



NEWS



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Hang Glider Sustains Fatal Injuries

Michael P. Neufeld, Rim of the World News

Posted: June 29, 2016, 8:23 AM



The fatal hang gliding accident that claimed the life of a Corona man occurred at the Crestline Soaring Society's Glider Launch in Crestline. (Photo by San Bernardino County fire)

UPDATE 2: Thursday, June 30 – 4:24 a.m.

Crestline, CA – The San Bernardino County Sheriff-Coroner has not completed the notification of next of kin of the male pilot who died when his hang glider crashed into a tree Wednesday at the Crestline Soaring Society Glider Launch.

Once that process is complete, ROTWNEWS.com will update this story.

UPDATE: Wednesday, June 29 – 2:43 p.m.

Crestline, CA – **San Bernardino County Fire** Captain Dan Nelson told ROTWNEWS.com that the adult male pilot crashed into a tree and personnel were recovering his body.

The accident at the Crestline Soaring Society's Glider Launch apparently happened just a short time after takeoff as the tree was easily accessed by emergency responders.

ORIGINAL STORY

Crestline, CA – San Bernardino County Fire units responded to reports of a hang glider down at 1:40 p.m. Wednesday near Playground Drive and Crest Forest Drive.

First units on scene indicated that the accident at the Crestline Hang Glider Launch claimed the life of the unidentified hang glider, according to County Fire.

Additional details will be released when they become available.

<http://rotwnews.com/2016/06/29/breaking-news-hang-glider-sustains-fatal-injuries/>

Hang glider dies after crashing into tree in the San Bernardino National Forest

Veronica Rocha, Los Angeles Times

Posted: June 29, 2016, 3:11 PM



A hang glider died Wednesday when he crashed into a tree in the San Bernardino National Forest, fire officials said. (San Bernardino County Fire Department)

A hang glider died Wednesday when he crashed into a tree in the San Bernardino National Forest shortly after taking off, fire officials said.

Details about the crash were limited, but it happened just after 1:30 p.m. at the Crestline Soaring Society Glider Launch site within the forest, said Capt. Daniel Nelson of the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

“He was killed instantly,” Nelson said.

Reports indicated the hang glider was found hanging from a tree, apparently on the mountainside just below the launch site, he said. It appeared as though the hang glider had just launched from the site and became entangled with the tree.

Firefighters planned to work with coroner’s investigators to recover the man’s body from the hang glider.

The cause of the crash was unknown, Nelson said.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-hang-glider-dies-crash-20160629-snap-story.html>

Man died while hang gliding in Crestline

John M. Blodgett, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: June 29, 2016, 4:21 PM

CRESTLINE >> A man died while hang gliding Wednesday afternoon in Crestline, according to **San Bernardino County Fire** Capt. Dan Nelson.

The fire department responded to a hang glider reportedly hanging in a tree off Playground Drive, near a launch area, Nelson said. The man apparently landed sideways in a tree with one wing tip touching the ground, he said.

No other details were immediately available.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160629/man-died-while-hang-gliding-in-crestline>

Hang Glider Dies After Crashing Into Tree in Crestline: Fire Dept.

Melissa Pamer, KTLA

Posted: June 29, 2016, 6:13 PM



A hang glider died after taking off from a launch area in Crestline and crashing into a tree on Wednesday, authorities said.

The adult man glided for a short period of time after leaving the glider launch near Playground and Crest Forest drives, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

Fire Capt. Dan Nelson said witnesses described the pilot making a 180-degree turn after briefly gliding, then crashing into a lone tree on the side of a hill. The witnesses went to the nearest fire station and reported the crash to the crew on duty.

The victim was initially reported to be hanging from a cliff.

Responding firefighters found the victim deceased, still suspended in his harness. They removed him, and his body was in the custody of the county coroner's office, Nelson said.

The man's identity was not being released pending family notification. The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department is investigating.

The launch point is linked to the Crestline Soaring Society and is within the San Bernardino National Forest, according to a sign at the site.

<http://ktla.com/2016/06/29/hang-glider-dies-after-crashing-into-tree-in-crestline-fire-dept/>

Thousands of pounds of illegal fireworks are confiscated in San Bernardino County

Fontana Herald News

Posted: June 29, 2016, 10:21 AM

Updated: June 29, 2016, 1:23 PM



These are examples of illegal fireworks that have been confiscated in previous years in San Bernardino County.

