This month’s highlight is on Fire Inspector Daniel Urias. Daniel has been with the city for almost 20 years. He started with the Engineering and Architectural Services, a Division of Public Works, responsible for all engineering and architectural work for the city. He then moved to the Water Department where he spent over a decade. He made his final move to Fire Prevention where he plans to stay until his retirement in 5 years. Daniel started in Fire Prevention as a new construction inspector and now is a general inspector. Daniel is a very, very organized person having the cleanest cube in Fire Prevention, maybe the entire Department. He is a devoted father of 4. Three of which are girls and all in college, 2 at ASU and 1 and NAU. His youngest, a son, is still at home finishing high school.

In case you didn’t know, his current favorite candy is peanut M&Ms.

HANDS-ON BIG BOX TRAINING

Big Box stores present their own special challenges for firefighting and inspections. These stores are bigger than hardware stores, have more traffic than a warehouse, and a wider variety of hazardous materials. You know the ones Home Depot, Lowe’s, Wal-mart, Target most often 50,000 square feet or more in size.

Fire Prevention’s Special Hazards Unit has inspected many of these large retail locations over the past two years and identified common hazards including: flammable / combustible liquids, aerosols, pool chemicals, herbicides and pesticides and propane. These hazards have been shared with fire operations in the form of a Hazmat Facility Notification Bulletin that was distributed to firefighters and management. Fire inspectors have been trained to identify and mitigate these hazards.

Fire Prevention would like to thank Cassie Yutel, Store Manager at Lowe’s Home Improvement store for allowing Fire Prevention to conduct hands-on training in her store. Recently, members of the training committee met with Lowe’s management and conducted an inspection documenting issues to be addressed. The store manager was then asked to not make the corrections (none were life safety issues).

Fire Prevention Inspectors were then brought into the store in 3 groups to conduct their own inspections. Training staff used these inspections to identify issues specific to big box stores and exercise mitigation methods.

If you’d like to receive this newsletter electronically [sign up here](mailto:lanette.r.mckinney@phoenix.gov)
GROWTH AND SPREAD OF FIRE

With school back in session now is the perfect time to do a little practicing at home. Design and draw up an escape plan. Practice the plan. It could save your life.

The following is a timeline of an actual 2-story house fire. It will show you just how fast fire spreads:

:30 seconds  Fire ignites and grows rapidly.
1:04  From first flame, fire spreads and smoke begins to fill room.
1:35  Smoke layer falls rapidly, temp. exceeds 190°F.
1:50  Smoke detector at foot of stairs alarms. Still time to get out.
2:30  Temp. above couch over 400°F.
2:48  Smoke pours into other rooms.
3:03  Temp. 3 feet above floor in room of origin is over 500°F (No one could survive).
3:20  Upstairs hall filled with smoke - Escape more difficult.
3:41  FLASHOVER - Energy in room of origin ignites everything.

Temperature is 1400°F.

3:50  2 minutes after smoke detectors sounds, the 2nd exit is only way out.
4:33  Flames now visible from outside.

AT THIS POINT, RESCUE MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE.

Have an escape plan! Practice with your family during the day. Practice at night, with the lights off. Be prepared!

FIRE PREVENTION PIO’S

This month’s Information Safety Bulletin focuses on ... smoke alarms and detectors. Almost two thirds of deaths that occur in homes are homes without smoke alarms. A working smoke alarm cuts the risk of dying in a home fire by 50%. (Source: NFPA)

It’s a common misconception that smoke alarms and smoke detectors are the same thing. They actually function very differently and are used in different environments. Typically in homes smoke alarms are installed. In commercial buildings you will find smoke detectors and other devices as part of the automatic fire alarm system.

SPRINKLER SYSTEM SAVES BUSINESS

Inspector Steve Petrie responded, as C99, Fire Prevention’s after hours response unit, Line-X a spray in bed liner company where an active fire was extinguished by a single fire sprinkler head. The fire was in a very full storage area with 55 gallon drums of chemicals and additional storage throughout. The sprinkler prevented the fire from getting to the 55 gallon drums but not before some aerosol spray cans became overheated and began shooting around. You can see in the picture an aerosol can shot through the wall, the photo is taken from the next room where the can came through.

Due to the sprinkler extinguishment the company only expects to be closed for 2 days with minor dry wall repairs and carpet drying.