER.....MATT FERGUSON CHAPLAIN US BORDER PATROL
YOU RAISE ME UP.....KRISTINE MARRIOTTI	RETRIEVAL OF COLORS.....HONOR GUARD
WHAT WE KNOW IS PRECIOUS.....DAN SPAITE, MD	AMAZING GRACE.....PIPERS
	FLY OVER



August 6, 2010:

**BRENDA FRENCH**

Flight Paramedic



Brenda Elaine French was born on December 28, 1981, in Willcox, Arizona. This beautiful child brought joy to everyone she met. Brenda celebrated everyday life with her wit, humor, and an adventurous spirit. Always one-step ahead of the pack and striving to go as far and fast as she could, she never looked back. There were no boundaries for Brenda as she pushed herself to do and be more. Those who met Brenda were touched by her kindness, generosity, and knew they were loved. After graduating from Winslow High School in 2000, Brenda tried various work fields. She dabbled in security and corrections until she attended EAC for an EMT course, and finally found her true calling. She started as an EMT with the Sunsites-Pearce Fire Department, and then returned to EAC to obtain her Paramedic certification and become the Captain of EMS services for the same organization. Brenda also recently obtained her Fire Fighter certifications I and II. The sky was never the limit for Brenda as she had recently accepted a position with LifeNet, and completed her orientation and training to be a flight paramedic. Brenda resided in Safford, and performed her duties as a flight paramedic in Willcox, Arizona.

**PARKER SUMMONS**

Flight Nurse



Parker's life started 41 years ago on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1969, here in Tucson, Arizona at St. Joseph's Hospital. He grew up in a home with his parents and two sisters in the central part of Tucson. Parker started his Elementary years at St. Michaels Episcopal School. During these years he discovered his love of swimming, which he pursued in full speed ahead "Parker fashion", eventually traveling regionally for meets with his family in full support. In 5<sup>th</sup> grade Parker transferred to Tuller School, where he was known to be the "Class Clown", leaving his parents on the edge of their seat as he rode his bicycle all over town. Eventually, deciding he wanted to venture out into the "public" school world at Catalina High School, where he graduated from in 1987. It was during this time that Parker developed what would turn out to be life-long relationships with so many people. During high school he started working at the Tucson Racquet Club. Parker worked there for years as a trainer and honed his racquetball skills against hundreds of hapless victims. During this time, he also began logging what would ultimately be thousands of miles on his bicycle, chasing a dream of one day being part of a professional cycling team. Bicycling would ultimately become a lifestyle for Parker. As with all of Parker's pursuits, he focused on cycling until he reached peak physical condition. It would forever be a part of his heart, often tackling the Saguaro National Park East loop. In fact he was cycling up to the very last week of his life. While he made the most of his semi-retirement during his mid-20's, Parker always knew he wanted to return to school. With a few gentle nudges from his Dad, Parker decided to attend nursing school. He graduated from The Pima College Nursing Program in 2000. He immediately began working at University Medical Center, knowing in the back of his mind that he wanted to become a flight nurse. He was told that he needed to gain experience handling stressful trauma and emergency situations. In true Parker fashion he asked his superiors to assign him to the most critically wounded patients. He knew that the complicated cases would serve to prepare him well as a flight nurse. Parker started his dream job at LifeNet/Air Methods Corporation in April 2007. He could not have been more proud to be a part of such an elite team of first responders. As with all of Parker's endeavors, he worked tirelessly to be the best in the field, striving to absorb all that he could. He gave all that he had to his job and often told friends and family that he would be willing to work as a flight nurse for free. He found his way in life and was doing what he truly loved. Parker was most proud of his son, Parker Kenneth. The pride Parker had in his eyes when he spoke of his son was heart-warming. He was a doting father and a loyal friend. Parker touched everyone in his life in one way or another. To know him was to love him. His passion for life, his career and family were pursued with focused intensity. In the end, giving his life to do what he loved most Parker lived more life in 42 years than most will in an entire lifetime. During the past couple of years Parker had an epiphany of sorts and had concluded, "My first 40 years were about collecting things, but the next 40 years will be about love and relationships." Parker's impact on our lives will be revealed for years to come. Whether it's an outdoor adventure, a memorable sunset or a quiet moment with the one you love, take time to remember Parker and his legacy. We are all better for having known him.

**ALEX KELLEY**

Pilot



Alex's life was filled with the love and laughter of his family. For over 40 years Alex pursued his love of flying. Alex touched the lives of many people and he will be greatly missed.

Born December 19, 1948 in Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii, joined his father, Gordon L. Kelley, Ret. Lt. Col. USAF, on July 28, 2010.

Alex joined the US Army in 1968. After boot camp, he went to flight school, where he learned to fly helicopters. After graduation, he flew in Vietnam with the C Co. 159th Avn. Bn. "Playtex" (1968-1971). Following his discharge, he served in the Air National Guard.

In 1974, Alex joined the U.S. Border Patrol as a ground agent. Shortly after, he was promoted to pilot. Alex retired his badge from the position of Supervisor of Tucson Air Operations in 2002.

Alex continued his flying career by joining Air Methods (LifeNet) in 2002 as a medivac pilot.

As one of the founding members of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, Alex attended many reunions with his fellow helicopter pilots and their families.





August 20, 2010, *Arizona Daily Star*:

## TUCSON &amp; REGION

Arizona Daily Star

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 2010 • PAGE A2

Editor: Hipolito R. Corella / 520-573-4101 / metro@azstarnet.com

# Boy drowns in golf course pond

**Dad reports son, 5, missing; deputies find him in water**

By Jamar Younger  
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A 5-year-old boy drowned in a pond at a golf course southeast of Tucson on Thursday afternoon.

Zachary Clark was pulled from the pond at the Santa Rita Golf Course, 16461 S. Houghton Road, in the Corona de Tucson area, said Deputy Jason Ogan, a

Pima County Sheriff's Department spokesman.

Zachary, who lived with his family in a home near the golf course, apparently wandered away from the house sometime before 1 p.m., Ogan said.

