Rural Metro Fire, 2008—2019







Special thanks to John Roads, Fred Roof, and John R. Billingham:

January 3, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:

RV BURNS IN LITTLETOWN



DAVID SANDERS / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Rural Metro firefighters extinguish a fire in a recreational vehicle that was in a field south of the intersection of South Melody Avenue and East Elvira Road in Littletown, near the TTT truckstop. The fire occurred about 3:30 p.m. Wednesday and was quickly put out, in spite of high winds. An officer at the scene said a homeless man was staying in the RV but was not hurt in the fire.

January 28, 2008, *Tucson Citizen*:

Running washes force street closures, 2 water rescues Monday

by David L. Teibel on Jan 28, 2008, under Special

g+1 0 Recommend Share 8



The driver of this Subaru talks with a Sheriff's deputy after getting out of his vehicle safely from the Agua Caliente Wash at Limberlost and Soldier Trail this morning at 7:30 a.m.

At least two people were rescued from flooded washes early Monday on the East Side.

Rural/Metro Fire Department helped the two motorists who apparently had driven around barricades into the rain-swolen washes: one at the Agua Caliente Wash, the other at Tanque Verde Creek.

The incident at Tanque Verde involved a Prius caught in door-high water about 6:50 a.m., near Wentworth Road and Speedway Boulevard. Earlier, a Suburban also was stuck in that wash but that driver was able to wade out himself, authorities told a Tucson Citizen photographer.

The other rescue, at Agua Caliente Wash, occurred at 7:30 a.m., at Limberlost Road and Soldier Trail.

Authorities said none of the commuters were injured but provided no other details about the rescues.

Monday morning's light rain, mostly on the East Side, was a departure from torrential rain Sunday and Monday in the Santa Catalina Mountains, where as much as 7.5 inches fell in places. The downpour flooded Sabino Creek, had the Tanque Verde and Rillito running bank to bank and closed a number of area roads, including the Mount Lemmon Highway, where landslides were occurring, authorities said.

January 28, 2008, *Tucson Citizen*:

All the streets closed by the weather were in the unincorporated county, except one.

Closed were:

• Mount Lemmon Highway, at the base, to all traffic

• North La Cholla Boulevard south of the Cañada Del Oro Wash

• West Overton Road north of the Cañada Del Oro

• Three crossings at Agua Caliente Wash – East Fort Lowell and East Limberlost roads, plus East Soldiers Trail

• Two Tanque Verde Creek crossings – Tanque Verde Loop and North Wentworth Road

Closed in the city was:

• North Camino de la Tierra at the Rillito.

For Monday, the National Weather Service forecasts for the metro area a 30 percent chance of rain in the morning, dropping to 20 percent in the afternoon and little chance of rain Monday night.

Rain in the metro area was from 0.10 to 0.50 inch, with most areas averaging about 0.25 of an inch, said Greg Mollere, a meteorologist with the NWS here.

On Mount Lemmon, however, nearly 8.20 inches of rain fell between 6 a.m. Sunday and 6 a.m. Monday, he said.

Water flow in Sabino Creek was 5.61 feet deep – more than 2 feet above flood stage, Mollere said. No damage in Sabino Canyon was reported and floodwaters were subsiding by 7 a.m. Monday.

Tanque Verde Creek was flowing bank-to-bank Monday, but did not spill over its banks, he said.

Rain or shine, police will have its speed enforcement photo radar van Monday from:

• 7 to 9 a.m. at Reynolds Elementary in the 7400 block of East Stella Road

• 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Harrison Road near 22nd Street

• 2 to 4 p.m. near Booth-Fickett Magnet School in the 400 block of South Montego Drive, near Kolb Road between Broadway and 22nd Street

• 4:30 to 8 p.m. on Kolb Road near Speedway Boulevard



Rural Metro helped the driver of a Prius get out of his vehicle safely from the Tanque Verde Wash on Wentworth Road near Speedway at 6:50 a.m.

January 29, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Three rescued from Tucson-area washes

As waters climbed, local drivers found themselves in jeopardy

By Dale Quinn
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Three people were rescued from surging washes early Monday as overnight rains swelled creeks throughout the Tucson area.

Sunday's rain came from a large storm system moving up from Mexico along the California coast that brought tropical moisture into the area, said National Weather Service meteorologist Glenn Lasher.

Some locations in the Tucson area, like Ventana Canyon, got about half an inch of rain over the last two days, while Mount Lemmon got 0.38 inches in that time period, according to the Pima County Regional Flood District's Web site.

At the Tucson International Airport, 0.04 of an inch of rain was recorded since Saturday, the Web site said. In central Tucson at the University of Arizona, 0.37 inches of rain fell in the same time period.

The first rescue occurred about 1 a.m. as water rushed through metro-area streams.

A man who had led deputies on a car chase drove past barricades closing North Camino de la Tierra and drove into the Rillito River without slowing down, said Sgt. James Ogden, a spokesman for the Pima County Sheriff's Department.

Just as firefighters were getting ready to make the rescue, the man lost grip on his car and drifted downstream, said Capt. Norm Carlton, a Tucson Fire Department spokesman.

"We saw the water rise probably two feet in a half-hour," Carlton said. "If there's water in a river and hurricanes up, don't go in there."

Two deputies went downstream and were able to throw a 30-foot K-9 leash to the man and pull him to safety, Ogden said.

The man — identified by Ogden as Gordon James Hay, 31 — was treated for minor injuries at the scene and booked into Pima County jail on suspicion of unlawful flight from law enforcement and for driving on a suspended license. He also had outstanding warrants, but Ogden could not immediately confirm what the warrants were for.

The pursuit began when Hay, who was driving a white sedan, crossed the center line of the road on North Oracle Road near West Wetmore Road and refused to stop for a deputy, Ogden said. He sped away from the deputy, who followed until a helicopter spotted the car. The helicopter tracked Hay until the pursuit ended at the river.

In another early-morning rescue, at about 7:30 a.m., one person was pulled from Tanque Verde Creek at North Wentworth Road and East Speedway, said Anne-Marie Braswell, a Rural/Metro Fire Department spokeswoman.

Firefighters also investigated a vehicle stuck about ¼ mile downstream, and when firefighters reached it, they saw the dome light on and some water in the vehicle, Braswell said. Firefighters searched the area to see if anybody had been swept away but later learned the person had abandoned the vehicle earlier, Braswell said.

She said if people do abandon their vehicle in a running wash, they should call 911 and tell authorities where the vehicle is, so rescuers don't search for a person who may have been swept downstream.

In another rescue, at about 4 a.m., a truck trying to cross the Cañada del Oro Wash near West Overton Road and North La Cholla Boulevard got stuck. Braswell said the man driving the truck was not injured.

Contact reporter Dale Quinn at 629-9402 or dquinn@azstarnet.com.

See more rescue photos at azstarnet.com/slideshows



KELLY PRESNELL / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The Fire Department recommends that if people leave a vehicle in a running wash, they call 911 and let officials know they are safe. This vehicle was abandoned in Monday's early-morning rains on the southern edge of the roadway in the Agua Caliente Wash at Limberlost Road.



JOHN L.S. WOOD / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The Catalinas got heavy rains Sunday, flooding many washes. A driver left this vehicle in Tanque Verde Creek, downstream of Wentworth Road, and escaped without injury.



JIM DAVIS / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The Cañada Del Oro Wash at La Cholla Boulevard roars across the street Monday.

February 9, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Man airlifted to hospital after NE Side rollover this afternoon

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Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

February 09, 2008 12:00 am 0

A man was airlifted to a local hospital after being injured in a rollover accident on the Northeast Side Saturday afternoon.

The accident occurred around 3:15 p.m. when a vehicle rolled near North Houghton Road and East Catalina Highway, said Rural/Metro batallion chief Lee Mayes.

The man driving the car was trapped underneath and had to be removed by the fire department, Mayes said. No information was available on possible injuries.

The cause of the crash is unknown and still under investigation, Mayes said.

March 6, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:



JAMES S. WOOD / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

GARAGE FIRE BURNS NORTHEAST SIDE MAN

A man suffered second-degree burns Wednesday afternoon when a fire broke out in the garage of his Northeast Side home, an official said. The fire occurred around 12:30 p.m. while the man was working on his pickup truck in the garage, according to Anne-Marie Braswell, a spokeswoman for the Rural/Metro Fire Department. The machinery he was using produced sparks, which are believed to have started the fire, she said. When firefighters arrived at the home in the 3600 block of North Tres Lomas Drive, near North Harrison Road and Catalina Highway, the garage was engulfed in flames, Braswell said. It took 18 firefighters and 16 minutes to get the fire under control. Firefighters were able to prevent the blaze from spreading to the man's home, where he lives with his wife and two daughters. He refused to be taken to a hospital for treatment of his burns, Braswell said. A damage estimate was not available Wednesday afternoon.

March 20, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:



VAN FILLED WITH ENTRANTS CRASHES



The van, lower left, plunged down an Interstate 10 embankment in the early morning, and some of the people inside ran into the desert.

32 packed in van that rolled off I-10; dozens hurt; 1 dead

By Dale Quinn and Brady McCombs
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

One woman was killed, three men are in critical condition and dozens of others also were injured early Monday when a van loaded with illegal entrants tried to evade the Border Patrol and rolled on Interstate 10 west of Benson, officials said.

Indications are that most of the passengers are from Guatemala and Ecuador, said Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesman Vincent Picard. Picard originally reported one woman died at the scene and two men died on their way to the hospital, but officials Monday afternoon could not confirm the two additional deaths.

Three Guatemalan men were in critical condition Monday evening with head injuries, said Oscar Padilla, the Guatemalan consul general in Phoenix.

The deceased was a 21-year-old woman from Guatemala, Padilla said.

Two smugglers were identified, and they will be referred to the U.S. Attorney's Office for charges, Picard said.

"We're still investigating, so I don't know if there's going to be more smugglers, but I know we've identified two: the driver and the guide," he said.

At least 14 of the 32 involved in the crash are Guatemalans, said Padilla, who went to three hospitals in Tucson to visit the injured and

See ROLLOVER, A4

See more photos from the scene of the crash at azstarnet.com/slideshows



Crews help a man, far right, who was flown back to the scene by helicopter, after he fled from the crash scene.



April 8, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:



BENJIE SANDERS / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A law-enforcement officer, left, takes two of the people who were in the van into custody after the two were found in the desert after the crash. A helicopter picked the two up and flew them back to the accident scene.

ROLLOVER

Continued from Page A1

determine their nationalities.

Three or four had already been released and were in the custody of U.S. law enforcement, Padilla said. The others, not including the three men in critical condition, suffered non-life-threatening injuries and were in stable condition. Three of the 14 are women, he said. None is a minor.

Four of the injured entrants are from Mexico, said Alejandro Ramos Cardoso, a spokesman for the Mexican Consulate in Tucson. The four men are in stable condition in Tucson hospitals, he said.

The van was westbound on I-10 when it rolled just after 5 a.m. near Empirita Road, about 10 miles west of Benson, said Officer Quent Mehr, a Department of Public Safety spokesman.

Some of the illegal entrants ran from the crash scene, authorities said.

At least 32 people were in the van, officials said. Anne-Marie Braswell, a Rural/Metro Fire Department spokeswoman, said 23 people were taken to the hospital shortly after the crash, 18 by ground and five by air. She said eight of the illegal entrants were found by the U.S. Border Patrol after the crash.

Of the eight caught by the Border Patrol, six were taken to the hospital, bringing the total injured to at least 29, Mehr said.

Most in the van were men, Picard said. He didn't know where they were headed.

Eight agencies responded to the crash, including DPS, the Tucson Fire Department and Border Patrol. Helicopters scoured the nearby desert in the hours after the wreck looking for additional passengers who may have left the scene.

The Mescal Volunteer Fire Department, which responds to the Mescal/I-6 area west of Benson, was first on the scene at 5:22 a.m. with five firefighters and three trucks, said community director Terri Jo Neff.

There was some concern about emergency personnel being exposed to measles as some of the passengers were ill, Neff said.

"We were told that one of the people had measles," said Mehr, the DPS spokesman. He said he then got information from the hospital that it wasn't measles, but chickenpox.

"We did have reports from the occupants that some of them had chickenpox, and all of the agents and first responders have been notified," Picard said.

The Pima County Health Department hadn't been notified of any cases of measles, said spokeswoman Patti Woodcock.

"Since the end of February, all hospitals have been on high alert for rash presentations," Woodcock said. She said the department checks with hospitals daily to see if any new cases have emerged.

Some of the patients who were taken to University Medical Center were put in isolation as a precaution, said spokeswoman Beth Pouska.

Border Patrol agents spotted the van while they were conducting traffic stops in the area early Monday.

They did not chase the van, but it appeared suspicious so they looked for it on I-10 and found it had rolled off the north side of the interstate, Mehr said.

Border Patrol agents in the Tucson Sector apprehend Guatemalan illegal border-crossers fairly regularly but only encounter Ecuadoreans from time to time, said Border Patrol spokesman Jesús Rodriguez.

In fiscal year 2006, the Department of Homeland Security deported 25,135 Guatemalans, placing the Central American nation fourth among all countries for deportees, behind only Mexico, El Salvador and Honduras, statistics from the agency show. In fiscal year 2005, it ranked fifth with 25,908 deportees.

Ecuador, with about 2,000 people deported in each fiscal year 2006 and 2005, ranked 10th among countries.

Mexico is by far the largest source of illegal entrants, with more than 1 million deported each of the past three fiscal years, Homeland Security numbers show.

Contact reporter Dale Quinn at 629-9412 or dquinn@azstarnet.com or Brady McCombs at 573-4213 bmccombs@azstarnet.com.

April 25, 2008, *Tucson Citizen*:

2 teens charged in $4M NW side blaze

by David L. Teibel on Apr 25, 2008, under Local, Special

g+1 0 Recommend Share 0

Apartments fire hurts 3; deputy says pair partying, drinking



The flames were so hot, cars melted in the nearby parking lot.

Two 18-year-old Tucsonans were charged with starting an apartment fire that injured three people and caused more than $4 million in damage, a Pima County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman said Thursday.

Jeffrey H. Moore and Bryce C. Hobbs were charged with arson, criminal damage and several counts of endangerment, Deputy Dawn Hanke said. They started the blaze while drinking and partying nearby with friends, she said.

The fire burned to the ground four apartment buildings under construction and injured three people, said Katherine Heiden, a spokeswoman for Northwest Fire/Rescue.

April 25, 2008, *Tucson Citizen*:

The fire, which started about 3:50 a.m. at West Linda Vista Boulevard and North Thornydale Road, also heavily damaged four apartments in a fifth building, she said.

Medics treated two of the injured for minor burns and took the third person to a hospital for treatment of burns, Heiden said. None of the 45 to 50 firefighters from Northwest Fire, Rural/Metro Fire Department or the Golder Ranch Fire District was injured fighting the blaze.

Radiant heat from the fast-burning fire damaged about 50 cars in the complex's parking lot and two adjacent homes, Hanke said.

Susan Mahne, a resident of an apartment near the fire, said she was awakened by another resident pounding on her door.

Residents had gone door-to-door trying to alert neighbors to the fire danger, Mahne said.

When she left her apartment, Mahne saw "a wall of flames, a big wall of flames."

"I've never seen anything like that in my life," she said.

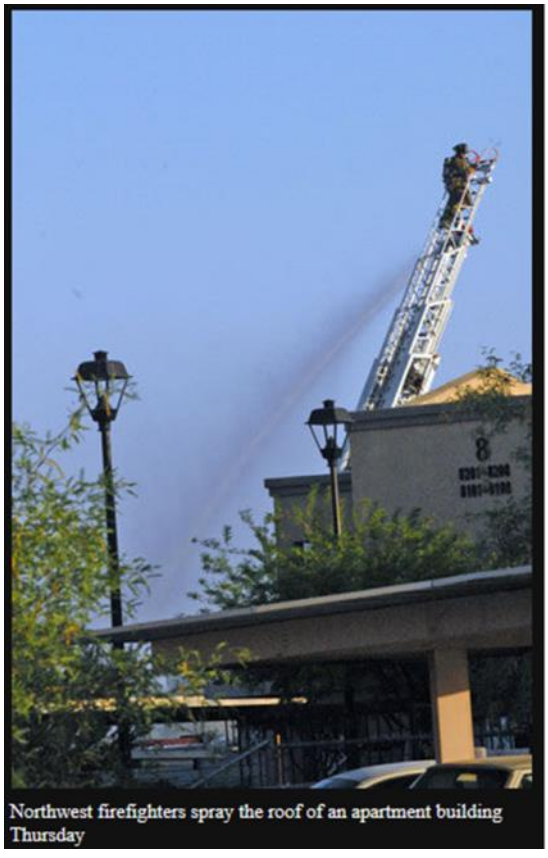
As the tires on cars exploded from the heat, flames in the burning buildings shot "well over 100 feet" into the air, Mahne said.

Dan Hoffman, a disaster relief worker with the Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Red Cross, said the Red Cross was helping at least 18 people who were displaced by the blaze.

Seven families lost everything they had, the organization said in a news release.



Dan Hoffman of the American Red Cross said Thursday the Red Cross will provide food, clothing and shelter for the residents of buildings evacuated because of the early morning fire. Calvin and Susan Mooney, with their dogs Savanah and Blackjack, were evacuated as were Nichol White (far right) and her children Kora, 8, Avery, 7, and Kare, 6. The evacuees wait at the Safeway at Thornydale Road and Linda Vista Boulevard.



Northwest firefighters spray the roof of an apartment building Thursday

2008

April 28, 2008, *Tucson Citizen*:



Rural/Metro wildland firefighters deal with the wind as they work on prescribed burns. They started the exercise by using drip torches to set buffelgrass on fire.



Rural/Metro wildland firefighter J.B. Fairbanks keeps an eye out for spot fires that may have been missed.
Fire experts say the potential for wildfires is high.



Slide 14 of 15 [Next | Previous].
Rural/Metro wildland firefighters keep an eye out for any spot fires as they work on some training using drip torches to set some buffel grass on fire next to their station on Benson Highway.
Source: FRANCISCO MEDINA/Tucson Citizen



Rural/Metro Wildland firefighters prepare for fire season

April 28, 2008, *Tucson Citizen*:

Practicing how to control fires with fire

by Jason Redmond on Apr 28, 2008, under Local

g+1 0 Recommend Share 0



Rural/Metro Fire Department firefighters move back as the heat from burning buffelgrass Sunday becomes a little too hot to handle. The exercise was held near their station on Benson Highway

"I like playing with fire," said Jacob Poole, a recent addition to Rural/Metro Fire Department Station 71, as he stood over the smoldering desert landscape.

Poole, 25, is one of 12 new recruits who were out Sunday at the station, 4445 E. Benson Highway, training to battle blazes in the upcoming wildfire season.

In all, 20 firefighters participated in a 48-hour training class spread over four days that focused on communication skills, getting familiar with the tools used to fight fires and practicing burn techniques, which involves deliberately setting a fire to help stop the main blaze from spreading.

"If we burn the fuel next to the line in a controlled manner, we can control the main fire," said Fire Capt. Patrick Talley, coordinator of wildland firefighting for Rural/Metro. "It's fighting fire with fire."

"It's a lot more interesting job than others I've had," Poole said. Poole's résumé includes being a store manager and working in construction.

Wind played a major factor in Sunday's training, Talley said. With every wind shift the firefighters had to act accordingly, moving around the fire as they set plants ablaze. Wind takes a serious role in fighting fires, Talley said.

"Any fire that has gotten to any large size, wind has played a factor," Talley said.

The training begins before each fire season.

But there is no specific start date to the fire season, Talley said. It starts randomly with the first major fire and ends when monsoon rains arrive, he said.

Fire behavior analysts with the Eastern Arizona Incident Management team issued a warning Sunday that the potential for extreme wildfire conditions in southeastern Arizona for this time of year is the greatest they have seen.

A major contributor to wildfires is buffelgrass, which plagues most of southern and central Arizona as it kills native plants and grasses. Buffelgrass is hard to remove, Talley said.

"It burns much hotter than the native grasses," Talley said. "It burns much higher and faster."

Talley encourages homeowners to clear dry grasses and plants up to 30 feet in all directions from their homes to prevent the spread of fire to them.

The Associated Press contributed to this article.

May 1, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Pancake breakfast stacks up fine



MAY 01, 2008 12:00 AM • STORY AND PHOTOS BY JILL TORRANCE ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A pancake breakfast held annually the past four years — including Saturday — aims to raise money to help a unique area attraction.

People lined up to get some food and enjoy the beautiful morning at the Pancakes in the Park event at Roy P. Drachman-Agua Caliente Regional Park, 12325 E. Roger Road.

The event, co-sponsored by the Friends of Agua Caliente and the Rural/Metro Fire Department, included the requisite pancakes along with musical entertainment, raffles, a puppet show, information booths and more.

"We are trying to raise money for improvements at the park," said Friends of Agua Caliente member Sally Danielson.

The park is a 101-acre aquatic-riparian habitat in the Sonoran Desert. It needs new interpretive signs and other improvements.

"We see this as an opportunity to get the community out to see the park and its beauty as well as raise money for the park," said Danielson. "It's a natural-resources park. It's here for people to enjoy wildlife and nature in a peaceful setting."

At least a couple of participants did just that.

"I like the wildlife, the habitat. I just think it's a beautiful place," said Michael Jepson, 9.

His younger brother, 7-year-old Jack, had his own thoughts about the place. "I like the turtles, the ducks, and all the quacking noise," he said.





May 23, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:



DEAN KNUTH / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

FIRE BURNS 12 ACRES IN REDINGTON ROAD AREA

Rural/Metro firefighters Gary Post, left, and Steve Knight work to contain a wildfire off Redington Road. The fire started near milepost 6 on the road near a popular wildcat shooting range, said Stan Helin, acting district ranger for the Coronado National Forest. It burned 12 acres, he said.

May 27, 2008, *Tucson Citizen*:

Child nearly drowns at Westin La Paloma

by Heidi Rowley on May 27, 2008, under Local, Special

g+1 0 Recommend Share 0

Rural/Metro firefighters responded to a near-drowning Monday afternoon at The Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa, 3800 E. Sunrise Drive.

Rural/Metro Fire Department Deputy Chief James Stoltenberg said a 2-year-old child was found unconscious and not breathing in the pool around 5 p.m. by family members.

Stoltenberg said the child had been missing for about two minutes.

He said dispatchers gave instructions to a family member to give CPR, which was performed until medics arrived. When medics arrived, the child was conscious and beginning to breathe on his own. The child was transported to a local hospital for follow-up care, Stoltenberg said.

This is the first near-drowning/drowning for Rural/Metro this year. The Tucson Fire Department has responded to one child drowning so far this year and no near drownings. In February a 2-year-old drowned in a neighbor's pool.

June 10, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Blazes at 2 far SE Side sites destroy, damage four homes

JUNE 10, 2008 12:00 AM • BY PHILIP HALDIMAN ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Two separate fires within an hour of each other on the Southeast Side destroyed two trailer homes and damaged two other houses Monday afternoon.

At about 3:30 p.m., 34 firefighters and five fire engines responded to the Trails West Mobile Home Park in the 8400 block of South Kolb Road near Interstate 10, said Anne-Marie Braswell, a Rural/Metro Fire Department spokeswoman.

The blaze started in a manufactured home, then spread to the car in the carport.

The fire moved to a second home that was vacant and up for sale.

The first house was substantially damaged, said Braswell. The second house suffered an undetermined amount of damage.

Officials were alerted when two people returned from a doctor's appointment and heard a popping sound in their home.

No one was injured, but the American Red Cross assisted with the displaced residents.

Corona de Tucson firefighters also helped extinguish the blaze, which is under investigation.

At about 4 p.m., in another incident, several agencies helped at the scene of two trailer homes engulfed in flames in the 9800 block of South Spiney Cactus Way, near South Country Club Road and East Old Vail Connection Road.

Firefighters were able to get the fire under control in 15 minutes and had it out within 25 minutes, said Braswell.

Rural-Metro, the Helmet Peak, Green Valley and the Tucson fire departments helped fight the fire, Braswell said.

Both homes completely burned to the ground.

The fire is under investigation, and no property damage estimates were available.

No one was injured.

June 10, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:

FIRE HITS MOBILE HOME PARK



JAMES S. WOOD / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A Rural-Metro firefighter douses a structure ablaze at the Trails West Mobile Home Park near South Kolb Road and Interstate 10. Monday's fire damaged two homes on the property. No one was injured. **Story, Page B3**

July 1, 2008, *Tucson Citizen*:

Shooter calm during spree

by Renee Schafer Horton on Jul 01, 2008, under Local, Special

g+1 0 Recommend Share 3

Witnesses recall gunman's lack of anxiety



The intersection of Ina and Oracle roads is cordoned off after the driver of a red Mustang shot at a Pima County sheriff's deputy on June 1.

Editor's note: Tucson police Officer Erik Hite was killed one month ago during a crosstown shooting spree. Tucson Citizen reporter Renée Schafer Horton reviewed hundreds of pages of Pima County Sheriff's Department and Tucson Police Department reports, listened to recordings of 911 calls and dispatches and law enforcement radio transmissions, and interviewed witnesses to reconstruct what happened that tragic day. Law enforcement agencies declined interviews.

At 9:49 a.m. on Sunday, June 1, Pima County sheriff's Deputy David Baird was asked to respond to a "shots heard" call in a neighborhood of new homes north of Cortaro Farms Road. In the eight minutes it took him to arrive in the 8400 block of North Placita de la Manzana, the dispatcher relayed more information: Witnesses were reporting that a white male had shot at two homes in the area before fleeing in a late-model, red Mustang convertible.

"Suspect had the top down and was wearing camo fatigues," the dispatcher said.

There was no information as to where the shooter was headed.

Doing the speed limit

It takes about 12 minutes, if you don't exceed the speed limit, to drive east from Placita de la Manzana down Cortaro Farms to where it curves into Magee Road, south to Ina Road and east to Oracle Road. According to witness reports, the camouflage-clad man in the red Mustang never brought attention to himself by speeding.

He was driving so carefully that Christopher Devol, a homeless musician who spends mornings on the patio of the Starbucks at Ina and Oracle watching traffic, didn't even notice him. At least not until the shooting started.

It was about 10 a.m. and Devol, 54, had settled into his regular table on the west side of the Starbucks entrance, his backpack, guitar and sleeping roll gathered around him.

"I was looking that way," he said, pointing west down Ina, "when I heard a bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang! It came from behind me, so I turned around and saw the red Mustang – it was in the right-hand turn lane, just sitting there – and the gun pointed up (north) Oracle. People started yelling, 'Call 911!' and parents were saying to their kids, 'Get inside! Get inside!' "

Devol said the incident felt surreal, because the man shooting was "totally calm."

"It was a Sunday, and it felt completely usual except for the noise (of the gunfire)," he said. "I went inside for a minute, but I came back out because I just didn't get the feeling he'd turn on us. He was aiming for something else."

That something else was Deputy Eric Cervantez, whom Devol said he didn't notice "until he went screaming down Oracle, lights flashing, chasing the guy."

Devol was curious about the casings from the gun, which he described as "an AK-47 type."

"I knew all the traffic on Oracle would destroy them, so I went over and picked them up," he said. "One was on the sidewalk, but the rest were in the road. I used a napkin, so I wouldn't get fingerprints on them."

Devol brought the casings back to his table and waited.

"There's an Oro Valley cop who comes here for coffee in the morning and . . . when I saw him, I gave them to him," Devol recalled. "He said I saved him the trouble of looking for them."

July 1, 2008, *Tucson Citizen*:

Shinns first see shooter in Mustang

Jerry Shinn, 49, typically has two options for Sunday mornings: He either enjoys a walk with his wife and their chocolate cocker spaniels, or attends church at one of a handful of Northwest Side congregations. On June 1, however, the Shinns decided to go to an East Side church after hearing a friend rave about the services.

Because of that decision, they found themselves sitting at a red light at Ina and Oracle at 10 a.m., next to a late-model convertible in the right-turn-only lane.

"I looked over and saw he had a long-sleeved camouflage shirt on, and it looked homemade – there was confetti-looking stuff on the arms, like fringes," Shinn said. "I made the comment to my wife that maybe he was going to a young child's birthday party and he's going to be a tree. No sooner than I said that, I see him sit up tall, sticking his head out of the vehicle. He took his left arm and pointed to the intersection and then pointed abruptly to the ground – it was a motion to stop."

Shinn looked to see what the driver was pointing at and noticed a Sheriff's Department vehicle positioned in the middle of the intersection.

"Then it happened so fast – I looked back, the first shot was being fired," Shinn said. "It was a really weird, empty feeling. Everything was dead silent except for the shots. I looked at the squad car and could see the hole in the windshield in the area of the steering wheel and I couldn't see the officer. I made a comment to my wife, 'I think that officer is dead.' "

The driver of the convertible turned slowly down Oracle, keeping his eye on the squad car, Shinn said. When he completed the turn, Shinn saw Deputy Cervantez get to his feet, fire rounds down Oracle and then get in his car and take up the pursuit.

"I asked my wife what to do and she said there were people there to give a report and we could call someone later and tell what we saw," Shinn said. "So we headed east on Ina toward church."

Deputy Cervantez injured

According to the Sheriff's Department's radio transmissions for that day, Cervantez arrived at the Ina-Oracle intersection having heard a description of the red Mustang at the Placita de la Manzana shooting. Much of his radio transmission is garbled by traffic noise and wind, but one thing stands out: Breathing quickly, Cervantez said, "I'm 998" – police code for "officer-involved shooting." He said that his vehicle was compromised and he was heading southbound on Oracle after the Mustang.

"I'm bleeding," Cervantez said. "I don't know if I'm hit."

The dispatcher and other deputies tried to determine Cervantez's exact location, asking him what his nearest cross streets were. There was no immediate response.

Shinns see shooter again

As Jerry Shinn and his wife crossed the intersection of Ina and North First Avenue, something caught his eye.

"It was a red Mustang with a guy wearing camouflage," he said. "I knew immediately it was the same person. My wife said, 'It can't be. Five minutes ago the police were chasing him down Oracle.' Then she looked at him and said, 'Oh, my gosh, it's the same camouflage. Call 911.' "

Shinn slowed down to let the Mustang pass, and used his cell phone to dial the emergency number.

"I spoke to a lady, and told her what I witnessed at Ina and Oracle and that the vehicle had just passed me and I believed that everyone was following him south on Oracle, when he was going east on Ina and it was about to turn to Sunrise," Shinn said. "She wanted a complete description of the car and him and a license plate number."

The Mustang had passed Shinn and another car, then merged into the right lane. Shinn moved into the left lane, pulled even with the car directly behind the Mustang and got the information for the 911 operator. Then he slowed down, putting space between himself and the Mustang.

"I didn't want to be too close, but I wanted to keep an eye on him," Shinn said.

The Shinns kept following the Mustang, staying on the line with 911. Just before reaching the intersection of Swan and Sunrise roads, they saw a Sheriff's Department car going west with emergency lights on, possibly responding to the previous call of an officer-involved shooting.

"I told the dispatcher they were going the wrong way," Shinn said. "A few seconds later, she said, 'Are you still heading east?' At that point, we were about three cars behind (the Mustang) and I knew we were the only ones who knew where this car was at. I told her he was getting ready to go southbound on Swan and I'd probably lose him. She said to just worry about my safety, but if I caught back up, to call her back."

Shinn watched the Mustang turn south on Swan Road, helpless to catch up. When he got to the light and turned, the Mustang was nowhere in sight.

"To be honest with you, I subconsciously sped because I knew if he got past River Road or into those small neighborhoods, he could hide out and they might not find him," Shinn said.

After a few hundred yards, the Shinns spotted the Mustang in the left-turn lane at River Road. The Mustang turned east on River and Shinn followed, a few cars behind. They caught up to the Mustang rather quickly because it was stuck behind a car going slowly on River.

"I called back 911 and told her he was going eastbound on River from Swan," Shinn said.

July 1, 2008, *Tucson Citizen*:

After crossing North Craycroft Road, Shinn saw a Sheriff's Department car pass him and the Mustang going west on River Road.

"I say to the (911 operator), 'This is the third vehicle that's passed us going the wrong way!' and then, within a minute there was a sheriff's vehicle behind us. We pulled to the side of the road, told the dispatcher there was an officer on scene and hung up. I pulled into a driveway on the north side of River and my wife said, 'What are you doing?' I said, 'That guy is going to shoot at that cop and I want us out of the way.' "

TPD officers join pursuit

Tucson Police Department officers had been advised of the Mustang's travel early on, in case it headed into the city. As word came of it heading toward East Tanque Verde Road, officers on the East Side of town left their patrols and off-duty jobs and headed in that direction.

About 10:20 a.m., Sgt. Jennifer Turner advised other officers that she was following the Mustang eastbound on Tanque Verde near Udall Park. She was joined by three other Tucson police officers. According to the Tucson police incident report from June 1, Turner saw the Mustang's driver put a weapon over his shoulder as he drove, and fire at the officers. They continued the pursuit. Just before the Tanque Verde Road/Pantano Road overpass, the Mustang's driver fired a shot and hit Turner's windshield.

Officer Erik Hite was heading north on Houghton Road to try to intercept the Mustang. When he reached Tanque Verde Road, he turned west heading toward the eastbound Mustang and the Tucson police officers pursuing it. Simultaneously, deputies set up road spikes at the intersection of Tanque Verde and Houghton Road.

According to the incident report, the Mustang passed Hite going east and Hite made a U-turn, inserting himself between the Mustang and Turner and the other officers. Turner warned him via radio that the Mustang's driver was firing at officers and to stay back. Just before Houghton, the Mustang made a sharp left turn onto North Tomahawk Trail, followed closely by Hite.

A neighborhood couple were driving south on Tomahawk at that moment, and the Mustang nearly collided with them. They swerved to the right to avoid a collision and, according to Tucson police reports, they heard gunshots, then silence.

The husband got out of his car, noticing two police cars, one of them "smoking from the radiator." He also noticed the Mustang fleeing northbound with a Sheriff's Department squad car chasing it. Then, according to the report, he saw a police officer "slumped over in his marked patrol vehicle."

Coming to aid of Hite

Turner didn't see Hite get shot, but according to the incident report, she heard multiple shots after Hite turned onto Tomahawk. As she negotiated from Tanque Verde to Tomahawk, she saw Hite's vehicle "slowly rolling off the paved roadway."

According to witnesses in the incident report, Turner ran from her vehicle to Hite's, opened the door, removed him from the car, laid him on the ground and began lifesaving efforts. Other officers arrived, and Officer Mike Thiffault, who was directly behind Turner, issued an "officer down" call over the radio.

On one frequency, Rural Metro Fire Department paramedics heard of a vehicle fire in the area of Tanque Verde and Tomahawk and proceeded to respond. En route, they heard the "officer down" call.

Tucson Fire Department paramedics arrived shortly thereafter, and a Tucson firefighter remembered that "the female officer was given the task of taking off Officer Hite's shoes and socks to keep her focused because she was visibly upset."

Cyclist's route

On any given Sunday, beginning at about 6 a.m., the road leading up to Mount Lemmon is crowded with bicyclists who want to train on the mountain's circuitous route. They go early to beat the heat and often meet before the ride at Le Buzz Caffe, at the northeast corner of Tanque Verde Road and Catalina Highway.

Usually, Derek Eysenbach, a 29-year-old competitive cyclist, is there on his black Cannondale Six13, but on June 1, he didn't get to the base of the mountain until 9:45 a.m.

"I was just tired and lazy that day and I slept in," said Eysenbach, a University of Arizona geography grad student.

He parked his car in the strip mall on Catalina Highway, unloaded his bike, strapped on his helmet and headed up the road about 10:15 a.m. He knew he'd have to watch out for two things since he was cycling alone: the heat and motorcycles.

"On Sundays, dozens and dozens of motorcyclists are tearing up and down the mountain," he said. "There's only one deputy up there on Sundays, so they just kind of go wild."

Heading up Catalina Highway

Sheriff's deputies were chasing the red Mustang northbound toward Catalina Highway when Eysenbach began his ascent. Deputy Tory Schwartz called the Mount Lemmon Fire Department to relay a message to Deputy Luis Palma, who was stationed at Milepost 19, to head down the mountain in case the Mustang started up Catalina Highway.

According to Palma's incident report, he was monitoring radio transmissions, and about 10:30 a.m., he heard Schwartz announce that the Mustang was heading up the mountain, with Schwartz in pursuit. About seven minutes later, Schwartz yelled, "Shots fired, shots fired, shots fired! . . . I'm hit – northbound on Catalina Highway Milepost 2 – again, I'm hit."

Palma set up partial road blocks at Milepost 7, where, according to his incident report, "I had great visibility down the road." He diverted southbound traffic to a safe location and got out his shotgun. "I'll be out of my vehicle, standing by with a shotgun," Palma said in the radio transmission.

The wounded Schwartz notified everyone that his injury was not life-threatening and, breathing heavily, replied to Palma, "Take up a good position. . . . He will shoot at you."

Palma then asked for confirmation of what he was looking for: "Red vehicle, right? Red vehicle?"

Mustang's driver sitting quietly

Eysenbach encountered his first motorcyclists at the fee station just below Molino Basin, near Milepost 6, about 10:30 a.m.

July 1, 2008, *Tucson Citizen*:

"I noticed them because they were going slower than motorcycles typically go up on Sundays," Eysenbach recalled. "There was a Mustang that was more or less tailgating them and I thought it was just weird, you know, a bunch of motorcycles and one car."

A few minutes later, Eysenbach pulled into Molino Basin, looking for shade. The camping and picnicking area has a doughnut-shaped parking lot circling some camping toilets. To the left of the toilets is a camp road winding through the basin, but in the summer, that road is closed by a gate. His favorite shade tree was occupied by a group of young men drinking beer in the bed of a red pickup truck, so he went toward the camp road.

"The Mustang was parked in front of the gate and I thought, 'Huh, there's that Mustang,' " Eysenbach recalled. In the car, the driver was sitting quietly.

"I noticed he was wearing some ratty camouflage pullover and I figured he was an out-of-season hunter," Eysenbach said. "I went up about 10 or 15 meters to the next tree and stood there and caught my breath."

A minute or so later, the wail of police sirens streamed into the basin and Eysenbach looked over at the Mustang. The driver was standing next to it.

"The sirens were getting louder and I could tell there were a lot of them, so I started rolling my bike back down the camp road to go look and see what was happening," Eysenbach said. As he passed the Mustang, he noticed "a military-style rifle" in the front seat.

"I was a few feet from the suspect and he said something like, 'They're coming for me,' and my next thought was, 'This idiot's out shooting cactus or birds'," Eysenbach recalled.

It never occurred to Eysenbach that the Mustang's driver might be in more serious trouble because he seemed completely calm, even when a deputy screeched into Molino Basin, jumped from his car and drew his weapon.

"I hit the ground and then they got to him and cuffed him and got him to their car," Eysenbach said. "I looked at the road and there was literally a train of police cars coming up the mountain. I had no idea what happened, but by then I knew it wasn't hunting."

Authorities kept witnesses on the mountain for questioning, and Eysenbach didn't get back to his vehicle until after 4 p.m., under the escort of a deputy. It took him an hour to get home because so much of Tanque Verde was a crime scene. When he arrived, he checked the Web sites of the local papers.

"At that point, having the whole story, I thought it would have been so easy for (the Mustang's driver) to ambush the deputies because the left turn into Molino is blind," he said. "Or he could have taken us hostage or shot himself.

"But he didn't do any of that. He just stood there and waited."

July 11, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Woman rescued from flooded wash faces DUI charge

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Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

July 11, 2008 12:00 am 0

A 26-year-old woman who attempted to drive through a flooded roadway Friday had to be rescued but was subsequently arrested on a DUI charge.

Pima County Sheriff's deputies were headed to the Overton Wash at La Cholla Boulevard around 4:30 a.m. to put up barricades when they found a black 2003 Honda stuck in the flood waters, according to Deputy Dawn Hanke, an agency spokeswoman.

The Rural/Metro Fire Department was called to rescue the woman — Heather Shouse.

Firefighters led Shouse out of the water, according to Anne-Marie Braswell, a Fire Department spokeswoman.

Shouse, who was the sole occupant of the vehicle, was cited and released.

July 12, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Monsoon rescue training

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion



Rick Wlley / Arizona Daily Star

July 12, 2008 12:00 am 0

Rural/Metro Fire Capt. Mike Matropoulos, right, acting as a victim during swift-water-rescue training, is pulled into the water by Capt. John Spanarella, also acting as a victim, in the Cañada del Oro Wash at Overton Road. In the scenario acted out Friday, Matropoulos disobeyed firefighters' orders to stay with the car and was "rescued" downstream. The car pictured was left from 4:30 a.m., when a woman drove into the flooded wash. The barricades were not in place at that time, according to firefighters. The driver, Heather Shouse, 26, was rescued, but cited by sheriff's deputies on a DUI charge and released. Friday's rainfall set a Tucson record for the date, and forecasters expect the wet weather to continue through this weekend. See story, Page B1.

September 3 & 4, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Firefighter Recruits

Rural/Metro Fire Dept is looking for highly motivated individuals to work in the Fire/EMS field. The tentative start date for the Academy is November 17, 2008. Failure to follow the performance, testing and conduct requirements during the academy, may result in dismissal from the program. Note: The academy includes many exercises/activities that involve extreme physical exertion that require working at great heights (up to 110 ft), and in small, confined spaces.

- **Must be at least 21 yrs old**
- **HS diploma or GED**
- **AZ EMT or Paramedic certification***
- **AZ Fire Certification I & II is preferred**

Selected applicants must be able to pass a written test, physical agility test, oral interview, physical exam, drug screen, background check and have an acceptable 5 yr. MVR.

*copies of your Fire I/II certification, AZ EMT, CEP & CPR cards must be attached to your application, or it will not be considered to be complete. CEP's must also include copies of ACLS & PALS or PEPP cards.

**NOTE: A completed application packet will include: RMFD application (completed in it's entirety; all questions answered thoroughly, signed/dated, etc), copies of all relevant Fire and/or EMS certifications/cards (front & back), a copy (front & back) of your AZ drivers license.

Deadline to apply is 9/22/08 by 4pm

Please go to our website at www.rmfire.com for an application or send email to Stacie_James@rmetro.com to request one. Completed applications can be faxed to **520-297-1238** or sent via email. EOE

JOIN OUR TEAM

FIREFIGHTER RECRUITS

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Rural/Metro Fire Department
www.rmfire.com EOE

October 2, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Fires damage Catalina Foothills home, North Side carport



OCTOBER 02, 2008 12:00 AM • BY ALEXIS HUICOCHEA
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A house fire in the Catalina Foothills caused extensive damage Thursday and investigators are working to determine what started it.

The fire was reported just before 11 a.m. in the 4600 block of North Avenida del Cazador — near Craycroft Road just north of East River Road — by a neighbor who heard sounds similar to explosions, according to Rural/Metro Regional Fire Chief Les Caid.

When firefighters arrived approximately eight minutes later, they found the back end of the home fully involved, Caid said.

It took 17 minutes to get the blaze under control.

No one was home except for a dog and several caged birds — all survived, he said.

The sounds that the caller heard were likely from paint cans, Caid said. It appears that some remodeling work was going on.

Officials estimated that the fire caused more than $100,000 in damage, Caid said.

As firefighters were wrapping up, another fire was reported about two miles away in the 5900 block of North Camino Hombre de Oro, Caid said.

The fires are unrelated.

In the second incident, a woman had just driven home from getting her hair done and was walking into her home when she turned around and saw that her car was on fire, Caid said.

There was apparently a malfunction with the vehicle that sparked the fire, which engulfed the carport, he said.

The woman went to a neighbors home and asked the resident to call 911. She was not injured.



JILL TORRANCE / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Firefighters Kurt Freeman, left, and Chris Wendorf look for hot spots at a house that caught fire near Sunrise Drive and Swan Road.

October 2, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:



A HOPPIN,' SOCKIN' GOOD TIME



• FIESTA SAHUARITA, THE TOWN'S BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR ITSELF, GETS BIGGER AND BETTER EVERY YEAR •



October 18, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:

FUNERAL NOTICES



Bruce W. Harrolle
8/14/1972 - 10/13/2008

Officer/Father/Husband Bruce W. Harrolle lost his life on October 13, 2008, while on a mission to rescue two hikers in Sedona, Arizona.

Bruce began his passionate career in public service [illegible] an E.M.T. with the Rural Metro Fire Department in Tucson, Arizona. Bruce continued his training and education, becoming a paramedic which led him on a path to meeting countless life-long friends, all while employed with Southwest Ambulance in the Northwest Fire District, Avra Valley, Mount Lemmon, Sun City, El Mirage and Scottsdale Fire Departments.

Bruce's love for flying and helping the citizens of Arizona lead him to the Department of Public Safety as an Officer/Paramedic with the Aviation Unit. Bruce left us doing what he absolutely loved. He displayed the same courage, dignity, and enthusiasm as he shared with all of us throughout the years. When Bruce was not working, he was a dedicated father and husband who wanted nothing more than to surround himself with the ones he loved.

Officer/Paramedic Harrolle is survived by his wife, Angela; daughter, Addison and son, Justice. He is also survived by his brother, Brad Harrolle of Phoenix; mother, Nancy Welford and husband, Buddy McAfee of Ohio; father, Merl Harrolle and stepmother, Sherri Harrolle of Tucson; stepfather, George and wife, Diana Castellano and grandmother, Jean Welford, all of Ohio.

Visitation will be held from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Sunday, October 19th at Central Christian Church of the East Valley, 933 N. Lindsay Rd., Mesa, AZ 85213. Formal services will commence at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 20th at the same location. Arrangements entrusted to **Shadow Mountain Mortuary.**

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the family at any CHASE Bank (Account # 2915063365) Cards and notes of condolences can be sent to: The Family of Officer Bruce Harrolle, Arizona Department of Public Safety, P.O. Box 6638, Phoenix, Arizona 85005-6638.

To express condolences visit the guestbook at [illegible]

November 28, 2008, *Tucson Citizen*:

Fire destroys vacant mobile home

by Blake Morlock on Nov 28, 2008, under Local, Special

g+1 0 Recommend Share 0

Rural Metro fire fighters extinguished an early morning mobile home fire Friday on a South Side sales lot.

Crews were called to the scene at 6:13 a.m., when a for-sale mobile home was reported burning in a dealership lot near S. Palo Verde Road and East Benson Highway, said Rural Metro Fire Chief Tom Brandhuber.

Fire fighters arrived four minutes later and dowsed the flames within 10 minutes, Brandhuber said.

The incident is under investigation and no injuries were reported, Brandhuber said.

Services held for ex-Tucsonan killed during rescue

by The Arizona Republic on Oct 21, 2008, under Local, Special

G+1 0 Recommend 0 Share

Family and friends remembered a fallen Department of Public Safety officer Monday for his big grin and his dedication to his job during a celebration of his life at a Mesa church.

A bagpiper and color guard led pallbearers in and out of Central Christian Church as they carried the casket of officer and paramedic Bruce W. Harrolle. His wife and two young children followed.

His obituary said Harrolle began his career as an emergency medical technician for the Rural/ Metro Fire Department in Tucson and also worked for Southwest Ambulance and the Avra Valley and Mount Lemmon fire departments.

"Bruce approached life and all things with a smile and a swagger all his own," said Brad Bradley of the Northwest Fire District near Tucson, one of Harrolle's best friends.

Bradley recalled the first time he met Harrolle, who drove toward a shooting call in an ambulance with lights and sirens blazing and yelled, "I love this job!"

Mourners took solace knowing that Harrolle, 36, died doing what he loved most: helping people. On Oct. 13, he was attempting to load a stranded hiker onto a helicopter near Sedona when he was struck and killed by the helicopter rotor blade.

The accident remains under investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board.

Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano eulogized Harrolle and presented a flag that flew over the state capitol last week to his widow, Angela, of Mesa.

"It wasn't just his work, it was his life's work," Napolitano said, noting Harrolle's penchant for finding action at major calls throughout his nine-year career with DPS. She said he was the first DPS officer killed in the line of duty in eight years.

"It's clear he always stepped up when he was most needed," Napolitano said. "Every Arizonan was a little safer with Officer Harrolle in the skies."

DPS Director Roger Vanderpool said Harrolle would serve as a role model for future officers.

"That image must be something like a Boy Scout, Superman, Dudley Do Right and Ponch from CHiPs (1970s and 1980s television show)," Vanderpool said. "Bruce will live on in our hearts and memories forever."

Hundreds of police officers and firefighters from around the state attended Harrolle's funeral. Instead of traditional interment ceremonies, there was a flyover, an aerial salute to Harrolle's career, at Phoenix Mesa Gateway Airport.

"He was a guy who love to have fun," Bradley said of Harrolle. "He never had a bad day."

In Tucson, he is survived by his father, Merl Harrolle, and his stepmother Sherri Harrolle.

December 31, 2008, *Arizona Daily Star*:

BREAKING NEWS Trailers catch fire at Pusch Ridge Christian Academy

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

December 31, 2008 12:00 am 0

Rural/Metro firefighters are fighting a blaze that has burned two trailers sitting on the Pusch Ridge Christian Academy football field, authorities said.

The fire started right before 10 p.m. and firefighters had it under control almost 40 minutes later, said Deputy Chief James Stoltenberg, a Rural/Metro Fire Department spokesman.

The academy is located at 9500 N. Oracle Road.

Investigators will determine the cause once the fire has been extinguished.

Fire at Oro Valley private school may be arson, officials say

DECEMBER 31, 2008 12:00 AM

Authorities are investigating a fire that burned two 18-wheel trailers at a private school on the Northwest Side as a possible arson.

The fire started just before 10 p.m. in two storage trailers beside the football field at Pusch Ridge Academy, 9500 N. Oracle Road, said Deputy Chief James Stoltenberg, a Rural/Metro Fire Department spokesman.

Firefighters had the blaze under control within 40 minutes, Stoltenberg said.

The fire was suspicious because the trailers did not have their own electricity, he said.

Also, school officials told investigators that nobody had been accessing the trailers during the school's winter recess, Stoltenberg said.

The school used the trailers to store records and football equipment. Stoltenberg did not have an estimate of the cost of the damage, but said the fire probably destroyed everything in both trailers.

"It was pretty much a full loss," he said.

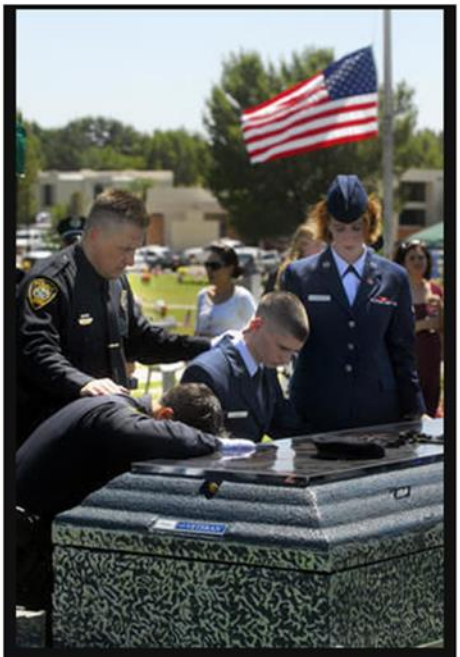
The Rural/Metro Fire Department, Oro Valley police, and the Golder Ranch Fire District are investigating the blaze, Stoltenberg said.

January 1, 2009, *Tucson Citizen*:

Slaying of Tucson police officer heads list of top 10 local stories for 2008

by Citizen Staff Report on Jan 01, 2009, under Local, Special

g+1 41 Recommend Share 0



Roy Hite in his Air Force uniform, center, is comforted by Tucson police officers at the burial of his father, Officer Erik Hite, on June 10 at East Lawn Cemtery. Erik Hite, 43, was killed in a crosstown chase. David 'Nick' Delich is charged with murder.



Rural/Metro firefighter David Jacobs scours the landscape for errant spot fires as flames and smoke rise behind him. Fire crews were burning a perimeter fire line May 12 ahead of a prescribed burn between the Rincon and Santa Catalina mountains.

The top local stories of 2008, as ranked by Tucson Citizen online readers, are:

1. Tucson police Officer Erik Hite, 43, was killed in a crosstown chase in early June. David "Nick" Delich, a 26-year-old with a history of mental illness, is charged with first-degree murder in the case.

2. University of Arizona men's basketball coach Lute Olson returned from a seasonlong leave of absence in April and retired in October. Olson had had a small stroke, his doctor said contributed to "severe depression" and "changes in judgment."

3. Arizona had one of the highest rates of home foreclosures in the nation. The median price of resale homes in the Tucson market fell to $170,000. Housing permits dropped to the lowest number since 1990.

4. The 74 homicides in Tucson in 2008 broke a record set in 1995.

5. Led by the University of Arizona and planetary scientist Peter Smith, the $428 million Phoenix Lander mission found water on Mars.

6. Arizona Sen. John McCain won the Republican nomination for president but lost the general election.

7. The state, Pima County and city of Tucson saw revenue declines, cut spending and plan budget cuts.

8. (three-way tie) President-elect Barack Obama nominated Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano to be Homeland Security secretary. If she is confirmed, Secretary of State Jan Brewer will become governor.

8. More than 800 dogs and 36 birds were seized from an Avra Valley property in March. Billy R. Jones, 67, his wife, Wanda L. Jones, 64, and their son Robert Allen Jones, 44, pleaded not guilty in July to 37 felony counts of cruel mistreatment of an animal and other charges.

8. The Sidewinders Triple-A baseball team left Tucson for Reno, Nev., and the Chicago White Sox bagged spring training here, agreeing to pay Pima County $5 million for breaking their Tucson Electric Park lease.

