



## GARAGE FIRE SAFETY

by Carefree Rural Metro Fire Department

In the last few months, within Maricopa County, Rural Metro Fire has responded to approximately 24 structure fires. The causes and origins vary. However, fires originating in an attached garage are trending up. Nationally, there are 6,600 garage fires per year. Resulting in 30 deaths, 400 injuries, and over \$457 million in property loss.

What causes garage fires? Electrical malfunction is the leading cause of garage fires. Electrical malfunctions occur when wires are damaged, shorts occur within the wire or appliance, or electrical outlets and circuits are overloaded.

For example, if you have a refrigerator in your garage, plugged into a standard 120V outlet. That refrigerator is drawing anywhere from 2 amps for a mini-fridge to 8.5 amps for a side-by-side fridge. Standard outlets can typically handle up to 15 amps. A refrigerator under normal operation draws 7-10 amps. However, during start up it can demand up to 3 times that. This can pose a threat to overloading circuits if they are not properly grounded or equipped with a GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter). A GFCI is the little button that “pops” or “trips” when the circuit is temporarily overloaded, cutting power as a safety measure. Many garages have one maybe two outlets, a garage door opener, and a light on the same circuit, all of which draw from the same pool of amps. Hazards are produced when additional demands are placed on the circuit, such as charging car or golf cart batteries, charging hand tool batteries, adding televisions in the garage, or any number of other electrical demands.

Rural Metro Fire offers Carefree residents a free annual home safety inspection. During these inspections it is common to find homeowners using the wrong size/rated extension cord to power large appliances such as freezers or refrigerators and having single outlets powering numerous electrical appliances.

### Preventing Garage Fires

- Store oil, gasoline, paints, propane and varnishes in a shed away from your home.
- Keep items that can burn on shelves away from appliances.
- Plug only one charging appliance into an outlet.
- Don't use an extension cord when charging an appliance.

### Install:

- A 20-minute fire-rated door that is self-closing and self-latching from the garage into the house.
- A ceiling made with 5/8-inch Type X gypsum board (or the equivalent) if you have living space above the garage.
- A wall with 1/2-inch gypsum board (or the equivalent) if the wall attaches the garage to your home.
- An attic hatch cover if you have attic access from the garage.
- A heat alarm – not a smoke alarm – in your garage. The heat alarm will sound if the temperature rises too high.

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## GARAGE FIRE SAFETY (continued)

Second to electrical caused fires in an attached garage are fires caused by vehicles. Parking a vehicle inside an attached garage potentially introduces another ignition source and a fuel source. Vehicles are rarely the single cause of any fire, but more likely a link in the chain leading to a garage fire. Tips for mitigating the danger of garage fires:

Have any manufacture recalls repaired as soon as possible:

- Not all recalls can cause a fire. Manufacturers such as Tesla, Ford, and Chevy have issued recalls for Hybrid, Electric, and Gas-powered vehicles recently. Check your vehicle for open recalls.

Maintain your vehicle

- Neglect or poor maintenance can lead to hazardous conditions from leaks or electrical issues.

Beware of overheating Catalytic Converters:

- If your engine isn't operating efficiently, you're not using the right fuel grade, or any number of other adverse conditions the catalytic converter can become clogged and overheat reaching temperatures of up to 1400. This damages the catalytic converter itself and risks melting or igniting surrounding vehicle parts, leaking fluids, or greasy build-up.

Electrical system failures are the leading cause of vehicle fires:

- Check for a healthy battery, free from corrosion or leaks
- Look for damaged wiring
- If you experience electrical problems with your vehicle, have it inspected or repaired by a professional mechanic.

Reducing risk of fire throughout your home should be a high priority. Rural Metro Fire is committed to making sure you, your family, and your property are safe. Taking advantage of the annual home safety inspection and implementing the above safety tips will increase the safety for you, your family, and your property.

## NEW ENGINE STATIONED AT CAREFREE FIREHOUSE



The above picture shows the Emergency units stationed in Carefree that are ready for any emergency response. Added to this fleet is a new Brush Engine 821. The brush truck comes equipped with a 1,000 gallon water tank along with two mobilized pumps to pump water. The additional truck provides increased capability to combat wildland fires during the intense drought affecting our region.



### PUBLIC SAFETY RESOURCES:

#### **Maricopa County Sherriff's Office (MCSO)**

Non-Emergency  
602-876-8477

#### **Rural Metro**

Non-Emergency & Snake Removal  
480-945-6311

## NEW! PET STATIONS AT DESERT GARDENS

The Town has been at work this summer making improvements to Town Center and the Carefree Desert Gardens. Three new pet stations have been installed within the Desert Gardens, providing a welcome relief spot for our furry friends.

Pet urine is known to contain high levels of salts which disrupts the delicate soil pH levels. Additionally, dog urine tends to be lethal to gardens and lawns due to their high concentration of urea and nitrogen in their urine.

Thank you for using these pet stations and helping us protect our beautiful Desert Gardens.



