



CITY OF
TUCSON



Ready to Protect
Proud to Serve

NEWS RELEASE

Roberto A. Villaseñor
Chief of Police

Contact: Chris Widmer
Sergeant / Public Information Office
520-791-4852
On-call PIO: tucsonpdpio@gmail.com
<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/police>

Date: 04/09/2013
TDD: 791-2639

TUCSON POLICE DEPARTMENT'S INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN (ICAC) UNIT

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect. We would like to take this opportunity to highlight the Tucson Police Department's Internet Crimes Against Children Unit. The unit focuses its efforts on protecting children on-line and holding offenders accountable. Unit investigators are committed to working tirelessly to strengthen police relationships and promote public awareness in order to produce positive results to help make the Internet a safer place for children.

The Tucson Police Department Internet Crimes Against Children Unit has investigated over 100 complaints and arrested more than 20 suspects who were involved in the Internet exploitation of children over the past year. Tucson's unit has also identified and is investigating more than 10 suspects who are believed to have sexually abused local children. In addition, the Tucson ICAC unit has conducted numerous public presentations to parents and children regarding Internet safety for children.

The Tucson Police Department ICAC Unit is an affiliate of the Arizona ICAC Task Force and an important part of a nationwide partnership of law enforcement agencies with the mission of protecting children online. Currently there are 61 ICAC Task Forces located across the United States representing over 2,000 federal, state and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies. Since its inception, the ICAC Task Force program has investigated over 280,000 complaints of alleged child sexual exploitation and arrested almost 30,000 individuals. See www.azicac.org for more details on the Arizona Task Force.

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) interacts regularly with ICAC offices, providing assistance during investigations where the suspect has solicited young victims from throughout the United States and other countries. The partnership between NCMEC and all ICAC Task Forces nationwide is essential to protecting society's most innocent victims, children. Anyone having information regarding online sexual exploitation of children should report this information to 911, 88-CRIME, or NCMEC via a CyberTip (www.cybertipline.com). See www.missingkids.com for more information regarding NCMEC.

####

Page 1 of 1

For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.

tucsonaz.gov