January 1, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star:*

School sports gear burns

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Authorities suspect arson in a fire that burned two storage trailers filled with records and football gear at a private school on the Northwest Side.

The fire started just before 10 p.m. Tuesday in the two units next to the football field at Pusch Ridge Christian Academy, 9500 N. Oracle Road, said Deputy Chief James Stoltenberg, a Rural/Metro Fire Department spokesman.

Firefighters had the blaze under control within 40 minutes, Stoltenberg said.

The fire was suspicious because the trailers did not have their own electricity, he said.

Also, school officials told investigators that nobody had been in the trailers during the school's winter break, Stoltenberg said. The trailers housed records and football equipment.

Stoltenberg did not have an estimate of the the damage but said the fire probably destroyed everything in both trailers. "It was pretty much a full loss," he said.

The fire destroyed almost all of the school's football equipment, including new football helmets, padding for the goal posts and dummies for the blocking sleds, said Lonnie Tvrdy, assistant principal and athletic director for Pusch Ridge.

"Everything that was there for game day is destroyed," Tvrdy said. "The only things that are left are the shoulder pads and helmets that the kids wore this year."

The school will try to find out how much might be covered by insurance, he said.

The Rural/Metro Fire Department, Oro Valley Police Department and the Golder Ranch Fire District are investigating the blaze, Stoltenberg said.

January 9, 2009, *Tucson Citizen*:

South Side fire damages mobile home, displaces residents

by Sheryl Kornman on Jan 09, 2009, under Local, Special

g+1 0 Recommend Share 0



Rural/Metro firefighters extinguish a mobile home fire in the 3300 block of East Alvord Road.

At least 60 percent of a mobile home was damaged in a fire that was reported at 3:30 p.m. Thursday to Rural/Metro firefighters.

The fire, in the 3300 block of Alvord Road, west of Alvernon Way and south of Interstate 10, was extinguished in eight minutes, according to Rural/Metro Fire Department spokeswoman Ann Marie Braswell.

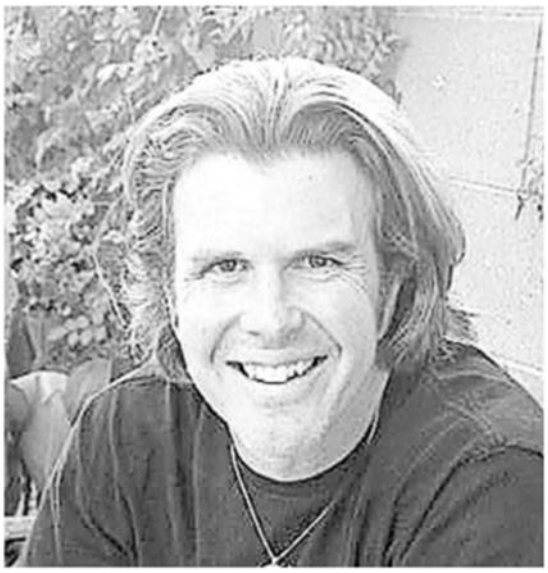
Three adults and two children were displaced by the blaze, the cause of which was undetermined Thursday afternoon. The American Red Cross is assisting the residents.

One vehicle was damaged by the fire.

Sixteen firefighters fought the blaze and kept it from spreading to other mobile homes nearby, Braswell said.

January 15, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Local scene : Fire captain pens scripts during downtime



JANUARY 15, 2009 12:00 AM • BY PHIL VILLARREAL
PVILLARREAL@AZSTARNET.COM

Alan Williams is an aspiring moviemaker who also logs 56-hour weeks as a paramedic and firefighter.

The 41-year-old Rural/Metro fire captain takes advantage of downtime between calls to work on screenplays.

Williams is getting ready to shoot his feature-length script, "Whisper to a Scream," about a squad of burned-out paramedics who execute a bank heist. He knows how to get the on-duty details right.

"I'm a paramedic in real life and I always wanted to make a film that shows what we do," Williams explained.

With partners Bill Scroggs, a musician, and graphics artist Jim Ellis, Williams set up a production company, Organized Chaos, to make the movie. Williams, who is married and has three children, is now trying to raise a six-figure budget to get the film off the ground.

A 1993 University of Arizona media arts graduate, Williams has submitted a short film to this year's Phoenix Film Festival and the South by Southwest festival and hopes to hear if he's made it within the next few weeks.

The film, "The Human Condition," about five people who experience life-changing events, premiered last April at the Arizona International Film Festival.

It's making the festival rounds, receiving an honorable mention for best short film in the online Accolade Competition. The movie also played in the Arizona Underground Film Festival and the Zero Film Festival in Los Angeles.

A few years ago, Williams worked as a set medic and consultant on the 2006 direct-to-DVD action film "Cut Off," which was shot partly in Tucson and starred Faye Dunaway, Malcolm McDowell, Anne Archer and Thomas Ian Nicholas.

"I was a consultant for the paramedic scenes, but they didn't listen to anything I told them," Williams said.

What do you think of Martin Scorsese's "Bringing Out the Dead"?

"It's probably not terribly inaccurate. I'm a huge Scorsese fan, I'll tell you that. But it's a little dark. The job is crazy and insane, to be sure, but at the same time there's a lot of humor and a lot of funny things happen. It runs the gamut from tragedy, humor, irony and so on. The end result in the film is, after all this stuff happens, they want off the job and the only way out is to rob a bank."

What were you going for with the bank robbery?

January 15, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:

"I didn't want 'Ocean's Eleven.' I was interested in people with no business robbing banks who come up with a crazy plan to do it while on duty, in broad daylight."

Do you have other screenplays?

"I have two others on inktip.com, a site where writers can submit their work. Producers go to the site, enter keywords about aspects of scripts they're looking for, and the site sorts them and gives them loglines and synopses."

Have you gotten any action from inktip?

"A couple people have contacted me over the past year. I've had requests to see my screenplays. It's a slow business. I've given people scripts, and then six or seven months I'd suddenly get an e-mail from them saying they read some of my stuff a while back."

What change would you suggest to make Arizona's film economy better?

"One idea would be to take $50,000, which is a drop in the bucket in the Arizona budget, and have a contest for local filmmakers anywhere in Arizona. Judges would select five short screenplays and give each filmmaker 10 grand to go make their short film. You'd have local actors getting employed, local crew employed, and, who knows, one of them might be a breakthrough for the state of Arizona."

February 5, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star:*

Fumes sicken 32, clear out call center

By Brian J. Pedersen
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A south-side call center was evacuated for about 90 minutes Thursday morning after fumes from a nearby construction vehicle made some people sick, authorities said.

Seven people were transported to hospitals and 25 more were treated at the scene for effects from the fumes at 4755 S. Butterfield Drive, near South Palo Verde and East Irvington roads, said Anne Marie Braswell, a Rural/Metro Fire Department spokeswoman.

The building in the Butterfield Business Center houses a call center for Sears, Braswell said.

More than 200 people were evacuated about 9 a.m. but were able to return to the building about 10:30 a.m.

A construction vehicle parked behind the building was left running and diesel fumes leaked into the building's ventilation system, Sears spokeswoman Kim Freely said.

The Tucson Fire Department deployed its Metropolitan Medical Response Unit to assist Rural/Metro, and officials with Southwest Gas conducted a leak survey to see if natural gas played a part in the incident.

No leaks were found, Southwest spokeswoman Libby Howell said.

Contact reporter Brian J. Pedersen at 573-4224 or bjp@azstarnet.com



BENJIE SANDERS / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Employees of the Sears call center wait outside as fire and Southwest Gas crews check their building. Diesel fumes from an idling construction truck forced the center's evacuation Thursday morning.

February 12, 2009, *Tucson Citizen*:

Kerosene drum explosion injures two men

by Sheryl Kornman on Feb 12, 2009, under Local, Special

g+1 0 Recommend Share 0



A South Tucson man who was not identified is taken to a hospital Wednesday after a 55-gallon drum exploded, injuring him and another man.

Two men cutting a 55-gallon drum in half to make a barbecue were injured Wednesday afternoon when the drum exploded, South Tucson police said.

The drum had contained kerosene. The men were using an electric cutter to split the drum outside a residence in the 1600 block of South Seventh Avenue in South Tucson, police said.

Kerosene vapors inside the drum apparently ignited and the drum exploded.

They were taken by Rural/Metro Fire Department medics to University Medical Center.

One of the men suffered a serious leg injury. The injury to the other man could not be immediately determined.

The explosion did not cause a fire.

The men were not publicly identified by South Tucson authorities.

2009

February 19, 2009, http://azstarnet.com/news/local/northwest/mountain-view-fire-district-to-annex-part-of-ov/article_01f503aa-4a03-5505-988a-e7267284ff33.html

Alternate NW fire district sought

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion



February 19, 2009 12:00 am • By Lourdes Medrano Arizona Daily Star 0

An Oro Valley retiree has launched a petition drive that seeks annexation by the newly merged Mountain Vista Fire Department.

Phil Richardson lives in Oro Valley's Suffolk Hills. The subdivision is on the town's southern end, which the Golder Ranch Fire Department is poised to annex.

Golder Ranch already has town authority to expand fire protection coverage throughout Oro Valley. Richardson and other volunteers are collecting resident signatures in an effort to persuade the Town Council to allow Mountain Vista to come into southern Oro Valley.

Rural/Metro Fire Department now services the town's southern portion, but Golder Ranch is set to annex the area by 2010 and become the town's single fire-service provider.

"Once they annex us, they'll have a total monopoly," said Richardson, a longtime Tucson radio and television personality.

Being annexed by Mountain Vista would mean a lighter tax load for Oro Valley residents, Richardson said.

"People don't realize they're being nibbled to death," Richardson said. "We're not getting anything more, we're just paying more."

February 19, 2009, http://azstarnet.com/news/local/northwest/mountain-view-fire-district-to-annex-part-of-ov/article_01f503aa-4a03-5505-988a-e7267284ff33.html

Rural/Metro offers subscriptions-based service. But Golder Ranch and Mountain Vista are public providers funded by secondary property taxes.

Mountain Vista, which late last year merged the small fire districts of Heritage Hills, North Ranch/Linda Vista and La Cañada, contracts with Rural/Metro to provide fire protection.

The merged fire district plans to build its own fire stations.

Golder Ranch now charges residents $1.59 per $100 assessed value, said John Sullivan, the fire district's community services division chief. A year from now, Mountain Vista's tax rate is expected to be $1.25 per $100 assessed value, said Mike Treece, Mountain Vista board chairman.

"Golder Ranch is more money," Sullivan said. "But Mountain Vista Fire Station does not own a single fire station . . . Golder Ranch taxpayers own every single fire station, every single piece of equipment."

Mountain Vista officials would be happy to consider annexing a portion of Oro Valley, Treece said. But such a move is in the hands of the Oro Valley Town Council, he said.

"This Town Council has seemingly been changed," he said. "This one seems to be, or at least potentially is more in favor of allowing people to get a voice."

State law mandates that fire districts seek permission from towns when seeking annexation, said Tobin Rosen, Oro Valley's attorney.

If the Town Council wanted to allow another fire district to come in, it would have to rescind all or part of the action that gave Golder Ranch blanket authority, he said.

• Contact reporter Lourdes Medrano at 618-1924 or lmedrano@azstarnet.com.

February 19, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:

6 suffer smoke inhalation in mobile-home blaze

Six people, including five children, were taken to a hospital Thursday after a fire burned a mobile home south of Tucson.

An electrical issue in the bathroom was blamed for the blaze, which was reported just after 8 a.m. in the 9900 block of South Oak Canyon Lane, near South Nogales Highway and East Old Vail Connection Road, said Anne-Marie Braswell, a Rural/Metro Fire Department spokeswoman.

Five children and an adult at the home suffered smoke inhalation, Braswell said.

Brian J. Pedersen

March 11, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Home fire closes River Road for hours

A fire damaged a Foothills home and shut down East River Road for a few hours Wednesday afternoon.

The fire was reported in the 4300 block of North Camino del Obispo at about 2:30 p.m., forcing firefighters to shut down River Road just east of North Hacienda del Sol to be able to use nearby fire hydrants, Rural/Metro Fire Department spokeswoman Anne-Marie Braswell said.

It took firefighters almost 50 minutes to extinguish the fire, Braswell said.

The blaze started when a 94-year-old woman who lives at the house was reading a book too close to a halogen lamp, she said.

The fire caused $125,000 in damage.

Brian J. Pedersen and Jamar Younger

April 9, 2009, http://azstarnet.com/news/local/northwest/mountain-view-fire-district-to-annex-part-of-ov/article_01f503aa-4a03-5505-988a-e7267284ff33.html

Mountain View Fire District to annex part of OV

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Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

April 09, 2009 12:00 am • By Lourdes Medrano Arizona Daily Star 0

The newly merged Mountain Vista Fire District last week received authority to annex the southern part of town.

The Oro Valley Town Council voted 6-1 to approve the move, which allows Mountain Vista to expand its services there. Councilman Al Kunisch dissented.

The action came after Phil Richardson, who lives in Suffolk Hills, told the council his petition drive yielded more than 500 signatures from residents who want fire protection from Mountain View.

Although the signatures are not considered official, Richardson said they illustrate strong support from residents. Some council members agreed.

A vote against granting authorization "is a vote against the people," Councilman Bill Garner said. Fellow Councilwoman Paula Abbott said she would vote for it "out of respect for the people's right to control their own destiny."

Richardson's subdivision is in an area the Golder Ranch Fire Department planned to annex — with the town's blessing — until recently. Golder Ranch has agreed not to oppose Mountain Vista's plan to expand fire protection coverage.

Rural/Metro Fire Department now serves the town's southern portion. Golder Ranch, which aimed to become Oro Valley's sole fire-service provider, has annexed much of the rest of the town.

Mayor Paul Loomis had misgivings about allowing more than one fire district to serve Oro Valley. The town previously decided to allow just one provider amid much divisiveness, he said. He later voted with the majority.

Councilman Al Kunisch was the lone opponent of granting Mountain Vista the authorization it sought.

April 9, 2009, http://azstarnet.com/news/local/northwest/mountain-view-fire-district-to-annex-part-of-ov/article_01f503aa-4a03-5505-988a-e7267284ff33.html

"I feel that we're going backwards," he said.

Mountain Vista, which late last year merged the small fire districts of Heritage Hills, North Ranch/Linda Vista and La Cañada, contracts with Rural/Metro to provide fire protection. It plans to build its own fire stations.

Rural/Metro now provides coverage to the area south of Hardy Road that Mountain Vista wants to annex. The fire district must gather signatures from more than half of property owners representing more than half the assessed value in the proposed annexation area.

The annexation could mean fewer taxes for Oro Valley residents, Richardson said previously.

Under the private, subscription-based Rural-Metro, Richardson said he paid $412 this year and $344 last year. Once Mountain Vista annexes his neighborhood, he expects to pay $254 a year.

Mountain Vista and Golder Ranch are public providers funded by secondary property taxes. Mountain Vista's projected tax rate for 2009-10 is $1.25 per $100 assessed value, said its chairman, Mike Treece.

Golder Ranch's tax rate is at $1.59 per assessed value, plus 17 cents for a bond payment.

If all goes according to plan, the annexation could be completed by year's end.

If you go

What: Mountain Vista Fire District Board's public hearing on its plans to expand into southern Oro Valley.

When: 6 p.m. April 29.

Where: 490 W. Magee Road.

For more information: Call 575-4087.

- Contact reporter Lourdes Medrano at 618-1924 or lmedrano@azstarnet.com.

April 11, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Multi-vehicle crash ties up intersection



APRIL 11, 2009 12:00 AM

Paramedics move one of three people injured Friday morning in a five-vehicle collision on the Northwest Side. The wreck, at North Oracle and Magee roads, snarled traffic for about an hour at about 9:15 a.m. as investigators and rescue crews worked at the scene. According to the Rural/Metro Fire Department, three people were taken to local hospitals. Two others were either unhurt or declined treatment. There was no official report late Friday on the cause of the crash.

April 28, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star:*



JIM DAVIS / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

FIRE AT SUNDOWN VILLAGE

Rural/Metro Fire Department firefighters get fresh air tanks during a fire at Sundown Village Apartments, 8252 N. Northern Ave., that was contained to one apartment. Officials said the resident was using a gas grill Monday while filling a Coleman lantern, and the fumes ignited, spreading to the residence. The burnt propane tank is at bottom right.

2009

July 21, 2009, http://www.rmetro.com/employment/142-santa-clara-compliance-reports.html

SCOTTSDALE, AZ, Jul 21, 2009 (MARKETWIRE via COMTEX News Network) -- Rural/Metro Corporation (NASDAQ: RURL) announced today that it has been awarded a new contract term to continue providing fire protection and emergency medical services to the Mountain Vista Fire District in Southern Arizona.

The contract term began July 1, 2009 for an initial period of five years, followed by two 2-year renewal options, for a total possible length of nine years. The contract is expected to generate approximately $2.7 million in net revenue annually.

Jack Brucker, President and Chief Executive Officer, said, "We are very pleased to continue serving the residents of Mountain Vista Fire District and look forward to expanding with the community as we build on our base of fire protection and ambulance operations in Southern Arizona."

Mountain Vista Fire District occupies 12 square miles north of Tucson in Pima County, Arizona, and is home to approximately 25,000 residents. The District was formed in 2008 by the merger of North Ranch/Linda Vista Fire District, Heritage Hills Fire District and La Canada Fire District. Rural/Metro Fire Department has served the fire protection and emergency ambulance needs of the area since 1993. Rural/Metro's 45 firefighters assigned to the Mountain Vista Fire District responded to more than 2,700 calls for service in the past year.

Bryan Gibson, Regional President, said, "It is a pleasure for Rural/Metro to continue providing affordable and effective fire protection and emergency medical services to the communities in the Mountain Vista Fire District. We are proud of our long-standing record of service excellence and look forward to contributing to future enhancements of this growing public safety system."

John Karolzak, Division General Manager, added, "Our firefighters and staff share a commitment to excellence that results in the highest levels of service quality and community safety. We are excited to begin a new contract term and continue as a trusted partner to the Mountain Vista Fire District."

About Rural/Metro

Rural/Metro Corporation provides emergency and non-emergency ambulance services and private fire protection services in 22 states and approximately 400 communities throughout the United States. For more information, visit the Company's web site at www.ruralmetro.com.

SAFE HARBOR PROVISIONS FOR FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The foregoing reflects the Company's views about its financial condition, performance and other matters that constitute "forward-looking" statements as such term is defined by the federal securities laws. Many of these statements are indicated by words such as "may," "will," "expect," "anticipate," "believe," "estimate," "should," "continue," "predict," "preliminary" and similar words used herein. The Company may also make forward-looking statements in its earnings reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), earnings calls and other investor communications. These forward-looking statements are subject to the safe harbor protection provided by federal securities laws. These forward-looking statements are subject to numerous risks, uncertainties and assumptions, including those relating to the Company's future business prospects, working capital, cash flow, EBITDA, capital expenditures, payroll expense, repayment of debt, insurance coverage and claim reserves, unexpected governmental investigations, capital needs, operating results and compliance with debt facilities. In addition, the Company may face risks and uncertainties related to uncompensated care and its ability to collect its accounts receivable and other factors that are listed in its periodic reports filed under the Securities Exchange Act. Although the Company believes the expectations reflected in its forward-looking statements are based upon reasonable assumptions, because the statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, the Company can give no assurance that its expectations will be attained or that actual developments and results will not materially differ from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on the statements, which speak only as of the date hereof. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as may be required by law.

July 22, 2009, http://azstarnet.com/business/local/mountain-vista-renews-rural-metro-contract/article_faaf2f2c-e39b-56c4-ad81-b58b94920902.html

Mountain Vista renews Rural Metro contract

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email



Arizona Daily Star photo

July 22, 2009 12:00 am 0

Rural Metro Corp. announced a five-year contract to continue providing fire and emergency medical services to the Mountain Vista Fire District.

The contract is expected to generate $2.7 million in net revenue annually, Rural Metro said in a news release Tuesday.

The district has about 25,000 residents in 12 square miles north of Tucson, Rural Metro says. It was formed in 2008 by the merger of North Ranch/Linda Vista Fire, Heritage Hills Fire and La Cañada Fire district.

Rural Metro has 45 firefighters assigned to Mountain Vista and responded to more than 2,700 calls for service there last year.

August 23, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Fire causes nearly $700,000 damage to house SE of Tucson

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

August 23, 2009 12:00 am • Arizona Daily Star 0

A fire Saturday night at a home under construction caused nearly $700,000 in damage southeast of Tucson, an official said.

The fire was at a three-story home on South Copper Cut Trail and East Walts Way south of Sahuarita Road.

The fire is still under investigation, said Todd Cupell, a spokesman for the Corona de Tucson Fire Department.

The home was under construction, about 70 percent complete, Cupell said.

The homeowner was not there and there were no injuries. The damage is estimated to be $683,000. The cause of the fire has not been determined, he said.

Corona de Tucson, Rural/Metro Fire Department, the Rincon Valley Fire District and the Pima County Sheriff's Department responded to the fire at about 9:30 p.m.

Matt Lewis

August 30, 2009, TFD—

5755 E. River Road – Assist Rural Metro with Apartment Fire

On 8/30/09 at 0209 BN02 and LD16 were dispatched to 5755 E. River rd. for a mutual-aid request from rural Metro for an apartment fire. They were in need of a second aerial truck for ladder pipe operations. They made the request through channels and Ch. Ogden approved us to send a Ladder company and a Battalion Chief. LD16 and Bn2 were dispatched to this incident. Upon arrival Bn2 "C"-shift met wit the IC to get directions for apparatus placement and for the type of operation. They were defensive and requested that we set up on the northeast side for ladder pipe operations. LD16 set up in the area requested and a RM engine company pumped a 5-inch line to LD16. We operated with the ladder pipe for approximately 1 hour. Ladder pipe operations were then terminated and LD16 was used to allow RM personnel to gain roof access for ventilation operations. After ventilation was performed smoke conditions improved and they were able to gain access to hot spots from ground ladders. Shortly after this operation was completed we were no longer needed as the fire was under control. BN02 and LD16 then returned to service. The only functions performed at the scene were ladder pipe. We did not participate in ventilation efforts.

Fire in Foothills apartments causes $2 million in damage

AUGUST 30, 2009 12:00 AM • ARIZONA DAILY STAR

An apartment fire in the Catalina Foothills caused $2 million in damage early Sunday, fire officials said.

The fire displaced about 15 residents at the Highlands apartment complex, said Rural/Metro Fire Department Batallion Chief Willie Treatch. aid.

The two-alarm fire in the 5700 block of East River Road at North Craycroft Road damaged five apartments. Another apartment suffered water damage and six others suffered smoke damage, Treatch said.

The cause of the fire is undetermined.

September 22, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Trailer burns on south side



SEPTEMBER 22, 2009 12:00 AM

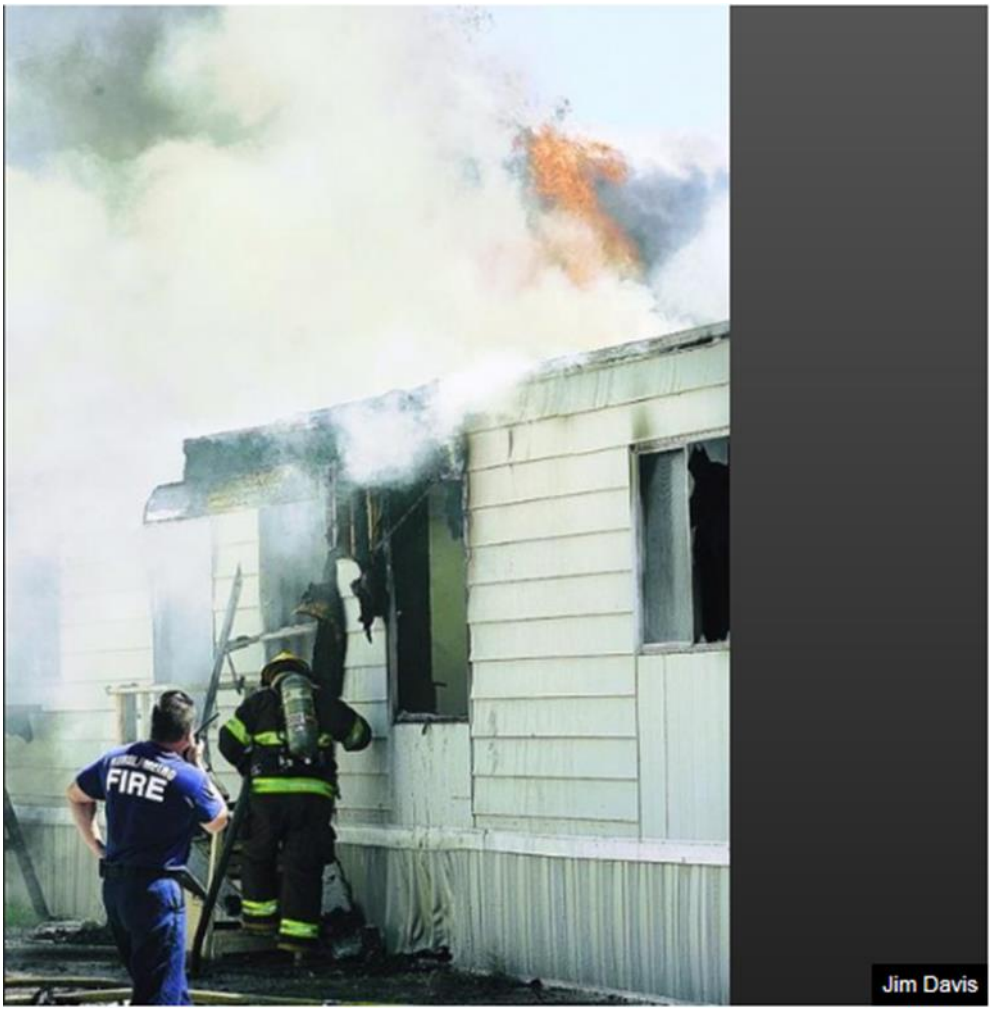
A trailer fire on the south side caused $6,000 in damage on Monday, a fire official said.

Rural/Metro firefighters responded to a call in the 3600 block of East Milton Road at the Triple K Mobile Home Park, said spokeswoman Anne-Marie Braswell.

No injuries were reported as a result of the fire.

The fire was deemed accidental by officials. The single-wide trailer was home to a family of three, but no one was inside at the time the blaze started.

The Red Cross is helping the family with food, but it was uncertain as of Monday night if the family will have to relocate, Braswell said.



December 5 & 8, 2009, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Man reported stable after fall in Catalinas

A man was rescued Friday afternoon after he fell 20 feet while climbing in an area near Prison Camp Road on Mount Lemmon.

The Southern Arizona Rescue Association worked with the Rural/Metro Fire Department and Pima County Sheriff's Department to rescue the man after the fall was reported just before 4 p.m., said Rural/Metro Battalion Chief Willie Treatch.

A helicopter was flown in to take the man to the hospital. He was in stable condition, he said.

Jamar Younger

NE-side fire displaces 11 people, 10 animals

Eleven people and 10 animals were displaced Monday morning by a fire at a northeast-side foster home, a fire official said.

Rural/Metro firefighters were called out at 5:04 a.m. to the 3700 block of North Tres Lomas Place, near Catalina Highway and North Harrison Road, and discovered smoke and fire coming from a converted garage that was being used as living space, said Anne-Marie Braswell, a Rural/Metro Fire Department spokeswoman.

The nine children and two adults living at the home made it out unharmed, as did three dogs, six rabbits and one cat, Braswell said.

One dog died in the fire, the cause of which is still under investigation, Braswell said.

Brian J. Pedersen

January 23, 2010, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Rural/Metro taking items for Haiti relief

January 23, 2010 12:00 am • Arizona Daily Star

The Rural/Metro Fire Department will be collecting donations on behalf of World Care to benefit those affected by the earthquake in Haiti.

The items will be delivered to World Care, to be packaged and shipped to Haiti.

For a complete list of items that are being collected, please visit the World Care Web site at www.worldcare.org.

The fire stations will accept items from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week.

The administrative offices will take donations during the same hours Mondays through Fridays.

People can bring items to:

• Station 71 at 4447 E. Benson Highway.

•Station 72 at 2741 N. Houghton Road.

•Station 73 at 4300 N. Kolb Road.

•Station 74 at 4820 E. Sunrise Drive.

•Station 76 at 500 W. Magee Road.

•Station 79 at 735 W. Sahuarita Road.

•Station 80 at 1833 E. Skyline Drive.

•Station 81 at 966 E. Hughes Access.

•Administrative Offices 490 W. Magee Road.

February 18 & 24, 2010, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Mobile home fire south of Tucson displaces 5 children, 1 adult

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

February 18, 2010 10:22 am • Brian J. Pedersen Arizona Daily Star

Six people, including five children, were taken to a local hospital this morning after a fire burned a mobile home south of Tucson.

An electrical issue in the bathroom is to blame for the blaze, which was reported just after 8 a.m. in the 9900 block of South Oak Canyon Lane, near South Nogales Highway and East Old Vail Connection Road, said Anne-Marie Braswell, a Rural/Metro Fire Department spokeswoman.

Five children and an adult living at the home suffered smoke inhalation, Braswell said.

Estimated damage of the fire is about $20,000, she said.

Car crashes into NW side nursing home



FEBRUARY 24, 2010 12:39 PM • BY BRIAN J. PEDERSEN ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A northwest side nursing home was temporarily evacuated Wednesday after a vehicle crashed into the building, authorities said.

A man drove into the La Cañada Care Center, 7970 N. La Cañada Drive about 12:20 p.m., said Anne-Marie Braswell, a Rural/Metro Fire Department spokeswoman.

The driver needed to be extricated from his vehicle, but it was not immediately known if he was injured, Braswell said.

The evacuation was a precaution and no injuries were reported among residents.

March 7, 2010, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Two injured in fire on Tucson's south side

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

March 07, 2010 2:22 pm • Arizona Daily Star 0

Two people suffered critical burns Sunday morning after their travel trailer caught fire while they were cooking.

Neighbors called 911 after hearing an explosion at about 7:15 a.m. in a mobile home community in the 4200 block of Benson Highway, near Columbus Boulevard, said John Walka, Rural/Metro Fire Department battalion chief.

The trailer's two occupants escaped the blaze, but both suffered critical burns and were airlifted to a burn center in Maricopa County, Walka said.

The fire ignited while the occupants were cooking, Walka said.

The fire was ruled an accidental cooking fire and there may have been a gas leak, Walka said.

Four units and 15 firefighters responded and had the fire under control in about five minutes, Walka said.

No other injuries were reported and there was no damage to neighboring trailers, Walka said.

2010

April 12, 2010, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Two mobile homes damaged in fire on Tucson's south side



APRIL 12, 2010 4:47 PM • ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Two mobile homes were damaged in a fire Monday afternoon on East Benson Highway and South Columbus Boulevard.

The Rural/Metro Fire Department arrived in the 4000 block of East Benson Highway just before 3:30 p.m. to find a mobile home engulfed in flames, said spokeswoman Marie-Anne Braswell.

The fire began in one home and because of gusty winds spread to a second home about 10 feet away, officials said.

No one was home at either residence. A pet from one of the homes was rescued.

No damage estimate was immediately available but the first home suffered heavy damage.



Firefighters fight a fire at the Town and Country Mobile Estates Monday, April 12, 2010.

Buy Now

May 10, 2010, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Woman, toddler safe in south-side fire

An electrical fire in a south-side duplex Monday destroyed a bedroom and displaced a family of four.

The fire was reported about 12:50 p.m. in the 5800 block of South Rex Avenue, near East Drexel Road and South Alvernon Way, said Battalion Chief John Walka, a Rural/Metro Fire Department spokesman.

A woman and her 2-year-old son had just walked outside the unit to talk to a neighbor when the woman noticed smoke and flames coming from a bedroom, Walka said.

Firefighters were able to contain the blaze to the room and keep it from spreading to adjoining units, though residents on either side of the damaged unit were evacuated, Walka said.

No injuries were reported from the fire, which caused between $75,000 and $100,000 in damage.

Brian J. Pedersen

June 12, 2010, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Lots and lots of compost is burning on Tucson's south side

JUNE 12, 2010 4:44 PM • ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Rural/Metro firefighters are battling a large compost fire at an industrial business near Tucson International Airport, authorities said.

The fire was reported just before 2 a.m. at the business, located at 8665 S. Alvernon Way, south of Valencia Road, said Deputy Chief Scott Baird, a Rural/Metro Fire Department spokesman.

An on-site security guard and a passerby told authorities they saw smoke rising in the area, Baird said.

When firefighters arrived, they requested additional resources to fight the blaze, which is the size of two football fields side by side, he said.

The fire is burning a mulch pile filled with wood chips and cactus clippings, he said.

There are two engines and four tankers fighting the fire, along with about 30 firefighters, he said.

The fire department is using a tanker from Davis-Monthan Air Force base and another fire engine from the Air National Guard, he said.

Firefighters have contained half of the fire and will keep crews at the fire throughout this evening, he said.

No injuries have been reported.

The fire is not threatening any structures.

July 16, 2010, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Overnight fire destroys three mobile homes on Tucson's south side

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

July 16, 2010 9:57 am • Brian J. Pedersen Arizona Daily Star

Three mobile homes were destroyed by fire early Friday on Tucson's south side, authorities said.

A fire broke out about 1:30 a.m. in a vacant trailer in the 5400 block of South Country Club Road and quickly spread to two nearby trailers, said Anne-Marie Braswell, a Rural/Metro Fire Department spokeswoman.

The fire caused about $70,000 in damage to the trailers.

No injuries were reported, but residents from two occupied trailers were displaced and are being assisted by the Red Cross, Braswell said.

Rural/Metro and Pima County Sheriff's Department investigators are still trying to determine the fire's cause, she said.

Cyclist struck on Tucson's northeast side

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

July 16, 2010 9:58 am • Brian J. Pedersen Arizona Daily Star

A man has been taken to University Medical Center after being hit by a van while riding his bicycle on the northeast side, authorities said.

The crash happened just after 9:15 a.m. on East River Road and North Tanuri Drive, said Anne-Marie Braswell, a Rural/Metro Fire Department spokeswoman.

The man suffered serious injuries in the crash, which caused the closure of River for about 30 minutes.

August 12, 2010, *Arizona Daily Str*:

Young hiker airlifted after collapsing

Was one of dozens on Desert Christian outing in Catalinas



AUGUST 12, 2010 12:00 AM • JAMAR YOUNGER
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A 17-year-old girl hiking with her senior classmates in the Sabino Canyon area had to be rescued after collapsing Wednesday afternoon, authorities said.

The girl was with about 60 people from Desert Christian High School who had been hiking down from Rose Canyon Lake in the Santa Catalina Mountains.

The voluntary hike culminated an annual senior camping trip organized by the school, said Headmaster John O'Hair.

Authorities received a call about 1:30 p.m. saying a teenage girl had fainted and fallen on the hike after the group reached Seven Falls, said Sgt. George Economidis of the Pima County Sheriff's Department search-and-rescue unit.

She was taken by helicopter from the canyon to Tucson Medical Center in serious condition, officials said.

The girl was expected to remain at the hospital overnight for observation, O'Hair said.

Two other girls were taken to the hospital for observation after they were examined at the end of the hike, but they were released Wednesday evening, he said.

The other members of the group made their way to a location in Sabino Canyon where they could be picked up by buses from the school.

There were 50 students in the group, along with at least eight adults, including two with medical training, he said.

One of the medics began treating the girl before authorities arrived, he said.

A Department of Public Safety helicopter, the U.S. Border Patrol search-and-rescue team, the Southern Arizona Rescue Association and the Rural/ Metro Fire Department assisted with the rescue, Economidis said.

Everyone was accounted for by 9 p.m., said Deputy Jason Ogan, a sheriff's spokesman.

The group began hydrating Tuesday before embarking on the hike down the mountain at 5:30 a.m. Wednesday, O'Hair said.

The teens planned to stop at Seven Falls to cool off in the water and rehydrate before continuing into Sabino Canyon, he said.

August 12 & 16, 2010, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Each teen started on the hike with a gallon of water, he said. The adults also had extra water and Gatorade.

The high temperature in Tucson on Wednesday was 103 degrees.

This was the 12th year that the school conducted the hike.

"We've never had anything happen like today," O'Hair said.

The purpose of the camping trip, dubbed Senior Attitude Leadership Training, was to help the seniors develop leadership skills, he said.

"It's to help them get ready for senior year," O'Hair said.

They had spent the previous couple of days rock climbing, rappelling and taking part in team-building activities.

The hike was voluntary, and six students decided to not to participate, he said.

School officials will evaluate this year's hike in order to take further precautions for the future, he said.

"We're not canceling it immediately, but we don't want it (a rescue) to happen again," he said.

Contact reporter Jamar Younger at jyounger@azstarnet.com or call 573-4115.

Fire truck rolls into desert on Tucson's east side

AUGUST 16, 2010 8:31 AM • BRIAN J. PEDERSEN ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Sometimes even the first responders need a little emergency assistance.

A routine medical call to help a fallen bicyclist turned into much more early Sunday at Saguaro National Park East, as a Rural/Metro Fire Department engine needed to be towed away after rolling into the desert.

No one was injured in the incident, said Anne-Marie Braswell, a Rural/Metro spokeswoman. Even the patient being treated refused transport to the hospital, she said.

Braswell said only 'minimal' damage occurred to the fire truck (it lost a headlight) and to the desert area where the truck ended up after rolling forward down a hilly portion of the loop road leading through Saguaro National East.

"We didn't take out any saguaros," Braswell said.

The truck, which came from Station 72 near North Houghton and East Tanque Verde roads, did need to get towed back to Rural Metro's Fleet Services lot to make sure no further damage occurred.

No information was available as to *why* the truck rolled in the first place.

2010

August 18, 2010, *Arizona Daily Str*:

Boy, 5, drowns at Tucson-area golf course

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

August 19, 2010 2:52 pm • Arizona Daily Star

A 5-year-old boy drowned in a pond at Corona de Tucson golf course this afternoon, authorities said.

The boy, Zachary Clark, was pulled from the pond at the Santa Rita Golf Course, 16461 S. Houghton Road, said Todd Cupell, a spokesman for the Corona de Tucson Fire Department.

Authorities said Zachary and his family live in a home near the golf course. He apparently wandered away from the house sometime before 1 p.m.

At 12:50 p.m., the boy's father called 911 to report him missing. Deputies arrived in the area and began searching for the boy. He was found by deputies in the golf course pond.

Deputies begin CPR on Zachary, who is autistic, until paramedics arrived. He was taken by helicopter to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The Corona de Tucson Fire District, Rural/Metro Fire Department and Pima County Sheriff's Department responded to the incident.

There have been two drownings in Pima County this year, including one adult.

2010

August 23, 2010, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Photo: Rural Metro firefighters respond to garage fire



AUGUST 23, 2010 9:56 PM

Rural Metro firefighters push over the remaining wall of a two-car garage-like shed after a fire destroyed the structure at 3762 N. Tres Lomas Drive, according to Rural Metro fire captain Brian Talley.

There were no injuries in the single-alarm blaze and the cause of the fire is still under investigation, according to sheriff deputy M. Othic.

September 1, 2010, *Arizona Daily Star*:

At least 1 injured in wreck near Cienega High School in Vail

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

September 01, 2010 10:51 am • Brian J. Pedersen Arizona Daily Star

At least one person was injured in a three-vehicle wreck near Cienega High School.

The crash was reported about 10:30 a.m. about a block east of the school on East Mary Ann Cleveland Way, said Dep. Jason Ogan, a Pima County Sheriff's Department spokesman.

The crash was handled by the Sheriff's department, the Rincon Valley Fire District and the Rural/Metro Fire Department.

2010

September 10, 2010, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Fire damages Circle K in Foothills

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

September 10, 2010 7:37 pm

A woman was taken to a hospital Friday evening after she suffered smoke inhalation during a fire at a Foothills area Circle K, authorities said.

The fire was reported just before 5 p.m. at the convenience store at 4802 N. Sabino Canyon Road, said Anne-Marie Braswell, a Rural/Metro Fire Department spokeswoman.

When firefighters arrived, they saw black smoke rising from the roof and coming out of the front doors, Braswell said.

It took firefighters about 30 minutes to extinguish the fire, she said.

The store's owner told authorities the blaze caused $70,000 worth of damage to the building and equipment at the store, and $125,000 to its inventory, she said.

The fire was caused by improper storage of combustible materials, she said.

October 5, 2010, http://www.tucsonlocalmedia.com/news/pima_pinal/article_2ccfb8cc-c8c3-591f-a1a5-1bdefc73c5e9.html

Residents oppose fire district annexation, say it's too costly

■ Airpark owners organize; GR says it gets free service

Story Comments Print Font Size:
Recommend 0 Tweet G+1 0 Share 0

Posted: Tuesday, October 5, 2010 11:00 pm

By **Patrick McNamara**, The Explorer

A proposed fire district annexation in Oro Valley has been met with opposition from a group of residents,

Nearly all of the 120 property owners in La Cholla Airpark have refused to sign annexation petitions circulated by the Golder Ranch Fire District. Some of the residents have organized a formal opposition to the move to incorporate the airpark and nearly 500 other properties, mostly in Pima County, into the district.

> "I think it's just a big money grab," said Dick Heffelman, a La Cholla Airpark resident and one of the forces behind the group Citizens Against Annexation.

Heffelman said he wants to see less government and doesn't want to pay the more than $1,100 in secondary property taxes per year he estimates annexation would cost him. The total secondary rate in the district stands at $1.73 per $100 of assessed value.

"It's more than twice as much as I pay for insurance," Heffelman said.

Residents have proposed having all homeowners pay $1,000 into a fire-service fund that would be tapped to pay fees for emergency services.

Rural Metro fire used to cover La Cholla Airpark, but the company asked Golder Ranch to annex the area. Residents like Heffelman said they would rather self-insure, or simply pay a fee for emergency assistance.

October 5, 2010, http://www.tucsonlocalmedia.com/news/pima_pinal/article_2ccfb8cc-c8c3-591f-a1a5-1bdefc73c5e9.html

That would be fine, Golder Ranch officials said, if airpark residents were ever charged for emergency services.

"Golder Ranch has been responding in there since 2006 and addressing their emergencies and it hasn't cost them a dime," Community Services Division Chief John Sullivan told the Oro Valley Town Council at a Sept. 22 meeting.

To date in 2010, the fire district has responded to 27 calls for emergency services in La Cholla Airpark, including a fire at an airplane hangar in January, Sullivan said. The district did send the property owner a bill for more than $10,000 for fighting the hangar fire. It has recently instituted a service-fee schedule.

"They're riding on the backs of the system put into place at the expense of taxpayers in Oro Valley," Sullivan told the council.

The discussion prompted rebukes from some on the council, including Councilman Joe Hornat. "Personally, I would like to see everyone share in the costs," Hornat said.

Councilman Steve Solomon was more severe in his assessment of the situation.

"I would be for posting signs (at the entrance to the airpark) that say, 'You are now entering an area that has no emergency services,' because that's what they are fighting for," Solomon said.

Heffelman disputes suggestions that other Oro Valley residents effectively subsidize emergency services for the airpark.

"If I get service from them, I'll pay for it," he said. "I expect to pay for it."

That's what he anticipates will happen if the annexation fails.

Heffelman said he and other airpark residents have managed to convince some of their neighbors who signed the annexation petition to withdraw their signatures, leaving just three residents that still support the effort.

The district has collected less than 200 signatures.

2010

October 5, 2010, http://www.tucsonlocalmedia.com/news/pima_pinal/article_2ccfb8cc-c8c3-591f-a1a5-1bdefc73c5e9.html

Sullivan told The Explorer that a fee schedule does not allow the district to recover costs associated with its response efforts.

"We can never fully recover our intangible costs," for expenses such as training, equipment and facilities, Sullivan said. Service fees only cover the tangible costs associated with individual responses, like wages and material.

The fire district needs to get at least half the residents plus one to agree to annexation to go forward. Heffelman doesn't think they'll get it.

"I think they'll offer subscription-based service," Heffelman said. If not, he said another fire district would pick up where Golder Ranch left off. Sullivan said fire districts are not obligated to serve areas outside their boundaries.

Rural Metro fire would respond to fires and other emergencies if Golder Ranch decides not to serve the La Cholla Airpark community. Kord's Southwest Ambulance Service would provide medical transport services.

Sullivan said the response times would not uphold the same standard that Golder Ranch does under its agreement with Oro Valley. Golder Ranch has to respond to emergencies in the town within five minutes at least 90 percent of the time. Its ambulances have to respond within eight minutes 90 percent of the time.

Kord's, by comparison, has to respond within 60 minutes 80 percent of the time, Sullivan said.

"We have a fiduciary responsibility to our taxpayers," Sullivan said, and that doesn't include providing services to residents who don't pay district taxes.

The total assessed value of the entire annexation area tops $26.3 million, and the amount of taxes those property owners would pay would be roughly $412,000 in the 2011 tax year, Sullivan said. La Cholla Airpark makes up about $8.2 million of the total assessed value and would pay $130,000 in taxes, Sullivan said.

He stressed that he doesn't want airpark residents to be without services and encouraged residents to work with Golder Ranch or another fire district to ensure reliable delivery of emergency services.

The district has until May 2011 to collect the needed signatures and present them to the Pima County Board of Supervisors for approval.

2010

October 14, 2010, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Chili cook-off sparks taste buds, banter at Carestone center

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Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion





PHOTOS BY BENJIE SANDERS / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Residents, staff members and volunteers helped judge the Rural/Metro and Southwest Ambulance chili cook-off at Carestone at River Centre.


Benjie Sanders/Arizona Daily Sta

Rural/Metro Fire Department Capt. Grant Cesarek dishes up chili at the cook-off. Judges found it to have a pretty good kick, while the Southwest Ambulance version was milder and a bit sweet.

October 14, 2010, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Chili cook-off sparks taste buds, banter at Carestone center

October 14, 2010 12:00 am • Benjie Sanders Arizona Daily Star 0

What better way to spend a weekday afternoon than enjoying chili outdoors under shady trees?

Residents at Carestone at River Centre did just that on Oct. 6 at the assisted-living center's third annual chili cook-off, which pitted Rural/Metro Fire Department against Southwest Ambulance.

This is the third year for the cook-off, said AJ Hughes, community relations director at Carestone, 5665 E. River Road.

The aim is to make Carestone's residents comfortable with emergency personal in a fun and relaxed setting. Apparently it worked: With a smile, one female resident asked one of the firemen if he likes older women.

She wasn't the only one doing some joshing. Rural/Metro Capt. Grant Cesarek, who made the chili representing Rural/Metro, jokingly accused the Southwest Ambulance chili cooks of starting out with a can of Dennison's chile, while he made his chili from scratch.

The verdict from residents, who judged the chilis: the offering from Rural/Metro was tasty, with a pretty good kick to it, and the Southwest Ambulance version, also savory, was milder and, to some, had a bit of sweet taste.

After all the ballots were tallied, Rural/Metro was named the winner.

Contact photographer Benjie Sanders at 954-3145 or bsanders@azstarnet.com

2010

October 24, 2010, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Firefighters extinguish house fire near Sabino Canyon

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Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion






Smoke and flames rise high into the air from a residence in the 2500 block of North Webster Road. Rural Metro responded to the house fire. Firefighters were hampered by the threat of exploding propane tanks located on the premises, Pima County Sheriff's deputies said.



Firefighters were hampered by the threat of exploding propane tanks located on the premises, Pima County Sheriff's deputies said.

2010

October 24 & 28, 2010, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Firefighters extinguish house fire near Sabino Canyon

October 24, 2010 4:31 pm • By Clayton R. Norman Arizona Daily Star

Firefighters have extinguished a large house fire near Sabino Canyon.

The Rural/Metro Fire District responded to the home around 4 p.m. A spokesman said the house was "well-involved" when firefighters arrived and the blaze destroyed the building.

Firefighters said the blaze was difficult to fight because of limited road access and few hydrants in the area. The home is in the 3500 block of North Webster Road, near Sabino Canyon and Cloud roads.

Three people were home when the fire broke out but no injuries were reported.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Large fire burning in mining yard near airport

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

October 28, 2010 10:01 pm • Arizona Daily Star

Rural/Metro firefighters are on the scene of a fire at a mining and crushing yard behind Tucson International Airport.

The fire was reported at Sierra Mining and Crushing, at East Hughes Access Road and South Alvernon Way, just after 9 p.m., said Deputy Chief James Stoltenberg, a Rural/Metro spokesman.

Stoltenberg described the blaze as a “flash-pile fire”, but he said he did not know what kind of material was burning.

The fire is 50 feet wide and 100 feet long, he said.

2010

November 10, 2010, *Arizona Daily Star*:

RV Fire

Tweet 0 | +1 0 | Share | Print | Email



Corona De Tucson Firet District firefighter Sean Sasiadek hoses down the remains of a recreational vehicle in the aftermath of a fire the Cactus Country RV Resort & Mobile Community near Houghton and I-10 east of Tucson, AZ., Wed. Nov. 10, 2010. Units from the Corona De Tucson Fire District, Rincon Valley Fire Department and the Rural Metro Fire Department responded shortly before 2 p.m. and fought the blaze that spread that started in one RV and with the help of high winds spread to two other RVs and two trailers, three of which burned to the ground.

November 10, 2010 4:53 pm • Kelly Presnell/Arizona Daily Star

November 30, 2010, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Smoke School

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email



Students line up near a Rural Metro smoke house trailer as they get ready to go inside to learn about getting out of a smoke-filled building safely.

November 30, 2010 4:32 pm • Benjie Sanders/Arizona Daily Star

Bailing Out

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email



Students jump out of a Rural Metro smoke house trailer where they were taught to get out of a smoke-filled building safely.

November 30, 2010 4:35 pm • Benjie Sanders/Arizona Daily Star

December 2, 2010, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Safety is goal at Collier

VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS GIVE ADVICE, DEMONSTRATIONS TO ABOUT 300 STUDENTS

December 02, 2010 12:00 am • Benjie Sanders Arizona Daily Star 0

Collier Elementary School, 3900 N. Bear Canyon Road, played host last week to 10 public-safety organizations, which gave students safety advice and demonstrations of their equipment and the training their jobs entail.

The event, on Nov. 23, involved approximately 300 students in kindergarten through fifth grade. It's in about its 10th year, according to Sheree Illanas, a parent and sub aide.

The students participated in several exercises at different stations on the playground. One was a Rural Metro smokehouse full of smoke that students went through after being instructed to stay low to get out of a building safely.

A Pima Regional Bomb Squad unit brought a couple of robots and demonstrated some of the things they can do. Search and Rescue brought along a couple of dogs from its dog unit and some ATVs. Other agencies included the Pima County Sheriff's Mounted Posse, Southwest Ambulance, Pima Regional SWAT team and U.S. Border Patrol.

On StarNet: To view more photos go online to www.azstarnet.com/gallery

Contact photographer Benjie Sanders at 954-3145 or bsanders@azstarnet.com

2011

January 6, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Ex-CPA adds up several fulfilled dreams



JANUARY 06, 2011 12:00 AM • VALERIE VINYARD
VVINYARD@AZSTARNET.COM

While Tom Carpenter toiled as a CPA, he realized something didn't add up.

He worked at a firm in Los Angeles, returned to Tucson and forged his own accounting business, but something was missing.

"I always wanted to be a firefighter," said Carpenter, who earned an accounting degree from the University of Arizona in 1985.

"It wasn't hard to make the break because I was just in a place where I needed the change," he said. "I'm just not a person that can sit behind a desk. I need to interact with people."

So when the chance to join Rural/Metro Fire Department came up in 1991, the Salpointe Catholic High School grad traded his suits for firefighter garb.

"It takes an act of God to get a tie around my neck right now," the 48-year-old said, laughing.

Carpenter added a stint with the Mount Lemmon Fire Department a year later, then tested for the Tucson Fire Department in 1994.

In his 17 years with TFD, Carpenter moved up the ranks to captain.

He also branched out in other ways since his number-crunching days.

"I think that life presents endless opportunities for challenges," Carpenter said. "If you don't learn something new each day, you're probably not challenging yourself."

In 2002, he helped start Crystal Ridge, a four-member bluegrass band that plays originals and covers. The Chicago native plays guitar and sings.

"There's only so many hours in the day," he said. "It's important to find the things important to you and balance your day so you can wrap yourself around them."

The band is working on its second CD. Its eponymous debut album sells on Amazon.com for $17 and at gigs for $10.

Crystal Ridge practices - "that's a loose term," he says - at the 800-square-foot home Carpenter shares with Howie, a 3-year-old Jack Russell terrier.

The band plays a gig or so a month, usually at Frog and Firkin or occasionally in California.

More recently, Carpenter has been all about sustainability.

"I think the common person can make a huge difference - I think I'm living proof of that," he said. "I don't have a degree in chemistry; I'm not a diesel mechanic. But I've learned enough to actually make a difference."

2011

January 6, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Carpenter converted his 1997 Dodge truck to run on salvaged vegetable oil in 2005 and his 1987 VW van to run on biodiesel fuel a couple of years ago.

"I feel like I can drive down the road guilt-free and not contribute to our demand for foreign oil," said Carpenter, noting that he decided to do this "over a bunch of beers - I said, 'I can do this.' "

He collects used vegetable oil from local restaurants and has a setup in his 1,200-square-foot garage to convert the vegetable oil.

"It's pretty nice to be able to go to San Diego and back - twice - for about $4," he said of his truck.

Carpenter has persuaded seven fellow firefighters to convert their vehicles to run on vegetable oil, too.

"You're never wrong to follow your dreams," he said.

