



# NEWS



## News Headlines 10/1-3/2016

- DELAMAR FIRE: Holding At 15 Acres – 50% Contained (UPDATE 5)
- Fawnskin wildfire burns 15 acres, is 50 percent contained
- Fire burning north of Fawnskin
- Public safety unions get their way with councils
- For families displaced by Bluecut Fire, restoring power can be harder than maintaining hope
- Transient arrested in Waterman Canyon arson fires

## **DELAMAR FIRE: Holding At 15 Acres – 50% Contained (UPDATE 5)**

Michael P. Neufeld, Rim of the World News

Posted: October 3, 2016, 3:13 AM

UPDATE 5: Monday, October 3 – 7:50 a.m.

Fawnskin, CA – Inciweb is now reporting the Delamar Fire is now 50 percent contained and holding at 15 acres. The containment level is also being reported by the U. S. Forest Service.

UPDATE 4: Monday, October 3 – 7:40 a.m.

Fawnskin, CA – Big Bear Municipal Water District has been notified that choppers will be dipping from Big Bear Lake near the Big Bear Solar Observatory and Fawnskin, according to scanner reports.

Inciweb is indicating that there are about 200 personnel on the fire.

UPDATE 3: Monday, October 3 – 6:50 a.m.

Fawnskin, CA – Inciweb is reporting that the Delamar Fire near Fawnskin remains 20 percent contained and at 15 acres.

UPDATE 2: Monday, October 3 – 3:50 a.m.

Fawnskin, CA – The Delamar Fire near Fawnskin is reported to be 20 percent contained, according to a TWEET from the U.S. Forest Service.

The fire is in rugged, difficult terrain on the north side Delamar Mountain (8,398-foot elevation)

UPDATE: Monday, October 3 – 3:39 a.m.

Fawnskin, CA – The U.S. Forest Service has announced that due to the Delamar Fire in Fawnskin, the Pacific Crest Trail will be closed on Monday October 3 between Forest Roads 3N14 and 2N09.

In addition, motorists on Highway 38 (North Shore Drive) are advised that the command center is located at the San Bernardino County Fire Station in Fawnskin. Fire personnel and equipment may slow traffic in the area.

### **ORIGINAL STORY**

Fawnskin, CA – The U. S. Forest Service is reporting the Delamar Fire near Fawnskin is holding at 15 acres. The fire was reported Sunday evening about 8:45 p.m.

Forest Service, **San Bernardino County Fire** and CALFIRE firefighters onscene. Forest Service Night Air Attack 51 and Night Helicopter are providing aerial support.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Caltrans is not showing any road closures and no immediate structure threat is being reported by the Forest Service.

<http://rotwnews.com/2016/10/03/delamar-fire-holding-at-15-acres/>

## Fawnskin wildfire burns 15 acres, is 50 percent contained

Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: October 3, 2016, 6:26 AM



A wildfire that sparked late Sunday, Oct. 2, 2016, on Delamar Mountain in Fawnskin has burned about 15 acres and was last listed at 50 percent containment. (Photo courtesy of SoCalMountains.com)

FAWNSKIN >> Firefighters with help from air support worked through the night to keep a wildfire that sparked Sunday night in Fawnskin at about 15 acres and 50 percent containment, according to fire officials.

The blaze was reported just after 8:30 p.m. Sunday on Delamar Mountain just outside of Big Bear Lake and is burning to the north at a slow to moderate rate of speed, according to a San Bernardino National Forest Service statement. There is no immediate threat to the nearby communities, and as of 6:30 a.m. there were no road closures or evacuations ordered.

Forest Service firefighters, with help from the **San Bernardino County Fire** and Calfire San Bernardino departments, battled the fire through the night.

The Forest Service Night AirAttack and Night Helicopter helped control the blaze, officials said.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/general-news/20161003/fawnskin-wildfire-burns-15-acres-is-50-percent-contained>

---

## Fire burning north of Fawnskin

Kathy Portie, Big Bear Grizzly

Posted: October 3, 2016



Flames and smoke can be seen on the ridgeline above Fawnskin Sunday, Oct. 2. Firefighters responded to the Delamar Fire at approximately 8:41 p.m.

UPDATE: 7:24 a.m., Monday, Oct. 3: Firefighters continue to work the Delamar Fire north of Big Bear Lake and the community of Fawnskin. The fire is visible from various locations within Big Bear Valley. It is estimated at 15 acres and is 20 percent contained.

There is no immediate threat to the community, no highway closures or evacuations.

US Forest Service, **San Bernardino County Fire** and CalFire units are on the scene. Forest Service night air attack and night helicopters worked the fire overnight and are being reinforced with additional aircraft Monday morning.

For public safety reasons, the Pacific Crest Trail is closed Monday, Oct. 3, between Forest roads 3N14 and 2N09.

There are 19 engines, six crews, one dozer, one water tender, air attack and one helicopter on the scene. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

UPDATE: 11 p.m. Oct. 2: The Delamar Fire north of Fawnskin is at 15 acres with brush and timber burning. There is also a small spot fire about a quarter-mile north of the main fire on the back side of the ridge.

