



# HOTSHOTS...

for the Gilbert Fire Department Volunteers

Volume 6, Issue 5  
May 2013

## Kim's Corner

By Kim Yonda  
GFD Volunteer Coordinator

**H**appy May! Can you believe we are almost half way through the year! Time moves quickly when you invest yourself in the well-being of others. Thank you to all of our Volunteers for truly making a difference in the lives of others. Recently, while preparing for presentations for our crews, I found myself reflecting upon our Volunteer Program and the commonalities between our Volunteers. One major commonality was, (whether our Volunteers were retired, employed, students or wanted to be a firefighter, doctor, teacher or any other profession) their genuine passion to help others. I also found myself thinking about the friendships our Volunteers have made with each other, and the laughter I often hear. Thank you to our Volunteers for having a sense of humor and bringing smiles to so many.



Community Assistance Class 12 has been in training the past couple of weeks and will graduate at the end of the month. They have committed to a 52 hour training program and are beginning their Station Ride along, and COM 251 Ride along pre-requisites this week. Starting in June, you will begin to see them in the field on the suburban, and therefore there will be an increase in the shift availability.

Many of you have inquired about the name change transition for the department. I encourage you to read Chief Ruffentine's article in this month's edition of HotShots. You will find it quite informative, and I will keep you informed about how this may impact your uniforms.

Thank you being the Zing in AMAZING!

## **Gilbert Fire Chief Collin DeWitt is retiring!**

40 years of  
fire service!

14 years in  
Gilbert!



*Recognition Event:*

Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>,  
2013

3 - 5 pm

Presentation at 3:30  
pm

PSB Amphitheater  
85 E. Civic Center Dr.  
Gilbert

Please stop by to wish Collin well in his retirement!

**E**mployees and Volunteers are invited to join in celebrating Fire Chief Collin DeWitt's retirement on Thursday, May 2nd from 3-5 PM in the Public Safety Amphitheater. A special presentation will begin at 3:30 PM.

If you are unable to attend, Chief DeWitt will also be recognized at the May 2nd Council Meeting at 7:00 PM.

### **You've Been Spotted**

**Thank you for doing something great!**

Zach Altman  
Dave Cohea  
Marna Fontana  
Diane Goldyn



Sonja Grosch  
Diane Nielson  
Randall White

**You are appreciated!**

# Welcome Chief Jim Jobusch

**G**ilbert Fire Chief Collin DeWitt will serve his last day before retirement on Thursday, May 2, 2013. At that time, Jim Jobusch will assume the role of Interim Fire Chief for the Town of Gilbert.

Jim Jobusch has been with the Town of Gilbert since December of 1992, and was appointed Fire Chief from March 2010, until August 2011. This was during Collin DeWitt's tenure as the Interim Town Manager.

A national search to fill the Fire Chief position permanently will end May 24, 2013. The position is expected to be filled by the end of the summer.



**N**ever carry plastic or paper loyalty, membership, library cards, or coupons again! With free “Key Ring” you can create a digital copy of any club card by simply scanning its barcode, or by manually entering the barcode / membership number. “Key Ring” provides logos for over 650 retailers, or enter another by hand. Save money, find deals, and manage loyalty cards all from your phone.

Submitted by Nancy Briggs , GFD Volunteer

Source: iTunes, Twitter, 101 Best Android Apps

# READY SET CERT →

By Johnna Switzer  
GFD Volunteer

## EMERGENCY CAR KIT:

This great idea, a crossword puzzle, from pgward.org will help you know what you need for a car kit, and it's FUN!!!

### Emergency Car Kit Crossword Puzzle

In an average year, winter weather is directly or indirectly involved in 400,000 vehicular accidents in the United States leading to 1,300 fatalities. We've created this crossword puzzle to help you when building your emergency car/van/suv kit for the winter. You can always add more or substitute items for ones you find in your home. Print more copies from [PGWard.org](http://PGWard.org)

**Across**

2.  Not just for the kids.

4. Because your sandals aren't warm enough. 

8. Most vehicles have these. 

9.  1 gallon for each member per day.

11. Listen to the weather.

12. 

13. 

17. 

18. 

19. Moist towelettes

21. 

23. Road signal. 

26.  Be sure it's inflated!

29. 

31. 

32. A red colored cloth tied to the antenna for rescuers to see.

34. 

