



NEWS



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Firefighters douse grass fire along 210 Freeway in San Bernardino

John M. Blodgett, Press Enterprise

Posted: October 2, 2016, 5:21 PM



San Bernardino County firefighters hose down a grass fire Sunday afternoon along the 210 Freeway in San Bernardino.

Smoke and flames from a Sunday afternoon grass fire along the 210 Freeway in San Bernardino slowed curious drivers in both directions but didn't last long.

The fire, in a field south of the 210, west of Cedar Street and east of a flood control channel, was reported 3:02 p.m. Sunday, said Peter McKernan, a **San Bernardino County firefighter**.

Crews controlled the fire within 20 minutes and contained it to less than half an acre, he said.

McKernan said the cause is under investigation.

<http://www.pe.com/articles/bernardino-814819-slowed-flames.html>

Fire burns 15 acres near Big Bear (UPDATE)

Beatriz Valenzuela, Press Enterprise

Posted: October 3, 2016, 9:57 PM

A wildfire sparked Sunday night in Fawnskin was held to 15 acres as firefighters worked through the night with help from air support to reach 87 percent containment by Monday evening, according to fire officials.

The blaze was reported just after 8:30 p.m. Sunday on Delamar Mountain just outside of Big Bear Lake and is burning to the north at a slow to moderate rate of speed, according to a San Bernardino National Forest Service statement. There is no immediate threat to the nearby communities, and as of 4:30 p.m. there were no road closures or evacuations ordered.

Forest Service firefighters, with help from the **San Bernardino County Fire**, Bear Lake Fire Authority and Calfire San Bernardino battled the blaze through the night.

The Forest Service Night AirAttack and Night Helicopter, a helicopter that has night vision goggles (NVG) and an airplane that has forward looking infrared recording capability, helped control the blaze, officials said.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

<http://www.pe.com/articles/night-814846-sparked-keep.html>

Why hands-on CPR will be required for most high school students

Beginning in 2018-19, those in schools where health classes are needed for graduation will get the training.

Stephen Wall, Press Enterprise

Posted: October 3, 2016



Elsinore High School students practice CPR on a dummies during a Friday, Sept. 30, sports medicine class.
Frank Bellino, Staff Photographer

Starting in two years, California teenagers will be empowered with a life-saving skill.

Inland educators and health professionals are applauding a new state law requiring hundreds of thousands of high school students statewide to learn hands-only Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

A bill signed by Gov. Jerry Brown late last month mandates the lessons at high school that require health classes for graduation. Today, teaching CPR is part of the state's health curriculum but is voluntary.

"I think the law is going to save lives for sure," said Robbie Harrison, a sports medicine teacher at Elsinore High School in Wildomar. "If someone goes down, the more people that know the skill, the more lives we can save."

Hands-only CPR, which involves pressing hard and fast in the middle of the chest, is recommended for use on teenagers and adults who suddenly collapse. It is as effective as mouth-to-mouth CPR in the first few minutes of sudden cardiac arrest outside a hospital, according to the American Heart Association.

More than 350,000 people have sudden cardiac arrests each year outside a hospital, but in two-thirds of those cases, the victims don't receive CPR, and 90 percent die. Effective CPR given immediately after sudden cardiac arrest can double or triple a victim's chances of survival, the Heart Association says.

For many people, pumping the chest is less intimidating than performing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on a stranger who has stopped breathing in a restaurant, shopping mall, airport or other public place, experts say.

"I think it's a great idea," said Cindi Dolan, health academy director at Vista del Lago High School in Moreno Valley. "It doesn't take very long to teach and to have kids practice. It's very worthwhile and a benefit."

'HUGE FIRST STEP'

Elsinore and Vista del Lago are among several Inland campuses that teach CPR through health career programs that prepare students for jobs as doctors, nurses, physical therapists, athletic trainers and other professions. Students in these programs are certified by the heart association and can perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation as well as the hands-only method.

The new law, which doesn't require students to become CPR certified, affects 24 of the Inland area's 43 districts that enroll high school students. More than 70 percent of the 377,000 students who graduate from California high schools each year will be trained.

The original bill by Assemblyman Freddie Rodriguez, D-Pomona, required all high school students to take CPR lessons, not just those in districts that mandate health courses for graduation. Districts that don't require health could have taught CPR in a PE, English or another class.

The bill was scaled down in the Senate Appropriations Committee amid cost concerns, with estimates to implement the broader bill ranging from \$7 million to \$10 million.

The final version signed by Brown allows the training to easily fit into existing health classes, Rodriguez said.

