



NEWS



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Flames consume Yucca Valley home

Leah Sanson, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: October 7, 2016, 1:39 PM



Fire destroys a house Friday morning. One resident was taken to the hospital with minor injuries. No one was burned or suffered smoke inhalation, according to the Fire Department.

YUCCA VALLEY — One resident was transported to Hi-Desert Medical Center with minor injuries after a home in Yucca Valley burst into flames around 9:40 a.m. Friday.

Firefighters were battling the blaze on the 6100 block of Avalon Avenue, around the corner of Barron Drive and Avalon Avenue, for over an hour before the fire ceased.

Five engines, two ambulances and a battalion chief assisted in the fight, with **County Fire** gaining assistance from Cal Fire, according to Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle.

Four residents were inside the house when the flames broke out.

“The house is a complete loss; it is uninhabitable,” Tuttle said.

The cause is under investigation.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_1c9207e8-8cce-11e6-acf5-37af26f635c6.html

Fence fire knocked down by concerned citizens

Josh Allen, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: October 7, 2016, 3:43 PM



Prescott McCarthy throws dirt on a burning fence in Yucca Valley Friday. He said he was driving on Twentynine Palms Highway when he saw the flames.

YUCCA VALLEY — Concerned citizens jumped into action when they spotted a wood fence on fire in the backyard of a home on the 56000 block of Antelope Trail at around 2:30 p.m. Friday.

The flames could be seen from the Twentynine Palms Highway and traffic slowed to a halt while drivers peered at the flames.

Prescott McCarthy was passing the fire on the highway when he said he pulled over to lend a helping hand.

“I saw a fence on fire and grabbed a shovel from my truck and started throwing dirt at the base of it,” McCarthy said. “It was actually really organized, with a pair off hoses working on the base of the fire and a couple of guys using shovels to throw dirt at the flames. It was really a picture of the way people should work together to help each other out.”

By the time engines from Station 41 in Yucca Valley and Station 42 in Joshua Tree showed up the fire was almost completely out.

County firefighters continued to work on subduing flames that were burning it a pine tree and made sure any hot spots were under control.

Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle said it is good to see people help at the very beginning of a fire as long as they are not putting themselves or others in danger.

“If a fire is just starting and people are not in danger it is nice to see an organized attack,” Tuttle said. “The key is that the fire is in the very beginning stages and that the individuals feel safe. To gain experience at dealing with fires I would encourage people to look into Community Emergency Response Team training.”

Tuttle said the cause of the fire was under investigation.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_8311cbd2-8cdf-11e6-8e34-e701f4aa9b70.html

Truck fire shuts down two lanes of southbound Interstate 15

Jose Quintero, Daily Press

Posted: October 7, 2016, 4:36 PM



A tractor-trailer caught fire, causing a traffic delay on southbound Interstate 15 at Main Street on Friday afternoon. David Pardo, Daily Press

HESPERIA — **San Bernardino County Fire Department** personnel extinguished a vehicle fire on the southbound Interstate 15 shoulder Friday afternoon.

The fire was reported at 4:07 p.m. Firefighters arrived and found the Bobcat semi truck's cab engulfed in flames. The trailer was not on fire.

The firefighters went into attack mode just after 4:15 p.m. and extinguished the blaze.

Firefighters requested the I-15 southbound No. 2 and 3 lanes to be closed at Main Street a little after 4:20 p.m., California Highway Patrol logs show. Southbound traffic was reported to be backed up due to the truck fire.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20161007/truck-fire-shuts-down-two-lanes-of-southbound-interstate-15>

Truck Fire Snarls Friday Evening Traffic on 15 Freeway

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: October 7, 2016



(photo by Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

HESPERIA, CA:(VVNG.com)– CHP officers and **San Bernardino County Fire** are at the scene of a truck fire on the southbound 15 freeway.

The box truck fire was reported at 4:06 pm just south of the Main Street overpass in Hesperia.