Carpenter's Advice

1. Don't be afraid of making mistakes. They're the best learning tool that you have.

2. It's possible to learn anything if you just take your time. You need basic knowledge before you can tackle a big project.

3. People who know what they're doing are your best source of knowledge.

4. You're never too old to make a change.

5. Keep your mouth shut and your ears open. You're going to learn a lot more by listening than talking about what you've already done.

If you go

• What: Crystal Ridge Bluegrass Band.

• When: 6 p.m. Jan. 17.

• Where: Frog and Firkin, 874 E. University Blvd.

• Cost: Free; must be at least 21 to enter.

January 9, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*:

REP. GIFFORDS SHOT, CRITICAL

Judge Roll, girl, aide, retiree, 2 others slain



JAMES PALKA / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Medical personnel treat a shooting victim believed to be Rep. Gabrielle Giffords outside the northwest-side shopping center where she was meeting with constituents Saturday. A UMC surgeon said he was optimistic about her recovery, and noted she was following commands, which is a good sign.



Rep. Gabrielle Giffords
Giffords was talking with a couple with about 20 people in the audience when she was shot.

THOSE KILLED



U.S. Judge John M. Roll
Roll, 63, attended Mass Saturday morning and then stopped in to see Giffords at the event.



Christina-Taylor Green
Christina, 9, was recently elected to her school's student council and wanted to learn about government.



Gabe Zimmerman
Giffords' constituent services director, 30, accompanied his boss to events and worked with people who needed Giffords' help with an issue.

Dorwan Stoddard
He and his wife were high school sweethearts who married later in life. His wife was expected to recover.
Also killed: Dorthy Murray, 76; Phyllis Schneck, 79.

Two bystanders wrestle gunman to the ground, snatch weapon away

By Rhonda Bodfield
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The last tweet from U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords said, "My 1st Congress on Your Corner starts now. Please stop by to let me know what is on your mind or tweet me later."

It sounded so innocuous.

Minutes later, mayhem broke out and Giffords was critically wounded by a shot to the head. Six people were killed, including federal judge John Roll, who had recently worked with Giffords on court issues. A total of 13 people were injured.

Also among the dead:

• Christina-Taylor Green, 9, who had recently been elected to student council and attended Saturday's event to learn more about government.

• Gabe Zimmerman, 30, Giffords' director of community outreach.

• Three retirees: Dorthy Murray, 76; Phyllis Schneck, 79; and Dorwan Stoddard, 76.

The shooting drew stunned reaction across Tucson. Groups gathered to hold prayer circles, while an impromptu shrine with candles and flowers cropped up outside Giffords' midtown office.

It also drew immediate national reaction, with new Republican House Speaker John Boehner calling it "a sad day for our country" and the White House calling it an "unspeakable tragedy."

"We do not yet have all the answers," President Obama said. "What we do know is that such a senseless and terrible act of violence has no place in a free society."

The bullet exited Giffords' head cleanly. Dr. Peter Rhee, a surgeon at University Medical Center, said he was optimistic about her survival, and noted she was following commands.

The shooting occurred at a northwest-side Safeway supermarket, at North Oracle and West Ina roads, where Giffords, a Democrat, was holding one of her regular "Congress on Your Corner" events, which allow her to speak directly with constituents.

See GIFFORDS, A3

FIVE PAGES OF COVERAGE INSIDE

Judge Roll: U.S. District Judge John McCarthy Roll of Tucson was remembered Saturday by colleagues, lawyers and friends for his stern law-and-order style and dedication to the law. **Page A2**

Columnist Josh Brodesky: Pray, remember, mourn. There is no way to make sense of the senseless. **Page A4**

Vigils: Tucsonans gathered. More vigils are planned today. **Page A4**

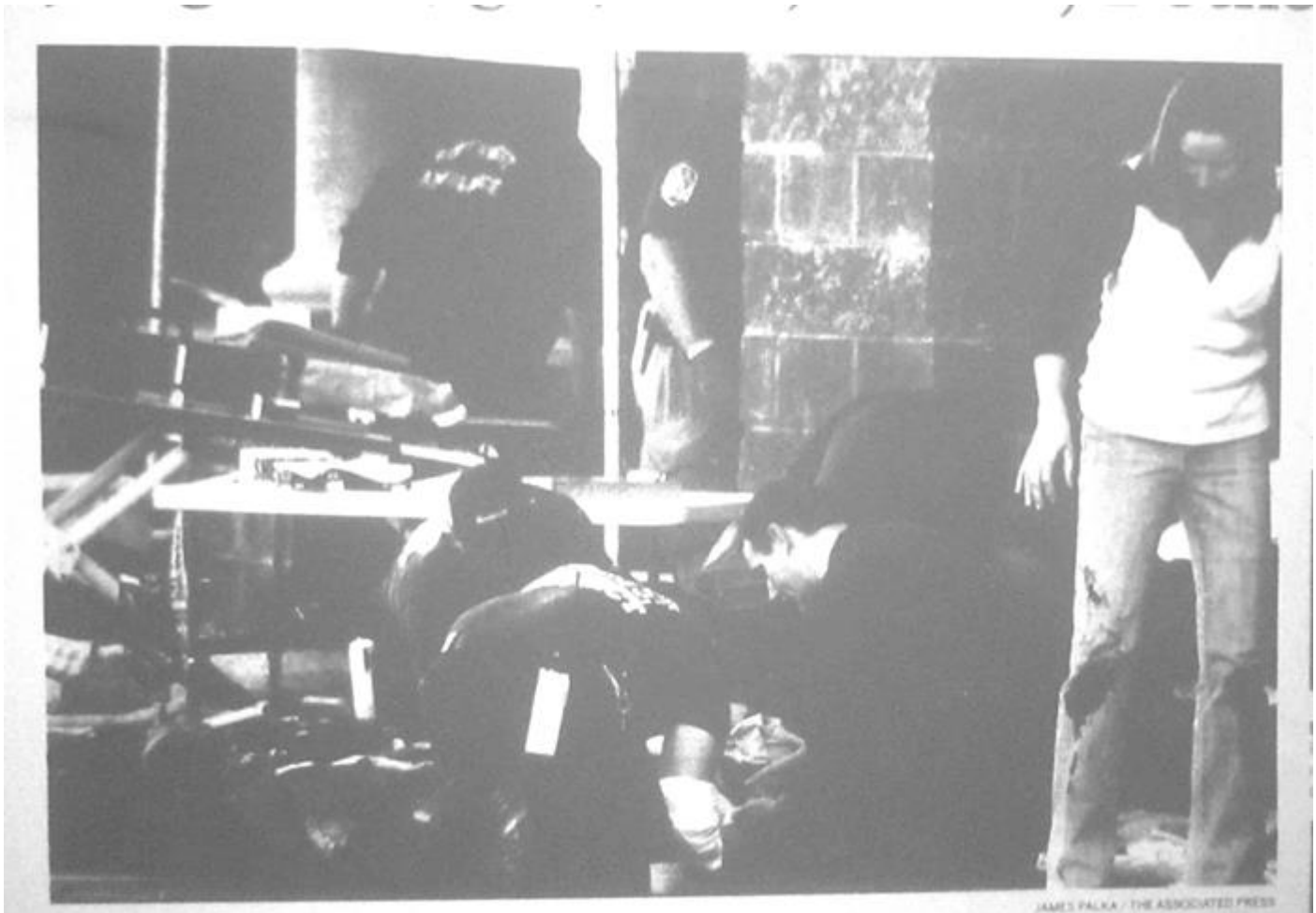
The shooter: The man accused of opening fire at a community meeting held by Rep. Gabrielle Giffords is mentally unstable, sheriff says. **Page A5**

National reaction: The president, Giffords' colleagues speak. **Page A6**

Visit **azstarnet.com** for continuing updates, plus more photos, video, blogs and your comments.

2011

January 9, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*:



JAMES PALKA / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Medical personnel treat a shooting victim believed to be Rep. Gabrielle Giffords outside the northwest-side shopping center where she was meeting with constituents Saturday. A UMC surgeon said he was optimistic about her recovery, and noted she was following commands, which is a good sign.

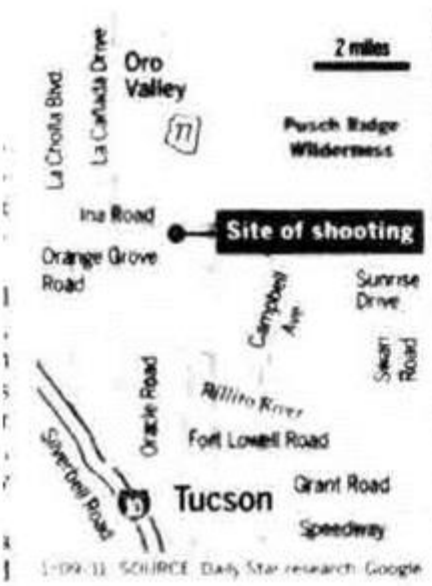
2011

January 9, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*:

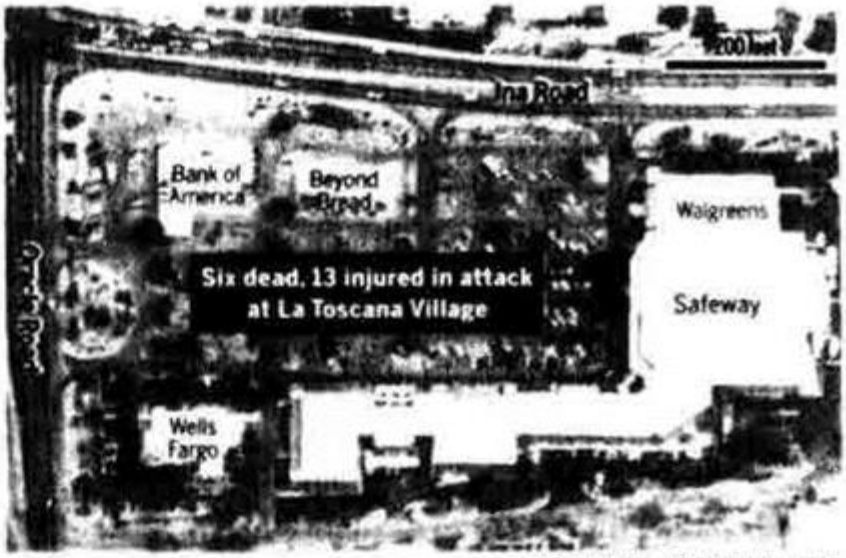


KELLY PRESNELL / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Police were on high alert for any remaining threats after the shooting of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and others on Saturday. The shooting occurred at a northwest side Safeway supermarket where Giffords was holding one of her regular "Congress on Your Corner" events, which allow her to speak directly with constituents.



SOURCE: Daily Star research, Google



KORI RUMORE / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

January 9, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*:

GIFFORDS

Continued from Page A1

The gunman has been identified as 22-year-old Jared Loughner and Sheriff Clarence Dupnik said law enforcement is not convinced he acted alone.

He had several nonsensical postings on social-media sites, complaining about illiteracy in Congressional District 8 as well as rants about currency. Loughner was registered as an independent, according to the Pima County Recorder's Office.

Dupnik said the suspect had a "troubled past" and was uninjured but uncooperative.

"I've never been so shocked in my life as the events that happened today," Dupnik said. "It's not only a very sad day for Tucson and for the family, the friends of all the victims of this horrendous, senseless unbelievable crime – but it's a sad day for America."

Giffords has held several such mini-town-hall like events since first taking office in January 2007, but this was her first event since her re-election to a third term in November.

Mark Kimble, a former Tucson Citizen executive who has worked for Giffords since 2009, said he was chatting with fellow staffers and Judge Roll when he saw "this guy come running in from the south."

About 15 to 20 people were lined up to the north of where Giffords stood with chief of staff Ron Barber, between U.S. and Arizona flags, Kimble said.

"Even before he got in, he fired some shots, stopped briefly in front of Gabby and Ron and was no more than four feet, probably less, when he fired a number of shots at the two of them and then he stayed there for a couple seconds firing around, he continued north through the area where people were lined up waiting.

"It was a totally chaotic scene. Gabby and Ron were lying slumped against the front glass of the Safeway."

Kimble said he dived to the ground when the shooting began.

"All of these people who were there were trying to help out people who had a problem ... and this happens. This wasn't a political event. There was no controversy involved.

"To say 'It's a horrible event' is just inadequate."

Two bystanders wrestled the assailant to the ground and disarmed him. His semi-automatic pistol still had ammunition in it. Dupnik said others would probably have been shot had he not been restrained, adding it's a possibility that he also might have tried to kill himself.

Other members of Giffords' staff were among the wounded.

District director Barber had surgery for his gunshot wounds, and Pam Simon, Giffords' community-outreach representative, was also shot and injured. Both were expected to survive, Giffords spokesman C.J. Karamargin said.

Karamargin said there was no security at the event, although the office typically notified local law enforcement as a courtesy.

Giffords worked to be accessible to her constituents, Karamargin said.

"She always prided herself on reaching out to the people who elected her and it would compound this tragedy if that were to change," he said.

She has done 20 such "Congress on Your Corner" events, he said.

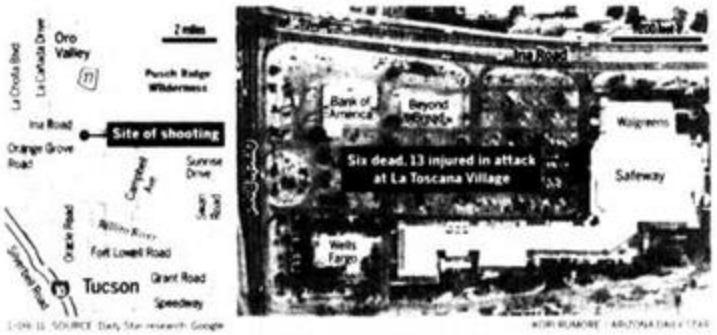
Last March, Giffords' Tucson office was vandalized after the House vote overhauling the nation's health-care system. With the social media circuits ablaze with furor over heated political rhetoric, including Sarah Palin's website that put Congressional District 8 in gun cross hairs, Dupnik multiple times complained about the vitriol invading the political scene. "We have become the mecca of prejudice and bigotry," Dupnik said Saturday.

"The anger, the hatred, the bigotry that goes on in this country is getting to be outrageous," he said. "Unfortunately, Arizona, I think has become sort of the capital."

In an interview with MSNBC after her office was vandalized, Giffords said she was not fearful but said she'd noticed an increase in heated political rhetoric.

However, former Republican Rep. Jim Kolbe, who represented the area before Giffords, said it would be inappropriate this early on to suggest any political motivation was involved.

"We've had shootings in schools and how many other places? If you have somebody who is deranged like this, we just don't know what was going on in his head," Kolbe said, adding he was "shocked and horrified" when he heard about the violence.



1-DAY U. SOURCE: Daily Star research, Google

BOB ROMERO / ARIZONA DAILY STAR



MATT YORK / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It was a stressful day for emergency personnel, too. A Giffords spokesman said the event had no security.



KELLY PRESNELL / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Witnesses and bystanders mill about the scene of Saturday's tragedy. The shootings of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and others drew stunned reactions across Tucson.

AMONG THE INJURED IN SATURDAY'S SHOOTING

Ron Barber, district director for Gabrielle Giffords, joined Giffords staff when she was elected to Congress after a long career with the Department of Economic Security.

He's going to recover, said fellow Giffords staffer Mark Kimble, who was not injured. "He is deeply dedicated to Gabby and what she is trying to do in Congress. He's been district director since she went to Congress. He works 80 hours a week. Anywhere Gabby is, he is there. He's a very good guy."

Pam Simon is a part-time staffer for Goddard.

"She deals a lot with schools and does community outreach things," Kimble said. "She's one of the sweetest people I know."

Mavanell Stoddard is a retiree who loves to travel with her husband. Her husband, Dorwan, was killed in Saturday's shooting.

Kolbe, who also counted Judge Roll as a friend, said while he didn't agree with Giffords on many recent votes, he credited her with doing a great deal of outreach in the district. "I don't know of anybody who had any hostility against Gabby – even those who disagreed with her. She was very bubbly, very thoughtful, always sending notes. It's just a terrible tragedy."

Giffords, elected to Congress in 2006, was the third woman in Arizona history elected to Congress and the first female Jewish member of Congress from Arizona.

She is a member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition in the U.S. House and was named by a political magazine as one of the most centrist members of Congress, although some of her votes in the last congressional cycle drew the ire of the right.

Giffords, counted among the rising stars of the Democratic party and mentioned often as a prospective candidate for U.S. Senate, had just started the congressional session. She tweeted welcomes to new Republican Rep. David Schweikert of Arizona and had just sponsored legislation, with Republican Rep. Ron Paul of Texas, to cut congressional salaries.

Giffords, 40, married Cmdr. Mark E. Kelly, 46, a NASA astronaut and Navy pilot from New Jersey, in December 2007. Kelly flew in to be by his wife's side Saturday afternoon.

Giffords prides herself on her accessibility to the public, even though some of the meetings grew heated, particularly those focusing on the health-care overhaul. She held several large public meetings in 2009 about the legislation that drew vocal and rowdy protesters.

She told the Star that speaking with the people she represents is one of the most rewarding, and sometimes difficult, parts of her job.

Authorities are investigating or interviewing dozens of victims and witnesses.

The FBI is involved in the investigation. Obama sent Robert Mueller, the bureau's director, to Arizona to head the investigation.

Contact reporter Rhonda Bodfield at rbodfield@azstarnet.com or 573-4243. Reporters Tom Beal and Josh Brodesky contributed to this story.

2011

January 15, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Sheriff's timeline shows Loughner's moves before shootings

JANUARY 15, 2011 12:00 AM • FERNANDA ECHAVARRI ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The Pima County Sheriff's Department has released more details on Jared Lee Loughner, showing that he stayed up all night before the deadly shooting and listing items found in his pockets at the time of his arrest.

When deputies arrested Loughner Saturday morning they found in his pockets a 4-inch buck knife, a plastic bag with an undisclosed amount of money, two 15-round magazines, a bank card and his Arizona driver's license, said Deputy Jason Ogan, a sheriff's spokesman.

On Friday afternoon, deputies released a timeline on Loughner from the night before the shooting to last Saturday night when officials served a search warrant at his house.

Officials say he purchased the 9 mm Glock Model 19 handgun with extended magazine and one box of ammunition on Nov. 30.

Night before shooting

• 11:35 p.m. Loughner drops off a roll of 35 mm film to be developed at Walgreens, 3800 W. Ina Road.

Day of shooting:

• 12:24 a.m.: Loughner makes a purchase at Circle K, 4900 W. Ina Road.

• 12:29 a.m.: Loughner checks into Motel 6, 4630 W. Ina.

• 2:19 a.m.: Loughner returns to Walgreens to get developed photos.

• 2:34 a.m.: Loughner makes purchase at Chevron Store, 7620 N. Hartman Road.

• 4:12 a.m.: Loughner posts bulletin on Myspace. Titled post "Goodbye friends," which contained recently developed photo from Walgreens.

• 6:12 a.m.: Loughner makes purchase at Walmart Store at Foothills Mall, 7635 N La Cholla Blvd.

• 6:21 a.m.: Loughner makes purchase at Circle K Store, 3712 W. Cortaro Farms Road.

• 7:04 a.m.: Loughner attempts to purchase ammunition at Walmart store at Foothills Mall.

• 7:27 a.m. Loughner purchases ammunition and backpack-style diaper bag at Super Walmart, 8280 N. Cortaro Road.

• 7:30 a.m. Arizona Game and Fish Department officer stops Loughner for running a red light at Cortaro Road and Interstate 10.

• 7:31 to 9:40 a.m. Loughner returns home and is confronted by his father. He flees carrying a black bag.

• 9:41 a.m. Cabdriver picks up Loughner at Circle K, 3712 W. Cortaro Farms Road, and drives him to Safeway, 7100 N. Oracle Road.

• 9:54 a.m. Cabdriver and Loughner enter Safeway to get change for fare.

• 10:10 a.m. Loughner opens fire. Nineteen people are wounded; six are killed.

• 10:11 a.m. Pima County Sheriff's Department receives 911 call.

• 10:14 a.m. First paramedic unit, Rural Metro Fire Rescue 76, is dispatched.

• 10:15 a.m. First deputy on scene; Loughner is detained.

• 10:16 a.m. Second deputy on scene; Loughner's weapon secured.

• 10:19 a.m. Medical personnel begin arriving.

• 10:31 a.m. Southwest Ambulance, Paramedic 83, on scene.

• 10:41 a.m. Southwest Ambulance, Paramedic 831, transports U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords to UMC.

• 10:50 a.m. Loughner transported to sheriff's substation, 7300 N. Shannon Road.

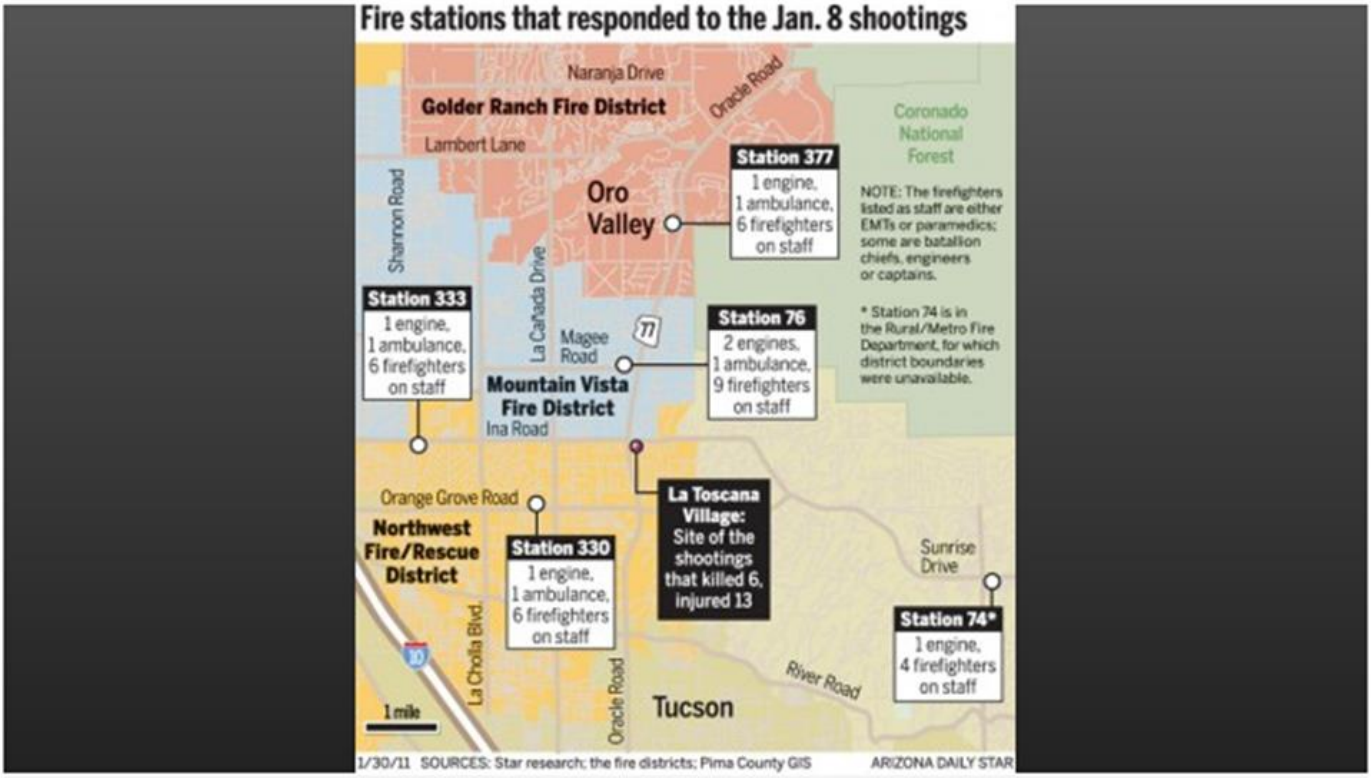
• 6:59 p.m. Warrant served at residence of Loughner's parents.

2011

January 30, 2011, http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/jan-response-the-rough-spot/article_b80d179e-3fb9-5ec1-aa68-47284a144035.html

Jan. 8 response: the rough spot

AREA'S CRAZY QUILT OF DISTRICTS HAMPERED COMMUNICATIONS



January 30, 2011 12:00 am • Fernanda Echavarri and Tim Steller Arizona Daily Star

The nearest fire engine with medical responders never was called to the scene of the Jan. 8 mass shootings at Ina and Oracle roads.

The reason: It was a Rural/Metro firetruck, but the shootings occurred just across the street from its jurisdiction in Northwest Fire District territory.

No one is saying jurisdictional issues affected the medical outcomes of the shooting victims. The issue was with firetrucks and their on-board medical personnel only; Ambulances made it to the scene without problems because Southwest Ambulance, the company that provided the initial ambulances, can also dispatch Rural/Metro ambulances. Northwest Fire does not have ambulances.

But it illustrates a larger concern about how first responders communicate during an emergency - especially in areas, like the northwest side, that are crisscrossed with jurisdictions.

The publicly run fire districts, such as Northwest and Golder Ranch, don't communicate well with privately run Rural/Metro, which serves tens of thousands of households in the area and has its own, separate dispatch center.

Northwest Fire and Golder Ranch fire, for example, have an "automatic aid" agreement that immediately dispatches the closest and most appropriate units from either department. A similar system covers the entire Phoenix metro area. Rural/Metro isn't part of a formal agreement like that but says it responds to other agencies' calls for help when needed.

The situation could change in the next few years with the implementation of a countywide system that will let police and fire agencies communicate better. The taxpayer-funded project includes only public agencies right now, but private ones like Rural/Metro could buy in.

2011

January 30, 2011, http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/jan-response-the-rough-spot/article_b80d179e-3fb9-5ec1-aa68-47284a144035.html

Jan. 8 response: the rough spot

AREA'S CRAZY QUILT OF DISTRICTS HAMPERED COMMUNICATIONS

A patchwork

The shootings on Jan. 8, which left six people dead and 13 wounded, took place in a part of metro Tucson with a patchwork of fire services.

North of Ina is the Mountain Vista district, formed by a merger of three smaller districts in 2008 and using Rural/Metro as a contract provider.

South of Ina is the Northwest Fire District, a department with a sprawling territory and public employees who work for the district, not a private contractor.

North of Mountain Vista is the publicly run Golder Ranch Fire District, which in recent years became the fire-service provider for most of Oro Valley.

And to the east is an area where Rural/Metro provides subscription service - that is, residents pay an annual fee for firefighting services.

While the Safeway on the southeast corner of West Ina and North Oracle roads is in the Northwest Fire District, the closest station is in the Mountain Vista district and staffed by Rural/Metro firefighters. It's a mile up Oracle, at Magee Road.

Engine 77, the Rural/Metro fire engine at the closest fire station to the Safeway Jan. 8, never was called to the scene, said Scott Butler, administrative chief of the Mountain Vista Fire District. Neither was another Rural/Metro engine, which sat in a bay ready to roll, at 1833 E. Skyline Drive, just two miles away.

"We don't have an ax to grind," Butler said. "Folks did an excellent job. There's just an opportunity to improve the system."

The system as it exists now allows Northwest Fire to instantly reach Golder Ranch because of the "automatic aid" agreement, but it's more complicated to contact Rural/Metro. That's why an incident commander called in a Golder Ranch engine at about 10:30 that morning, even though a Rural/Metro engine was close to the scene, said Northwest Fire Capt. Adam Goldberg.

"The Golder Ranch engine was two or three minutes behind Rural/Metro, but that time frame would've been overcome by the phone calls to their chief to get permission to switch over to the frequency and get them responding," Goldberg said. "It was the lack of communication and lack of ability to start that engine on an automatic dispatch."

2011

January 30, 2011, http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/jan-response-the-rough-spot/article_b80d179e-3fb9-5ec1-aa68-47284a144035.html

Jan. 8 response: the rough spot

AREA'S CRAZY QUILT OF DISTRICTS HAMPERED COMMUNICATIONS

Communication problems between fire agencies need to get fixed for the sake of Tucson-area residents, said Les Caid, a longtime Tucson Fire Department official who retired there as deputy chief, then was regional fire chief for Rural/Metro for four years.

"We need to have all the fire chiefs sit down and have a civil discussion on how we can establish interoperability to better serve the public," Caid said.

Northwest Fire Chief Jeff Piechura has been with that department since 1988, and all that time there have been "numerous barriers, and because of the effort and energy it would take to do, it (a solution) has not been carried through."

There's also a question of money. As a private, publicly traded corporation, Rural/Metro must always keep its shareholders' interests in mind, Caid said, and big expenses like revamping its communications system can hurt the company's bottom line.

Said Piechura: "We have a working relationship" with Rural/Metro. "Is it as seamless as other working relationships? No."

"Send every ambulance"

After the initial 911 calls came in at 10:11 a.m. Jan. 8, Pima County sheriff's deputies rushed to the scene and quickly realized they needed lots of help.

On the sheriff's radio frequency, about four minutes after the initial call, an officer said, "Start multiple med units. Multiple people down, I'm counting at least 10."

A minute later, Deputy Gilbert Caudillo told dispatchers, "Send every ambulance we have out here."

Along with two others, a Rural/Metro ambulance from the Magee station arrived before deputies had secured the scene. The medical personnel were allowed to enter at 10:22 a.m.

Then, without being called by Northwest Fire's incident commander, Rural/Metro's Engine 77 went down to Ina and Oracle to prepare to be sent in.

Around that time someone on the Sheriff's Department's radio frequency said: "You might want go ahead and start Rural/Metro or Mountain Vista or whatever down here as well. We're really short on medical personnel."

Still, the Northwest incident commander never sent Engine 77 in.

2011

January 30, 2011, http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/jan-response-the-rough-spot/article_b80d179e-3fb9-5ec1-aa68-47284a144035.html

Jan. 8 response: the rough spot

AREA'S CRAZY QUILT OF DISTRICTS HAMPERED COMMUNICATIONS

Northwest Fire had multiple units at the scene within minutes and did not need more help, Goldberg said.

"We made the last call for help at 10:27 a.m., after that we didn't need anybody else," he said.

That account contrasts with the records of Golder Ranch Fire district. Golder Ranch engine 377 was requested and dispatched at 10:30 a.m., its records say, and arrived at the scene at 10:35 a.m., said John Sullivan a community services division chief for Golder Ranch Fire.

Recordings of the Northwest fire dispatch from Jan. 8, obtained by the Star through a public-records request, show that after 10:45 a.m. enough ambulances were at the scene for transportation, but responders were still seeking medical help and requested more units to treat victims.

Unused, Rural/Metro's Engine 77 returned to its station at 10:48 a.m.

"I can't speak for this situation but if an incident commander believed that a scene was under control, he would certainly deny a request from a neighboring agency saying, 'Hey, we're here. We want to come in,' " Goldberg said. "He would say, 'Hey, we don't need you - thanks, but we don't need you.' "

How Phoenix works

In the Phoenix area, when a 911 call comes in, the closest, most appropriate firetruck or ambulance is automatically dispatched regardless of district boundaries, said Capt. Scott McDonald a Phoenix fire spokesman.

"We really have no boundaries. We don't hesitate to go anywhere," McDonald said. "It's about what's best for the citizens, not about who responds."

Goldberg said more cross-boundary cooperation requires that "the services have to be balanced," adding that some fire departments may have less-experienced firefighters responding.

As it stands, he said, "There's a difference of philosophies between fire departments, between private, Rural/Metro, and the public - resources, staffing, and equipment."

That's been a longstanding perception of Rural/Metro - that its personnel, staffing or equipment aren't as good as other agencies, said Caid, the former Tucson Fire and Rural/Metro official. But he said any discrepancies that used to exist have been eliminated.

In Southern Arizona, all paramedics and EMTs receive the same training and certification from the same teachers, Rural/Metro's chief Tom Brandhuber said.

Rural/Metro, Golder Ranch and Northwest stations in the area near the Safeway each has one engine and one ambulance and a total of six firefighters, certified paramedics or EMTs on staff.

Brandhuber said his fire department would like to offer and receive help from other fire departments when needed.

"It's about the public. It's not about the politics or about who's public and who's private," he said.

Caid agreed - and he said he's confident the public would, too. When someone is hurt and help is dispatched, he said, "I can guarantee that whoever's injured doesn't care if it's a green, yellow or blue truck."

Contact reporter Fernanda Echavarri at 573-4224 or at fechavarri@azstarnet.com

2011

March 8, & 10 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Fire engulfs mobile home south of city



MARCH 08, 2011 12:00 AM • FERNANDA ECHAVARRI
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A fire destroyed a mobile home south of Tucson Monday.

Just after 3 p.m., Rural/Metro firefighters were called to the 9400 block of South Nogales Highway, south of Hughes Access Road, and found the mobile home engulfed, said Anne-Marie Braswell, a Rural/Metro spokeswoman.

No one was inside the house except for two cats.

One died, and the other was revived by firefighters who used a pet oxygen mask, Braswell said.

The cause of the fire is under investigation, she said.

300 gallons of gas spill

MARCH 10, 2011 12:00 AM

Fire personnel were working to contain a gasoline spill late Wednesday at a south-side storage terminal.

Gasoline was spilling from a large holding tank at the Holly Energy Partners terminal in the 3600 block of South Dodge Boulevard, near East Ajo Way, said Rural/Metro Fire Deputy Chief James Stoltenberg.

About 300 gallons of gasoline had spilled from the tank, which holds about 672,000 gallons, he said. The spill was contained to the Holly Energy property.

Crews covered the spilled gas with foam, he said. The large storage tank was being drained late Wednesday.

Stoltenberg said the source of the leak hadn't been found.

Workers at a nearby Kinder-Morgan facility and a Frontier Towing business were evacuated as a precaution, he said.

2011

March 26, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*:



DAVID SANDERS / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

TRAFFIC-COLLISION RESCUE

Rural/Metro firefighters and Southwest Ambulance personnel removed driver Leslie Dupont from her Hyundai SUV on Friday at North Craycroft and East River roads. Dupont was at the light making a left along with another vehicle when a northbound Toyota Tacoma truck collided with them, said a Pima County sheriff's deputy. Drivers in all three of the vehicles were injured

May 4, 2011, *The Explorer*:

OUR TOWN

Rural/Metro extends fire subscription coverage for NW residents

PETITIONERS NEED TO DOUBLE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES FOR ANNEXATION

By Alan M. Petrillo
Special to The Explorer

Residents in unincorporated Pima County in Northwest Tucson got a reprieve from Rural/Metro Corp. last week when the company extended its fire protection subscription services for 60 days.

Fire subscription services for certain areas in the Northwest, paid to Rural/Metro by individual property owners who are not part of an organized fire district, were set to expire May 1.

At the same time, Northwest Fire District is attempting to annex the two areas expected to lose coverage by Rural/Metro – Camino de Mañana and Teal Blue Trail – but the annexations have not been concluded yet.

Jeff Piechura, Northwest Fire District Chief, said the district needs 295 property owners in Camino de Mañana to agree to the annexation, but that the petitions only have 117 signatures thus far. The annexation must be filed by January of 2012.

Twelve residents of that area attended a Northwest Fire neighborhood meeting on Saturday, most of whom were in support of the annexation, Piechura noted.

"They were looking for more information to take to their neighbors," he said. "We also offered our assistance, even to the point of holding meetings in people's homes, if necessary."

Piechura pointed out the Camino de Mañana annexation area is large – about five square miles with more then 600 parcels, about 400 of which are improved parcels.

Sabina Sendek, a resident in the Camino de Mañana annexation area, attended the Saturday meeting and said she was relieved that Rural/Metro extended subscription coverage for two months.

"It gives us time to talk with our neighbors and get the word out about the benefits of being annexed into the Northwest Fire District," Sendek said. "A homeowner simply can't go without fire protection."

For the Teal Blue Trail annexation, Piechura said 30 signatures are needed, but the district only has 13. The annexation must be filed by October 2011.

"Two folks came in Saturday from the Teal Blue area and we gave them accurate information about coverage and expenses," Piechura said. "They were misinformed about the facts, so we gave them written information."

Piechura added that the district had sent information packets to area residents at least three times.

TANGERINE-MOORE AREA

Northwest also is trying to annex the Tangerine-Moore area in the town of Marana in order to provide seamless fire district coverage to pockets of the town that currently are not within the Northwest district, Piechura said. Twenty-nine signatures are needed and the district currently has 11. The annexation must be filed by February 2012.

"Most of the properties are in the Butterfly Ranch area and many of them are bank owned," Piechura pointed out. "We have been talking with the banks and think this might be the quickest annexation that we can get done."

Northwest has an agreement with the town of Marana to protect properties within the fire district inside the town, but Piechura said there are pockets of properties in the town that are not in the fire district, as is the Tangerine-Moore area.

"We offer services to them and if we respond to a property not in the district, we assess a fee for our services," Piechura said. "When they get a bill from us, it motivates them to get annexed. A lot of these areas are small and adjacent to our fire district."

Piechura noted that an attempt by residents in Rillito to be annexed by Northwest Fire failed last week because of insufficient signatures. Piechura said he expects Northwest Fire will do a number of parcel annexations in the area, bringing in properties adjacent to existing Northwest Fire District boundaries.

"We'll try that in the next 60 to 90 days, and any areas left after those annexations would have to be redrawn for another try," Piechura said.

The Rillito area, which Piechura said was previously covered by Rural/Metro, has not had fire protection for the past year.

For complete story, see www.explorernews.com.

La Cholla area

Meanwhile, Golder Ranch Fire District is in the final stages of annexing the La Cholla area in the Northwest, an area that runs from Shannon Road in the west through the La Cholla Airpark section in Oro Valley.

John Sullivan, Golder Ranch's community services chief, said the La Cholla annexation petitions were to be turned into the fire district board on Monday, which would submit them into the Oro Valley town clerk. The town clerk, Sullivan said, will evaluate the signatures and valuations of the properties on the annexation petition.

Sullivan noted Golder Ranch needed 257 property owners to agree to the annexation, which would be 50 percent plus one of the property owners in the entire annexation area.

Once the town clerk certifies the petition, it is expected to be forwarded to the Pima County Board of Supervisors in time for its May 17 meeting. If the supervisors approve of the annexation, it would be sent back to the Golder Ranch board of directors, Sullivan said, which by statue would have to decide on accepting the area for annexation into the fire district. If the board approves the annexation, it would take effect 30 days thereafter.

Anne Marie Braswell, a Rural/Metro spokeswoman, said the areas being annexed by Golder Ranch and Northwest Fire are part of "a planned transition of coverage that threatens no firefighter jobs and is being done in the best interests of safety."

Braswell said Rural/Metro contracts with Mountain Vista Fire District for services and the resources used for Mountain Vista are dedicated to that district.

"The other fire districts (Northwest and Golder Ranch) have resources closer to the area than we do, so the transition of services is in the best interests of public safety," Braswell said.

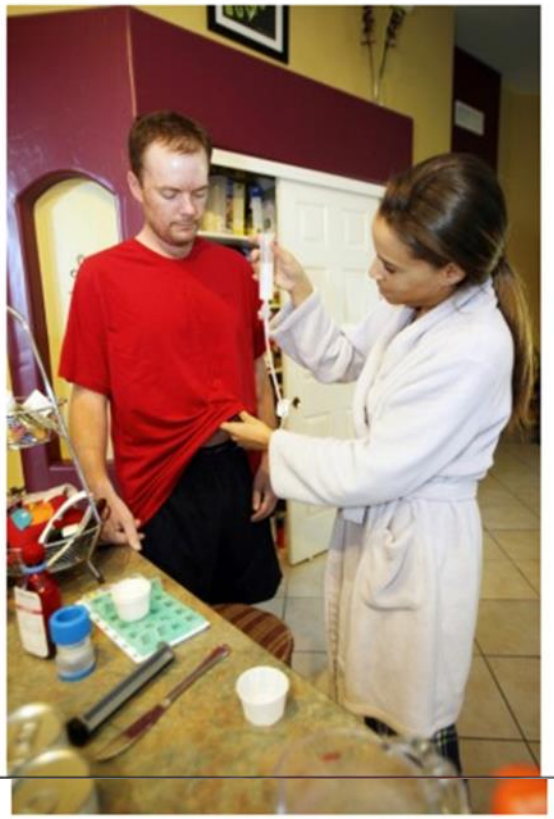
She noted that the closest resources Rural/Metro has to cover the areas in question come from its Station 80 at Pima Canyon Road and Skyline Drive, which Braswell said was 30 minutes away.

"We originally said coverage (on the Camino de Marana and Teal Blue Trail areas) would end on May 1," Braswell said "but because the annexations are not done yet, we've extended subscription coverage for those residents for 60 days to July 1. We anticipate the annexations will be complete by then."

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May 8, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Neighbors: Concert by former rival bands to benefit ill firefighter, family



MAY 08, 2011 12:00 AM • SHELLEY SHELTON ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Local rock bands Innisfail and Easyco - who always had a friendly rivalry - are reuniting for the first time in almost a decade May 20, and Dennis Bracety can't wait for the show.

He and wife Rachel will welcome an overdue night out at Plush, and the show's proceeds will benefit the Bracety family.

A 10-year firefighter with Rural/Metro Fire Department, Bracety, 35, came down in December with what he thought was laryngitis or a sinus infection. His throat hurt and he was weak.

The situation didn't improve. He began medical tests to figure out what was causing his symptoms, which have left him unable to work since the day before Christmas. He's lost more than 50 pounds since then.

On Feb. 15, doctors gave a name for what ails him - dermatomyositis, a form of muscular dystrophy.

The causes aren't known, but the Muscular Dystrophy Association website says researchers suspect viruses or exposure to certain drugs have something to do with the condition, which causes the inflammatory cells of the body's immune system to attack the blood vessels that supply oxygen and nutrients to the muscles and skin.

In other words, it breaks down a sufferer's muscles, making it difficult to swallow, breathe or move.

He has a 25 percent chance the disease will go into remission, Bracety said.

"It's not curable," he said. "I'll always have it."

He and his family - which includes Rachel as well as two kids, ages 11 and 17 - are getting by on Rachel's income from her job as acting general manager at the Hooters on West Ina Road and, now that his sick time has run out, on firefighter buddies who have donated their sick time to him. That should get the family about halfway through June.

His workers-compensation claim was denied, but he's appealing, he said.

Meanwhile, fellow firefighter Nico Latini has an ace up his sleeve: About 10 years ago, he had his own concert-promotion company, Suicide Lane Productions, and he still knows a musician or two from that era.

May 8, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*:

One of them, singer Carlos Arzate, said he was recently hanging out with his former Innisfail bandmates and reminiscing about old times when they decided they wanted to reunite for a show and record it.

And for old times' sake, they wanted Latini involved.

Latini said it would be fun to get Easyco in on the act, too, because the two bands had been foes onstage but like brothers offstage. He called former Easyco singer Cameron Hood, who jumped at the idea.

The bands agreed they didn't want money and asked Latini if he had any ideas about who could benefit from the money raised.

"Nico did so much for us (back then), I felt like if we were going to do it, we needed to thank Nico," Hood said. "Nico said, 'This is how you can thank me.' " And he shared the story of his friend Bracety.

Arzate said he connected with it immediately. Two years ago, his sister fought a mystery illness as well, which turned out to be a rare disease, and he knows what it's like for a family going through that kind of struggle.

With all the changes and adjustments the family has made, Rachel Bracety said she's just looking forward to getting her husband out for an evening and seeing him smile again.

"I never realized how much I loved him until he was in the hospital and was going to die," she said.

IF YOU GO

What: Innisfail vs. Easyco benefit concert for firefighter Dennis Bracety and his family

When: 8 p.m. May 20

Where: Plush, 340 E. Sixth St.

Cost: Suggested donation of $5

Etc.: Go to www.innisfailvseasyco.com for more information or to make a donation.

Contact reporter Shelley Shelton at sshelton@azstarnet.com or 807-8464.

2011

May 20, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Benefit concert for local firefighter tonight

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

May 20, 2011 7:00 am 0

Local bands Innisfail and Easyco will play a benefit concert tonight at Plush, 340 E. Sixth St., to raise money for Rural/Metro firefighter Dennis Bracety who has been diagnosed with dermatomyocitis.

This will be the first show since 2004 for the alternative rock bands.

Concert starts at 9 p.m. and tickets are $5. More information is available at www.innisfailvseasyco.com.

May 24, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Girl, 6, drowns in pool on Tucson's northwest side

MAY 24, 2011 6:45 AM • KELLIE MEJDRICH, ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A 6-year-girl drowned at a gathering at a northwest-side community pool, officials said.

The pool was in a neighborhood in the 3300 block of West Millstone Road, near West Cortaro Farms Road.

There were several family members and others at the gathering.

Officials got the call around 6 p.m. Sunday Bystanders were administering CPR poolside when paramedics arrived, said Anne-Marie Braswell, a spokeswoman for the Rural/Metro Fire Department.

The girl, whose name was not released, was taken to University Medical Center where she was pronounced dead.

June 8 & 13, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*:

SMALL BLAZES KEEP CREWS BUSY

Firefighters put out 3 brush fires



JUNE 08, 2011 12:00 AM • BY CARMEN DUARTE
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Firefighters battled three small brush fires in midtown that spread quickly because of winds Tuesday. No injuries were reported.

Twenty-one firefighters fought two brush fires that combined into one. The blaze spread over three acres near East Golf Links and South Swan roads on Tuesday afternoon.

The fire spread rapidly along an arroyo and alleyway because of low humidity and winds that blew eastward, said Deputy Chief Paul McDonough of the Tucson Fire Department.

"This is an open area with significant amount of brush, but there are no structures," McDonough said.

Multiple motorists reported the fire, and the first call came in at 4:25 p.m. The cause of the fire was unknown.

At about the same time, a third blaze was handled by the Rural/Metro Fire Department near a neighborhood at South Columbus Boulevard and East Valentine Street.

Bus Fire

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email



Rural/Metro firefighters walk around a Sun Tran bus after it caught fire on South Palo Verde Road just south of East Drexel Road on June 13, 2011 in Tucson, Ariz. No one was inside the bus when firefighters arrived and no one was injured according to Anne Marie Braswell, Rural/Metro spokeswoman.

June 12, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Brandhuber adds Rural/Metro duties

Rural/Metro Fire Department has named **Tom Brandhuber**, chief of Rural/Metro in Pima County, to the additional post of division general manager for Southern Arizona, taking on management of emergency medical services operations in the region.



Brandhuber began his career in 1989 as a firefighter in the Air Force Reserve. In 1990, he began work as an emergency medical technician with Kord's Ambulance Service in Tucson. In 1998, he joined Rural/Metro in Pima County as a fire inspector, and he was promoted to fire chief in 2008.

In addition to his role at Rural/Metro, Brandhuber is the current command chief master sergeant for the 944th Fighter Wing U.S. Air Force Reserves at Luke Air Force Base in Glendale.

He holds an associate degree in fire science from the Community College of the Air Force and a bachelor's degree in public safety administration as well as an MBA from Grand Canyon University.

2011

June 14, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*:



BENJIE SANDERS / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

SUN TRAN BUS BURNS

A Rural/Metro firefighter sprays water on a Sun Tran bus that caught fire Monday near South Palo Verde and East Milton Roads. Rural/Metro Capt. Paul Smith said the driver was alone on the bus and pulled over when she smelled smoke. No one was hurt, and the cause of the fire is being investigated. It took firefighters about 15 minutes to extinguish the fire.

2011

August 3, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Monsoon storms in Summer, 2011

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email



A 2010 Buick driven by Andy Cenedella sits in a wash after Cenedella found himself in four feet of water near Glenn and the 10,000 block of N. Tomahawk at about 8:30pm after a storm moved through the area, Wednesday, July 20, 2011. Cenedella was uninjured and was rescued by Rural Metro firefighters.

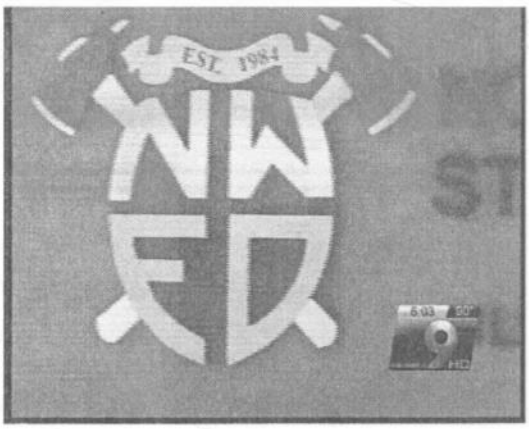
2011

August 5, 2011, KGUN:

KGUN

Some Northwest neighborhoods may lose fire coverage

CREATED Aug. 5, 2011



Reporter: Jessica Chapin

TUCSON (KGUN9- TV) - When calling 9-1-1, most people expect emergency help to come quickly, but for three Northwest side neighborhoods, that may soon change.

The affected areas include Teal Blue Trail and Moore, Camino de Manana, and Tangerine and Moore. Residents currently have the option to subscribe to Rural Metro Fire District's service, contracted through Mountain Vista. However, less than 15 percent of the residents subscribe, so Rural Metro is pulling out for financial reasons, hoping the area will agree to annex into the Northwest Fire District which is closer in location.

Residents like Tracy Corbett see the reasoning. She currently subscribes to fire service.

"we live in the middle of the desert, we have a small child," she said, "look around, look at where we live, we're in the middle of nowhere. So if there was a fire to come our way then we need someone to come."

She went door to door collecting signatures for the required petition to annex, trying to convince her neighbors that paying property tax will be worth it. If they don't have more than 50 percent of the property value-holder's signatures by October first, they could be left out when it comes to emergencies.

"it's heart-wrenching. We're here to serve and for us to look at areas that choose not to be served," said Northwest Fire Chief Jeff Piechura, "It's befuddling, it's heart-wrenching and it just defies common logic as to why someone would not want to have close by emergency medical services and fire services."

Piechura says if they don't get the annexation and a resident calls 9-1-1, the dispatcher would have to contact other agencies to find out who is in the area and available before sending a crew. That could cost time and lives.

But, several residents feel annexation will cost too much money.

"Eighty-five percent of the folks here that have chosen not to pay anything for fire protection," said Piechura, so for them it's a one-hundred percent increase in cost."

According to Northwest Fire, the increase in property tax would be about $500 a year for someone with a $200 thousand house.

If the annexation fails and Northwest Fire is called to a house fire, it could range from $15-$20 thousand. It's a service fee most insurance companies won't pay.

Piechura says he still has faith they can get the signatures they need before the October deadline.

"I would ask them to stay vigilant in their task of trying to inform as well as maybe direct those folks who are non-believers or on the fence or have no concept on what this is about to give us a call," he said to those who would like annexation, "and we'll come out and we'll hand them all the information."

2011

August 18, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Tucson hobby shop goes up in flames



AUGUST 18, 2011 8:17 AM • ARIZONA DAILY STAR

An overnight fire destroyed a hobby shop in an industrial area on Tucson's south side.

The extent of damage caused by the blaze at Canyon Vista R/C Hobby Shop & Racetrack, in the 3200 block of East Milber Street, near East Ajo Way and South Country Club Road, was not immediately available Wednesday night.

Rural/Metro firefighters were called to the fire about 9 p.m. and worked to keep the fire from spreading to a nearby business.

Canyon Vista sells parts for off-road remote control cars and trucks, the company says on its website. An off-road race track adjoins the building.









2011

August 18, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*:





September 19 & 23, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Man found dead in NE home pool

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

September 19, 2011 8:47 pm • By Carmen Duarte ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A 76-year-old man found face down in a pool at a house on Tucson's northeast side died this evening, authorities said.

The man was identified as Keith Bauman, said Deputy Dawn Barkman, a Pima County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman.

Paramedics from the Rural/Metro Fire Department responded to the house in the 5900 block of North Sabino Canyon Road shortly before 6:30 p.m. and pulled Bauman out of the pool, authorities said.

Paramedics were unable to resuscitate him, said Rural/Metro Capt. Grant Cesarek.

The Pima County Sheriff's Department took over the investigation.

A family member who telephoned 911 reported the incident as a drowning, but the cause of death has yet to be determined by the Pima County Medical Examiner's Office, said Cesarek.

Tucson construction worker impaled by rebar

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

September 23, 2011 2:55 pm • Veronica M. Cruz, Arizona Daily Star

A construction worker was impaled on a piece of rebar after falling from scaffolding at an east-side residential construction site around 10:15 Friday morning.

The man fell about 15 feet, said Capt. Grant Cesarek, a Rural/Metro Fire spokesman. The rebar had a protective cover on it and went through his lower back, Cesarek said in a news release.

The 37-year-old man had a "medical emergency" that caused the fall, the news release said.

Before paramedics arrived at the site, near Tanque Verde and Houghton Roads, members of the construction crew lifted the man off the rebar, Cesarek said.

The man was airlifted to University Medical Center.

October 4, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Rural/Metro agrees to cover 3 outlying NW-side areas

Tweet 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

October 04, 2011 12:00 am • Arizona Daily Star Arizona Daily Star 0

The Rural/Metro Fire Department has reached an agreement with Pima County to answer service calls in three areas near Oro Valley.

The Fire Department will serve the Teal Blue Trail/Moore Road and Camino de Mañana areas in Marana and an area in unincorporated Pima County between Tangerine and Moore roads, according to a Rural/Metro news release.

Rural/Metro will answer calls in these areas as a public courtesy after the majority of residents in the areas failed to sign a petition allowing the Northwest Fire District to provide service to the areas, authorities said.

The Mountain Vista Fire District had agreed to provide service since between May 1 and Oct. 1 in order to allow Northwest Fire to work on annexing the areas.

Rural/Metro had served the area before May 1, but it transitioned out of the area to allow closer fire districts to annex and provide service.

