Two's company, three's a crowd for SafeRide service

For Brian Savitch, a weekend trip back home was spent digging through the rubble for his most prized possessions.

Savitch's home was one of two UA students' homes burnt to the ground by the Cedar Fire, the worst fire in California history, that torched its way through Southern California.

Savitch, a journalism senior, returned to the UA early this week after visiting the Scripps Ranch neighborhood he called home for more than 19 years.

Everything was destroyed, he said.

More than 345 homes were ruined in Scripps Ranch as the two-mile-long, 300-foot-high flames of the Cedar Fire ravaged the town.

The California wildfires, which spread from San Diego to Los Angeles, burned a total of 3,600 homes and more than 274,000 acres.

"My entire street was burnt down," he said. "It is very hard to handle." Savitch went to California to be with his parents and his sister, Lauren, an undeclared UA sophomore.

"Even though I saw the pictures, you couldn't prepare yourself for what you saw," Savitch said. "It was the most devastating feeling you could ever have: He said the once familiar street he drove down so many times was now just empty spaces and black ash.

Savitch said his family spent a lot of time searching the debris, hoping to find a few personal keepsakes.

"I went digging in the ash where I thought my room was," Savitch said. "But everything was destroyed." The Savitch home was just left to a heaping mound of ashes with nothing standing but a lone chimney and a soot-covered driveway.

"The memories are what you can't replace," Savitch said. "I had a ten of baseball cards that I wanted to give to my son.

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ASUA fails to boost voter turnout

ASUA SafeRide will no longer drive groups larger than two people in order to accommodate more students who are traveling alone or in pairs at night.

Lately, the service has driven groups of more than two passengers at a time, but will now only pick up groups of two people or less.

"We'll get to people faster because we'll have more room so the cars can pick up people right away," Wright said.

Wright said the policies were created not only to increase pick up rates, but also to limit the number of partygoers SafeRide has had to drive around.

"In a lot of cases, groups of three people have been known to go to parties or out to drink," Wright said. "This-bogs down the service because we get to figure out where the parties are, and it wastes time."

Tifani Wendt, a physical education sophomore who has taken Communications sophomore Rebecca Etter (left) and sociology freshmen Emily Hollen, take advantage of the SafeRide program to get from Skyview Apartments to their sorority house earlier this year.