



NEWS



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Firefighters rescue people stuck in overflowing creek near Cajon Pass

John M. Blodgett, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: January 22, 2017, 3:11 PM

A vehicle became stuck in a flooded wash west of the Cajon Pass Sunday afternoon requiring firefighters to attempt a swift-water rescue.

Television footage showed rushing brown water halfway up the side of the pickup truck, and rescuers using a raft so the trapped occupants could climb out the passenger-side window.

The incident was reported 2:28 p.m. as a storm hitting Southern California was intensifying, near North Cajon Boulevard and Swarthout Canyon Road, according to a California Highway Patrol incident log.

The driver of the vehicle, described as a Ford F-150 pickup, tried to drive through the wash, the log states.

Caltrans said via Twitter that two people were trapped inside the truck and that a sheriff's helicopter requested to assist couldn't proceed because of the weather.

Authorities have been warning people not to drive or walk through running water. Six inches of rushing water is enough to knock over an adult, rushing water that's a foot deep is enough to carry away most vehicles, while 2 feet of water can sweep away almost any vehicle, according to the National Weather Service.

http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170122/firefighters-rescue-people-stuck-in-overflowing-creek-near-cajon-pass?source=most_viewed

2 saved after swift water rescue in Cajon Pass

Daily Press

Posted: January 22, 2017, 5:01 PM

CAJON PASS - Two people were rescued Sunday afternoon after their truck became stuck in a wash in the Cajon Pass, fire officials said on Twitter.

The incident was reported at approximately 2:41 p.m. at Cajon Boulevard and Swarthout Canyon Road, according to **San Bernardino County Fire**.

A Sheriff's Department airship was unable to continue to the scene due to weather. At roughly 3:37 p.m., County Fire requested an additional engine for a downstream spotter as the water continued to rise.

At about 3:43 p.m., County Fire announced the two victims were rescued and all units were released.

The rescue prompted a warning message about the dangers of driving through floods from County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig via Twitter: "Do not drive through moving water. Our swift water rescue teams are well trained but would rather not use their skills on you."

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170122/2-saved-after-swift-water-rescue-in-cajon-pass>

2 Rescued After Becoming Trapped In Swift Waters

Victor Valley News

Posted: January 22, 2017



CAJON PASS, California (VVNG.com) **San Bernardino County Fire** personnel rescued two subjects from a vehicle after they became trapped in fast-moving waters.

The incident occurred just after 2:30 p.m. Sunday, when a person reported to Sheriff's Dispatch that their Ford F150 was trapped in swift waters near Old Cajon Boulevard and Swarthout Canyon.

An air rescue helicopter was requested to assist, but due to weather conditions, they were unable to.

It took the Swift Water Rescue Team just under an hour to perform the rescue operation. The team was able to deploy a raft and maneuver it to the occupants trapped in the truck.

A male and female occupant were instructed to jump out of the passenger side window and into the raft, where they were then pulled to safety.

The area has been inundated with reports of flooding and mudslides largely in part to the Blue Cut fire that scorched the area several months ago.

<http://www.vvng.com/2-rescued-after-becoming-trapped-in-swift-waters/>

Senator Morrell to Co-Host Fourth Annual Emergency Preparedness Event

'Ark of Safety Forum,' a resource for Faith-Based Groups Responding to Disasters

Highland News

Posted: January 18, 2017, 3:21 PM

SAN BERNARDINO - Senator Mike Morrell (R-Rancho Cucamonga) will partner with nonprofit Building Resilient Communities to host the fourth annual "Ark of Safety Forum" on January 27 at the facilities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Bernardino. The event is geared for Inland Empire faith leaders to learn more about and discuss best practices when responding to crises or disasters in their communities.

"When emergencies or disasters strike, it takes the whole community pulling together to rebuild," said Morrell. "Congregations can serve a unique role in these situations. They are in every neighborhood and can be first on scene when emergency personnel have not arrived. By coordinating these efforts, we can create a network that prepares the Inland Empire for crisis. I am deeply appreciative of our partner Debra Williams and Building Resilient Communities for working to present this program again."