The Fire Department will provide service from its station at 1833 E. Skyline Drive, near East Orange Grove Road.

October 4, 2011:

Rural Metro resumes coverage for some in northwest Tucson



fox11az.com

Posted on October 4, 2011 at 2:17 PM

Updated Tuesday, Oct 4 at 2:22 PM

TUCSON, Ariz. -- Rural Metro has assumed fire protection for areas northwest of Tucson after the failed annexation by the Northwest Fire District.

Another fire district could have agreed to help Rural Metro with covering those areas, but residents may still have some issues.

Monday night the board of directors for the mountain vista fire district met to consider filling in coverage, again, in the areas of Camino de Manana, Teal Blue Trail, and Tangerine near Moore.

After the Northwest Fire annexation fell through, Mountain Vista covered the area until this month.

"Our board made a decision that we would go along with that until either the annex occurred or October first whichever came first, October came first," said board Chairman Peter Archuleta.

The subscription based service Rural Metro has since stepped up to cover about 600 residents living in those areas.

"Ultimately the goal of all of us in the fire service is to make sure the people are protected," said Capt. Grant Cesarek from the Rural Metro Fire.

But there's one big problem, proximity. Rural Metro station 80 will be responding to the northwest residents, but they're half an hour away.

"We're not going to be responding lights and sirens to those homes from thirty minutes away because of the fact we're going to put people in jeopardy doing that," said Capt. Cesarek.

Rural Metro says it will forgo the flashing red and blue even at the cost of longer response times.

"It will add on to our response time but the thing is that there are other fire stations that are closer to, and we need to be continuing with this cooperative effort," said Cesarek.

Mountain Vista considered a few factors Monday night before voting on whether they should stay out of the game or lend a hand.

Several board members said they didn't want to sacrifice service to their current clients.

They voted not to resume fire protection for those communities, leaving Rural Metro to serve those areas until the county finds a solution for permanent protection.

The Mountain Vista board did, however, vote to assist Rural Metro in major incidents.

A board rep will help define major incidents when he meets with Rural Metro at a later date.

October 5, 2011, *Marana Weekly News*:

Rural/Metro to respond to areas without fire service

MARANA — Rural/Metro Fire Department in agreement with Pima County will respond to fire emergencies in the following attempted annexation areas: Camino De Manana III, Teal Blue Trail/Moore, and Tangerine/Moore.

These areas were served by Rural/Metro until May 1. Rural/Metro transitioned out of these areas to allow closer fire districts to annex and provide fire service.

Although Rural/Metro is under no legal requirement to respond to these areas, it will respond as a public service courtesy from its closest station at 1833 E. Skyline Dr., near East Orange Grove Road. But because of the distance between the fire station and the areas in question, it will not respond with lights and sirens to ensure the safety of the general public as well as Rural/Metro's fire crews.

The Mountain Vista Fire District voted in August to stop fire response outside of its district as Northwest Fire District proposed the annexation of these areas to its district.

Residents in the affected areas have received communication about the transition for about a year. As of Saturday, residents in these areas do not have an automatic fire service responder, as the majority of property owners have not signed petitions authorizing annexation by Northwest Fire District.

October 13, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Rural-Metro coverage in NW at issue

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

October 13, 2011 12:00 am • Becky Pallack Arizona Daily Star 0

Emergency calls from some unincorporated areas in Northwest Pima County will be covered by the Rural/Metro Fire Department, even though other fire stations are closer.

The unincorporated areas are near West Tangerine Road and North Thornydale Road - and the nearest Rural/Metro fire station is 30 minutes away.

The company had served those areas until May 1, but wanted a closer fire district to annex them. The Northwest Fire District tried, but failed when not enough residents signed an annexation petition.

"I am very concerned about the possibility of loss of life and property," Rural/Metro fire chief Tom Brandhuber said in a memo.

He said his fire crews will respond to emergency calls, but not with lights and sirens because of the distance - approximately 13 miles depending on exactly where the fire is - they'll have to travel.

In a memo responding to the Brandhuber's concerns, county administrator Chuck Huckelberry said it is the residents' choice to sign a petition, but said he hopes the areas will be annexed to a fire district soon.

Contact reporter Becky Pallack at bpallack@azstarnet.com or 573-4346.

October 24, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*:

3 injured in weekend Redington Pass wreck

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

October 24, 2011 12:02 pm • Veronica M. Cruz, Arizona Daily Star

One man was injured when he was thrown from a vehicle that went off a cliff in Redington Pass early Saturday morning, officials said.

The man had fallen about 50 feet when emergency crews responded to the wreck about 1 a.m., said Capt. Grant Cesarek, a Rural/Metro spokesman.

He was taken by helicopter to University Medical Center and was still in the hospital Monday, he said.

Two other people in the car were also taken to the hospital, said Deputy Erin Gibson, a spokeswoman for Pima County Sheriff's Department. All of the people in the crash have non-life threatening injuries.

No other information was immediately available

November 22, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*:

LAW & ORDER

BRIEFS

Tall outdoor chimney at resort catches fire

A 50-foot-tall outdoor chimney wrapped in flowering vines at The Lodge at Ventana Canyon caught on fire Monday.

The blaze broke out about 5 p.m., and Rural/Metro Fire Department firefighters arrived at the private country club and lodge, 6200 N. Club House Lane, within five minutes. They brought the fire under control within 30 minutes, said Battalion Chief Lee Mayes.

No injuries were reported, and there was no significant damage, Mayes said.

The chimney is just off the main lobby outdoors and had been in use for several weeks. Vines that had grown down inside the chimney caught fire.

"Fire spread out of the top and down the sides of the chimney, causing firefighters to call for a second alarm as a precautionary measure," Mayes said.

Carmen Duarte

Two more get prison in home-invasion plot

Two men who were convicted in a Tucson home-invasion plot were sentenced to prison Monday.

Judge Jane Eikleberry sentenced Andre Armstrong, 49, to 10 years in prison.

Clifton Cuttler, 30, was sentenced to 15 years and nine months in prison on one count and 10 years on a second count, but he will be allowed to serve the sentences at the same time.

They were each convicted of misconduct involving body armor during a Sep-

December 8, 2011, *Tucson Weekly*:

Competing Protectors

The Golder Ranch Fire District's foothills annexation move has some residents concerned

By Brian J. Pedersen @realBJP

click to enlarge



Since forming 35 years ago at the request of northern Pima County homeowners who wanted their own fire department, the Golder Ranch Fire District has slowly expanded its boundaries south and west, and currently covers 200 square miles.

Most of that growth has gone unchallenged. Many times, the annexations were warmly welcomed by residents and businesses, officials say.

"We don't want to force ourselves on anyone," said John Sullivan, the district's administration and support services chief.

But Golder Ranch's latest push to add another 7 square miles—including the upscale La Encantada shopping center—is likely to run into opposition.

About 5,000 residents would be affected by the change. The first time most of them heard about the proposal was around Thanksgiving, when fliers started showing up in mailboxes. Their main opportunity to ask questions about the proposal came Tuesday, Dec. 6, at a public hearing at Golder Ranch district headquarters—which is 15 miles from the proposed annexation area.

"I knew this was going to come sooner or later," said Joe Frannea, president of the Cobo Catalina Hills homeowner association. "I really thought it would be Northwest (Fire/Rescue District), though."

Foothills residents have a tradition of fighting off attempts to incorporate or annex the area. Consider the landslide defeat of an incorporation vote a decade ago, or the out-of-the-woodwork backlash in 2008 from residents within an 88-acre sliver near First Avenue and River Road that the city of Tucson eyed.

The Golder Ranch district's proposed annexation also would take away a large chunk of coverage—and revenue—from current provider Rural/Metro, a private company still healing from a furious fight to hold on to territory it covers in Sahuarita earlier this year.

"We're still going to continue to provide service," said Rural/Metro spokesman Grant Cesarek, adding that his company was "caught off guard" by Golder's move to go public with its plans. In "most of the foothills territory, our placement is strategic, and our response times are excellent. Our service is second to none. We have a very good rate in that area."

The proposed annexation area is bordered roughly by Campbell Avenue to the east, First Avenue to the west, Orange Grove Road to the south, and Magee Road to the north. The Golder district would also need to include two square miles of Coronado National Forest land north of Magee to comply with state laws requiring that annexed land be adjacent to the district's current coverage area.

December 8, 2011, *Tucson Weekly*:

Golder Ranch officials say their interest in the area is part of an effort to keep costs down through managed expansion. They say the move is not a money grab, despite the presence of nearly $2 million more in taxes the district could receive—a 15 percent increase in its existing tax base. They also note that their rates, which are a based on a property's secondary assessed value, have stayed flat or dropped every year since 2001.

The current rate is $1.73 per $100 of assessed value, of which 14 cents helps pay for bonds the district has taken out for capital projects such as new fire stations.

In its boundary-change impact statement, Golder Ranch included figures for a home within the annexation area that would end up paying $743 for fire protection.

Coverage for the same house by Rural/Metro is currently $511 a year, based on a charge of 17 cents per square foot for homes less than 3,700 square feet. The rate is 19 cents for homes larger than 3,700 square feet. A $70 surcharge is added for parcels larger than seven acres.

Frannea, who has owned his home in Cobo Catalina Hills for 15 years, estimated the average home in his neighborhood would see its annual fire-protection cost go from $779 to $1,071, an increase of 37 percent.

"I have one neighbor whose bill is going to go up 108 percent," Frannea said.

The markup is expected to be much higher for La Encantada, at Campbell Avenue and Skyline Drive. Officials with Westcor, the mall's owner, declined to identify how much they're paying Rural/Metro. But spokesman Mark Holder said the cost of switching to Golder Ranch "would be significantly higher."

La Encantada's assessed value is more than $5.6 million, according to county records, which would mean a property-tax increase of more than $97,000.

La Encantada is one of many clients in the annexation area that receive discounted Rural/Metro coverage because of property features such as sprinklers, fire hydrants and monitored alarm systems. Those features can result in discounts up to 40 percent, Cesarek said.

"A lot of the homes in that area are going toward the monitored fire alarms," Cesarek said.

To counter concerns about a price increase, Golder Ranch officials say residents and businesses will be able to deduct property taxes on their income-tax returns, something that's not possible with voluntary fire subscriptions. (Fire protection through Rural/Metro is not mandatory: The company sends a bill, and if a resident or business doesn't pay it, and winds up needing service, the fire department will come ... and so will an enormous bill. With fire districts, enrollment is mandatory.)

2011

December 8, 2011, *Tucson Weekly*:

> "They may see some relief through a tax deduction," Golder Ranch community relations manager Josh Hurguy said.
>
> Golder Ranch officials claim their service is superior to that of Rural/Metro. As an example, they point to the district's automatic-aid agreement with Northwest Fire, which provides protection to the west of the proposed annexation. Automatic aid means that when one district gets a call, the other will automatically provide assistance to either help with the call or cover areas left thin by the emergency.
>
> Rural/Metro has no such agreements with Northwest, Golder Ranch or the Tucson Fire Department to the south. Instead, it relies on a mutual-aid agreement, in which those departments will help out when they can.
>
> If an annexation push gets the green light from Golder Ranch's governing board, the district will have a year to collect signatures from both a majority of the property owners, and property owners who control a majority of the area's property value.
>
> "We have nothing necessarily to prove or gain through the annexation other than shared resources over the area that ultimately benefit everyone," Sullivan said. "It boils down to whether or not the property owners in the area want us."

December 22, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*

Fire near Tucson displaces family

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

December 22, 2011 3:51 pm • Veronica M. Cruz, Arizona Daily Star

A family of four was displaced due to a fire that broke out in their mobile home Thursday afternoon.

The fire started around 2:45 p.m. in the 10700 block of South Knoll Crest Lane, near south Swan and East Old Vail roads, said Capt. Grant Cesarek a spokesman for Rural/Metro Fire Department.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation, he said.

December 23, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*

Fire burns scrap pile in SE Tucson

Tweet 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

December 23, 2011 5:00 pm • Arizona Daily Star

Several fire crews battled a blaze that broke out this afternoon in a scrap pile on Tucson's southeast side.

The blaze broke out after 10:30 a.m. in the 6500 block of East Drexel Road, near East Valencia and South Kolb roads, said Capt. Grant Cesarek a Rural/Metro spokesman.

The pile was about 40 feet tall and 200 feet long and was made up of several materials including tires, metals and plastics.

"Everything you can imagine is in there," he said at the time of the fire.

There are a lot of manufacturing businesses in the area, he said.

Crews from the Tucson Fire Department and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base assisted Rural/Metro with the fire.

Crews had to use a front loader to start spreading the materials out because the fire was deep inside the pile, Cesarek said.

No injuries or damage to any buildings were reported.

2011

December 23, 2011, Recycling facility with TFD, Rural Metro, and Davis Monthan, courtesy Fred Bair, Sr.













2011

December 23, 2011, Recycling facility with TFD, Rural Metro, and Davis Monthan, courtesy Fred Bair, Sr.













2011

December 23, 2011, Recycling facility with TFD, Rural Metro, and Davis Monthan, courtesy Fred Bair, Sr.













December 24, 2011, *Arizona Daily Star*

Scrap fire is smoldering mess

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email



Below: Clouds of smoke from the fire could be seen all over Tucson. Battling the blaze were crews from the Tucson Fire Department, Rural/Metro, Davis-Monthan and the Air National Guard.



Above: Firefighters move in on a large pile of plastic, tires and metals at a 6581 E. Drexel Road on Friday morning. The fire started around 10:30 and was brought under control at 3 p.m. although it will smolder for up to a week.

2012

January 26, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Woman critically hurt jumping from window of burning home

JANUARY 26, 2012 6:25 PM • ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A woman was critically injured Thursday after she jumped from the second floor of her northwest-side home during a fire, authorities said.

Mountain Vista Fire District firefighters went to the home in the 2800 block of West Ribera Place, near North Shannon Road and West Lambert Lane, said Capt. Grant Cesarek a Rural/Metro Fire Department spokesman.

Mountain Vista has a contract with Rural/Metro to provide fire service to the area.

When firefighters arrived, they saw smoke and flames coming from the roof of the home and bedroom window on the second floor, Cesarek said.

Bystanders directed them to the back of the home, where they found the woman who had jumped from the second floor.

She was taken to the hospital for burn injuries, smoke inhalation and injuries sustained in the fall.

The woman was the only person at the home when firefighters arrived.

She was temporarily displaced after the blaze damaged half of the home.

Red Cross is working to assist the woman.

Firefighters were still investigating the cause of the fire.

Cesarek said there are other ways to escape a fire when a person is trapped on the second floor rather than jumping.

People can buy rope ladders and other devices to climb down, he said.

2012

February 3 & 9, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Metal shredder ignites at Tucson scrapyard

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

February 03, 2012 9:26 am • Arizona Daily Star

The fire at a scrapyard near Davis Monthan Air Force Base was caused by a small piece of metal that ignited in a metal shredder, officials said.

The fire started this morning at a recycling facility in the 6500 block of East Drexel Road near South Wilmot and East Valencia roads.

It started when a metal chip in the shredder sparked, causing the blaze, said Capt. Grant Cesarek a Rural/Metro spokesman.

A water truck from Davis Monthan helped bring water for crews to use since the area lacks a hydrant, he said. The fire was put it out quickly, he said.

Sabino Canyon tram worker collapses on trail, dies

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

February 09, 2012 9:00 pm • By Jamar Younger Arizona Daily Star

A 52-year-old Sabino Canyon worker died Thursday after collapsing on a hiking trail in the area, authorities said.

Hikers found Michael Rybicki laying on the Bluff Trail in distress in lower Sabino Canyon just before 6 p.m., said Deputy Dawn Barkman, a Pima County Sheriff's Department news release.

The hikers called 911 after Rybicki became unconscious and stopped breathing, Barkman said in a news release.

Sheriff's deputies and Rural/Metro Fire Department paramedics transported the man to Tucson Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead.

Rybicki was an employee of the tram service that operates in Sabino Canyon.

His death is under investigation.

February 26, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Sahuarita house fire kills woman, 82

An 82-year-old woman was killed in a house fire Saturday afternoon in Sahuarita, authorities said.

The Rural/Metro Fire Department and Green Valley Fire District were called to the home in the 1600 block of West Camino Antigua at about 1:30 p.m., said Rural/Metro Battalion Chief Lee Mayes.

More than half of the home was engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived, Mayes said. It took them about 30 minutes to extinguish the blaze, he said.

Firefighters found the woman's body inside. The victim lived at the address, according to the Sahuarita Police Department.

The cause of the fire was under investigation.

Jamar Young

2012

February 29, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Fire damages condo on Tucson's NE side

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

February 29, 2012 12:28 pm • Veronica M. Cruz, Arizona Daily Star

Crews from Rural/Metro Fire Department put out a blaze at a northeast side condominium this afternoon.

The fire started in the kitchen and spread into the walls of the condo in the 5300 block of North Sabino Canyon Road near East Sunrise Drive around 11:40 a.m., said Capt. Grant Cesarek, a Rural/Metro spokesman.

In addition to the fire, water lines burst in the condo, Cesarek said.

Crews are still working to determine how much damage was caused by the fire and broken pipes.

The residents will be assisted by Red Cross, he said.

Download This Video

2012

March 22, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Foothills residents shouldn't allow Golder Ranch annexation

MARCH 22, 2012 12:00 AM • DAVID NATHANSON AND ROBERT BURCH SPECIAL TO THE ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The Golder Ranch Fire District, which serves mainly Oro Valley and the southern portion of Pinal County, is attempting to take over a large area of the Catalina Foothills by leaping over the Coronado National Forest.

The fire district's impact statement clearly states that there would be a large financial gain to the existing residents of the district at the expense of the residents of the proposed annexation. To put this into perspective, Golder Ranch projects first-year revenues of $2.16 million that it would receive from the proposed annexation area.

This new source of revenue is considerably in excess of the cost of providing services. Foothills residents need to be aware that it would not be in their best interest to sign the annexation petition.

To accomplish the annexation, Golder Ranch would need to obtain signatures from more than 50 percent of the property owners and from owners of more than 50 percent of the assessed valuation within the proposed annexation area.

For the past 40 years Rural/Metro has provided prompt and excellent service to the Catalina Foothills. Rural/Metro Station 80 is located in the heart of our area and will remain regardless of the outcome of the annexation attempt.

Currently, property owners have a choice whether or not to select fire coverage from Rural/Metro. Choices include plans with discounts for alarm systems, sprinkler systems and master contracts for homeowner associations. If the annexation is successful, there will be no choice. Regardless of the outcome, Rural/Metro Station 80 would remain to serve the Foothills area east and south of the proposed annexation.

Rural/Metro bases its annual charge on the square footage of your home or business. Golder Ranch would impose a property tax based on the assessed valuation of your home, which will increase as property values recover and increase. Homes within the Catalina Foothills would pay Golder Ranch at least 15 percent to 200 percent more than what they currently pay depending on the valuation of the property.

Golder Ranch would also assess a tax on vacant parcels at a considerably higher cost than the annual $71 optional coverage from Rural/Metro.

At recent meetings held by homeowner associations and Golder Ranch, it is very clear that the citizens attending these meetings do not support the Golder Ranch Fire District effort. There is no reason to change, unless you want to enhance the coffers of Golder Ranch.

We urge Golder Ranch to reconsider its efforts and drop its attempt to take over our area through annexation. We urge our neighbors to reject any annexation petition passed by Golder Ranch. If you sign the petition, it is your approval of the annexation.

Keeping Rural/Metro and continuing 40 years of outstanding service is simple. Do not sign the petition. End of story.

David Nathanson is a retired CPA and secretary of the Pima Canyon Estates HOA. Nathanson is part of the Catalina Foothills Citizens for Fire Safety coalition that represents six HOAs and 1,690 parcel owners who oppose the annexation attempt. He may be contacted at dave@nathconsult.com Robert Burch is a retired corporate CEO and president of the Pima Canyon Estates HOA. He may be contacted at rgburch@attglobal.net

2012

March 22, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Beat Cancer Boot Camp

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email



Tucson Police recruit Nick Franco yells at those enduring the Rural Metro Hay Crawl, one of the obstacles on the Beat Cancer Boot Camp 5K Challenge, Brandi Fenton Memorial Park on Saturday, March 17.

2012

July 7, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Rural/Metro Battalion chief retires

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email



A.E. ARAIZA / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

RURAL/METRO BATTALION CHIEF RETIRES

Battalion Chief Scott Baird of the Rural/Metro Fire Department, in white shirt, gets hugs and good wishes from family, friends and colleagues from several fire districts as he retires after 31 years in public safety. Baird began as a dispatcher and moved moved through the ranks, including firefighter and paramedic. Nearly 100 people attended Friday's event.

2012

July 11, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Hundreds of pieces of mail burn when postal truck catches fire

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email



Postal employee Brad Yonan was trying to restart his 1993 Gramen postal vehicle when it caught fire as he delivered mail Tuesday to a home on North Via Avellana, in the Catalina Foothills. Yonan wasn't injured in the blaze, which was put out by Rural/Metro.

2012

July 11, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Hundreds of pieces of mail burn when postal truck catches fire

By Veronica M. Cruz
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Letters, magazines and packages intended to be delivered to some 400 addresses in the Catalina Foothills went up in flames Tuesday morning when a mail delivery truck caught fire along its route.

Crews from Rural/Metro Fire Department responded to a call in the 3800 block of North Via Avellana, near North Swan and East River roads, shortly after 11 a.m. and found the mail truck engulfed in flames, said Capt. Grant Cesarek, a spokesman for the department.

The mail carrier was making deliveries and his truck died and, when he restarted it, he smelled smoke, Cesarek said.

The driver was able to start the truck and move it off the roadway when the smoke started building up and the truck caught fire.

The mail carrier got out of the truck unharmed and crews put out the fire within a few minutes, Cesarek said.

A postal inspector went to the fire scene to secure any mail that was not damaged in the blaze, said Robert Soler a spokesman for the U.S. Postal Service.

Any mail with a readable address would still be delivered to its intended recipient Monday, but most of the mail was destroyed, Soler said.

"It appears that the mail is a total loss," he said. "The truck is basically melted. The fire was that intense."

When the fire started, the mail carrier was about an hour into his delivery route carrying mail from the Desert Foothills Station at 1700 E. River Road to recipients in neighborhoods east and west of Swan Road and south of River Road, Soler said.

Residents whose mail was ruined by the fire can expect to receive a letter from the postal service in the next day or two notifying them of the damage, Soler said.

The fire was caused by a mechanical failure, Cesarek said.

Soler said mail delivery trucks are routinely serviced and are well maintained and he can't recall an incident like this happening before.

"You almost never see this happen," he said. "It's a very rare thing."

Contact reporter Veronica Cruz at vcruz@azstarnet.com or 573-4224.

July 14, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Swift water forces two rescues after today's rain

JULY 14, 2012 8:42 PM • KIMBERLY MATAS, ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Saturday afternoon a woman had to be rescued after she tried to drive her minivan through a flooded eastside intersection at Tanque Verde Road and Conestoga Avenue east of Houghton Road.

After watching other drivers cross through the rushing water, she decided it was safe. She made it half way through the intersection before her minivan got stuck on a sandbar that was hidden beneath the rushing water, said Capt. Grant Cesarek, a spokesman for Rural/Metro Fire Department.

Rescue personnel were able to walk the woman through the intersection where she was greeted by a Pima County Sheriff's deputy. She was cited for reckless driving, said Deputy Thomas Peine, a Sheriff's Department spokesman.

Although there were no barriers across the flooded intersection, it was obvious to the deputy that the water was fast-flowing and deep, said Peine, who noted that a vehicle can be swept away in just 10 to 12 inches of swift-moving water.

"The number one thing that I try to tell everybody, you can wait it out," Cesarek said. "If you spend 15 or 20 minutes on the side of the road and wait for that water recede then you're not going to have to meet the sheriff's deputy and get a ticket."

He also suggests drivers familiarize themselves with the areas in which they will drive and know where the low-lying areas are along their route. That is especially important at night when it can be difficult to determine how deep it is or how swiftly it's moving.

Soon after Rural/Metro rescued the woman on the eastside, Tucson Fire Department personnel began walking the banks of the Santa Cruz River at Congress Street looking for a man a Sun Tran driver had seen clinging to the embankment trying to climb out, said Capt. Jeff Langejans, a TFD spokesman.

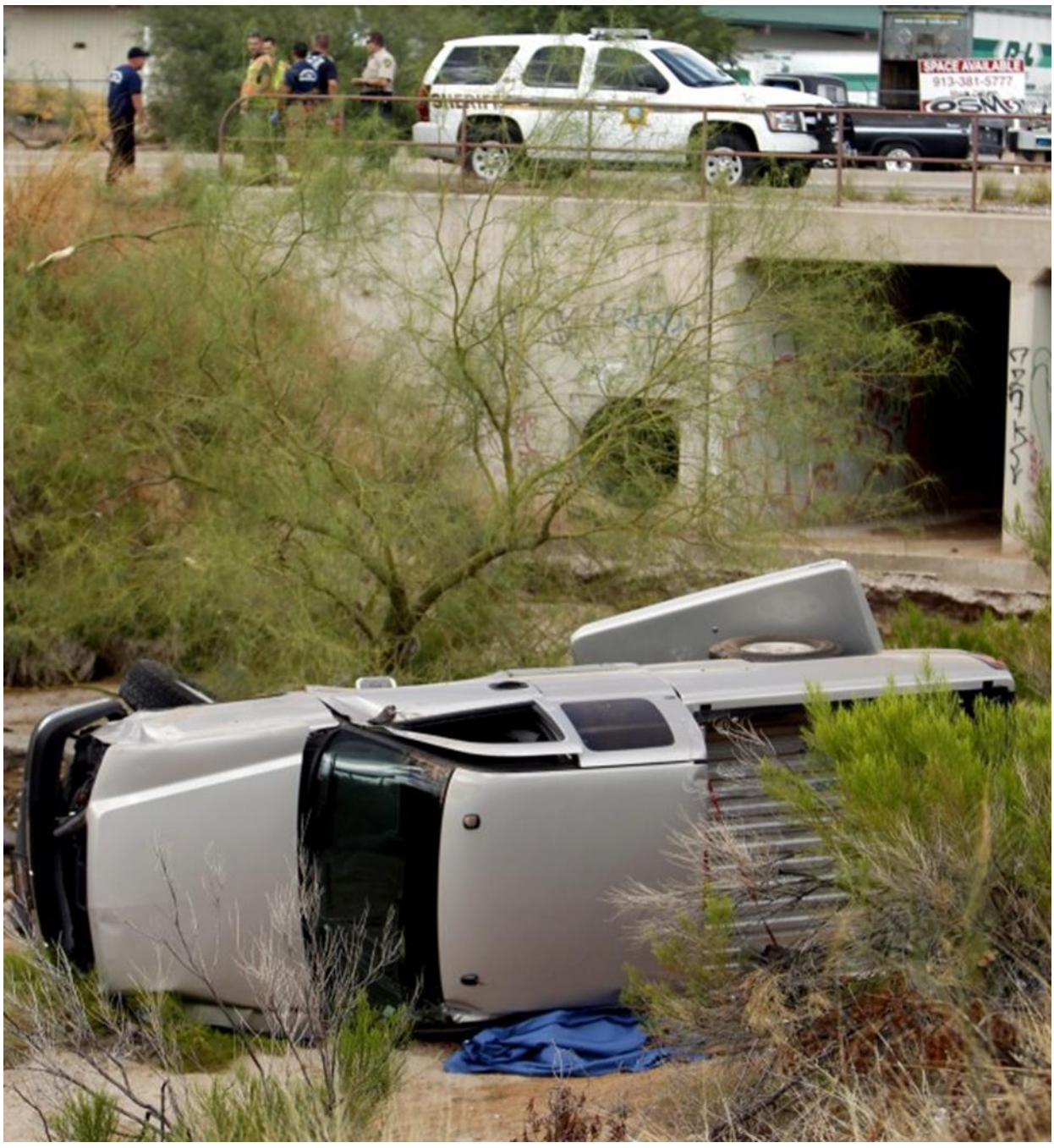
After half an hour, rescuers fished a man out of the river. Even though the 19-year-old was covered in mud and missing his pants and one sock, he claimed he was not the person seen by the bus driver, so rescuers were forced to continue their search until they were sure the man they found was the only victim.

In addition to Tucson Fire, personnel from Northwest Fire and Tucson Police departments were called out as was a rescue helicopter, Langejans said. The victim suffered no life-threatening injuries.

2012

July 16, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Rollover fatality



Rural/Metro firefighters and Pima County Sheriff's deputies look over a pick-up truck in the bed of Julian Wash where it came to rest after leaving south-bound Palo Verde just south of the Interstate 10 intersection, with one victim dead on the scene, Mon. July 16, 2012.

2012

August 9, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Tucson mobile home fire displaces 2

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

August 09, 2012 2:19 pm • By Hipolito Corella

A fire damaged a south-side mobile home Thursday morning and displaced two people.

Crews from Rural/Metro Fire Department responded to the fire in the 4400 block of East Benson Highway, near South Columbus Boulevard, about 9:40 a.m. and found smoke and flames coming from the home, Capt. Grant Cesarek, a spokesman for the department said in a news release.

The crew found smoke and flames coming from the home and determined the fire started in a closet, the release said.

Nobody was injured.

Crews were able to quickly respond to and extinguish the fire because the fire station is across the street from the home, the release said.

A man and woman were displaced and are being helped with shelter, food and clothing, said Mike Sagara, a spokesman for the Southern Arizona chapter of the American Red Cross.

August 18, 2012, *Arizona Daily* Star:



Ramón Valadez

- **Age:** 44
- **Employer:** Southwest Ambulance and Rural/Metro
- **Education:** Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Arizona
- **Political experience:** County supervisor since 2003, state legislator 1997-2003, previously special staff assistant for Supervisor Dan Eckstrom, Rep. Ed Pastor and Sen. Dennis DeConcini.
- **Top priority:** Grow jobs. Stimulate and stabilize the economy. Improve infrastructure in the aerospace/defense corridor and invest in geotourism.
- **Office:** Pima County supervisor, District 2
- **Name:** Ramón Valadez
- **Party:** Democrat

2012

September 11, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Northwest Tucson Elks continuing Sept. 11 tradition today

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

September 11, 2012 11:00 am • By Tiffany Kjos 0

Today Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge No. 2815 is continuing a tradition it started the year after Sept. 11, 2001 — preparing and delivering turkey dinners to emergency-services personnel in three area fire districts.

The districts are Mountain View Fire District, Rural/Metro Fire Department and Golder Ranch Fire District.

Each of the nine stations will get a turkey with all the trimmings, said Pat Cox, the lodge's public-relations coordinator.

"These dedicated men and women, who put their lives in danger on a daily basis, provide service to Catalina, Oro Valley, SaddleBrooke and southern Pinal County," Cox wrote in an email.

2012

September 23, *Arizona Daily Star*:

1 injured when fire races through Tucson apartments

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

September 23, 2012 9:27 am • By Hipolito Corella

One person was hospitalized in a fire early today that burned through several units of an apartment complex in the Catalina Foothills, officials said.

Crews went to Highland Apartments, 5755 E. River Rd., about 4:40 a.m. and found six apartment units on fire, Capt. Grant Cesarek, of Rural/Metro Fire Department said in a news release.

Several other units at the sprawling complex just east of North Craycroft Road were damaged in the two-alarm blaze. Thick smoke and flames spreading along the roof led to the evacuation of many residents. One resident was hospitalized with burns and smoke inhalation, Cesarek said.

It took crews about 50 minutes to get the fire under control.

About 23 families that lost their homes or were evacuated because of the fire, estimated Theresa Grant, a spokeswoman for the American Red Cross Southern Arizona Chapter. The agency was at the complex Sunday providing food, shelter, clothing, medications and mental health services.

About 23 of the 40 apartment units affected by the fire were occupied, Grant said in a news release.

October 2, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Orange Grove Middle School students briefly evacuated

OCTOBER 02, 2012 12:17 PM • ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Students from Orange Grove Middle School, 1911 E. Orange Grove Road, were evacuated for about 20 minutes around noon when the administration building cooling system began emitting a light amount of smoke.

A belt in the air conditioner got stuck and was slightly burned, however, it did not cause a fire, said Capt. Grant Cesarek, spokesman for Rural/Metro Fire Department.

No one was injured and students were never in any danger, he said.

2012

September 24, *Arizona Daily Star*:



BENJIE SANDERS / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The early morning fire at the Hilands Apartments destroyed several units and forced the evacuation of 23 families.

Fire Battalion Chief William Rowe said in a news release.

He was the only person in the vehicle and was pronounced dead at the scene.

The crash is being investigated by the state Department of Public Safety.

Arizona Daily Star

Foothills fire damages apt. complex; 1 hurt

One person was hospitalized Sunday after a fire burned through several apartment units in the Foothills, officials said.

Crews were called to the Hilands Apartments, 5755 E. River Road, about 4:40 a.m. and found six apartments on fire, Capt. Grant Cesarek of Rural/Metro Fire Department said in a news release.

Several other units at the complex just east of Craycroft Road were damaged.

Smoke and flames led to the evacuation of many residents, one of whom was hospitalized with burns and smoke inhalation, Cesarek said.

It took crews about 50 minutes to get the fire under control.

About 23 families lost their homes or were evacuated because of the fire, estimated Theresa Grant, a spokeswoman for the American Red Cross Southern Arizona Chapter.

The agency was at the complex Sunday providing food, shelter, clothing, medications and mental health services.

About 23 of the 40 apartment units affected by the fire were occupied, Grant said in a news release.

Arizona Daily Star

October 25, 2012, *Tucson Weekly*:

Coverage Kerfuffle

Golder Ranch Fire faces an uphill battle to annex a large chunk of the foothills

By Brian J. Pedersen @realBJP

The Golder Ranch Fire District has a fight on its hands—and its opponents appear more than ready for a tussle.

click to enlarge



Are you here? If so, Golder Ranch Fire wants you.

Eleven months after setting its sights on annexing a chunk of the Catalina Foothills—a move that was met with nearly unanimous dissent (see "Competing Protectors," Dec. 8, 2011)—Golder Ranch has scrapped that plan, and instead is pursuing an area nearly twice as large.

Judging by the reactions of those in attendance at a public meeting on Monday night, Oct. 22, more than twice as many people are unhappy with the new plan.

Golder Ranch wants to annex roughly 4,400 properties between First Avenue and Campbell Avenue, extending from the southeast edge of its existing boundary down to the Tucson city limits along River Road. More than 5,000 people live in the proposed area, which also includes the La Encantada shopping center and the Westward Look Resort.

More than 200 prospective future district members spent several hours in a ballroom at the Westward Look voicing their displeasure with the annexation; some did not even wait until the question-and-answer period to speak up.

Some speakers even questioned the date and time of the meeting, which coincided with the final presidential debate, as an attempt by Golder Ranch to manipulate the makeup of the crowd.

After nearly three hours of mostly negative response from the audience, Golder Ranch's governing board voted 4-0 to pursue the annexation.

"I do think that as part of the democratic process here, we, as elected officials, need to make sure everyone is fully informed," board member Mark Clark said. "I don't think what we heard ... is a representation of the entire body."

The area in question is currently served by the Rural/Metro Fire Department, a private provider that charges an annual subscription for landowners based on a home's square footage. Golder Ranch, like other fire districts, is funded via property taxes based on a home's secondary assessed value.

Land in the annexation area has a 2012 valuation of more than $196 million, which could generate the district more than $3.4 million in annual revenue. Golder Ranch currently charges $1.75 per $100 of assessed value, which on an average foothills home would come to about $670 per year.

That same homeowner pays about $525 per year for coverage from Rural/Metro.

2012

October 25, 2012, *Tucson Weekly*:

> Golder Ranch officials say the annexation is not a money issue, despite the large revenue windfall that would come with it.
>
> "I don't want to ground this conversation on price; we're not here about price," Golder assistant chief John Sullivan told the crowd.
>
> Instead, they say, the move is part of a further effort to regionalize fire protection under the umbrella of multiple entities working together. Sullivan said nearly all of the Phoenix metro area is on a regional network of fire coverage, all tax-funded, with automatic-aid agreements between the numerous entities to provide assistance when needed.
>
> "All those tax-paid organizations ... have a common thread," Sullivan said. "Here in Pima County, we don't have that yet."
>
> Golder has automatic-aid agreements with the Northwest Fire District and the Tucson Fire Department, as well as others, but doesn't with Rural/Metro or the Mountain Vista Fire District, which covers an area west of the proposed annexation area, but contracts with Rural/Metro for firefighters.
>
> "Unfortunately, I can't say we'd (currently) come automatically into the foothills," Sullivan said.
>
> The automatic-aid and regional-effort claims irk annexation resident Amy Hernandez, an attorney who is opposed to the push. She says money is the only real issue, and wishes Golder Ranch would be honest about that.
>
> "They cloak it in a public-safety issue, when it's not," Hernandez said. "It's a money issue. It's just like my kids, who try to lie to me: Just tell me the truth, and we can just talk *mano y mano*."
>
> Hernandez said the automatic-aid issue is as much about ego as it is about the fact that Rural/Metro and Golder Ranch use different dispatch systems, and she points to the mass shooting at the Safeway in January 2011 as a prime example.
>
> "My best friend got shot in that," Hernandez said, noting that Northwest Fire turned down assistance from Mountain Vista and Rural/Metro in favor of Golder Ranch, possibly delaying response.
>
> For recent foothills arrivals Christy and Dray Sterling, money isn't the main concern. They just want to know they're getting good service. Though residents of the annexation area only since February, so far they've had no issues with Rural/Metro.
>
> "We would pay more if they (Golder Ranch) could prove their service was better," Dray Sterling said. "We've had very good service from Rural/Metro."

2012

October 25, 2012, *Tucson Weekly*:

Golder Ranch got the ball rolling on annexation of the central part of the proposed area, about seven square miles, last December, but never formally circulated petitions. The district had one year to acquire signatures from a majority of property owners and a majority of assessed value, per state law, but Sullivan said friction from many homeowners' associations prevented the district from going further.

Evidence of such opposition can be seen on a website, **www.foothillscitizensforfiresafety.com**, formed by five foothills homeowners' associations representing nearly 1,100 land parcels.

Golder's governing board scrapped the first plan, but not because of dissent, district spokesman Josh Hurguy said. The district instead chose to pursue a larger area after hearing concerns from foothills residents who said the first acquisition would mean forcing Rural/Metro to need to cover the southern area from a fire station other than the one it currently operates on Skyline Drive, he said.

That station and coverage issue was brought up at the start of the first annexation effort, but was not addressed by Golder Ranch until 10 months later, said Michael Racy, a lobbyist who represents Rural/Metro.

Racy said he believes the original annexation would have been overwhelmingly shot down, and is surprised Golder Ranch continues to push for the area, considering the reputation the foothills has for fighting off annexation efforts.

"They've got the fallout from all of those city of Tucson annexation tries to deal with, and I don't think they realized that," Racy said.

2012

November 7, 2012, http://www.tucsonlocalmedia.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/article_9f890ae2-286a-11e2-94f0-

Letters to the editor

Story Comments Print Font Size:

Recommend 0 Tweet G+1 0 Share 0

Posted: Wednesday, November 7, 2012 4:00 am

A counter about CF annexations

In response to the negative letters regarding the proposed annexation of Catalina Foothills by Golder Ranch Fire, I'd like to counter those "perceptions" with my actual experience.

The area of Oro Valley where I live was annexed by Golder Ranch in 2007. Prior to that, we were serviced by Rural Metro. Their nearest station was 3 miles away and had one fire engine. When Golder Ranch took over this area, they built a new station 1/2 mile away, which has multiple trucks, an ambulance, and their response times average 5 minutes. If you are a Foothills homeowner, I ask you this: Where is the nearest Rural Metro station? Are they going to get there before you hang up the phone?

Another thing that many people might not realize is that Rural Metro uses Southwest Ambulance to transport most people to hospitals. If you end up needing to go to the hospital, you are going to pay for that ambulance ride (roughly $500+). Golder Ranch no longer uses Southwest; they transport everyone themselves, which means there is no extra charge for an ambulance.

Also, Golder Ranch serves anyone within their boundaries free of charge. Not so with Rural Metro; if you aren't a subscriber and have a car accident on Skyline, prepare to pay $900+ for medical response. One last thing to consider is that Rural Metro is a national, for-profit business, whereas Golder Ranch is a local fire district, which is likely more aware of the concerns of its residents.

November 9, 2012, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Body found in burning car near River, Campbell in Tucson

Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

November 09, 2012 9:45 pm • Arizona Daily Star

One person apparently died in a car fire in a residential area just north of East River Road near Camino Real, between Campbell Avenue and Hacienda del Sol.

Investigators don't know whether the fire, reported about 9 p.m., was the result of a crash.

"We got a call about an engulfed vehicle," said Pima County Sheriff's Deputy Thomas Peine.

Firefighters from Rural Metro put out the fire, Peine said. "Inside is a dead person. That's about all we know."

November 16, 2012, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Fire chiefs make sales pitches for service to Foothills dwellers

NOVEMBER 16, 2012 12:00 AM • BECKY PALLACK ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Fire chiefs from two fire departments made their cases to about 200 Foothills residents Wednesday about why their service is best.

The debate-style meeting was about the Golder Ranch Fire District's proposed annexation of about 10 square miles and 4,500 homes in the Catalina Foothills area where residents currently subscribe for service or pay a fee for service from a private company, Rural/Metro.

Golder Ranch Fire District now serves Oro Valley, Catalina and SaddleBrooke.

Annexation petitions to add the Foothills area to the fire district's territory will be circulated early next year. A majority of potential taxpayers must sign for the effort to move forward. Those opposed need only keep their signatures off the petitions.

The combined primary and secondary tax rate for Golder Ranch is $1.75 per $100 assessed value of a home.

Here's what proponents and opponents of annexation said in their pitches.

FOR GOLDER RANCH

"We have a stronger network of stations that are available to respond," said Golder Ranch Assistant Chief John Sullivan.

Golder Ranch has seven fire engines, one ladder truck, three water tenders, four brush trucks and five paramedic ambulances, he said. They cover 210 square miles.

After about two years of annexing the Foothills area, the district would add an ambulance and a fire engine at a new station, Sullivan said.

Rural/Metro has four dedicated fire engines, two brush trucks, one water tender and three ambulances serving the area, said Rural/Metro Fire Chief Tom Brandhuber.

FOR RURAL/METRO

"It's about choice," Brandhuber said. A government model isn't right for everybody, he said.

Residents whose needs are met with the private Rural/Metro subscription service may not have a reason to make a change, he said.

It's also about costs, because some property owners would pay significantly more with Golder Ranch, said David Nathanson, from Pima County Citizens for Fire Safety.

Owners of vacant parcels currently pay Rural/Metro $70 or opt out and pay nothing, but they would pay more than $500 to Golder Ranch, he said.

Property taxes at La Encantada shopping center would increase $100,000, and the cost likely would be passed on to shoppers, he said.

"You see, we get to pay for that all over again," Nathanson said.

January 3 & 4, 2013, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Crews fighting house fire on Tucson's NE side

JANUARY 03, 2013 2:50 PM • BY HIPOLITO CORELLA

Crews from Rural/Metro Fire Department are working to control a fire in a home in the 3700 block of North Tres Lomas Drive. That's near East Tanque Verde Road and East Catalina Highway.

A resident of the home evacuated but is being treated for smoke inhalation.

The cause of the fire and extent of damage is unknown, Capt. Grant Cesarek, a spokesman for the fire department said in a news release.

Fire damages home on northeast side

JANUARY 04, 2013 12:00 AM • VERONICA M. CRUZ AND JAMAR YOUNGER ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A fire damaged a northeast-side home Thursday afternoon, authorities said. One person was taken to a hospital with smoke inhalation.

Crews from the Rural/Metro Fire Department were called about 1:50 p.m. to the home in the 3700 block of North Tres Lomas Drive, said Capt. Grant Cesarek, a Rural/Metro spokesman.

Firefighters evacuated a resident and treated the person for smoke inhalation. The person was taken to a hospital.

The fire was confined to the kitchen, Cesarek said. The fire caused $50,000 damage.

The cause was under investigation.

2013

February 11 & March 28, 2013, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Fire damages 2 mobile homes on Tucson's south side



FEBRUARY 11, 2013 10:22 AM • BY HIPOLITO CORELLA

A fire damaged two mobile homes early Monday morning on Tucson's south side.

A 911 caller reported a mobile home fire in the 3700 block of East Benson Highway just after 4 a.m., Capt. Grant Cesarek, a Rural/Metro Fire Department spokesman said in a news release.

Smoke and flames could be seen from several blocks away.

When crews arrived the fire had spread to a second home, the release said.

Crews believe the fire started in a single wide home with a covered patio that connected to the second home, the release said.

Nobody was injured and the fire was under control within 20 minutes, the release said.

Rollover wreck traps driver

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email



Rural/Metro firefighters and paramedics bring out the victim of a one-vehicle roll-over after freeing him from the wreckage in at 5400 S. Palo Verde on Thursday March 28, 2013.

2013

March 11, 2013, http://www.tucsonlocalmedia.com/news/article_708a5dd8-8a7e-11e2-bd86-0019bb2963f4.html

ADOT, DPS raising awareness of "Move Over" law

Story Comments Print Font Size:
Recommend 0 Tweet G+1 0 Share 0

Posted: Monday, March 11, 2013 12:06 pm

Every day, emergency and public safety crews put their lives on the line to help motorists stranded along highways. Tragically, crashes involving emergency and other vehicles that are pulled over along highway shoulders claim hundreds of lives across the country each year.

That's why a statewide campaign is being launched today to raise awareness about Arizona's "Move Over" law. The Arizona Department of Transportation, along with the Department of Public Safety and several key partners hope the "Move Over, AZ" campaign will prevent the type of roadside crashes that, although preventable, result in hundreds of deaths and injuries across the country every year.

Similar to Move Over laws in other states, Arizona's law requires all drivers to move over one lane, or slow down and use caution if changing lanes is not possible, when traveling past any vehicle with flashing lights that is pulled to the side of the roadway.

Nationally, one tow truck driver is killed about every six days and an average of one law enforcement officer and 23 highway workers are killed every month by drivers who don't move over or slow down. Emergency responders, roadside assistance providers and stranded motorists also are at risk.

Along with ADOT, the "Move Over, AZ" campaign partners include the Arizona Department of Public Safety, the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety, AAA of Arizona, the Arizona Professional Towing & Recovery Association, the Phoenix Fire Department, Rural/Metro and Southwest Ambulance.

The public awareness campaign will include "Move Over Mondays" during March, when DPS officers will enhance enforcement of the law on interstates and highways statewide. Drivers observed in violation of the Move Over law can be cited and required to pay a fine.

ADOT has produced TV and radio public service announcements in English and Spanish and teamed with the Arizona Broadcasters Association to encourage stations across Arizona to air them. The TV PSA can be viewed at http://youtu.be/gWOb2mAAHbY.

The Move Over campaign has its own web site at www.MoveOverAZ.org. The site includes a compelling video featuring Kayla Gault, whose father, tow-truck driver Jesse S. Gault, was killed along with a stranded motorist when a vehicle struck them along Loop 202 in Mesa in 2008.

Messages to remind drivers about the Move Over law also will be displayed on electronic signs above highways, and ADOT will use its social media outlets, including Twitter (www.Twitter.com/ArizonaDOT) to provide even more information about "Move Over, AZ."

Arizona's Move Over law took effect in 2005 to protect law enforcement officers and emergency responders assisting the public. It was enhanced in July 2011 to include all vehicles pulled over with flashing lights.

2013

April 27, 2013 http://oldrmfd.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/65th_invitation.pdf

Rural/Metro Fire Department 65th Anniversary Reunion

Saturday, April 27th 2013

9:30am – Private Ceremony
Unveiling of the Witzeman
Display in Fire Operations

10:00am – Public Formal Ceremony
Presentation of the Colors
Pima Fire Operations Color Guard

Invocation
Chief Karl Keierleber (Ret.)

Welcoming Remarks
John Karolzak

The "White Horse" and Rural/Metro Fire
Michael DiMino, CEO

Presentation of the Coins
Fire Chief Dan Caudle

Dedication of the Memorial Wall and Engine 825



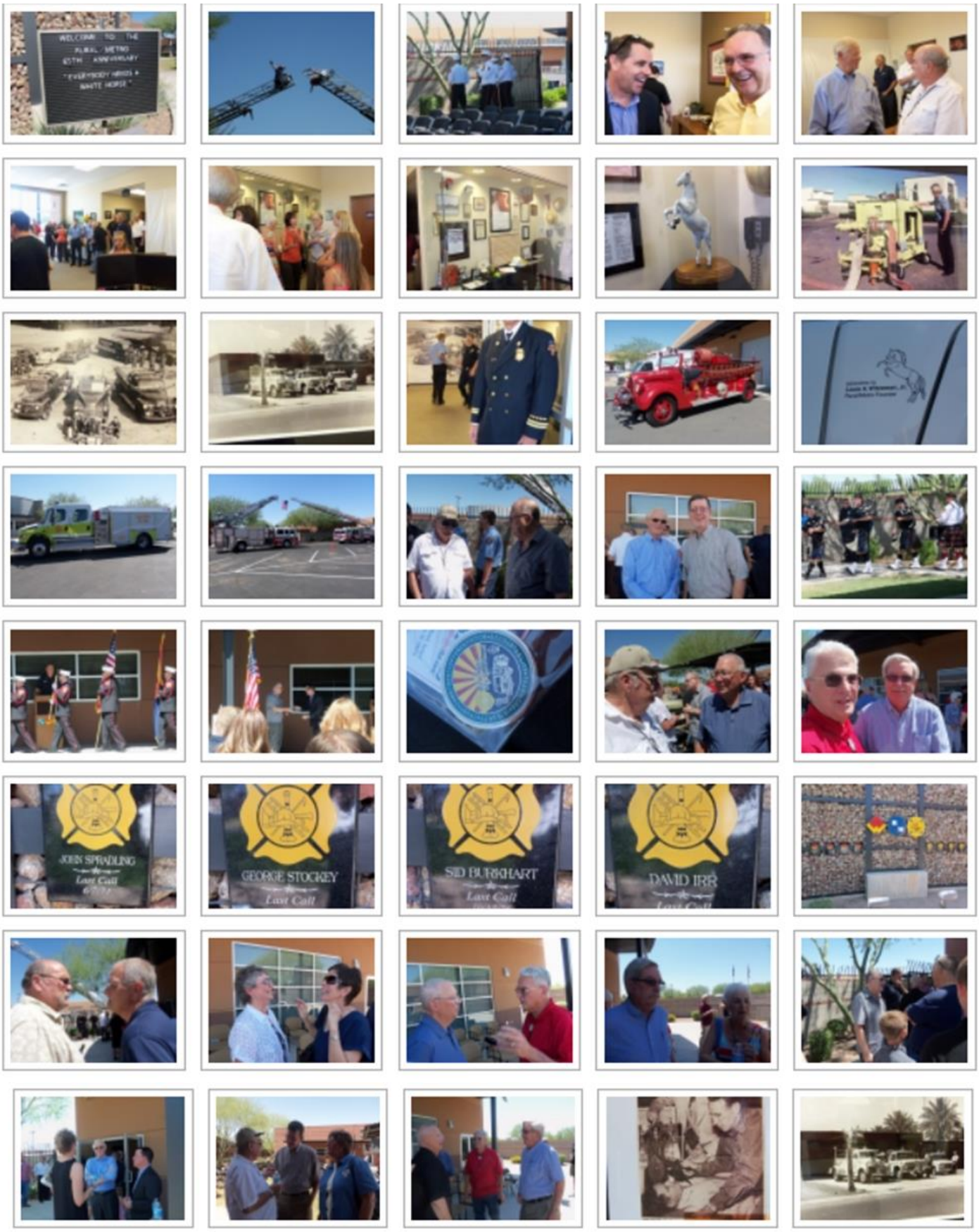
Your presence is requested at the Rural/Metro Fire Department 65th Anniversary Reunion

Help us celebrate 65 years of riding the White Horse with a memorable formal ceremony, barbeque lunch, campus tours and plenty of fire department reminiscing.

