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Investigation Narrative

On 10-08-09 I was finishing a call at the McGuireville Rest Area near Rimrock, when Dep. Sutton asked that I respond to the Angel Valley Retreat near Sedona. Dep. Sutton was assisting fire personnel with a report of several subjects sick at the property. I told Dep. Sutton that I would be on my way from the rest area. Shortly thereafter, Dep. Sutton said that he had at least 19 people down. I then responded code 3 from the intersection of I-17 and Cornville Road, near McGuireville.

The retreat is located on forest service road, 89B, off of northbound Hwy 89A, near Sedona. I turned onto 89B and quickly caught two ambulances heading to the scene. They allowed me to pass them and I continued on, having to pull over for a ambulance leaving the scene.

As I drove down the hill towards the retreat, I could see several fire trucks, ambulances, and support vehicles, as well as, Dep. Sutton's patrol car near a temporary tent structure. I could also hear a helicopter powering up before take off.

Upon arrival at the scene, Dep. Sutton directed me from the tent area and requested that I go look for a subject that was burned, but had left the area where people were being treated. I drove my patrol vehicle towards the small cabins found on the property. There were numerous person walking around the area. I stopped and asked if anyone had seen he man that had been burned. A male subject was pointed out who had a white bandage on his right hand and forearm. At this time a white male subject drove up on a golf cart and I told him to take the burned subject back to the fire personnel.

I then returned to the triage scene. At this time, Sgt. Barbaro had arrived on scene. Sgt. Barbaro asked that photographs be taken of the general area. I took photographs and these were later submitted into evidence. I then started a crime scene log, which was later turned over to Dep. Steward.

While speaking with Jordan GROFF, an employee of Angel Valley, the owner came by with a white male subject who was wearing a blue Verde Valley Fire t-shirt and matching ball cap. I had seen the subject walking through taking photographs, assuming that he worked for the Fire Dept. The property owner said that the man was an independent press photographer. The man confirmed this and said that he was leaving the property. I informed Sgt. Barbaro and Lt. Parkison of this. Lt. Parkison had been on scene for some time at this point. He ordered that the photographer be stopped and arrested for criminal impersonation. The subject was located by Sgt. Barbaro and Dep. Sutton. He was handcuffed, placed into the back of Dep. Sutton's patrol car and his cameras were taken into custody and placed into my patrol vehicle.

While asking the photographer for his shirt and hat for evidentiary reasons, Dep. Sutton said that he and I were to assist Det. Parkison in moving all persons not being seen by medical personnel to the dining hall on the property for interviews. Dep. Sutton, myself and Det. Parkison asked everyone to move to the dining hall. Once there we were

informed that there may be some of the sweatlodge participants that were still in their cabins sick, possibly unable to move.

Dep. Sutton and I along with an able bodied participant went door to door checking for sick group members. Those that were able to walk were asked to go to the dining hall and those that were not able to move were noted and this information was given to medical personnel.

I spoke to a lady that was sick in her cabin, but said that she would be able to go to the dining hall. Laura SOUTER, [REDACTED], stated that she had participated in the sweatlodge. Souter said that the group had been taken into the desert on 10-6-09 and spent Tuesday night, all day Wednesday and returned to Angel Valley on Thursday morning. Souter said that they were not given food and no water. When they returned she said they were instructed to hydrate and also when hydrating to swallow a teaspoon of salt.

The rest of my time at Angel Valley was spent making sure there were no other sick persons or that those that were sick were treated by medical personnel. This ends my involvement in the matter.

Date, Time, Reporting Officer:
Tue Oct 27 20:51:21 MST 2009
Dep. D. Drish #E65