At 12:50 p.m., the boy's father called 911 to report him missing. Deputies arrived in the area and began searching for Zachary, he said.

He was found by deputies in the golf course pond.

Deputies begin CPR on Zachary, who was autistic, until paramedics arrived.

He was taken by helicopter to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead, Ogan said.

The Corona de Tucson Fire District, Rural/Metro Fire Department and Pima County Sheriff's Department responded to the incident.

The pond spanned about three-quarters of an acre, said Todd Cupell, a Corona de Tucson Fire District spokesman.

There were no barriers surrounding the pond, which is on the golf course's fairway, Cupell said.

The boy's house is within a

half-mile from the pond, he said.

Cupell did not know how deep the pond was, but said it could be up to 20 feet deep.

"It's hard to tell because it's murky," he said.

This was the first drowning this year involving a child and the second overall in the Tucson area, according to statistics compiled by the Drexel Heights Fire District.

Contact reporter Jamar Younger at [jyounger@azstarnet.com](mailto:jyounger@azstarnet.com) or call 573-4115.

2010

September 7, 2010:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-15**

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE DREXEL HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT  
RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS FIRE PREVENTION MONTH IN THE DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, Drexel Heights is committed to improving the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our district; and

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire; and

WHEREAS, roughly 3,000 people die as a result of home fires each year; and

WHEREAS, roughly two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from home fires in which no smoke alarms, or no *functioning* smoke alarms, were present; and

WHEREAS, properly functioning smoke alarms reduce the chance of dying in a fire by fifty percent; and

WHEREAS, the National Fire Protection Association recommends at least one smoke alarm on each level of a home, outside all sleeping areas, and in all bedrooms; and

WHEREAS, informing the public about the importance of smoke alarm installation and maintenance is an essential step towards reducing the number of deaths from home fires; and

WHEREAS, Drexel Heights' first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and

WHEREAS, Drexel Heights' residents are responsive to public education measures which inform them of simple steps they can take to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 National Fire Prevention theme, "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With," serves to encourage the public to implement smoke alarm installation and maintenance recommendations in their homes.

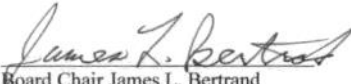
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Board of the Drexel Heights Fire District that the Board hereby proclaims and recognizes the month of October, 2010, as Fire Prevention Month in the District.

DHFD Res. No. 2010-15

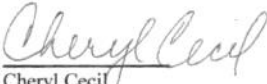
1 of 2

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board urges all District residents to protect their homes and families by heeding the potentially life-saving messages of Fire Prevention Week 2010.


**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Governing Board of the Drexel Heights Fire District, this 10th day of September, 2010.

  
Board Chair James L. Bertrand

ATTEST:

  
Cheryl Cecil  
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Thomas Benavidez  
District Attorney



October 19, 2010, *Arizona Daily Star*:

## Car plunges off Gates Pass Road

OCTOBER 19, 2010 1:49 PM • ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A compact car plunged about 70 feet over a steep slope at Gates Pass this afternoon, but the driver was only slightly injured.

The road remained closed in both directions at 1:30 p.m., said Jason Ogan of the Pima County Sheriff's Department.

About 12:40 p.m., an 18-year-old drove the car over an embankment and down a cliff. Bystanders scrambled to the car and helped the young woman out and back up the slope, said Adam Goldberg of Northwest Fire.

A Drexel Heights Fire Department ambulance transported the driver to University Medical Center, Goldberg said. The Pima County Sheriff's Department is investigating.

October 2010, *Desert Times*:

Page 6
Desert Times
OCTOBER 2010

## Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager



### October Brings Fire Prevention Activities

**T**HE history of Fire Prevention Week has its roots in the Great Chicago Fire, which began on Oct. 8, 1871 and continued the following day destroying everything in its path. In 27 hours, this tragic conflagration killed more than 250 people, it left 100,000 homeless, and it destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, National Fire Prevention Week has been observed the week in October in which the 8th day falls.

Drexel Heights Fire District will be emphasizing October as "Fire Prevention Month." This year, the Fire District will be focusing on educating the public and reinforcing the importance of fire safety. Each year many lives are lost to fire. Often these losses could have been avoided had precaution been taken. Fire

Prevention Month is the time set aside to bring fire prevention and awareness to the forefront.

District residents are reminded to have a plan ready for their homes in case of a fire. Knowing how to safely escape your home from fire and remembering to stay outside are two important parts of the plan. Here are some other tips you should remember to prepare yourself should a fire strike your home:

1. Draw a diagram of the layout of your house.
2. Mark all the doors and windows on the plan.
3. It's important to make sure you have at least two ways out of each room of the house.
4. Check the windows and the bars that might be on them to make sure they open freely.
5. Decide who will help small children or older adult escape.

6. Confirm you have smoke detectors in or near all sleeping areas and check them to verify the batteries still work. You can mark them on your floor plan.
7. Select a family meeting place out in the front of your home, a safe distance away from the house, so the fire department can identify you right way.
8. Decide who will call 9-1-1 from the neighbor's house.
9. Practice the plan with all family members regularly to make sure that in the event of a fire, everyone will get out safely.
10. Remind everyone not to go back inside for anything.

Drexel Heights Fire District will also be kicking off its fire prevention efforts with visits to the area schools with a characterization presentation. The characterization program includes music and characters which are used to communicate important safety messages.

The children learn in a fun way and they leave the performance singing safety messages.

For more information on these activities or other Drexel Heights Fire District programs, please call us at (520) 883-4341. You can also check us out on the web at [www.drexelfire.net](http://www.drexelfire.net)

**GOVERNING BOARD INFORMATION:** Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the training classroom next to Station #1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend.

All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson James Bertrand, Clerk Cheryl Cecil, Member R.M. Bishman, Member Laura Dailey and Member Charles Mendonca.

To place an ad in the  
Desert Times,  
call our office at 578-1505.



