



NEWS



News Headlines 3/18-20/2017

- Suspected Drunk Driver Slams SUV Into Fontana Home, 2 Hurt
- Pomona man suspected of DUI after crashing into Fontana house
- Two people are injured when SUV crashes into side of house in Fontana
- Pros, cons on Upland's proposed fire annexation: Janice Elliott
- Mt. Baldy's deadly winter conditions lead to questions about trail safety
- One dead, two injured after fatal collision on Air Expressway
- Homestead Valley Community Council To Meet
- Fatal Rollover Crash on I-15 Near Baker
- Two Fires In Morongo Basin Over Weekend; One Dog Killed

Suspected Drunk Driver Slams SUV Into Fontana Home, 2 Hurt

CBS2 News

March 18, 2017, 8:25 PM

FONTANA (CBSLA.com) – A suspected drunk driver was arrested after crashing his SUV into a Fontana home early Saturday morning and injuring two people.

Fontana police report that at 3:15 a.m., 41-year-old Kelly Stovall was driving south in the 7700 block of Alder Avenue when his Chevrolet Tahoe smashed through the wall of a bedroom where a couple was asleep.

The victims were pinned under the SUV and rescued by **San Bernardino County firefighters**, who said they suffered broken bones, bumps and bruises.

Police said the couple's two young daughters were not home at the time. A second family of five also lives in the house. They were not hurt.

Ana Abarca, who lives in the house, described being jolted awake by the impact. "Like an earthquake, it was bad. I thought somebody was breaking in, or it was an earthquake," she said.

All nine residents are displaced because the house was declared temporarily unlivable.

"I hope this changes people's perspective on drinking and driving or anything that can cause accidents," said neighbor Charlie Cabello.

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/03/18/suv-slams-into-fontana-home-2-hurt/>

Pomona man suspected of DUI after crashing into Fontana house

Alex Groves, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: March 18, 2017, 12:40 PM

FONTANA >> Police officers arrested a 41-year-old Pomona man on Saturday after the vehicle he was driving crashed into a Fontana home and injured two people, officials say.

Kelly Stovall was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence causing injury, a felony, said Fontana police Lt. Gary Aulis.

Stovall was booked into West Valley Detention Center in Rancho Cucamonga and remained there later in the day Saturday with bail set at \$100,000, according to online jail records.

The crash was reported shortly before 3:30 a.m. Saturday, said **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman Ryan Vaccaro.

He said the vehicle Stovall was driving, an SUV, crashed into the bedroom at a home in the 7700 block of Alder Avenue in the city, pinning two adults.

Firefighters arrived and extricated the two adults, who were taken to the hospital for unknown injuries, Vaccaro said.

Stovall suffered minor injuries and was arrested, according to officials.

Aulis said he could not say whether Stovall was suspected of being under the influence of alcohol, drugs or both. He said authorities will know that answer when a toxicology test is returned.

Anyone with information about the crash can call the Fontana Police Department at 909-350-7740.

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/general-news/20170318/pomona-man-suspected-of-dui-after-crashing-into-fontana-house>

Two people are injured when SUV crashes into side of house in Fontana

Fontana Herald News

Posted: March 18, 2017 2:47 PM



The north side of a house on Alder Avenue was boarded up on March 18 after a driver crashed his SUV into the home earlier that morning, injuring two people.

Ana Abarca was asleep in her Fontana home on March 18 at 3:15 a.m. when suddenly she heard a huge noise. "I thought it was an earthquake," she said. "The house was shaking."

But instead of a quake, it turned out to be an SUV crashing into the north side of the house in the 7700 block of Alder Avenue.

A man and woman who were sleeping in the room on that side were pushed into the next room through a wall and partially buried under the vehicle and debris, according to the Fontana Police Department.

The victims were rescued by the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** and were transported to a local hospital for bumps, bruises, and broken bones, but they are both expected to live, police said.

Abarca said that five other people in the house at the time were uninjured, but the kitchen was destroyed along with the other room.

Police said the SUV was driven by Kelly Stovall, 41, who was heading south on Alder but lost control of the vehicle at Miller, resulting in the crash. Stovall was arrested on a charge of DUI, police said.

http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/two-people-are-injured-when-suv-crashes-into-side-of/article_74733a24-0c24-11e7-ae24-f3d81500f746.html

Pros, cons on Upland's proposed fire annexation: Janice Elliott

Janice Elliott, Daily Bulletin

Posted: March 18, 2017, 8:20 AM



Engineer Paul Kramer climbs into an Upland Fire Department engine for an assignment at Fire Station 163 on Benson Avenue in this November 2013 file photo. (Staff file photo/Inland Valley Daily Bulletin)

The following is offered to inform Upland area residents about the proposed annexation of the Upland Fire Department into the **San Bernardino County Fire District**.