36. 

37. 

39. 

40. 

41. 

**Down**

1. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

6. 

7. 

9. 

10. 

14. 

15.  from a can

16. 

20.  for sanitation

22. 

24. 

25. 

27. 

28. 

30. 

33. 

35.  Items which will sustain life such as MREs or snacks.

38.  Don't let heat escape your head.

**Winter Deaths...Nationally**  
(Related to ice and snow)

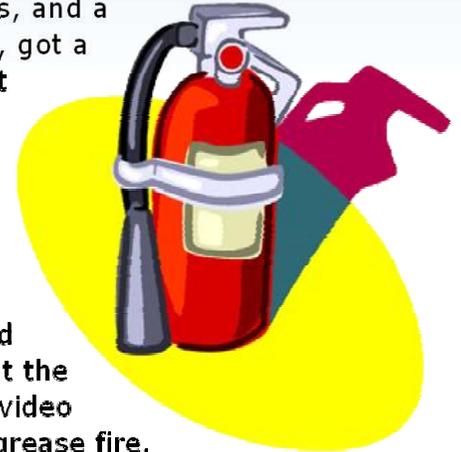
1. About 70% occur in automobiles.
2. About 25% are people caught out in the storm.
3. Majority occur when going for help, so don't leave your car.

# Safe Training

By David Zehring  
GFD Fire Investigator

**W**e always need to be careful when receiving safety tips or watching training videos from the internet. These types of safety tips are not always the best practiced or recommended course of action. Case in point: I was asked to comment on a training video that demonstrated using a wet towel on a stove fire. The video showed a person wearing a firefighter jacket, gloves, and a helmet with a face shield. The person walked over to the sink, got a towel, put the towel under a running faucet, and “twisted” out the access water. Next this person walked over to the stove and placed the towel over a burning pan and the fire was extinguished.

The beginning of the same video showed water being “splashed” on the pan and a fireball erupted. I have concerns with this training video for several reasons. The producer of the video demonstrated the dangers of water being introduced to a grease fire. In addition, the lady who narrates is shown **at the** end of the video with severe scarring. A person watching the **video** would presume the burns happened from putting water on a **grease fire**. We all have witnessed or heard stories of how people lose focus in emergency situations. A person watching this video will see a wet towel as an answer to extinguishing a fire on the stove. However, this is not the truth!



What the video does not explain is the danger when you are close to a fire. Additionally, if you do not wring out the towel and place a wet, dripping towel over a burning pan, a fireball can erupt. The person in the video is wearing a fire jacket, gloves, and a helmet with the face shield down. How many homeowners have this type of equipment available when a pan is on fire?

The real message from this video should be as follows:

- 1) Get everyone out of the house.
- 2) Call 9-1-1 to report the fire.
- 3) If the fire is still manageable after the first two steps have been completed, use an ABC fire extinguisher to extinguish the fire.

Every home should be equipped with an ABC fire extinguisher. The extinguisher should be near an exit so there is a clear path in the event the fire does not go out. Lastly, every member of the household should know how to use the fire extinguisher. If a person is not comfortable using a fire extinguisher, he or she should immediately exit the home and call 9-1-1.

If you have questions on training videos, or would like to have a safe and clear message on dealing with emergencies, please direct your questions to Kim, ([Kim.Yonda-lead@gilbertaz.gov](mailto:Kim.Yonda-lead@gilbertaz.gov)) and she can forward them to the appropriate person.



# Point of Dispensing Exercise

By Sheri Gibbons  
Emergency Management Coordinator  
Gilbert Fire Department

On Thursday, February 28th, the Town of Gilbert participated in a Point of Dispensing Exercise with Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH). This exercise tested a part of MCDPH's plan to distribute medications to 3.8 million people in Maricopa County in case of a public health emergency. Our participation provided an opportunity to challenge our capability to efficiently and effectively dispense medications to our Town employees and their families as part of this plan.

We used several dispensing approaches that included one main dispensing clinic at the Public Safety Building, two satellite clinics at the South Area Service Center (SASC) and Lindsay Public Works North Yard, and two traveling dispensing team that brought medications to the water treatment plants, fire stations, and parks and recreation sites.