# VOLUNTEER VOICE

Published to enhance the relationships, awareness, goals and activities of volunteers and staff at the  
**DREXEL HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT**

Volume I, Number 5

October, 2010

## OCTOBER, FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

Drexel Heights Fire District will be observing Fire Prevention Month focusing on educating the public and reinforcing the importance of fire safety. Each year many lives are lost to fire. Often these losses could have been avoided had precaution been taken. October is the time set aside to bring fire prevention and awareness to the forefront.

Fire Prevention Week has its roots in the Great Chicago Fire which began October 8, 1871 and continued the following day destroying everything in its path. In 27 hours this conflagration killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless and destroyed more than 17,400 structures while burning more than 2,000 acres. In 1920 President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation. The week during which the 8<sup>th</sup> falls has been observed as Fire Prevention Week. Residents are reminded to have a plan ready for their homes in case of a fire.

**Drexel Heights Fire District** will kick off its fire prevention efforts with visits to the area schools with a characterization presentation. The skit which includes music by Billy Scott the Singing Fireman and school-aged characters, depicted by the volunteer team, will both entertain and educate children through the safety messages and Billy's songs.

The Drexel Dragons greet the new kid, Dora, and teach her the facets of fire and water safety and seat belt safety at the new school. The cast will be joined by real students from each school as they will become a Drexel Dragon for the day.

You are encouraged to check the schedule and come watch the fire prevention team in action. The first performance will be October 1, 2010. Every child will be given a trading card with the pictures of the cast. Those selected to join the cast will be presented with a Drexel Dragons Tee-shirt.



L to R top row, Gerri and Gary Innis as DORA and, PAUL FRANK, Angie Fimbres as CARLY, Norene Craig as LULU. Lower, Billy the Singing Fireman, and our own Tracy as PRINCIPAL EDITH, COACH AND SEAT BELT MAMA.

## YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

**K-MART SAFETY FAIR**, (Broadway & Kolb) October 23 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**RIO RICO FD SAFETY DAY** - October 9 10:00 a.m. - 3 p.m. Displays, demonstrations, helicopter lift, food, games, activities and car inspections.

**DESERT DIAMOND CASINO**, (7350 S. Nogales Highway) October 13 1:00-5:00 p.m. Annual Safety and Wellness Day

## CONGRATULATIONS

The union, through the variety of activities, including Henry Molina's performance at Laff's Comedy Caffe and the Fill The Boot efforts, has raised about \$4500 for this year's MDA campaign.

**WAY TO GO!**

**Welcome new Firefighter/EMT, PATERNO CRUZ.**



October 2010, *Volunteer Voice*:

## Stuff.....

In addition to establishing an escape plan, here are suggestion of other things to prepare yourself in case of a fire at your home.

1. Draw a diagram of the layout of your house. Include location of fire detectors.
2. Mark all doors and windows on the plan
3. Make sure you have at least two ways out of each room in the house.
4. Check any barred windows to insure they open freely.
5. Decide who will help small children or older adults to escape.
6. Place smoke alarms in or near all sleeping areas. Check them monthly to ensure that batteries are working.
7. Select a family meeting place out in the front of your home, a safe distance from the house.
8. From a cell phone or a neighbor's house, call 911.
9. Practice the escape plan and emphasize the importance of remaining out of the house; Practice the plan with all family members regularly.

## IN CASE YOU'RE INTERESTED:

We'll start looking for dates for EDITH. If the school your youngsters are attending have not yet taken advantage of this important learning tool concerning fire safety in the home, you might want to suggest to the teachers that they look into the possibility of taking the children on a field trip to have their tour through the EDITH trailer. Her home is on Mark Road, at Station 402.

## "GRADE SCHOOL MUSICAL"

will be performed at the following schools:

October 1	Chapel in the Hills
October 1	White Elementary
October 4	Banks Elementary
October 4	Vesey Elementary
October 8	Maldonado Elementary
October 8	Johnson Elementary
October 11	Miller Elementary
October 11	Warren Elementary

## HELP GET THE WORD OUT!

### *Seniors Need to Know*

Many older adults experience concerns about falling. But through a program, A Matter of Balance offered by Pima Council on Aging, help is available. The eight 2-hour classes over a four week period, is designed to emphasize the importance of maintaining an active lifestyle in order to reduce the risk of falling.

The program will begin November 1 and run through November 24 each Monday and Wednesday in the classroom at the DHFD training center, 5030 S. Camino Verde. Classes will be from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### Who should attend?

...*anyone concerned about falls*  
 ...*those who are interested in improving balance, flexibility and strength*  
 ....*those who have fallen in the past*  
 ...*anyone who has restricted activities because of falling concerns*

The fee is \$15 per person or \$25 a couple. The cost covers workbook, materials and snacks.

Preregistration is a must. Call Pima Council on Aging at 790-7262 or find additional information on the web at [www.pcoa.org](http://www.pcoa.org) or e-mail [help@pcoa.org](mailto:help@pcoa.org). Please help pass the word along to residents who would benefit from attending this program!!!

## HOME SAFETY SURVEY'S CAR SEAT APPOINTMENTS

The response to the call for home safety survey's and car seat appointments has been overwhelming. Appointments are now being scheduled into November.



# VOLUNTEER VOICE

Published to enhance the relationships, awareness, goals and activities of volunteers and staff at the  
**DREXEL HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT**

Volume I, Number 6

November, 2010

## Senior Academy Dates Set

Statistics show that more senior citizens are injured in falls and fires in their home than in any other accident. In an effort to educate this population and provide a safer home environment, Drexel Heights Fire District is offering a Senior Citizen Fire Academy, two free sessions on things such as hands on use of fire extinguishers, class room instruction on balance taught by a professional from Pima Council on Aging, home hazards, first aid and kitchen safety. The courses will include a tour through the fire station, explaining the engines and ambulances.

If you know anyone who would benefit from such a course, please encourage them to contact the administration office at (520) 883-4341. It will be necessary to complete a registration form, available to the administration office or on line at [www.Drexelfire.net](http://www.Drexelfire.net) to ensure a spot in the class. Enrollment will be on a first come, first serve basis.

