



CALEXICO FIREFIGHTERS FIGHTING A WAREHOUSE FIRE ON HEBER AVE.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

*Fire Prevention: It's in your hands*

According to the National Fire Protection Association, electrically related fires are the third leading cause for fires in the United States.

**Fires involving electrical failure or malfunction:**

- Between 2010 and 2014, U.S. municipal fire departments responded to an average of 45,210 home structure fires involving electrical failure or malfunction. These fires caused annual averages of 420 civilian deaths, 1,370 civilian injuries, and \$1.4 billion in direct property damage.
- Non-home structure fires involving some type of electrical failure or malfunction accounted for an estimated annual average of 12 civilian deaths, 210 civilian injuries, and \$614 million in direct

property damage during this same period.

**Fires involving electrical distribution or lighting equipment:**

- U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated annual average of 31,960 non-confined home structure fires involving electrical distribution or lighting equipment in 2010-2014.
- An estimated annual average of 14,760 non-confined and non-home fires involving electrical

distribution and lighting equipment resulted in 20 civilian deaths, 190 civilian injuries, and \$659 million in direct property damage each year. Arc-fault circuit interrupter (AFCI) circuits and receptacles can prevent an estimated 52% of these fires. Similar to the City of Calexico Fire Department Fire Prevention efforts in

*"Smoke Alarms should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home. They should be TESTED MONTHLY, and batteries should be replaced each year. Replace alarms every 10 YEARS."*

preventing electrocutions and childhood shocks and burns, Calexico Fire seeks to educate the public on fire preventing electrical technologies required by the National Electrical Code.



# CFD

# Spotlight

## RAUL CANIZALES



In order to get to know your Calexico Firefighters, we will be featuring a member of the Fire Department every month and shining the spotlight on their career, life outside of work and any special information. This month we start off with CFD Hotspot Newsletter writer, Firefighter Raul Canizales.

I have been with the Calexico Fire Department going on 12 years this December. It has been a great honor and privilege to serve the citizens of Calexico. I have had a lot of fun, I've made great friends and I've received invaluable education and experience in being a Firefighter.

I am originally from Chula Vista, CA in San Diego County, but moved to the Valley after meeting my then future wife. My parents and siblings still live in Chula Vista. I currently live in El Centro, CA. I am married and have 2 young boys. My eldest is 6 years old and my youngest just turned 1 year old. My wife is an Emergency Room supervisor at El Centro Regional Medical Center.

My career with the Calexico Fire Department started about 12 years ago but my career with the fire service started back when I was 19 years old. I was a Fire Explorer with the Chula Vista Fire Department for 2 and a half years. After completing my EMT

certification I obtained a job with a local Ambulance company in San Diego. After working there for just under 3 years I was able to secure a full-time job at a private Fire Department for a Shipbuilding company. General Dynamics NASSCO is a company that builds and repairs commercial and Naval Ships and I was able to gain experience as a full-time Firefighter and get paid for it. We were in charge of any fire prevention, fire suppression, providing medical attention and assist the Safety department with safety walkthroughs and employee education. While working with the NASSCO Fire department I was able to attend a Reserve Fire Academy with San Miguel Fire Protection District



and subsequently was able to become a Reserve Firefighter and gain even more experience through constant education and riding along with the Fire Engine. After 4 years of working with the NASSCO Fire Department and 2 years as a Reserve Firefighter I was hired with the City of Calexico.

On my days off, some of the things I love to do include spending time with my family, visit my parents in San Diego, work around the house, ride my motorcycle with friends and work on my old car.

# Calexico Fire fights California Wildfires.

In early October, California had some devastating wildfires start and resources were needed to help contain and minimize damage to life, property and the environment. The Imperial Valley once again was called to assist with resources. Task Force 6110 was made up of Calexico Fire, Imperial County Fire, Brawley Fire and Holtville Fire and was sent to fight the Canyon 2 Fire and the Nun's Fire in Napa County. Calexico Fire sent Brush-11, our Wildland Fire Specialty Fire Engine. B-11 is mainly used for off-road conditions such as the conditions faced with fighting wildfires. There is some rough terrain and this engine can easily maneuver through some terrain that might be too difficult for a regular fire engine. Crews were fighting these fires for 2 weeks before being released back home. Depending on how bad the Fire season is in California, Calexico Fire will typically send their Fire Engine on a Strike Team various times a year. The crew that was sent to these fires this time were Captain Schannon Mohamed, Engineer Jorge Villanueva, Firefighter Chad Vokovitch and Firefighter Geovanni Raygosa. Great Job guys and we're all glad you guys returned safe!!



## On Scene



Fire Crews battled an early morning structure fire on the 400 block of Encinas Ave on Monday October 23<sup>rd</sup> at approximately 12 am. There was some heavy smoke and fire coming from the rear of the house but crews quickly extinguished the fire before the rest of the house caught fire. An Imperial County Fire Engine was called to assist Engine 11, Engine 3821 and Medic Unit 2670. No one was inside the house at the time of the incident and there were no injuries.



Engine 11 and Medic Unit 2670 were called to Bowker Rd and Second St for a motor vehicle accident late on Thursday Nov 2nd. Two patients were transported with minor injuries but the driver had to be extricated using the Hydraulic tools.

# “Fill the Boot Drive” With Calexico Firefighters

It’s the beginning of November... a great day to test your smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors to make sure they are working properly. They save lives!!

November also brings us MDA’s Fill the Boot Drive. Calexico Firefighters will be out Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup> between 8am-12 noon. Please come out and show support for finding a cure to Muscular Dystrophy and donate any amount of money. Our firefighters will be out with their boots trying to raise money. We appreciate everyone coming out and donating or just giving us some thumbs up. Please be mindful of our firefighters getting close to the passing cars to pick up donations. We want everyone to be aware and everyone to be safe. Hope to see you all on the 11<sup>th</sup>.



## Thanksgiving Safety

With Thanksgiving approaching, we are all thankful for something. We should all be reminded that the greatest numbers of home cooking fires happen on Thanksgiving with a 34 percent being unattended equipment. If you are cooking for your family this year, please remember to keep watching your oven or whatever you are using to cook your delicious meal. Please be sure you are well educated on deep frying a Turkey before you attempt it. During the Holidays it’s a time to celebrate and enjoy with loved ones. Please do not make what is supposed to be a happy moment turn into a tragedy because of accidents that could have been avoided. There is nothing more than we hate is having to be called for an emergency when an accident that could’ve been avoided interrupts a happy celebration. These Holidays please be safe.

- 34%----Unattended Equipment
- 28%----Other
- 11%----Abandoned Material
- 10%----Heat source to close
- 9%-----Product misuse
- 8%----Accidentally left equip on



## CALEXICO FIRE NEWSLETTER



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