

**GLENDALE FIREFIGHTERS,  
VALLEY OF THE SUN UNITED WAY, FIRST THINGS FIRST,  
TAKING A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO POOL SAFETY WITH  
FREE POOL FENCE PROGRAM**

**GLENDALE, Ariz.** – With pool season once again in sight Glendale Firefighters, with the help of the Valley of the Sun United Way and First Things First, spent Saturday morning, March 27<sup>th</sup>, going door to door in Glendale neighborhoods that has been impacted by drowning incidents over the past several years. Firefighters and volunteers qualified families with unfenced pools to receive a free pool fence. Qualifying families with existing pool fences will be able to have theirs repaired if needed.

The funding for this program is made possible by First Things First and other partners include The Valley of the Sun United Way and Iron Man Pool Fence Company. Several volunteers came out to assist with the outreach efforts from Glendale Fire, United Way, and Banner Thunderbird. Homes targeting with pools are between 43<sup>rd</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> Avenues and between Montebello and Bethany Home road. In total, 20 to 30 families will benefit from this particular event.

“It was encouraging to see so many volunteers from the community come together in hopes to prevent just a tragedy that surely impacts the entire community, said Glendale Fire Chief Mark Burdick. “Our goal is to prevent child drowning incidents through awareness and education. We appreciate the Valley of the Sun United Way, First Things First and everyone who donated part of their Saturday to put forth their lifesaving efforts of preventing drowning incidents in Glendale,” Chief Burdick continued.

According to the *Children’s Safety Zone*, on average since 2000, 19 children have lost their lives each year in Maricopa County due to drowning incidents.

“Drowning incidents are absolutely preventable,” said John Holland, Glendale Fire Captain and Chapter Vice President of Local 493. “Drowning incidents impact everyone involved including the victim and family members but also the firefighters who respond to these emergencies. “We thank the community volunteers on behalf of the community as drowning issues impact all of us,” Captain Holland continued.

**Glendale Fire reminds the community of the ABC’s of Water Safety:**

- A= Adult Supervision: Always watch children around water
- B= Barriers: Use properly installed pool fences, pool nets, sliding doors, door locks and other devices to restrict areas of water
- C= Classes: Learn CPR. Everyone should also learn to swim (adults and children)

More safety tips on how to live healthier safer lives can be found on the Glendale Fire Department website, [www.glendaleaz.com/fire](http://www.glendaleaz.com/fire)

