



## Yuma County Sheriff's Office

**Leon N. Wilmot**  
Sheriff of Yuma County

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# PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Water Rescue

**Location of Incident:** Canal near County 13th Street and Levee Road – Yuma, AZ

On Friday, March 31, 2023, at approximately 8:40 PM, Yuma County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) Detention Officers assisted a Border Patrol Agent with rescuing a male subject who was unable to get out of a canal near County 13<sup>th</sup> Street and Levee Road.

Detention Officers were in the area to support Border Patrol with transports under \*Operation Stonegarden. They were asked to assist a Border Patrol Agent who was attempting to get a subject out of a canal with a large tow rope. The subject was not able to keep hold of the tow rope and kept losing his grip.

Officers then attempted to locate a different rope option. During this time, Officer Alvarez decided that he could tie the end of the tow rope into a loop creating a cowboy lasso. Officer Alvarez was able to toss the rope in the canal and lasso the subject, allowing the Officers to be able to successfully pull him out of the water. Border Patrol rendered aid and YCSO Detention Officers transported the subject to Border Patrol Headquarters.

Sheriff Wilmot presented Officer Pedro Alvarez with a Yuma County Sheriff's Office Challenge coin for his selfless act of valor and true ingenuity to save a human life.

\*This desert detail is facilitated by grant funds from Operation Stonegarden. Operation Stonegarden is a federal grant program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a component of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), as part of the State Homeland Security Grant Program. Operation Stonegarden provides funding to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to enhance their capabilities to "support joint efforts to secure the United States' borders."

**Information Released By:** Tania Pavlak, Public Affairs Specialist