



# NEWS



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## Injured Hiker Airlifted From Deep Creek Riverbed

Michael P. Neufeld, Rim Of The World News

Posted July 26, 2016, 3:06 AM



Air Rescue 06 performed another rescue operation in the Deep Creek area to remove an injured hiker from difficult terrain. (Photo by San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department)

Hesperia, CA – A 32-year-old hiker from Hesperia had to be airlifted from the Deep Creek Riverbed after sustaining non-life threatening injuries.

The incident involving the injured hiker — identified by authorities as Elizabeth Heaton — was reported about 2:39 p.m. on Monday, July 25.

### THE INCIDENT

**San Bernardino County Fire** communications dispatched Air Rescue 306 to Deep Creek regarding a female who sustained injuries on the riverbed and needed to be hoisted out due to the rough terrain.

Pilot Corporal Mike Gilley flew the rescue helicopter into the canyon area and hovered over the victim's location. Crewchief Deputy Carlos Quezada hoisted Air Medic/RN Melanie Munns down 85 feet where she made contact with Heaton.

A Bauman Screamer Suit was placed on Heaton and she was extracted up and into the hovering helicopter. Air Medic/RN Munns was then hoisted up from the scene.

Heaton was transported to San Bernardino County Fire medical personnel who were waiting at the top of the Deep Creek Spillway, then transported by ground ambulance to Desert Valley Hospital in Victorville for treatment of her injuries.

The extent of the hiker's injuries were not released.

<http://rotwnews.com/2016/07/26/injured-hiker-airlifted-from-deep-creek-riverbed/>

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## **Injured hiker rescued from Deep Creek river bottom**

Jose Quintero, Daily Press

Posted: July 26, 2016, 8:35 AM

DEEP CREEK — A San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department air unit rescued an injured hiker from the Deep Creek riverbed on Monday afternoon, authorities said.

Authorities on Tuesday said that Elizabeth Heaton, 32, of Hesperia, was rescued and then transported to a local hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

The extent of Heaton's injuries are not known at this time.

Sheriff's Air Rescue 306 responded to the Deep Creek area at approximately 2:39 p.m. after **San Bernardino County Fire** received a report of a woman who was injured near the riverbed and needed to be hoisted out due to rough terrain, authorities said.

Pilot Corporal Mike Gilley, Deputy Carlos Quezada, Air Medic Melanie Munns and San Bernardino County Firefighter/ Paramedic Eric Sherwin responded to the "canyon area."

Quezada hoisted Munns down more than 80 feet to secure Heaton in a Bauman Screamer Suit and hoist her into the helicopter. Medical personnel was waiting at the top of the Deep Creek spillway for Heaton to transport her to Desert Valley Hospital, authorities said.

Authorities on Tuesday said that Elizabeth Heaton, 32, of Hesperia, was rescued and then transported to a local hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/article/20160726/NEWS/160729825/0/SEARCH>

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## **Sheriff's Air Rescue 306 Crew Rescues an Injured Hiker in Deep Creek**

Highland Community News

Posted: July 26, 2016, 10:06 AM

On Monday, July 25, 2016 at approximately 2:39 p.m., **San Bernardino County Fire** communications dispatched Air Rescue 306 to Deep Creek regarding a female who sustained injuries on the riverbed and needed to be hoisted out due to the rough terrain.

Pilot Corporal Mike Gilley flew the rescue helicopter into the canyon area and hovered over the victim's location. Crewchief Deputy Carlos Quezada hoisted Air Medic/RN Melanie Munns down 85 feet where she made contact with Elizabeth Heaton, 32, of Hesperia. A Bauman Screamer Suit was placed on Heaton and she was extracted up and into the helicopter. Air Medic/RN Melanie Munns was then hoisted up from the scene.

Heaton was transported to San Bernardino County Fire medical personnel who were waiting at the top of the Deep Creek Spillway, then transported by ground ambulance to Desert Valley Hospital with non life threatening injuries.

[http://www.highlandnews.net/news/public\\_safety/sheriff-s-air-rescue-crew-rescues-an-injured-hiker-in/article\\_3c4f138c-5353-11e6-89f1-cffdf3a4fd91.html](http://www.highlandnews.net/news/public_safety/sheriff-s-air-rescue-crew-rescues-an-injured-hiker-in/article_3c4f138c-5353-11e6-89f1-cffdf3a4fd91.html)

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## **UPDATE 4: Firefighters Extinguish Rose Fire in San Bernardino – 3.5 Acres Burned**

Michael P. Neufeld, Rim of the World News

Posted: July 26, 2016, 3:32 PM



The rose Fire in San Bernardino was contained in 45 minutes and held to 3.5 acres. (Photos by Brandon Barsugli & Tod Sudmeier EPN564)

### **UPDATE 4: Tuesday, July 26 – 7:11 p.m.**

San Bernardino, CA – The Rose Fire near the intersection of Sterling Avenue and East Foothill Drive in San Bernardino was reported at 3:18 p.m. Tuesday.

