



Submitted photo
Wade Barter serves as the Hazardous Materials/Special Operations Program Manager for the Daisy Mountain Fire Department.

COMMUNITY NEWS

COURAGE UNDER FIRE

Getting To Know The Men And Women Of Daisy Mountain Fire Department

Submitted article ~ 04/1/2010

Wade Barter has been employed with Daisy Mountain Fire Department for almost 10 years. Wade was originally hired as a reserve firefighter (a part-time firefighter that maintains a regular job), and after 4 months was hired as a full-time firefighter. Three years later Wade took the exam and was promoted to Engineer. While in that position, Wade attended Paramedic School through Phoenix Community College. Two years later, Wade tested for and was promoted to Captain and was assigned to Fire Station 141. In May 2009 Wade received training at Phoenix Fire Department's Special Operations Division and now serves our community as Hazardous Materials/ Special Operations Program Manager.

Wade served our country in the United States Navy in Japan for three years. He has been married for seven years and has three sons, ages 11, 6, and 4. In addition to his other achievements, he is close to obtaining his Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from the University of Phoenix. We recently met with Wade to learn more about his position and how it benefits our communities:

What are your responsibilities as Hazardous Materials/ Special Operations Program Manager?

"In addition to my regular firefighting responsibilities, I coordinate training exercises with other valley-wide Hazardous Materials Teams. I ensure that all the Haztechs within the Daisy Mountain Fire Department maintain their certifications by scheduling continuing education throughout the year. Our Hazmat team uses a great deal of specialized equipment and techniques such as meters for contamination isolation, decontamination procedures, and hazardous materials identification. I also ensure that all the equipment for our Hazmat team is accounted for, accurately calibrated, and taken well cared for."

Do we have hazardous materials concerns in Desert Hills, New River, and

Anthem?

“I would say our most challenging concern is the I-17 corridor that runs in and out of Phoenix. For the most part our communities are safe from hazardous materials with the exception of known places that have chemicals and products to conduct their business, such as the water treatment facilities, and pools (which have chemicals such as chlorine).

What would happen if there was a hazardous materials incident in one of our communities?

“If a hazardous materials incident happens and notifications need to be made to a particular section of the community, the fire department will alert people using the reverse 911 system. When activated, this system sends out phone calls to every house in the incident area to make the occupants aware of what is going on, and gives them instructions as to whether they must evacuate their home, or just stay in place. In the event of an evacuation, we would have the police and fire departments from other cities assist us in these actions.

What do you like best about your job?

“The best part about my job is that something different happens every day. We go on different calls and meet interesting people. I enjoy the brother/sister hood that goes along with my job. You truly are family members with those you work with. After all you end up spending a third of your life at the fire station.”

What is the most challenging aspect of your job?

“I think the most challenging aspect of my job is ensuring the over-all safety of myself, my crew members, and all others that might be on a hazardous scene. Since we have the advanced training, others look to us for the knowledge of substances that have the potential of contamination. We certainly don't want anyone taking potential ly hazardous materials home with them because of the lack of knowledge about a product on-scene, and possibly contaminating all your family.”