



CITY OF TUCSON



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NEWS RELEASE

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FATAL HOUSE FIRE 5800 BLOCK EAST 15TH STREET

On the morning of December 25, 2011, the Tucson Fire Department notified the Tucson Police Department of a house fire in the 5800 Block of East 15th Street. Officers from Operations Division East responded to the area to assist with securing the roadway to ensure that no additional lives or property were affected. Initial indications were that there were still people inside of the residence when the fire broke out. As such, Tucson Fire Department personnel worked diligently to reach the individuals and remove them from the burning house. One adult male, later identified as **31-year old Joseph Thomas Nickols**, was transported to a local hospital and was subsequently pronounced deceased. Next of kin have been notified. Additionally, a second adult male was transported to the hospital for injuries received during the fire. The second male has life threatening injuries and remains at the hospital. One of the other residents, an adult female, was taken to a hospital for evaluation purposes only. There were three additional adult occupants that lived at the residence, but none of them were injured.

Detectives from the Tucson Police Department Special Investigations Division as well as investigative personnel from the Tucson Fire Department responded to conduct an examination into the origin and/or cause of the fire. It was determined that a candle that had been left burning in the family room of the residence was likely the cause of the fire. No arrests have been made at this point.

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