The free forum is open to faith leaders of all denominations and religions. Scheduled during the daylong event are various presentations, including an active shooter training led by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department as well as a discussion conducted by the Lions Club regarding local response to last year's Blue Cut Fire. On hand will also be representatives from the San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services and other disaster readiness groups.

Pastor Josh Beckley of Ecclesia Christian Fellowship in San Bernardino is this year's keynote speaker. His remarks will focus on the topic "Spiritual Care During a Disaster."

"We are pleased to co-host the Ark of Safety Forum with Senator Mike Morrell for a fourth year," said Debra Williams, President of Building Resilient Communities. "Each year the forum focuses on different aspects of preparation. Our goal is to always provide information and resources that attendees can immediately implement in their congregations and surrounding communities."

Supporters of this year's event include: the American Red Cross, Roman Catholic Diocese of San Bernardino, Inland Empire Concerned African American Churches, Riverside County Emergency Services Department, Riverside and San Bernardino County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), **San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services**, Southern California Edison, and others.

The 2017 event will take place on Friday, January 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It will be held at the facilities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Bernardino, located at 1201 E. Highland Avenue in San Bernardino. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Online registration is open at www.buildingresilientcommunities.org. For questions or more information, interested individuals can contact Melissa Boyd at (909) 919-7731 or Melissa.Boyd@sen.ca.gov.

http://www.highlandnews.net/news/political/senator-morrell-to-co-host-fourth-annual-emergency-preparedness-event/article_d52092dc-ddd4-11e6-87bb-27acafae6e32.html

Residents evacuated after Code Enforcement officers find THC lab in Adelanto

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: January 18, 2017, 7:32 PM

ADELANTO - Several residents were evacuated after a marijuana extraction lab was found at a local home Wednesday, authorities said.

The lab was found during an inspection warrant at a home in the 18800 block of Del Mano Court just before 4 p.m. Wednesday. Sheriff's deputies were requested to assist City Code Enforcement officers with the warrant and found a THC extraction lab inside, according to Sheriff's spokeswoman Jodi Miller.

The discovery prompted a response from **San Bernardino County Fire Department** personnel and an evacuation of approximately 15 homes on nearby Bellflower Street. Miller said she couldn't provide more details on the warrant as it was issued by Code Enforcement.

No one was at the home during the search and no arrests or citations have yet been made. All residents evacuated were allowed to return to their homes by 7 p.m., Miller said.

The Sheriff's Marijuana Eradication Team is still investigating the incident.

This story is developing and more information will be updated as it is received.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170118/residents-evacuated-after-code-enforcement-officers-find-thc-lab-in-adelanto>

Thieves break into local veteran's storage unit, make off with Marine Corps memorabilia

Jose Quintero, Daily Press

Posted: January 19, 2017, 3:01 PM



Thieves broken into and trashed a local veteran's storage unit earlier this week in Apple Valley. James Ferguson has yet to sort through his belongings but said several footlockers containing numerous bits of memorabilia from his tours in Iraq and Afghanistan was stolen. Photo courtesy of James Ferguson

APPLE VALLEY - A local veteran had his storage locker broken into earlier this week and he hopes someone does the right thing and returns the stolen items.

James Ferguson says he feels like a part of his life was completely taken from him when thieves broke into his storage unit and ransacked several footlockers containing memorabilia from his days in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"Uniforms, medals, pictures, random rifle components and other random stuff of eight years in the Marine Corps was gone just like that," Ferguson told the Daily Press. "Eight years of my life was gone just like that. Those are things I can't replace because I brought stuff back from Iraq and Afghanistan. Money can't replace those things."

Ferguson said he received a call from Devon Self Storage, located off Highway 18 in Apple Valley, on Tuesday informing him that several units, including his, were broken into.

An ambulance operator for the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** who works out of Lucerne Valley, Ferguson said he has been so busy with work he did not have a chance to go to his storage unit until Thursday morning.

He hasn't had a chance to go through his items and see exactly what all was stolen, but he noticed several antique sports memorabilia of New York Yankee greats Babe Ruth and Mickey Mantle, handed down from his grandfather, were not in the locations he previously left them in.

