



NEWS



News Headlines 7/28/2016

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Piñon Hills structure fire burns person, buildings and vehicle

John M. Blodgett, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: July 27, 2016, 8:18 PM

PIÑON HILLS >> A Wednesday afternoon structure fire here burned one person, downed power lines and destroyed a house, outbuildings and vehicle, according to a post on **San Bernardino County Fire Department's** Facebook page.

An alarm at 1:33 p.m. sent a unit to the 800 block of Piñon Road. Finding a one-story building and outbuildings fully involved and vegetation on fire, the first responders requested a second alarm to send additional units, including those from Cal Fire, the post states.

They also tended to a burn victim that San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies found outside the house before they arrived.

"The fire was quickly knocked down due to an aggressive attack by firefighters" and "the vegetation threat was mitigated early on," the post states.

Firefighters came across downed power lines early in their fighting the blaze, prompting them to declare a life safety hazard alert, the post states.

The burn victim was brought to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160727/pinon-hills-structure-fire-burns-person-buildings-and-vehicle>

Home Destroyed in Pinon Hills Fire on Wednesday

Victor Valley News

Posted: July 27, 2016



(photo by Steven Brittain, for Victor Valley News)

PINON HILLS, Calif – A 2nd alarm fire completely destroyed a home and damaged several other structures on Wednesday afternoon.

Dispatch received a call reporting the fire at about 1:30 p.m. on July 27th. A reporting party stated a home on the 800 block of Pinon Road was fully engulfed.

Per scanner traffic, the two elderly occupants were able to safely exit the structure. One of the home's occupants was transported by ground ambulance to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center for smoke inhalation.

When firefighters arrived they located a single-story residence with thick black smoke billowing into the sky. The fire quickly jumped to a nearby detached with two vehicles inside. The fire also caused damaged to several adjacent homes.

A life-hazard alert was called due to multiple down power lines that created a hazard for firefighters. Cal Fire assisted **San Bernardino County Fire** with a potential threat to vegetation that was quickly mitigated.

At this time the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

<http://www.vvng.com/home-destroyed-in-pinon-hills-fire-on-wednesday/>

Fatal crash shuts down Phelan and Trinidad roads

Jose Quintero, Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: July 27, 2016, 11:48 AM



San Bernardino County and Cal Fire firefighters work to extricate an injured victim involved in a two-car collision on Phelan Road on Wednesday. The victim in the van sustained major injuries, while a victim in the Saturn SUV that collided with the van was pronounced dead at the scene. James Quigg, Daily Press

PHELAN — A head-on collision at the intersection of Phelan and Trinidad roads Wednesday morning left one person dead, forced the extrication of another and caused a lengthy road closure, authorities said.

California Highway Patrol Sgt. Chris Denkers said the two-car collision between a Saturn SUV and a local plumbing business's company van was reported at the intersection at 10:43 a.m. **San Bernardino County Fire** Department, Cal Fire and San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department personnel also responded.

The driver of the Saturn was pronounced dead at the scene. Firefighters extricated a man from the van. Denkers said the man, who was airlifted at 11:25 a.m. to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, suffered major injuries.

The man appeared to be conscious when he was removed from the van.

San Bernardino County Sheriff-Coroner Department officials arrived at the scene just before 12:45 p.m. to remove the body from the SUV.

The Saturn was traveling westbound, according to Denkers, when for reasons under investigation the driver lost control of the vehicle and collided head on with the oncoming van. The impact sent the Saturn into Phelan Road's northern dirt shoulder, while the van overturned across both lanes.

A 30-year-old Los Angeles woman traveling in a Volkswagen sedan, who spoke to the Daily Press but requested that her name not be used, said she was driving eastbound directly behind the van when the crash occurred.

"I was driving the speed limit and the van and Saturn appeared to be traveling at the speed limit also," the woman said. "The Saturn lost control and was swerving. Not sure why and then the van tried to avoid the Saturn but they collided head on. Thank God I gave the van a lot of space and was able to just pull off to the left and avoided everything. I saw the collision, pulled to the left but my car got stuck and they are going to pull it out. I'm fine but to see the guy die was unfortunate."