"It's a huge first step," said Dr. Nikan Khatibi, a pain and addiction medicine physician at the Riverside Medical Clinic.

CPR can play a vital role in helping people who have overdosed on prescription opioid pain relievers, he said.

"This is the first time that we as a state will be able to change the mindset of an entire generation of teens and young adults to save lives," Khatibi said.

Rodriguez, an emergency medical technician for more than 30 years, said he was shocked when he found out 34 states – but not California – passed legislation to teach CPR in high school.

Rodriguez recalled a time in the 1990s when he and a colleague performed CPR at the home of a Covina man who had no pulse and had stopped breathing. Doctors said their quick response saved his life.

"One minute he was basically dead," Rodriguez said. "An hour later he was up and talking."

'LIFE-SAVING KNOWLEDGE'

The law allows schools to decide how, when and by whom lessons will be taught. They can ask doctors, nurses, firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians and other licensed health professionals to offer the training.

The California Department of Education will offer guidance on following the law. Inland schools plan to consult with fire departments, county health officials, the Heart Association, the American Red Cross and other groups.

"It is definitely beneficial for our young people to have that practical life-saving knowledge," said Angela Brantley, students services director for the Rialto Unified School District, which requires health education to graduate.

Officials in the Jurupa Unified School District, which has sports therapy and emergency medical response programs at Patriot High School, looks forward to offering CPR training to all students in its health classes.

“It’s part of preparing our students to be responsible citizens,” said Roberta Pace, the district’s college and career readiness director.

The same philosophy applies in the Val Verde Unified School District, which has patient care programs at Citrus Hill and Rancho Verde high schools, said Doug Henderson, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math coordinator. District students have to take a health class to graduate.

“They’re not going to see the importance of it until they have to use it,” Henderson said. “Suddenly, they’re doing CPR on their grandpa to keep him alive.”

Helen Zamarripa, a 15-year-old junior at Elsinore High, got CPR certified two years ago and wants to pursue a career as an athletic trainer. She said teenagers who know CPR can get jobs babysitting infants and young kids. Knowing the skill can come in handy in many situations such as athletic events, dances and even in the classroom.

“What if the teacher passes out and no one in the room knows how to do CPR?” she said. “Without them knowing how, it’s going to risk someone’s life.”

<http://www.pe.com/articles/cpr-814905-health-school.html>

Firefighters Making Excellent Progress on Big Bear Area Delamar Fire

Highland News

Posted: October 4, 2016, 7:15 AM

October 3, 2016 – 6:00 pm Update

Firefighters worked overnight and throughout today to suppress the 15 acre Delamar Fire north of Big Bear Lake.

Reported shortly after 8:40 p.m. Sunday evening, the Delamar Fire was visible to residents and visitors in the Big Bear Lake area. Firefighters responded to Delamar Mountain north of Fawnskin, CA and were able to stop the fire’s growth by daybreak.

Night flight aircraft were used in conjunction with fire engines and hand crews to limit the fire to 15 acres. By 8 a.m. Monday, the fire was 50% contained. There were no immediate threats to private property. Highway closures and evacuations were not necessary. At the peak, over 220 firefighters from the US Forest Service, **San Bernardino County**, Bear Lake Fire Authority and CALFIRE were assigned to the fire.

Forest roads in the immediate fire area have been closed to provide safe access for firefighting equipment. The Cougar Crest Trail is closed, as well as the Pacific Crest Trail between Forest Roads 3N14 and 3N09.

For more information on the Delamar Fire please

visit: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5051/> or call the San Bernardino Fire Information Line at 909-383-5688.

Quick Fire Facts

Fire Start Date: October 2, 2016

Fire Report Time: 8:41 PM

Location: 1 mile North of Fawnskin, CA in the San Bernardino Mountains

Acres: 15

Containment: 87%

Fire Cause: Under Investigation

Fire Fighters Assigned: 221

Fire Engines: 20

Fire Crews: 6

Helicopters: 3

Road Closures: 2N09 (Polique Canyon Road) to 3N16; 3N16 at 3N07 to 3N14 (Big Pine Flats CG); 3N08 west to 3N16 and 3N12 to 3N16

Evacuations: None

Terrain: Rugged and mountainous

Cooperating Agencies: San Bernardino County Fire, Bear Lake Fire Authority
CALFIRE - San Bernardino Unit

Fire managers plan to open the closed roads as soon as it is determined they are safe for normal travel.

