



Local news coverage from the East Valley Tribune (Arizona) confirms the death of 7-year-old Marissa (also spelled Marisa) Reyes in a flash flood on or around August 9, 2005, north of Cave Creek/Scottsdale in the Seven Springs / Sears Kay Ranch area. Key details from the contemporary reports:

- She was swept away on Tuesday (August 9, 2005) by an approximately 8-foot wall of water while her family tried to flee a monsoon storm. A ranch hand (referred to as Jim) grabbed her and attempted to reach higher ground; the current tore her from his grasp as he held onto a floating Cadillac. He survived by climbing a tree.
- Her body was recovered about 7:30 a.m. the next day (Wednesday), roughly 1.5 miles downstream.
- The family (from California, on an extended visit) was staying in a home at the convergence of a creek and wash in the Sears Kay Ranch area. Water entered the home; the Red Cross assisted afterward.
- Contributing factors included heavy rain (about 1.85 inches near Bartlett Lake) combined with the recent Cave Creek Complex fire, which had burned extensive vegetation and left the landscape unable to absorb water, allowing rapid runoff. Officials from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office cited this combination as the cause.
- A second flood-related death that day was Wayne R. Wilson, 65, of New River, whose truck flipped while he tried to cross a wash.

Primary local articles (still online as of recent access):

- "Searchers find body of girl swept away by flood" — East Valley Tribune, Aug. 9, 2005 (updated later): https://www.eastvalleytribune.com/news/searchers-find-body-of-girl-swept-away-by-flood/article_ae119e33-b342-5868-ba5f-45d8e951c8bb.html
- "Girl was washed away from home north of Valley" — East Valley Tribune, Aug. 11, 2005 (updated later): https://www.eastvalleytribune.com/news/girl-was-washed-away-from-home-north-of-valley/article_daeb3756-d4bd-5ac6-82d8-ed490eba8754.html

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