Every year as the Fourth of July approaches, the concerns regarding illegal fireworks begin to steadily rise in Fontana and other nearby cities.

Residents of many Fontana neighborhoods have been repeatedly disturbed by the sounds of illegal fireworks exploding in recent weeks, and authorities have been working hard to promote responsible behavior while also enforcing laws regarding fireworks usage.

"Safe and Sane" fireworks are now being sold by nonprofit groups at various locations throughout Fontana, and these legal fireworks may be purchased and discharged within the city limits until the conclusion of the July 4 holiday weekend, according to the Fontana Police Department. No fireworks of any kind are allowed in the unincorporated county area.

Meanwhile, fire officials have been busily cracking down on illegal fireworks during the past month:

- The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** Office of the Fire Marshal confiscated 25,190 pounds of illegal fireworks during a seven-day operation. A total of 116 citations were issued, resulting in \$145,000 in fines. The investigations were conducted along the Interstate 15 agriculture inspection station in Yermo. Los Angeles County, Orange County, and San Bernardino County were the top three destinations where smugglers were trying to bring the fireworks.
- In addition, CAL FIRE law enforcement conducted a multi-agency fireworks seizure operation in San Bernardino County which resulted in the confiscation of 25,406 pounds of illegal fireworks. Plus, 195 contacts were made and 51 misdemeanor citations were issued. A total of two felony arrests and two DUI arrests were made during the interdiction operation, which occurred in various areas throughout the county.

“There is no excuse for breaking the law when it comes to fireworks. Illegal fireworks and pyrotechnics can cause devastating injuries and damage to property,” said California State Fire Marshal Tonya Hoover.

According to statistics from the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, fireworks were involved in an estimated 10,500 injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments during calendar year 2014. The CPSC also said that the vast majority of injuries are caused by fireworks that are illegal in California.

In addition, CAL FIRE said that over the past five years in California, more than 2,500 structure and wildfires have been sparked by fireworks, burning thousands of acres, causing countless injuries and costing millions in property loss.

“Illegal fireworks, or even the unsafe use of 'Sane and Sane' fireworks, are a major problem every year,” said Hoover. “We have a zero tolerance toward the possession, sale or use of illegal fireworks and our officers will be patrolling the streets and Internet this week.”

“Wildfire activity has significantly increased during the last several weeks and California continues to experience explosive fire conditions as a result of five years of drought,” said Chief Ken Pimott, the CAL FIRE director. “Everyone needs to understand the dangers associated with the use of illegal fireworks or misuse of legal fireworks. Any person who starts a fire from fireworks -- even accidentally -- can be held liable for the fire-fighting costs as well as property damage costs.”

----- HERE ARE a few tips to help residents stay safe this Fourth of July:

- If fireworks are not legal where you live, do not use them.
- Buy only State Fire Marshal-approved (Safe and Sane) fireworks.
- Have a bucket of water and a hose handy.
- Always read directions and have an adult present.
- Use fireworks outdoors only.
- Remember that parents are liable for any damage or injuries caused by their children using fireworks.
- Use common sense and keep a safe distance.
- Never attempt to re-light or “fix” fireworks.

"With San Bernardino County facing a dangerous wildland fire season, the San Bernardino County Fire Department has increased its vigilance in enforcing state and county firework laws to protect public health and safety," said Louis Penna, a media specialist with the county. "Fire officials will be issuing citations for the illegal use of fireworks, with fines up to \$1,250 for the first offense with the possibility of arrest. Property owners may be cited if they allow fireworks to be possessed, stored or used on their property."

The Fire Department encourages residents to report the possession or use of illegal fireworks to 1-800-47-ARSON.

(See accompanying video produced by KFON TV.)

http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/thousands-of-pounds-of-illegal-fireworks-are-confiscated-in-san/article_f849a6f6-3e1d-11e6-b039-8bb449d14119.html

San Bernardino County Fire seizes 25K pounds illegal fireworks during operations

Doug Saunders, The Sun

Posted: June 29, 2016, 12:10 PM



San Bernardino County Fire Department fire marshals confiscated more than 25,000 pounds of illegal fireworks coming into California during its annual interdiction operation in June. (Courtesy photo)

In recent weeks, firefighters have been extremely busy battling wildfires in the Southland.