"It's just a matter of going through everything and making a list of everything taken once I get the free time," Ferguson said.

Ferguson's wife, Helena, called him the hardest working man she knows and hopes somebody returns "some or a couple" of his belongings.

"That is stuff from being deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan that he cherishes very much," she said. "We haven't had the time to file a police report but we will once we know everything that was stolen."

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170119/thieves-break-into-local-veterans-storage-unit-make-off-with-marine-corps-memorabilia>

Heart attack survivor thanks fire department crew that saved him

Leah Sanson, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: January 19, 2017, 5:31 PM

YUCCA VALLEY — George Green, who suffered a heart attack on New Year’s Eve, is thanking the **San Bernardino Fire Department** in Yucca Valley for pulling him through.

Rescue personnel from Medic Engine 41 and Medic Ambulance 41, housed in the Yucca Valley fire station, arrived at Green’s house around 3:30 a.m. and found Green with chest pains.

Through an EKG, personnel were able to determine that Green was having a heart attack, Cap. Zack Taylor said.

“In these types of situations, time is of the essence,” Taylor said.

The crew began driving Green to Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs.

Six minutes into the trip, Green coded — his heart stopped. The paramedics with the fire crew resuscitated him

“We are very lucky to have fire departments staffed with paramedics who can help in a time of need,” Green said.

Green went on to code two more times, each lasting 30-45 seconds, during the 30-minute ride to the medical center.

Medics Humberto Ventura and Jarred Haddock were able to revive Green each time, Taylor said.

“I am so thankful for them ... they saved my life,” Green said.

He was glad his family decided to call an ambulance.

“We talked about my wife taking me to the hospital, so I am so glad they were there,” Green said.

Green and his wife visited the fire station Sunday to thank the crew who saved his life.

“We were so grateful just to find out how he was doing,” Taylor said. “In our line of work you never really know how people are after you drop them off at the hospital. It was nice to see him up and walking.”

Green was surprised to learn that firefighters do not get thanked more often.

“They are definitely underpaid for what they do,” he said.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_3e00951e-deb0-11e6-9d53-e3f4b606a98f.html

San Bernardino County CEO Greg Devereaux to Retire

Inland Empire News

Posted: January 19, 2017



"I wish to thank the Board of Supervisors, all of the County's employees and the entire community for the opportunity to serve in this capacity," Mr. Devereaux said. "It has been a great privilege."— GREG DEVEREAUX

San Bernardino, CA – After nearly 40 years in public service, 25 of those years in the Inland Empire, Greg Devereaux announced today that he will retire from his role as San Bernardino County Chief Executive Officer by the end of the current fiscal year. Mr. Devereaux joined County Government in February 2010 after successful tenures as city manager in Fontana and Ontario.

Under the terms of his contract, Mr. Devereaux will continue to work with the County for the next three years advising the Board and his successor on programs and matters affecting the County. He will also retain and expand his involvement in various academic endeavors and provide consultation to various local and regional government agencies.

The Board hired Mr. Devereaux as County Government faced significant organizational and fiscal challenges. He has worked with the Board to redefine how San Bernardino County government operates, creating practices and processes that emphasize accountability, transparency and fiscal responsibility.

"I was hoping to work with Greg throughout my chairmanship," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Robert Lovingood. "Greg's knowledge and ability to work with the Board to address the County's challenges will be missed. He is well respected in the local government and business communities."

"Greg Devereaux is a man of integrity and intelligence who has served the people of this county admirably," said Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford. "His fiscal discipline and eagerness to tear down unproductive bureaucratic silos have allowed the county to return to its core functions as well as lead regional conversations about education, the economy and much more. As a Board member, I will miss his daily presence and as a friend, I wish him and his family the very best."

"Greg's contacts in Sacramento and Washington and throughout Southern California and his knowledge of government have served the Board and the County well," said Board of Supervisors Vice Chairman Curt Hagman. "Greg played a key role working with me and other local leaders to return Ontario International

Airport to local control. As the newest member of the Board, I had been looking forward to working with Greg as CEO throughout my time on the Board. I am glad he will still be available to us in an advisory role.”