When firefighters arrived they located a 20-25 ft semi truck with the cab well involved.

The driver spoke with a Victor Valley News reporter and said he smelled smoke coming from the air ducts followed by a pop and he decided to pull over to the shoulder.

The driver is an employee of Ford Motor Company and he drives the promotional truck through various states.

He lives in Florida but was currently traveling from Michigan to Los Angeles.

Firefighters managed to confine the fire to the cab with minimal damage to the trailer. The fire was reported out at 4:28 pm.

CHP shut down the no.2 and no.3 lanes causing a backup on the southbound side for several miles. Northbound traffic was also affected due to lookie loos.

No injuries were reported and the cause of the fire is currently under investigation.

<http://www.vvng.com/truck-fire-snarls-friday-evening-traffic-on-15-freeway/>

Man Airlifted After Suffering Burns

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: October 7, 2016



(photo by Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, CA:(VVNG.com)– A man was airlifted to a trauma hospital after sustaining serious burns Friday evening.

At about 4:30 p.m. dispatch received calls reporting a male subject on fire in front of Midway Home Solutions located on the 14400 block of Atstar Street in Victorville.

“Someone came into the store and told employees that there was a man on fire in front of the store,” stated Sheriff’s spokeswoman Mara Rodriguez.

According to Jeff Allen with **San Bernardino County Fire**, the male patient with serious nonlife-threatening burns was transported by Mercy Air to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

The burn victim appears to be a transient and at this time it’s unclear how he caught on fire. However, it’s believed to have been accidental.

<http://www.vvng.com/man-airlifted-after-suffering-burns/>

Yucca Valley House Fire Saturday

Z107.7 News

Posted: October 8, 2016



Six fire engines and two ambulances were dispatched to a Yucca Valley home fully engulfed in flames about 9:40 a. m. Friday. Scott Tuttle, a battalion chief with the **San Bernardino County Fire Dept.**, said one person was transported to the hospital with unknown injuries. The two-story home, roughly at Nelson and Avalon Avenues, is on the north side of Highway 62 across from Wal Mart. A resident said the fire may have been started by a burning cigarette, though that has not yet been confirmed.

<http://z1077fm.com/yucca-valley-house-fire-friday/>

Hand crew goes year-round

Jose Quintero, Daily Press

Posted: October 9, 2016, 12:01 AM



The Old Cajon Hand Crew has been placed on year-round duty due to increased fire dangers, San Bernardino County Fire Department officials announced. Photo courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire Department

SAN BERNARDINO — San Bernardino County Fire Department officials have announced that a 15-member hand crew, known as “Old Cajon,” has been placed on year-round duty.

The Old Cajon Hand Crew was created in July 2012 and the need for a year-round hand crew has increased since then. The department announced the crew is now available on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The crew is led by a superintendent and two foremen.

“Hand crews play a vital role in recovery efforts during major flooding events, most recently in Forest Falls, Mt. Baldy and Wrightwood,” the Fire Department said in a statement. “They also support firefighting efforts during major structure and commercial fires. ...

“Old Cajon is ready to provide full-time, year-round assistance and support on all incidents within San Bernardino County, including vegetation fires, structure fires, floods, search and rescues, and other all-risk incidents as well as local fuel reduction projects.

A hand crew primarily fights fire by cutting, chopping and scraping away vegetation with chain saws, axes and other hand-held tools.”

Every hand crew member must undergo rigorous training in various fire aspects, including wildland fire behavior, advance wildland firefighting tactics and Haz-Mat responder functions. All members are emergency medical technicians or trained first-responders.

Hand crews have been deployed “more frequently” during incidents over the last year in both wildland and urban areas.

“Hand Crews serve multiple roles in fire suppression as they can create firelines, defensible space, and conduct mop-up operations which improve efficiency and relieve firefighters and medic engines to return back to service,” the department said.

“In addition to their year-round availability, Old Cajon Hand Crew is augmented by 12 seasonal hand crew members six months out of the year for a total of 27 members.”

