



# Green Valley Fire District Fire Corps Newsletter—Summer 2017 (2&3Q)



## Arizona on Fire!

2017 has been a very active wildfire season in Arizona. Since late May, there have been anywhere from 9 to 14 active wildfires burning somewhere in Arizona. The Green Valley Fire District is providing firefighters and equipment to battle these blazes. Some of our firefighters have been gone for a month or more!

Our fearless leader, L.T. Pratt, is a member of the Southwest Area Incident Management Team 1 and has spent almost 40 days in the last two months living in a 2 man tent supporting various wildfire containment efforts. Thank you L.T. for all you do to protect the citizens of Arizona!

The Green Valley Fire corps has also been active in supporting the wildfire containment efforts. During the Sawmill fire that started at the base of the Santa Rita Mountains, Bob Budnick, Connie Newsom and Mike Walker delivered re-hab water to the temporary incident command post on the day the fire started, and took supplies and equipment to Sonoita several times to support the firefighters. When you see the firefighters returning from the fireline, you can truly understand what a hot, dirty and dangerous job it is. We of the Green Valley Fire Corps are proud to provide whatever support required.

Remember, Wildfires are "No Drone Flying Areas!" Air operations have to be suspended if a drone is spotted in the area. Unfortunately, it has happened several times this wildfire season.



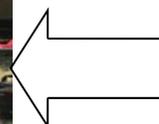
Thank you to all the firefighters and support personnel that risk their lives to keep the rest of us safe!

.....Mike Walker



Can't find LT in the Fire Corps  
Office?

Try looking here.....



## ***From LT.....***

Well, when they told me folks would be leaving Green Valley to head north for the summer they meant it! It sure got quiet around here quick! It seems like one morning I came in the office and had to ask, “Where did everybody go!” It was like the rapture had occurred, or Aliens had snatched up everybody. Anyway, I hope that this newsletter finds all you fine folks, (where ever you are), enjoying the summer. Don’t worry about us poor souls that stayed to brave the 110+ temperatures and cloudless skies. We are surviving, but missing our friends and awaiting their return.



**Ride of Silence  
May 17**

It has been a busy time for Fire Corps as we completed a second training academy that yielded 5 new members. Thanks once again to the team that planned, and implemented the academy to provide the best possible training and to welcome our newest members. Of course, the snake removal calls have spiked and our crews have had the chance to grab some trophy specimens this season. Congrats to Mike Walker and Ted Hoeger for winning the “National SnakePro Tournament bagging a collective five snake weight of 85 lbs. and taking first place prize money of \$100,000”!!! (See what you winter visitors are missing!) Just kidding, but I got your attention didn’t I.

On a more realistic note, we have been busy and many thanks to all those who have picked up extra shifts to fill the gaps and to keep the Smoke Alarm/Battery Replacement Program humming along. Several members have provided support to the Wildland Fire response efforts by running supplies to our firefighters and keeping the essentials stocked up in all our stations. To those folks, thank you for what you’re doing. Plans are falling into place to strengthen Fire Corps capabilities to engage in these types of activities in a more robust manner in the future. We are asking for volunteers from our members to be a part of an “Emergency Support Team” (EST). This team

would be available for call-out and receive additional training to ensure safety and efficiency in performing these types of duties. More of this program will be forthcoming.

We are preparing for a very busy year with the SABP and SARP programs. As you already know, the number of appointments vs. normally available shifts will be critical. We will be opening up more opportunities for members to work shifts, staff an extra truck, and in some cases work “solo” shifts. This will be balanced with the purpose of keeping our crews engaged with interacting with the stations, and firefighters, taking dispatched calls, and representing Fire Corps in the many public events; not just installing alarms and batteries.

Finally, I have had a pretty busy Wildland Fire Season myself, at the writing of this letter, I have been deployed to three major fires in Arizona and have turned down three other assignments. It has truly been a dangerous season like I have never seen before. Keep our firefighters in your thoughts and prayers as they are on the frontlines of this year’s Wildland War. Thanks to the fabulous Admin Staff that has made it possible for me to continue working on GVFD work priorities while living in a two-man tent most of the summer! Once again, the effort of some great volunteers has kept the GVFD and Fire Corps’ Ship sailing along. Here’s a link to a Green Valley News article to go deeper into what the details are

[LT in the Green Valley News](#)

I sure looking forward to the cooler temps and so more rain, but mostly, looking forward to this fall when everyone gets back together. Thank you, thank you and I’ll say again, THANK YOU for all you amazing people do for GVFD and GV Fire Corps. Be Safe.