Thomas O'Neill, 18, of Victorville, said he pulled over to see if there was anything he could do and called the scene "very disturbing."

"When we pulled up there was still dust in the air from the vehicle that swerved out of the way from the accident," O'Neill said. "There was one passenger in the white van when I arrived and they were responsive and moving but trapped inside the vehicle. Firefighters and paramedics did an amazing job when they arrived and were working really hard to get them out."

Phelan Road was reopened at 12:52 p.m. in both directions, according to CHP logs. The Victor Valley Transit Authority announced Route 21 was unable to service customers west of Baldy Mesa Road for a few hours because of the crash.

Staff Writer Monica Solano and City Editor Kevin Trudgeon contributed to this story.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160727/NEWS/160729774>

Fire damage estimated at \$400,000

Jennifer Denevan, Needles Desert Star

Posted: Wednesday, July 27, 2016, 2:46 PM



The back of the abandoned property on Chestnut reveals the extent of damage done by the July 16 fire. Two other properties were involved in the fire. Firefighters from multiple agencies were able to douse the flames and prevent the fire from damaging any other properties.

NEEDLES — **San Bernardino County Fire** is estimating the damage to multiple structures at Chestnut and L Street caused by a fire July 16 to be approximately \$400,000. A cause was still unknown as of July 22.

A total of four structures were damaged in the fire. Three, which have Chestnut addresses, were completely destroyed. A fourth structure, which has a Walnut address, was moderately damaged.

Capt. Dean Dickover of County Fire said from what he's been told the fire appeared to start at the back of an abandoned property on Chestnut. Then the carport of the neighboring house quickly caught fire, he added.

Fire conditions were extremely difficult, Dickover said. The high heat and low humidity created issues, wind was involved and the smoke was being pushed to the ground and that made it difficult for firefighters to see, he continued.

A conductive heat column that was being produced carried embers to a palm tree across the street, Dickover said. Some resources had to be diverted to douse the flames on that tree.

Initially, it wasn't evident that was happening because of all the smoke and making it difficult to see, he said. He was told neighbors were using their own hoses on the tree and once it was clear that was happening, resources were dedicated to that tree to prevent any further issues, he added.

Additionally, there was a fire hydrant that was adjacent to the fire that an engineer tried to use but there was no water in it, Dickover said. That caused a delay in getting a dedicated water source, he continued. The city's water department has been notified and it's been tagged out of service.

Dickover said another hazard for firefighters was live electrical lines. They had to be careful of not getting water on those lines and yet battle the blaze.

San Bernardino County Fire had resources as far away as Hinkley come out to battle the fire. Additional resources came from Wonder Valley, from Havasu Landing and an engine and water tender from Needles.

Cooperative efforts came from Bullhead City, Fort Mohave and Mohave Valley Fire, Dickover said. They were awesome in helping supply support, he continued.

They provided engines, water tenders and a chief that acted as incident commander throughout the incident. Dickover said SBC Fire and the agencies they have mutual aid from have the same terminology, radio communications, same type of rank and command structure so that helps with keeping operations seamless.

Mutual aid also meant providing a light and air unit, he said. It's an apparatus that can provide lighting during night time operations and refill air tanks. A rehabilitation unit was also provided by mutual aid, he added.

Dickover said it was very important to have a rehabilitation unit given the fire conditions. Rehabilitation units are meant to give firefighters a chance to cool off and take a break from fighting a fire.

Despite best efforts, two firefighters did have injuries. One firefighter went down with heat exhaustion and smoke inhalation problems and was transported to a local hospital, Dickover said. An additional firefighter also suffered heat related injury and was treated on scene.

Dickover said part of the problem is the turnouts the firefighters wear keep the heat and steam away from them while fighting fire and protects them from getting burned. On the other hand, whatever is going on inside the suit, the suit keeps the heat and moisture inside the gear and firefighters get overheated quickly, he continued.