The US Forest Service would like to remind people that while autumn brings shorter days and cooler weather, fire conditions remain critical throughout the fall and early winter months. Campfire restrictions remain in effect on the San Bernardino National Forest.

http://www.highlandnews.net/news/crime_and_fire/firefighters-making-excellent-progress-on-big-bear-area-delamar-fire/article_fc4cccf4-8a3c-11e6-a842-b3cd9c4d9e63.html

Get Ready for the Great California ShakeOut at the County Museum

Highland News

Posted: October 4, 2016 10:14 AM

Event date Oct. 15, 2016

The San Bernardino County Museum will host “Get Ready for the Great California ShakeOut,” on Saturday, Oct. 15, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m, 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 so everyone is ready for the inevitable Big One,” said Melissa Russo, museum director.

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.

The County Museum is holding “Get Ready for the Great ShakeOut” on the Saturday before the statewide drill to increase awareness.

Get Ready for the ShakeOut and the County Museum’s other exciting events and exhibits reflect the effort by the Board of Supervisors to achieve the Countywide Vision by celebrating arts, culture, and education in the county, creating quality of life for residents and visitors.

The San Bernardino County Museum is at 2024 Orange Tree Lane, at the California Street exit from Interstate 10 in Redlands. The museum is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. General admission is \$10 (adult), \$8 (military or senior), \$7 (student), and \$5 (child aged 5 to 12). Children under five and Museum Association members are admitted free. Parking is free. For more information, visit www.sbcountymuseum.org. The museum is accessible to persons with disabilities.

http://www.highlandnews.net/news/top_stories/get-ready-for-the-great-california-shakeout-at-the-county/article_fa4b621c-8a55-11e6-b4e3-eba2999a5b44.html

Our view: Preparation essential in earthquake country

Daily Press Editorial Board

Posted: October 4, 2016, 11:33 AM

Last week's warning by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services about a heightened chance of a large earthquake on the San Andreas Fault through Tuesday morning created quite a stir in some parts of Southern California.

It all started with a swarm of smaller quakes near the Salton Sea, which is near the southern end of the San Andreas. More than 140 temblors, ranging in magnitude from 1.4 to 4.3, struck early last week.

Given that the San Andreas is overdue for a quake of magnitude 7.0 or greater, particularly on the fault's southern end, OES Director Mark Ghilarducci asked the California Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council to discuss the impact of the earthquake swarm. The scientists said it likely increased the probability of a larger

quake between 0.03 and 1.0 percent until 9 a.m. Oct. 4. That was enough to cause the state office to issue an advisory.

While there was certainly no reason to panic about this, in some places people clearly overreacted. In Pasadena, for instance, there was a run on bottled water, with virtually none to be found by Sunday. San Bernardino officials closed City Hall on Monday and will close it again Tuesday, proving government needs little prompting to declare a paid holiday for itself.

United States Geological Survey research seismologist Robert Graves told Daily Press reporter Jose Quintero that though such advisories are rare, they should serve more as a reminder to all of us in Southern California that we live in earthquake country. Major quakes will continue to happen, we just don't know precisely when.

The last two big quakes on the San Andreas were magnitude-7.5 in 1812 and 7.9 in 1857. The latter was the last true "Big One" — defined as magnitude-7.7 or greater — to shake Southern California.

We're overdue for another, which given our tremendous population growth in the past 160 years seems sure to bring widespread damage, injury and even death.

But thankfully, natural disasters are infrequent, especially here in Southern California. Unlike the Midwest, tornadoes are a rarity here. Unlike the East Coast and Gulf states, hurricanes are virtually nonexistent. The same holds true for massive snowstorms in all but the highest elevations of our state. And other than the occasional flash flood, we rarely seen the volume or intensity of rain many other parts of the U.S. experience regularly.

We've also done a better job than many other areas of improving building codes, mandating retrofitting projects and preparing for large quakes in general.

Last week's advisory should reinforce our need for preparedness. Make sure you have enough food and water on hand to enable you to survive for a week or more, should supply lines be cut off because of power outages, fuel shortages or damage to transportation corridors.

Create a disaster plan that includes how to contact loved ones, where to meet if communication lines or cell towers fail, and be sure to stash emergency food, water, medical supplies and clothing in your car or truck.

The "Big One" eventually will hit, we all know that. Prepare for it now the best you can.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/opinion/20161004/our-view-preparation-essential-in-earthquake-country>

HIGHWAY 38: Major Accident Cleared Roadway Open (UPDATE 2)

Michael P. Neufeld, Rim of the World News

Posted: October 4, 2016, 2:06 PM



Two patients have been transported by ground ambulance to a medical facility following a crash on Highway 38. The roadway remains closed due to a fuel spill. (Photo by San Bernardino County Fire)

UPDATE 2: Tuesday, October 4 – 4:15 p.m.