Saturday, April 27th 2013
708 W. Baseline, Mesa AZ 85210
9:30am – 2:00pm

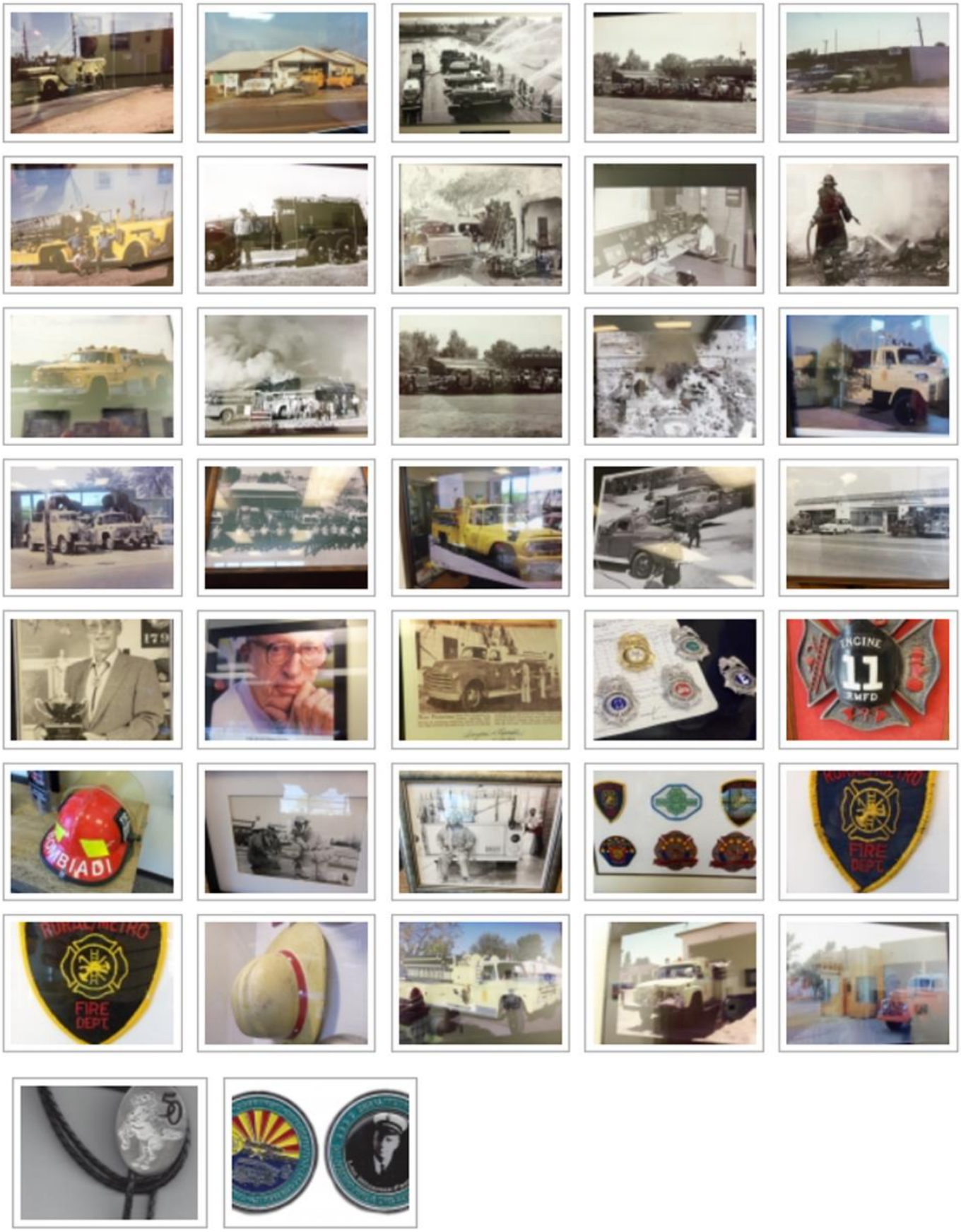
2013

April 27, 2013 http://oldrmfd.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/65th_invitation.pdf



2013

April 27, 2013 http://oldrmfd.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/65th_invitation.pdf



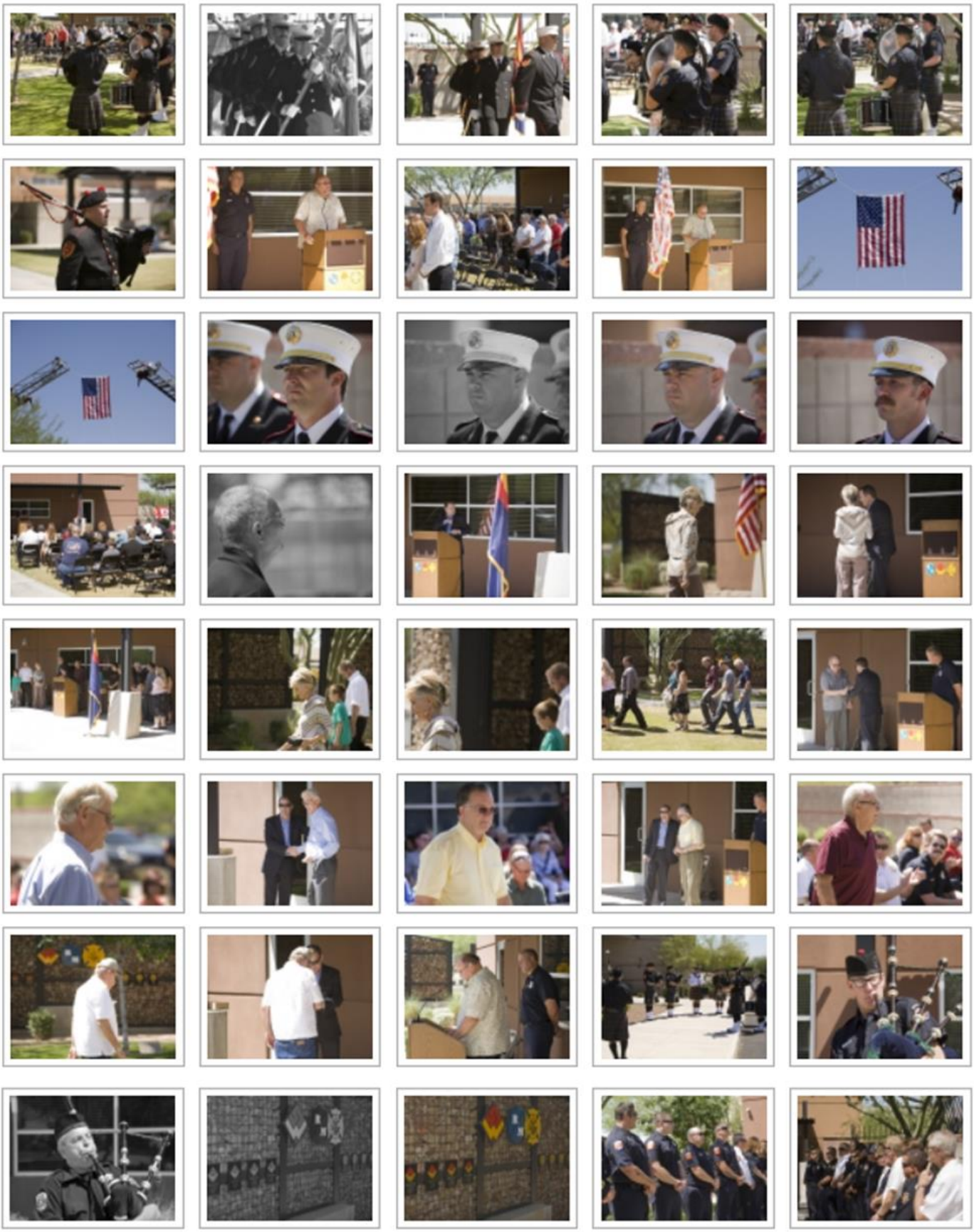
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April 27, 2013 http://oldrmfd.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/65th_invitation.pdf



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April 27, 2013 http://oldrmfd.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/65th_invitation.pdf



2013

April 27, 2013 http://oldrmfd.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/65th_invitation.pdf






June 9, 2013, *Arizona Daily Star*:

3 'suspicious' fires breakout on Tucson's southeast side



JUNE 09, 2013 7:33 PM • CARMEN DUARTE ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Three "suspicious" fires began Sunday afternoon on the city's southeast side, sending one woman to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

The first fire broke out shortly before 3 p.m. in a single-wide mobile home in the 3100 block of East Milton Road, said Battalion Chief John Walka of Rural/Metro Fire Department.

Then five minutes later a brush fire, which endangered structures, began in the 3200 block of East Benson Highway.

The third blaze started 10 minutes later in a mobile home park in the 4200 block of East Benson Highway, which spread to five mobile homes because of high winds, Walka said.

In the final blaze, a woman was treated for smoke inhalation and heat-related symptoms, and taken to a hospital. She was in stable condition, said Walka.

Rural/Metro called Tucson Fire, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base Fire and the Air National Guard Fire departments for assistance.

The fires were in an area roughly bounded by East Drexel Road on the north, Benson Highway on the south, Interstate 10 on the East and South Columbus Boulevard on the west.

A total of 66 firefighters battled the three fires, and the first fire was brought under control in 15 minutes, the second fire in 10 minutes, and the third in 30 minutes, said Walka.

Rural/Metro and Pima County Sheriff's Department investigators were working to determine the causes of the fires.

Damage estimates were not known.

The Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Red Cross were aiding families in need of assistance.

2013

June 9, 2013, *Arizona Daily Star*:

3 'suspicious' fires breakout on Tucson's southeast side





2013

June 9, 2013, *Arizona Daily Star*:

3 'suspicious' fires breakout on Tucson's southeast side





2013

June 9, 2013, *Arizona Daily Star*:

3 'suspicious' fires breakout on Tucson's southeast side





2013

July 26, 2013, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Grill fire damages Catalina Foothills home

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion



A gas grill fire damaged a home early today in a gated community in the Catalina Foothills, officials say. The flames were confined to an upstairs patio and no one was injured.

July 26, 2013 10:31 am • By Hipolito Corella

A gas grill fire damaged a home early today in a gated community in the Catalina Foothills, officials say.

Firefighters saw smoke and flames when they arrived about 2 a.m. at the house in the 7100 block of North Finger Rock Place, Capt. Grant

Cesarek, of Rural/Metro Fire said in a news release.

The blaze appears to have started from an unattended built-in gas grill. The heat melted the grill's shut off valve and fire from the pressurized gas lines created direct flame on the home, Cesarek said.

July 26, 2013, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Storm damages Tucson school, lightning may be cause of house fire



JULY 26, 2013 4:57 PM • ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Staff at a southside school had to be evacuated after a fierce storm blew through this afternoon, knocking down power poles and damaging the building's roof.

And in the Foothills, a house fire may have been caused by a lightening strike.

Van Buskirk Elementary School, 725 E. Fair Street off South Park Avenue, sustained some damage, but no one inside was injured, said Capt. Chris Jurvig, spokesman for the Tucson Fire Department.

Late this afternoon, crews from the Rural/Metro Fire District responded to a house fire in the 4700 block of north Via Molino near East Snyder Road and East Catalina Highway, that may have been sparked by lightening.

A line of thunderstorms has dropped heavy rain — up to an inch and more — through much of Tucson.

A flash flood warning is in effect for the area until 4:15 p.m.

Radar showed the storms were causing low-level flash flooding in the Tanque Verde, Sabino Canyon and Catalina Foothills area.

Power poles have been reported knocked down, and fire crews were being called to conduct water rescues, particularly on Tucson's south and west sides.

Tucson Electric Power says 9,000 customers are currently without power because of poles down at South Park Avenue and East Fair and Irvington Road and Campbell Avenue.

The National Weather Service said up to an inch of rain has fallen in areas of Tucson.

Also, the intersection of South Euclid Avenue and East Silverlake Road is closed for an undetermined length of time because of the storm, Tucson police said. Please use alternative routes.

July 29, 2013, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Tanque Verde Falls drowning victim ID'd

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

July 29, 2013 11:30 am • Veronica M. Cruz Arizona Daily Star

A 29-year-old man who died after jumping into the water at Tanque Verde Falls Sunday has been identified.

Richard M. Baker, was part of a group of people jumping off the cliffs and into water pools, according to the Pima County Sheriff's Department.

The man sustained a head injury and did not immediately come back up to the surface, Deputy Tracy Suitt, a sheriff's department spokesman said in a news release.

Other people in the area jumped in to pull him out and he was unresponsive and not breathing.

Bystanders performed CPR on the man until paramedics from the Rural/Metro Fire Department arrived, the release said.

The man was pronounced dead at the scene.

August 6, 2013, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Rural/Metro files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy

AUGUST 06, 2013 12:00 AM • MICHAEL BATHON AND PHIL MILFORD BLOOMBERG NEWS

WILMINGTON, Del. - Scottsdale-based Rural/Metro Corp., a nationwide ambulance operator owned by Warburg Pincus, filed for bankruptcy, saying its plan to cut debt by about half and reorganize is supported by creditors.

The support ensures that the company will continue to provide vital emergency services, Chief Financial Officer Stephen Farber said in Chapter 11 papers filed Sunday here in U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

Operations will "continue as normal," the company said. Through Rural/Metro Fire, Rural/Metro Ambulance and Southwest Ambulance operations, the company provides emergency services across much of Southern Arizona, including unincorporated Pima County. The company employs more than 500 people in the region.

Under the proposed reorganization plan, secured lenders have committed $75 million of debtor-in-possession financing and bondholders promised to invest $135 million of new equity upon exit from Chapter 11, according to the filing.

Rural/Metro missed a July 15 interest payment on senior unsecured bonds due in 2019, leading Standard & Poor's to downgrade the debt and the corporate credit rating. The company has two bond issuances, of $200 million and $108 million. S&P estimated that holders would recover no more than 10 percent in the event of a default.

The company listed assets and debt of more than $500 million each in Chapter 11 papers.

The $200 million in bonds traded at about 59.3 cents on the dollar on July 31, according to Trace, the bond-price reporting system of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. The $108 million in bonds traded at about 57.2 cents. Both had fallen more than 40 percent since May 16.

The company also has a $100 million senior secured revolving credit facility and a $325 million term loan. The secured debt would recover 70 percent to 90 percent in a default, S&P estimated in its July 24 report.

Rural/Metro provides ambulance and firefighting services to about 700 communities in 21 states, according to its website. The company also offers industrial fire-protection services to airports, oil refineries and manufacturing plants and counts FedEx, Citgo Petroleum and Textron's Bell Helicopter as customers.

More than 50 affiliates of the company also filed bankruptcy petitions, including ambulance services from Pennsylvania to California.

Among the largest unsecured creditors listed in court papers are holders of $308 million in 10.125 percent notes under the trusteeship of Wells Fargo bank.

Warburg Pincus, a New York-based investment firm, bought Rural/Metro in July 2011 for about $676.5 million, including $236.3 million in debt.

Did you know?

The company now known as Rural/Metro Corp. was founded in 1948 by newspaper reporter Lou Witzeman after witnessing a neighbor's home burn down near his home just outside the city limits of Phoenix.

There was no fire department established for the area, so Witzeman bought a fire engine and went door-to-door asking residents to subscribe to the new fire service by paying an annual membership fee.

September 3 & 9, 2013, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Storm damages roof

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email



The roof of a mobile home southwest of Tucson International Airport near South Old Nogales Highway was blown off Tuesday. Rural/Metro Fire crews went to the scene, but no injuries were reported.

September 03, 2013 5:09 pm • Rural/Metro Fire Department 0

Car falls 40 feet off Mount Lemmon cliff

SEPTEMBER 09, 2013 11:58 AM • VERONICA M. CRUZ ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Emergency crews are working to extricate the driver of a car that drove off a cliff on Mount Lemmon.

The car fell about 40 feet, said Capt. Grant Cesarek, a Rural/Metro fire spokesman.

The driver has minor injuries, he said.

No other information was immediately available.

October 6 & 11, 2013, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Child nearly drowns in pool in Tucson foothills

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

October 06, 2013 3:09 pm • Veronica M. Cruz Arizona Daily Star

A 2-year-old child nearly drowned at a foothills home Sunday afternoon.

Crews from Rural/Metro Fire responded to a home in the 4300 block of North Camino Vinorama, near North Craycroft and East River roads, after receiving a person reported that the child had been underwater in a pool for about a minute, said Batallion Chief Willie Treatch.

The child was taken to the hospital, Treatch said.

No other information was immediately available.

Teen hurt in motorcycle crash on Mount Lemmon

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

October 11, 2013 5:00 pm • Carmen Duarte Arizona Daily Star

A teen riding a motorcycle crashed near Windy Point Vista on Mount Lemmon Friday afternoon, and was flown by helicopter to University of Arizona Medical Center, authorities said.

The 17-year-old was treated by paramedics of Rural/Metro Fire Department before he was airlifted to the hospital after suffering serious injuries.

A 911 caller reported the 2 p.m. accident, which occurred at milepost 14.5, said Deputy Tracy Suitt, a Pima County Sheriff's Department spokesman.

The condition of the teen was not released Friday night.

Traffic investigators said they found out from witnesses that the teen was traveling north on the highway at a high rate of speed. He traveled into a blind curve and lost control of the motorcycle, authorities said.

The teen then crashed into a post.

2013

October 13 2013, *Arizona Daily* Star:

3 Tucson heroes to be honored Thursday

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A police officer, an EMT and a member of the U.S. Border Patrol will be honored Thursday at the sixth annual Heroes Day ceremony.

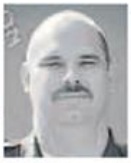
This year's honorees are: **Jason Hamilton**, a Southwest Ambulance EMT who was on his way home from work when he saw a car crash and rescued the elderly driver; Officer **Dan Rowan** of the Marana Police Department, who rescued a suicidal woman; and **Michael Schick**, a U.S. Border Patrol supervisor who rescued three people from the trunk of a burning car. **Nohemy Hite**, wife of Tucson police Officer **Erik Hite** who died in the line of duty, will speak at the awards ceremony along with Dr. **Peter Rhee**, University of Arizona Medical Center trauma surgeon, and UA football coach **Rich Rodriguez**. The award ceremony begins at 9:30 a.m. at La Encantada shopping center.

Event sponsor Jack Furrier Tire will provide first responders with free breakfast and lunch at its four Tucson locations Thursday.

Kimberly Matas



Dan Rowan



Jason Hamilton



Michael Schick

October 16, 2013, http://www.tucsonlocalmedia.com/news/article_5a8227ec-36c1-11e3-a7a5-001a4bcf887a.html

Rural/Metro EMT being honored for heroic off-duty effort

Posted: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 5:16 pm



Rural/Metro

Jason Hamilton

Rural/Metro Southern Arizona Operation's Jason Hamilton to be honored by UAMC as one of three "Heroes of the Year," at La Encantada on October 17th is a long time employee of Rural/Metro assigned to Southwest Ambulance Meds 843 based at Kino Hospital.

On the morning of April 21, 2013, Jason got off of his 24 hour shift after working a mass casualty incident on I-10 through the night and into the early morning hours. During Jason's drive home he encountered a vehicle that was driving erratically on westbound Irvington Road.

Jason made the decision to follow the vehicle while contacting law enforcement on the phone, he maintained a safe distance from the vehicle in hope of preventing unsuspecting vehicles from getting too close and there being an accident.

As the vehicle passed Mission Road, he witnessed it crash into a guard rail and appeared to be hanging over the wash below. Jason approached the vehicle to find and elderly woman in need of medical attention immediately. Making a quick decision Jason decided to extricate the woman with the assistance of another bystander. When he got the car door open he found the patient condition to be worse than expected. Along with the assistance of another bystander, a registered nurse, they began CPR until the arrival of Drexel Heights Fire District to transport the woman to the hospital.

Jason made a selfless act having no hesitation to recognize and assist someone in need, was mindful of the driver as well as the safety of other citizens in the rush hour traffic. These actions have made Jason one of the Heroes of the Year, although "I did what I saw needed to be done," says Hamilton when asked about that morning drive home from work.

We commend him for his service, his quick thinking and professional composure during a critical time and are proud to have him as part of our community and the Rural/Metro family.

2013

November 19, 2013, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Fatal house fire

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email



A woman died in a house fire in the 4400 block of East Ina Road, near Swan. Rural/Metro firefighters arriving at the scene found the home 80-percent involved in fire.

Fatal house fire

Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email



Rural/Metro firefighters rolling up their hoses after a fatal house fire near Ina and Swan roads.

RURAL/METRO

FIRE

November 19, 2013, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Sheriff IDs Tucson woman found dead in burning home

November 19, 2013 12:55 pm • Kimberly Matas Arizona Daily Star

A 97-year-old woman was found dead Tuesday morning in a burning house in the Foothills.

The woman, Larae Hambenne, lived in the home alone, said Deputy Courtney Rodriguez, spokeswoman for the Pima County Sheriff's Department.

At about 6:45 a.m., fire crews responded to the home in the 4400 block of East Ina Road near north Swan Road. The 3,500-square-foot home was 80 percent involved in smoke and flames when they arrived, said Capt. Grant Cesarek, spokesman for Rural/Metro Fire Department.



Related Links

- Police Beat blog

The fire was so big that smoke could be seen from the area of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and 911 calls were coming in from midtown Tucson, Cesarek said.

Firefighters found Hambenne's body while searching the home for occupants.

"Arson investigators came out we did a standard investigation because a there was fatality and there wasn't anything suspicious initially found," Rodriguez said.

Rural/Metro Fire investigators are still on scene trying to determine the cause and origin of the fire, Cesarek said.

2013

November 19, 2013, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Photos: Woman found dead in burning Foothills home

At about 6:45 a.m., fire crews responded to the home in the 4400 block of East Ina Road near north Swan Road. The 3,500-square-foot home was 80 percent involved in smoke and flames when they arrived, said Capt. Grant Cesarek, spokesman for Rural/Metro Fire Department.

The fire was so big that smoke could be seen from the area of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and 911 calls were coming in from midtown Tucson, Cesarek said.

A 97-year-old woman was found dead in the burning house.

The woman, Larae Hambenne, lived in the home alone, said Deputy Courtney Rodriguez, spokeswoman for the Pima County Sheriff's Department.

November 19, 2013 7:30 pm









2013

December 2, 2013, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Vehicle tumbles 100 feet off Mount Lemmon highway

Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email



Rescuers from the Pima County Sheriff's Department, Rural/Metro and the Border Patrol worked for more than an hour to get two people out of a vehicle that fell off a ledge on the General Hitchcock Highway today.

2013

December 26, 2013, http://www.phoenixnewtimes.com/news/rural-metro-to-pay-28-million-settlement-for-billing-patient-transports-as-emergencies-6664212

Rural/Metro to Pay $2.8 Million Settlement for Billing Patient Transports as Emergencies

BY RAY STERN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2013 AT 11:37 A.M.



Rural/Metro Corporation agrees to pay the federal government $2.8 million to settle allegations that it ripped off Medicare by falsely billing patient transports as emergencies.

From 2007 to the end of 2011, says Arizona U.S. Attorney John Leonardo, Rural/Metro's ambulance divisions including Southwest Ambulance and Tucson's Kords Ambulance would routinely send Medicare higher bills for reimbursement based on false claims.

After transporting patients from one hospital to another, the company sent Medicare bills for the services and classified them falsely as emergencies, which cost "substantially" more, Leonardo's office says. (Why an emergency transport would cost so much more, even if no emergency medical services were provided during the trip, sounds like a separate story.

The government's action is intended to fight "fraud, waste and abuse" of federal funds by companies and people who profit unfairly from false claims, Leonardo stated in a news release.

Rural/Metro didn't admit to any wrongdoing in the settlement, but the feds say the settlement isn't a concession "that its claims are not well-founded."

The company is recovering from bankruptcy and Chapter 11 proceeding that was begun on August 4 and is just now being finalized. According to a December 17 article in the *Wall Street Journal*, the Chapter 11 plan offers investors a chance to recoup some of their losses and "wipes out the equity stake of Warburg Pincus LLC, which bought Rural/Metro for $738 million in June 2011, in a deal with substantial debt funding."

Company spokesman John Karolzak tells *New Times* that the $2.8 million settlement and allegations of fraud aren't expected to hurt investor relations.

2013

December 26, 2013, http://www.phoenixnewtimes.com/news/rural-metro-to-pay-28-million-settlement-for-billing-patient-transports-as-emergencies-6664212



John Karolzak

After we spoke to Karolzak, Rural/Metro sent us a news release about the settlement emphasizing that it didn't affect the Chapter 11 proceedings. But Rural/Metro's statement doesn't argue over the government's allegations, either, or bother claiming the false claims were some sort of mistake.

"The Company agreed to settle the matter in order to avoid expensive and time-consuming litigation..." the statement reads.

It's not really clear, however, if that means the company feels it would have paid less or more than $2.8 million had the allegations resulted in a lawsuit.

2013

December 13, 2013, http://www.sonorannews.com/archives/http://www.sonorannews.com/archives/2014/140101/news-rural-metro.html2014/140101/news-rural-metro.html

BY LINDA BENTLEY | DECEMBER 31, 2013

Rural/Metro agrees to settle false claims allegations for $2.8 million

'The company expects to formally emerge from Chapter 11 within the next couple of weeks'

SHARE



Rural/Metro Corporation expects to emerge from Chapter 11 bankruptcy within the next couple of weeks with its financial indebtedness reduced by approximately 50 percent and with $135 million in new capital to support planned investments.

SCOTTSDALE – Last week, Rural/Metro, a Delaware corporation headquartered in Scottsdale, which through its subsidiaries and affiliates, provides private ambulance and fire protection services in Arizona and nearly 700 communities in 20 states, agreed to pay the federal government $2,802,112 to resolve civil whistleblower allegations that various Rural/Metro ambulance companies violated the federal False Claims Act.

The allegations were based upon the ambulance companies submitting false Medicare claims to the government for emergency medical transportation services that were not emergencies in order to bill at a higher rate.

U.S. Attorney John S. Leonardo, for the District of Arizona, stated, "The need to protect federal funds, including the Medicare trust fund, from fraud, waste and abuse has never been greater. The U.S. Attorney's Office will continue to use the False claims Act to pursue entities and individuals who improperly profit from federal dollars at the expense of the public. This settlement agreement is a substantial recovery for taxpayers and sends a clear message that the federal government will not stand idly by when programs lose money due to false claims for payment."

2013

December 13, 2013, http://www.sonorannews.com/archives/http://www.sonorannews.com/archives/2014/140101/news-rural-metro.html2014/140101/news-rural-metro.html

The settlement agreement resolves allegations that from January 2007 through December 2011, various ambulance companies owned and operated by Rural/Metro – including SW General, dba Southwest Ambulance; Southwest Ambulance of Casa Grande Inc., dba SWARA; and Southwest Ambulance of Tucson Inc., dba Kords Ambulance – billed Medicare for transporting patients from one hospital to another on an emergency basis when, in fact, the calls were not emergencies.

The United States alleged because of these false and "upcoded" claims, Medicare paid substantially more than warranted for ambulance services.

While the settlement is not an admission of liability or wrongdoing by Rural/Metro, it is also not a concession by the federal government that its claims are not well founded.

Rural/Metro stated it is pleased to resolve its legal liabilities and is committed to ensuring that it remains in strict compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and standards in each of the markets and jurisdictions in which it operates.

On Dec. 17, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware confirmed Rural/Metro Corporation's Plan of Reorganization, which will reduce its financial indebtedness by approximately 50 percent, while $135 million in new capital will support $40 million in new investments.

Rural/Metro filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on Aug. 4, 2013 after missing an interest payment on its debt.

The company expects to formally emerge from Chapter 11 within the next couple of weeks. Meanwhile, the U.S. Attorney's Office encourages individuals with information regarding fraud, waste or abuse related to Medicare or other federal programs to file a complaint with the U.S. Attorney's Office through its website: http://www.justice.gov/usao/az/ or by calling 602-514-7500.

February 2, 2013, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Rural/Metro ambulance crashes on Tucson's southside

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

February 09, 2014 7:59 pm • By Veronica M. Cruz

A Rural/Metro ambulance rolled over onto its side after crashing into a van on Tucson's south side Sunday evening.

The ambulance was traveling southbound on Alvernon Road when it struck a van traveling eastbound on Valencia Road shortly before 7 p.m., said Deputy Tracy Suitt, a spokesman for the Pima County Sheriff's Department.

Two EMTs in the ambulance and two people in the van were taken to the hospital, Suitt said.

The EMTs were taken as a precautionary measure and the people in the van had injuries that were not considered life threatening, he said.

The ambulance was returning to its station near Hughes Access Road and Nogales Highway after dropping off a patient at Tucson Medical Center, said Capt. Grant Cesarek, a Rural/Metro spokesman.

No other information was immediately available.

February 10, 2013, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Crash at Palo Verde and Benson Hwy



Two people suffered minor injuries in a rear end collision in which one vehicle rolled into a wash off Benson Highway and Palo Verde Road on Monday morning. The passenger in this vehicle was transported to the hospital. Firefighters from Rural/Metro search the car for personal effects. Rural/Metro PIO Capt. Grant Cesarek said seatbelts and air bags did their job.

2014

March 7, 2014, http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/24917982/mcmahan-selected-as-new-rmfd-chief

McMahan selected as new RMFD chief

Posted: Mar 07, 2014 3:30 PM
Updated: Mar 07, 2014 3:31 PM

By Jackie Kent - email



TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - The Rural Metro Fire Department has a new leader.

Jonathan McMahan was selected as regional Director/Fire Chief for southern and western Arizona.

He has more than 23 years' experience in fire and emergency services and spent the last 11 years working for Rural Metro.

McMahan will oversee operations in Tucson and Yuma.

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WE RECOMMEND

- PD: Officers repulsed by child porn on teacher aide's computer
- Police seek help finding missing man

2014

March 13, 2014, http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/24964239/one-injured-in-house-fire-in-sabino-canyon

One injured in house fire in Sabino Canyon

Posted: Mar 13, 2014 6:03 AM
Updated: Mar 13, 2014 6:03 AM

By Tucson News Now Staff - email

TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - One person was injured in an overnight house fire in the Sabino Canyon area.

Rural/Metro crews were called to a residential fire in the 5100 block of N. Placita Solitaria, late on Wednesday evening.

According to a Rural/Metro release the first crews arrived on scene to find smoke and flames coming from the front of the home, they worked quickly to bring the fire under control.

One person was taken to a local hospital for treatment of minor injuries, according to the release. The status of the person is not known at this time.

The source and cause of the fire is not known, said Rural/Metro Captain Grant Cesarek, an investigation is currently being conducted.

Stay with Tucson News Now for updates as they come in.

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2014

March 13, 2014, courtesy Al Ring:





2014

March 13, 2014, courtesy Al Ring:





MIKE CHRISTY / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

FIRE AT SOUTH-SIDE MOBILE-HOME PARK

Rural/Metro firefighters extinguish hot spots at the scene of a trailer fire in a mobile-home park in the 5400 block of South Bonney Avenue, near East Benson Highway and South Country Club Road. No injuries were reported and no other structures were affected by Tuesday's fire, which was reported at 3:40 p.m. Two engines and 20 firefighters brought the blaze under control, said Capt. Grant Cesarek.

2014

March 18, 2014, ***Arizona Daily Star*****:**

Fire destroys south-side Tucson home



MARCH 18, 2014 12:04 PM • KIMBERLY MATAS ARIZONA DAILY STAR

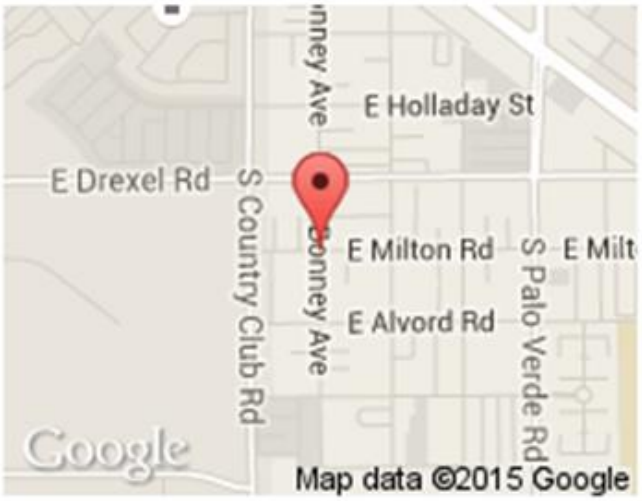
A fire early Tuesday morning displaced a family and destroyed their mobile home.

At about 1:20 a.m., crews were called to a home in the 3200 block of east Milton Road near South Country Club and East Drexel roads. They found heavy flames and smoke coming from the back bedroom of a singlewide mobile home, Capt. Grant Cesarek, spokesman for Rural/Metro Fire Department, said in a news release.

It took about 25 minutes to extinguish the blaze, Cesarek said.

The family escaped the burning home, but their pets died in the fire, he said.

The cause of the fire is under investigation. Damage is estimated at $30,000.



2014

March 23 & 25, 2014, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Moving up in Tucson



MARCH 23, 2014 12:00 AM • ARIZONA DAILY STAR

McMahan to oversee Rural/Metro operations

Rural/Metro Southern Arizona Operations announced the promotion of **Jonathan McMahan** to regional director/fire chief for Southern and Western Arizona.

He will provide direction and oversight of fire and ambulance operations in the Tucson and Yuma markets.

McMahan has more than 23 years' experience in fire and emergency services, having spent the last 11 years in the ranks of Rural/Metro.

Currently designated as chief fire officer by the Center for Public Safety Excellence, McMahan is also in the process of completing the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy in Maryland.

He holds two bachelor of science degrees as well as two master's of science degrees, all in the public safety field. He is near completion of his doctor of education in organizational leadership through Grand Canyon University, Rural/Metro said in a news release.



Michael Price - Battalion Chief Michael Price will oversee the operations division of the fire district to include training as well as the fleet and facilities programs.

Price has nearly 25 years of experience, beginning his career with Rural/Metro Fire Department in 1989. He also worked as a firefighter/EMT with Northwest Fire District and Green Valley Fire District.

In 1995 he became a nationally certified paramedic after graduating from the Tucson Medical Center Paramedic program.

Price attended Pima Community College and holds an A.A.S. degree in fire science.

He will oversee the operations division of the fire district to include training as well as the fleet and facilities programs.

2014

April 11, 2014, ***Arizona Daily Star***

Sabino Canyon Rescue

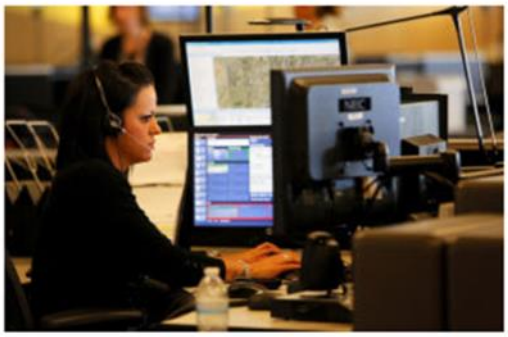
Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Email



On April 5th, at approximately 1450 hours, Search and Rescue Deputies from the Pima County Sheriff's Department were dispatched to a reported stroke victim on Sabino Canyon Trail. Deputies deployed on foot up the trail and made contact with the victim. It was determined to utilize the Department helicopter and hoist the patient out for quicker medical attention. The patient was hoisted out using a "Screamer" suit, after which she was flown to a parking lot at the north end of Sabino Canyon where she was received by members of the Southern Arizona Rescue Association and transferred to an ambulance for transport to a local hospital for treatment. Time is of the essence with stroke victims with effective care recommended within three hours. With the quick actions of the Rescue Deputies in coordination with the helicopter, SARA volunteers and Rural Metro Fire Department, this patient received care in just under one hour.

April 14, 2014, ***Arizona Daily Star***

County unveils new regional communications system, center



APRIL 15, 2014 12:00 AM • BY VERONICA M. CRUZ
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

With a simple turn of a knob on their radio devices, more than 30 public-safety agencies — including the Tucson Police and Fire departments, the Pima County Sheriff's Department and seven county hospitals — have the ability to communicate with one another during emergencies now that the county's regional communication system and center have been completed.

The Pima County Wireless Integrated Network and the Pima Emergency Communications and Operations Center, both bond-funded projects, have been in the works since 2001. That's when the 9/11 attacks prompted a discussion among officials about the need for all first responders to be able to easily communicate with one another.

What the project INCLUDES

- A new midtown communications center is the dispatch center for the Sheriff's Department, the Sahuarita Police Department and six fire agencies. It also serves as a backup center for the Tucson Police and Fire departments.
- The Pima County Emergency Operations Center is also housed at the communications facility. It has four breakout rooms and more than 60 work stations, allowing several agencies to coordinate during a major emergency.
- Upgrades were made to the city's Thomas O. Price Service Center, which also can serve as a backup for the county's dispatch center.
- Construction or improvement of 28 radio/microwave sites were made.
- The communications network was made of new and legacy microwave and fiber-network components.
- Also included: a state-of-the-art radio system that includes mobile, portable and desktop radios for emergency personnel.

How much it cost

In 2004, 60 percent of voters in Pima County approved $92 million in bonds for the project.

An additional $13 million in federal grants and other funding sources also was obtained.

The project came in under budget, and leftover money is being used for the second phase.

In that phase, infrastructure for radio coverage throughout the Tohono O'odham Nation will be provided.

How it's been used

The new system's ability to allow agencies to communicate directly with each other already has been used twice recently.

- The Drexel Heights Fire District used it to communicate with Rural/Metro emergency services, and the Tohono O'odham Nation Fire Department used it to coordinate efforts for a crash on Interstate 19.
- The Oro Valley Police Department, Pima Regional SWAT, Pima Regional Bomb Squad and the Golder Ranch Fire District used the system to talk to each other during a recent hostage situation.

April 14, 2014, ***Arizona Daily Star***

How it affects public

The general public will not experience anything different with the new system. Emergencies should still be called in to 911. Scanning equipment used to hear radio communications may need to be upgraded or reprogrammed to pick up dispatches on new frequencies.

What officials say

The inability of first responders to communicate with each other was a serious problem here and around the country, Pima County Sheriff **Clarence Dupnik** said.

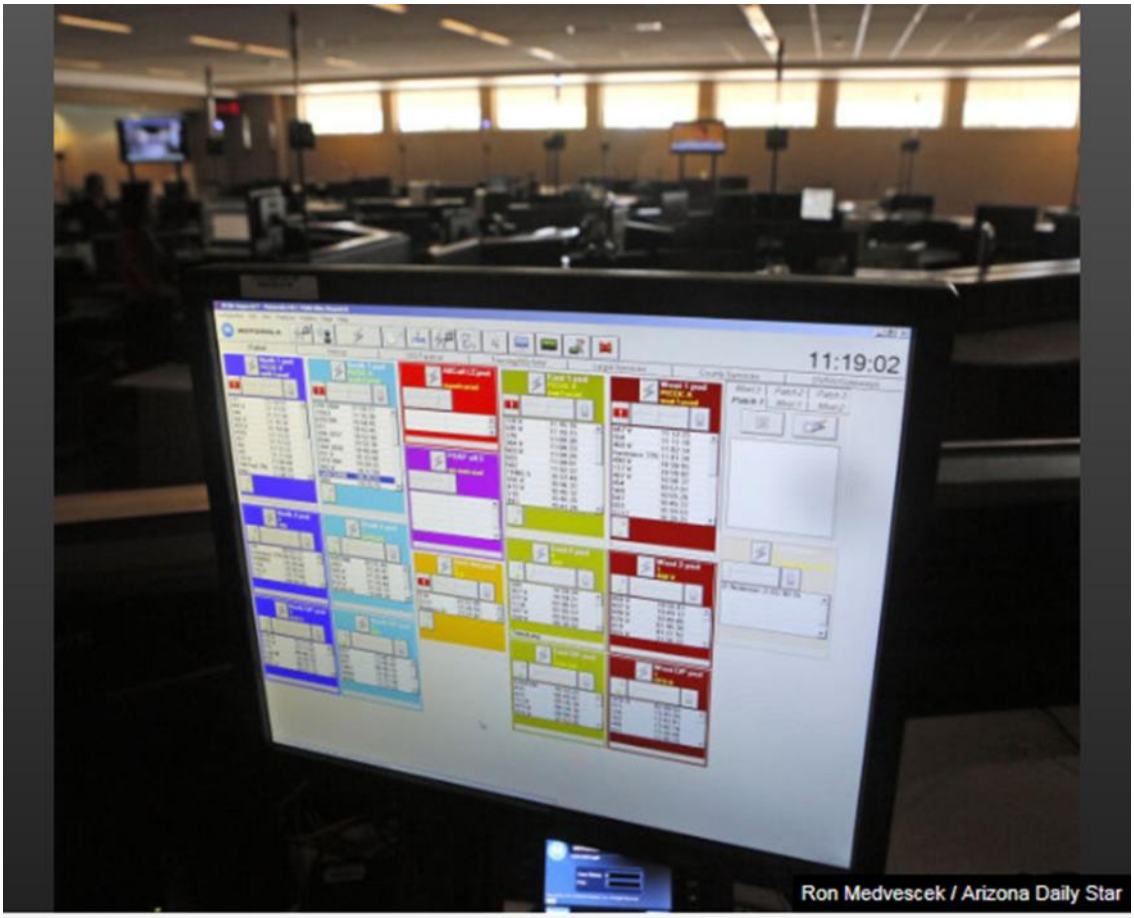
"We looked at how the situation was being handled, and it pointed out a serious problem in public safety, and that was communication," Dupnik said.

Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy **Chris Nanos** said the new system has been met with a positive response from personnel in the field.

"The radio is our lifeline, as they say in the streets, and that is so true. And because of the clarity and the coverage, the cops in the street are tickled pink," he said.

Larry Hecker, who was the chairman of the Citizens Bond Advisory Committee, said the project is an example of the power of collaborative work.

"This proves that when we do work together, there's nothing we can't accomplish," he said.



The color-coded call screen is a major upgrade to the audio system in the Sheriff's Communication Center section of the new facility. A two-way radio serves as backup for the

2014

April 21, 2014, http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/25301843/mobile-home-fire-displaces-5

Fire destroys mobile home, displaces 5

Posted: Apr 21, 2014 2:55 PM
Updated: Apr 21, 2014 3:00 PM

By Tucson News Now Staff - email

TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - Five people were displaced when their home was destroyed by fire Monday in the Helmet Peak Fire District.

According to the Rural/Metro Fire Department, the fire was in a mobile home in the 3000 block of West Camino del Yucca, west of Sahuarita.

Because of the lack of fire hydrants in the area, water tenders from Rural/Metro, Green Valley Fire District and Helmet Peak Fire Department were used in a tender shuttle for water supply.

One person was evaluated for injury, but was not transported to the hospital.

The cause of the fire has not yet been determined.

The Red Cross will assist the displaced occupants of the home.

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Five people who occupied this home will be assisted by the Red Cross. (Source: Rural/Metro Fire Department)



(Source: Rural/Metro Fire Department)

April 23, 2014, ***Arizona Daily*** *Star:*

Flames from burning trash pile spread to home on Tucson's south side

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email



Crews from Rural/Metro Fire Department were called at about 5 p.m. Tuesday, to a home in the 1600 block East McKain Road in a neighborhood southeast of South Old Nogales Highway and East Old Vail Road. A fire that started in a trash pile spread to a vacant home.

Buy Now

April 23, 2014, ***Arizona Daily*** *Star:*

Flames from burning trash pile spread to home on Tucson's south side

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email



Photos taken at the scene of a Tuesday evening fire illustrate the reason residents should clear a 30-foot "defensible space" around their homes, said Capt. Grant Cesarek, spokesman for Rural/Metro Fire Department. The fire started yards from the vacant mobile home, but quickly spread to the structure, burning a wide swath of dried weeds and grass. The fire also spread to grass growing underneath the home.

2014

April 30, 2014, http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/25397671/multiple-trailwe

Multiple trailers catch fire on southside

Posted: Apr 30, 2014 8:52 PM
Updated: Apr 30, 2014 9:58 PM

By Amanda Hurley - email

TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - Rural Metro Fire responded to a fire near Palo Verde and Benson Highway that burned multiple trailers, according to PIO Grant Cesarek.

Crews arrived at 3425 E Benson Highway around 8:30 p.m. and began containment. The fire has since been extinguished.

It is not yet known what caused the fire or the amount of damage done.

We have a crew on the scene. Stay with Tucson News Now for the latest details.





Photos courtesy Andres Cheno



May 7, 2014, http://www.tucsonlocalmedia.com/news/article_2115b792-d551-11e3-8e13-001a4bcf887a.html

Mountain Vista Fire to expand

Story Comments Print Font Size:
Recommend 0 Tweet G+1 0 Pin it 0 Share 0



Randy Metcalf/The Explorer

Mountain Vista Fire District

Mountain Vista Fire District Station 1 is built on district-owned land at 9310 N. Shannon.

Posted: Wednesday, May 7, 2014 4:00 am

Alan M. Petrillo, Special to The Explorer

At the midpoint of the year - on July 1 - the Mountain Vista Fire District will become what it calls "fully operational" by adding 33 firefighters to its full time staff.

The district's longtime contract with Rural/Metro Corp., a private corporation, to provide fire service personnel expires on June 30 and was not renewed at the direction of the district's board of directors.

"We made this decision to ensure the continued quality of fire and emergency services for the residents of our district," said Ed Wilkerson, Mountain Vista CEO and fire chief. "This allows for local control over all decisions concerning Mountain Vista Fire District's services. That includes planning, personnel, finances, equipment and maintenance."

The district operates out of two stations — it's main station and administrative center at 1175 W. Magee Rd., and another station at 9310 N. Shannon Rd.

Wilkerson pointed out that the 33 individuals being, all experienced firefighters, have accepted the district's offers of employment and are currently undergoing background checks and pre-employment physical examinations.

"The 33 new employees include six captain and six engineer positions," Wilkerson pointed out. "Fifteen of the 33 already are certified emergency paramedics, as are our two new battalion chiefs, Darin Reid and Michael Price."

2014

May 7, 2014, http://www.tucsonlocalmedia.com/news/article_2115b792-d551-11e3-8e13-001a4bcf887a.html

Thirty-one of the newly hired firefighters are existing Rural/Metro captains, engineers and firefighters, Wilkerson said. The other two individuals are firefighters at Picture Rocks Fire District and the Arizona Air National Guard Fire Department.

Of all those individuals, about one third of them are 10 to 15-year fire veterans, one third are in the seven to eight-year range, while the other third have a few years experience, Wilkerson said.

Wilkerson noted that on July 1 the district will be "paramedic staffed, 24/7" where district personnel will respond to emergency medical services (EMS) calls along with Rural/Metro's Southwest Ambulance. Wilkerson added that while Mountain Vista's contract with Rural/Metro for fire services will be terminated, Southwest Ambulance will continue to operate in the fire district "because it has the certificate of necessity for medical services in this area."

Wilkerson said he expected that EMS calls will be answered in the district using Mountain Vista's new Ford F-150 quick response vehicles specially outfitted for such calls.

Mountain Vista Fire District owns two 2010 KME pumpers, a 2011 KME 79-foot AerialCat quint (pumper-ladder combination), a Type 3 wildland engine, a 2013 Midwest Fire tanker carrying 2,000 gallons of water and a 1,000-gallon per minute pump, and the three Ford F150 4-wheel drive quick response units for EMS calls but that also carry some firefighting equipment.

The Mountain Vista tax rate will increase as a result of the district going fully operational, Wilkerson noted. The district has projected a $4.6 million budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, with the 2014-15 budget project at $5.6 million. Wilkerson said he expects the Mountain Vista tax rate to come in at between $1.90 and $2.00 per $100 secondary assessed value.

Comparable tax rates for fire districts are $1.61 for Golder Ranch Fire District, $2.69 for Northwest Fire District and $3.25 for both Picture Rocks and Avra Valley Fire Districts. Wilkerson pointed out that those other tax rates do not include the rate for bonding at the fire districts, which would increase the base tax rate. Mountain Vista has no outstanding bonds, he said, other than on the fire stations, which are paid for our of the annual budget.

In terms of annexation, Wilkerson said Mountain Vista has already completed annexation of the Camino de Manana and Camino de Oeste areas in the northwest part of Pima County at the request of residents in those two areas.

"Our growth philosophy is that first, growth has to be responsible and not negatively impact our existing service area, and second, the people of the particular area have to want to be annexed," he said. The district's core values, he added, are to be "responsible, transparent, efficient and provide quality emergency services to our citizens."

2014

May 21, 2014, TFD— TFD and RMFD working together to contain a brush fire this morning on the South side, near Country Club and Ajo.





2014

June 2, 2014, http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/25684082/ruralmetro-responds-to-near-drowning-call

Heat related calls keep first responders busy

Posted: Jun 02, 2014 4:42 PM
Updated: Jun 02, 2014 4:55 PM

By Mauricio Marin - email

TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - Paramedics and emergency workers stayed busy around Southern Arizona Monday helping people who had problems coping with the heat.

Rural/Metro Fire, Tucson Fire Department and Northwest Fire Department all reported having responded to several heat related emergency calls. None have been life threatening.

Emergency calls include hikers becoming overwhelmed by the heat, and first responders have also been helping workers who work outdoors, according to Rural/Metro Fire Captain and Public Information Officer Grant Cesarek.

Workers who spend most of their day outside are especially vulnerable to getting dehydrated and sick from the extreme heat, according to Cesarek.

First responders tell us many of the people they helped Monday often stopped sweating because they were so dehydrated and started to feel sick very quickly.

"It comes on very rapid," Cesarek said. "They have seen some of the precursors to it, 'Yeah I knew I was sweaty, I knew that I was fatigued,' but they didn't pay close attention to it. When we get on scene as paramedics and firefighters and we see somebody who has stopped sweating and they have flushed, red and dry skin, we are very concerned."

Emergency responders say be sure to drink plenty of water and stay inside as much as you can. Also, if you or someone around you feels sick from the sun, get help right away.



First responders have been helping workers who work outdoors among others, according to Rural/Metro Fire Captain and Public Information Officer Grant Cesarek.

June 2, 2014, http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/25684082/ruralmetro-responds-to-near-drowning-call

Rural/Metro responds to near-drowning call

Posted: Jun 03, 2014 1:55 PM
Updated: Jun 03, 2014 4:24 PM

By John Ames - bio | email

TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - A 5-year-old boy was taken to a local hospital after a near-drowning incident today on Tucson's northeast side.

According to the Rural/Metro Fire Department, crews responded to the 7900 block of East Snyder Road, near North Sabino Canyon Road, at about 12:45.

The boy was swimming with family when they found him unconscious in the water. It is not known how long he was in the water.

Bystanders performed CPR while 911 was contacted.

The boy was breathing and crying when the Rural/Metro firefighter/paramedics arrived.

He was taken to a local hospital for further evaluation. His condition is not known.

June 3 & 7, 2014, *Arizona Daily S*tar:

Near drowning of boy, 5, on Tucson's far northeast side

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

June 03, 2014 5:45 pm • By Carmen Duarte

A 5-year-old boy who was swimming with his family on Tucson's far northeast side Tuesday was revived after he was found unconscious in a community pool.

Rural/Metro Fire Department crews were dispatched at 12:44 p.m. to the 7900 block of East Snyder Road after receiving a 911 call about the incident, said Capt. Grant Cesarek, a fire department spokesman.

The neighborhood is east of North Sabino Canyon Road.

Bystanders administered CPR to the boy, and the child was revived and crying, Cesarek said. He said it was not known how long the boy was unconscious in the pool.

Paramedics transported the boy to a hospital and his condition was not immediately available.

Hazardous chemical spill forces closure of Catalina Highway at Houghton

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

June 07, 2014 4:24 pm • Arizona Daily Star 0

A hazardous chemical spill in the road led to the closure of the intersection of Catalina Highway and Houghton Road on Saturday.

Rural/Metro Fire crews were sent to the scene at about 11 a.m. and determined it was a spill of muriatic acid, which is used in industrial applications and as a pool chemical. They blocked off the intersection and shut down the road along with Pima County Sheriff's Department personnel.

A hazardous materials team donned protective gear and applied soda ash to the acid to raise the pH, then removed the bulk of the soda ash in buckets from the road for disposal. The Pima County Offices of Emergency Management and Department of Transportation were notified to further mitigate the spill and assess the condition of the road, Rural/Metro said in a news release.

2014

July 16, 2014, http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/25684082/ruralmetro-responds-to-near-drowning-call

Morning storm brings heavy rain to TucsonA car is not a boat

Recommend 0 tweet0 g+1 0 Share Print Email



Kelly Presnell / Arizona Daily Star

Rural Metro firefighters help a woman from her stranded minivan on South Country Club just south of East Drexel Road. A storm early Tuesday brought heavy rain to Tucson and had the normally dry Santa Cruz River flowing from bank to bank.

July 14, 2014, *Arizona Daily Star:*

Singular honor for a firefighter

RURAL/METRO NAMES STATION FOR FRED ROOF

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion



James S. Wood/ Arizona Daily Star

July 14, 2004 12:00 am • By Jennifer Girardin arizona daily star

0

2014

August 23, 2014, http://tucson.com/news/blogs/police-beat/fire-evacuates-lunch-crowd-at-cindy-lou-s/article_f3775a9a-7875-5740-bc92-0a6a2d77fa8a.html

Fire evacuates lunch crowd at Cindy Lou's



7 HOURS AGO • BY GERALD M. GAY

Cooks and servers were in the middle of the lunch-hour rush at Cindy Lou's Café Friday when the south-side restaurant began filling with smoke.

Fire crews arrived just after 1 p.m. while workers and diners were evacuating the eatery at 3329 E. Benson Highway near South Palo Verde Road, said Capt. Grant Cesarek, spokesman for the Rural/Metro Fire Department.

As they pulled up, they "found smoke coming from eaves of the roofline," Cesarek said. "There was smoke inside the entire restaurant area."

Firefighters cut two ventilation holes in the roof and prevented the fire from spreading through the building, Cesarek said. Crews sprayed water through the holes to extinguish the fire.

It took about 28 firefighters 25 minutes to bring the blaze under control. No injuries were reported.

As of Friday night, the cause of the fire was still under investigation, Cesarek said. He did not have an estimate of the damage.

Waitress Laure Badgett, who was working when the fire broke out, said it was just another normal lunch service when smoke began billowing out of the vents and into the dining room.

"One of our customers yelled for everyone to get out," she said. "It got very smoky very fast."

Badgett had to break the news to owner Cynthia Bosland, who wasn't at the restaurant at the time.

"I'm devastated," Bosland said. "There are a lot of good memories in that building."

Bosland and her husband, Chuck Bosland, have owned Cindy Lou's Café for 10 years.

The couple also owns Cindy Lou's II in Three Points.

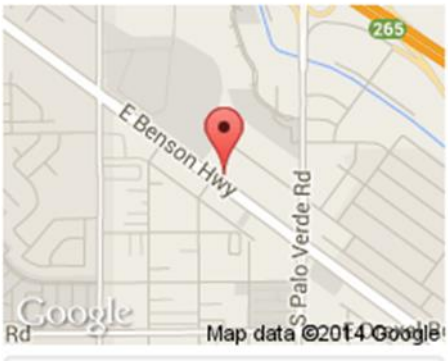
Contest finalist

Cindy Lou's Café is one of the finalists in the Star's Breakfast Madness contest. Omar's Hi-Way Chef at the Triple T truck stop is the other.