## CAP & CAREFREE WATER COMPANY HOLD JOINT MEETING TO DISCUSS WATER RESOURCES



CAP General Manager Ted Cooke, leadership and staff members held a joint staff coordination meeting with the Town of Carefree & Carefree Water Company. The Town's water portfolio, Colorado River conditions and drought preparedness were among the topics discussed.

You can learn more and keep up with the latest information pertaining to Colorado River conditions and water portfolio diversification plans at <https://knowyourwaternews.com/>.



## LOCAL PRESS

July 2022 press mentions and news articles are linked here for your reference (click title to read):

[Carefree Water enhances conservation efforts | News | thefoothillsfocus.com](#)

[Town of Carefree auctioning SUV with proceeds going to town improvements | Carefree | citysuntimes.com](#)

[A breakdown of Carefree's upcoming election | News | thefoothillsfocus.com](#)

[The 15 Best Destination Spas in the U.S. \(travelandleisure.com\)](#)

[Stepping up water conservation efforts | Sonoran News](#)

[Cave Creek Museum offers new memberships | News | thefoothillsfocus.com](#)

[10 Top Places to Live in Arizona \(luxurytravelmagazine.com\)](#)

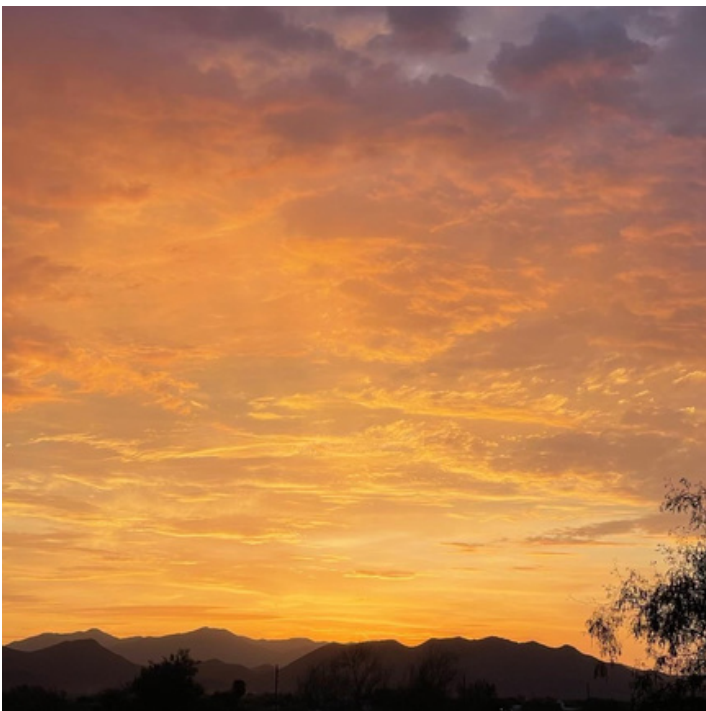


Photo: Ozzie Bringas



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



### August 2nd is Election Day

In-person voting is available at:  
Council Chambers  
33 Easy Street | 5:30 AM - 9:00 PM

#### Election Day

Aug 2 | Council Chambers 33 Easy St.

#### Friday Farmers Market

Weekly | 8:00 AM-12:00 PM | Town Center

#### Town Council Meeting

Aug 9 | 5:00 PM | Council Chambers 33 Easy St.

#### Board of Adjustment Meeting

Aug 15 | 5:00 PM | Council Chambers 33 Easy St.

#### Planning & Zoning Meeting

Aug 15 | 5:30 PM | Council Chambers 33 Easy St.

#### Development Review Board Meeting

Aug 15 | 6:00 PM | Council Chambers 33 Easy St.

#### UCFD/Carefree Water Company Board Meeting

Aug 16 | 4:30 PM | Council Chambers 33 Easy St.

## FALL 2022 EVENTS PREVIEW



Photo: Herbert Hitchon

Our fall event calendar is taking shape! Save these dates and be on the lookout for more events and details to come!

### September

15 Third Thursday Art Walk

### October

1 - 10 Carefree Restaurant Week

19 Volunteer Expo

20 Third Thursday Art Walk

### November

4 - 6 Carefree Fine Art & Wine Festival

11 Veteran's Day Honor Ceremony

12 TBD Music in the Pavilion

17 Third Thursday Art Walk

18 - 20 Hidden in the Hills Artist Studio Tour

25 - 27 Hidden in the Hills Artist Studio Tour

26 Small Business Saturday

### December

3 Carefree Lights Up! Tree Lighting Ceremony

15 Third Thursday Art Walk

18 - 25 Chanukkah Celebrations

## HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHT: KIWANIS SPLASH PARK



The Kiwanis Splash Park is a cool escape from the heat! The large metal water feature was built to look like a scorpion and was named 'Kiwani', it comes to life' unexpectedly, creating a level of interactivity and a unique play experience. This exciting focal point, combined with ground spray jets, creates a magical, nature-inspired play environment for youngsters. Since its opening in 2016, patrons have been enjoying bringing their children to the splash pad year after year



### Hours of Operation:

April 1 - October 1

9:00 AM - 7:00 PM