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20161009/hand-crew-goes-year-round>

Firefighters knock down blaze at home under construction in Hesperia early Monday

Jose Quintero, Daily Press

Posted: October 10, 2016, 9:37 AM

HESPERIA- **San Bernardino County Fire Department** firefighters responded to a fire at a house under construction in the 7100 block of Century Avenue early Monday morning, authorities said.

Department spokesman Eric Sherwin said firefighters received a report from a man saying that a home under construction behind his property was fully engulfed in flames at approximately 2:24 a.m.

Firefighters went into defense mode and could not perform an interior attack because it would have been too hazardous because the home was under construction, Sherwin said.

The firefighters knocked down the fire at approximately 2:47 a.m. and prevented spread to any nearby vegetation and structures. No injuries were reported, according to Sherwin. The cause of the fire was under investigation and Sherwin said a fire investigator was on scene for over four hours.

Southwest Gas and Southern California Edison personnel were also requested to the scene for utility purposes.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20161010/firefighters-knock-down-blaze-at-home-under-construction-in-hesperia-early-monday>

No more taxes!

Letters to the Editor, Daily Press

Posted: October 10, 2016, 11:10 AM

I am an Apple Valley resident and a lifelong Republican. I cannot believe the Apple Valley Town Council carrying on like a bunch of tax-and-spend liberals at the most recent Town Council meeting. I am a firm supporter of firefighters and first responders. However, I am not in favor of raising taxes. I am especially not in favor of my locally elected Republican officials pushing for raising taxes.

If the AV Fire Protection District has become too expensive and unsustainable, then we need to look at other options. Why is contracting with the county of San Bernardino being portrayed as so bad? Isn't the reason communities choose to contract with the county to save money after they can no longer afford to administer their own Fire Department?

I checked out www.transparentcalifornia.com and I couldn't believe how much these union firefighters make! No wonder they need more money. They want to raise my taxes to pay for it? No. How much of my tax dollars went towards all the propaganda signs all over town? And why is there a fire truck parked at the soccer fields on Saturdays all day at a booth?

Barb Stanton speculating about what the county might levy is reprehensible fear mongering to scare residents into taxing themselves. Has the Town Council even approached the county and asked for a bid on how much

their services might cost and made that figure known to the public? The county provides quality fire protection. If that option saves us money without having to raise taxes on Apple Valley residents struggling to make ends meet, why isn't the Town Council pushing that agenda? Shame on them.

Chris Mitchell
Apple Valley

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/opinion/20161010/letters-to-editor-10-09-16>

After Matthew, some second-guess decision to evacuate

Curt Anderson, The Associated Press

Posted: October 10, 2016, 12:38 PM

MIAMI (AP) " Maureen Miller was among the 2 million people ordered to evacuate coastal areas in the Southeast ahead of Hurricane Matthew. Her family and their dog spent two nights in a hotel and struggled through police roadblocks to return.

When they finally got back, their Brunswick, Georgia-area home was unscathed. Now they wish they had never left.

"I will never evacuate again," Miller said. "If we stayed, we'd be fine. I'm sure there are a lot of people who feel the same way."

Weather experts and government officials worry that people who quickly packed up and left but whose homes sustained little or no damage might be reluctant to evacuate next time, leading to deadly consequences.

"We are a culture that seems to get angry if the worst-case scenario doesn't happen and we prepare for it," said Marshall Shepherd, director of the University of Georgia Atmospheric Sciences Program. "I am continually baffled at the people that seem to anger that there is not more loss of life and destruction. That is the point of evacuating."

An old hurricane adage says that people should hide from the wind and run from the water. Much of the concern about Hurricane Matthew was focused on its howling 145 mph winds. At its height, the system was a Category 4 storm. But the reason for the evacuations had more to do with potential coastal storm surge.

"Nine out of 10 people who lose their lives in hurricanes do so from the water, not the wind. And half of those are due to storm surge," said Dennis Feltgen, spokesman for the Miami-based National Hurricane Center. "Many people do not realize the sheer power of water."