Initial reports from the first units on scene included fire on the hillside with black smoke showing.

Reports of an aircraft down in the area were found to be false.

### **THE ROSE FIRE**

This particular location is located within the mutual threat zone of the San Bernardino National Forest, which in turn prompted a 2-alarm response from the United States Forest Service as well as Cal Fire.

There was no immediate structure threat.

Subsequent arriving County Fire, Forest Service and Cal Fire crews supported an aggressive ground attack which was supported by fixed wing air tankers as well as two County Fire/Sheriff inmate fire crews from Glen Helen Fire Camp.

County Fire responded with 4 brush engines, 1 battalion chief, 2 fire investigators, Air Rescue 306, and two inmate fire crews. One engine from San Manuel Fire Department as well as numerous resources from the Forest Service and Cal Fire.

### **INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY**

The cause of the fire is currently under investigation by the office of the fire marshal.

UPDATE 3: Tuesday, July 26 – 5:20 p.m.

San Bernardino, CA – The Unified Command has issued a final report on the “Rose” Fire indicating the fire burned 3.5 acres.

The name is now “officially” the Rose Fire.

UPDATE 2: Tuesday, July 26 – 4:20 p.m.

San Bernardino, CA – The Rose Fire has been held to about five (5) acres and aircraft and second alarm units have been released, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

The Rose Fire is now a unified command with the U.S. Forest Service and San Bernardino County Fire.

UPDATE: Tuesday, July 26 – 3:55 p.m.

San Bernardino, CA – The brush fire in San Bernardino is now at about 3 acres with a moderate rate of spread, according to scanner information.

Drift smoke from the fire was reported in the Highway 18 Waterman Canyon Road area as units were unable to locate another incident.

Units report there is no immediate structure threat.

One source refers it as the Rosa Fire and another the Rose Fire.

#### ORIGINAL STORY

San Bernardino, CA – Smoke from the Rosa Fire in San Bernardino can be seen from several mountain locations. The fire was reported about 3:25 p.m.

**San Bernardino County Fire**, U. S. Forest Service and Calfire personnel have now issued a second alarm for the blaze that is north of Sterling and Foothill in San Bernardino.

The fire has already consumed over two acres, according to scanner reports.

<http://rotwnews.com/2016/07/26/firefighters-battling-rosa-fire-in-san-bernardino/>

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### **Air tankers help contain 3-1/2 acre San Bernardino blaze**

**The Sun**

Posted: July 26, 2016, 8:44 PM

Firefighters and aircraft swarmed an afternoon blaze that blackened 3-1/2 acres on a hillside north of San Bernardino.

The flames were reported about 3:15 p.m. Tuesday overlooking Sterling Avenue and East Foothill Drive, northwest of the San Manuel Indian reservation.

**County**, Cal Fire, U.S. Forest Service and San Manuel fire crews contained the two-alarm fire in about 45 minutes. No homes were threatened.

The cause wasn't immediately determined. There were early reports that a plane crash may have sparked the fire, but investigators determined that no such crash had happened.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160726/air-tankers-help-contain-3-12-acre-san-bernardino-blaze>

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## **Homes on edge of the wilderness complicate efforts**

The Associated Press

Posted: July 26, 2016, 6:22 PM

SANTA CLARITA, Calif. — When Pat Telleria saw the wind-driven flames sweeping across the grass foothills toward his dream home, he picked up the phone.

In the middle of the night, he called 911. "I'm next. It's coming right at me!" he told dispatchers. "And they said, 'You're out of luck. All the resources are allocated.'" That's when the wall of fire came at them "and it was humming."

Telleria's home near Boise stands on the edge of the wilderness in a landscape that offers pastoral serenity but is also susceptible to wildfires. Some 44 million homes have been built in similar areas of the lower 48 states, making the properties expensive to protect from flames and draining resources that might otherwise be used to defend forests, rangeland and wildlife habitat.

"I fly back and forth across the country and I see it," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell told the nation's top wildfire managers during a meeting in May at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise. "We should be holding these people accountable, and we're not."

Most of the homes have been erected in recent decades. Another example can be found in Santa Clarita, California, where a wildfire in mountains north of Los Angeles recently forced 20,000 people from their homes. Most were cleared to return on Tuesday, but the flames kept burning in the rugged terrain where many houses are tucked into canyon lands.

Laurent Lacore evacuated on Saturday, the last of his family to leave.

"The flames were right behind our backyard," he said.

He returned Monday to find the house and everything around it had been saved. He could see a line of red fire retardant that had been dropped from the air to halt the fire's approach.