“Greg has been a trusted and knowledgeable advisor through the years and he has worked effectively to help the Board of Supervisors achieve its goals,” said Third District Supervisor James Ramos. “During good times and times of difficulty, we have worked together as a team to move forward in San Bernardino County in service to our residents and future generations.”

“When we hired Greg, we wanted to take the County in a new, positive direction. Greg understood what we meant by that and he worked very hard under sometimes difficult circumstances to help us achieve our vision of an ethical, responsive, compassionate, and effective County organization,” said Fifth District Supervisor Josie Gonzales. “I am committed to ensuring we continue in this positive direction.”

At the time he was hired, Mr. Devereaux became the ninth permanent or interim county chief executive in 12 years. His initial contract called for him to serve for five years, but the Board extended that time and next month he will pass seven years in the role, making him the longest serving county chief executive in more than 20 years.

Gary Ovitt, a former mayor of Ontario and current member of the Chaffey College Governing Board, was Chairman of the Board of Supervisors when Mr. Devereaux was hired by the County.

“After serving with Greg at the City of Ontario, I recognized without a doubt that he could accomplish for the County what he accomplished for the city ? stability, a responsible budget, pay-down of pension debt, and provide for major capital purchases with designated funds,” former Chairman Ovitt said. “Greg succeeded with all of these, in addition to changing the culture of the staff and elected officials. Even more importantly, he always stands strong with great integrity. Greg will bring the extra to ordinary.”

One of his first endeavors as CEO was to work with the Board and San Bernardino Associated Governments to develop a vision for the entire county, seeking input from residents, employers, educators, community-based and faith-based organizations, and elected leaders. The Countywide Vision Statement was adopted by the County Board and SANBAG on June 30, 2011. Mr. Devereaux has continued to work with the Board, the community, and leaders in education and business to achieve the vision.

Under the leadership of the Board and Mr. Devereaux, San Bernardino County became one of the most honored counties in the United States in terms of awards from the National Association of Counties and the California State Association of Counties. During the past seven years, the County has 200 NACo Achievement Awards for innovation, more than doubling the 74 the County won over the previous seven years. In 2015 alone the County claimed 46 NACo awards ? more than any other of the nation’s 3,068 counties.

Under the Board’s guidance and direction, Mr. Devereaux has engineered a number of successes for the County during his time as CEO:

- The County’s financial position has improved by more than \$2 billion.
- Labor agreements have been restructured so that employees are paying their share of retirement costs while earning competitive wages and benefits.
- The number of Sheriff’s Deputies on the streets has increased.

- Funding for the **County Fire District** has increased and several areas have been or are underway to be annexed to the district, making it increasingly more efficient and effective.
- The County has made and is continuing to make major investments in public roads and infrastructure.
- Funds were established for work on major systems that otherwise might have required the County to incur debt, including the replacement of an aging public safety communication system and upgrades of basic county enterprise operating systems such as the financial accounting system, the Land Use permitting system, and the property tax management system.
- The High Desert Detention Center expansion.
- Launching of a first in the nation Countywide Plan, which will combine a new General Plan with a County business plan, and approach to governance.
- Increasing the number of mental health beds.
- Addressing homelessness in the county, including the housing of more than 900 veterans

<https://inlandempire.us/san-bernardino-county-ceo-greg-deveraux-retire/>

Over 190 Marijuana Plants Found in Adelanto Home

Christie Martin, 24/7 Headline News

Posted: January 19, 2017

ADELANTO – Over 190 marijuana plants, 100 pounds of marijuana plant material, and over four pounds of concentrated cannabis, more commonly referred to as “wax” or “dabs” was located at an Adelanto home Wednesday. At around 4:10 p.m. the Sheriff’s Marijuana Enforcement Team and deputies from the Victor Valley Station served a search warrant at a home located at, 18839 Del Mano Court in the City of Adelanto. The search was conducted as a result of a recent visit and subsequent Code Enforcement inspection warrant which lead to the discovery of the THC extraction lab and indoor marijuana cultivation.

The detectives verified the code enforcement officer’s finding, but no suspects were present or detained at the time of the search. The detectives were able to determine that the operation had been ongoing for an extended period of time, but was not discovered until recently. Nearby residents were evacuated by the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** personnel until the area was deemed safe to reenter approximately two hours later.

