

Local Firefighters Busy in Early May

Brush fires, automobile accidents, and medical emergencies kept local fire fighting personnel busy during the first two weeks of May, according to information from the Avra Valley and Picture Rocks Volunteer Fire Departments.

The most spectacular of the brush fires was fought the afternoon of May 12 north of Tangerine Road just east of Interstate 10 by personnel of the local departments and several Tucson area units upon request from the Arizona State Land Department. The fire was located near, the site of a similar fire several weeks ago that burned a large tract of state land and threatened a nearby poultry farm and mobile home development.

Two other brush fires were fought on May 9. One, at Rattlesnake Pass in the Tucson Mountains, was fought by personnel and equipment from both the Avra Valley and Picture Rocks departments. The other, at Picacho and Cocio Roads, burned over a little

less than an acre before being extinguished by Avra Valley volunteers under Battalion Chief Keith Ames, Captain John Deskins, Engineer Walt Osman, and Firefighters Bob Schult and Paul Auldrich.

Two automobile accidents resulted in responses by Avra Valley Volunteer Fire Department medical officer Anna Garrison and other Department personnel. The first, early the morning of May 2, was on the I-10 frontage road just northwest of Marana. The accident victim was stabilized by Officer Garrison and Emergency Medical Technician Trainee David Watson before transportation to Kino Hospital in Tucson by ambulance. The second, on May 6, on the Avra Valley Road just east of the Santa Cruz River, involved no injuries, but did involve response by Medical Officer Garrison, Captain Deskins, and Trainee Watson.

Fire Units Hold Joint Demonstration

Last Saturday, a demonstration on the proper procedure for putting out burning liquified petroleum gasses was conducted by members of the Avra Valley and Picture Rocks Volunteer Fire Departments. The demonstration was held at the Avra Valley Department's fire station on Trico Road.

The week before, the members of the Avra Valley Department completed the practical portion of their final examination for the Fire Operations Course that they have been taking by having a "wet drill" at the Trico Road station, according to C.R. "Chuck" Hudson, department information officer.

Officer Hudson has also indicated that the Department is asking people in the Valley to not use Citizens Band Channel 9 to seek information about fires but to leave that channel free for the reporting of emergencies and for fire department use during emergencies. Those needing information about an emergency situation are asked to call 682-5147, rather than use Channel 9.