Arguments against the annexation:

1. Approximate \$150 per year per parcel property tax increase is the same for all sized parcels and all types of properties. It is the same price for Walmart as it is for a small house. This seems inequitable.
2. The annexation process is not subject to the voting requirement that is required for other tax increases. People may not be aware of the process and may not know how to register a protest vote. Some people faulted the process for its lack of transparency and immediacy.
3. San Antonio Heights residents are also included in the annexation process.
4. This process doesn't address the issue of the overuse and improper use of emergency services. This process doesn't address the issue of the redundancy of using both private ambulance and public fire department services for emergency medical needs to which about 80 percent of the calls are related.
5. The annexation process transfers all Upland fire department assets to the county permanently.

Arguments to support the annexation process (corresponding to the above numbers for the arguments against the process above):

1. It is reasonable to assess the same tax to businesses as individuals because emergency services provided at business sites are for the people using those services. These people live locally and/or are spending money in Upland.
2. All legal notifications for this process have been provided. In addition, the annexation decisions have been made in open City Council meetings and have been reported in the news.

The city has a “Frequently Asked Questions” page on its website to share information on this issue. City and county staff are available to discuss questions and concerns. The issue of fire department costs has been a topic of conversation for years. The urgency stems from the desire to maximize the savings as soon as possible.

It will cost the county about \$2 million dollars a year to run the fire department less than it would cost the city. This savings can be used immediately on additional police protection, improved city services, repairs and maintenance of our streets, buildings, economic development, and trees.

All other tax proposals will have to wait until a general election (the next one being in 2018).

All property owners in Upland and San Antonio Heights have been notified of this process and have been provided with information on the public hearing on this process that will occur on March 23 at 1 p.m. in the Norton Event Center in San Bernardino.

3. Although San Antonio Heights residents will be paying more for fire service if the annexation process is approved, this cost is fair because they live in a fire-prone area and obtain benefits from outside agencies in the form of mutual aid when fires occur. In addition, there will be additional personnel at the station currently serving the Heights if the annexation is approved.

4. The problem of improper use and overuse of emergency services can only be addressed by education. It would be risky to establish policies on those issues when dispatchers and triage personnel have to make decisions on life-threatening issues without complete information.

Private ambulance companies are needed to transport people to hospitals since fire departments don't have transportation equipment for injured people. Fire departments can be first to respond to emergencies because of their proximity to the area and can provide life-saving procedures until an ambulance arrives. In an emergency, time is of the essence.

5. The property, buildings and equipment transferred to the county will be used for the same purposes as they are now — to provide emergency services. This transfer was required to offset the costs that the county will incur to assume these services. Most of our buildings and equipment are in need of considerable repairs and the city does not have the funds to make these repairs.

If the annexation doesn't occur, Upland is stuck with the tough choices about making these needed repairs and further depleting our reserves or running the risk of equipment failure. If the annexation doesn't occur, Upland may need to consider other painful choices to reduce fire department expenses like salary and benefit and/or personnel reductions. Upland may have to consider closing a station. Any of these reductions would result in a loss of services. Annexation with the county guarantees that residents will have no service reductions.

These are all important factors to consider. Please use the information on Upland's website — http://www.uplandpl.lib.ca.us/#Fire_Annexation — and the information on the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) at www.sbclafo.org to learn more about this. And you may contact LAFCo staff at 909-388-0480 or West Valley Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Birchfield at 909-829-4441.

Janice Elliott is an Upland City Council member.

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/opinion/20170318/pros-cons-on-uplands-proposed-fire-annexation-janice-elliott>

Mt. Baldy's deadly winter conditions lead to questions about trail safety

Some now wonder if the Devil's Backbone Trail and other upper-elevation routes should be closed by Angeles National Forest officials, at least temporarily.

Suzanne Hurt, Press Enterprise

Posted: March 18, 9:40 AM



San Bernardino County firefighter/paramedic Eric Sherwin oversees the hoist rescue of an injured hiker in shorts, running shoes and a T-shirt on Mount Baldy Wednesday, March 15, on a San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department helicopter flown by Corporal Jon Anderson and Crew Chief Corporal Mike Ells. (COURTESY OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT)

On Friday, March 10, Lloyd Charton and Trevor Anthes were in the best of spirits, snowcamping on the summit of Mt. Baldy.

But tragedy struck the two mountaineers the next day. Charton, the 69-year-old founder of Lux Adventures in Dana Point, died after reportedly falling off a shelf of overhanging snow known as a cornice on the mountain's notorious Devil's Backbone Trail.

Bishop photographer Trevor Anthes, a mountain guide with Sierra Mountaineering International, was rescued by a San Bernardino County Sheriff's helicopter after suffering serious head injuries trying to help his fallen partner.

