



NEWS



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UPDATE: Juvenile killed in crash involving trucks on I-15

One person is dead

Bryce Riley, KTNV 13 Action News

Posted: August 3, 2016, 6:57 AM



SB County Fire
@SBCOUNTYFIRE

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MTN PASS (update): #SBCoFD Haz-Mat 22 on scene.
Southbound I-15 is now open. NB I-15 remains closed at Baker Blvd.

8:00 AM - 3 Aug 2016

🔄 21 ❤️ 17

LATEST UPDATE: According to California Highway Patrol, a juvenile passenger of a semi-truck was killed and its driver was seriously injured when their vehicle veered out of lanes and slammed into another semi that was broken down on the shoulder of I-15.

Preliminary reports indicate that the driver of the semi may have fallen asleep.

UPDATE: Interstate 15 opened around 8 a.m. Wednesday near the California-Nevada border.

Reports say that that two semi-trucks collided. It appears as if one rear-ended the other.

At least one person has been confirmed dead.

Blue barrels were spilled onto the roadway after the crash. Hazmat was called to the scene after reports of a chlorine smell.

ORIGINAL STORY

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, Calif. (KTNV) -- Both lanes of Interstate 15 are shut down 20 miles south of the California-Nevada state line, according to the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada.

A semi-truck full of hazardous materials crashed near the area Wednesday morning, thus prompting the shutdown.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department is responding to the scene.

<http://www.ktnv.com/news/i-15-shut-down-near-california-nevada-boarder>

7-year-old boy killed in I-15 crash near state line Wednesday ID'd

Jose Quintero, Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: August 4, 2016, 8:39 AM



Authorities on Thursday released the identity of the 7-year-old boy who was killed in a collision between two tractor trailers on Interstate 15 near the Nevada state line Wednesday morning. California Highway Patrol said the interstate was closed for hours in both directions following the crash. John Miller, **San Bernardino County Fire District**

MOUNTAIN PASS — Authorities on Thursday released the identity of the 7-year-old boy who was killed in a collision between two tractor trailers on Interstate 15 near the Nevada state line Wednesday morning.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff-Coroner Department said Donte Spencer Jr., of Las Vegas, was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash.

Spencer Jr. was a passenger in a 2007 Freightliner driven by a 28-year-old man that collided with a tractor trailer that was broken down on northbound I-15 and parked on the right-hand shoulder awaiting to be towed, authorities said. The crash was reported a little before 4 a.m. on northbound I-15 in the Mountain Pass area between Cima and Nipton roads.

The driver of the Freightliner suffered major injuries and was airlifted by Mercy Air to University Medical Center of Southern Nevada. Authorities said a preliminary investigation showed he may have fallen asleep behind the wheel.

Two occupants of the parked 2015 Freightliner were transported by ambulance to University Medical Center.

The crash remained under investigation by the California Highway Patrol.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20160804/7-year-old-boy-killed-in-i-15-crash-near-state-line-wednesday-idd>

Fatal crash involving two tractor trailers near state line shuts down I-15

Jose Quintero, Desert Dispatch

Posted Aug. 3, 2016, 10:21 AM



A damaged tractor trailer is seen on northbound Interstate 15 following a collision on Wednesday morning. Photo courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire Department

MOUNTAIN PASS — A male juvenile was killed and a man was airlifted to a trauma center after a collision between two tractor trailers on Interstate 15 near the Nevada state line Wednesday morning, authorities said.

The crash was reported a little before 4 a.m. on northbound I-15 in the Mountain Pass area between Cima and Nipton roads and it shut down the highway for an extended period of time.

According to California Highway Patrol spokesman Ryan Camara, a 2015 Freightliner tractor trailer, occupied by a 29-year-old man and 24-year-old woman, was broken down on northbound I-15 and parked on the right-hand shoulder awaiting to be towed.

A northbound 2007 Freightliner, driven by a 28-year-old man, was traveling in the No. 3 lane and veered off the right-side of the road and collided with the parked Freightliner. Camara said the crash caused heavy front-end damage to the 2007 Freightliner.

Camara said a preliminary investigation shows the driver of the 2007 Freightliner may have fallen asleep behind the wheel.

The driver suffered major injuries and was airlifted by Mercy Air to University Medical Center of Southern Nevada. A boy passenger was pronounced dead at the scene. Camara said he could not provide the boy's age or relation to the driver.

The two occupants of the 2015 Freightliner were transported by ambulance to University Medical Center. The man suffered minor injuries and the woman had moderate injuries, Camara said.

Following reports of the crash, traffic logs reported a possible chlorine spill "making it difficult to breathe." A **San Bernardino County Fire Department** hazardous material crew arrived just after 8:45 a.m. and identified the substance as a "large quantity of household cleaning supplies," which did not pose any threat, according to spokesman Jeff Allen. The crew also worked to clean up approximately 50 gallons of diesel fuel.

