



MEMORANDUM

Date: September 9, 2013

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CHH", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **River Rescue Costs**

I asked our Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to compile the public agency cost associated with swift water/river rescue calls.

Fire departments have responded to approximately 37 rescue calls in the last 12 months. The fire departments that have responded have been Drexel, Tucson, Mount Lemmon, Rincon Valley, Avra, Mountain Vista, Northwest and Golder Ranch.

The Sheriff estimates the cost per river rescue may be as high as \$8,750, but this cost would increase if their helicopter rescue team is deployed. The Northwest Fire Department estimates each call costs \$5,027.

Since January 2011, the Sheriff has responded to 98 river rescue calls and issued seven citations under the "Stupid Motorist Law." Of the seven citations issued, four were misdemeanor arrests for reckless driving, one was a misdemeanor arrest for endangerment, one was a felony child abuse arrest, and one was a driving under the influence felony arrest.

These public rescue costs are largely, if not exclusively, non-reimbursable.

CHH/dph