Charton was the second person to die this winter in separate mountaineering accidents on the knife-edged ridgeline leading to and from the 10,064-foot summit of Mount Baldy, aka Mount San Antonio.

After this year's deaths and at least three on Mt. Baldy last winter, some now wonder if the Devil's Backbone Trail and other upper-elevation routes should be closed by Angeles National Forest officials, at least temporarily.

There hasn't been talk of a closure this winter, on the sheriff's end or from the forest officials, said Sgt. James Mahan with the sheriff's emergency operations division.

"The dangers are very well known," he said.

The trail was closed for five days last year after three people died on Mt. Baldy or nearby Icehouse Saddle and crews rescued 9 others in one day.

This year, Mt. Baldy has been hit with rapidly changing winter mountain conditions including deep snow, avalanche danger, treacherous ice, snow-covered trails, and cornices or overhanging snow off the Devil's

Backbone. The nine-mile trail to the summit is currently all snow and ice above the San Antonio Ski Hut.

That makes this a dangerous time to be up there, said **San Bernardino County firefighter/paramedic** Eric Sherwin, who takes part in rescues on Mt. Baldy.

“We’re dealing with an environment where mistakes can have fatal consequences,” Sherwin said.

Safely navigating those conditions requires experience and equipment, such as crampons and ice axes.

Yet Charton and Anthes were experienced. Charton, an attorney, had climbed 20,310-foot Denali and 22,838-foot Mt. Aconcagua. Anthes, 42, had just climbed Vinson Massif in Antarctica. He was airlifted to Loma Linda University Medical Center but has since been released from the hospital.

The word on the mountain last Saturday was that Charton fell from a cornice, said Further Your Adventure mountain guide/So Cal Snow Avalanche Center Director Allen Giernet, who was on Mt. Baldy that day.

Torrance resident Yucheng Jia, 26, is believed to have died falling from a cornice Feb. 4. Jia’s body was found 1,000 feet below the Devil’s Backbone and recovered Feb. 9 by San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Deputy Rich Farrow, two West Valley Search and Rescue team members and a sheriff’s helicopter crew.

Angeles National Forest spokesman Jamahl Butler said no forest officials were available to comment Friday.

Searches usually happen because people don’t have navigation tools and skills and don’t realize they’re off-trail until it’s too late, said Farrow, who coordinates the West Valley Search and Rescue Team.

Mt. Baldy is popular with many unequipped, inexperienced hikers and even endurance runners in shorts, T-shirts and running shoes because they can take two ski resort lifts up and hike a short way to the Devil’s Backbone, then ride lifts back down, Giernet said.

Sun, rain and melting snow have left the top layer of Mt. Baldy’s snowpack heavy and unstable. Wind has blown snow into cornices on the Devil’s Backbone, which in some areas is 12 to 24 inches wide with drops up to 1,500 feet on one side and up to 1,800 feet on the other side.

The snow makes the trail look 12 to 15 feet wide. People are hesitant to stay to one side of the trail because they’re scared that’s weak snow, Farrow said.

“But that’s where the trail actually is,” he said.

The estimated average cost for a search and rescue is less than \$10,000. San Bernardino County residents needing assistance aren’t charged. Other counties are charged if their residents must be rescued, said Sheriff’s Department spokeswoman Jodi Miller.

Sherwin noted that the risks involved draw many to explore the mountains. But he urged people to get mountaineering training and experience handling changing conditions.

“The trail you hiked yesterday is not the trail you’ll see today. Nor is it the trail you’ll see tomorrow,” he said.

BY THE NUMBERS

Mt. Baldy hoist rescues, 2017: 7*

Mt. Baldy hoist rescues, 2016: 30*

Mt. Baldy distress calls, from Jan. 2016 to now: About 20* helicopter landings to retrieve hikers or drop off search and rescue members to walk people out

Search and rescue cost: Estimated average less than \$10,000 (Some can be far higher, depending on rescue's size and duration.)

Helicopter rescue cost: \$1,800 to \$2,900 an hour

Note: San Bernardino County residents needing assistance aren't charged. Other counties are charged if their residents need to be rescued.

WINTER MOUNTAIN BASICS

- Check conditions and weather forecasts before entering the mountains.
- Find trip reports and snow and avalanche conditions through guiding services and So Cal Snow Avalanche Center, socialsnow.org.
- Get basic mountaineering skills instruction. Learn proper use of crampons and ice axes.
- Practice stopping yourself with ice axes before heading to high-risk areas.
- Have alternate plans and route options in case you encounter conditions beyond your skill level or risk acceptance. If you're scared, change plans.
- Never underestimate the potential danger in the mountains.
- Have a rescue plan. Make plans to deal with potential problems.
- Get wilderness medical training. Help may take hours or days after an accident in the backcountry.
- Hire a guide if you're new to an area. Work with someone who can share knowledge about the terrain and reinforce the safety skills.