It is believed that the manufacturing of the concentrated cannabis was taking place at the home and the product was being sold to others. Authorities said that the operation was capable of producing several pounds of concentrated cannabis per week.

“The THC extraction process is extremely dangerous and has a high potential for explosion and fire due to the use of large amounts of flammable chemicals during the extraction process,” Sheriff’s officials said in the news release. “This chemical process is illegal and is a violation of California’s Health & Safety Code.” Detectives are working to identify the resident or any other suspects who may have been involved in the operation. The criminal report will be sent to the San Bernardino County District Attorney’s office for prosecution.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation is urged to contact the Sheriff’s Gangs / Narcotics Division at (909)890-4840. Callers wishing to remain anonymous are urged to call the We-tip Hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME (27463), or you may leave information on the We-Tip Hotline at www.wetip.com.

<https://247headline.com/over-190-marijuana-plants-found-in-adelanto-home/>

Head-on crash near Hesperia Airport leaves 2 injured

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: January 20, 2017, 3:47 PM



Authorities responded to a head-on crash near Hesperia Airport on Friday afternoon. The crash left 2 people injured, with one classified as critically hurt, authorities said. David Pardo, Daily Press

HESPERIA - Authorities said two people were injured in a head-on crash near the Hesperia Airport on Friday afternoon.

The crash involved two vehicles and was first reported at 2:24 p.m. Friday on Santa Fe Ave East and Rancho Road. The circumstances of the crash are still unknown, but the two vehicles sustained major damage and one person was briefly trapped inside, according to **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman Ryan Vaccaro.

An extrication was requested for the trapped person. It only took about seven minutes to complete, authorities said. The person was classified as a "critical patient," Vaccaro said, and an airship was initially requested but was canceled due to weather conditions. The person was instead transported by ground ambulance to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

Another injury was reported, but Vaccaro said that person did not require transport and was treated at the scene.

Authorities shut down Santa Fe Avenue East at 2:45 p.m. to respond.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170120/head-on-crash-near-hesperia-airport-leaves-2-injured>

Storm floods Basin roads; 29 Palms girl killed on freeway

Stacy Moore, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: January 20, 2017, 6:05 PM



A car is mired in the mud at Twentynine Palms Highway across from Copper Mountain Road Friday afternoon. The car was unoccupied when deputies got to the scene; Deputy Court Severson said they are unsure what happened, but the crash was weather related. Leah Sanson, Hi-Desert Star

MORONGO BASIN — A barrage of rain from a Pacific storm flooded local roads Friday afternoon. Rain gauges measured 1.75 inches of precipitation in Morongo Valley as of 4 p.m. Friday, and while the Weather Service measurements elsewhere hadn't been entered yet, several inches and even feet of water ponded on roads and rushed through washes.

The National Weather Service issued a flood advisory at 2:10 p.m. Friday, and a wind advisory won't end until 4 p.m. today.

Officials closed Yucca Mesa Road at Nelson Avenue and Paxton Road and Balsa Avenue in Yucca Valley due to flooding, and Aberdeen Drive became almost impassable between Avalon Avenue and Olympic Trail. "There's a lot of debris and mud in the roadway there," Battalion Chief Mike Snow, with **San Bernardino County Fire**, said Friday afternoon.

Even if a road hasn't been officially closed, Snow warned it might not be safe. "I wouldn't ever assume it's safe," he said. "Water can erode the road surface and create sinkholes that are unseen until somebody unfortunately drives into them."

Three women in a SUV were stuck in a wash at Paxton Road and Balsa Avenue Friday afternoon, and helped by Raul Antonio Garcia, who happened to be driving by.

"I pulled up as close as I could and they jumped in the bed cage," he wrote in a message to the Hi-Desert Star. "Just doing what had to be done before the SUV washed away."

A 15-year-old girl from Twentynine Palms was said to have died in a weather-related crash on the southbound I15 near Temecula Friday.

