



Tempe lends assistance in Flagstaff flood recovery effort

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The 2019 Museum Fire near Flagstaff, Arizona, destroyed significant amounts of vegetation and charred the ground, which are natural barriers to mitigate damage from stormwater runoff. The extreme monsoon storms in July 2021 resulted in severe runoff of debris and water, creating blockages in the stormwater conveyance system, and ultimately leading to severe flooding in Flagstaff. The damage was so severe that Governor Ducey declared a state of emergency on July 16, 2021.

Thanks to an agreement among cities, the City was able to provide assistance. Provisions of the Arizona Mutual Aid Compact (Compact), signed in October 2015, allow cities to call upon one another to share resources in responding to emergencies. The Compact encourages municipal corporations, tribes and other public agencies to be available to one another and respond with resources and support such as fire, police, environmental, communication and transportation. The Compact specifically defines emergency management terms and procedures, in accordance with local ordinances.

On July 21, 2021, Tempe Municipal Utilities provided two Water Utilities staff, along with one combination vacator truck, which is a vehicle equipped with a vacuum and a jetter to remove debris from storm drains, and a shadow truck for traffic control, to the City of Flagstaff in support of their emergency response efforts following recent flooding.

Water Utilities Supervisor Raul Luna and Utility Services Technician II+ Robert Rascon worked nine to 10 hour days to help clear Flagstaff's stormwater conveyance system, before returning to Tempe on July 28, 2021.



Monsoon storms resulted in significant runoff of debris and stormwater, which blocked stormwater conveyance systems and resulted in severe flooding.



Tempe Municipal Utilities employees Robert Rascon and Raul Luna vacuum and clean a storm drain line in Flagstaff, Arizona.