Predictions in Florida called for storm surge of up to 9 feet above normal, with large waves on top of that. While the surge did not quite reach those levels, it did cause flooding and massive beach erosion in places such as St. Augustine and Flagler Beach.

David Waters, spokesman for Brevard County, Florida, emergency operations, said some people on barrier islands began calling for help early Friday, but first responders were not able to safely go out.

"I've talked to other families who have said things like, 'We're scared. We wish we hadn't stayed,'" Waters said.

Others say the massive evacuations may have been an overreaction.

Retirees Rick and Judy Rumford live in a mobile home park just across a two-lane highway from the surf in Flagler Beach. They evacuated inland and returned Saturday to find their home virtually untouched aside from debris in their small yard and an electrical outage.

Judy Rumford noted that sheet metal and porches were peeled off numerous homes in their community, but her husband said he regretted evacuating. The wind and storm surge weren't that bad, he said, and leaving just wasn't worth the trouble.

"We'll think about it harder next time," Rumford said.

State officials were universal in urging people to leave storm surge-prone areas, often using alarming terms such as "catastrophic damage" or "major destruction."

Gov. Nathan Deal of Georgia said Sunday that from his point of view, things went as they should have.

"To begin to nitpick and be Monday morning quarterbacks does not serve any of us very well, and I would hope we do not see too much of that," Deal said.

"By all measures, I think we have done a superior job preparing for this, as best you could prepare."

In Atlantic Beach, Florida, Laura Twyman and her husband, Chad, reluctantly relocated to a friend's condominium in nearby Jacksonville. Their home was undamaged when they returned.

"I would rather be safe than sorry, and it's inconvenient. It's a pain. You know what? We have a house to come back to. So I can't complain," Laura Twyman said.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20161010/after-matthew-some-second-guess-decision-to-evacuate>

County Fire chief says ballot measure talk in Apple Valley unfairly portrays department

Matthew Cabe, Daily Press

Posted: October 10, 2016, 5:52 PM

APPLE VALLEY- **San Bernardino County's** fire chief expressed concern recently over the portrayal of his department amid a push to garner support for a special tax in the town that proponents say will keep fire services local.

Mark Hartwig told the Daily Press the San Bernardino County Fire Department can't "go rogue" and take over fire and emergency protection services in the town should Measure A fail in November.

His comments came on the heels of the Sept. 27 Town Council meeting, during which the Council formally endorsed Measure A and Mayor Barb Stanton laid out a potential future that Hartwig said painted the county's fire department in an unfavorable light.

"The San Bernardino County Fire Department would get all district assets, the property tax revenue and would have the authority to levy an additional \$148 tax per year with a 3 percent increase each year," Stanton said during the meeting while reading off what she called a fact sheet.

The comments required clarification because annexing the Apple Valley Fire Protection District into San Bernardino County Fire is a choice of AVFPD's board of directors, according to Hartwig, who did say he hopes AVFPD's measure passes.

"County Fire has no authority to impose any fee on anybody," Hartwig said, adding that County Fire only gets the authority to levy a tax if the surrendering district enters into one of 10 special tax areas. "And the special tax areas can only be entered into by the districts themselves. That's their decision."

Annexation, according to Hartwig, would also require approval from the Local Agency Formation Commission.

"The applications are joint," Hartwig said. "You don't even file the application until you pass a board resolution. And my board would have to contemplate their desire to join, as well."

AVFPD Fire Chief Sid Hultquist told the Daily Press on Monday that while Stanton's comments might have "overemphasized" their role, County Fire is viewed as a viable alternative should Measure A be voted down on Nov. 8. The board would in fact annex into a special tax district because that would be viable option for revenue.

"We want to make sure people understand that we're not trying to make the county look bad," Hultquist said. "We have a good relationship with them ... (Hartwig) is absolutely correct. It takes the district asking for (annexation), but we will have no alternative but to ask for it."

