

GARAGE DOOR AND GATE ACCESS STORIES IN THE MEDIA

Nine-year-old dies from gate accident at Arizona elementary school

Source: Charna Flam, "Ariz. 9-year-old dies after metal gate fall on her at school," People.com, Nov. 20, 2023.

On Friday, Nov. 17, a 9-year-old student died while trying to help close a metal gate at her elementary school in Tucson, Ariz., according to state authorities.

At approximately 2:20 p.m., the Pima County Sheriff's department was alerted that a young child had sustained a severe traumatic injury at Centennial Elementary. When they arrived at the scene, they attempted life-saving measures. The Fire Northwest Department then arrived and transported her to a local hospital. The unnamed fourth grader later died at the hospital from the injuries sustained during the gate accident.

After gathering evidence, interviewing witnesses, and processing the scene, the sheriff's department press release stated that "the metal gate was disconnected from its support, which led to the incident." Investigation into this accident is ongoing

Editor's note: In our summer 2023 story "Fatal gate accident prompts new regulations for gate installations," we highlighted the prevalence of manual gate accidents and the crusade for establishing regulations for these types of installations. Here we are, less than a year later, reporting on another tragic gate accident involving the death of a young child.

D+AS reached out to Eric Quanbeck, the father of the young boy featured in

the summer 2023 gate accident story, to find out if there were any new developments to report.

"We have been working with legislators in California to increase safety standards for the construction and maintenance of manual gates," Quanbeck said. "These standards will follow recent amendments by the ASTM and all the work and effort the AFA and fence professionals have put into increasing safety standards across the industry. Our hope is that in 2024, we build upon the progress accomplished in California at a national level."

"We are incredibly grateful for our partnership with the AFA and to all of the dedicated professionals who are so passionate about making a difference as a result of these tragedies," Quanbeck added.

In January, Quanbeck will be attending AFA Fencetech in Nashville to help spread awareness on these necessary safety measures. Additional members from The Hummingbird Alliance, the not-for-profit organization established in honor of his son, Alex, will also be in attendance. Visit www.thehummingbirdalliance.com for more information.



"HERE WE ARE, LESS THAN A YEAR LATER, REPORTING ON ANOTHER TRAGIC GATE ACCIDENT"

Incidents of body slammers damaging garage doors spread across the country

Source: Jennifer Eberbach, "Police seek 'knuckleheads' responsible for rash of garage door body slams," Livingston Daily (Livingston, Mich.), Nov. 22, 2023.

"DO YOU RECOGNIZE EITHER ONE OF THESE KNUCKLEHEADS?"

On Monday, Nov. 21, the Livingston County Sheriff's Office released images of two individuals slamming their bodies into a homeowner's garage door and causing

damage. The police department asked, "Do you recognize either one of these knuckleheads?"

According to the story, it was reported that "They ran full speed and body slammed a garage door, causing a lot of damage."

It was the fifth such incident reported in the month of November. Four of the five

incidents happened in one weekend (Nov.19-20). The cities of Fowlerville, Howell, and Hartland reported similar "body slamming" activity and garage door damage. At the time of publication, the suspects are still at large.

Editor's note: We find it hard to believe that this is a trending activity, but please let us know! Have you had to replace a garage door due to damage caused by body slammers? If so, when and where did the incident take place?