



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Captain Jeff Langejans
Public Information Office
(520) 410-1901 pager
Jeff.Langejans@tucsonaz.gov

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LIKE A CONDUCTOR IN A SYMPHONY, TUCSON FIRE DISPATCHERS ORCHESTRATE A STELLAR PERFORMANCE DURING SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS.

This evening's monsoon packed a powerful punch. The heavy downpour of rain was accompanied by several lightning strikes that touched down all across the city. With torrential rains and driving winds, Tucson Fire Department's skills were challenged again.

From 1800-2000 hours, the Tucson Fire Department Communications Division fielded **365** calls through the 9-1-1 system. Once again, their calm and professional demeanor set the tone for how we responded to those in need. TFD units were dispatched on **97** of those calls. Many of the dispatches included multiple units in the response. The new I-CAD dispatching system performed flawlessly. One of the improvements is that calls plot themselves on a CAD map. The system pre-empts the dispatcher when a closer unit comes into service. This is extremely critical in managing resources, particularly during storm weather dispatching procedures.

Due to the heavy rains, only 31 of those calls were for reports of fire. All were able to be handled by a single engine company, thus allowing other units to be deployed to other calls. There were numerous calls for wires down. Several large trees were uprooted and blown over. Many buildings were affected by high winds and rain which resulted in crews responding to minimize damages and ensure citizen safety. At this time there have been no reports of loss of life attributed to the storm.

The most significant weather related call was located at the northwest quadrant of Valencia and Alvernon. At 1820, several power poles were knocked down by winds. This stretched for about a quarter of a mile.

SAFETY MESSAGE: During severe weather related storms, citizens should stay indoors or seek shelter quickly if outside. Due to the fact that it was Sunday evening, most folks were already off the streets. Although there was flooding all around town, this played a large roll in the fact that there were no swift water rescues during this time.

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