Body core temperatures can rise quickly and that's why rehabilitation units are so important, he said. Firefighters need to get that equipment off and cool off to avoid injury.

He said he was very impressed with how well all the firefighters did, particularly given the circumstances and fire conditions. Everyone, including the mutual aid agencies, did a great job of ensuring no additional structures were involved or damaged, he added.

http://www.mohavedailynews.com/needles_desert_star/fire-damage-estimated-at/article_86b26e9c-5443-11e6-be4e-2b4a6d52759e.html

Wonder Valley could get its own CERT

Kurt Schauppner, The Desert Trail

Posted: Wednesday, July 27, 2016, 2:50 PM



Residents attend a community meeting Saturday, July 23, at the Wonder Valley Community Center.

WONDER VALLEY — Residents of this small unincorporated community could soon have the chance to serve the community on their own Community Emergency Response team.

Lessons on forming a CERT team came from **San Bernardino County Fire** Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle spoke at a community meeting held Saturday morning, July 23, at the Wonder Valley Community Center on Amboy Road next to the Wonder Valley fire station.

“We are still working out some details be the plan is to have a CERT program here,” he said.

Among other things, residents learned that the county fire district recently donated an external automatic defibrillator to the community center.

He also described the workings of emergency response teams which, he said, are created to give groups of citizen volunteers the ability to help themselves and their families and friends in the wake of large disasters.

Volunteers, he said, are meant to help residents when firefighting resources are stretched thin responding to disasters.

“It is a branch of the fire service although it is fairly autonomous,” he said.

Team members receive 20 hours of free training and then take part in monthly training sessions and occaisional drills.

While team members learn about extinguishing fires, light search and rescue and first aid, Tuttle said the most important lesson they learn is about safety.

“You can’t keep others safe if you are not safe,” he said.

“You’ve going to learn to work cooperatively as a team,” he said. “So you don’t have 20 people running around doing their own thing.”

CERT teams have duties beyong disaster response, he said, adding that team members spread knowledge about disaster preparedness and assist with crowd control.

Members of the CERT team in Yucca Valley, he said, provided traffic control for Grubstake Days events and often set up first aid stations at large events.

“The key thing we need is a volunteer coordinator,” Tuttle said when asked what it would take to start a CERT team in Wonder Valley.

When a resident in a wheelchair asked how she could be part of a CERT team, Tuttle told her she could still join the team.

“You can do what you can do,” he said. “There are no physical limitations.”

For more information on the Wonder Valley CERT call Teresa Sitz, who represents the community on the Morongo Basin Municipal Advisory Council, at (213) 447-8591.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/the_desert_trail/news/article_48bf4fa0-5444-11e6-9465-0f92451b1819.html

SBD Fest Airshow Plane Pull Benefiting Local Public Safety

Highland Community News

Posted: Wednesday, July 27, 2016, 3:01 PM

SBD Fest 2016, scheduled for September 10, 2016, is proud to announce the SB Strong 757 Plane Pull event benefitting San Bernardino Police, Sheriff and Fire services for the critical role they played in protecting the community on December 2nd. The SB Strong Plane Pull is a team competition with a fire department team and a law enforcement team facing off to see which has the strength, stamina and endurance to pull a 757 aircraft the farthest in 2 minutes.

On the eve of the 15th Anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks on the World Trade Center, three New York City Firefighters and three New York City Police Officers volunteered to head west and join the SB Strong Plane Pull teams to illustrate coast-to-coast solidarity in the Nations fight against terror.

“We feel that it is important to develop friendships and connections that will help us learn from each other’s misfortunes.” Stated Lieutenant Patrick Mulcahy of the New York City Police Department. “The events that occurred in San Bernardino were felt by all of us in New York City and we are happy to do anything we can to help the community heal.”

Donations toward the SB Plane Pull will be made by individuals through a dedicated Strong Plane Pull website. Donors can select a dollar amount per foot pulled, or contribute a flat amount. Working with representatives from Police, Sheriff and Fire Departments, three non-profit organizations have been identified to receive the raised funds to be used in a manner that will directly benefit their associated departments.