Hultquist said the issue has always been about maintaining local control with regard to Measure A, which requires a two-thirds majority to pass and would replace a similar tax passed by voters in 1997 that is scheduled to expire next year.

Seven fire stations exist in the AVFPD's coverage area that spans 206 square miles, but only three of those stations are currently open, which has resulted in a struggle in the district where staffing and response times are below national averages.

Measure A proponents say the special tax, which, if passed, would account for approximately 30 percent of the district's revenue, will help reopen two closed fire stations, including one near Jess Ranch.

A key difference between the sunseting and proposed taxes, however, is that Measure A has no expiration date, a fact that troubles some town residents who are concerned with the possibility of Proposition 218 violations.

But Hultquist said those concerns are unfounded, adding that no expiration date ensures the district "a constant revenue source we can depend on well into the future."

"(Measure A) was modeled after the Howard Jarvis tax law and nothing is outside of the limit of Prop 218," he said. "The tax would be in place until repealed by the voters. They would go to a meeting ... and take (their argument) to the board for consideration, and then go through the formal process to repeal it."

Hultquist added that the district's board has the option to repeal the tax, as well, and voters have the right to say if the measure passes in the first place.

"The key is if they want to, they have a local board to stand in front of and make that argument (for a repeal)," Hultquist said. "If Measure A doesn't pass, they'll have to stand in front of the county's board of supervisors. We believe we can do it better local. We're more accountable to the citizens."

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20161010/county-fire-chief-says-ballot-measure-talk-in-apple-valley-unfairly-portrays-department>

While Congress fiddles, wildfire ravaged California burns

Editorial Board, Sacramento Bee

Posted: October 11, 2016, 4:49 PM

The Soberanes Fire near Big Sur has been burning for 2 1/2 months and is the most expensive wildfire in U.S. history. Wildfire season is year-round, and towering firenadoes are now commonplace.

So far this year, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has dealt with 5,340 wildfires covering nearly 150,000 acres, an increase of 27 percent compared to last year. Record high temperatures and bark beetles have fueled the fire risk.

Climate change has made wildfires worse, and this week climate scientists quantified just how much worse. In a paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, scientists at the University of Idaho and Columbia University found that more than half of the increased dryness in Western forests, and of the lengthened fire season, is due to man-made global warming.

Climate change has nearly doubled the area hit by forest fire since the mid-1980s, increasing fire-prone areas by 16,000 square miles. So picture a swath of dry brush and dead trees the size of Connecticut and Massachusetts, or, in California terms, four times the size of Los Angeles County. Now light a match.

Clearly this is an urgent concern, and one that California has sought urgently to deal with. This state has 20 million acres of forest, nearly half of which are vulnerable to catastrophic wildfire due to dense vegetation and tens of millions of dying trees. In the past four years, the state has spent \$250 million on fire prevention,

with \$33 million more in cap-and-trade money for forest health projects. Lawmakers have directed utilities and state energy agencies to contract for electricity with biomass plants that pull clean energy from deadwood.

But while the state struggles to do its part, federal dollars have become scarcer. The U.S. Forest Service, for instance, has had to cut \$200 million in recent years from programs to thin forests and conduct controlled burns because so much of its budget now goes to fighting the fires themselves.

California has borne the brunt of those cuts, despite the expanses of federal land here. And a one-time federal allotment of \$662 million last fiscal year did little to meet the long-term need, which is overwhelming.

It is an election year, and Republicans who dominate the House and Senate may be preoccupied with the catastrophe at the top of their ticket. But it is a disgrace that Congress is gridlocked on this problem, especially because Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy comes, as he does, from Bakersfield. While Donald Trump consumes the nation's bandwidth, and Washington, D.C., fiddles, the West burns.

<http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/editorials/article107619502.html>

Two-alarm fire breaks out in riverbed near Stoddard Wells Road; forward spread stopped

Daily Press

Posted: October 11, 2016, 5:11 PM



VICTORVILLE — Fire officials announced they stopped forward spread on a second alarm fire that broke out in the riverbed near Stoddard Wells Road Tuesday afternoon.