The girl was in a Ford F-450 carrying five people from Twentynine Palms. The Press Enterprise reported the truck hydroplaned, veered into the far left and far right lane, then rolled up an embankment. The 15-year-old victim was partially thrown from the truck because she was not wearing a seatbelt, according to a CHP news release. She died at the scene. Three others in the truck were hurt.

The girl's name has not been released.

The rain is likely to continue through Monday, and possibly Tuesday.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_228ece26-df7e-11e6-866a-3787ee5f7922.html

Daughter of Firefighter and Cheerleading Coach Sustains Major Injuries in Cheerleading Accident

Christie Martin, 24/7 Headline News

Posted: January 20, 2017



MORENO VALLEY – A 17-year-old Citrus Hill High School junior remains hospitalized on Friday evening after a fall during cheerleading practice on Wednesday.

Kylie Hausman, a flyer on her High School Cheerleading team was injured when dropped while performing a stunt. After falling to the ground, Kylee was unable to move and was rushed to Riverside County Regional Medical Center. Initially, a spinal cord injury was suspected, but medical tests revealed that there was no injury to her spinal cord nor were there any fractures to her spine.

Her father, Jay Hausman, a **San Bernardino County Firefighter** Paramedic said that she has shown some positive signs, but is still not out of the woods with full recovery being around 50% right now. He said that although her left leg is mostly paralyzed at this time, she can wiggle her toes and was able to flex her quad muscle slightly. Kylie's diagnosis is a lumbar plexus injury and at this time the severity of the damage is not known.

Jay Hausman said that Kylie has already expressed that she would like to go back to cheerleading. "if that's what she wants then we will let her, he said. "My wife has been a high school cheer coach for over 20 years. I had a hard time with letting her fly again, but it will be up to her and her mom."

According to the National Institutes of Health high school cheerleading accounts for over 65% of all high school female catastrophic sports injuries. "I don't think I would stop my son from going back to a varsity football team if he broke his arm or something. Cheer is a sport just like football and just as dangerous!" he

added. Jay Hausman and Kylie's mother, Stacey Hausman are very scared for their young daughter who is awaiting transfer to another facility.

<https://247headline.com/daughter-of-firefighter-and-cheerleading-coach-sustains-major-injuries-in-cheerleading-accident/>

Our View: Bed delay problem demands solution

Daily Press Editorial Board

Posted: January 21, 2017, 5:31 PM

For more than two years this newspaper has been reporting on the extreme bed delay problem here in the High Desert.

For those who don't remember our three-part series in 2015, or last Sunday's special report, the problem is at least threefold:

- 1) Too many people who don't really need an ambulance call for one, often simply to get a ride to the hospital or believing that if they come to the hospital in an ambulance they will be seen more quickly in the emergency room;
- 2) So many ambulances roll into our three area hospitals at various times that the hospitals can't find space for the patients quickly, forcing emergency medical technicians to stay with the patients until they are moved to a bed (thus the term bed delay);
- 3) When High Desert American Medical Response (AMR) ambulances aren't available to take calls locally because they're waiting with patients at hospitals, AMR ambulances from as far away as Redlands handle calls here, which understandably greatly lengthens response times and creates a scenario called "Level Zero."

Officials from the Inland County Emergency Medical Agency told reporter Anneli Fogt two years ago that they were trying to come up with a solution to the bed delay problem. So far, it doesn't look like anything has changed.

We think it is past time for San Bernardino County leaders, chief among them the Board of Supervisors, to gather hospital, ICEMA, AMR and **County Fire** leaders and figure out a solution once and for all.

Do we need more hospital beds in the High Desert? If so, how do we get them?

Do we need more emergency room doctors and beds in the High Desert? If so, how do we get them?

Is there a way to shift some ambulance patients who aren't seriously ill or hurt from hospital emergency rooms to urgent care centers? Would that alleviate the bed delay problem?

For those seniors who really don't need an ambulance, but who do need a ride to the hospital - whether for an emergency or not - how do we provide transportation for them without needlessly tying up an ambulance or County Fire paramedic unit?

Is there a need for San Bernardino County to expand its contract with AMR so that more ambulances are available in the High Desert, if not permanently at least temporarily?

