

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

For more information, contact Daniel Matlick, 520-444-6388.

ARIZONA FIRE SERVICE NEWS:

***The 23RD Annual United Fire
Firefighter of the Year Award***

For over two decades United Fire has recognized individuals who exemplify what it means to be a real hero. In crisis situations, when others can't see clearly through the smoke, only focused and experienced fire fighters can respond to danger, protect property, and save lives.

You are cordially invited to attend the opening ceremonies of the 43rd **Arizona State Fire School** to learn more about **Firefighter/Engineer Stephen Gunn**, Peoria Fire-Medical Department, the **2016 Firefighter of the Year** for the State of Arizona.

Date: Thursday, September 8th, 2016

Time: Welcome, 9:00 AM - Closing Remarks, 11:30 AM

Place: Mesa Convention Center, Centennial Hall, 263 N. Center Street

Agenda:

- Presentation of Colors
- Firefighter Memorial Service
- Arizona Fire Service Hall of Fame Induction
- **Feature Presentation:** United Fire Firefighter of the Year Award

Please plan on attending!

**Take this opportunity to interview the
2016 Firefighter of the Year before or after the ceremony.**

The home was burning and multiple propane tanks were venting and exploding on the back patio. A large picture window had blown out, venting heat and thick black smoke. The room was ready to flash - several feet into the home, unconscious on the floor, was the victim.

It was into this turmoil that Firefighter Stephen Gunn arrived on scene with Sheriff's officers and civilians shouting that someone was trapped inside. Firefighter Gunn, first boots on the ground and firefighter nearest the home, headed straight for the danger.

Without hesitation, firefighter Gunn stepped into the flames. For forty seconds, Gunn worked inside the blaze, helmet melting, turnouts blackening, and skin burning. Finally, right before the room flashed over, he was able to pass the victim to the waiting hands of his captain.

Although Firefighter Gunn was treated for burns at the Arizona Burn Center, he was back on the job for his next shift. The Peoria Fire-Medical Department's creed is "Serving with Strength, Honor, and Compassion." Firefighter Gunn has embodied these throughout his career, but never more than with this selfless act of bravery.

LET YOUR VIEWERS KNOW: "ANYONE can make a nomination – if you or a loved one have been rescued by a firefighter hero, go to FDAZ.ORG to find out how you can make a nomination for the 2017 Arizona Firefighter of the Year."

##