But they've also been busy patrolling the borders separating California and its neighbors to the east.

What were they looking for? Illegal fireworks and so far they've been extremely successful.

Over 25,000 pounds of illegal fireworks were confiscated by **San Bernardino County Fire Department** fire marshals.

Seven days of operations this month resulted in fire investigators issuing 116 citations totaling \$145,000 in fines.

As San Bernardino County faces an extreme and dangerous fire season, investigators increased interdiction operations and patrolling of neighborhoods.

"We will be issuing citations for the illegal use of fireworks, with fines up to \$1,250 for the first offense with the possibility of arrest," county fire spokesman Louis Penna said. "Property owners may be cited if they allow fireworks to be possessed, stored or used on their property."

Triple-digit temperatures mixed with the launching of airborne and highly explosive illegal fireworks could be devastating in a community surrounded by dry vegetation.

"We are in what we call an elevated fire condition," National Weather Service meteorologist Joe Dandrea recently said. "That's when we have high heat and medium to stronger strength winds."

San Bernardino County's fire season is six weeks ahead of schedule due to winter rains. According to county fire's predictive services department, the recent triple-digit temperatures have dried out the grass and chaparral that grew expediently because of the rainfall during the 2015 El Niño event and placed the county ahead of schedule in this year's fire season.

“Wildfires are a year-round reality in San Bernardino County,” county fire spokeswoman Tracey Martinez said. “This means that both firefighters and residents have to be on a heightened alert for the threat of wildfire. But being this far ahead of schedule is alarming.”

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160629/san-bernardino-county-fire-seizes-25k-pounds-illegal-fireworks-during-operations>

San Bernardino Disbands Fire Department, County Takes Over

Rob McMillan, ABC7

Posted: June 29, 2016, 12:02 PM



Amid its ongoing financial problems, the city of San Bernardino has disbanded its fire department. (KABC)

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (KABC) -- After an historic 138-year run, the San Bernardino City Fire Department is disbanding, with the county fire department taking over at the end of the week.

"This tugs at me to have had to make this decision," said San Bernardino Mayor Carey Davis.

The transition will save the city of San Bernardino close to \$8 million per year.

It was a bittersweet day, as city firefighters gathered at Indian Springs High School on Monday. Not only did they receive their new county fire helmets, but they listened to what their pay and benefits will be like now that they're no longer city employees.

"Pay and benefits are somewhat comparable, there's give and take. The benefits are somewhat better, pay is a little bit less," said San Bernardino City Fire Chief Tom Hannemann.

But it's not just new helmets, shirts and replacement decals on all the fire engines. Many of the firefighters will soon be working much farther away from the city. **County Fire** Chief Mark Hartwig says about two-thirds of the city firefighters will be transferred away from the city to places like the mountains and the high desert.

He knows it's a life-changer, saying "They literally build their lives and their schedules around what shift they're going to be on."

San Bernardino residents won't see much of a change, according to county fire officials. Fire stations that were closed down during the downturn in the economy are expected to remain closed. But there could be slightly faster response times for calls that, before the switch, would have required county apparatus. Now, dispatchers will be able to call those units directly.

Also, there will be more firefighters responding to calls. The city of San Bernardino had eliminated the extra paramedic staffed on each fire engine to save money.

But Hannemann says that will change when the changeover happens, saying "Starting day one, there will be another paramedic squad put back into services, so they will see a little bit of increased level of service."

The official transition happens on July 3.

<http://abc7.com/news/san-bernardino-disbands-fire-department-county-takes-over/1406949/>

Car erupts in flames after crash on Highway 395; 5 people injured

Paola Baker and Monica Solano, Daily Press

Posted: June 29, 2016, 4:26 PM

Updated: June 29, 2016, 5:24 PM



A two-vehicle crash on Highway 395 about 7 miles south of Kramer Junction left five people injured and set a car ablaze Wednesday afternoon. Photo courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire Department

KRAMER JUNCTION — A crash on Highway 395 left five people injured and set a car ablaze Wednesday afternoon, according to authorities.