Caltrans announced a SigAlert just before 6 a.m. The southbound lanes of I-15 were reopened at approximately 7:45 a.m. and the No. 1 northbound lane was opened just before 10 a.m. Camara said the Nos. 2 and 3 lanes remained closed into the afternoon, as crews worked to clear the scene.

Camara said the closures caused heavy traffic backup for miles. Traffic logs showed northbound motorists were exiting Cima Road, traveling south to Morning Star Mine Road and traveling up to Nipton Road to re-enter the interstate. Southbound motorists were exiting at Nipton Road to re-enter I-15 at Cima Road.

The crash remains under investigation, Camara said.

<http://www.desertdispatch.com/article/20160803/NEWS/160809968>

Fatal crash north of Baker snarls traffic

Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: August 3, 2016, 12:56 PM

NIPTON >> A fatal crash involving a tractor-trailer early Wednesday morning resulted in the shutdown of the northbound lanes of the 15 Freeway north of Baker for several hours.

One person was killed and three others were hurt in the crash near the small outpost town of Nipton, only a few miles from the Nevada border, according to California Highway Patrol and **San Bernardino County Fire** reports.

The crash, which involved two tractor-trailers, was reported just before 4 a.m., officials said.

A hazardous materials crew determined material that spilled as a result of the crash was not dangerous, CHP logs show.

At one point, both sides of the freeway were shut down, but the southbound lanes were quickly reopened.

Traffic was being diverted off the freeway at Cima Road, CHP officials said. However at least one motorist reported to CHP dispatchers that she became stuck on the smaller dirt roads that some vehicles were using to get around the crash.

One northbound lane of the freeway was reopened around 10 a.m., but the other lanes of the freeway remained shut down as of 3 p.m., nearly 12 hours after the crash was first reported.

The CHP is investigating the crash.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160803/fatal-crash-north-of-baker-snarls-traffic>

Juvenile killed, 3 hurt in I-15 semi crash in California

My San Antonio

Posted: August 3, 2016, 2:01 PM



This photo provided by San Bernardino County Fire District shows the remains of a semi-truck that crashed on a remote stretch of Interstate 15 in the Southern California desert near the Nevada border on Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2016. The California Highway Patrol says the interstate was closed for hours in both directions following the crash. (John Miller/San Bernardino County Fire District via AP)

BAKER, Calif. (AP) — The juvenile passenger of a semi-truck was killed and its driver was seriously injured when the vehicle veered out of lanes early Wednesday and slammed into another semi that was broken down on the shoulder of a remote California highway, authorities said.

Two people inside the parked semi were hurt when it was struck around 4 a.m. Wednesday on northbound Interstate 15 in the Mojave Desert near the Nevada line, said California Highway Patrol Officer Ryan Camara. A woman who sustained moderate injuries and a man with minor injuries were taken by ambulance to a hospital about 90 miles away in Las Vegas.

Hazmat crews responded and the entire freeway was shut down for hours because 55-gallon drums on one of the trucks tumbled into lanes, spilling industrial cleaning supplies. Responding officers reported an overwhelming odor and difficulty breathing, but the material did not pose a risk to the public, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

Southbound lanes reopened around 7:45 a.m. Only one northbound lane was open at midday as cleanup efforts continued.

The juvenile passenger died at the scene. The 28-year-old driver was airlifted to a hospital with major injuries. Camara didn't know the relationship between the two.

Camara said preliminary reports indicated the driver may have fallen asleep, but he stressed that the collision was still being investigated.

Traffic headed toward Las Vegas was diverted off at Cima Road for a detour back to the interstate at Nipton Road.

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/article/1-killed-in-California-hazmat-crash-on-I-15-near-9096891.php>

Major Crash Involving Semis Shuts Down 15 Freeway

Hugo C Valdez, Victor Valley News Group

August 3, 2016



(Photo courtesy San Bernardino County Fire)

MOUNTAIN PASS, CALIF – A fatal traffic collision on the northbound I-15 freeway involving two semis prompted a Sig Alert and closed down the freeway in both directions.

The crash was reported at 3:51 a.m. on Wednesday, August 3rd, approximately 20 miles south of the Nevada/California border better known as Mountain Pass.

According to CHP incident logs, when first responders arrived they were unable to approach the crash scene due to a strong chlorine smell making it difficult to breathe. As a result of the crash several 55-gallon drums containing the chemical Quorum (chlorine) were leaking prompting a Sig-Alert.

San Bernardino County Fire confirmed one patient was killed in the crash. Two others were injured. San Bernardino County Haz-Mat was requested to respond and I-15 was closed in both directions.

At about 8:40 a.m. the San Bernardino County Fire tweeted, that Haz-Mat crews made entry. The substance was identified and determined there was no threat to public. The clean-up is ongoing.

Southbound lanes of traffic were reopened at 7:44 a.m. However, the northbound lanes have a continued full closure at Cima Road till at least 11:00 a.m.

As an alternate route take Cima Road southbound and take Mojave Preserve to Ivanpah, then to morning star mine Road, left to Ivanpah, left dead end to Nipton, then left back to the 15 freeway.

