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## **ARIZONA FIRE SERVICE NEWS:**

### ***The 25th Annual United Fire Firefighter of the Year Award***

At the very core of a firefighters character is the desire to help those who can't help themselves. Often that means going beyond the capabilities of the average citizen. Taking calculated risks with your own safety to assist strangers in need is what distinguishes **Extraordinary Heroes** from **Ordinary People**.



You are cordially invited to attend the opening ceremonies of the **45th Arizona State Fire School** to learn more about **Firefighter Sabas Cruz-Miranda**, Picture Rocks Fire & Medical District, the **2018 United Fire Firefighter of the Year** for the State of Arizona.

**Date: Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Time: Welcome, 8:30 AM – Firefighter of the Year Award**

**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

Firefighter Cruz was off-duty driving with a friend in a Phoenix area neighborhood when he noticed some smoke coming from a nearby house. Cruz recognized the conditions were unusual and that no emergency responders were present, so he instinctively proceeded to the house to see if he could assist.

Cruz's quick response to help a complete stranger was nothing shy of being a genuine hero. Without hesitation he put his own safety at risk suspecting there was someone in trouble who needed help. Firefighters are trained to respond to incidents such as this, but typically with personal protective gear, breathing apparatus, and a team of fellow rescuers and equipment.

Sabas was in the right place at the right time and acted at the level he felt was appropriate, and in doing so, was able to save a life. His response was not officially required, but his courage and compassion distinguish his actions and makes him an excellent recipient to represent the Arizona Fire Service for this year's award.

**Take this opportunity to interview the  
2018 Firefighter of the Year after the ceremony**

LET YOUR READERS/VIEWERS KNOW: "ANYONE can make a nomination – if you or a loved one have been rescued by a firefighter hero, go to [FDAZ.ORG](http://FDAZ.ORG) to find out how you can make a nomination for the 2019 Arizona Firefighter of the Year."

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