Mountain Home Village, CA – The traffic accident on Highway 38 near Mountain Home Village has been cleared and the roadway is open to traffic, according to SoCalMountains.com.

UPDATE: Tuesday, October 4 – 2:23 p.m.

Mountain Home Village, CA – Two patients have been transported by ground ambulance to a local medical facility after being extricated from their passenger vehicle following a crash with a semi truck on Highway 38.

The resulting fuel spill has closed the roadway.

ORIGINAL STORY

Mountain Home Village, CA – A Major accident on Highway 38 near Mountain Home Village has resulted in a full closure of the roadway.

The Mill Creek incident — reported at 1:36 p.m. — involves a semi truck and a passenger vehicle that required the extrication of one or more individuals.

The semi is leaking fuel and Hazmat has been notified.

Additional details will be released shortly.

<http://rotwnews.com/2016/10/04/highway-38-major-accident-impacts-roadway/>

Federal official calls for better firefighting funding mechanism

Last year's additional congressional appropriation called a "Band-Aid" approach.

Jim Steinberg, Press Enterprise

Posted: October 4, 2016, 10:42 PM



Jeff Gritchen, File Photo

The federal government must find a way to pay for fighting wildfires without diverting funds from fire prevention programs, White House Office of Management and Budget Director Shaun Donovan said Tuesday during a visit to the Angeles National Forest.

Donovan called on Congress to approve a consistent funding mechanism that would assure National Forest officials could count on a fixed amount of revenue for fire prevention programs without having to hold back on spending to see if those funds would be needed to cover firefighting expenses.

Underscoring the importance of his statements, Donovan's comments came as the National Weather Service issued a fire watch from 3 a.m. Thursday until 3 p.m. Saturday for Southern California mountains, foothills and valleys.

"Our region knows the devastation caused by forest fires, as we recently saw in the Blue Cut fire. The federal government has an important role to play in supporting our first responders by making sure they have the resources they need and in assisting affected residents in the recovery process," Rep. Pete Aguilar, D-Redlands, said in a statement related to Donovan's call for action.

The Obama administration wants to reverse the current scenario in which money from programs to remove brush, manage forests and grasslands, and promote forest health is diverted to pay for firefighting, Donovan said.

The exception was during the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, when Congress appropriated millions more for firefighting, Donovan said. The extra appropriation was for more than \$600 million.

For California the fire season is far from over, Pacific Southwest Region Deputy Forester Jean Wade Evans said in a joint telephone press conference Tuesday morning.

The National Weather Service fire-weather watch noted that the combination of gusty offshore winds, low humidity and very dry fuels will elevate the fire potential.

Meanwhile, some long-range weather forecasters say the approaching winter rainy season is likely to be both drier and warmer than normal.

Last year's "short-term fix is a Band-Aid for forest fire fighting" costs that have been outpacing resources allocated to fight them in six of the past 10 years, Donovan said.

Nationally, this year, there were 45,000 forest fires and more than 1,000 homes were destroyed, Evans said.

Closer to home, the Blue Cut fire destroyed 36,274 acres with 216 structures lost while the Pilot fire was 8,110 acres, with no structures lost, said Gregg Goodland, acting deputy public affairs officer for the San Bernardino National Forest.

Evans said that the closure of the 15 Freeway and the stoppage of trains during the Blue Cut fire had "millions of dollars of impact."

Evans said suppression costs have soared due to the impacts of climate change, which means fire seasons are now 78 days longer on average, and because of increased development in the Wildland Urban Interface, which makes fighting fires more complicated — and more expensive — than ever, Evans said.

There are an estimated 66 million dead trees in the Sierra Nevada foothill area, she said.

<http://www.pe.com/articles/fire-814998-forest-donovan.html>

County Fire Battalion Chief Porter promoted to Division Chief of Administration

Daily Press

Posted October 5, 2016 9:55 AM

The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** announced Battalion Chief Tim Porter has been promoted Division Chief of Administration, assigned to Department Headquarters, effective Monday.

Porter will now oversee support services, bid transfers, management of the hiring/testing recruitment process, and special projects, the fire department said.

Porter has over 25 years of fire service experience beginning in 1991 and was promoted to Battalion Chief in March 2015.

"I am honored to be selected for this position and look forward to supporting the department within this new role. I'd like to thank our leadership for their consideration and all the dedicated individuals that I have had the privilege to work with throughout my career," Porter said.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20161005/county-fire-battalion-chief-porter-promoted-to-division-chief-of-administration>