San Bernardino County Fire Department Assistant Chief Rod Walls said the fire was reported just before 5 p.m. and was listed at 2 acres, with heavy fuel and a moderate rate of spread. Walls said the fire had a potential to burn up to six acres but did not threaten any structures.

Walls said there were concerns due to numerous homeless encampments in the riverbed, which has terrains difficult to deal with.

“This is a typical river bottom fire and makes it difficult to access,” Walls said. “We have to worry about the ground, it’s very difficult terrain to not get something stuck in.”

Walls estimated to have close to 60 personnel immediately on the fire, including four chiefs, seven engines, three water tenders, an investigator and a Type-2 helicopter. A helicopter began water drops at 5:35 p.m. as Walls said they hoped to have a “wet line” around the fire. Shortly after, the department confirmed they had established the wet line around the blaze.

“At this point we are starting to get a decent perimeter on the fire. I would say there is a pretty decent chance we will have a wet line shortly,” Walls said just before 5:40 p.m. “Once that happens we will put in what we call laterals, 1-inch lines where we can start working in from the perimeter of the fire. We will then have to mop this up to 100 percent because if we don’t then the winds are going to pick up later and spark something else later. These winds and the moisture of the fuels can be a bad combination.”

Walls was unsure where the fire began and said the cause was under investigation.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20161011/breaking-two-alarm-fire-breaks-out-in-riverbed-near-stoddard-wells-road-forward-spread-stopped>

4-year-old boy ejected following two-vehicle crash in Victorville

Daily Press

Posted: October 12, 2016, 1:55 PM

VICTORVILLE- A 4-year-old boy was ejected from the car he was riding in after it was struck by another vehicle in Victorville Wednesday afternoon.

The crash occurred at approximately 1:15 p.m. at the intersection of Seventh Street and Forrest Avenue and involved a Honda Civic and a Lexus SUV.

According to a San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Victor Valley Station spokeswoman Mara Rodriguez, the boy was in the passenger seat of the Honda that was traveling west on Forest Avenue when it was struck by the Lexus, which apparently ran a red light while traveling north on Seventh Street.

Rodriguez said the boy was alert when emergency personnel arrived and was taken by ground ambulance to be airlifted to a local trauma center, and the driver of both the Honda and Lexus were led into ambulances at the scene.

San Bernardino County Fire public information officer Eric Sherwin told the Daily Press that two people were scheduled to be airlifted, but injuries were unknown at the time.

Traffic was blocked in all directions at the intersection as of 1:45 p.m.

This story is developing and will be updated as more information becomes available.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20161012/4-year-old-boy-ejected-following-two-vehicle-crash-in-victorville>

Redlands, county museum set for Great California ShakeOut

Yazmin Alvarez, Inland Empire Community News

Posted: October 12, 2016



The San Bernardino County Museum will host several hands-on activities Oct. 15 to help prepare the community for the “Big One” as part of the Great California ShakeOut. [See photo/yazmin alvarez](#)

The San Bernardino County Museum and city of Redlands are getting ready for the Great California ShakeOut.

A “ready for the ShakeOut” event is planned Oct. 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the museum , featuring the county’s Seismic Simulator and other earthquake preparedness activities and vendors.

“The county museum is committed to educating our community about the importance of earthquake preparedness, and to promoting the annual Great California ShakeOut to everyone” is ready for the inevitable Big One,” said Melissa Russo, museum director, in a news release.

Hands-on activities and demonstrations will be part of the event.

To join in on the preparedness event, the city of Redlands will join millions of Californians Oct. 20 to participate in the Great California Shakeout earthquake drill.

At 10:20 a.m. all city departments at the Redlands Civic Center, Police Annex and other facilities will be evacuated. Customers doing business at that time will be advised of the evacuation and directed where to go.