Classes will be in the training facility at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The first academy will be on Thursdays beginning January 6 and continuing until the graduation on February 3, 2011.

The second Senior Citizen Fire Academy will be on Tuesdays, February 8 through March 8, 2011.

## That Smiling Face

Sharing the office vacated by the fire marshal with Ian Robinson, is volunteer **Angie Fimbres**. Ian is working one day a week on fire prevention and code enforcement. Angie is assisting Tracy Koslowski with public education duties. Stop by and say "hello."

## EDITH is back at work

EDITH will be looking for dates beginning in February. You'll remember EDITH. She's the Exit Drills In The Home trailer in which the preschool and elementary youngsters can practice fire safety and exiting the home to the family meeting place. She is at the Mark Road Station.

## 13 Being Certified

Thirteen firefighters will be certified after successful completion of a 48 hour training in Fire Service Instruction and Public Education Presentation. Eight are from Drexel; three from Avra Valley, two from Pascua and one from Three Points. Congratulations on your completion!

## Be Safe Saturday

Tucson Medical Center has selected March 26, 2011 to host their Be Safe Saturday event. Volunteers and Drexel Firefighters are expected to assist in the educational safety fair on the hospital grounds. Nine thousands people are expected to attend.

## 4,000 Children View Grade School Musical

The reviews for this year's fire and safety play which "starred" the volunteer team were exceptional, said the play's writer and performer, Tracy Koslowski. There were 12 performances at 8 elementary schools in the district between October 1 and 11.

Billy Scott, the Singing Fireman, wrote and sang lyrics to "Down, Down, Drown," "A Smoke Alarm – A Sound You Can Live With" and the crowd's



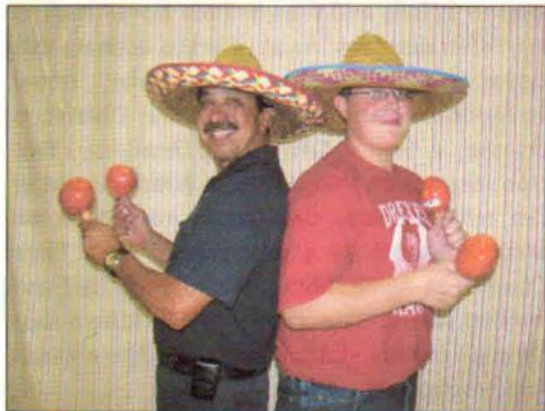
November 2010, *Volunteer Voice*:

overwhelming favorite, "Seat Belt Mamma," performed by Drexel's own Tracy. The youngsters and teachers "hooted and howled" when the crossing guard made her appearance with a much enhanced "posterior" and danced to Billy's music with a chorus line of volunteers and students from the school in the background.

One of the highlights of the tour, was the appearance of the petite, pretty, little crossing guard (that didn't resemble the performer in the slightest) who came forward to say how much she enjoyed the show and then, at of the urging, of the cast, posed in costume (minus the "behind") for pictures..

The cast thanks stage hands Les Craig, Jacob Dunham and the firefighters who built the backdrops and those that were there to help assemble and tear down the back drops.

**ENJOY THE PICTURES.....**Paul Frank, Dora, Carly, Lulu and Tracy as the principal, coach and the crossing guard.



2010

November 5, 2010:



## **RIO RICO FIRE DISTRICT**

### **Station #1**

1194 Pendleton Drive  
Rio Rico, AZ 85648  
Phone: 520-281-8421  
Fax: 520-761-1961

### **Station #2**

957 Calle Calabasas  
Rio Rico, AZ 85648  
Phone: 520-281-8194  
Fax: 520-281-8664

### **Station #3**

822 Pendleton Drive  
Rio Rico, AZ 85648

November 5, 2010

Ms. Tracy Koslowski  
Drexel Heights Fire  
5030 S. Camino Verde  
Tucson, AZ 85635-8971

Dear Tracy:

Thank you so much for your participation in our annual Fire Prevention & Safety Day event.

We hope that you not only enjoyed spending the day with us but that it was a success for you as well.

Our community partners are what make this day educational and fun for everyone who attends, so again we thank you and hope that you will join us again next year.

Yours sincerely,

The Fire Prevention & Safety Day Event Committee:

Virgil Esmont, Fire Marshal  
Leilani Salazar, Firefighter/Public Education Specialist  
Patricia Hilton, Grant & Special Projects Administrator  
John McDonald, CEP



2010

November 14, 2010, *Arizona Daily Star*:

## Small airplane crashes at Ryan Airfield, killing one

NOVEMBER 14, 2010 1:30 PM • ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A small airplane crashed this afternoon at Ryan Airfield, killing the student pilot.

The Cessna 150 crashed around 12:30 p.m., said Paula Perino, a spokeswoman for the Tucson Airport Authority, which oversees the airfield.

Cpl. Neil Brown of the Tucson Airport Authority Police said there was one person aboard the plane, a student who was practicing touch-and-go landings. The student had been flying with an instructor earlier in the day, Brown said, and was on one of his final approaches when the Cessna crashed.

Officials did not release the name of the victim because his family hadn't been notified of his death, Brown said.

Officials with the Tucson Airport Authority, Drexel Heights Fire District and the Pima County Sheriff's Department responded to the crash.

They are awaiting officials from the Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board to determine exactly what caused the plane to crash.

"It was a perfect day for flying," Brown said.

The airfield has remained open this afternoon, but the runway where the plane crashed is closed.

### Student pilot dies in plane crash at Ryan Airfield.

Posted: Nov 14, 2010 3:38 PM MST

Updated: Nov 14, 2010 4:42 PM MST

Reporter: [Sheryl Kornman](#)

RYAN AIRFIELD, Ariz. (KGUN9-TV) - A student pilot died Sunday afternoon during a practice flight at Ryan Airfield, about 10 miles south of Tucson.