The exercise was a great success and I want to extend a special note of thanks to our Volunteers who supported many different functions and facets of this exercise. Your generous contributions of time and expertise assisted us at meeting our goal; ultimately dispensing approximately 1899 doses of medication to over 700 individuals presenting head of household forms that morning.

Thank you for your amazing support!

Felix Castro  
Johnna Switzer  
Judy Martinez  
Pauline Senra  
Marna Fontana

Kelsie Knox  
Wayne Szabo  
Matt Dominy  
Jon Switzer  
Gerhardt Obrikat

Brandon Siebert  
Sonja Grosch  
John Latsko





## Backing A Department Vehicle

By by Tim Held, GFD Volunteer

1. When you are the spotter make sure you can see the driver's side mirror at all times. This may require you to move sideways fairly aggressively if you are directing the vehicle to turn sharply.
2. The driver should roll down his window in case the spotter needs to communicate something.
3. The spotter should stay at least 10 feet away from the back of the vehicle.
4. The spotter should also watch where he is walking in order to avoid tripping over things like a curb head

### HAND SIGNALS:

**Straight Back:** One hand above the head with palm toward face, waving back. Other hand at your side (left or right hand optional).

**Turn:** Both arms pointing the same direction with index fingers extended. (Driver will advise the spotter which way the turn will be made. The spotter then assists the driver in backing the apparatus. The driver's intentions must be verbally communicated to the spotter.)

**Stop:** Both arms crossed with hands in fist. Be sure to yell the stop order loud enough so the driver/engineer can hear the warning.

---

## A Little Laugh

**G**eorge Carlin said that a bumper sticker he'd like to see would say, "We are the proud parents of a child whose self-esteem is sufficient that he doesn't need us promoting his minor scholastic achievements on the back of our car."

*The amazing team that was selected to be on a postcard from the National Office of Fire Corps!*



---

## We Are Changing Our Name

by Division Chief Brian Ruffentine

**I**t is a very exciting time for change for Gilbert in many ways. We have said goodbye to a wonderful man and a great leader in Chief DeWitt. We are underway with a new Wildly Important Goal of obtaining International Accreditation. The Town is continuing to attract great businesses and development. And among other things, we are changing our Department's name.

The Town Council will soon be voting on a change to the Town Code which will formally change our name to Gilbert Fire and Rescue. This change is an important development that will more accurately represent those services that we take so much pride in providing. A labor/management Ad-Hoc Committee has been formed to look at the re-branding efforts involved with the name change. They will be addressing the "Class C" duty uniform first. This includes the Billboard on the back of the shirts, the Maltese Cross, and Hats. The committee will move onto address logos, apparatus, letterhead, and patches after the duty uniforms are completed. Please know that we value all of you, and would like to have any suggestions and input in these changes that you may have. Contact Kim with your thoughts. Take care, and thank you very much for all that you do to make our department Best in Class!

Janice K. Brewer  
Governor

# Office of the Governor

## WITH SPECIAL RECOGNITION

*Be it hereby known to all that I,  
Janice K. Brewer,  
Governor of the State of Arizona,  
do hereby offer my sincere appreciation to*

### ***Gilbert Fire Department***

*for being nominated for a Governor's Volunteer Service Award.*

*Your volunteerism and service to your community and  
the State of Arizona is greatly appreciated.  
You have significantly contributed to improving our communities  
and your dedication is truly inspiring.*

*On behalf of the citizens of Arizona, I commend you for your  
admirable service and wish you every success in the future.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my  
hand, done at the Capitol in Phoenix on this  
fourteenth day of February in the Year  
Two Thousand and Thirteen.*

*Janice K. Brewer*  
GOVERNOR

Thanks a million to Craig Jones for nominating our program!

# HOTSTUFF

## MAY

1 Bloodborne	5:30 - 9:30 PM	Room 1	CERT, FC
28 Radio Communications Refresher	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Room 6	COM 251

## JUNE

11 Advanced Storm Spotter	7:00 - 9:00 PM	Amphitheater	Basic Spotters
---------------------------	----------------	--------------	----------------

Fire Administration Will Be Closed  
MAY 27  
Memorial Day



△ Open to CERT, FC, VIPS and USAonWatch Volunteers.  
Register on line or with Kim Yonda @ 480-503-6325 or [kim.yonda-lead@gilbertaz.gov](mailto:kim.yonda-lead@gilbertaz.gov)