2014

August 23, 2014, http://tucson.com/news/blogs/police-beat/fire-evacuates-lunch-crowd-at-cindy-lou-s/article_f3775a9a-7875-5740-bc92-0a6a2d77fa8a.html

Fire evacuates lunch crowd at Cindy Lou's




Mamta Popat / Arizona Daily Star

From left, Robert Weixelborfer, Leo Conley and Cynthia Bosland, the namesake of Cindy Lou's


Kelly Presnell / Arizona Daily Star

Rural Metro Fire Department personnel soak a tough spot in the attic area while fighting a fire at Cindy Lou's Cafe.

Customers and employees at Cindy Lou's Cafe watch as firefighters from Rural/Metro Fire Department work on extinguishing a fire from the roof of the restaurant on Friday. The cafe is located at 3329 E. Benson Highway.

August 31, 2014, http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/26416322/first-responders-urging-drivers-to-pay-attention-to-road-this-holiday-weekend

First responders urging drivers to pay attention to road this holiday weekend

Posted: Aug 31, 2014 4:14 PM
Updated: Aug 31, 2014 5:23 PM

By Mauricio Marin - email



TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - More drivers on the road this weekend because of Labor Day and local first responders say if you are traveling on streets around town, look out for emergency vehicles.



Recently, there have been situations where fire trucks and ambulances have had to slow down or stop completely while heading to an emergency call because drivers are not paying attention, according to Rural/Metro Firefighters.

Authorities said it could be potentially dangerous because it could lead to accidents and also keep first responders from getting to an emergency quickly when every second counts.

Officials said they are noticing some drivers distracted with their heads down possibly looking at cell phones are answering phone calls then having to swerve quickly when they see the emergency vehicle passing through.

Additionally, firefighters said drivers may also try to anticipate where a fire truck or ambulance may be heading, but end up getting in the emergency vehicles way.

Rural/Metro Public Information Officer and Captain, Grant Cesarek, recommends drivers avoid distractions and pull over to the side of the road until an emergency vehicle is able to pass through.

Drivers in Southern Arizona could be ticketed and cited if they are caught failing to yield to an emergency response vehicle.

2014

September 8, 2014, http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/

Flooding in Tucson results in 1 death, multiple rescues, closed classes

Posted: Sep 08, 2014 10:58 AM
Updated: Sep 08, 2014 1:25 PM
By John Ames - bio | email



TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - A woman died Monday after her vehicle was swept downstream in a wash on Tucson's east side.

According to the Tucson Fire Department, crews responded to reports of a car in the Alamo Wash near Kolb Road at 9:31 a.m. The first unit on the scene could not see the vehicle.

A bystander reported that the car was pinned against a pedestrian bridge, completely submerged.

As the crew began to attempt a rescue, the car was pushed under the bridge and swept further downstream.

Firefighters were able to see one person in the car before it disappeared under the water, which was about 12 feet deep.

TFD units searched downstream at various locations before finding the car about 30 minutes later about three blocks away at E. 22nd Street. It was pinned with several trees and other debris against a concrete tunnel.

The victim was described as a woman in her 50s. She was not identified pending notification of next of kin.

This incident was one of many throughout the day, as heavy downpours caused washes across Tucson to run. Emergency crews were kept busy rescuing stranded motorists throughout the city.

Rural/Metro Fire crews rescued one person from a vehicle that attempted to cross running water on River Road east of Pontatoc.

The Pima County Sheriff's Department posted a tweet on Twitter warning motorists on Catalina Highway use caution due to possible rock slides on Mt. Lemmon.

All JTED classes in Pima County were canceled. Classrooms at the Faith Lutheran School near E. 5th Street and Alvernon Way were flooded.

Gov. Jan Brewer declared a statewide emergency because of record rainfall in Phoenix and flooding in Tucson.

The wet weather also caused power outages. Nearly 1,800 customers were without power this morning near Marana.

Pinal County residents who need sand bags can call 520-866-7047 or 7046 for assistance. Pinal County residents need to bring their own shovels to 3535 East Hunt Highway.

2014

September 13, 2014, http://tucson.com/midtown-motor-home-goes-up-in-flames/image_3e350373-d84a-5d42-9295-55d4a12e4bd1.html

Midtown Motor home goes up in flames

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email



Mike Christy / Arizona Daily Star

Rural/Metro Fire Department Capt. Todd Webb, left, sprays water on remaining hotspots where a fire engulfed a motor home in the 3300 block of North Chapel Avenue on Friday. Capt. Brian Talley said the call came in around 2:45 p.m. for the blaze, which was confined to the motor home

September 20, 2014, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Teen hits ledge, not water, in Sabino cliff jump



SEPTEMBER 20, 2014 3:07 PM • KIMBERLY MATAS
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A helicopter was called in Saturday morning to rescue a 16-year-old girl after she tried to jump into a pool of water at Sabino Canyon, but landed on a ledge instead.

First responders were called out around 10:45 a.m. for the rescue near Sabino Creek between tram stops eight and nine, Capt. Jay Karlik of Rural/Metro Fire Department, said in a news release.

Deputies from the Pima County Sherriff's Office, volunteers from Southern Arizona Rescue Association and a Department of Public Safety helicopter responded as well.

The "slipped while attempting to jump into a pool of water from a cliff and got stuck onto a ledge approximately 10 feet down," Karlik said.

Firefighters hiked down to the ledge and provided medical care until the helicopter could lift her to an ambulance waiting along the tram route, said Deputy Tom Peine, a spokesman for the Pima County Sheriff's Department.

The girl's injuries were non-life threatening, Karlik said.

2014

September 24, 2014, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Fire crews aiding burn victim

Recommend 19 Tweet 1 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

September 24, 2014 12:17 pm • Arizona Daily Star

Rural/Metro fire crews are currently working to rescue a burn victim from a drainage area on the city's southeast side.

Rescue personnel are at the scene, which is near South Palo Verde Road and East 37th Street.

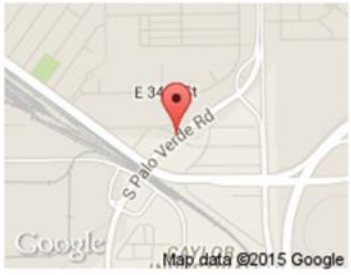
A Rural/Metro official said the victim has suffered significant burns.

The injured person is in a drainage area. Medical personnel are treating the patient as other personnel prepare to bring the patient out of the drainage area.

It's not immediately known how the person was injured.

RURAL/METRO FIRE

Enlarge Photo



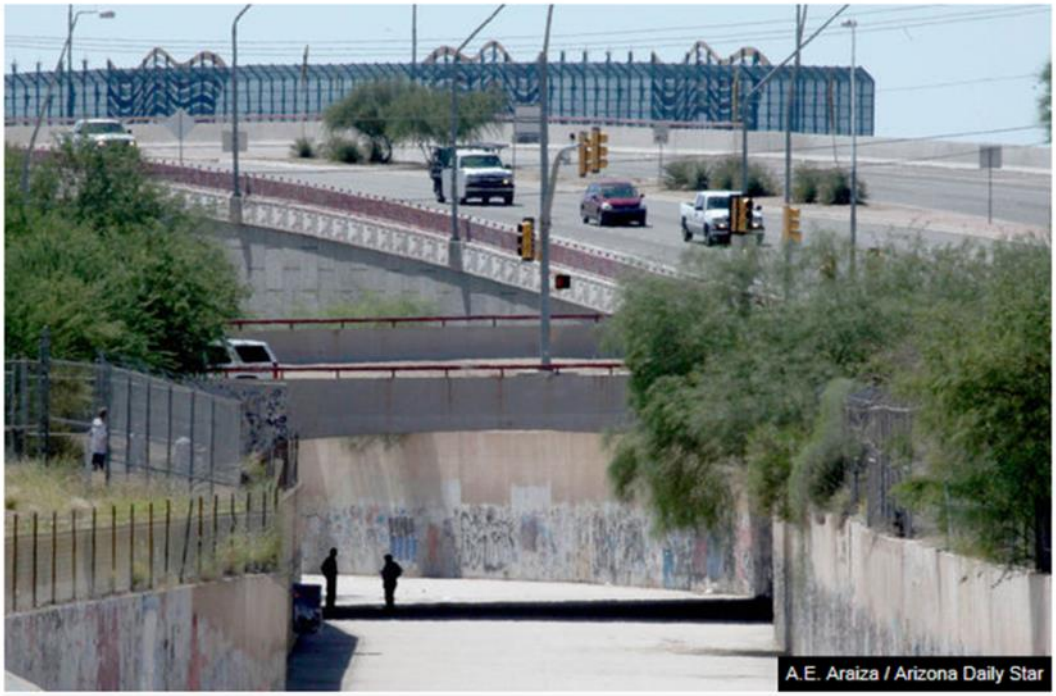
2014

September 25, 2014, http://tucson.com/news/blogs/police-beat/woman-found-on-fire-in-southside-drainage-canal/article_2cecf8c6-442f-11e4-9867-3f5123d778dc.html

Woman found on fire in southside drainage canal

Recommend 112 Tweet 1 +1 0 Pin it Share 2 Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion



A.E. Araiza / Arizona Daily Star

Pima County Sheriff's Department detectives investigate the drainage area around East 37th Street and South Palo Verde where a woman was discovered with life-threatening burn injuries.

A woman has been hospitalized with life-threatening burns after she was found ablaze in a southside drainage canal.

Related Links

- Police Beat blog

Firefighters and sheriff's deputies were called just before noon to a canal near the intersection of East 37th Street and South Palo Verde Road, said Capt. Grant Cesarek, spokesman for Rural/Metro Fire Department.

They found a woman with severe burns in the canal and had to hoist her out with a Stokes basket, Cesarek said. She was taken to the University of Arizona Medical Center.

Pima County Sheriff's deputies are on scene investigating. No further information is yet available.

Check back with Tucson.com for updates.

2014

September 25, 2014, http://www.kpho.com/story/26620765/woman-found-burned-near-dmafb

Woman found severely burned near D-M has died

Posted: Sep 24, 2014 3:57 PM
Updated: Sep 25, 2014 10:55 AM
By Mauricio Marin - email



TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - A woman who was found burned in a drainage culvert near Davis-Monthan Air Force Base has died from her injuries.

According to the Pima County Sheriff's Department, Valerie Sue Bellemare, 45, died on Wednesday night at the Maricopa Burn Center.

She was found around noon on Wednesday, according to Rural/Metro officials, after they received a call about a woman in a drainage ditch off Palo Verde Road and 37th Street.

The Pima County Sheriff's Department is continuing the investigation. Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call 911 or 88-CRIME.



Most Read



October 28, 2014, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Southside man treated for burns after being shocked

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

October 28, 2014 9:06 am • Arizona Daily Star 1

The Rural/Metro Fire Department units responded to a scene where a man suffered severe burns after coming into contact with electricity.

At about 8:24 a.m., units responded to the 9000 block of South Rita Road where a 40-year-old man suffered second and third degree burns to his face and hand, said Capt. Jay Karlik, a spokesman for the department.

He came into contact with electricity while servicing an electrical panel, the spokesman said. He was transported by helicopter to the University of Arizona Medical Center.

The man is said to be in stable condition.



Enlarge Photo

October 29, 2014, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Pedestrian struck in the Catalina Foothills

Recommend 23 Tweet 1 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

October 29, 2014 8:15 pm • By Carmen Duarte

A 17-year-old girl was struck by a vehicle in a Catalina Foothills neighborhood Wednesday night.

The teen's shoulder was pinned under a tire when Rural/Metro Fire Department firefighters arrived at the scene, which was dispatched shortly after 7 p.m., said fire Capt. Jay Karlik.

The incident occurred near North Rock Canyon Road, which is in a neighborhood south of East Sunrise Drive and west of North Kolb Road.

Firefighters freed the girl from under the car, and she was taken to University of Arizona Medical Center, Karlik said.

The girl was in stable condition and had non-life threatening injuries, said Karlik.

Deputies of the Pima County Sheriff's Department were investigating the incident.

No further information was immediately available.

November 3, 2014, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Rural Metro responds to apple trailer fire on I-19



NOVEMBER 03, 2014 9:23 AM • BY YOOHYUN JUNG

The Rural/Metro Fire Department crews responded to a scene on I-19 near Sahuarita Road where a tractor trailer full of apples was on fire.

At 5:14 a.m., units found "heavy fire and smoke coming from the trailer section" of the 53-foot full-size semi-trailer, said Capt. Jay Karlik, a spokesman for the department, in a news release.

Rural/Metro worked with the Green Valley Fire Department to extinguish the blaze, he said.

There were no injuries.



The Rural/Metro Fire Department and Green Valley Fire Department worked together on Monday, Nov. 3, 2014 to extinguish a blaze on a tractor trailer carrying apples on I-19 near Sahuarita Road.

2014

November 5, 2014, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Natural Disaster Training



Kayla Jacobson, 17, lays on a stretcher with a fake head injury as part of a natural disaster exercise at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. DMAFB has partnered with local fire departments such as Tucson Fire, Rural Metro, Green Valley, Rincon Valley, Tucson Airport Authority, Sierra Vista and more to provide emergency response assistance . Nine local hospitals were involved including the local Veterans Administration Hospital which coordinated the effort. Under the training scenario patients were flown from New Orleans to DMAFB after a fictitious hurricane (Irene) damaged the area. While on the runway they are to receive and triage patients. The VA and other ambulance services provided transportation to their facility and other local area hospitals. The photo was taken on Tuesday, November 4, 2014.

2014

November 5, 2014, *Arizona Daily Star*:

DMAFB Natural Disaster Training

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email



Scott Soley, bottom, portrays an 84-year-old kidney donor who is experiencing a loss of blood while being examined by Rural Metro's James Ellis, left, and Steve Knight as they take part in a natural disaster exercise at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

2014

December 18, 2014, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Man killed in crash on far east side

Recommend 174 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share 5 Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

December 18, 2014 6:45 pm • Carmen Duarte Arizona Daily Star

A 63-year-old man was killed after he lost control of his truck and crashed into a tree Thursday on Tucson's far east side.

Frank Miller was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash on East Speedway near North Houghton Road, said Deputy Tom Peine, a Pima County Sheriff's Department spokesman.

At about 3:30 p.m., deputies responded to a report of a crash near the intersection of Speedway and Houghton, and found a Ford F-350 truck crashed into a tree just east of the intersection, Peine said.

Miller, the driver and sole occupant, was trapped and unresponsive inside the truck. Rural/Metro Fire Department paramedics responded to the crash, and Miller was pronounced dead, Peine said.



Frank Miller, 63, was killed Dec. 18, 2014 after he lost control of his truck and crashed into a tree on Tucson's far east side.

Enlarge Photo

Traffic investigators determined that the truck was traveling east on Speedway, and Miller attempted to pass two vehicles in a no passing zone. Miller lost control of the truck and crashed into the tree, Peine said.

2015

January 7, 2015, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Bicyclist struck by car on Tucson's far northeast side

Recommend 69 Tweet 2 +1 0 Share 1 Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

January 07, 2015 8:15 pm • Carmen Duarte Arizona Daily Star

A bicyclist was hit by a car on North Sabino Canyon Road, just south of the intersection with Kolb Road Wednesday night.



A bicyclist was struck by a black Dodge Charger sedan Jan. 7, 2015 on North Sabino Canyon Road.

(1) More Photos

The bicyclist suffered serious, possibly life-threatening injuries and was treated by Rural/Metro Fire Department paramedics before he was taken to University of Arizona Medical Center, said Deputy Tom Peine, a Pima County Sheriff's Department spokesman.

Shortly after 7 p.m., 911 callers reported the crash and deputies were dispatched to the scene, said Peine.

Traffic detectives said a black Dodge Charger was traveling north on Sabino Canyon Road, and as the 42-year-old driver headed to make a right turn he struck the bicyclist who also was traveling north, Peine said.

The driver said he did not see the 46-year-old bicyclist who was traveling in a bike lane, Peine said.

The investigation is continuing. No citations were issued.

2015

January 8, 2015, *Arizona Daily Star*:

5 injured, 1 critically, in 3-vehicle crash

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

January 08, 2015 9:15 pm • Arizona Daily Star

One person sustained life-threatening injuries, and four others were also injured, in a south-side crash Thursday night, Rural/Metro Fire Department says.

The three-vehicle crash was reported at about 7:30 p.m. in the 9600 block of South Nogales Highway. The critically injured patient was trapped in a vehicle and removed with specialized rescue tools. The other four patients sustained injuries that are not believed to be life-threatening, said Capt. Jay Karlik, a public information officer for Rural/Metro. Southwest Ambulance also responded to the crash.

All patients were taken to University of Arizona Medical Center Main Campus.

No other information was immediately available.



Enlarge Photo

February 2, 2015, *Arizona Daily Star*:

PENSION BENEFITS, LONGEVITY PAY IN QUESTION

SW Ambulance union may strike if final negotiations fail



FEBRUARY 02, 2015 7:30 PM • BY YOOHYUN JUNG

Southwest Ambulance employees have authorized a strike if final negotiations between its union and Rural/Metro Corp. over employee benefits fail.

The local I-60 chapter of the International Fire Fighters Association, representing about 800 employees, voted in favor of having the strike as an option to settle the years-long dispute with its parent company over retirement benefits, longevity pay and overtime.

Four additional negotiations in a series of nearly 50 meetings will take place this month. The union would have to give a 10-day notice to the company if a strike were to happen.

"It's been this very big struggle," said chapter president **Kevin Burkhardt**. "We've been trying to work on this behind closed doors for the last three years."

The labor contract between Southwest Ambulance employees and Rural/Metro expired in September 2012, he said. Since March of that year, the union and management have been trying unsuccessfully to negotiate a new labor contract.

The union alleged that Rural/Metro illegally reduced pension benefits for nearly 1,100 employees by changing the retirement benefit formula in 2007 without properly informing employees, and withheld longevity pay for senior employees.

The union is asking for $8.7 million in lost pension money. Burkhardt said it is not negotiating for financial gain but rather, contesting unfair labor practices.

It took the pension issue to the National Labor Relations Board after discovering a discrepancy in pension disbursement. An arbitrator found the company violated the terms of the Employment Retirement Income Security Act by failing to send notices to all employees about the changes.

Greg James, west division president of Rural/Metro, said the former union leadership agreed to the changes in the benefit formula, which the company wants to continue using. It has appealed the arbitrator's decision and the case is ongoing, he added.

Retirement benefits, longevity pay and overtime are things afforded by having a contract in place, he said. That way, the employer can assure that the quality of labor meeting its expectation will be provided in exchange.

"At the end of the day, we're a business," he said. "It makes sense for us to provide a fair and competitive wage in the market. We absolutely want to do that. But we need a contract in place."

Should a strike take place, Rural/Metro has a contingency plan to address emergency response delays, James said.

February 2, 2015, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Overtime will be made available for other Rural/Metro employees in Arizona who are willing to take shifts. The company has made arrangements with fire departments in the area that will staff Southwest Ambulance vehicles with paramedics.

The Arizona Department of Health Services would expedite the process of state licensure for potential Rural/Metro employees coming from out of state, James said. But that would be a last resort, and the company would not try to circumvent the necessary training or standards.

Emergency service providers do not want to lose the public's trust because of service delays caused by work stoppage, but if an agreement cannot be reached, the union would be forced to exhaust that option, said Burkhardt, calling that the worst-case scenario.

"The employees are kind of backed against a wall," he said.

In an address to the Sahuarita Town Council last week, Green Valley Fire District Chief **Chuck Wunder** assured town leaders he was working closely with the Rural/Metro to draw up contingency plans. Green Valley Fire covers a portion of Sahuarita.

"Some of those contingencies include the possibility of the Green Valley Fire District working in conjunction with them, (Rural/Metro)," Wunder said.

An additional backup plan, briefly mentioned by Wunder, has the fire district working with neighboring first responders to temporarily provide ambulance services.

"We've secured the necessary resources to provide ambulance transport services not only within our fire district but we've reached enough depth in that plan to include the Sahuarita area as well," Wunder said.

2015

February 10, 2015, *Arizona Daily Star*:

4 injured in Tucson mobile home fire



FEBRUARY 10, 2015 6:22 AM • BY CAITLIN SCHMIDT

Four people were burned in an early morning mobile home fire in the area of South Country Club Road and East Benson Highway, authorities said.

Rural/Metro Fire Department units arrived in the 5000 block of South Bonney Avenue around 2 a.m, finding a mobile home on fire with four victims outside, all suffering from burns, said Assistant Fire Chief Mike Schwartz.

Two of the patients were treated at the scene and the others were transported to University of Arizona Medical Center.

There is no further information at the time as to the cause of the fire.



A south-side mobile home fire early Tuesday morning left four people with burn injuries.

February 26, 2015, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Tucson gas line break fixed; roads open



FEBRUARY 26, 2015 12:52 PM • BY CAITLIN SCHMIDT

A Southwest Gas Co. crew repaired a gas line break in the area of Sabino Canyon and East Snyder Road Thursday afternoon.

Snyder has reopened between East Moonstone Drive and North Rockliff Road, Deputy Tom Peine, a Pima County Sheriff's Department spokesman said.

East Snyder Road also has opened at North Shadow Valley Drive.

The repair involved a four to six inch gas line break and a small number of evacuations took place in the area, Rural/Metro Fire Department officials said.

Woman hurt at Tanque Verde Falls



FEBRUARY 26, 2015 4:04 PM • CARMEN DUARTE
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A 27-year-old woman was injured at Tanque Verde Falls Thursday afternoon, and it took search and rescue crews about two hours to hike in and carry her out of the area.

The woman was hiking alone and suffered an injury after she fell about 5 feet, said Deputy Tom Peine, a Pima County Sheriff's Department spokesman.

The incident was reported about 3 p.m. and the woman was carried out by a Southern Arizona Rescue Association crew shortly before 5 p.m., said Peine. Deputies and Rural/Metro Fire Department firefighters also were involved in the rescue, he said.

He said the woman was having trouble breathing, and she was taken to a hospital by Rura/Metro Fire Department paramedics. Details about her injuries were not known, said Peine.

2015

March 26, 2015, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Two critically injured in I-10/Craycroft crash

Recommend 5 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

March 26, 2015 10:17 pm • Arizona Daily Star

Two critically injured patients have been taken to Banner University Medical Center Tucson after a crash tonight at I-10 and Craycroft Road, Rural/Metro says.

Enlarge Photo

Initial reports were that up to five people were injured in the crash, Rural/Metro said.

A spokesman for the Arizona Department of Public Safety is on his way to the scene and had no additional information yet.

2015

March 31, 2015, http://tucsonlocalmedia.com/news/article_cebe44e6-d71b-11e4-9e1a-0fa38fdf1d6b.html

Private ambulance agreement to aid NW Fire residents

Story Comments Print Font Size:
Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Pin it 0 Share 0

Posted: Monday, March 30, 2015 1:35 pm

Northwest Fire

The Northwest Fire District (NWFD) and the Rural/Metro Corporation (R/M) have partnered together in a tiered approach to ambulance transportation for the residents of the NWFD. "The implementation of this public-private partnership focuses on enhancing care and bettering patient outcomes while also eliminating unnecessary redundancies in the system" says Brad Bradley, NWFD's Assistant Fire Chief of Operations. "We look forward to fully implementing this system over the next few months".

Northwest Fire has recently been awarded a Certificate of Necessity (CON) by the Arizona Department of Health Services to begin providing advanced life support (ALS) ambulance transportation for the most severely injured or ill patients within NWFD. Under the new model, the NWFD's currently contracted ambulance transportation partner, Rural/Metro Corporation (R/M), will begin providing basic life support (BLS) and inter-facility transports within NWFD, as well as back-up ALS transportation when needed.

According to Rural/Metro Vice-President John Karolzak "The new ambulance model within the District will realign existing vehicles, equipment, and personnel from both Northwest Fire and R/M. This will result in better operational efficiencies while increasing long-term sustainability."

The NWFD's CON award represents an intensive three-year effort. "We're especially pleased with the decision from the Director of the Department of Health Services in recognizing our combined efforts to better the State of Arizona's emergency care and ambulance transportation system," says Patrick McGroder, attorney at Gallagher & Kennedy.

"This cooperative effort has led to the development of a new system built on the strengths of both partners," says Northwest Fire Chief Michael Brandt. "This is a giant step forward in better serving our citizens and maintaining the highest standard of care we provide to our community."

2015

April 15, 2015, http://tucsonlocalmedia.com/news/article_f01f7842-e2d0-11e4-9838-db0d13c998c6.html

Northwest Fire District receives certificate of necessity for ambulance transport

Story Comments Image (5) Print Font Size:

Recommend 280 Tweet 8 +1 0 Pin it 0 Share 7

Previous Next

Posted: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 4:00 am | *Updated: 8:35 am, Wed Apr 15, 2015.*

Chris Flora, The Explorer



J.D. Fitzgerald/Tucson Local Med

Northwest Fire District

Northwest Fire District and Southwest Ambulance paramedics work on a patient.

Northwest Fire District has acquired a Certificate of Necessity and reached a new agreement with Rural/Metro Corporation for providing ambulance services.

While NWFD has always maintained a fleet of ambulances to service its community members, the lack of a CON meant it was not being reimbursed by insurance companies for its operations. Now, in its new agreement with Rural/Metro, NWFD will respond to and be reimbursed for advanced life support calls, while they will continue to respond to basic life support calls.

According to NWFD Division Chief of Medical Services Michael Duncan, the CON will allow revenues generated by ambulance transportation systems to stay in the district, decreasing taxpayer burden.

"Equally important is that the CON minimizes the duplication of services, such as sending two ambulances from different agencies to a single patient," Duncan added.

NWFD most recently renewed its contract with SA in July 2013, the parameters of which determined response time standards, number of ambulances dedicated to NWFD, and allowed SA to operate from NWFD stations and utilize its radio stations.

Fire officials say the new agreement will continue that partnership with added benefits.

"The new ambulance model within the district will realign existing vehicles, equipment, and personnel from both Northwest Fire and Rural Metro," said Rural/Metro Vice President John Karolzak. "This will result in better operational efficiencies while increasing long-term sustainability."

In order to receive its CON, NWFD undertook a three-year effort in which it had to demonstrate to the Department of Health Services that it was "fit and proper" to provide ambulance services, and also had to show a public necessity for those services.

To demonstrate public necessity, Duncan says the district referred to feedback from the community. In 2013, NWFD collaborated with community stakeholders to develop its 2014-16 strategic plan, and in that, citizens told NWFD staff they desired advancing patient care and emergency ambulance transportation.

Duncan says in being awarded the CON, the district has demonstrated organization expertise, integrity, fiscal competence, and necessary resources.

"While ambulance transportation may be a new venture for the NWFD, we've been proactive in many areas of pre-hospital care for years and were recognized nationally for those efforts in 2011 when we received the Congressional Fire Services Institute Award for fire-based EMS excellence," said Duncan.

NWFD Chief Michael Brandt applauded the new approach to ambulance services in a recent press release, saying, "This cooperative effort has led to the development of a new system built on the strengths of both partners. This is a giant step forward in better serving our citizens and maintaining the highest standard of care we provide to the community."

In the meantime – and unrelated to NWFD seeking and acquiring its CON – a potential strike is looming pending contract negotiations between Southwest Ambulance and parent company, Rural/Metro.

The feud between the two entities came after a private firm bought out Rural/Metro in 2011. By 2012, when the contract between Rural/Metro and Southwest Ambulance expired, tensions rose when Southwest Ambulance employees claimed their pension plans were being unfairly altered, translating to less retirement money – a claim Rural/Metro officials have denied.

2015

April 24, 2015, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Eric Cline



Rural/Metro Fire Capt. Eric Cline, 40, suffered a near-fatal aneurysm and stroke March 26. He had 50-50 odds of living, but now he can grip things and tell his wife, Risa, "I love you."

April 24, 2015, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Fire burns vehicle storage building on Tucson's east side

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion

April 24, 2015 5:39 pm • Carmen Duarte Arizona Daily Star

A blaze burned a building that stored vehicles on Tucson's east side Friday.

No one was injured in the fire in the 10900 block of East Limberlost Road, said Capt. Jay Karlik, a Rural/Metro Fire Department spokesman.

Firefighters responded shortly after 1 p.m. to the scene, which was near North Melpomene Way, after reports of thick, black smoke in the area.

Crews arrived and found a vehicle storage building that was about 2,000 square feet burning, said Karlik. It took firefighters 10 minutes to bring the fire under control, and stopped it from spreading to adjacent property.

A damage estimate was not known. Investigators were working to determine the cause and origin of the fire Karlik said.



A Rural/Metro Fire Department crew put out a blaze that burned a vehicle storage building on Tucson's east side April 24, 2015. No one was injured in the fire, which was under investigation.

2015

May 13, 2015, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Tucson Airport Fire responds to debris fire

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 +1 0 Share Print Email

Respond: Write a letter to the editor | Write a guest opinion



Large smoke cloud seen near Davis-Monthan on Sunday, May 31, 2015.

May 31, 2015 5:42 pm • By Samantha Munsey

Tucson Airport Fire and Rural Metro Fire Department responded to a debris fire south of Davis-Monthan on Sunday afternoon.

Large clouds of dark smoke could be seen near the area.

Airport operations around the area are not effected at this time.

2015

June 11, 2015, http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/search?vendor=ez&qu=%22southwest+ambulance%22

Northwest Fire expands emergency service

Published: Thursday, May 28th 2015, 4:32 am MST
Updated: Thursday, June 11th 2015, 5:35 am MST

By Kevin Adger, Reporter CONNECT

TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - Northwest Fire Ambulance service will have an expanded role when it comes to emergency services.

Their ambulances will now be able to service severely sick or injured patients.

They still have a partnership with Rural Metro, which operates Southwest Ambulance.

Northwest fire will still respond to basic life support calls, but the Rural Metro Corporation that runs Southwest Ambulance, will transport those patients.

2015

July 25, 2015, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Firefighter works to recover after ruptured aneurysm



JULY 26, 2015 7:15 PM • BY STEPHANIE INNES

Tucson Rural/Metro Capt. **Eric Cline** takes a penny off the table with his left hand and tries piling it on top of another penny. He misses.

He tries again. Another miss.

"A little frustrating?" asks occupational therapist assistant **Breeze Cudzilo**.

"Yeah, it is," answers Cline, 40, shaking his head and looking down at the table during his regular twice weekly therapy at HealthSouth Rehabilitation in Tucson.

The veteran firefighter on March 26 suffered a devastating and unexpected ruptured aneurysm that nearly killed him.

Cline now has what's often known as "left side neglect" — he forgets about the left side of his body because of the damage that the rupture and a subsequent stroke caused to the right side of his brain.

That means the father of three young children limps, and his left arm sometimes hangs at his side. He doesn't always notice when someone is standing to his left, and when he reads, he often forgets the left side of words and sentences.

In his family's apartment, he has a habit of bumping his left side into the kitchen counter.

And he's sensitive to noise, which makes home life trying at times, since his children range in age from 15 months to 7 years old.

"Walk away, take a deep breath and then come back," Cudzilo advises Cline as a way of coping.

LONG ROAD BACK

While Cline still struggles, he's also made significant progress.

About 30,000 people in the United States suffer a ruptured aneurysm per year, which works out to about 100 annually in the Tucson area. In nearly half of all cases, the rupture is fatal.

An aneurysm is a bulging, weakened area in the middle layer of the wall of a blood vessel, resulting in an abnormal widening. When the blood vessel wall gets too weak, the aneurysm bursts and bleeds into the area around the brain.

Most ruptured aneurysms occur in older people. The chances were extremely slim — less than one-half of 1 percent — that Cline would have an aneurysm burst at the age of 40.

When his aneurysm burst, his prognosis was terrible. He was hospitalized at Tucson Medical Center and firefighters from across town held vigil for him on that night. His eyes were unresponsive, and he had no reaction to pain. It appeared he might be brain dead. Cline's fellows and his family prepared to say goodbye.

"The doctor talked to us about organ donation," said his wife, **Risa Cline**, 34.

July 25, 2015, *Arizona Daily Star*:

But just as his family was trying to accept the worst, Cline coughed and began reacting to touch.

Two surgeries later, he was still alive and saying a few words, but no one knew about long-term deficits. When he moved from the hospital to HealthSouth Rehabilitation on April 24, it took three people plus a Hoyer lift to get him in and out of bed.

Cline spent six weeks as an inpatient at HealthSouth, gradually regaining movement and speech. Physically, he has gone from being carried to using a wheelchair to using a walker to now walking with a limp, though he still uses the walker for long outings.

While his long-term memory has been largely unaffected, his short-term memory comes and goes.

"It was like '50 First Dates'," Risa said, referring to the 2004 movie about a character played by Drew Barrymore who has no short-term memory.

"Every day he woke up and said, 'Where am I?'"

He told Risa recently that he remembered seeing the movie "Insurgent", which they watched on March 26, shortly before his aneurysm burst. But during a different conversation a few days later, he told Risa that he had no memories of "Insurgent" at all.

"I lose focus easily. I have the attention span of a gnat lately," Cline tells speech language pathologist **Heather Talag** as he struggles to read aloud a paragraph she's put in front of him, using a pen to guide himself across each word.

Talag puts a vertical red line down the left side of the page.

"You need to bring your pen to that red line every time," she says. "It's like practicing piano. We're trying to find strategies that make the processes easier. Consistent use of the strategies is what's going to get you through your daily life."

IT'S ABOUT RECOVERY

Eric and Risa are spending a lot more time together than before the aneurysm.

"Even little things like going to the grocery store are a big deal," Risa said. "He can't be left alone because he's a fall risk. He doesn't have all his judgment skills."

When Risa is not with Cline, his parents are.

He remains optimistic and wants to go back to firefighting, maybe early next year. He's been an outpatient at HealthSouth since June 10.

Risa, who has taken a leave from her own job at her family's preschool business, is more measured.

"It's been a learning curve and it still is," Risa said. "It's not all about going back to work. It's about recovery."

2015

July 30, 2015, ***https://www.ems1.com/american-medical-response/articles/3017676-AMR-acquiring-Rural-Metro-corporation/***

AMR acquiring Rural/Metro corporation

The acquisition enhances mobile integrated healthcare capabilities and creates opportunities for AMR to partner with fire departments and local government

Jul 30, 2015

GREENWOOD VILLAGE, Colo. — AMR, the medical transportation segment of Envision Healthcare Holdings, Inc., is acquiring Rural/Metro Corporation. The acquisition, to close in the fourth quarter of 2015, enhances Envision's mobile integrated healthcare delivery capability.

"As healthcare services models shift toward a more coordinated approach, the role of medical transportation clinicians takes on greater strategic significance," said William A. Sanger, Envision chairman, president and CEO. "With our advanced mobile delivery model, the practice of paramedics and EMTs is being expanded beyond the traditional role of providing pre-hospital stabilization and transport to healthcare facilities."

During the past several years, AMR has achieved significant growth and operating efficiencies through process improvement, effective use of technology and optimizing resource utilization while simultaneously improving clinical outcomes for patients and developing new platforms for health systems.



AMR signs agreement to acquire Rural/Metro Corporation. (Image courtesy Facebook AMR)

"As a former Rural/Metro paramedic and market manager, I am acutely aware of the dedication, passion and clinical expertise that its nearly 7,500 caregivers and support personnel provide to their communities. AMR looks forward to having them on our team and combining the innovative practices of both organizations, delivering stability and growth opportunities," said Ted Van Horne, AMR president and CEO. "This acquisition will broaden our ability to partner with fire departments and local government leadership to build increasingly better community health models. It also gives us the ability to offer specialty fire capabilities within our industrial health and safety business lines."

"We have spent the past several years fine-tuning our operations and enhancing the services we provide to our patients and community partners," Scott Bartos, CEO of Rural/Metro said. "Envision's mobile integrated healthcare strategy will allow us to provide even greater value to those constituents while creating new opportunities for our team members. Combining with AMR will enable us to be active contributors to solutions that are shaping the future of healthcare."

Rural/Metro is expected to generate annualized 2015 revenue of approximately $600 million. The pending acquisition is subject to regulatory approval and customary closing conditions.

RELATED ARTICLES

- Wake EMS medical director leaving for AMR position
- Calif. FD joins AMR to submit ambulance bid
- Phoenix contracts with AMR in addition to Rural/Metro

RELATED FEATURE

Impact of AMR buying Rural/Metro on EMS providers

August 11, 2015, http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/29757380/ruralmetro-responds-to-early-morning-fire

Rural/Metro responds to early morning fire

Posted: Aug 11, 2015 4:34 AM
Updated: Aug 11, 2015 4:49 AM

By Jessica Canchola CONNECT



TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - Rural/Metro Fire Department responded to reports of smoke and flames coming from a home in Sahuarita, around 2 a.m.

Upon arriving, firefighters were able to control the fire quickly to prevent any further damage to the home.

An elderly female was the only occupant and managed to escape uninjured.

The cause of the fire remains unknown and is currently being investigated.



October 7, 2015, http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/30205074/ruralmetro-responds-to-vehicle-fire-at-a-south-side-business

Rural/Metro responds to vehicle fire at a south side business

Posted: Oct 07, 2015 5:02 AM
Updated: Oct 07, 2015 5:02 AM

By Elizabeth Walton CONNECT



Rural/Metro fire crews on scene of early morning vehicle fire. (Source: Rural/Metro Fire Department)

TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - Rural/Metro Fire Department crews respond to a structure fire in the 6000 block of South Bonney Avenue.

Crews arrived on scene at 2:15 a.m. to find a fire in the passenger side of a truck on the property, flames were spreading to a fluid storage container and a nearby building.

According to a Rural/Metro release firefighters were able to quickly put out the fire before it reached the building or other vehicles nearby.

No injuries were reported and the cause of the fire is under investigation. There is no estimate yet on the damage.

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October 7, 2015, http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/30200183/storm-leaves-thousands-without-power-causes-store-evacuation

Storms result in rescue, outages, closures, evacuation

Posted: Oct 06, 2015 1:25 PM
Updated: Oct 06, 2015 7:12 PM

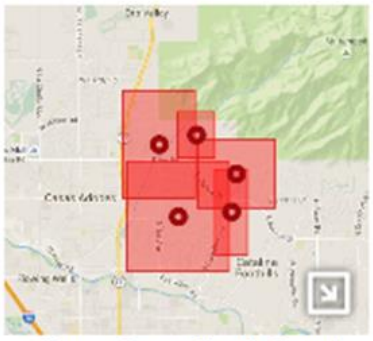
By John Ames CONNECT



The storm dumped heavy rain on Reid Park on Oct. 6, resulting in the closure of the zoo. (Source: See It, Snap It, Send It/anonymous)



The Bed Bath & Beyond store at 6310 N. Oracle Road was evacuated. (Source: Tucson News Now)



(Source: Tucson Electric Power)

TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - Strong storms passed through Tucson on Tuesday, resulting in a very busy day for emergency personnel.

On the northeast side of Tucson, Rural Metro Fire Department crews rescued a woman from a stranded car in running water. The woman was stuck at about 1:40 p.m. Oct. 6 on North Bear Canyon Road near East Bear Paw Place.

Earlier in the afternoon, about 4,000 Tucson Electric Power customers were left without power briefly after a strong storm passed through.

According to the outage map, weather was being blamed for equipment failures, causing most of the outages on the northwest side of Tucson.

The heavy downpours and hail also led to a leak at the Bed Bath & Beyond store at 6310 N. Oracle Road, causing electrical problems and prompting an evacuation.

According to Northwest Fire District Capt. Adam Goldberg, large amounts of water leaked into the store's electrical room, presenting a significant hazard. Store employees and customers evacuated the building before emergency crews arrived.

No injuries were reported.

Lightning struck a tree at Gallego Intermediate 4-8 Fine Arts Magnet School, 3700 East Alvord Road, causing a fire, according to the Sunnyside Unified School District. A tweet from the district's Twitter account said students were all safe.

The Pima County Sheriff's Department said in a tweet that the storm also resulted in hail and rocks being washed onto the General Hitchcock Highway on Mt. Lemmon.

Reid Park Zoo was also forced to close because of flooding from the heavy rain.

A spokesman for the city of Tucson's transportation department said Camino de la Tierra is closed at the Rillito because of flowing water. There was no indication how long the road would remain closed.

The storm also knocked KTTU off the air. Tucson News Now has dispatched a crew to Mt. Bigelow, where the station's transmitter is located, to troubleshoot the outage.

October 12, 2015, *Arizona Daily Star*:

BEN'S BELLS

Ben's Bells: Fire captain's thoughtfulness rewarded



13 HOURS AGO • ARIZONA DAILY STAR

What: Ben's Bells promote kindness and community involvement. Each week a person who makes Tucson better is "belled."

Last week's recipient: Capt. **Bob Bell**, Rural/Metro Fire Department.

Nominated by: Bronwyn Sternberg.

Why: For helping Sternberg's son, **Alston**, adjust to his first days in kindergarten. Alston likes to regularly visit Bell's fire station, and when Bell heard Alston was having a tough time adjusting during the first week of school, Bell paid him a special visit, Sternberg wrote in her nomination letter.

Bell and his crew visited Alston's classroom and talked to all the students. Bell gave Alston a "Pete the Cat" book with a special note inside about being brave. "As a parent, words cannot describe the kindness and thoughtfulness he delivered that day," Sternberg wrote.

More info and to nominate someone: Go to bensbells.org/BellingForm to submit a name. Go to bensbells.org or call 628-2829 for more information.

November 1, 2015, ***Firehouse—http://www.firehouse.com/article/12116390/ems-ambulance-companies-a-history-lesson***

Ambulance Companies: A History Lesson

FIREHOUSE

BY GARY LUDWIG ON NOV 1, 2015



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Paul Verrochi was a 42-year-old businessman from Boston who knew nothing about ambulances. However, he did have experience building large companies by consolidating smaller companies. Verrochi and his long-term partner had already successfully merged janitorial companies into one large firm and did the same for asbestos-removal businesses.

After selling off those two large companies, they were looking for another industry where they could take their consolidation expertise. One day, Verrochi's banker recommended he look at the ambulance industry, as there were an estimated 2,200 small "mom and pop" ambulance companies that were operating in the United States.

After some research, Verrochi targeted four ambulance companies—two on the East Coast and two on the West Coast—that had the potential to expand their markets. The four companies were purchased, forming American Medical Response (AMR), with headquarters in Boston. The new companies had a total gross revenue of $96 million.

Verrochi went public with the stock for AMR, and the initial public offering raised $23.7 million for additional acquisitions. With this extra cash, Verrochi went on a spending spree in January 1993, buying other ambulance services, such as Mobile Medic Ambulance Services of Gulfport, MS, Ambulance Service Company of Denver, and Buck Medical Services of Portland, OR.

November 1, 2015, ***Firehouse—http://www.firehouse.com/article/12116390/ems-ambulance-companies-a-history-lesson***

Soon after, other business owners saw what was happening and started acquiring other ambulance companies. Lou Witzeman of Rural/Metro was one such owner. His private company had started running ambulances in 1969, and more than 20 years later, he too got into the merger and consolidation mania in the early 1990s.

Another large company that joined the competition was Laidlaw, which, aside from its school bus and waste management companies, also owned an ambulance company called Medtrans. Other ambulance companies to join the merger mania included such names as Lifefleet and Careline. They all purchased and consolidated small "mom and pop" ambulance companies. AMR purchased more than 200 small ambulance companies alone. These big companies eventually started merging and only three big companies were left at one point—AMR, Rural/Metro and Medtrans.

That's when things got really interesting. In 1997, Laidlaw bought AMR for $40 per share, or about $1.2 billion, and merged it with Medtrans. The new company used the AMR name and operated in 37 states, with approximately 22,000 employees and 5,000 vehicles. All that was really left after all the consolidations and mergers were Rural/Metro and AMR.

In 2004, Laidlaw sold AMR and its EmCare division to Onex, which formed Emergency Medical Services Corporation (EMSC) as the parent of its two acquisitions. EMSC was later acquired by the private equity firm of Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, which changed the EMSC name to Envision Healthcare and had an initial public offering in August 2013.

In March 2011, Rural/Metro was gobbled up by a private equity firm, Warburg Pincus, for $438 million. While AMR went public with their stock, Rural/Metro remained under the grip of their private equity firm and experienced challenges.



Fast forward to July of this year. AMR announced that they were going to acquire Rural/Metro with the deal to close sometime after October of this year. The deal is subject to regulatory approval and customary closing conditions. What is clear is if the deal goes through, AMR, by best estimates, will now have a footprint on all 50 states.

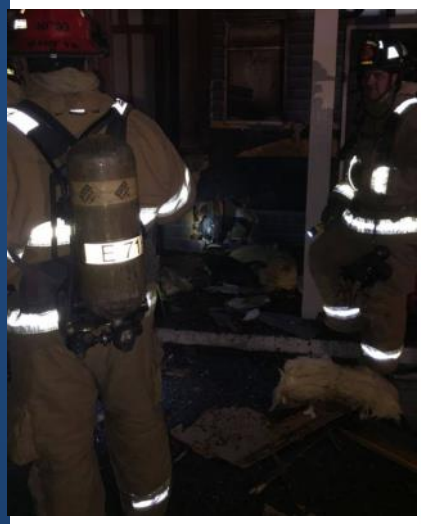
Now if you've been keeping track of all the acquisition, consolidations and mergers throughout this article, you would see that only one big national company is left—AMR. But there could be interesting moves ahead. In the 20-plus years that all this has taken place, the largest provider of private ambulance service in Europe—Falck—also bought ambulance companies and is now operating in the United States. Acadian Ambulance, which covers most of Louisiana, also apparently has plans on expanding and has branched out to Texas and Mississippi. Other private ambulance services, like Priority Ambulance in Tennessee and Community EMS in Michigan, to name a few, are also in expansion mode.

All of this has been interesting to watch, and there are probably more chapters to be written in the future. It is readily apparent that money does drive the private ambulance industry with millions, if not billions, on the table. I wonder if Paul Verrochi would still recognize his old company.

***GARY LUDWIG**, MS, EMT-P, a* Firehouse® *contributing editor, is the fire chief of the Champaign, IL, Fire Department. He has a total of 37 years of fire, rescue and EMS experience. He is a well-known author and lecturer who has successfully managed two large award-winning metropolitan fire-based EMS systems in St. Louis and Memphis. Ludwig is a licensed paramedic and has a master's degree in business and management. He is past chair of the EMS Section for the IAFC. He is the author of the recently published book* Blood, Sweat, Tears, and Prayers.

2015

December 9, 2015, Tucson News Now:



Fire damages building fire at Cattletown Steakhouse

Posted: Dec 09, 2015 5:14 AM
Updated: Dec 09, 2015 11:17 AM

By Tucson News Now Staff CONNECT







TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - Rural/Metro Fire Department crews responded Wednesday morning to reports of smoke coming from the Cattletown Steakhouse restaurant on Tucson's south side, near Drexel and Country Club.

According to a recent release a call came in at 4:19 a.m. and crews arrived on scene within seven minutes, quickly putting out the fire before it spread to other buildings. The fire is believed to have originated in a storage area in the front of a building.

No one was injured by this fire, according to the Rural/Metro release, and the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

December 16, 2015, *Arizona Daily Star*:

A real digger-upper: Tucson man finds bomb shelter in backyard



27 MINUTES AGO • BY JOE FERGUSON

There was an unexpected disclosure when **John Sims** bought his midtown home from a friend earlier this year.

A leftover remnant from the Cold War — a bomb shelter — might be buried in his backyard. Building records suggested the bunker was built by Whitaker Pools in 1961 but whether it had survived for 54 years was a mystery to his friend.

"The first thing I did is ask if he had a shovel," Sims said. "I'll dig it up right now."

Sims braved the triple-digit temperatures this summer, shortly after moving in, with the hopes of uncovering the secret underground hideaway.

With nothing more than a few shallow holes in his backyard to show for his efforts, Sims temporarily gave up, worried the bomb shelter was underneath a bricked-in corner of the yard or had collapsed.

He paid a consultant who used metal detectors to identify where he should dig. Sims almost gave up before hitting the metal cap covering the entrance to the bomb shelter about 3 feet underground.

His first thought was thankfulness that he hadn't found something else.

"I was hoping it wasn't a septic tank," Sims said.

A little more digging revealed the shelter's entrance.

A captain with Rural/Metro Fire Department, Sims was able to pry off the heavy metal hatch but waited a day before descending the spiral staircase. With advanced training in rescues in confined spaces, he knew to test the air for mold as well as have a few people nearby in case he got trapped.

"I know too much about confined space, and I was alone at home," he said. "Especially if the lid fell back in, there was no way I could lift it from underneath it."

Once the exploring began, he found a small bomb shelter with fiberglass dome construction, full of rubble.

"I was really hoping it was going to be a little microcosm … a time capsule full of civil-defense boxes, radiation detectors and cots and stuff like that," Sims said.

First priority was repairing the spiral staircase and consultation with engineers and contractors for advice on restoring the structure.

Sims is in search of props, such as civil defense water jugs.

He plans on spending the night in the shelter at least once after it is restored and looks forward to using it as a retreat from the summer heat, as the temperature hovers around 72 degrees year-round.

2015

December 16, 2015, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Sims said Whitaker Pools built several similar bomb shelters in Tucson during the 1960s.

"The Cuban Missile Crisis was a big push for them in that era," he said.

For homeowners curious about whether there's a bomb shelter in their backyard, Sims says to start with the disclosures.

"It is something that should be in there if you want to dig up the backyard for a pool," Sims said.

The city of Tucson or Pima County should have information as well.

Sims cautions anyone from diving in too quickly.

"Jumping into holes in the ground is generally not a good idea," Sims said.

Toxic air in a tunnel, or a cave can incapacitate a person and pose a risk to rescuers, he said.

A post to Reddit about his backyard find generated hundreds of comments and several hundred thousand page views.

For now, Sims is spending his days designing what his bomb shelter will look like once it is rebuilt and stocked with civil defense goodies.



Sims, a firefighter, waited a day before initially descending the spiral staircase. "I know too much about confined space."



John Sims plans on spending a night in his backyard bomb shelter after it is restored. It could also be a retreat from the summer heat, as the temperature is about 72 degrees year-round.



While underground, John Sims looks back and pauses as he flashes his light into the narrow entryway of an old bomb shelter before returning to the surface. He discovered it in his back yard which was possibly built to withstand a nuclear holocaust. At this time his plans are somewhat nebulous but it is a possibility that he will try make some recreational use for the circular room. The photo was taken in Tucson, Ariz., on Monday, Dec. 7, 2015. A.E. Araiza / Arizona Daily Star



Homeowner John Sims stands over some of the items excavated from an old bomb shelter he discovered in his back yard which was possibly built to withstand a nuclear holocaust. At this time his plans are somewhat nebulous but it is a possibility that he will try make some recreational use for the circular room. The photo was taken in Tucson, Ariz., on Monday, Dec. 7, 2015. A.E. Araiza / Arizona Daily Star

2015

December 16, 2015, *Arizona Daily Star*:



A newly attached air vent connects to the top of the dome of a bomb shelter several feet below ground while the entryway is in the background. Homeowner John Sims discovered the shelter in his back yard which was possibly built to withstand a nuclear holocaust. At this time his plans are somewhat nebulous but it is a possibility that he will try make some recreational use for the circular room. The photo was taken in Tucson, Ariz., on Monday, Dec. 7, 2015. A.E. Araiza / Arizona Daily Star



Homeowner John Sims discovered an old bomb shelter in his back yard which was possibly built to withstand a nuclear holocaust. At this time his plans are somewhat nebulous but it is a possibility that he will try make some recreational use for the circular room. The photo was taken in Tucson, Ariz., on Monday, Dec. 7, 2015. A.E. Araiza / Arizona Daily Star

December 21, 2015, http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/30798648/ruralmetro-crews-battling-house-fire-on-the-south-side

No injuries reported in early a.m. mobile home fire

Posted: Dec 21, 2015 5:30 AM
Updated: Dec 21, 2015 7:03 AM

By Elizabeth Walton CONNECT



Mobile home fire (Source: Rural/Metro Fire Department)



Fire damage (Source: Rural/Metro Fire Department)

TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - Rural/Metro crews are still on scene putting out hotspots at a mobile home fire near Benson Highway and Palo Verde Road on Tucson's south-side.

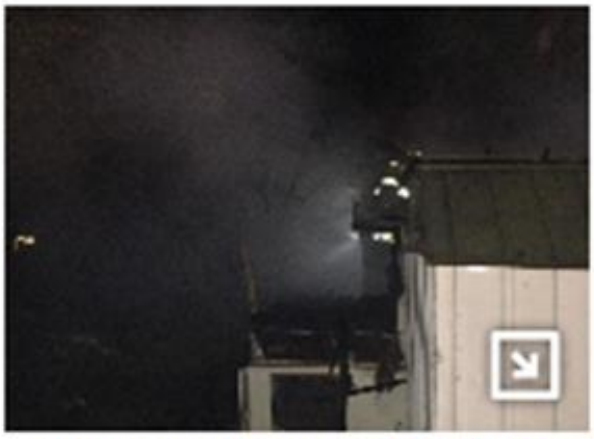
According to Rural/Metro officials the call came in around 4:51 a.m. Monday about a fire in the 5400 block of South Masterson Avenue.

It was the Pima County Sheriff's Department that initially found the fire. No one was home at the time of the fire, said Rural/Metro officials.

No injuries have been reported and the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Stay with *Tucson News Now* for updates on this developing situation.