The adult male, who is not being identified at this time, apparently died on impact and he was practicing touch and go landings.

Viki Matthews, spokeswoman for Tucson International Airport, which operates Ryan Airfield, said the crash of a single-engine Cessna took place after the student pilot practiced touch and go landings with a flight instructor earlier Sunday.

He was flying without the instructor when the single-engine Cessna apparently flipped over as the pilot approached a runway at Ryan Airfield at 12:15 p.m., according to Tracy L. Koslowski, the spokeswoman for Drexel Heights Fire Department.

Koslowski said the fire agency responded to the crash scene. Pima County sheriff's deputies also responded. They briefed the TIA Police Department, which took over the crash site.

TIA Police Corporal Neil Brown said the body will be removed from the plane later Sunday and taken to the Pima County Medical Examiner's office for autopsy.

National Transportation Safety Board investigators were expected to arrive here Monday and Federal Aviation Authority investigators were to arrive sometime Sunday night.

November 15, 2010, [http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/crash-kills-student-pilot-at-ryan-field/article\\_e818bbf6-26fb-5124-99ea-6de9ccde5430.html](http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/crash-kills-student-pilot-at-ryan-field/article_e818bbf6-26fb-5124-99ea-6de9ccde5430.html)

# Crash kills student pilot at Ryan field

SMALL PLANE WAS ATTEMPTING TO LAND; NO INDICATION WHY CRAFT WENT DOWN

Authorities are still trying to determine what caused a student pilot to fatally crash at Ryan Airfield on Sunday.

The crash happened at about 12:30 p.m., said Cpl. Neil Brown of the Tucson Airport Authority Police.

The student pilot was practicing touch-and-go landing maneuvers, Brown said, and had been flying with an instructor earlier in the day. He was training in a Cessna 150 owned by a flight school that operates at the airport, and he was on a final approach when he crashed, Brown said.

The man was pronounced dead at the scene.

Authorities did not release his name because his family had not been notified.

Brown said officials from the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board will try to determine the cause of the crash.

Crashes are unusual at Ryan Airfield, Brown said. The last one he could recall occurred more than a year ago. Conditions at the time of the crash weren't considered dangerous, he said.

"This is a really safe airport," he said.

"It was a perfect day for flying."

The runway where the crash occurred was closed while officials secured the area, but the rest of the airfield remained open.

Units from the Pima County Sheriff's Department and the Drexel Heights Fire Department also responded to help out at the crash site.

Contact reporter Clayton R. Norman at 573-4115 or [cnorman@azstarnet.com](mailto:cnorman@azstarnet.com)



2010

November 20, 2010, [http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/separate-accidents-claim-lives/article\\_5b359b88-f470-11df-8448-001cc4c002e0.html](http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/separate-accidents-claim-lives/article_5b359b88-f470-11df-8448-001cc4c002e0.html)

# Separate accidents claim 2 lives

ROLLOVER, COLLISION BOTH HAPPENED EARLY FRIDAY A.M.

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November 20, 2010 12:00 am • By Fernanda Echavarri Arizona Daily Star

Two people were killed in separate crashes southwest of Tucson Friday morning.

The first fatality was a vehicle rollover at South Kinney Road and West Western Way just after 5 a.m., said Tracy Koslowski, a spokeswoman for Drexel Heights Fire Department. Hector Puente was thrown from his vehicle when he smashed into the sign at Tucson Mountain Park, Koslowski said.

The 22-year-old was pronounced dead at the scene, Koslowski said.

The second wreck was a broadside collision between a car and a van an hour later at the intersection of West Los Reales Road and South Westover Avenue, she said.

Adrian Escalante, 28, was thrown from the pickup truck and died at the scene. A person in the car was taken to University Medical Center, Koslowski said.

Escalante was riding in the bed of the truck along with another person, said Deputy Jason Ogan, a Pima County Sheriff's spokesman.

Alcohol was not a factor in the two-vehicle crash, Ogan said.

No other information was immediately available.

Contact reporter Fernanda Echavarri at 573-4224 or [fechavarri@azstarnet.com](mailto:fechavarri@azstarnet.com)

2010

November 20, 2010, *Arizona Daily Star*:

ARIZONA DAILY STAR / Saturday, November 20, 2010

TUCSON & REGION • A9

## Separate accidents claim 2 lives

Rollover, collision both happened early Friday a.m.

By Fernanda Echavarri  
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

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No other information was immediately available.

Contact reporter Fernanda Echavarri at 573-4224 or fechavarri@azstarnet.com



GREG BRYAN / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Vehicles are removed from the scene of an accident at the intersection of West Los Reales Road and South Westover Avenue that left one person dead and one injured.

November 24, 2010:

11-24-2010  
Capt. Bird, <sup>Rodriguez</sup> Raul, <sup>Cole</sup> David, <sup>Seplveda</sup> Andy, <sup>Douglas</sup> Tom,  
No words can express how grateful we are that you quickly took care of John Sunday Morning. We knew he was in good hands.  
It's comforting to know that help is so close by. ~~thats~~ Thanks giving we have plenty to be thankful for.  
Have a great Turkey day.

A million thanks,  
John & Liz Clonts  
Ehura Dowling  
5531 S. Sunset Blvd.



December 2010, *Desert Times*:*Desert Times*

DECEMBER 2010

# Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager



## DHFD Senior Citizen Fire Academy

**D**REXEL Heights Fire District will be offering a program for residents 55 and older in our community. The Senior Citizen Fire Academy includes specialized safety training plus a closer look at the local fire department and the services it provides. Program participants will receive not only important information they will also receive free safety resources for their home.

Each academy session consists of a series of five classes. The first time the academy gathers participants will meet fire officials, learn about the history of the organization and receive a tour of one of the fire stations. Another class covers fire safety topics such as smoke detectors, kitchen safety, heating your home, and fire extinguishers. Participants will get to use a real home fire extinguisher.

