



Yuma County Sheriff's Office

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 1, 2020 – 2:30 PM

Essential Services & Activities

Location of Incident: Yuma County, Yuma, AZ

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office has received multiple inquiries regarding Arizona Governor Ducey's Executive Orders relating to Essential Services and Activities and the "Stay home, Stay healthy, Stay connected" policy.

On March 23, 2020, Governor Ducey signed Executive Order 2020-12 (attached in its entirety) prohibiting the closure of essential services. The Order defines essential functions/service providers as promoting public health, safety, and welfare to include the following categories: Healthcare and Public Health Operations, Human Service Operations, Essential Infrastructure Operations, Essential Government Functions, and Essential Business and Operations.

On March 30, 2020, Governor Ducey signed Executive Order 2020-18 (attached in its entirety) promoting physical distancing by having individuals limit their time away from home with the exceptions of conducting or participating in Essential Activities, working or participating in Essential Functions, and utilizing services by Essential Businesses.

The Order further states, "No person shall be required to provide documentation or proof of their activities to justify their activities under the Order." The Order also states that prior to any law enforcement action being taken to enforce this Order, a person shall be notified and given an opportunity to comply.

There have been rumors as to how these orders could be enforced in Yuma County. The Sheriff's Office will abide by and enforce all applicable Executive Orders as set forth by the Governor; however, Deputies will not violate the rights of any member of the public to do so. Deputies will not stop any person to randomly check if they are in fact engaged in Essential Services and/or Activities.

Sheriff Leon Wilmot encourages the public to be cautious of rumors regarding COVID-19 and to fact check the information. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) asks for everyone to do their part in stopping the spread of misinformation of COVID-19 by doing these three things:

1. Don't believe the rumors.
2. Don't pass them along.
3. Go to trusted sources of information to get the facts about the federal (COVID-19) response.

For additional information in reference to COVID-19 rumor control, please visit www.fema.gov/Coronavirus-Rumor-Control.

For additional information in reference to the Governor's Executive Orders, please visit www.azgovernor.gov/executive-orders.

For additional information about COVID-19 visit www.cdc.gov or www.yumacountyaz.gov/government/health-district. For updated worldwide statistics visit www.coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html.

Information Released By: Lt. Samuel Pavlak, Public Information Officer