"Everything is fine," he said. "Even all of the trees are there."

Firefighters saved about 2,000 homes in the fire's first three days, Los Angeles County Deputy Fire Chief John Tripp said.

In 2015, the U.S. Forest Service set aside more than half of its budget for fire suppression. In one week in August, it spent \$243 million fighting fires, much of it to protect homes. By September, all the firefighting money had been spent, and the agency began using money initially intended for recreation and other projects.



Besides the financial burden, there's also a human cost. Three firefighters died in Washington state last year and 19 perished in Arizona in 2013 while battling fires in the area that scientists call the wildland-urban interface.

"We find that funerals for firefighters are always well attended," said Larry Sutton, assistant director of operations for the Forest Service at the fire center. "To me, the best tribute to firefighters is a fire-adapted community."

What he mostly sees is the opposite, he said, including areas destroyed by wildfire that get rebuilt with little regard for the next blaze.

"It may be just the mistaken belief that we're always going to be able to show up and save the day," said Sutton, one of the seven members of the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group, which decides where to deploy the nation's limited firefighting resources. "But nothing would be able to stop some of these firestorms."

Federal wildland firefighters follow rules that put life and property first.

"That doesn't change," Jewell told fire managers at the May meeting.

But with so much effort going into protecting homes, there's increasing concern that other areas might get neglected. Last year, Jewell issued an order raising the protection level for sagebrush steppe, vast unpopulated areas where massive wildfires in the last decade have wiped out hundreds of square miles of habitat for sage grouse and more than 300 other species.

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/homes-edge-wilderness-complicate-wildfire-efforts-40897232>

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## Upgrades almost complete at Twentynine Palms fire station

Joe Galli, KESQ Palm Springs

Posted: July 26, 2016, 9:12 PM

Twentynine Palms, Calif. - A \$130,000 remodel of the Twentynine Palms fire station is under way.

The building is getting a major makeover with improvements to bring the station up to date. Recently the city switched from having an independent fire department to contracting with the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**. Elected officials said this change will bring added benefits.

"On each engine there is a paramedic now, so people get advanced life support on every engine that shows up," said Daniel Mintz Sr., the mayor of Twentynine Palms. "They also have the support of the whole county, up and down, from Mornogo Valley to Yucca Valley so they have more personnel to draw from."

Property owners are paying an extra \$60 a year to pay for the San Bernardino County Fire Department contract. The high desert has had their fair share of destructive and deadly wild fires in the past. People know how to prepare for the worst.

"I cleared the brush away from my home, I am on 20 acres but there is a lot of sparse growth out there, between that I have hoses set up on every side of the house and that's the best I can do," said Michelle Perfil of Twentynine Palms.

With the Twentynine Palms fire station falling under the county fire department umbrella, firefighters will have a lot more easily available tools at their disposal.

"We have a wild land division where we have hand crews, dozers, helicopters and those are all resources we can put on a large wild land incident," said Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle with SBCFD.

Firefighters will be moving into their freshly remodeled station in a few weeks. The Twentynine Palms firefighters that switched to work for the county are keeping their jobs in the city. After a year they will have the option to transfer other stations in San Bernardino County.

<http://www.kesq.com/news/upgrades-almost-complete-at-twentynine-palms-fire-station/40903628>

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## **Twentynine Palms City Council Marks Fire Turnover, Eliminates TV Coverage**

Z107.7 News

Posted: July 27, 2016

The Twentynine Palms City Council marked the turnover of the fire Department to county control last night. Reporter David Haldane said they also eliminated TV coverage of their meetings...

The moment was almost one for the history books. After years of discord, the Twentynine Palms City Council last night ceremoniously passed the service baton from its local fire department to San Bernardino County. Though the actual transfer took place July 3, the council marked the occasion by awarding a plaque, posing for group photos and hearing emotional hellos and goodbyes.

"We consider you part of our responsibility; we will bring everything we have to bear on any emergency in this community. What's the challenge for us? The challenge is to be accountable."

That's Mark Hartwig, **San Bernardino County fire** chief, speaking after commending outgoing Chief Jim Thompson who gave a heartfelt farewell.

In other business, the Council voted to suspend the operation of Public Education and Government Channel 10 by year's end, and to allocate \$306,000 for four properties in furtherance of Project Phoenix. (Charter Communications will no longer operate Channel 10, and the city would have to provide programming in an appropriate format to Charter. Instead, the city will link the meeting's agenda to an online video, in which residents will be able to click on the agenda, which will take the viewer to the appropriate spot in the online video. This service is expected to cost between \$12,000 and \$17,000.)

<http://z1077fm.com/twentynine-palms-city-council-marks-fire-turnover-eliminates-tv-coverage/>