Another class is on fall prevention and will be taught by a member of the Pima Council On Aging. This fall proofing class will educate participants on how to improve their balance systems and how to prevent falls at home. An additional class will cover basic first aid skills and the program will conclude with a graduation ceremony making participants official ambassadors for the organization.

The sessions are broken up into five, 2 ½ hour classes. The classes are conducted once a week for a total of five weeks. All of the classes will be located in the training facility next to DHFD Fire Station #401, at 5030 S. Camino Verde (Ajo and Camino Verde).

There is no fee for the Senior Citizen Fire Academy but a completed registration form is required to hold a participants spot in the academy. Registration forms can be picked up at Drexel Heights Fire District's

Administration Center (5030 S. Camino Verde) or a form can be printed out from the fire department's website at [www.drexelfire.net](http://www.drexelfire.net)

Statistically, senior citizens 55 and older are at risk for home fires and falls. The Senior Citizen Fire Academy will provide education and free resources related to home fire safety and fall prevention to combat these issues. The district is very excited to offer such an engaging program for the senior residents of the community. For program questions call Drexel Heights Fire District at (520) 883-4341. Upcoming academy dates are as follows:

### Academy Session 2011-01

Thursday, Jan. 6, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Thursday, Jan. 13, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Thursday, Jan. 20, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Thursday, Jan. 27, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Thursday, Feb. 3, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

### Academy Session 2011-02

Tuesday, Feb. 15, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Tuesday, Feb. 22, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Tuesday, March 1, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Tuesday, March 8, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Tuesday, March 15, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

### GOVERNING BOARD

**INFORMATION:** Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the training classroom next to Station #1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson James Bertrand, Clerk Cheryl Cecil, Member R.M. Bishman, Member Laura Dailey and Member Charles Mendonca.



# ***VOLUNTEER VOICE***

Published to enhance the relationships, awareness, goals and activities of volunteers and staff at the

## **DREXEL HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT**

Volume I, Number 7

December, 2010

### **LET 'EM KNOW!!**

#### **It's an Investment in the Future**

Senior residents of the Drexel Heights District are being offered the opportunity to invest in their future well being by attending the Senior Citizen Fire Academy.

Once weekly starting Thursday, January 6, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. the first of the five week course will be given. We ask your help in informing anyone who would benefit from training in first aid, hazards in the home, use of fire extinguishers, balance, and programs offered by the district. Have them contact administration and register for the program. There is no cost but an application is required. Classes will conclude with graduation on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

A second class session will be on Tuesdays, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. beginning February 15 and conclude on March 15, 2011.

### **WERE YOU AWARE?**

New home owners in the district receive welcome packets which includes safety information, 9-1-1 stickers, and refrigerator magnets with contact information for our district. Each household will receive a letter of welcome from the chief. Almost 900 packets have already gone out in 2010!

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

There was not one reportable incident resulting from Halloween "mischiefs." The community deserves a big "Yahoo" and a pat on the back for providing alternative entertainment and monitoring of the holiday activities. Here's one time we're glad it isn't "the good old days". Are you old enough to remember what Halloween meant then?

### **KINDERGARTEN STORIES**

Again this year, kindergarten children will be taught and entertained with a series of four safety messages. Topics will include Matches and Lighter Safety, Tools or Toys, Stop, Drop and Roll, and Firefighters are Our Friends. Classes will be taught in schools and reinforced by a visit to the EDITH Trailer. EDITH will welcome other school children, preschool through second grade, after the holidays.

### **HERE COMES SANTA**

Contributions of new, unwrapped toys, food and furniture are being accepted at all fire stations, according to Maria Hawkes, a Local 3504 representative. Working with the elementary schools, families from the Drexel Heights Fire District who are truly in need are selected as recipients. Delivery is then coordinated with the families. "Some of the conditions of these families are unbelievable," said Firefighter Hawkes who has been chairperson for this independent program in the local district for five years. "It is truly a rewarding program."

Numbers are amazing. In 2006 donations went to 83 kids and 20 families; in 2007, 153 children and 56 families were recipients; in 2008, there were 188 children and 50 families served and 2009 saw 239 children receive gifts and 77 families as recipients. Awesome work Local 3504!

### **UNION HOLIDAY PARTY**

O'Shaughnessy's Steak House, 220 N. Camino Principal will be the site for the Christmas party on December 10 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$30 per non-union person. RSVP to Maria Hawkes at 400-5656.



December 2010, *Desert Times*:

## Just stuff...



### HOLIDAY SAFETY

This time of year, unfortunately, there seems to be an increase in the number of people treated for injuries and a rise in fires caused by candles or Christmas lights. Keep your family and guests safe by observing these practical suggestions.

Check your smoke detectors. This should be done monthly. Batteries should be changed at least once a year.

Start off the holiday cooking with a clean stove and oven. Keep youngsters out of the kitchen; don't wear loose sleeves or dangling jewelry at the stove. When possible, cook on the back burners with pot handles turned so they don't extend over the stove's edge.

Smokers – outside please. If smoking indoors is allowed, provide large, deep ashtrays. Remember to never empty ash trays into the house trash.

Decorations and kitchen clutter must be kept away from direct sources of heat. Candles should never be left burning. Be sure they are placed where guests will not brush against them. The candle holders should be completely noncombustible and difficult to knock over, clear of combustible decorations.

It is a good idea to spray your artificial tree with a flame retardant, even though a tag may indicate that it is "Fire Resistant."

Check live trees for freshness: Keep the stand filled with water. Discard if a tree becomes dangerously dry. Never burn any part of the tree in a fireplace.

Decorations should be non-combustible. Check indoor and outdoor lights for frayed cords. Lights should never be touching any

combustible material. Avoid using an extension cord if possible. Don't overload electrical circuits; use a circuit strip with a surge protector. Lights should never be left on when leaving your home or going to bed.

**IT'S GREAT TO BE CHARITABLE...BUT** don't be too quick to donate to telemarketers. Never give your phone number, credit card, social security or bank numbers. You can check out the charity with the Arizona Secretary of State's office.

