

Phoenix man honored for saving 2 people from burning home

Justin Sayers, The Republic | azcentral.com 10:11 a.m. MST November 4, 2015



(Photo: Justin Sayers/The Republic)

A Phoenix man was recognized Tuesday for his quick action to help save two people from a burning home in May.

The Phoenix Fire Department presented its Citizen Lifesaving Award to Tim Brislin, project manager for Scottsdale-based developer Harvard Investments and a Valley Partnership board member, [according to the partnership's website \(http://www.valleypartnership.org/?page=117\)](http://www.valleypartnership.org/?page=117).

"When it happened, (winning an award) wasn't on the top of the mind," Brislin said after a brief ceremony. "I didn't know that was going to be the outcome."

On May 19, Brislin said he was finishing a morning jog when he noticed a column of smoke rising from a house in the 1400 block of East San Juan Avenue in Phoenix. He called 911 and the dispatcher asked him to see if there was anyone inside.

Brislin found that a man and a woman were trapped directly behind the front door, which was locked. Two other people helped Brislin pry open the door with a crowbar and rescue the couple.

"It happened very quickly," he said. "It was a lot of being in the right place at the right time."

According to *The Republic's* records ([/story/news/local/phoenix/2015/05/19/phoenix-critical-fire-missouri-abrk/27574377/](http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/phoenix/2015/05/19/phoenix-critical-fire-missouri-abrk/27574377/)), a satellite-television installer and a security guard worked alongside Brislin to rescue the couple from their home. A pair of sisters, who also lived there, were able to escape to the yard from the fire, which broke out at about 5:30 a.m.

Two of the three Good Samaritans suffered smoke inhalation and second-degree burns, fire officials said at the time.

"Hopefully it doesn't happen to me again," Brislin said Tuesday, "or anyone, for that matter."

Capt. Ardell Deliz, a spokeswoman for the Phoenix Fire Department, said the Citizen Lifesaving Award is given to people "who perform some act of heroism."

The department typically gives out three or four of these awards a year. Last month, awards were given to three little boys who helped with a fire.

"It's recognition from the Fire Department, but most importantly for the person receiving the award," Deliz said. "Most people don't want to talk about it. ... Most people don't want to boast about it. This is the right way to give recognition for it."

Deliz said the fire was "intense" and that the cause has still not been determined. She also said the two survivors are still recovering from their injuries.

Brislin said he learned Tuesday that the couple, engaged at the time of the fire, had recently married.

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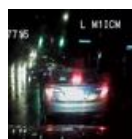
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