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Fire damage (Source: Rural/Metro Fire Department)



2016

April 19, 2016, http://www.kgun9.com/news/local-news/crews-vanquish-southside-residential-fire

Crews vanquish southside residential fire

BY: Phil Villarreal
POSTED: 4:59 AM, Apr 19, 2016
UPDATED: 5:05 AM, Apr 19, 2016



Rural/Metro Fire

+SHOW CAPTION

TUCSON (KGUN9-TV) - Firefighters put out a house fire in the yard of an unoccupied southside home early Tuesday morning.

According to Rural/Metro Fire, crews were on the scene of the fire, in the 16000 block of South Penrose Lane, at 3:10 a.m. They had the blaze, which was inside a 24-foot travel trailer, under control within eight minutes.

2016

May 2, 2016, http://www.kvoa.com/story/31866473/multiple-fire-agencies-battle-northside-house-fire

Multiple fire agencies battle Northside house fire

Written By News 4 Tucson Staff

TUCSON- Multiple fire agencies responded to a house fire near River Road and Via Entrada Monday morning, according to Rural/Metro Fire spokesperson Battalion Chief Jay Karlik.

Around 9:20, firefighters from RMFD and the Tucson Fire Department responded to the home in the 4700 block of Via Sonrisa.

When crews arrived, they found flames coming from the kitchen area of the home. Firefighters were able to knock down the fire quickly and limit the damage to the kitchen area, Karlik said.

No injuries were reported.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.



Photo: Rural/Metro Fire



Photo: Rural/Metro Fire

May 7, 2016, http://arizonadailystar.az.newsmemory.com/?token=48e80dfc46066b5c7812373dc95f6433&cnum=6249723&fod=1111111STD&selDate=20160508&licenseType=none&

Wreck kills Day, ex-supervisor with 'cowgirl commonsense'

By Hannah Gaber

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Former state Sen. and Pima County Supervisor Ann Day was remembered by heartbroken friends, family and colleagues as a problem-solving conservationist with integrity and 'cowgirl common sense' after she was killed Saturday in a car crash.

Day, 77, was the sister of former U.S. Supreme Court Justice **Sandra Day O'Connor** and a member of a pioneering Southern Arizona ranching and political family.

A Chevrolet Impala driven by a man suspected of driving under the influence jumped a median on East Ina Road near Westward Look resort shortly before 8 a.m. Saturday and slammed head-on into Day's Toyota Prius, authorities said. A pickup behind Day's car was unable to get out of the way and hit her vehicle from behind.

See DAY, A5



Ann Day

"You just can't prevent that, there's nothing she could do," said Pima County Sheriff **Chris Nanos**, adding, "It's so sad ... early in the morning, probably just driving home."

A doctor riding his bicycle nearby, a Northwest Fire battalion chief and a Marine paramedic all saw the crash and tried to help, Nanos said, but could not save Day.

She was pronounced dead at Banner-University Medical Center at 8:37 a.m.

A doctor riding his bicycle nearby, a Northwest Fire battalion chief and a Marine paramedic all saw the crash and tried to help, Nanos said, but could not save Day.

She was pronounced dead at Banner-University Medical Center at 8:37 a.m.

The Impala had been seen "bouncing off of curbs and driving at a high rate of speed in excess of 80 mph" before the crash, Nanos said. Statements later made by the 23-year-old driver led deputies to suspect he was driving under the influence, the sheriff said. A toxicology test was taken.

2016

May 7, 2016, http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/31916251/eb-ina-road-is-closed-after-crash-that-killed-1

Former Pima Co Supe Ann Day dies in crash on Ina Road



Source: Pima County



Source: Kevin Adger / Tucson News Now



Source: Kevin Adger / Tucson News Now

TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - Ann Day, former Pima County District 1 Supervisor and sister of former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, has died, according to Pima County Sheriff Chris Nanos, who made the announcement Saturday morning at the scene of the car accident that took her life. Day was 77.

Around 7:40 a.m., a vehicle traveling westbound on East Ina Road crossed the median near North Westward Look Drive and struck a vehicle that was driving eastbound on Ina, ultimately killing that vehicle's driver – whom we now know was Ann Day – and causing the one behind it to crash into it, according to Deputy Ryan Inglett, a PCSD spokesman.

Tucson News Now has been in touch with Day's family. We've learned Day was in Phoenix visiting with her sister just two weeks ago. Sandra Day O'Connor's son and Day's nephew, Brian O'Connor, sent this statement:

"I was with my Mom today and it has been a sad and sudden shock for the entire family."

District 3 Supervisor Sharon Bronson, who worked across the political aisle with Day for 12 years on the Pima County Board, expressed grief about the tragedy when reached by phone.

"Ann Day was not only a colleague. She was a friend. She brought civility and dignity to the board. I miss her as a colleague since she left the board and am saddened to hear of her death in a tragic accident," Bronson said. "She came with a sense of purpose. She was firm in her convictions but was pragmatic in her approach to governance. Ann dedicated much of her life to public service, whether it was teaching or in an elected position, and she made valuable contributions in the process."

Day's political career spanned 22 years, including 10 years in the state Senate and 12 years representing District 1, which runs north of the Rillito and includes Oro Valley, parts of Marana and the Catalina Foothills. Ally Miller succeeded her in 2011 after Day retired.

Online tributes from colleagues and constituents have already begun:

May 20, 2016, *TFD*—

Brushfire takes out homeless camp at Country Club Road and Benson Highway. @TucsonFirePIO



Tucson Fire PIO @TucsonFirePIO · 15h

Ladder 1 coming in with the heavy gallons per minute to drown out the brush fire,now just putting out hot spots 🚒🚫🔥🚫



2016

May 20, 2016, *TFD*—



Tucson Fire Department
TFD on scene near Benson Highway/Country Club for a brush fire that burned about 2 acres.

Shared with: Public
640 Views

Homeless camp burns



Tucson firefighters Ivan Valencia, left, and Brandon Cruz spray down what's left of a homeless camp after a brush fire near the southwest corner of Benson Highway and Country Club Road. Two dozen firefighters from the city and Rural/ Metro fire departments fought the 2-acre blaze Friday. Nobody was hurt.

RON MEDVESCEK / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

2016

June 21, 2016, ***Arizona Daily Star:***



Jeff Mayhew, with the Southern Arizona Rescue Association, gets his vitals checked by members of Rural/Metro Fire Department north of Tucson on Monday. Mayhew had just returned from the search for a missing hiker in the Ventana Canyon area.

June 2, 2016, *Arizona Daily Star:*

Several displaced after early-morning mobile home fire

Published: Wednesday, June 22nd 2016, 4:11 am MST
Updated: Wednesday, June 22nd 2016, 4:11 am MST

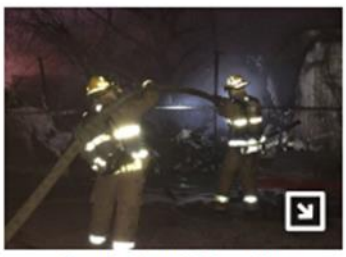
By Alison Dorf, Digital Content Producer CONNECT



(Source: Rural/Metro Fire Department)



(Source: Rural/Metro Fire Department)



(Source: Rural/Metro Fire Department)

TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - Several people have been displaced after a fire ignited their mobile home in the 3300 block of North Chapel Avenue.

Firefighters with the Rural/Metro Fire Department received several reports of smoke and flames coming from the home around 1:20 a.m. Wednesday morning, according to a news release.

When they got to the home, they saw a large amount of smoke and flames.

The occupants of the home had minor burns and smoke inhalation.

They were treated at the scene, but did not need to go to the hospital.

They told firefighters they had several dogs that they couldn't find, but managed to save three of them.

A total of 25 firefighters responded to the fire, and were able to put it out in 20 minutes.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

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2016

June 2, 2016, ww.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/32279075/several-displaced-after-early-morning-mobile-home-fire



(Source: Rural/Metro Fire Department)



(Source: Rural/Metro Fire Department)



(Source: Rural/Metro Fire Department)

2016

July 16, 2017, *TFD*—

CITY OF TUCSON

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Captain Barrett Baker
Public Information Officer
410-1901 pager
Barrett.baker@tucsonaz.gov

Date: 07/17/16
TDD: 837-7016

TFD/RURAL METRO PARAMEDICS TAKE 2 CHILDREN TO HOSPITAL KIDS HAD BEEN LOCKED IN CAR

DISPATCH TIME: 11:31 A.M.

Tucson Fire and Rural Metro paramedics transported an approximate 3 year-old child and 18 month-old child after they were taken out of a car that had been locked with the keys inside. Both departments were dispatched to a jurisdictional call in the 3800 block of East River Road. The father called 9-1-1 after being locked out of the car and stated that the kids had been in the car for approximately 5-7 minutes. Firefighters unlocked the door given that time frame and pulled both kids out of their car seats. Paramedics quickly assessed the kids and immediately made the decision to transport them to the hospital given their appearance. The older child was extremely lethargic and red in appearance and both kids were drenched in sweat and extremely hot. TFD transported the older child with Rural Metro transporting the younger one.

Given the appearance of the children, Tucson Fire asked for TPD to respond to investigate the circumstances.

2016

September 20, 2016, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Firefighter finds strength in kids amid rare disease

FIREFIGHTER

'IT'S BECAUSE OF THESE GUYS I'M HERE'

By Stephanie Innes

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

When he was diagnosed with a rare muscular disease at the age of 35, Dennis Bracety was convinced his firefighting career was over.

The 6-foot-1-inch Tucson resident spent months feeling sorry for himself, repeatedly asking an unanswerable question: 'Why me?'

That mindset is a long way from where he is today - eager to educate others about living with dermatomyositis, a disease that affects about 20,000 Americans and nearly took Dennis' life.

On Saturday, Dennis Bracety, now 40, will walk nearly three miles in the Muscular Dystrophy Association's annual Muscle Walk of Tucson. He'll walk alongside his 16-year-old son, Drew Bracety, who is a junior at Canyon del Oro High School.

Dennis credits Drew and daughter Ashley Bracety, 23, with providing both the caregiving and tough love he needed to get well.

'It's because of these guys I'm here,' Bracety said last week, seated in his living room alongside his two children.

'My dad always says there's no 'I' in team,' chimed in Ashley, who works as a medical assistant at the Tucson Orthopedic Institute.

TIRED AND SWOLLEN

Bracety fell ill in 2011, when he was 10 years into his career with the Rural/ Metro Fire Department. At first he ignored the fatigue, weakness and sore muscles. Over a period of about two months, he felt increasingly worse.

'It felt like I was carrying a person on my shoulders,'



Dennis Bracety, right, pumps iron with son Drew as the two work out at the Northwest YMCA. Bracety was diagnosed with dermatomyositis at age 35, a rare muscular disease that affects about 20,000 Americans and almost took his life.

PHOTOS BY KELLY PRESNELL / ARIZONA DAILY STAR



Ashley Bracety laughs with brother Drew as they talk about their father, Dennis, and his recovery. Dennis credits his kids with helping him to get well.

he said. 'I'm a stubborn firefighter. I'd put it off.'

Then he started to swell up. His kids say he looked like a balloon. That's how he ended up in the office of Tucson neurologist Dr. Lawrence Z. Stern, who is director of the Mucio F. Delgado Clinic for Neuromuscular Disorders at Banner - University Medical Center Tucson.

Stern says his clinic sees four to six Tucson residents per year with dermatomyositis, which is an inflammatory disorder of the muscles and skin. Its cause is not known, but it is generally considered an autoimmune disease.

For many reasons, Bracety didn't fit the usual patient demographic.

Dermatomyositis is more common in females than males. In adults, the onset is typically around the age of 50, and in children it occurs most often before puberty.

Stern likens the disease to the body becoming allergic to its own muscle and skin. It is fatal in about 5 percent of all cases. If someone dies from dermatomyositis, it is usually because of severe complications, most commonly in the lungs, he said.

Dermatomyositis and the related disease of polymyositis were blamed for the death of 29-yearold National Football League player Ricky Bell in 1984. Bell, who was from Southern California, played for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and his life story was the subject of a 1991 television movie.

More recently, dermatomyositis caused the death of a University of Arkansas sophomore, media reports say.

2016

September 20, 2016, *Arizona Daily Star*:

HOPELESS

For about a year after he was diagnosed, Bracety seemed to be on a steady decline. He spent two months in the hospital. He couldn't dress himself, feed himself or brush his own teeth. It was a severe case, his doctor said.

'We almost lost Dennis. I was really worried,' Stern said. 'We had him in the intensive care unit. He couldn't swallow on his own and was having trouble breathing. And he wasn't responding the way I wanted to the prednisone, and the azathioprine, and the whole deal. We gave him intravenous steroids, too, and started him on IVIG (intravenous Immunoglobulin).'

Bracety lost 50 pounds, needed a wheelchair to get around and required a feeding tube to eat. The disease caused an angry and unsightly purplish rash that covered his face and knuckles, which made him avoid all mirrors. Once he was home from the hospital, he never wanted to go out in public.

He would spend days sitting in a recliner in the family living room. He felt hopeless, and it was a stressful time for everyone. His kids remember him saying his career was over.

Then his marriage ended.

'There was a fear of the unknown,' Bracety said. 'It was scary.'

Drew and Ashley remained loyal to both parents and stepped into the role of caregivers for their dad. Their mom had been doing most of the heavy lifting until that point, they said. Other family members, neighbors and firefighters also helped. Drew and Ashley monitored their father's diet and chastised him for eating junk food and salt, which aggravated his illness. They called Stern if they thought their dad wasn't following doctor's orders.

'He once went to Circle K at 3 a.m. and bought chocolate milk and donuts,' Ashley said wryly.

She knew her dad liked high-sodium Chinese dishes and other salty foods, so she watched him like a hawk. As a result of her vigilance, Bracety got used to putting salt-free balsamic vinaigrette on his food.

'FIRE WITHIN' Drew and Ashley noticed that the more they forced their dad to do things by himself, the more he did.

'He had to learn how to walk, talk, do everything all over again,' Ashley said. 'He couldn't even touch his nose with his hand.'

The recovery was laborious. It would take Bracety more than an hour to eat a meal because of the difficulties he had swallowing.

Yet doing more for himself yielded small improvements, and that's when Bracety decided he was going to stop feeling sorry for himself. That is also when he started to get better.

He hit the gym and began working out a few times per week. By June of 2013, he was back at work as a firefighter.

He now works out six to eight times per week, usually at the YMCA with Drew or at the fire station with fellow Rural/Metro firefighters. He credits exercise with keeping his disease at bay.

'Most people are able to return to work, but it's usually not working as a firefighter,' Stern said.

'Usually it's a desk job, because most people have some residual weakness, they have difficulty climbing stairs, getting up from a low chair, lifting things above their head, that kind of thing. Dennis' situation is very unusual. I've never seen that myself ever before.'

Bracety self-published a book about his condition, 'Fire Within: A Memoir of a Firefighter's Will to Live,' which came out in 2015. Earlier this month he spoke on a panel in New Orleans at the 2016 Patient Conference for the national Myositis Association.

'He just is so strong that he pulled out of it,' Stern said. 'Now, you can't keep him down.'

Bracety is still not in the free and clear when it comes to his health. He continues to take medication for the dermatomyositis, as well as for hypothyroidism, from which he also suffers. He continues to see Stern and every four months gets IVIG treatments.

'He's doing what he's doing amazingly, but he's still requiring pretty significant treatment,' Stern said. 'We're trying to taper him off his medications and so far so good, but in some cases, they'll need to stay on some dosage of prednisone indefinitely, which has its own side effects.'

Inspired by their dad, Drew wants to have a career in the medical field and Ashley has a longterm goal of becoming a nurse.

Bracety remains optimistic and provides encouragement to other people diagnosed with dermatomyositis, which gets research and advocacy support from the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

'I still have the disease,' he said. 'But the disease does not have me.'

Contact health reporter Stephanie Innes at 573-4134 or email sinnes@tucson.com. On Twitter: @stephanieinnes



Dennis Bracety takes a run on a treadmill with son Drew at the Northwest YMCA. Dennis is back to working out six to eight times per week.

KELLY PRESNELL / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

2016

November 3, 2016, ww.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/33626121/homeowner-injured-dog-dies-in-fire-on-tucsons-south-side

Homeowner injured, dog dies in fire on Tucson's south side

Published: Thursday, November 3rd 2016, 1:37 pm MST
Updated: Thursday, November 3rd 2016, 1:37 pm MST

By Tucson News Now Staff CONNECT



Rural-Metro Fire Department firefighters extinguish a fire in a mobile home in the 5800 block of S. Bonney Avenue on Nov. 3. (Source: Rural-Metro Fire Department)

TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - One person suffered minor burns and a dog died in a residential fire on Tucson's south side on Thursday, Nov. 3.

According to Capt. Jay Karlik of the Rural-Metro Fire Department, the fire was in a mobile home in the 5800 block of S. Bonney Avenue, near East Drexel and South Country Club roads.

Karlik said the homeowner had minor burns, but was not taken to a hospital for treatment.

Karlik said the cause of the fire was electrical.

A car was also partly involved in the fire.



Rural-Metro Fire Department firefighters extinguish a fire in a mobile home in the 5800 block of S. Bonney Avenue on Nov. 3. (Source: Rural-Metro Fire Department)

November 24, 2016, ***http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/27922249/southwest-ambulance-to-talk-about-possible-strike***

EMS union special meetings to include vote on possible strike

Published: Friday, January 23rd 2015, 5:34 am MST
Updated: Thursday, November 24th 2016, 6:10 pm MST

By Nikki Bussey, Producer CONNECT



Local I-60 is not happy with what it's calling "unfair labor practices" by the Rural Metro corporation, which operates Southwest Ambulance. (Source: Tucson News Now)

TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - A union representing EMS professionals that work for Southwest Ambulance throughout Arizona has called special meetings to discuss issues with Rural/Metro's leadership and vote on a possible strike, according to the Local I-60 website.

A possible labor strike could affect ambulance service provided by Southwest Ambulance in Southern Arizona.At today's meetings, union members will decide if a strike is necessary and talk about how a strike could impact service.

Local I-60 is not happy with what it's calling "unfair labor practices" by the Rural/Metro corporation, which operates Southwest Ambulance. The group also wants millions of dollars in pension pay.

Rural/Metro west division president Greg James said the sides continue to bargain in good faith and that with four more bargaining sessions schedule, Rural/Metro expects a swift resolution.

James said in a statement, "Rural/Metro Fire Department has continuously served the residents of Pima County since 1962. The labor dispute between Rural/Metro Corporation and Local I-60 will in no way affect the high quality of service the residents have come to expect in our fire protection areas. In the event of a work stoppage by Southwest Ambulance, Rural/Metro Fire Department has a contingency plan in place to support Emergency Medical Services to the communities we serve."

The meetings are taking place in Pima, Pinal and Maricopa counties.

MOST READ

Ahwatukee mom asks Facebook community to help punish her daughter

Barricaded man turns himself over to police

KOLD INVESTIGATES: Saving your receipts can get you cash back

2017

March 28, 2017, ucson.com/news/local/rural-metro-firefighter-woman-hurt-in-mobile-home-fire-on/article_6b3a4d52-1355-11e7-9601-13da48e4a8e0.html

Rural/Metro firefighter, woman hurt in mobile home fire on south side

Carmen Duarte Arizona Daily Star Mar 27, 2017 Updated 10 hrs ago



Courtesy Rural/Metro Fire Department

A Rural/Metro firefighter and a woman suffered minor burns in a blaze that destroyed a mobile home on Tucson's south side March 27, 2017, said Battalion Chief Lee Mayes of the Rural/Metro Fire Department.

A Rural/Metro firefighter and a woman, who lived at a mobile home on the south side, were injured in a blaze Monday.

Both suffered minor burns and were taken to a hospital, said Battalion Chief Lee Mayes of Rural/Metro Fire Department.

The firefighter suffered second-degree burns, according to a post on the fire department's Facebook page shortly after 9 p.m.

The woman was outside the single-wide mobile home when firefighters arrived, Mayes said. He said the firefighter was injured battling the blaze, but he did not release details.

Firefighters responded to a mobile home park at 6001 S. Palo Verde Boulevard about 3 p.m. and found one mobile home on fire. The neighborhood is south of East Drexel Road and west of South Alvernon Way.

It took 17 firefighters less than 15 minutes to bring the blaze under control. The fire was contained to the mobile home, which was destroyed. A couple was displaced.

The cause of the fire and a damage estimate were not known, Mayes said. He said Rural/Metro and Pima County Sheriff's Department investigators were working to determine the cause of the fire.

No further information was immediately available.

2017

April 26, 2017, *Arizona Daily S*tar:

Training for confined-space rescues



Metro Water Utility Tech Daniel Garcia helps with equipment as a Northwest firefighter descends the 30-foot-deep reservoir maintenance shaft at the James M. Tripp Reservoir on East Magee Road. Local firefighters, at the invitation of Metro Water, joined Tuesday for annual OSHA safety training at the underground reservoir. About 20 firefighters from Rural/Metro, Mountain Vista and Northwest fire departments ran drills to practice confined-space rescues, simulating entry and extraction from the shaft.

RON MEDVESCEK / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

April 26, 2017, *Arizona Daily S*tar:

Rural-Metro Firefighters test up for wildfire season

Posted: May 03, 2017 3:16 PM
Updated: May 03, 2017 5:02 PM

Written By John Patrick CONNECT





TUCSON - Firefighters go through countless hours of physical and educational training to fight wildfires, Rural-Metro Fire Department was back at it on Wednesday to make sure they're ready to go at a moment's notice if called into action.

Part of the certification for a firefighter to be able to fight wildfires is a pack test. To complete this test, they have to carry a 45 pound vest for 3 miles in under 45 minutes. Rural-Metro wildland firefighter, Dale Jansen, makes this pack test look easy.

"They need to be able to go the distance," said Jansen. "That's what people expect of us so that's what we need to be able to do."

A wildland firefighter can work 16 hour days for two straight weeks, it's tests like this that make sure those who are out on the front lines should even be there in the first place.

"Making sure that your body is able to do the most that it can is vital and imperative to securing a mission," said Jansen. "We can't achieve our objectives if guys aren't fit."

It's not all physical labor on these fires, to keep the wildland certification these guys have to have the smarts too. Refresher courses like this also test their safety skills and fire science to make sure everyone is on the same page.

"It's the only way I feel like I can be 100% effective at my job serving the public. It's a huge responsibility and I take it seriously," said Jansen.

This annual certification is done nationally, so all the firefighters battling wildfires are on the same page.

2017

May 17, 2017, http://www.kvoa.com/story/35450961/rural-metro-fire-puts-out-mobile-home-fire-on-south-side

Rural Metro Fire puts out mobile home fire on south side

Posted: May 17, 2017 7:47 AM
Updated: May 17, 2017 7:47 AM

Written By Steve Nunez CONNECT

TUCSON (KVOA) -- Rural Metro Fire put out a mobile home fire on the south side Wednesday morning.

The fire broke out in the 5300 Block of South Country Club Road, near East Benson Highway, just after 6:00 a.m.

According to Capt. Jay Karlik of Rural Metro, no one was inside the double-wide mobile home when the fire started. The fire caused extensive damage but firefighters were able to contain the fire to save some personal items and photos.

It took firefighters about ten minutes to put out the fire.

There were no injuries reported.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Stay with News 4 Tucson on air, online and on your mobile device for updates.



(Photo: Rural Metro Fire)



(Photo: Rural Metro Fire)



(Photo: Rural Metro Fire)



2017

May 18, 2017, http://www.kvoa.com/story/35466598/tucson-neighborhood-working-to-become-firewise

Tucson neighborhood working to become Firewise

Posted: May 18, 2017 4:39 PM
Updated: May 18, 2017 7:06 PM

Written By John Patrick CONNECT





TUCSON - Being prepared for wildfires isn't just for rural communities. Firefighters are also urging Tucson residents to be prepared.

Tucson averages more than 1,000 brush fires every year, so east side resident, Penny Nickels-Larkin, took it upon herself to become a Firewise Assessor. By attending a two day course she now has the knowledge to make her neighborhood a safer place.

"We live in a topographic area that can catch on fire and spread just like that and you don't want that to happen," said Nickels-Larkin.

The Hidden Valley neighborhood near Sabino Canyon has around 300 homes, 10% of them are on the way to becoming Firewise, by simply clearing excess vegetation, clearing gutters and "limbing up" trees around the house.

"Most of the things that we tell people are very inexpensive or no cost at all, just your labor." said Nickels-Larkin.

It's a little bit of hard work that could earn your neighborhood national Firewise Communities/USA recognition, which can lead to related grants and even a break in your homeowners insurance.

"You can clean up your own property but you have to make sure that everybody does their part and once that happens we're going to have a safer environment to live in," said Nickels-Larkin.

Battalion Chief John Walka, with the Rural-Metro Fire Department, says Firewise Communities really help them out too, giving firefighters valuable time to protect your property.

"Prevention is the best medicine," said Walka. "So to be able to get these communities involved ahead of time, they've got that peace of mind that they know if there is a wildfire threat that they've taken those steps to prevent it from happening."

To follow the steps in becoming a recognized Firewise Community click here.

NOTE: As of May 2017, and in some cases earlier, all ambulance information in the area except those run by individual fire departments such as Northwest and Tucson Fire Department will be found under Rural Metro Fire Department.

This is done because the old Kord's Ambulance/Kord's Southwest, merged/sold with Rural Metro. Then Rural Metro merged/sold with AMR and then sold out to Envision Healthcare and in our area they are called Rural Metro. There is a Rural Metro Ambulance connected to the Rural Metro Fire Department, and there is a Southwest Ambulance, both are owned by AMR-Envision Healthcare.

2017

May 30, 31, 2017, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Blaze damages historic chapel next to DeGrazia gallery

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The historic chapel next to the DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun in the Catalina Foothills was heavily damaged by fire Monday evening, said Battalion Chief-Lee Mayes of the Rural/ Metro Fire Department.

Rural/Metro firefighters were called to the area of gallery, 6300 N. Swan Road, shortly after 6 p.m. on reports of smoke and spotted the fire, which firefighters doused in two or three minutes after the first engine arrived, Mayes said.

No hanging pictures by renowned artist Ted De-Grazia were in the chapel, called the Mission in Sun, but murals were damaged and the roof was gone, Mayes said.

DeGrazia built the mission in 1952 in the memory of Padre Eusebio Kino and dedicated it to Our Lady of Guadalupe, according to the gallery's website, which added that the mission was registered as a National Historic landmark in 2006. The website said the ceiling of mission opened to the sky and the walls showcased DeGrazia's hand-painted frescoes.

Officials were investigating the cause of the fire. No damage estimates were available.

COURTESY DEGRAZIA GALLERY IN THE SUN



The chapel, known as the Mission in the Sun, was built using adobe and native materials. It was the first building on the property.

Fire at DeGrazia chapel shocks many



Shannon Stone, the education director at the DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun, 6300 N. Swan Road, surveys the damage to the historic chapel. A fire, which started Monday evening, heavily damaged the structure. See story on Page **A2**.

A.E. ARAIZA / ARIZONA DAILY STAR



Tucson artist Ettore 'Ted' DeGrazia began building the chapel in 1952 with three of his friends. It took several years to finish.

May 31, 2017, *Arizona Daily Star*:

JACK W. SHEAFFER



Visitors have enjoyed the colorful murals at the chapel for decades.

GREG BRYAN / ARIZONA DAILY STAR 2009



DeGrazia built his gallery near the chapel.

JACK W. SHEAFFER 1972

'We are devastated,' said Amy Heacock, who married her husband, Patrick, two years ago in the chapel. 'So much of the original chapel is gone. It will just be part of our memories,' she said, explaining that even if it is rebuilt, it won't be the same.

The couple, both 38, walk the grounds several times a year and would go to the chapel on their wedding

See CHAPEL, A7

CHAPEL

Continued from Page A2

anniversary. 'The chapel was small and had an intimate and spiritual setting. Our ceremony was at sundown and the rays came in through the windows on the west side. It was just gorgeous. The chapel bell started to cling on its own after we said our vows. It was a magical moment,' Heacock recalled.

John Hand, 39, and his wife, Shannon, 30, were married at the chapel nearly eight years ago. They married on a cool, midday in October and John Hand described it as 'one of the best experiences' the two shared.

'My wife and I were thinking of renewing our vows there on our 10-year anniversary. I do hope they try to rebuild it,' said Hand, describing the comfort the chapel brought him because of its open-air structure that let in the sun, creating a peaceful ambiance.

Contact reporters Caitlin Schmidt at cschmidt@tucson.com or 5734191 or Carmen Duarte at cduarte@tucson.com or 573-4104.

Hope is that DeGrazia's 'peaceful, wonderful chapel' will be rebuilt

By Caitlin Schmidt and Carmen Duarte

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

For more than 60 years, the doors of a mission nestled in the Foothills were never locked, welcoming visitors day and night to take comfort in the colorful murals splashed across its adobe walls.

On Monday, a fire heavily damaged DeGrazia's Mission in the Sun on the property at 6300 N. Swan Road. The fire at the chapel shocked many who had celebrated milestones, including weddings, anniversaries of the passing of loved ones and the celebration of feast days there.

On Tuesday morning, the chapel was covered in ashes and the sun poured through the ceiling of its three rooms, much of which was affected in the fire.

Tucson artist Ettore 'Ted' DeGrazia began the project in 1952, before there was water on the site and the land was unsuitable for adobe. DeGrazia worked with three old friends, who were Pascua Yaqui and knew about making adobe. It took several years to complete the 18-by-40-foot mission, constructed of native materials such as log timbers, saguaro ribs and cholla cactus candelabra.

Lance Laber, executive director of the DeGrazia Foundation, was in shock as he sat in a hotel room in Mexico, unable to make it back to assess the damage.

'Over the years, this little peaceful, wonderful chapel has come to mean a lot to people,' Laber said. 'People all over the city and country that have been coming here for years are going to be just heartbroken.'

The cause of the fire in the chapel wasn't immediately clear, but fire investigators told Laber they believe it started at the altar.

'It's just traditional that everybody brings their candles in there, along with photographs and all kinds of things,' Laber said. 'We try very hard to leave them in there and obviously it became a fire hazard.'

Laber wasn't sure about the extent of insurance coverage.

The anxiety in his voice was palpable as he talked about how hard it was to be so far away from a place he'd grown to love.

'We're going to see about restoring it,' Laber said. 'Obviously DeGrazia isn't here to complete the murals, but we're hopeful that we can rebuild.'

A few years before his 1982 death, DeGrazia completed the chapel's murals, painting the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe next to her image on the altar wall, which had graced the building since it's construction.

2017

June 8, 2017, *Arizona Daily Star*:



Garbage truck fire

Mike Christy / Arizona Daily Star Updated 17 hrs ago

Rural/Metro Fire Department firefighters battle a garbage truck blaze on the Alvernon Way exit ramp off eastbound Interstate 10 on June 8, 2017. The truck fire sparked a brushfire that threatened nearby businesses.

June 15, 2017, *Arizona Daily Star*:

TEP crews restore power on Tucson's far east side

Carmen Duarte Arizona Daily Star Jun 15, 2017 Updated 13 hrs ago

Tucson Electric Power Co. crews restored power to more than 13,000 customers on the far east side Thursday, June 15.

Electricity was restored to 13,806 customers shortly before 5 p.m., said Joe Barrios, a TEP spokesman.

The outage occurred at 4 p.m. when an overgrown tree along North Tanque Verde Loop made contact with power lines and stared a fire, Barrios said. The downed line fell on other lines. Rural/Metro firefighters put out the fire.

Power was restored to customers living roughly north of East Snyder Road to south of East Broadway, and North Sarnoff Drive on the west to North Wentworth Road on the east.

Barrios said the overgrown tree would be trimmed by a professional crew.

He said homeowners who have trees growing into TEP electrical lines must contact a professional tree trimming service to cut back the tree.

Homeowners can call TEP to cut off electrical power at 623-7711. Once the trimming is completed, TEP will then go and restore power to the home, Barrios said.

2017

June 28, 2017, ***http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/35774506/fire-burning-on-south-side-of-tucson***









2017

June 29, 2017, *Arizona Daily Star*:

FIREFIGHTERS BATTLE BLAZE AT THE SCRAP YARD

Rural/Metro Fire Department firefighters battled a blaze Wednesday at The Scrap Yard, 3147 E. Ajo Way, that sent black smoke into the air that could be seen for miles. A ladder truck was used to fight the blaze into the evening.



RICK WILEY / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

June 28, 2017, *http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/35774506/fire-burning-on-south-side-of-tucson*

Fire burns at scrap yard on south side of Tucson

Published: Wednesday, June 28th 2017, 5:57 pm MST
Updated: Wednesday, June 28th 2017, 10:27 pm MST

By Michael Cooper, Digital Content Director CONNECT

TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - Investigators are trying to figure out what caused a fire at a scrap yard on the south side of Tucson Wednesday afternoon.

The fire at The Scrap Yard, 3174 E. Ajo Way, began around 5 p.m. and several witnesses said they heard an explosion before it started.

There were no reported injuries and the cause of the fire is under investigation.

There are several kinds of material in the scrap yard, which caused the thick black smoke seen by many in Tucson.

"I was really scared," said Jorge Santana, who was at a tire shop next to the scrap yard when the fire started. "I've never seen anything like this. It was the biggest one I've seen. We heard like a big boom, then the fire came. We went here and we saw the whole explosion and it was big."

2017

June 28, 2017, ***http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/35774506/fire-burning-on-south-side-of-tucson***









2017

June 28, 2017, ***http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/35774506/fire-burning-on-south-side-of-tucson***









2017

June 28, 2017, ***http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/35774506/fire-burning-on-south-side-of-tucson***













June 28, 2017, *KGUN 9*

MENU KGUN9 ON YOUR SIDE



VIDEO BY KGUN 9 ON YOUR SIDE

+SHOW CAPTION

TUCSON (KGUN9-TV) - Seeing smoke? Authorities tell us there is a scrap yard fire burning on Tucson's southside.

Deputy Code Gress with the Pima County Sheriff's Department confirms the fire took place at The Scrap Yard located at 3174 E. Ajo Way.



2017

June 28, 2017, http://www.kvoa.com/story/35774498/large-fire-on-the-south-side

Large fire at South Side Scrap Yard

Posted: Jun 28, 2017 5:56 PM
Updated: Jun 28, 2017 10:15 PM

Written By Alexa Wallen CONNECT



Rural Metro Fire Department, Tucson Fire Department and Davis Monthan fire, worked on a fire that burned near Country Club Road and Ajo Way on Wednesday, June 28.

The fire started around 5:30 p.m. at The Scrap Yard at 3147 East Ajo Way, which is a metal scrap yard, according to the Rural Metro Fire Department.

No structures were involved and an investigation is ongoing to determine the cause, it took 30 minutes to get the fire out. Cars, tires and car parts were on fire. No one was injured.





2017

July 4 2017, TFD—

Tucson Fire PIO @TucsonFirePIO · 15h

TFD units assisted Rural Metro Fire with a fully involved mobile home fire this afternoon. If outside stay hydrated!



July 24, 2017, *Arizona Daily Star*:

'Honestly, we got lucky' in Tanque Verde rescue of 17

By Curt Prendergast

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The rescue of 17 people from Tanque Verde Falls was one of the largest and most difficult operations the Pima County Sheriff's Department has conducted in recent years, officials said Monday.

Rescuers pulled the hikers out of harm's way Sunday evening and Monday morning as a monsoon-fed flash flood barreled through the falls near Redington Pass northeast of Tucson.

Among the rescued were a man carrying a 4-year-old child on his back, a woman and a boy stranded on a rock and two people caught on a cliff wall as the waters rose.

Although the department has helped groups of 20 or 30 people caught on the wrong side of rushing waters in Sabino Canyon, the Tanque Verde Falls operation was the first time so many people had to be rescued by helicopter, said sheriff's Deputy Steve West, who took part in the rescue.

A video posted on the Sheriff's Department Facebook page shows a deputy descending from a helicopter to rescue an individual perched on a rock in the middle of what appears to be a raging river.

The rescue effort began around 5:30p.m. Sunday when deputies received a call for help from a woman who said rising water levels at the falls had left her and a boy stranded on a rock, said Erick Maldonado, supervisor of the Sheriff Department searchand- rescue unit.

Deputies, volunteers with the Southern Arizona Rescue Association and firefighters from the Rural/Metro Fire Department responded and saw others stranded by the waters on rocks and eight other people on the southern side of the canyon, he said.

A sheriff's helicopter crew hoisted them out of the canyon, but couldn't reach two people stranded on a canyon wall.

SARA volunteers lowered themselves down to the two people trapped on a canyon wall to deliver supplies to help them make it through the night, Maldonado said. They were taken out by a Department of Public Safety helicopter Monday morning.

2017

July 24, 2017, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Earlier on Sunday, the creek was 'pretty low' and hikers weren't paying attention to the weather, Deputy Brian Boll said.

'When that water came in, the water levels went from something you could walk

See RESCUE, A5



A child is hoisted from flood waters by rescuers from the Pima County Sheriff's Department. Members of the Southern Arizona Rescue Association and Rural/Metro Fire Department aided in the rescue of 17 people this past weekend at Tanque Verde Falls.

Continued from Page A1

across to something that you can't swim across,' Boll said.

Rescuers pulled 15 people out on Sunday, but the effort became too dangerous after dark, particularly for the helicopter crew.

In order to get a deputy close enough to the people stranded at the bottom of the canyon, 'at some points, the main rotor blades were 20 feet away from the rock wall,' West said.

The rescue came less than two weeks after a July 15 flash flood near Payson left 10 people dead. In 1981, eight people died in flash flooding at Tanque Verde falls.

'Honestly, we got lucky,' Maldonado said, noting the stranded hikers were able to call for help, deputies were working, and the helicopter and its crew were available.

The most serious injury reported by sheriff's officials was a twisted ankle.

However, deputies were preparing for the worst during the rescue effort, Boll said.

'When you see a 4-yearold on their dad's back and you can't get to them. That's tough,' Boll said as he choked back tears.

Maldonado said all of the rescued people were from Tucson and cautioned local residents about the dangers of drowning during monsoon season. A flash flood watch was in place across much of Arizona on Sunday, according to the National Weather Service.

'The rain, the water, it's got to go somewhere,' he said. 'It's going to go down-canyon, it's going to go downstream. By the time you hear the water and you see the water, you're talking about seconds before you can get to safety.'

If local residents find themselves stranded, bright-colored clothing during the day or a cell phone screen at night can help speed up the search, said helicopter pilot Milt Kennedy.

Contact reporter Curt Prendergast at 573-4224 or cprendergast@tucson.com or on Twitter @Curt-TucsonStar



Southern Arizona Rescue Association volunteers lowered themselves down to two people trapped on a canyon wall to deliver supplies to help them make it through Sunday night.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA RESCUE ASSOCIATION



Helicopter pilot Milt Kennedy, right, and crew chief Tom Price of the Pima County Sheriff's Department search and rescue team at a Monday press conference.

MIKE CHRISTY / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

July 26, 2017, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Fire not put out, house burned, suit against Rural/Metro says

By Caitlin Schmidt

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The Rural/Metro Fire Department is being sued in connection with a house that burned down after the homeowners say firefighters failed to fully extinguish and earlier blaze at the residence.

On Jan. 9, 2016, Rural/ Metro firefighters responded to an accidental fire in the 900 block of East Chula Vista Road, near North First Avenue and East Ina Road, according to the lawsuit, which was filed July 13 in Pima County Superior Court.

Although Rural/Metro responded and extinguished the fire, firefighters 'failed to detect and prevent a rekindle of the fire in the home,' the lawsuit says.

'Rural/Metro negligently and improperly determined, and acted as if, the fire was extinguished and the home and property were protected and safeguarded,' the lawsuit says.

The fire rekindled, burning the home to the ground and causing an estimated $641,886 in damage.

When firefighters left the scene, they acted negligently by failing to make sure the necessary overhaul procedures were completed, including placement of alarms, detectors, monitors or cameras, according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit was filed by Secura Supreme Insurance Co., which represents the homeowners, Jack and Connie Donovan.

In the suit, Secura is asking the court to award general damages; special damages for insurance payments, property damage, additional living expenses, demolition expenses and vehicles; costs, interests and attorney's fees and other damages deemed reasonable by the court. No dollar amount is specified in the lawsuit.

Scottsdale attorney Kathleen Kassmann, who is representing Secura, did not respond to the Star's request for comment. A representative from Rural/ Metro also did not respond for comment.

Contact reporter Caitlin Schmidt at cschmidt@tucson.com or 573-4191. Twitter: @caitlinschmidt

2017

August 10, 2017, ***KGUN 9:***

Firefighters respond to Sabino Canyon house fire

BY: Brandi Walker
POSTED: 8:52 PM, Aug 10, 2017





2017

August 10, 2017, ***KGUN 9:***

Firefighters respond to Sabino Canyon house fire

BY: Brandi Walker
POSTED: 8:52 PM, Aug 10, 2017



TUSCON (KGUN9-TV) - Rural Metro firefighters responded to a house fire near Sabino Canyon Rd and Rudasill Rd. this afternoon.

According to a media release from Rural Metro Fire, crews got a report of smoke coming from a house in the area around 5 p.m.

When firefighters arrived at the scene, they saw flames coming up from the front of the house.

All residents were outside the house and crews were able to get the fire under control within 15 minutes.

According to a media release from Rural Metro Fire:

> "The fire appeared to have started in the kitchen and spread to the main living room. 28 firefighters and 7 units responded. There were no injuries. Investigators are still working but looking at the cause of the fire as being accidental."

September 12, 2017, *Arizona Daily Star:*

Longtime Rural Metro Fire Capt. Scott Ferguson dies

By Carmen Duarte

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Capt. Scott Ferguson, who served three decades with Rural Metro Fire Department and was known as an accomplished musician in his offtime, died while on duty Sept. 8. He was 5 7.

Ferguson suffered 'a major cardiac event on duty' that left him in very critical condition, said Battalion Chief John Walka. He died at Banner-University Medical Center Tucson surrounded by his family and fellow firefighters.

Ferguson was assigned to Station 72 at 2741 N. Houghton Road, north of East Tanque Verde Road. Before joining Rural Metro, he served two years with the Houston Fire Department, said Walka.

'He climbed the ranks here and began as a reserve firefighter. He also worked as an emergency medical technician and worked at all eight fire stations in Pima County. In 1997, he was promoted to fire captain,' recalled Walka of his friend. 'Captain Ferguson was probably one of the most caring individuals. He was one of the best teachers and mentors for firefighters. He had a lot of experience in all phases of fire service, including fighting structure fires, extrication and emergency medical services. He shared his experiences with everyone,' said Walka of the department's most senior captain.

He said his 'work ethic, reputation and personality impacted people' and this was evident 'over the past week as long-time friends and colleagues from across the country offered their support.'

When Ferguson was not working, he played with several Tucson musicians, including Billy Scroggs, a country rock artist and former Rural Metro firefighter.

Ferguson played keyboards, guitar, bass, drums and wrote music. 'He was a big fan of The Beatles,' said Walka. When he wasn't playing music, he was watching University of Arizona softball.

He is survived by his mother, Kathryn Ferguson, of Tucson; brother, Steven Ferguson, of Houston, Texas; aunts, uncles, numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Ferguson will be honored with a line-of-duty-death funeral service, which includes a procession of fire trucks About 200 firefighters representing Southern Arizona departments are expected.

Services are set for Wednesday, Sept. 13, at 10 a.m. at Calvary Church, 8711 E. Speedway.

Contact reporter Carmen Duarte at cduarte@tucson.com or 573-4104.



Capt . Scott Ferguson

September 12, 2017, *KGUN9*—

Rural Metro firefighters respond to mobile home fire



BY: Joey Greaber
POSTED: 3:37 PM, Sep 12, 2017



TUCSON (KGUN9-TV) - Rural Metro firefighters responded to a mobile home fire in the 3000 Block of Wooden Bucket St. Tuesday.

According to RMFD, crews arrived at 12:30 p.m. to find flames coming from the rear of the single wide mobile home. The flames were contained in ten minutes.

There were no injuries to the firefighters.

One resident was home at the time of the fire and was able to escape uninjured.

Firefighters are working to determine the cause.

2017

September 13, 2017, *Arizona Daily Star:*

Photos: Funeral for Rural Metro Capt. Scott Ferguson

Sep 13, 2017 Updated 13 hrs ago

Ferguson, who served three decades with Rural Metro Fire Department, died while on duty Sept. 8. He suffered "a major cardiac event on duty" that left him in very critical condition. He died at Banner-University Medical Center Tucson surrounded by his family and fellow firefighters.



Firefighter Funeral

Ron Medvescek / Arizona Daily Star Updated 13 hrs ago

The casket bearing the body of Rural Metro Fire Department Capt. Scott Ferguson crosses beneath the flag during a line-of-duty-death firefighter funeral procession to Calvary Church, 8711 E. Speedway in Tucson, AZ. on September 13, 2017. More than 350 Southern Arizona firefighters, family, friends and supporters attended the service. Ferguson, 57, died of a cardiac arrest while on duty on September 8.



Ron Medvescek / Arizona Daily Star Updated 13 hrs ago

Members of Rural Metro Fire Department Capt. Scott Ferguson's crew from Station 57 carry unload his casket at Calvary Church.



Ron Medvescek / Arizona Daily Star Updated 13 hrs ago

Family members with Rural Metro Fire Department Chief Karl Isselhard, right, watch as Capt. Ferguson's casket is moved toward the church.



Ron Medvescek / Arizona Daily Star Updated 13 hrs ago

The last helmet worn on duty by Rural Metro Fire Department District Capt. Scott Ferguson and the fire axe are carried by crew members.

2017

September 13, 2017, *Arizona Daily Star:*

Photos: Funeral for Rural Metro Capt. Scott Ferguson



Ron Medvescek / Arizona Daily Star Updated 13 hrs ago

The casket bearing the body of Rural Metro Fire Department Capt. Scott Ferguson moves toward the church.



Ron Medvescek / Arizona Daily Star Updated 13 hrs ago

Firefighter/paramedic Grant Reed, center, directs the pallbearers for Rural Metro Fire Department Capt. Scott Ferguson.



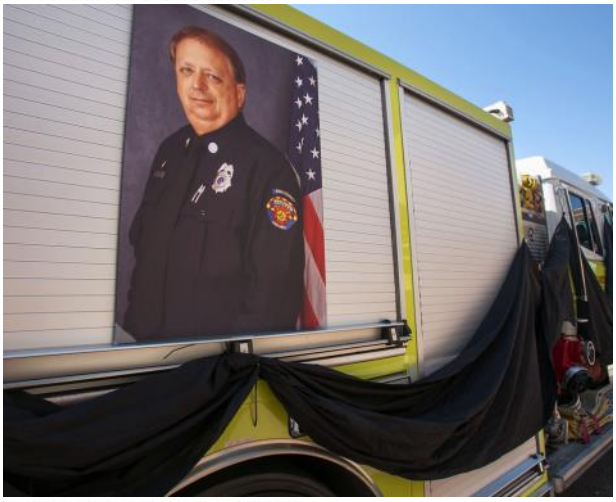
Ron Medvescek / Arizona Daily Star Updated 13 hrs ago

Jackie Pereda and her daughter Vivian, left and Yuliya Cerros and her son Yakov, right watch the ceremonies during the funeral of Rural Metro Fire Department Capt. Scott Ferguson outside Calvary Church, 8711 E. Speedway in Tucson, AZ. on September 13, 2017. Pereda's husband is a Rural/Metro firefighter and Cerros is an emergency room nurse and "respectful citizen".



Ron Medvescek / Arizona Daily Star Updated 13 hrs ago

Rural Metro Fire Department Engineer Allen DeKalb, carrying the helmet, leads pallbearers and the body of Capt. Scott Ferguson from the Church.



Ron Medvescek / Arizona Daily Star Updated 13 hrs ago

A picture of Rural Metro Fire Department Capt. Scott Ferguson graces a Rural Metro engine at Calvary Church.



Ron Medvescek / Arizona Daily Star Updated 13 hrs ago

Paramedic/Firefighter Kari Spanarella is moved as emotions ran high at the conclusion of services. Ferguson was Spanarella's first captain 15 years ago.

2017

October 2, 2017, cson.com/news/local/ore-crusher-at-mine-south-of-tucson-catches-fire/article_d216b3f0-84de-529d-a514-1f6ba71e3c16.html

Ore crusher at mine south of Tucson catches fire

By David Wichner Arizona Daily Star Oct 2, 2017 Updated 10 hrs ago



Heavy black smoke soars from a fire in a secondary crusher unit at the Freeport McMoRan Sierra Mine Complex on Duval Mine Road in Green Valley. Firefighters from various agencies battled the blaze. There were no injuries.

Rick Wiley / Arizona Daily Star

A fire that broke out Monday morning at Freeport McMoRan's Sierrita Mine in Green Valley burned for about five hours, sending a column of thick black smoke into the sky before it was extinguished about 4 p.m.

No injuries were reported.

The fire started at around 11 a.m. in a secondary ore crusher unit at Sierrita, Freeport's Eric Kinneberg said.

Units from the Green Valley, Rural/Metro and Drexel Heights fire districts, as well as the Tucson Fire Department, battled the two-alarm blaze.

Damage to the facilities was being assessed and the cause of the fire is under investigation, Kinneberg said, declining to elaborate.

L.T. Pratt, public information officer for the Green Valley Fire District, said the fire mainly burned rubber insulation on ducts used to gather dust from the crushing process, making it hard to reach.

"It was a very difficult fire," Pratt said. "It was pretty much contained in the ductwork."

Firefighters ended up extinguishing the fire by chasing it down both ends of the ductwork, he said, adding that initial indications were that the fire was caused by a mechanical malfunction.

About 700 workers are employed at Sierrita, where Freeport mines and processes copper as well as molybdenum, a metal used to strengthen steel; and rhenium, a rare metal used in jet engines.

Freeport cut about 500 jobs at Sierrita in 2015, citing low metals prices, and announced it would close the entire operation before reversing that decision in mid-2016.

Sierrita was first worked as an underground mine beginning in 1907 and open-pit development began in 1957, according to Freeport, which became owner when it acquired Phelps Dodge Corp. in 2007.

2017

October 25, 2017, ww.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/36682781/one-suffers-life-threatening-injuries-in-homeless-camp-brush-fire

One suffers life-threatening injuries in homeless camp brush fire

Published: Wednesday, October 25th 2017, 11:58 am MST
Updated: Wednesday, October 25th 2017, 11:58 am MST

By Carolyn Yaussy, Digital Content Producer CONNECT



(Source: Rural Metro Fire Department)

One person suffered life-threatening injuries from a brush fire at a homeless camp on Tucson's south side, said John Walka of Rural/Metro Fire.

The fire happened in the 4600 block East Rex Street at around 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 25, according to Rural Metro Fire.

RMFD said the victim was treated on the scene, and then taken to a Tucson area hospital.

Firefighters said there were reports of a possible second victim, but did not find one.



2017

December 31, 2017, *TFD*—

Tucson Fire PIO @TucsonFirePIO · 2h

Tucson Fire, Davis Monthan, and Rual Metro are working this green waste landfill fire near Houghton and Drexel. Working since 3AM and will be working through most of the day with smoke making its way throughout Tucson. No structures threatened, no injuries.





tucsonfiredepartment Follow

tucsonfiredepartment This green waste landfill fire near Houghton and Drexel started about 3am. #tucsonfiredepartment #davismonthan #fire and #RualMetro fire are all working together. #smoke will be all throughout #tucson for a least the next day as this fire will probably burn for several days. No structures threatened and no injuries. If you live in this area, try to stay indoors as the smoke will be heavy at times. @tucsonfirefighters @kgun9 @news4tucson @tucsonnewsnow @arizonadailystar @telemundo @univision @azteca

13 views

10 MINUTES AGO

Log in to like or comment.

2017

December 31, 2017, *Arizona Daily Star:*

Photos: Smoke from Tucson landfill fire visible for miles

Dec 31, 2017 Updated 14 hrs ago

Landfill fire

ill on the city's eastside.



Tucson Fire Department firefighters battle a subborn fire involving green waste at the Drexel Land Reclamation Facility, 11330 E Drexel Rd., east of South Houghton Road. Crews responded after 3 am Sunday morning, said TFD spokesman Capt Nick Janton. Smoke from the fire may linger for some time making the air hard to breathe, Janton said.

A.E. Araiza / Arizona Daily Star



Heat and smoke from a landfill fire continue to hamper efforts from the Tucson Fire Department as firefighters contain a subborn fire involving green waste at the Drexel Land Reclamation Facility, 11330 E Drexel Rd., east of South Houghton Road. Crews responded after 3 am Sunday morning, said TFD spokesman Capt Nick Janton. Smoke from the fire may linger for some time making the air hard to breathe, Janton said.

A.E. Araiza / Arizona Daily Star

December 31, 2017, *Arizona Daily Star:*

Photos: Smoke from Tucson landfill fire visible for miles

Dec 31, 2017 Updated 14 hrs ago

Tucson Fire Department works a fire involving green waste at Drexel Road landfill on the city's eastside.



n onlooker watches as smoke rises near a residential area as Tucson Fire Department firefighters battle subborn fire involving green waste at the Drexel Land Reclamation Facility, 11330 E Drexel Rd.

.E. Araiza / Arizona Daily Star



Tucson Fire Department firefighter add a foaming agent as crews battle a subborn fire involving green waste at the Drexel Land Reclamation Facility, 11330 E Drexel Rd., east of South Houghton Road. Crews responded after 3 am Sunday morning, said TFD spokesman Capt Nick Janton.

A.E. Araiza / Arizona Daily Star

2017

December 31, 2017, *Arizona Daily Star:*

Photos: Smoke from Tucson landfill fire visible for miles

Dec 31, 2017 Updated 14 hrs ago

Tucson Fire Department works a fire involving green waste at Drexel Road landfill on the city's eastside.