**WHEN SHOPPING** park in well lit areas; Put your purchases in the truck; Don't return to your car if people are hanging around or you may want to ask store personnel to walk to the car with you. Approach the vehicle with key in hand so you can start the car and leave quickly.

...and "betcha" you never thought that leaving your Christmas gift boxes by the trash and in plain sight, might be an invitation to a burglar? It's like posting a list of the gifts you got for Christmas.

At your home, you should already have established a meeting place with everyone in your family in case you must evacuate the home for any one of a variety of reasons... It should be far enough away to be safe and should be out of the way of any rescue team and their equipment.

...and have a happy, safe holiday season.


### SAFETY ALERT

A regional emergency alert system is available throughout Pima County. Check the following for information: [www.SafetyAlertGPX.com](http://www.SafetyAlertGPX.com)

A CHRISTMAS CHUCKLE  
 TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS  
 WHEN ALL THROUGH THE HOUSE  
 NOT A CREATURE WAS STIRRING  
 NOT EVEN A MOUSE.  
 THE STOCKINGS WERE HUNG  
 BY THE CHIMNEY WITH CARE.  
 THEY'D BEEN WORN FOR SIX MONTHS  
 AND THEY NEEDED THE AIR.

2010

December 2010, *Desert Times*:



*Tucson Unified School District  
Vesey Elementary School  
5005 S. Butts Rd.  
Tucson, Arizona 85757*

*December 14, 2010*

*Dear: Drexel Heights Fire Dept.*

*As we find ourselves immersed in the Holiday season it is comforting and heartwarming that there are people and families whom open their hearts and assist other families in need. On behalf of the Vesey community I would like to take time to Thank You for all your support during this time of the year. I wish you and your family a blessed and safe Holiday season.*



*Maria G. Corral,  
Vesey's Community Rep.*





December 2010, *Desert Times*:

# **Drexel Heights Fire District Service Level Evaluation**

**Fiscal Year Ending 2010**

Provide a rating of each item using the following scale:

4=Excellent 3=Good 2=Average 1=Poor

I.	Administration	
	A. Flow of information	3.08
	B. Accuracy of information or materials	3.20
	C. Budget development process	3.00
II.	Communications	
	A. Dispatch Program	2.27
	B. Level of Service	2.54
	C. Information/CAD Systems	1.75
III.	Emergency Operations	
	A. Fire Operations	3.20
	B. EMS Operations	3.41
	C. Special Teams Operations	2.86
IV.	Facilities & Supply Management	
	A. Facility Maintenance Program	2.42
	B. Facility Supply Program	2.62
	C. Inventory Control	2.36
V.	Fire Prevention & Investigation	
	A. Inspection Programs	2.75
	B. Fire Investigation Program	2.56
	C. Pre-Fire Plans	1.68
VI.	Fleet and Equipment Maintenance	
	A. Apparatus Repair and Service Program	3.16
	B. Equipment Repair and Service Program	2.89
	C. SCBA Repair and Service Program	3.08
VII.	Public Education/Information	
	A. Fire Safety Education Programs	3.60
	B. Special Safety Related Programs	3.44
	C. Public Information Process	3.02
VIII.	Risk Management & Wellness	
	A. Safety Program	2.48
	B. Safety Information	2.51
	C. Annual Medical Exam Process	2.34
IX.	Training & Education	
	A. Fire Operations Training Program	2.83
	B. EMS Operations Training Program	2.79

December 2010, *Desert Times*:

C. Professional Development Programs	2.68
X. Human Resources	
A. Payroll processing	3.16
B. Problem resolution	2.91
C. Level of service to employees'	3.02
D. 5/6 work schedule	3.24

What single item should the District focus on as the primary issue in the coming fiscal year?

*Stations and apparatus, complete current pending projects, SOG implementation with training, preparing for the property tax issues, maintain staffing, Star Valley station, more officer training, assisting Division Chiefs to make good decisions, Station 402 improvements, increasing professionalism in the eyes of other fire organizations, competitive salaries/benefits, upgrade frontline suppression apparatus, comprehensive task books for career development, communications improvements, progressive EMS skills and protocols, customer service is #1, detailing for paramedic class, defeating tax initiatives, accountability for focus on goals, standardization of shifts and station operations, improved disinfection methods for stations, employee pay raises, promotional system for paramedics, training and education.*

If you could CHANGE just one thing about the District, what would it be?

*Stricter medical and physical exam process, customer service response unit so others don't have to do it, Fire Corps, more employee involvement in operations – employees need to take responsibility, consistency, differential pay, mapping and hydrant info on in-vehicle computers, Engineer positions, change to 3/4 schedule, old habit of Drexel, inventory tracking methods, make paramedic class attendance a detail only program, leather boots, allow family members to work same shift, making commercial development more attractive, negativity of some employees, increase number of paramedics, middle management accountability, more in-house training programs, training with other agencies, training needs to be more employee friendly, refresher training closer to recert time, extra pay for special teams, use engines rather than ambulances for patient assists.*

If you could IMPROVE just one thing in the District, what would it be?

*Differential pay for special teams, enhance living area at 402, hire an IT person, pride in organization and community, more involvement in decision making, cleanliness and appearance of Stations 401 & 402, ability to select own station based on seniority, need to hire support people for stations and fleet – firefighters are too busy to do work, increased involvement in outside PT, reliability of apparatus, utilization of AVL, navy blue class A uniforms, attitude of those who believe no change is needed, operational uniformity, only a few do all of the work – everyone needs to contribute, the Firehouse programs used and not used, formal officer training for existing officers, relationship with other agencies, engineers (paid or not).*

Comments or other suggestions:

*Employee services beyond current ones available, delivery of uniforms after ordered on line, things are good overall, focus on safety, make inspectors accountable during work time, succession planning, people are leaving because they do not like who they are working with – selecting own station would change that, things are getting better all the time, need to work on retention of employees, good family type atmosphere, like working here, training should not be interrupted by calls, stipend for wildland PPE, need to value those who have dedicated their careers to DHFD, embrace change or maybe it is time to move on, excited about the progress but there is still lots to be done, the annual medical exam process does not work for those that need it, great fire district, proud to be an employee, extrication suits for engine and squad personnel.*