## *New People Who You Will See Here and There*



Alex Flores



Larry Kersberger



Gary Mottmann



Zack Ploss

New Fire Corps members from the May academy. Good news is that they are full time residents. More good news....we now have some youth again.



Candace Plummlee



Amanda Tucker



Russell Sargent



Nicolas Matlock



Charles Murrietta

And new fire fighters who completed training in June and are now assigned to stations. Plenty of youth here!



Michael Johnson

*Dear Everyone! Just wanted to send you all a last note of thanks for 16+ great years here at GVFD! .....and thanks to Katie for her years of support to the Fire Corps Group*



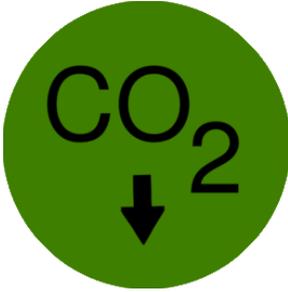
### **??? Smoke Alarm Confusion ???**

With our SABP and SARP Fire Corps programs we have developed knowledge and expertise with the ins and outs of smoke alarms. There are many types and prices vary. In addition to the periodic FC newsletter, attached to this email is an article that summarizes a study of how consumers select smoke alarms. In most cases, our customers are in homes where smoke alarms were already there so they avoided the need to purchase and the confusion that may come with it. If you are asked about the differences in smoke alarms are you prepared and feel comfortable to address smoke alarm issues? Take a test—are you able to answer the highlighted items on the attached article? If not do some research. Need help? Do some research, the reference toward the end of the attached article (below) is a good place to start.

[Smoke Alarms-Why, Where, and Which?](#)

---

## Carbon Monoxide Alarm Project....



In early May we completed the distribution of 250 carbon monoxide alarms to those homes where we had earlier installed battery powered smoke alarms (Green Valley Townhouses and Fairways 1 and 2.) These were provided through our \$8K gift from the White Elephant Contributions program last year. Chuck Schu has an additional 20 for SHiM customers. Thanks to all who helped with this community service. I would like to include your names here, but alas, my files are 2,000 miles away in Green Valley.



---

## ....Here is Another Way That We Help Out

In late May the Fire Corps supported our fire crews and new recruits in live fire training at Davis Monthan Air Force Base fire training grounds. We supplied rehab services by distributing cold towels, cold water, and Gatoraide after each crews activity in the structure. We also took medical vitals on each participant at the beginning and end of each day. We moved SCBA bottles to the portable compressor so that the crews would have fully charged bottles for each event. The training was a great success despite the fact that it was over 100 degrees each day. Peggy and Tom Allen provided great lunches for all participants each day and as usual they were delicious. Fire Corps members Ted Hoeger, Mike McConnell, Bob Budnick and Bob Cain participated.



.....*Ted Hoeger*



# **NFIRS**

## **National Fire Incident Reporting System**

The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) is a reporting standard that fire departments use to uniformly report on the full range of their activities, from fire to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to equipment involved in the response. NFIRS software is available as free desktop and web-based applications from the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) or as NFIRS standard-compliant products you can buy from fire software vendors. There are more than one hundred vendors that offer a ‘front end’ application to the NFIRS data base. The GVFD currently uses FireRMS software developed by Zoll and had used an application from Emergency Reporting in the past. Approximately 23,000 fire departments enter 22 million reports into NFIRS annually. More than 10,000 of these reports come from the GVFD, and a portion of those are contributed by us (Fire Corps).

By contributing to NFIRS, fire departments help USFA (US Fire Association) to analyze the severity and reach of the nation’s fire problem, and use that information to develop national public education campaigns, make recommendations for national codes and standards, determine consumer product failures, identify the focus for research efforts, and support federal legislation.

When you use Zoll, many of the fields are highlighted in red. These are the fields that are required to be submitted to the NFIRS data base. They are primarily statistics that are then used by the USFA. Some fields are not red, but are still required to be filled in per local protocol. Like the **narrative**. Why is this required for us?? The USFA is interested in just numbers and really don’t care who was in charge of a kitchen fire or how big the snake was. But this is of interest to our management. So please remember to enter this information—if not it just makes more work for our on duty captain who ends up entering it for us.

**If you use the sheet by the office computer you cannot go wrong!**