- **San Bernardino Police Foundation** - Working with Chief Burgeon, the mission of the SB Police Foundation is to enhance public safety by supporting and funding safety, technology, and crime fighting and community programs.
- **San Bernardino County Firefighters’ Association** - The SBCoFFA provides support for many community and fire service benefits including monetary assistance in case of tragedy to a member; both safety and non-safety, from chief to ambulance operator.
- **San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Volunteer Administrative Support Unit** – 1,899 volunteers donate their time every day to 106 units within the SB County Sheriff’s Department. Ranging in age from 14 – 86, funds raised through the SB Strong Plane Pull will benefit all Department volunteers.

San Bernardino Police Chief Jarrod Burgeon presented the Plane Pull concept to SBD Airport staff in the spring. “I think this is a great event that can bring our community together in a positive way, raise awareness and money for some valuable programs that benefit local public safety and of course reinforce that competitive spirit that exist within the law enforcement and fire industry cultures.” Said Burgeon.

The SBD Fest is a one day event that will include aerobatic performances by the Patriots Jet Team, a country music concert featuring Thompson Square presented by CBS Radio Station K-FROG 95.1, military aircraft and vehicles, and a car and motorcycle show. Families can also enjoy a kid’s zone, food trucks, cold beer, and a variety of vendors and sponsors.

The inaugural SBD Fest drew over 10,000 attendees in 2015. “Many of our attendees last year shared stories about being stationed at Norton AFB, some having helped to coordinate the air shows our community fondly remember,” says Mark Gibbs, Director of Aviation for SBD International Airport.

For tickets and more information or to learn how to participate in SBD Fest, visit www.sbdfest.com. For additional information on the SB Strong Plane Pull or to make pledges visit: <http://anython.com/SBDFest2016PlanePull>.

http://www.highlandnews.net/entertainment/sbd-fest-airshow-plane-pull-benefiting-local-public-safety/article_bea022fc-5445-11e6-a25f-c36778e6d3ec.html

Worker killed fighting blaze

Terence Chea and Kristin J. Bender, The Associated Press

Posted: Wednesday, July 27, 2016, 9:36 PM

BIG SUR, Calif. — The operator of a bulldozer was killed when it rolled over during the fight against a wildfire near Big Sur that has destroyed 20 homes and spread across more than 36 square miles, California fire officials said Wednesday.

Another operator escaped injury when a second bulldozer rolled over and sustained minor damage, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The name and age of the operator who was killed was not immediately available.

Battalion Chief Robert Fish said the operator was working in steep and difficult-to-access terrain when the accident occurred. Fish did not have further details about the incident but said 60 bulldozers were being used in the fight against the fire.

The death occurred as firefighters worked around the clock against the blaze near a scenic stretch of the California coast, where smoke and the threat of flames forced the closure of state parks near Big Sur, a popular tourist area.

At least 2,000 structures were threatened.

Pacific Coast Highway remained open Wednesday, but its signature views were marred by a dark haze.

The blaze could crest a ridge and make a run toward campgrounds, lodges and redwoods closer to the shore, officials said.

To the south, firefighters made progress containing a blaze in mountains outside Los Angeles, allowing authorities to let most of 20,000 people evacuated over the weekend return home. The fire has destroyed 18 homes since it started, and authorities found the burned body of 67-year-old Robert Bresnick on Saturday in a car and said he had refused to be evacuated.

Eight hikers were rescued near the Big Sur fire lines Tuesday after spending days on smoky trails with little water or food. No serious injuries were reported.

Acting Gov. Tom Torlakson, substituting for Gov. Jerry Brown, who was at the Democratic National Convention, declared a state of emergency for both fires Tuesday night. The move frees up funding and relaxes regulations to help with the firefight and recovery.

The fire has destroyed 18 homes since it started and authorities found the burned body of 67-yearold Robert Bresnick on Saturday in a car and said he had refused to be evacuated.

<http://triblive.com/usworld/nation/10864239-74/fire-blaze-california>