Is there a way to prevent County Fire engines and their crews from handling calls better suited for EMTs and ambulances? Do we really want to send firefighters and engines on medical calls at all?

These are just some of the questions we can think of that would be on any agenda we would put together to discuss the bed delay problem.

The status quo is not acceptable. It's time to get to work and find a solution.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/opinion/20170121/our-view-bed-delay-problem-demands-solution>

Do not trash the mountains, officials say

Newsroom

Posted: January 21, 2017

SAN BERNARDINO – Hundreds of thousands of visitors will travel to San Bernardino and Riverside Mountain resorts this winter for recreation. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) released survey data in June 2016 that shows nearly half of all motorists surveyed admit to sometimes littering along the state's highways. Nearly one in five California motorists report intentionally dumping something on the side of the highway. In addition, another 6 percent of motorists admitted that they fail to pick up waste left by pets on the side of the highway.

Caltrans District 8 Director John Bulinski joined San Bernardino 2nd District County Supervisor Janice Rutherford, the California Highway Patrol, and the California Department of Forestry with support from the United States Forest Service, **San Bernardino County Fire**, Sheriff's Department and County Public Works to urge the public to keep trash inside their vehicles and dispose of it in the proper place – not along mountain roadsides or on private property.

Reports of litter and debris along State Routes 2, 18, 38, 138, and 330 came from mountain communities after the Christmas holiday and snowstorm. Heavy traffic volumes continued throughout the holiday weekend while tourists enjoyed the snow and recreational activities. With that came hundreds of pounds of litter.

Amazingly, 94 percent of people identify litter as a major environmental problem and yet people still litter. Litter causes harm to people and animals, damages our waterways, costs money and suggests that we do not care for our environment. Fortunately, we can all do something to help prevent and reduce litter.

Research and experience show that litter is the result of individual behavior – choosing to litter or being careless in the handling of waste. And once litter is on the ground, it attracts more litter. It causes a whole range of problems for everyone.

Litter discarded on roadways and mountain land travels through the stormwater system to our rivers and creeks, where it causes harm to wildlife.

Litter costs money. Removing litter from the environment costs everyone money – even you! Litter is a threat to public health.

Litter attracts vermin and is a breeding ground for bacteria. And can be a fire hazard. Accumulated litter and careless discarded cigarette butts are potential fire hazards and looks bad. Litter negatively affects the image of places, especially the appearance of communities and litter attracts more litter by sending out a message that people do not care and that it is acceptable to litter.

Caltrans has been working with partner agencies from Riverside and San Bernardino counties to address the litter problem in mountain areas after holiday weekends. Local residents, community members and businesses have worked diligently to keep their community clean for visitors to enjoy. Cal-Fire and the USFS continue to work with Caltrans to clean Southern California mountain regions after snow events. But those tax dollars could be saved for better use if people stashed their trash!

The CHP and Sheriff Departments will be looking for litter bugs while on patrol. Fines for littering can cost up to \$1,000, but the long-term damage to the forest and waterways can last a lifetime.

Please help keep the mountains beautiful and stop litter before it happens! Here are some ways you can help:

Bring trash bags with you and keep litter and cigarette butts in your car until you can dispose of them properly.

Recycle bottles and cans and take them with you.

Don't leave broken snow toys behind.

Never throw anything in lakes, streams or waterways.

Use the restroom before traveling – traffic congestion and long delays are in store during high volume weekends. It might be a while before you can get to a public restroom.

Discard dirty diapers in trash receptacles.

Don't play in the snow on private property or non-designated areas – use the designated snow play areas provided – get the USFS Adventure Pass to play in the forest.

Don't block snow plows or travel lanes with your vehicle to put chains on or park. It adds to congestion and emergency vehicles and work crews need access to keep everyone safe!

Travelers are encouraged to visit the mountains during winter months and we encourage you to be the example to keep litter in its place. Please be courteous and concerned for the environment and the future we leave our children. Caltrans invites you to be part of the solution and join the Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) Program. Go to <http://adopt-a-highway.dot.ca.gov/> or call (909) 888-5394.

<http://myvalleynews.com/homeandgarden/not-trash-mountains-officials-say/>