

## Avra Valley Fire District receives grant to purchase "Jaws of Life™"

**AVRA VALLEY** — The Avra Valley Fire District (AVFD) has received \$22,380 through the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) to purchase a complete set of extrication tools; commonly referred to as the "Jaws of Life.™"

The GOHS is supporting the need to increase the number of reliable extrication tools within the Avra Valley Fire District, as well as, increasing the ability to utilize multiple extrication tools at the scene of large motor vehicle accidents requiring the extrication of multiple trapped occupants.

This will facilitate AVFD's extrication goal of ten minutes or less for a critical patient that has life threatening injuries requiring immediate transport; and twenty minutes or less for an entrapped non-critical patient. These goals are part of the "golden (trauma) hour" — the district's goal to get patients to trauma centers within one hour from time of an accident.

The GOHS and the AVFD identified the need to have additional extrication equipment on a fire truck located close to Interstate 10 in the Red Rock Community. This will facilitate rapid deployment of the extrication equipment to motor vehicle collisions on the interstate in the area between mile post 232 and mile post 215 which has become known for high speed multiple vehicle collisions.

In October 2011, the Avra Valley Fire district responded to a 21 vehicle accident on Interstate 10, at mile post 215 north of Picacho Peak which was caused by high winds



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Photo courtesy of the Avra Valley Fire District

and blowing dust. This motor vehicle accident involved four trapped occupants in separate vehicles that were approximately 300 feet apart. There were 23 patients involved, 12 of whom had to be transported by

ambulances. In 2012 alone, the AVFD responded to Interstate 10 between MP232 and MP215 more than 50 times for motor vehicle accidents.

The Avra Valley Fire District is thankful to the Arizona

Governor's Office of Highway and Safety for assisting in meeting the unmet needs of the community by providing the funding for the purchase of this much needed extrication equipment.