* Rescues by San Bernardino County Sheriff's and Fire departments, the primary responders. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department performs backup rescues.

Sources: San Bernardino County Sheriff's Sgt. James Mahan and spokeswoman Jodi Miller; Allen Giernet, founder/lead mountain guide for Further Your Adventure and So Cal Snow Avalanche Center director.

<http://www.pe.com/articles/march-827736-baldy-trevor.html>

One dead, two injured after fatal collision on Air Expressway

Monica Solano, Daily Press

Posted: March 18, 2017, 6:55 PM



A two vehicle collision at the intersection of Air Expressway Phantom West resulted in one fatality on Saturday in Victorville. The cause of the crash is under investigation. [David Pardo, Daily Press]

VICTORVILLE — A man was killed after a two-vehicle traffic collision on Air Expressway on Saturday afternoon, authorities said.

Just after 2 p.m., San Bernardino County Victorville Sheriff's Department deputies and **County Fire** responded to the crash at the intersection of Air Expressway and Phantom West after reports of a collision involving a white Ford Explorer and a silver Ford Mustang convertible.

Deputy Mark Chavez told the Daily Press on scene the male driver of the Mustang was attempting to make a left turn on to Air Expressway from eastbound Phantom West, while the Explorer was traveling westbound on Air Expressway when they collided.

"We're still not sure who had the right of way and who may have ran a red light, so as of now that remains under investigation," Chavez said.

The driver of the Mustang was pronounced dead at the scene by emergency personnel, while the man driving the Explorer sustained minor to moderate injuries and was transported by ground to Loma Linda University Medical Center.

A female passenger riding inside the Explorer "was possibly ejected" from the vehicle, and was flown to Loma Linda with unknown injuries at this time, Chavez said.

The cause of the accident is still under investigation.

Chavez said Air Expressway from Nevada Avenue to Gateway Drive is expected to be closed until 10 p.m. tonight

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170318/one-dead-two-injured-after-fatal-collision-on-air-expressway>

Homestead Valley Community Council To Meet

Z107.7 News

Posted: March 19, 2017

The Homestead Valley Community Council will meet Monday, March 20. If you own property, or live in Flamingo Heights, Landers, Yucca Mesa, or Johnson Valley, you can find out about any updates on a variety of issues that were discussed at the last meeting by County Supervisor James Ramos. Representatives from the Sheriff's Department, **County Fire**, CalFire, and State Senator Jean Fuller's field rep may be on hand to hear your concerns. The meeting starts at 3 p.m. at the Flamingo Heights Community Center on Perris Road, behind La Copine restaurant on Highway 247.

<http://z1077fm.com/homestead-valley-community-council-to-meet-2/>

Fatal Rollover Crash on I-15 Near Baker

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: March 20, 2017

BAKER, Calif. (VVNG.com) One person was killed in a single-vehicle rollover on the northbound 15 freeway Monday morning.

At 9:05 a.m. the California Highway Patrol along with **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to the Baker Blvd. onramp reference a rollover crash.

Per scanner reports, first responders pronounced one person deceased at the scene. An airship has been requested to airlift a second patient. The landing zone will be at Baker Airport.

According to the CHP incident logs, the vehicle rolled several times on the right hand shoulder of the northbound side.

A 30 foot perimeter fence was knocked down and is not affecting the roadway. Information will be updated as it becomes available.

<http://www.vvng.com/fatal-rollover-crash-baker/>

Two Fires In Morongo Basin Over Weekend; One Dog Killed

Z107.7 News

Posted: March 20, 2017

Morongo Basin firefighters were busy with two house fires over the weekend, including one in which a dog was killed. According to **County Fire** Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle, Yucca Valley Fire Station 41, assisted by firefighters from Yucca Mesa, Joshua Tree, and CalFire, were called just after 2 p.m. Sunday to the mobile home park in the 7400 block of Kickapoo Trail, where they found heavy flames coming from the living room area of a mobile home. Tuttle said nearby homes were threatened by the blaze, but firefighters managed to confine the fire to the home of origin and had it under control in 22 minutes. The two occupants suffered smoke inhalation and were taken to Hi-Desert Medical Center. One dog died in the fire; a second dog survived. Tuttle said the home is a total loss and the cause is under investigation.

On Saturday, Twentynine Palms firefighters, assisted by the Combat Center, Wonder Valley, Joshua Tree, and Yucca Valley fire stations, were called at 9:40 a.m. to a fire at a home in the 72100 block of Winters Road in Twentynine Palms. Tuttle said the home was well-involved with smoke and flames when firefighters arrived, but they had the fire under control in 18 minutes, and were able to save the small house. There were no injuries. The cause is under investigation.

<http://z1077fm.com/two-fires-in-morongo-basin-over-weekend-one-dog-killed/>