As part of the drill, emergency responders will review procedures and communications protocols, and volunteers from the Redlands Emergency Communication Group and the city will activate emergency communications as part of the Emergency Operations Center on Park Avenue to ensure that first responders will receive EOC activation notices in a timely manner.

The Great California ShakeOut is an annual drill, this year scheduled at 10:20 a.m. on Oct. 20. Schools, business, government agencies, and individuals will Drop, Cover, and Hold On to practice how to react during an earthquake.

Last year more than 43.5 million people around the world participated Great ShakeOut drills. In California, the drill is held statewide annually on the third Thursday of October, and is organized by the Earthquake Country Alliance (www.earthquakecountry.org), according to a news release.

To participate in this year's ShakeOut go to www.shakeout.org/california/register/ and pledge your family, school, business or organization's participation in the drill.

Registered participants will receive information on how to plan their drill and how to create a dialogue with others about earthquake preparedness. All organizers ask is that participants register (so they can be counted and receive communications), and at the minimum practice "drop, cover, and hold on" at the specified time. It is only a five-minute commitment for something that can save your life. It all begins with registering, which is free and open to everyone.

The San Bernardino County Museum is at 2024 Orange Tree Lane in Redlands.

General admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 military or senior, \$7 students, and \$5 children ages 5 to 12.

For more information, visit www.sbcountymuseum.org.

To learn more about the Great California ShakeOut, visit www.shakeout.org/california/.

<http://iecn.com/redlands-county-museum-set-great-california-shakeout/>

Crashes Ignite Fires

Mike Harris, Mountain News

Posted: October 13, 2016, 6:00 AM



U.S. Forest Service

A tow truck prepares to haul away the crashed sedan that started a one-acre brush fire at the bottom of Highway 18 on Saturday morning.

Brush fires started over the weekend by two separate vehicle incidents were quickly contained by responses from multiple agencies.

The most serious of the two fires started on Oct. 8 at around 5:30 a.m. near the bottom of Highway 18 north of lower Waterman Canyon. For an undetermined reason, a white, four-door late model sedan crashed and went off the road, leaking gasoline and ending up in heavy brush.

That sparked a fire and a rapid response from **County Fire**, Cal Fire and the U.S. Forest Service.

County Fire's Engine 227 was first on the scene, and ME 25 from Station 25 in Crestline also responded. Other County Fire units from San Bernardino City stations also responded. In all, at least 10 engine companies, two water tenders, three hand crews and the night flying air attack unit were dispatched.

Firefighters arriving on scene found an acre of vegetation with a moderate spread of fire. The forward rate was contained within an hour, County Fire officials said.

The driver was transported to Loma Linda Medical Center with unknown injuries.

Highway 18 was closed in both directions for several hours with traffic allowed to use Old Waterman Canyon Road.

Highway 138 Fire

The following afternoon, Highway 138 near Old Mill Road was closed for a time while firefighters fought a small vegetation fire caused when a fire started in the engine compartment of a late model pickup truck towing a recreational trailer.

According to County Fire officials, at 3:27 p.m. a 9-1-1 call came in of a truck on fire in the downbound lane of Highway 138 with fire spreading into nearby vegetation.

County Fire's ME 25 from Station 25 in Crestline was in route by 3:30 p.m., along with units from Cal Fire and the Forest Service. It took firefighters less than 10 minutes to knock down the fire, and burned vegetation was limited to a few feet. No injuries were reported.

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_88be1c4a-90cf-11e6-9069-23aba87c0e03.html

Weeds, Fires Top Advisory Councils' Agenda

Heidi Fron, Mountain News

Posted: October 13, 2016, 6:00 AM



Michelle Ambrozic, Duane Banner and Voni Saxbury of the Lake Arrowhead Municipal Advisory Council.

Weed abatement—county policies and procedures, along with Cal Fire's defensible space program—monopolized the joint meeting of the Crest Forest and Lake Arrowhead Municipal Advisory Councils on Oct. 5 at the Burnt Mill Beach Club in Lake Arrowhead.

