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Glendale Firefighters Raise Awareness with Mock Drowning Presentation

The 2009 Glendale Water Safety Day was sponsored by the Glendale Fire Department; Glendale Parks and Recreation Department; Southwest Ambulance; Arizona Physicians, IPA; and Sanderson Ford and promises to be a day of fun and education for children and adults on the opening week of Rose Lane Aquatics Center in Glendale.

Several vendors came out to share water safety information for children and families of all ages. Southwest Ambulance presented Glendale Vice Mayor Manny Martinez and the Glendale Parks and Recreations Department with a check for \$5,000 which will go towards swim lessons for children this summer. Sanderson Ford also unveiled the new Glendale Fire Department "Mobile Safety Message", a vehicle donated to the Glendale Fire Department with a special safety message wrap to act as a moving billboard to promote safety throughout the city.

"Child drowning incidents impact the child victims obviously and of course the immediate families but drowning incidents also impacts other family members, friends, neighbors, classmates, teachers and so many others. Drowning incidents truly impact the entire community so it was nice to see so many members of the community stand together today for this call to action," said Glendale Fire Chief Mark Burdick.

Glendale Firefighters along with Southwest Ambulance crews and Rose Lane Aquatics Center life guards performed a MOCK drowning incident to educate families of the impact of such an unfortunate event and to promote water safety this summer. "Unfortunately since 2000, on average approximately 20 children have died each year due to drowning in Maricopa County," said Glendale Fire Chief Mark Burdick. "For every fatal child drowning, there are several others who suffer from lifelong disabilities due to near drowning," Chief Burdick continued. "We are asking everyone to learn how to swim, learn CPR and of course, always watch your children around water," Chief Burdick added. ###