December 2010, *Desert Times*:

**Drexel Heights Fire District  
Supervisor's Service Level Evaluation**

**Fiscal Year Ending 2010**

1. Is the District meeting the needs of the community we serve? Yes 15 No     

Please explanation (yes or no):

*Good customer service, can always improve, reorganization was needed and has made a big difference, good public education programs, more CPR/First Aid classes than we can accommodate, increased staffing.*

2. What do **YOU** consider as the top two (2) priorities of the District in the 2010 fiscal year?

- a. *Current minimum staffing, Stations and equipment, staffing and equipment for Station 405, employee retention, budget management, prioritization, training, lobbying against tax initiatives, keep salaries and benefits competitive.*
- b. *Professional development, new facilities and improvements, fine tuning organization, competitive salaries and benefits, competitive salaries, Station 405, facility improvements, operational and training re-structuring, 5<sup>th</sup> ambulance, budget constraints, PCWIN that works, no layoffs, increase revenue, maintain service levels.*

3. What do **YOU** consider to be the single most important challenge facing this District in the next 12 months and what solution(s) do you have to offer?

Challenge: *Revenue / budget issues*

Solution: *increase taxes and fees for dispatch services, apply for grants, eliminate inspectors and have fire marshal pick up inspection load, foregoing pay raises, reducing un-necessary driving, eliminate un-necessary spending.*

Challenge: *Everyone on same page*

Solution: *New SOG's, accountability, fire scene assignments based on seat position, ranks for Engineer, Paramedic and Inspector.*

Challenge: *Facilities issues*

Solution: *Seek alternative funding sources*

Challenge: *Tax initiatives*

Solution: *Information, rallying employees*

Challenge: *Operational re-structuring*

Solution: *Open communications, keeping an open mind*

Challenge: *Continue wage increases*

Solution: *Increase taxes, increase ambulance user fees outsource communications, discontinue programs or teams that do not provide a revenue source.*

4. Finish the following: **My subordinates are happy but with development and training they could be better prepared for opportunities**

**My subordinates are struggling for an identity but with leadership and guidance they could be be progressive FF**

**My subordinates are happy but with add a computer to 402 they could be better prepared for opportunities**

**My subordinates are content but with organizational reprioritization they could be excited and more productive**

**My subordinates are not as productive as they could but with their participation in future planning they could be**

5. My subordinates routinely tell me, "I wish we had an officer on the squad, engineer positions, new uniforms, more company training, leather boots, shorts, new uniform vendor," wish we were more progressive, wish daily schedule was not interrupted by unexpected events and projects, wish all of the shifts were on the same page, we need to hire more people, we need our own training facility, don't complain much.

Additional comments for consideration: *Problem with selection as to who goes to training, too many differences between shifts and stations, need to find a way to unify the various parts of operations.*

December 2010, *Desert Times*:

**Drexel Heights Fire District**  
**Personal Appraisal of the Fire Chief**

**Fiscal Year Ending 2010**

1. Effectively delegates work, responsibility and authority.
  - 2% Below expectations
  - 44% Meets Expectations
  - 28% Exceeds Expectations
  - 24% No Opinion
2. Provides the opportunity for professional development of employees.
  - 6% Below expectations
  - 35% Meets Expectations
  - 31% Exceeds Expectations
  - 26% No Opinion
3. Provides timely and accurate information that allows me to understand things that are going on within the District.
  - 8% Below expectations
  - 28% Meets Expectations
  - 40% Exceeds Expectations
  - 22% No Opinion
4. Makes time to be accessible to discuss my suggestions, questions and issues.
  - 0% Below expectations
  - 31% Meets Expectations
  - 28% Exceeds Expectations
  - 40% No Opinion
5. Listens to me when we have the opportunity to talk.
  - 4% Below expectations
  - 33% Meets Expectations
  - 28% Exceeds Expectations
  - 33% No Opinion
6. Provides the resources and ability to allow for the completion of projects or assignments.
  - 0% Below expectations
  - 48% Meets Expectations
  - 24% Exceeds Expectations
  - 26% No Opinion

Comments or explanations of ratings:

*Good vision, tries to make a difference, keeping competent people, needs to visit stations more, gets info out just not enough opportunity for feedback, provides tools to get job done, sometimes too hard on his staff, delegate more programs for staff development, should allow PTO for class attendance – there is adequate staffing to allow for that, fair and professional during interactions, mentoring and coaching is essential for the future, needs to show he values the employees more to improve morale, appreciate open door policy, adding Chief Karrer was great achievement and will bring welcome changes, has always been fair with me, appreciate monthly updates.*



# Greater Tucson Fire Foundation

## Thanks you for taking an interest in Tucson Fire Department history —

This is one of many sections that contain information, documents, letters, newspaper articles, pictures, etc. They have been collected and arranged in chronological order or by a subject. These items were collected, organized and entered into a computerized database by Dave Ridings Assistant Chief Tucson Fire Department, Al Ring friend of the department, Greater Tucson Fire Foundation and with the help of many friends and fellow firefighters.

All graphics have been improved to make the resolution as good as possible, but the reader should remember that many came from copies of old newspaper articles. This also applies to other items such as documents, letters, etc.

Credit to the source of the documents, photos, etc. is provided whenever it was available. We realize that many items are not identified and regret that we weren't able to provide this information. As far as the newspaper articles that are not identified, 99% of them would have to be from one of three possible sources. The *Arizona Daily Star*, The *Tucson Citizen* and the *Tucson Daily Citizen*, for which we want to give a special thanks.

Please use this information as a reference tool only. If the reader uses any of the information for any purpose other than a reference tool, they should get permission from the source.

Should the reader have additional information on the above subject we would appreciate you sharing it with us. Please see the names and contact information on the 1st. TFD Archives page right below this paragraph.