Staff members from the San Bernardino County Weed Abatement Program and Cal Fire staff presented the most important issues to keep in mind, as well as background information. County staff members conducted approximately 450,000 inspections for weed abatement, including most of the San Bernardino Valley and the High Desert. In Lake Arrowhead, 400 citations were issued, while in the Crest Forest area, 450 citations went out.

Some residents in the audience expressed concerns over receiving citations from both weed abatement and the fire department. Others mentioned property lines, especially for those living next to vacant lots. How are residents supposed to know where one lot starts and the other ends?

Inspectors have with them the dimensions of the properties when they go out, so they can determine the lot sizes from side to side and front to back. If a property goes from one street in front to another street in the back, the property owner is expected to clear weeds at both ends of the property. The inspectors will travel on both streets and will check both ends.

It is possible to receive two notices, one from Cal Fire and one from **County Fire**. However, County Fire will contact code enforcement on behalf of the Fire Department to avoid duplication of efforts. Residents who get a violation notice and clean up the property should call code enforcement at (909) 884-4052 and report that the property is now in compliance.

The county does not provide roadside chipping services, but the local fire safe councils usually have programs for that service.

Cal Fire staff members discussed weed abatement from the point of view of defensible space around the home to minimize damage in the event of a fire.

Note, however, that there is no enforcement for vacant lots. They are considered to be watersheds that are an important part of the ecosystem. The theory is that it is important to maintain and protect the watershed.

Typically, Cal Fire does not start inspections until June 1, so it is advisable to clear up defensible space prior to that date. One staff member made a point of emphasizing that if Cal Fire (or County Fire) asks an Arrowhead Woods property owner to remove a tree, that owner should call the Arrowhead Woods Architectural Committee (AWAC) and notify Stacey Lippert, executive director, before taking any action. Residents must comply with AWAC requirements.

Cal Fire inspectors prefer to meet homeowners face-to-face after an inspection, to go over their findings. Approximately 70 percent of homeowners are not available, and notices must be mailed. But working directly together is the best approach for both Cal Fire and homeowners.

Because the mountain communities are in a fire-prone area, there are a number of challenges and battles, including the Santa Ana winds that prevail in autumn.

In addition, insects prey on weak trees. Some insects that previously were found only in Riverside and Orange counties are now finding their way into the mountain communities and are taking out healthy oak trees. Residents are advised to keep a close watch on the health of their oak trees.

Incident Commander Glenn Barley has noted that California is dealing with a huge problem regarding tree mortality. Conditions now are worse than they were in 2003.

The Mountain Rim Fire Safe Council and the Lake Arrowhead Fire Safe Council offer free abatement assistance to property owners. Grants are no longer available, but assistance can be had. There is some overlap between Cal Fire and the County Fire Department, and they will honor each other's programs and inspections.

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_7e01bde2-90d0-11e6-bcce-f748f04aec80.html

Man Extricated From Van That Crashed Into House

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: October 13, 2016



The van's roof was removed in order to access the trapped driver. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

Victorville, Calif. (VVNG.com) One person required extrication from their vehicle after crashing into a home in the Spring Valley Lake community.

The accident occurred around 3:11 p.m. on Thursday afternoon on the 13600 block of Riverview Drive.

It took firefighters approximately 25 minutes to extricate the male victim from the blue Chevrolet Venture.

According to Officer Krahn with the California Highway Patrol Victorville division, the driver was traveling on Riverview Drive in a westerly direction when for unknown reasons, the vehicle jumped the curb and came to rest on its side against the house.

No one was home at the time of the accident and the house did not sustain any major structural damage.

The driver appeared to have sustained a head injury but was conscious and alert.

As a precaution the male patient was flown by helicopter to a trauma center for his injuries.

The cause of the accident is currently under investigation.

<http://www.vvng.com/man-extricated-from-van-that-crashed-into-house/>