The crash was reported at 2:05 p.m. on Highway 395 about 7 miles south of Kramer Junction. California Highway Patrol Officer Robert Grieve said details two vehicles were involved and one caught fire.

Barstow CHP officials also responded to assist. CHP Sgt. Mike Hill said the crash appeared to have occurred when a vehicle headed south on Highway 395 crossed over the broken yellow lines and collided with a vehicle headed north, causing it to catch fire, Hill said.

The occupants were able to get out of the car before it caught fire. Hill said a total of five people were involved in the crash, with two adults and two children in the vehicle headed south. One of the adults suffered major injuries; three others were reported to have sustained moderate injuries.

San Bernardino County Fire Department officials said on their official Twitter account that five victims required medical transport. The adult who suffered major injuries was taken by a Mercy Air helicopter to Antelope Valley Medical Center, while rest were taken by ground ambulance.

"County fire was assisted by Kern County fire on this incident," said County Fire engineer Jeff Allen. "Although this accident was in the county of San Bernardino, the Kern County resources are closer coming from the community of Boron."

One person with minor injuries was transported to Barstow Community Hospital while the three people who suffered moderate injuries were transported to Antelope Valley Medical Center, Allen said.

Grieve said the northbound lane of Highway 395 was blocked by fire vehicles as they responded to the crash. All lanes were reopened as of 3:30 p.m., according to CHP traffic logs.

<http://www.desertdispatch.com/article/20160629/NEWS/160629894>

Another Aztec Falls Rescue

Mike Harris, Mountain News

Posted: June 30, 2016, 8:19 AM

Updated: June 30, 2016, 8:21 AM



Sheriff's Aviation 40King5 had to rescue a man who slipped and fell more than 75 feet to rocks in the Aztec Falls area of Deep Creek on Tuesday. This photo from an earlier rescue shows a victim being taken from the helicopter in a Bauman Bag. **County Fire**

For at least the third time this year in a joint effort by **County Fire** personnel and Sheriff's Aviation, a rescue helicopter had to be rushed to the Aztec Falls area near Deep Creek to extract a victim from rugged terrain who had fallen and been injured.

According to the two agencies, Wyatt Zink, a 19-year-old resident of Lancaster, was with friends at Aztec Falls when he slipped and slid approximately 75 feet down a steep, rocky slope and was injured.

Units from County Fire's Lake Arrowhead Stations 91 and 92 responded at 12:30 a.m. to the area and established a command post at the Splinters Cabin trailhead. Firefighters quickly formed a hasty team, which

is made up of two or three firefighters and whose only goal is to reach the scene as quickly as possible and assess the situation.

The hasty team was reinforced by members of County Fire's technical rescue crew from Station 91 who brought ropes and other safety and emergency equipment to help with the extraction. Firefighters reached the scene and found Zink on top of a rock pile. Zink was awake but had sustained injuries during the 75-foot slide. Knowing the length of time it would take to extract Zink from the Aztec Falls area, a decision was made to request sheriff's aviation to come with sheriff's helicopter 40King5 to conduct a night vision goggle hoist rescue of Zink. Pilot Deputy Jim Landry, Hoist Operator Deputy Edward Leon and Air Medic Matt Perkins responded to the location.

As Landry held the helicopter in a hover over the scene, Leon lowered Perkins down approximately 110 feet to the victim. After assessing his injuries, Perkins packaged Zink in a Bauman Bag and Leon hoisted Zink 110 feet to the helicopter. Zink was flown to Mountains Community Hospital's helipad for treatment.

After arriving at MCH, Zink was off loaded to MA 26 from Twin Peaks Station 26 and a Mercy Air helicopter was called to transport Zink to a local trauma center. His condition was not known at the time of this writing.

As Zink was being treated, 40King5 then returned to Aztec Falls and hoisted Air Medic Matt Perkins back into the aircraft.

Firefighters also found the camping group Zink was a part of had reportedly set open camp fires and were told such fires were not allowed in the forest. A County Fire spokesperson said the Forest Service was notified of the open fires.

Hikers and campers should be reminded, the spokesperson said, that the Deep Creek and Aztec Falls area is a rugged area and visitors should be prepared for conditions there.

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_02fc6cb0-3ed6-11e6-9552-f39b1852399c.html