At this time the cause of the crash remains under investigation. Information will be updated as it becomes available.

<http://www.vvng.com/major-crash-involving-semis-shuts-down-15-freeway/>

One killed after semi crashes into parked truck on northbound I-15 south of Primm

Tom Hawley And Tony Garcia, NBC3 News Las Vegas

Posted: August 3, 2016



One person was killed Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2016, on northbound Interstate 15 about 20 miles south of Primm. [Photo courtesy of the San Bernardino County Fire District]



Craig Fiegenger
@CraigNews3LV



1 trucker dead after crash w/@Walmart truck parked along 1-15 this AM, 15 NB closed for @CHP_Barstow investigation.

9:13 AM - 3 Aug 2016

↩️ ↻️ 7 ❤️ 8



SB County Fire
@SBCOUNTYFIRE



MTN PASS (update): Haz-Mat crews made entry. Substance identified.No threat to public. Clean-up ongoing. NB -15 closed at least 2 more Hrs.

8:43 AM - 3 Aug 2016

↩️ ↻️ 3 ❤️ 2

HALLORAN SPRING, Calif. (KSNV News3LV) — One person was killed and three were injured in an accident this morning on northbound Interstate 15 involving two semitractor-trailers, shutting down the highway in both directions for several hours.

A Hazardous Material crew was at the scene after the arriving investigators noticed a strong smell of chlorine.

The Haz-Mat crew gave an all-clear around 8:45 a.m.

A truck driver slammed into a Walmart truck that was parked along northbound I-15 just after 3:50 a.m. at California Highway Mile Marker 166.5, between Cima Road and Nipton Road, according to CHP.

A passenger in the truck driving northbound was killed.

The driver and two people in the Walmart truck were taken to UMC Trauma in Las Vegas.

Investigators are trying to determine whether the Walmart truck driver had proper reflective signs to alert oncoming traffic that the truck was stalled on the shoulder.

<http://news3lv.com/news/local/one-person-killed-after-2-semis-crash-on-i-15-south-of-primm>

Transient Arraigned for Arson in Hwy 18 Fire

Mountain News

Posted: August 4, 2016, 6:00 AM

A transient who allegedly started a fire along State Highway 18 on July 31 reportedly told a motorist that he wanted to make a bonfire. When Ben Makarewicz, 25, of San Bernardino was arrested, he was booked for allegedly violating California Penal Code §452, recklessly setting a fire to forest land, a charge that would carry a jail sentence of 16 months or two to three years, if the suspect were convicted.

Prior to arraignment, the charge was revised to PC §451(c)-(f), willfully and maliciously setting a fire to forest land, which provides for a jail sentence of two, four or six years. Makarewicz was arraigned on Aug. 2 in San Bernardino Superior Court with Judge Ronald J. Gilbert presiding.

Makarewicz claimed to have built a camp fire for cooking food. However, he set the fire in dry brush with no means of putting it out if it became uncontrollable, according to Gilbert Flores, public information officer for the Twin Peaks Sheriff's Station.

Two men, one of them a retired firefighter, were traveling along Highway 18 when they saw the plume of smoke in a valley adjacent to an emergency call box. When the motorists pulled over and reported the fire, Flores said, they saw a white male adult, later identified as Makarewicz, who fought with them. One man injured his right hand and wrist, but the two were able to detain the suspect and also worked to put out the fire. They found gallon jugs of water, left by thoughtful citizens for overheated vehicles, in the turnout and they also had a fire extinguisher, which they used.

Units from **San Bernardino County Fire**, Cal Fire and the U.S. Forest Service responded to the scene and doused the 4-foot by 4-foot area to ensure that the fire was completely extinguished.

Twin Peaks sheriff's deputies reported to the turnout and arrested the suspect on suspicion of recklessly setting fire to forest land. Makarewicz was transported to the Central Detention Center in San Bernardino.

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_4a7bf012-59cd-11e6-a277-b30a0b53fd24.html

Motorcyclist Injured

Mountain News

Posted: August 4, 2016



Photo: Jose Lopez Jr.

This photo, was taken by a resident from his deck, shows a bird's eye view of emergency personnel trying to sort out a traffic incident along Highway 18 near Panorama Point, involving a motorcycle and three vehicles. According to the California Highway Patrol, the incident occurred at 11:50 a.m. Sunday and closed the number two southbound lane for a time. The CHP said Banca S Mercado, 44, from Gardena, was riding a 2014 white Ducati Monster and traveling northbound. Heading southbound was Ronney D. Gray, 61, from Montrose, driving a blue 1999 Ford Expedition. Also heading southbound were Mario A. Robles-Pantoja, 45, from Fontana, driving a blue 2009 Chrysler PT Cruiser and Marianna E. Ronay, 55, who somehow ended up in the number two southbound lane, reportedly received minor injuries and was transported to St. Bernardine Medical Center by **County Fire**. The three vehicles received minor damage to their left sides. The incident took place where there still are delineators in Highway 18's center divider.

[\(Print Edition Only\)](#)