



# MEDIA RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Assignment Editors Note:** The media is welcome to cover this event. Attendance, however, is by invitation only.

### HEALTH DEPARTMENT and TUCSON FIRE COLLABORATE ON THE APPLESEED PROJECT

Tucson, Az. – On Wednesday, September 30, 2009 beginning at 8:30 a.m., approximately 35 Emergency Medical System (EMS), public health nursing, injury prevention representatives from all four EMS Arizona regions, Arizona counties and various state offices will gather at the Herbert K. Abrams Public Health Center, 3950 S. Country Club, to discuss increased collaboration between public health and EMS.

The workshop, one of six to be held nationwide, comes as a result of a collaborative partnership formed by the Pima County Health Department and Tucson Fire to more effectively leverage resources and to coordinate response, programs and services. *The Appleseed Project* brings together EMS and public health practitioners to identify ways services/agencies can support one another and work together to better accomplish their missions with special emphasis on service integration, community-wide health, prevention and preparedness.

Prevention is fundamental to the mission of public health and injury prevention has been identified in the National EMS Agenda for the Future as a key element of emergency medical services. The Appleseed Project was created by the Injury Response Division of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (NCIPC/CDC) with the assistance of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP).

Facilitated by consultants from the NCIPC/CDC and ACEP, attendees will come away with a better understanding of the missions, roles and daily activities of EMS and public health providers, and their respective impact on the communities they serve. “We are extremely excited that Tucson was chosen as one of the sites to host this workshop,” said Norma Battaglia, RN MS, Pre-Hospital Manager for the Tucson Fire Department. “We have established a very close working relationship with the Public Health Nurses here in Tucson and have achieved some extremely positive results in services provided and assistance to patients,” Battaglia said.

Isela Luna, Ph.D., Nurse Manager with the Pima County Health Department agrees. “We have found that clients are being referred for services sooner and achieve better outcomes. This partnership with Tucson Fire has demonstrated that agencies striving to reach common goals can accomplish great things.”

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