Tucson Fire Department firefighters battle a subborn fire involving green waste at the Drexel Land Reclamation Facility, 11330 E Drexel Rd. Crews responded after 3 am Sunday morning, said TFD spokesman Capt Nick Janton. Smoke from the fire may linger for some time making the air hard to breathe, Janton said.

A.E. Araiza / Arizona Daily Star



Smoke from a landfill fire rises in the distance off Houghton Road in Tucson on Dec. 31, 2017. Tucson Fire Department firefighters battled a subborn fire involving green waste at the Drexel Land Reclamation Facility.

A.E. Araiza / Arizona Daily Star

2018

January 23, 2018, ww.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/37329528/rural-metro-fd-responds-to-fire-at-scrap-metal-yard

Rural-Metro FD responds to fire at scrap metal yard

Published: Tuesday, January 23rd 2018, 9:16 am MST
Updated: Tuesday, January 23rd 2018, 9:16 am MST

By Tucson News Now Staff CONNECT



The fire at Tucson Scrap Metal, 3119 E. Pennsylvania Street, on Tuesday, Jan. 23. (Source: Rural-Metro Fire Department)



The fire was confined to a pile of scrap metal. (Source: Rural-Metro Fire Department)

TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - Firefighters from the Rural-Metro Fire Department were dispatched to a fire at a south-side scrap metal yard on Tuesday, Jan. 23.

According to a department spokesman, the fire at Tucson Scrap Metal, 3119 E. Pennsylvania Street, took 15 minutes to get under control.

The fire was confined to a pile of scrap metal and did not get to any structures.

No injuries were reported.

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2018

February 4, 2018, http://arizonadailystar.az.newsmemory.com/?tken=e8fd57aa9318b5880df10330b82a3c74&cnum=6249723&fod=1111111STD&selDate=20180204&licenseType=paid_subscriber&

IF FIRE STRIKES AT HOME, HERE'SHOWITWILLSTART

By A.E. Araiza

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Many of the modern conveniences in our homes are meant to make our lives, well, convenient.

That said, clothes dryers, water heaters, candles and even toasters are also some of items that have the potential to burn down our houses or apartments.

Human behavior is also a risk factor. Do you know how hot a cigarette can get? It is the way we use- or rather, misuse- these conveniences that creates a problem.

As part of an informal survey based on years of expertise, fire captains Andy Skaggs, with the Tucson Fire Department; Jay Walka, with Rural Metro; and Brian Keeley, with the Northwest Fire District were asked to list the most common household conveniences (and our behavior) that have the potential to cause a fire hazard in our homes.

Here are 13 factors, a baker's dozen if you will, which are listed alphabetically.

ASHES

Ashes from a fireplace or barbecue grill need to be properly disposed of, not shoveled directly into bags and dropped into residential dumpsters, Keeley said.

They should be stored, allowed to cool while kept in a metal container, Skaggs said.

The container doesn't have to be air-tight, just secure. It should be kept outside and have a 3-foot perimeter until the ashes are cool.

BLOW DRYER

'Anything that has a heating element to it can potentially be a fire hazard if not used in an appropriate way,' Skaggs said. Like all appliances, they should be used the way they were designed. But, when the human element is added, there have been occasions where they are used in a manner they are not designed for, such as not monitoring an unattended blow dryer while using it to dry damp bed sheets, he said.



A.E. ARAIZA / ARIZONA DAILY STAR



Ashes from a fireplace or barbecue grill must be allowed to cool in a metal container before being put in residential dumpsters.

THINKSTOCK



February 4, 2018, http://arizonadailystar.az.newsmemory.com/?tken=e8fd57aa9318b5880df10330b82a3c74&cnum=6249723&fod=1111111STD&selDate=20180204&licenseType=paid_subscriber&

'That tiny little flame that looks harmless has caused more than 9,000 house fires each year,' Walka said.

They are still an open flame, said Skaggs, and a number of variables come into play because of it … a dog canknock it over witha tail or a person could knock it over inadvertently. Worse, an unattended candle can burn itself down and ignite whatever material is sur-

See FIRES, E5

Left unattended, an overworked blow dryer can cause a fire. 'Anything that has a heating element' is a potential hazard, says TFD Capt. Andy Skaggs.

A.E. ARAIZA / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

FIRES

Continued from Page E1

rounding it. In spite of its size, even a tiny flame has to be treated with respect.

They must be extinguished and be kept away from adjacent combustibles, Keeley said.

CHILDREN

Lighters and matches should be put away and kept out of reach of children, Keeley said.

Teach them fire safety early in their lives and supervise them around all hazards, according to Walka.

'Children are very curious about fire,' Skaggs said. But they may lack of knowledge of its destructive potential.

Fireworks also hold a fascination for children.

Whenever together, children and fireworks should be supervised.

This past July, in the twoweek period when it is legal to use sparklers, there was a case of children playing with fireworks without adult supervision, Skaggs said.

Their sparklers caught grass on fire in an alley, and the kids panicked and ran.

The fire then spread to the grass in a neighbor's backyard, which then caused a shed to catch fire. The shed had been a storage area for some fuel, which burned hot enough to catch the main house on fire, he said.

'It was kind of a perfect storm.'

CLOTHES DRYERS

Cigarettes need to be properly disposed of and extinguished, Keeley said.

Walka recommends smoking outside and using a wide ashtray to properly douse the cigarette.

WATER HEATERS

Having a protective space, clean of any combustible items around a water heater is important, Keeley said.

A lot of water heaters are gas, and if so, there is an open flame, Skaggs said.

The problem arises when people use the area around a water heater, like a closet, for storage.

'The water heater closet is for the water heater, and the water heater only,' Skaggs said.

If you do use it for storage the risk of fire increases, then, 'It's probably a matter of when, not a matter of if.'

Contact A.E. Araiza at aaraiza@tucson.com



Lint causes clothes-dryer fires. Traps should be cleaned before every use. The exhaust flue the blow tube behind

February 4, 2018, http://arizonadailystar.az.newsmemory.com/?tken=e8fd57aa9318b5880df10330b82a3c74&cnum=6249723&fod=1111111STD&selDate=20180204&licenseType=paid_subscriber&

Dryers have a heating element built inside, Skaggs said. Gas dryers will even have an actual flame in the back that is creating the heat, he said. Remain home when operating the dryer and using it should be looked at much the same way as using a fireplace or a space heater.

'You have the potential of a fire every single time.'

All the captains agree that the lint is the reason for dryer fires and it is important to continually keep the traps clean after each load.

The exhaust flues, the blow tube behind the machine should be cleaned annually, maybe even more often if it is used quite a bit.

Once, Skaggs took his dryer apart to troubleshoot a problem and was surprised to see how much lint was in various parts of the machine. 'It was really eye-opening.'

COOKING

In case of a grease fire, don't use water. Instead, cover the fire with a lid to suppress it, Walka said.

Also, keep oven mitts, flammable materials and loose clothing away from hot surfaces, he said.

Again, all the captains agree it is best not to leave a cooking fire unattended, even for a short time.

It's not uncommon for someone to start cooking a meal, go sit on a couch, forget they even started cooking and fall asleep, Skaggs said. If they are lucky, their alarm will wake them up or a neighbor will come pounding on their door.

ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

'Don't overload surge protectors, power strips or extension cords with high-amperage-draw appliances,' Keeley said.

Walka agrees, adding, avoid extension cords when possible and don't put them under rugs or carpeting.

Replace worn electrical cords and unplug small appliances when not in use, such as toasters and coffee makers.

A toaster, Skaggs said, is not a particularly common thing to catch on fire, but the risk is there if it

the machine - should be cleaned annually.

A.E. ARAIZA / ARIZONA DAILY STAR



Plan for a 3-foot perimeter around space heaters, the fire captains say, and remember to turn them off when leaving the area.

A.E. ARAIZA / ARIZONA DAILY STAR



Over time, especially in older homes, a 'flammable crust' is created by a buildup of fireplace soot.

THINKSTOCK



2018

February 4, 2018, http://arizonadailystar.az.newsmemory.com/?tken=e8fd57aa9318b5880df10330b82a3c74&cnum=6249723&fod=1111111STD&selDate=20180204&licenseType=paid_subscriber&

malfunctions. When he talks to children in school he says, 'It only takes a couple of seconds to unplug it and a couple of seconds to plug it back in.'

FIREPLACES/CHIMNEYS

In older homes, fireplaces will have a buildup of soot over time. 'That soot is flammable and as it builds up it is creating a flammable crust on the inside of the fireplace,' Skaggs said.

The solution is to have the chimney cleaned on a regular basis, Walka said. It is also a good idea to keep flammable materials 3 feet away from active fireplaces.

FLAMMABLE STORAGE

All flammable liquids must be secured in proper containers and stored in metal lockers in the garage, Walka said. They should also not be stored near anything hot, including lights and heaters.

HEATERS

There should be a distance of three feet around space heaters, said both Keeley and Walka.

Just as important, heating equipment should be turned off when leaving a room and they should also be properly maintained, Walka said.

OVENS

The intended purpose of an oven is to prepare meals. Even if you think it is a good idea, do not use an oven to heat the home.

SMOKING

The cherry of a cigarette, the red, glowing end, when it is burning at its hottest, is more than 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit, Skaggs said.

Problems occur when there is improper disposal of smoking materials, he said. People may fall asleep in bed with a burning cigarette or even think it is no big deal to flick a butt wherever they see fit.



The burning end of a cigarette exceeds a thousand degrees. Risks are compounded by smoking in bed.

A.E. ARAIZA / ARIZONA DAILY STAR



Ovens are designed to cook food, not heat homes. Local fire captains also say instances of people walking away from cooking fires, forgetting about them, are all too common.

A.E. ARAIZA / ARIZONA DAILY STAR



A water heater in a closet shouldn't share space with other stored goods.

A.E. ARAIZA / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

2018

February 25, 2018, w.kvoa.com/story/37584058/rural-metro-fire-volunteers-clear-out-bufflegrass-in-light-of-wildfire-season

Rural Metro Fire & volunteers clear out buffelgrass in light of wildfire season

Posted: Feb 24, 2018 4:39 PM
Updated: Feb 25, 2018 9:54 PM

Written By Zack Briggs CONNECT

TUCSON- The Rural Metro Fire Department along with dozens of volunteers got deep in the weeds Saturday morning, clearing out thickets of buffelgrass off north Kolb Road.

Residents of the Quail Canyon Homeowners Association, accompanied by University of Arizona students, were getting ahead of the flames, so to speak, in light of a challenging wildfire season on the horizon.

"Getting rid of the buffelgrass, especially in our surrounding communities such as this is very, very important. It's very essential because it helps to keep our community safer," said John Walka, Battalion Chief with Rural Metro Fire.

Record dry winter conditions in Arizona are paving the way for quite the active wildfire season.

The noxious weed known as buffelgrass is littered throughout Southern Arizona.

Perry Grissom, who heads the Quail Canyon Homeowners Association buffelgrass committee, said buffelgrass is capable of turning deserts into highly flammable landscapes.

"There's no moisture in it. All it takes is a little wind and a little heat. It ignites really easily," Grissom said.

More than 2,200 fires scorched over 400,000 acres across the state last year.

On Thursday, Governor Doug Ducey called on everyone to do their part in preventing wildfires, most of which are human-caused.

Ducey requested $2 million for fire prevention funding.

Meanwhile, efforts are already underway here in Tucson.

"It's definitely hard work. But it's fun. It's rewarding. You leave feeling like you're making a difference so that's nice," said UA student Victoria Friess.

But the buffelgrass is always found to return.

"It'll take a long term follow up on this but the fire hazard problem is gone for a year at least. But it will grow back but we'll be back to hit it and hit it and hit it until it's gone for good," Grissom said.

2018

February 27, 2018, ww.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/37608698/2-dogs-dead-after-a-garage-fire-on-the-northeast-side

2 dogs dead after a garage fire on the northeast-side

Published: Tuesday, February 27th 2018, 8:53 pm MST
Updated: Tuesday, February 27th 2018, 8:53 pm MST

By Tucson News Now Staff CONNECT



Garage fire that claimed two dogs.
(Source: Rural/Metro)

TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - Two dogs were the only casualties in a garage fire in the 5300 block of North Entrada de Sabino, according to John Walka a spokesman with Rural/Metro Fire.

Firefighters responded to the fire near Sabino Canyon and Snyder, which was contained to the garage area.

According to Walka, no one was home at the time of the fire, but crews discovered two dogs inside the home unconscious. CPR was done on the dogs but they did not survive.



April 2, 2018, https://www.1041kqth.com/news/local-news/tfd-working-scrapyard-fire-near-alvernon-and-22nd

Rural Metro, TFD respond to scrap yard fire near Alvernon and 22nd



BY: Joey Greaber
POSTED: 6:54 PM, Apr 2, 2018



Alvernon and 22nd Monday.

VIDEO BY KGUN9 ON YOUR SIDE -HIDE CAPTION

TUCSON, Ariz. - Firefighters were on the scene of a scrap yard fire near Alvernon and 22nd Monday.

Rural Metro Fire and Tucson Fire Department responded.

The Tucson Fire Department says the fire started out as a brush fire and spread into the scrap yard.

The cause of the fire is unknown.

KGUN9 has a crew on the way and will have more information as it becomes available.

2018

April 20, 2018, http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/38003382/firefighters-battle-blaze-on-pima-county-fairgrounds

UPDATE: Multiple agencies called to battle blaze at Pima County Fairgrounds

Published: Friday, April 20th 2018, 6:42 am MST
Updated: Friday, April 20th 2018, 8:06 am MST

By Tucson News Now Staff CONNECT



The Pima County Fairgrounds are located at 11300 S. Houghton Road, southwest of Tucson. (Source: KOLD News 13)



(Source: Google Maps)

PIMA COUNTY, AZ (Tucson News Now) - Firefighters from multiple agencies were called to the Pima County Fairgrounds to help battle a fire on Friday, April 20.

According to Capt. Todd Cupell of the Corona de Tucson Fire District, about 150 to 200 pallets caught fire and the fire was reported at about 4:30 a.m. Because of the size of the fire, crews from the Rural-Metro Fire Department and Rincon Valley Fire District were called to help.

No injuries were reported.

The pallets were located near the northwest part of the fairgrounds near 4-H exhibits and horse stables, but the horses and other animals were never in danger. The fire was near an area with other livestock, including goats, cows and chickens.

Crews protected a nearby shed full of feed from burning, then worked to put out the fire.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. There was no damage other than the burned pallets.

The fire was not close to any of the carnival rides.

The fairgrounds are located southwest of Tucson at 11300 S. Houghton Road.

Tucson News Now has a crew headed to the scene.

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May 2, 2018, ttps://www.1041kqth.com/news/local-news/rural-metro-firefighters-battle-mobile-home-fire

Rural Metro firefighters battle mobile home fire



BY: Joey Greaber
POSTED: 4:35 PM, May 2, 2018



Rural Metro firefighters battled a mobile home fire Wednesday near Sahuarita Road and Alvernon.

VIDEO BY KGUN9 ON YOUR SIDE -HIDE CAPTION

TUCSON, Ariz. - Rural Metro firefighters battled a mobile home fire Wednesday near Sahuarita Road and Alvernon.

Firefighters say the home was fully involved in flames, but they were able to quickly control the fire.

There were no people inside the mobile home at the time of the fire.

No firefighters were injured.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

May 24, 2018, http://www.kvoa.com/story/38275134/fire-crews-battle-fire-at-florist

Fire crews battle flames at florist

Posted: May 24, 2018 9:10 PM
Updated: May 24, 2018 10:44 PM

Written By News 4 Tucson Staff



Rural Metro Fire crews battled a fire near Ajo Way and Country Club Thursday, May 24.

Firefighters were called to a florist and found a shed in the back fully engulfed in flames.

Everyone was evacuated and one person was taken to the hospital for minor burns.

The cause of the fire is currently under investigation.

July 15, 2018, http://arizonadailystar.az.newsmemory.com/?token=905624e96417835bcfdd26a2f7d007a3&cnum=6249723&fod=1111111STD&selDate=20180715&licenseType=paid_subscriber&

County, Rural/Metro named in lawsuit overman's death

By Caitlin Schmidt

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The family of a man who died last year after he overheated following a car crash in the desert has filed a wrongful death lawsuit, claiming authorities used excessive and unjustified force and failed to render proper medical aid.

Robert Cutler, a representative of the estate of David Cutler, filed the lawsuit in Pima County Superior Court in May, naming Pima County, Rural/Metro Fire Department and an individual deputy and paramedic as defendants.

On the morning of June 5, 2017, David Cutler, a 23-year-old student at Western Carolina University was visiting his younger brother in Tucson. He was driving his car through the desert in or near Tucson, when the Jeep crashed, causing oil to leak and the vehicle to catch fire, according to the lawsuit.

Cutler escaped the vehicle and ran from the crash. At about 9:30a.m., Pima County sheriff's deputies and paramedics from Rural/ Metro were sent to the location of the burning Jeep, finding the vehicle completely engulfed in flames and Cutler nowhere near the scene, the lawsuit says.

At about 11:30a.m., a witness who heard Cutler's screams for help called 911. When Deputy Keith Barnes responded to the call, he saw Cutler naked on top of a hill and screaming for help, according to the lawsuit.

At that time, the temperature was approaching 108 degrees and Cutler had been in the desert for more than two hours without shelter or water, the lawsuit says.

Barnes knew or suspected that Cutler had escaped from the Jeep fire, but at no time offered him water, the lawsuit says. Instead, Barnes approached Cutler with his baton out and later pulled out his pepper spray, according to the lawsuit.

Barnes demanded that Cutler allow himself to be handcuffed, and the man complied, offering no resistance, the lawsuit says.

Barnes noticed that Cutler was covered in blood and described the young man as 'beet red, red as a firebox,' according to the lawsuit.

Instead of calling paramedics, Barnes ordered him to walk back down the hill, then grabbed his arm and 'slammed him to the burning hot ground,' the lawsuit says.

'As soon as David's naked body hit the ground, he started to shake and yell in pain from the extreme heat of the ground and from the rocks and cactus needles on the ground,' the lawsuit says.

Cutler began to roll around in pain and Barnes kicked him in the face, then hogtied him, restraining him by his wrists and ankles behind his back, according to the lawsuit.

Barnes called for backup and told other deputies and paramedics that Cutler was combative and delusional, and asked paramedics to sedate him, despite the fact that he was already restrained, the lawsuit says.

Without checking Cutler's vital signs or assessing his condition, Grant Reed, a Rural/Metro paramedic who is named as a defendant in the lawsuit, injected Cutler with Ketamine to sedate him rather than treating his heat-related distress, according to the lawsuit.

At about 12:20p.m., while Cutler was still outside in the desert, his breath slowed and he went still. His handcuffs were removed and he was strapped to a backboard and walked down the hill, after which paramedics began CPR, the lawsuit says.

July 15, 2018, http://arizonadailystar.az.newsmemory.com/?to-ken=905624e96417835bcfdd26a2f7d007a3&cnum=6249723&fod=1111111STD&selDate=20180715&licenseType=paid_subscriber&

Paramedics gave Cutler a variety of other drugs in an effort to resuscitate him before taking him to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead shortly after 1 p.m.

The cause of death was listed as hyperthermia and Cutler's body temperature at the time of his death was 102.9 degrees, the lawsuit says.

The lawsuit claims that the defendants violated Cutler's civil rights under the Fourth, Eighth and Fourteenth amendments and that Barnes used excessive and unjustified force when he encountered Cutler, who was clearly in distress.

The lawsuit also says that Reed breached his duty of care by not providing Cutler with water and injecting him with a sedative without considering his medical condition.

No dollar amount is specified in the lawsuit.

The Pima County Attorney's Office, which has previously said it can't comment on pending litigation, filed a motion to dismiss the wrongful death claim against Pima County, saying that the county can't be liable for Cutler's death because Barnes was engaged in 'statutorily-imposed law-enforcement duties' when he encountered Cutler.

Rural/Metro Battalion Chief John Walka said department policy prohibits discussing pending litigation.

Attorneys for Robert Cutler didn't respond to the Star's request for comment.

Contact reporter Caitlin Schmidt at cschmidt@tucson.com or 573-4191. Twitter: @caitlincschmidt

2018

August 5, 2018, http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/38816811/firefighters-keep-mobile-home-fire-from-spreading

Firefighters keep mobile home fire from spreading south of Tucson

Published: Sunday, August 5th 2018, 8:28 pm MST
Updated: Sunday, August 5th 2018, 10:47 pm MST

By Evan Schreiber, Reporter CONNECT



Nobody was inside when firefighters arrived (Source: Tucson News Now).



Crews kept the flames from spreading to a nearby school (Source: Tucson News Now).

PIMA COUNTY, AZ (Tucson News Now) - Firefighters with the Rural Metro Fire Department were able to keep a mobile home fire from spreading to a nearby school and other homes Sunday night, August 5.

Battalion Chief John Walka told Tucson News Now that nobody was inside the mobile home when they arrived to the engulfed structure around 7:00 p.m. at 6001 S. Pablo Verde Road.

One man, a witness to the fire, was injured in the process of trying to put it out with a hose, Walka said. The man suffered smoke inhalation and was treated at the scene of the fire. He refused to be transported to the hospital.



The mobile home was located next to Gallego Primary Fine Arts Magnet School.

Walka explained that there was very little concern for potential damage to the school thanks to a lack of wind and the response by firefighters.

Neighbors told Tucson News Now that the burned mobile home was vacant and abandoned, along with several others nearby in the mobile home park.

2018

August 16, 2018, http://www.kvoa.com/story/38895782/fire-rips-through-foothills-home-renter-moved-only-days-ago

Fire rips through Foothills home, renter moved only days ago

Posted: Aug 15, 2018 10:28 PM MST
Updated: Aug 16, 2018 7:11 PM MST

Written By Eric Fink CONNECT



TUCSON - Sandi Sipe feels lucky to be alive after an early morning house fire Wednesday ripped through the home she rented for 11 years in the Catalina Foothills.

"I said I just have to have this," Sipe said. "I can't really afford but I'm going to figure out how to make it work because it's rare to have this kind of view."

Now, ash and soot are left all over the home interior, in the entryway, the hallway, the kitchen, master bath and bedrooms.

Looking at the damage in the kitchen Sipe recalled memories. "This is where I cooked all the Christmas dinners," she said. "This is where I cooked each night and every morning."

But, ultimately, Sipe feels grateful.

After 11 years and with her kids grown, she got the urge to buy a place. She moved out of the home Sunday night.

"I raised my kids here," she said. "I just loved this house, even though I was a renter, I tried to treat it like it was my own."

Rural Metro Firefighters says the cause is still under investigation.

Crews say either the air conditioning unit malfunctioned or it was struck by a bolt of lightning.

"I feel so grateful that I wasn't here when this happened because if I would have been, I don't know if I would have made it out alive," Sipe said.

September 12, 2018, http://www.kvoa.com/story/39081135/rural-metro-fire-station-71-moves-into-new-fire-station

Rural Metro Fire Department Station 71 firefighters move into new fire station

Posted: Sep 12, 2018 6:29 PM MST
Updated: Sep 12, 2018 7:33 PM MST

Written By Priscilla Casper CONNECT



TUCSON - Rural Metro Fire Department firefighters of Station 71 are saying goodbye to a historic chapter in their department and beginning a new one.

A building in the 1940's during World War II used to be a Triple T Truck Stop, then turned Fire Station 71, back then called Station 42 in the 1970's.

Rural Metro Fire Captian Brian Frost of Station 71 says the firefighters turned the truck stop into their home.

"I'd be laying at night hearing everyone walking talking, the front porch was built by firefighters that worked at the station, the dining room table was also built by firefighters working there," he said.

An historic building, Battalion Chief John Walka says, that is known throughout southern Arizona and the nation.

"Basically the culture of that station and the personnel of the station and their attitudes that actually made the station what it is it is more than just a building," he said. "It's all of the people that came together that worked at that station."

Battalion Chief Walka said that he would love to see the building become a museum piece.

Now Rural Metro Fire Station 71 firefighters are moving down the road into a new fire station equipped with bigger rooms for training and equipment, new appliances, and better living conditions for firefighters.

2018

October 14, 2018, KGUN9:

Rural Metro crews respond to early morning house fire



BY: Joey Greaber
POSTED: 7:59 AM, Oct 14, 2018

TUCSON, Ariz. - Rural Metro firefighters responded to a house fire near River Road and Avenida Del Cazador Sunday morning around 6:00 a.m.

Rural Metro says first responders found smoke and flames coming from the attic of the home.

All family members and pets inside were able to escape safely.

Firefighters controlled the flames in 30 minutes.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

October 14, 2018, https://tucson.com/news/local/firefighters-rescue-woman-swept-away-by-water-in-sabino-canyon/article_b4d2c820-d011-11e8-bbe5-7f60402f5e23.html

Firefighters rescue woman swept away by water in Sabino Canyon

Arizona Daily Star Oct 14, 2018 Updated 21 hrs ago

Rural Metro firefighters rescued a woman who was swept away by fast-moving water at the third bridge in Upper Sabino Canyon on Sunday morning, said Chief John Walka, a spokesman with Rural Metro.

Water pushed a woman off the bridge and she went downstream for a while then clung to a tree, he said.

"We had a four-man crew go in the water about 30 feet in and put a life vest on the patient," Walka said. "but she was too weak to move because of the cold and fast-moving water."

It was then that a decision was made to bring in a helicopter to get her out of the water, he said.

The woman was transported to an area hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Rural Metro worked with the assistance of the Pima County Sheriff Department along with some members of the Southern Arizona Rescue.

2018

October 16, 2018, https://tucson.com/news/local/dog-dies-in-mobile-home-fire-on-tucson-s-south/article_0e3cd684-d171-11e8-825f-9358180150ba.html

Dog dies in mobile home fire on Tucson's south side

By Gloria Knott Arizona Daily Star Oct 16, 2018 Updated 20 hrs ago



Rural Metro Fire - Pima County

A dog died in a mobile home fire this morning, officials say.

About 10 a.m. Tuesday, firefighters with Rural Metro responded to South Palo Verde and East Drexel roads for a mobile home fire.

Upon arrival, crews found flames coming from the home, but were able to bring the fire under control, the department said on Facebook.

No one was at the home, except for a dog who did not survive.

Fire crews are investigating the cause of the fire. No further information has been released.

October 30, 2018, http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/2018/10/31/tucson-area-fire-departments-equipped-with-life-saving-cyanide-antidote/

Tucson-area fire departments equipped with life-saving cyanide antidote



Tucson-area fire departments equipped with life-saving cyanide antidote

By Melissa Egan | October 30, 2018 at 9:58 PM MST - Updated October 30 at 10:52 PM

TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - Rural/Metro firefighters are now trained and ready to use a life-saving drug for smoke inhalation

"Most people think when someone dies in a house fire, it's from direct flame contact," said Rural Metro Battalion Chief John Walka. "But, it's actually smoke inhalation that makes the person unconscious and they eventually die."

Cyanokit is an antidote for cyanide poisoning and now the Rural/Metro department has two.

Walka said the medicine comes in a powder and is mixed with a solution before it can be administered through an IV, a process that takes about 15 to 20 minutes. The antidote enters the bloodstream and converts the poison to B-12, pulling out the toxins, and eventually exits the body through urine.

"Compared to 40 or 50 years ago, the products of combustion that are in a house fire now are much more poisonous, much more toxic," Walka said.

The antidote, isn't new for the Northwest Fire District.

Captain Jeff Hamblen said the district has been carrying the smoke inhalation treatment since 2012. There is a cyanokit on each of the district's fire trauma response vehicles.

"The cyanokit converts the cyanide to essentially B-12, so it doesn't have many contraindications. Very safe," Hamblen said.

Hamblen said cyanide poisoning is one of the leading causes of death in smoke inhalation, with 75 percent of deaths in house fires caused by smoke inhalation.

2018

November 18, 2018, https://arizonadailystar-az.newsmemory.com/?token=5ef1ed704546b49d4d54d0f3d4a44791&cnum=6249723&fod=1111111STD&selDate=20170503&licenseType=paid_subscriber&

Community links Christmas, birthday for boy with cancer

By Angela Pittenger

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

It's mid-November, and about 200 people have gathered to sing Christmas carols outside a Sahuarita home.

It's days before Thanksgiving, but a huge inflatable snowman sits on the roof. Fake snow spews from a machine as children frolic and laugh under its white flakes.

Marcus Cook, 4, can be seen through the living room window. He sits with his dad in a recliner, peeking through the glass, a radiant smile across his face. Marcus is surrounded by family, friends and piles of presents.

But Marcus is very sick.

Everyone gathered in front of his house is there to make his Christmas and birthday, on Dec. 15, a little brighter.

Marcus, who also goes by Junior, was recently put in hospice care due to terminal anaplastic ependymoma, a type of cancer that has invaded his brain and spine.

He was first diagnosed with the disease in August 2017 and had surgery to remove the tumor, followed by radiation.

The family thought the cancer was gone, said Kristi Kosiorowski, his aunt.

But a scan taken last July revealed four tumors had grown in his brain and spine.

The week before last, when Marcus wasn't feeling well, the family thought he had a bug that was going around. But when he held his head and screamed in pain Friday night, they knew it was something

See MARC US, C5



Four-year-old Marcus Cook Jr., in the arms of his dad, glances from a window of their Sahuarita home at hundreds of well-wishers. Marcus has terminal anaplastic ependymoma, a type of cancer.

KELLY PRESNELL / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

MARCUS

Continued from Page C1

else. At the emergency room, he was rushed for brain scans, which showed the tumors had grown, Kosiorowski said.

'The doctor said, 'This is the hardest part of my job. There's nothing we can do," Kosiorowski said.

2018

November 18, 2018, https://arizonadailystar-az.newsmemory.com/?to-ken=5ef1ed704546b49d4d54d0f3d4a44791&cnum=6249723&fod=1111111STD&selDate=20170503&licenseType=paid_subscriber&

That was Friday, Nov. 9.

The family decided to take Marcus home, where he is receiving hospice care.

'He's such a happy, sweet boy,' Kosiorowski said. 'He's the sweetest little thing.'

Since then, the community has come together to give Marcus an unforgettable holiday.

The Green Valley Fire Department took him to see 'The Grinch' Thursday afternoon. While he was at the movies, family, community members and Rural Metro firefighters decorated the family's home inside and out to surprise him with an early Christmas.

That wasn't the only surprise for Marcus.

Kosiorowski and family friend Blaire Mathias put word out via Facebook and the Sahuarita Sun that people should gather at the Cook home to sing carols and bring present for Marcus and his little brother, Thor.

The crowd was full of friends, family, local police and firefighters, and community members who have never me the family.

As people gathered and waited to start singing, Mathias thanked the community for its support.

'Thank you so much for coming,' Mathias said. 'This community is amazing. ... We don't even know each other, and you all came and did this.'

Adriana Fielden hung on to a double stroller with her 2-year-old twins.

'It's just so sad when families have to go through this,' said Fielden, who doesn't know the Cook family. 'So I'm hoping to bring some holiday cheer.'

The fact that most people here are strangers is part of the beauty, Fielden said.

'Everybody is introducing themselves to each other,' Fielden said. 'It's really nice to see.'

K iamani Castaneda stood with her friend Sabrina Diaz and their children as the crowd started to grow. Neither had met Marcus or his parents. 'I am just here to support, pray and stand in the gap for this family that is suffering,' Castaneda said.

Mathias and Kosiorowski asked that the community decorate for Christmas early, encouraging people to light their houses in blue because it's Marcus' favorite color. Diaz said her husband saw the request on Facebook, so she bought lights to put up for Marcus.

The caroling opened with 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.' Some read the lyrics from music sheets that were handed out. Others used their phones to look up the lyrics.

Marcus peeked through the window, too tired to come outside.

'He's a total daddy's boy,' Kosiorowski said. 'He's tired from being out today.'

A slow procession of police cars drove down the street with flashing red and blue lights.

A loud 'Ho, ho ho!' was heard as Santa made his way into the Cook home. Everyone applauded and cheered his arrival.

Marcus was all smiles as he hung out with Santa and played with a train.

After about an hour of caroling, the evening started to wind down.

Mathias asked everybody to wish Marcus a happy birthday.

The crowd's response was almost deafening.

'Happy birthday, Marcus!' they yelled.

From his dad's arms, the boy looked through the window again as everyone sang.

Contact Angela Pittenger at 5734137 or apitteng@tucson.com. On Twitter: @CentsibleMama



Neighborhood kids gather around a songbook and use a cellphone to illuminate the lyrics while singing carols with several hundred others outside 4-year-old Marcus Cook Jr.'s home.

KELLY PRESNELL / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

2018

November 18, 2018, http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/2018/11/19/firefighters-extinguish-flames-south-side-tucson-motel/

Firefighters extinguish flames at south side Tucson motel



Firefighters extinguish flames at south side Tucson motel (Source: Rural Metro Fire) (Schreiber, Evan)

By Evan Schreiber | November 18, 2018 at 8:44 PM MST - Updated November 18 at 8:44 PM

TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - Rural Metro firefighters were able to put out a fire in a south side Tucson motel Sunday night, November 18.

Around 7:00 Sunday night firefighters responded to the Studio 6 Tucson motel at 4950 S Outlet Center Drive for a report of smoke coming from a room on the second floor, according to a news release from Rural Metro Fire Battalion Chief John Walka.

Crews discovered a fire burning inside an exterior support beam on the second floor of the motel, near Irvington Road and Interstate 10. They safely evacuated the people in neighboring rooms and there were no reported injuries.

Firefighters are still investigating the cause but the smoldering fire was quickly extinguished after it was discovered.

2018

November 18, 2018, https://tucson.com/news/local/southside-fire-damages-travel-trailer-two-occupants-displaced/article_fa19305e-eb91-11e8-ad40-5b710a060db3.html

Southside fire damages travel trailer, two occupants displaced

Arizona Daily Star Nov 18, 2018

A fire has destroyed a travel trailer on the south side Sunday afternoon after heat and sparks from welding equipment may have started the blaze, said Chief John Walka with Rural Metro Fire.

A 30-foot travel trailer in the 5900 block of S. Country Club Road was fully involved when crews from Rural Metro Fire arrived at 4:30 p.m., Walka said.

The fire, which took about 10 minutes to control, may have been started by welding materials as heat and sparks may have gotten into some hidden spaces in the trailer, he said.

There were no injuries in the blaze but the two occupants and five dogs were displaced.

The Red Cross was called in to assist, Walka said.

2019

January 3, 2019, ***http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/2019/01/04/porsche-caught-fire-craycroft-sunrise/***

Porsche caught fire on Craycroft and Sunrise



Vehicle on fire on Sunrise and Craycroft

January 3, 2019 at 5:09 PM MST - Updated January 3 at 5:09 PM

TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - Rural Metro Firefighters responded to a residence on Craycroft and Sunrise at 5:45 a.m. on Thursday morning after reports of smoke coming from a residential garage.

When firefighters arrived on the scene, they found heavy smoke coming from the garage. The family living in the home was able to evacuate safely.

Firefighting crews found heavy smoke coming from a Porsche vehicle, which they were able to distinguish quickly and the fire did not extend to the home.

The fire is known to have started in the engine compartment of the vehicle, but the exact cause as to how the fire started is still under investigation.

2019

January 6, 2019, http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/2019/01/06/house-fire-prince-houghton/

House Fire on Prince and Houghton



Source: (Tucson News Now)

January 6, 2019 at 2:47 PM MST - Updated January 6 at 2:56 PM

TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - Rural Metro Firefighters responded to a house fire on Prince and Houghton at 8 p.m. on Saturday evening for the report of smoke coming from a home.

The homeowners called 911 after finding smoke in their home after being away.

Upon arrival, crews found smoke and flames coming from the laundry/ kitchen area of the home with fire extending to the attic. The fire was contained within 20 minuets.

There were no injuries and the cause of the fire is still under investigation, but is thought to be the result of faulty electric appliance or equipment.



2019

January 17, 2019, http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/2019/01/17/dogs-dead-midtown-mobile-home-fire/

2 dogs dead in midtown mobile home fire



Dogs killed in midtown mobile home fire

By Tucson News Now | January 17, 2019 at 3:14 PM MST - Updated January 17 at 3:40 PM

By Tucson News Now | January 17, 2019 at 3:14 PM MST - Updated January 17 at 3:40 PM

TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - Rural Metro crews responded to a mobile home fire at Chapel Avenue and Hardy Drive, in midtown near Dodge and Fort Lowell.

According to Rural Metro, firefighters were able to keep the fire from spreading to nearby structures and had it under control within 10 minutes.

While there were no injuries reported to people, two dogs were found dead inside the mobile home, according to Rural Metro.

Investigators are at the scene to determine the cause of the fire.

Rural Metro Fire Department is offering the following tips for pet owners, after seeing an increase in pets dying in house fires. Those tips, reminders are:

- Extinguish open flames before leaving the house, this includes candles, fireplaces, and cooking appliances.
- Ensure there are no areas where pets can start a fire. This includes loose or worn wires, stove knobs.
- Turn off heat related appliances, such as space heaters, and unplug them.
- Don't think that just because there is a Pet door that pets will use this to escape. Many dogs have purposely run back into the house fire only to perish. This is usually because in times of chaotic crisis, a dog will go to where he feels safe which is inside their home.
- Get a Pet rescue sticker and install it on the utility meter. This will alert firefighters that pets may be inside. Rural Metro has free pet stickers from as does the ASPCA.
- Have an emergency plan, and practice escape routes with pets.



2019

February 1, 2019, http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/2019/02/01/fire-claims-mobile-home-south-tucson/

Fire claims mobile home south of Tucson



Mobile home fire

By Tucson News Now | February 1, 2019 at 6:40 AM MST - Updated February 1 at 6:40 AM

TUCSON, AZ (KOLD News 13) - Firefighters from Rural-Metro Fire Department were called to a residential fire south of Tucson early on Friday morning, Feb. 1.

According to information from Rural-Metro, the fire was in an unoccupied mobile home in the area of South Old Nogales Highway and East Summit Street.

The call came at about 1 a.m. and it took fire crews about 10 minutes to get the fire under control.

No injuries were reported.

The cause is under investigation.

2019

May 31, 2019, ttps://tucson.com/news/local/firefighters-rescue-injured-hiker-near-tanque-verde-falls/article_d8d1dfbe-83e8-11e9-b35a-5b0bf698b161.html?hidenav=1&hidefooter=1&utm_source=nativeapp&utm_medium=mobile&utm_campaign=link

Firefighters rescue injured hiker near Tanque Verde Falls

The Arizona Daily Star 5 hrs ago



Rural Metro firefighters along with the Pima County Sheriff's department and SARA responded to the Tanque Verde Falls area for a hiker suffering from a fall injury. Crews had to hike in for approximately 45 minutes and found a female patient with a possible leg fracture. Due to the rugged terrain and hot weather the patient was airlifted out of the Canyon by the Sheriff's 1 helicopter to a waiting Rural Metro Rescue for transport to an area hospital. Crews found temperatures to be warmer in the canyon area and had to consume more than the usual amounts of drinking water supply during the rescue.

Rural Metro Fire

Authorities rescued an injured hiker in the area of Tanque Verde Falls Friday, according to Rural Metro firefighters.

Firefighters, as well as search and rescue crews, had to hike for around 45 minutes to reach the woman, a department release said.

The hiker was injured during a fall and possibly fractured her leg, the department said.

The patient was airlifted out of the canyon and was taken to the hospital.

2019

July 9, 2019, https://www.kgun9.com/news/local-news/crews-respond-to-eastside-garage-fire

Crews respond to eastside garage fire

SB Swan briefly closed near 22nd Street

Posted: 12:05 PM, Jul 09, 2019 **Updated:** 6:56 PM, Jul 09, 2019



Rural/Metro Fire crews responded to an eastside house fire Tuesday.





TUCSON, Ariz. - Rural/Metro Fire crews responded to an eastside house fire Tuesday.

According to the department, the fire was near Camino Rosa near Sunrise and Swan. The fire started in the home's garage and extended into the attic.

One person was in the home and managed to escape uninjured. The Red Cross is helping the person find shelter.

Firefighters had the blaze under control within 25 minutes.

Fire investigators say "Determined the cause of this fire to be accidental as unattended cooking appliances."

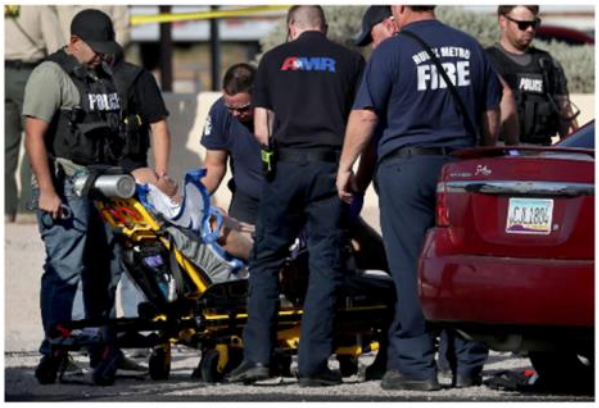
Southbound Swan was closed from East Eastland to East 22nd Street while crews battled the blaze. It reopened at around 3:30 p.m. Tuesday.

2019

July 18, 2019, https://tucson.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/man-shot-by-officer-on-tucson-s-south-side-after/article_c959863e-a8f2-11e9-a257-3b420356388f.html

Man shot by officer on Tucson's south side after attempting to flee traffic stop

By Stephanie Casanova Arizona Daily Star Jul 18, 2019 Updated 20 hrs ago



Medical personnel from Rural Metro Fire Department and AMR prepare a man for transport to the hospital after a shooting involving Tucson Police officers at Julian and Palo Verde on July 17, 2019.

Kelly Presnell / Arizona Daily Star

A man was transported to a hospital with non-life threatening injuries after an officer shot him while he attempted to flee a traffic stop in Tucson's south side, officials say.

At around 4:45 p.m. officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle believed to be associated with a wanted suspect said Sergeant Pete Dugan, Tucson Police Department spokesman. Officers pulled the maroon sedan over at a McDonalds at 5225 S. Palo Verde Road.

When the officers were walking up to the car, the suspect sped out of the parking lot and onto Palo Verde Road, Dugan said.

On his way out of the parking lot, the man hit an officer who was on foot. He also sideswiped an occupied car leaving the McDonalds. The officer and the people in the vehicle were not injured, Dugan said.

An officer in an unmarked car intentionally crashed into the man's car on Palo Verde Road.

After the crash, at least one officer shot his weapon, striking the suspect, Dugan said. Officers began rendering aid, and he was transported to a nearby hospital.

Officials did not say what charges the suspect could face or what he was wanted for when they conducted the traffic stop. Dugan said he did not know whether the suspect had a weapon.

Detectives are continuing to investigate the incident and are conducting interviews with several witnesses. Officials are asking anyone with information about the incident to call 88-CRIME, an anonymous tipster line.

Palo Verde Road was closed at around 5 p.m. from Irvington Road to Nebraska Stravenue in Tucson's south side. Dugan said the road would remain closed for about another two hours as of 9 p.m.



2019

August 20, 2019, https://tucson.com/news/local/brush-fire-burns-in-pantano-wash/article_e33d8e80-c399-11e9-8998-efd08354733d.html?hidenav=1&hidefooter=1&utm_source=nativeapp&utm_medium=mobile&utm_campaign=link

Brush fire burns in Pantano Wash

Kelly Presnell Aug 20, 2019 Updated 8 hrs ago



A Rural/Metro Fire water tender feeds at Tucson Fire engine company spaying a deck gun onto a brush fire in the Pantano River near Grant and Wilmot roads, Tucson, Ariz., August 20, 2019.

Kelly Presnell / Arizona Daily Star

Tucson Fire and Rural/Metro units on the scene of a brush fire in the Pantano Wash near Tanque Verde Road. Rural/Metro battalion chief Jay Karlik said R/M units would practice containment on the fire due to the heat and terrain of the river bed.

"We'll make sure structures are protected and keep it in the wash," Karlik said. He estimated about five acres of scrub trees, buffel grass and weeds were involved. Tucson Fire had two engines, a brush truck, a battalion chief on scene. Rural/Metro had two engines, two tenders, a brush truck and battalion chief on scene.

2019

August 23, 2019, https://www.azfamily.com/news/arizona_wildfires/wildfire-burning-in-catalina-mountains-visible-from-tucson/article_85b0c16e-c5a7-11e9-b801-a30cb72b9501.html

Wildfire burning in Catalina Mountains visible from Tucson

By KOLD News 13

Posted 7 hrs ago



According to Rural Metro Fire, no homes are threatened by the wildfire burning on the lower elevations of the Catalina Mountains on Friday, Aug. 23.

(Source: KOLD News 13)

TUCSON, AZ (KOLD News 13) -- A brush fire burning in the lower elevations of the Catalina Mountains is visible from much of Tucson.

Rural Metro Fire responded to initial reports of the fire overnight and said it is burning in a remote area and they do not have resources to reach it.

2019

September 2, 2019, https://tucson.com/news/local/hiker-taken-to-hospital-after-fall-in-tanque-verde-falls/article_3b1603aa-cdca-11e9-bb47-8fa80ade7fe9.html?hidenav=1&hidefooter=1&utm_source=nativeapp&utm_medium=mobile&utm_campaign=link

Hiker taken to hospital after fall in Tanque Verde Falls area

By Gloria Knott Arizona Daily Star 1 hr ago



A hiker was injured in the Tanque Verde Falls area, according to Rural Metro Fire.

Rural Metro Fire

A hiker was taken to the hospital after falling on a hiking trail, officials say.

Firefighters with Rural Metro Fire responded to the area of Tanque Verde Falls, where they found the hiker with a leg injury, Rural Metro said in a Facebook post.

A hiker was taken to the hospital after falling on a hiking trail, officials say.

Firefighters with Rural Metro Fire responded to the area of Tanque Verde Falls, where they found the hiker with a leg injury, Rural Metro said in a Facebook post.

2019

September 2, 2019, https://tucson.com/news/local/hiker-taken-to-hospital-after-fall-in-tanque-verde-falls/article_3b1603aa-cdca-11e9-bb47-8fa80ade7fe9.html?hidenav=1&hidefooter=1&utm_source=nativeapp&utm_medium=mobile&utm_campaign=link

Rural Metro Fire - Pima County
17 hours ago

Rural Metro firefighters along with PCSO SAR and Southern Arizona rescue Association responded to the area of the Tanque verde falls for a patient with a leg injury which resulted from a fall on the trail. Crews hiked in and provided on scene medical treatment before bringing the patient out of the trail. The patient was transported to an area hospital with non life threatening injuries.







2019

September 5, 2019, ***Arizona Daily Star*****:**

Debris fire near Davis-Monthan



Rural Metro firefighters take a breather after battling a brush, scrap metal and debris fire in a scrapyard at the corner of Wyoming Street and Arcadia Avenue near Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. A crash truck and water tender from Davis-Monthan also helped combat Thursday's fire.

KELLY PRESNELL / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

2019

October 1, 2019, ***Arizona Daily Star*****:**



2019

October 28, 2019, https://www.azfamily.com/news/arizona_wildfires/molino-fire-burns-over-acres-in-catalina-mountai

Molino Fire burns over 500 acres in Catalina Mountains

By KOLD News 13 Staff

Posted 5 hrs ago



(Source: Dan Yount via KOLD News 13)

TUCSON, AZ (KOLD News 13) -- A wildfire burning in the Catalina Mountains has grown overnight, according to officials at the scene.

Rural Metro Fire, the Pima County Sheriff's Department and several handcrews from the U.S. Forest Service are battling the blaze, which is estimated to have burned more than 500 acres as of Monday morning, Oct. 28. There is no estimate on any containment.

The flames sparked on Sunday, Oct. 27, near milepost 4 and the Molino Basin. The cause of the fire remains under investigation, but officials believe it is human caused, perhaps by someone who was target shooting in the area.

Catalina Highway is closed at the base of the mountain, except for residents and employees.

So far, first responders say no structures are in danger.

The initial estimate of the fire was close to 100 acres. An update from the U.S. Forest Service on Sunday night stated the acreage had increased to 318.

October 29, 2019, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Road to Mt. Lemmon reopens as crews battle fire

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Authorities reopened the road to Mount Lemmon to all traffic Monday as a human-caused wildfire continued to burn in the Coronado National Forest.

Motorists should expect to see firefighters traveling along Catalina Highway and smoke within the interior of the Molino Fire, said Brandalyn Vonk, a spokeswoman with the U.S. Forest Service.

The Molino Fire was reported around 3:30p.m. Sunday and had spread to about 400 acres as of Monday afternoon, fueled by grass and mesquite brush. The fire was about 25% contained as of Monday.

The fire prompted evacuation of the Molino Basin Campground.

Forest officials, with the help of local fire departments and the National Park Service, are working in the area, ensuring the fire does not reach the road or threaten any structures, Vonk said. There were no threats to any structures Monday afternoon.

Because the fire is in deep, rugged terrain, firefighters are staged in the campground and along the road.

A fire investigator is also at the scene to determine how the fire started, Vonk said.



Firefighters hike down the Santa Catalina Mountains after working on the 500-acre wildfire in Molino Basin. Because the fire is in deep, rugged terrain, firefighters are staged in the Molino Basin Campground and along the road.

REBECCA SASNETT / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

2019

October 31, 2019, old.com/2019/10/31/no-injuries-reported-foothills-house-fire/

No injuries reported in foothills house fire

2-story home near Craycroft, Sunrise damaged



House fire near Sunrise and Craycroft, Oct. 31

By KOLD News 13 Staff | October 31, 2019 at 7:20 AM MST - Updated October 31 at 7:20 AM

TUCSON, Ariz. (KOLD News 13) - Firefighters from the Rural Metro Fire Department were called to a house fire in the foothills on Wednesday night, Oct. 30.

According to information from RMFD, fire crews were dispatched to the two-story home near Craycroft Road and Sunrise Drive at 10 p.m.

No one was home at the time of the fire, and no injuries were reported.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

November 17, 2019, https://www.kgun9.com/news/local-news/rural-metro-fire-responds-to-garage-in-flames

Rural Metro Fire responds to garage in flames near Houghton Road and Old Spanish Trail

Posted: 9:11 AM, Nov 17, 2019 **Updated:** 5:33 PM, Nov 17, 2019

TUCSON, Ariz. — Rural Metro Fire responded to a structure fire near Houghton Road and Old Spanish Trail Saturday night.

Upon arrival crews found a workshop with a detached garage, which was in flames.

RMF say firefighters were able to contain the fire within in 20 minutes and no other structures caught fire.

Investigators determined the fire was an accident and the cause is still under investigation.

There were no injuries reported.

2019

December 4, 2019, https://www.kold.com/2019/12/04/rural-metro-responds-house-fire-near-sabino-canyon/

Rural Metro responds to house fire near Sabino Canyon



House fire near Sabino Canyon and Snyder Rd.

By KOLD News 13 Staff | December 4, 2019 at 9:45 AM MST - Updated December 4 at 9:45 AM

TUCSON, Ariz. (KOLD News 13) - Rural Metro Fire Department responded to a house fire near Sabino Canyon and Snyder Rd., Wednesday morning, Dec. 4.

The residents woke up to smoke alarms and a house filled with smoke, but were able to safely evacuate, according to John Walka with with RMFD.

Firefighters found flames burning the walls and attic space, but controlled the fire within 20 minutes.

The cause of fire is under investigation, but officials believe it the fireplace may have been the cause, said Walka.

2019

December 21, 2019, https://www.kold.com/2019/12/21/fire-closes-east-side-gadabout-salon-location/

Fire closes east side Gadabout Salon location



Crews with the Tucson Rural Metro Fire Department respond to a fire at a salon on Friday, Dec. 20, 2019. (Source: Tucson Rural Metro Fire Deparment via Battalion Chief John Walka)

By KOLD News 13 Staff | December 21, 2019 at 1:36 PM MST - Updated December 21 at 1:36 PM

TUCSON, Ariz. (KOLD News 13) - A popular Tucson salon is still standing after a fire dealt serious damage to the building.

Multiple crews with Tucson Rural Metro Fire Department responded to the blaze at Gadabout Salon, located at 6393 E. Grant Road, at around 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20. Battalion Chief John Walka, a public information officer with Tucson Rural Metro fire, said no one was inside the building at the time of the fire and there were no injuries reported.

Crews contained the fire shortly after they arrived on scene, Walka said.

Investigators are still trying to figure out the cause of the inferno, however, they did find that the source of the fire came from the main part of the building as well as the attic area.

Though the building is still standing, the salon will be closed until repairs are made, according to a tweet from salon owners.

We are heartbroken by the fire that occurred last night. Our team is working diligently to ensure all reservations at our Grant Salon are relocated. We appreciate all the love and support from our Tucson community. - xo gadabout

— Gadabout SalonSpas (@GadaboutSalons) December 21, 2019

2019

December 27, 2019, https://www.kold.com/2019/12/27/despite-quick-response-by-crews-fire-destroys-trailer/

Despite quick response by crews, fire destroys trailer



Rural Metro firefighters extinguish trailer fire

By KOLD News 13 Staff | December 27, 2019 at 1:03 PM MST - Updated December 27 at 1:03 PM

TUCSON, Ariz. (KOLD News 13) - Rural Metro firefighters responded to a trailer fire in the area of Summit and Nogales Highway.

First arriving crews found a double-wide trailer engulfed in flames, according to RMF, and the owner was outside of it at the time of the fire. Crews were able to prevent the spread of fire to any nearby homes, and had the fire under control within 20 minutes.

Investigators say the cause is accidental due to heating equipment.

Greater Tucson Fire Foundation

Thank 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 retired 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.

Greater Tucson Fire Foundation