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Firefighters free driver from car stuck in ditch after crash

Monica Solano, Daily Press

Posted: May 18, 2016, 11:35 AM

Updated: May 18, 2016, 5:55 PM



Firefighters removed a man from his car after it had traveled off the roadway and landed in a ditch Wednesday morning in Victorville. The man was transported to a trauma center. Photo courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire Department

VICTORVILLE — One person was transported to a trauma center after being extricated from a vehicle that traveled off the roadway and landed in a ditch Wednesday morning.

At 8:45 a.m., **San Bernardino County Fire Department** firefighters received reports of a blue 2004 Ford Taurus having crashed into a ditch near El Evado Road and Hopland Street in Victorville, according to County Fire Public Information Officer Eric Sherwin.

Victorville Sheriff's Station spokeswoman Mara Rodriguez told the Daily Press the driver was 66-year-old man who was traveling north on El Evado. As he was turning onto Hopland Street, he oversteered and drove onto the south shoulder, causing him to hit a fence.

The car continued into and through the wash, eventually colliding with a concrete wall inside the ditch.

Firefighters arrived at 8:50 a.m. to find the driver trapped in the vehicle, Sherwin said.

Firefighters removed the driver from the vehicle in five minutes and he was then transported by ground to Loma Linda University Medical Center for complaint of hip pain, Mara said.

The vehicle sustained moderate to major damages and no other injuries were reported.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160518/NEWS/160519703/0/SEARCH>

Man Injured After Vehicle Plummets Into Wash

Christie Martin, Victor Valley News

Posted: May 18, 2016



Photo Courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire Department

VICTORVILLE-(VVNG.com): A 66-year-old man was injured after his vehicle veered off the roadway and landed in a wash Wednesday morning.

Just before 8:50 a.m. Victorville station deputies and Medics with the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** responded to the report of a vehicle hitting a pole and going into the wash near El Evado Road and Hopland Street.

A deputy in the area arrived within a minute of the report, locating a male driver trapped in a blue Ford Taurus.



Photo Courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire Department

According to Sheriff's officials, the man was heading northbound on El Evado Road and attempted to make a right turn onto Hopland Street. The male driver misjudged the distance from the turn causing the vehicle to jump the curb, crash through the fence ultimately landing in the wash.

The man was removed from the vehicle after a quick extrication and was taken to a trauma center by ground for the treatment non-life-threatening injuries.

No other injuries were reported as a result of this collision.

<http://www.vvng.com/man-injured-after-vehicle-plummets-into-wash/>

Firefighters want to be annexed into CA County District

Firehouse.com

Posted: May 19, 2016

May 18--BARSTOW -- The president of the Barstow Professional Firefighters Association urged the City Council on Monday to consider annexing the Barstow Fire Protection District into the San Bernardino County district.

"I want to make the suggestion that we go forward with the proposal and look into that wholeheartedly," Barstow Fire Protection District Firefighter John Wymore said. He told the Council that the district is losing too many experienced firefighters to retirement and other departments.

Wymore attended a Barstow Fire District budget workshop earlier in the evening which offered an optimistic outlook that the district could stabilize despite the struggle to successfully transition pension plans from the San Bernardino County Employees' Retirement Association to the California Public Employees Retirement System.

One of the options on the table if the district fails to stabilize is being annexed into the county district.

"This fiscal year we are projecting revenues to be \$4.7 million," Assistant City Manager Cindy Prothro reported during the workshop. "Expenditures are tracking at \$5.1 million and we project a shortfall of just over a third of a million (dollars), which is a little higher than what we projected earlier this year."

But Prothro said the one factor that has been difficult to track is retirements.

"Otherwise we would have been tracking on or just under budget for the shortfall," she said.

Prothro is expecting the district to end the 2015-16 fiscal year at a negative fund balance of \$1.2 million. But she said the district may see stabilization in 2016-17.

"We are expecting a loss of \$135,000, which includes lease payments for a fire engine of \$95,000," she said. "While we have another fire engine that needs to be replaced, our recommendation is not going after another engine (until) after the engine is paid off. We want to wait a year or two before we entertain acquiring another vehicle so we can help stabilize the district."

Mayor Pro Tem Tim Silva expressed concerns about maintaining proper staff levels.

"What it boils down to is what is our comfortable staffing levels," Barstow Fire Protection Chief Richard Ross. "Right now we consider that to be six (firefighters) per day is the bare minimum."

The department employs 18 firefighters besides Ross. But Wymore took issue with the staffing when speaking to the City Council.

"We (workshop) were talking about alternatives for the staffing. One of those that came up was reducing staffing at one of the fire stations in the district," Wymore said. "Currently, we run six firefighters a day and we are running more calls than ever. Last year we ran 5,500 calls -- a little bit more than 5,500. That's the most calls ever run in a single year."

"This year we are on track to probably do 6,000. Right at that range if we continue on the same track. So this really concerns me."

Wymore said the district has been losing firefighters to retirement and to other fire departments. He said some of those firefighters are longtime employees in Barstow.

"In the last year to 18 months we have lost four guys. One to retirement and three others to departments that are paying considerably better than us. Unfortunately, this retirement thing is really kicking our butts. We are paying the largest portion of retirement and I can tell you that is why we are losing guys. No other reason than that.

"The captain that retired, he retired directly because of that. And the other three firefighters left because of that."

He asked if the fire board would consider the district taking on 100 percent of the pension portion until a solution is found.

Fire District board Chairman Carmen Hernandez called for more research before any decisions are made.

"Because what unfortunately happened the first time we took over we didn't have what I believe was all the information we should have," she said. "We also have to have some input from the firefighters and their association. I think we need more updates more frequently so everybody has more understanding."

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<http://www.firehouse.com/news/12209653/firefighters-want-to-be-annexed-into-ca-county-district>

Firefighters Rescue Yucca Valley Puppy

Z107.7 News

Posted: May 19, 2016

You've heard of firefighters rescuing kittens from trees, but Tuesday morning, Yucca Valley firefighters rescued a puppy from under a shed. About 7:30 a.m., a family in the 6300 block of Del Monte Avenue searched for 15 to 20 minutes for their 6-month old pit bull puppy before discovering she had gotten stuck in a hole underneath a shed in the back yard. The puppy used to keep cool by crawling under the shed, but as she grew, she had trouble getting out. When her family found her, she was not moving and seemed to have trouble breathing. Firefighters used air bags to lift the shed up onto wooden supports, and then dug a bigger hole to reach the dog. The puppy was finally freed about 20 to 30 minutes later and was very happy to be out from under the shed.

<http://z1077fm.com/firefighters-rescue-yucca-valley-puppy/>

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