The fire is burning to the north with slow to moderate rate of spread. There are 19 engines, six crews, one water tender, air attack and one helicopter.

There is no immediate threat to the community, no highway closures or evacuations. The incident command center is located at the Fawnskin Fire Station on Rim of the World Drive near North Shore Drive.

Flames are visible from certain areas of Big Bear Valley.

UPDATE: 10:34 p.m. Oct. 2: The cause of fire is under investigation. There is no immediate threat to the community, no highway closures or evacuations.

Forest Service, San Bernardino County Fire and CalFire San Bernardino Unit firefighters are on the scene. Forest Service night air attack and night helicopter are assigned to the fire. The Big Bear City Airport is being utilized by the units.

A spot fire has been located near the main fire and firefighters are responding to it as well. Units from the San Bernardino National Forest and CalFire responded to a fire north of Fawnskin in the San Bernardino National Forest at 8:41 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2.

The Delamar Incident is about 5 acres with potential for 50 acres. No structures are threatened at this time. Air support is on the scene. A water tender has been requested. Flames are visible from North Shore Drive.

An incident command center has been established near the Fawnskin Fire Station on Rim of the World Drive. More information will be provided as soon as it becomes available.

[http://www.bigbeargrizzly.net/news/fire-burning-north-of-fawnskin/article\\_f0c1c562-8922-11e6-990d-fb8ca193f066.html](http://www.bigbeargrizzly.net/news/fire-burning-north-of-fawnskin/article_f0c1c562-8922-11e6-990d-fb8ca193f066.html)

---

## **Public safety unions get their way with councils**

**Sal Rodriguez, Press Enterprise**

Posted: September 30, 2016, 5:26 PM

Public employee unions exist to advocate for their members, often campaigning for policies at odds with the best interests of the general public.

The so-called public safety unions are in a unique position. Representing some of the most esteemed and highest paid of government employees, they have lots of money to dole out and are more than comfortable exaggerating threats to public safety if it helps their cause.

Cases in point: ballot initiatives in Hemet, Riverside and San Bernardino tainted by undue influence from public safety unions.

Hemet has been plagued by polarizing debates over public safety and taxes for the past several years. In 2014, soon before the November elections, the City Council voted to contract for fire services, deeming it the best available option.

This prompted a flood of money from firefighters unions across Riverside County to help elect candidates favorable to the city's firefighters union, which opposed contracting.

It worked, and the newly elected council quickly reversed the decision to contract, and has focused on tax hikes ever since.

In June, voters rejected the union-backed Measure E sales tax increase. Rather than reconsider the decision to capitulate to union demands, the council instead decided to put another tax on the November ballot.

In Riverside, the city, which last year was boasting about a \$1 million surplus and felt so good it decided to give police officers a \$4 million raise the city hadn't actually budgeted for, has put on the November ballot a one-percent sales tax.

Expected to raise about \$50 million a year, Measure Z is touted as necessary for the future of Riverside.

With a name like "City of Riverside Public Safety and Vital City Services Measure," it certainly sounds important. Of course, if passed Measure Z revenues can be spent however the council likes and there are no guarantees about how the money will be spent, with one notable exception.

On Tuesday, the City Council approved a contract with the city's police union which, among other things, will give police officers a bigger raise if voters approve a tax increase. It's quite the incentive.

According to recent filings, the police union has already contributed \$12,500 to the Measure Z campaign. Firefighters union president Tim Strack told The Press-Enterprise that he already had \$100,000 in commitments for the campaign.

Behind any talk of the need for more money for "public safety," is really just a desire for bigger raises and budgets.

In San Bernardino, voters will consider changes to the city charter, the document which outlines the city's structure of government. The city's long, complex charter is most certainly in need of replacement.

A volunteer committee spent two years working on a more concise charter sure to make city government more efficient. But when it came time for the city to move forward with the document, the council insisted on adding a requirement in the charter that the city must have its own police department.

Two council members, realizing the importance of allowing the city to be flexible and having the option to contract if necessary, opposed the addition.

"We are disappointed that Councilmembers Fred Shorett and James Mulvihill do not share their colleagues' commitment to public safety," the city's police union declared.

Thus, San Bernardino will have a shot at a better charter, but with an added clause for the benefit of the union.

The public will need to see through the rhetoric of the unions or face higher taxes and substandard services.

<http://www.pe.com/articles/public-814696-odds-employee.html>

## For families displaced by Bluecut Fire, restoring power can be harder than maintaining hope

Matthew Cabe, Daily Press

Posted: October 1, 2016, 10:09 AM



WEST CAJON VALLEY — Every three days, Michael Choi drives west along a narrow dirt road to Young Yoo's home, filling two 50-gallon plastic drums with water from Yoo's well.

Choi, 74, who moved here from South Korea eight years ago, then returns to the property where a house he and his wife, Sarah, rented from Yoo no longer stands, one of the more than 100 homes destroyed by the Bluecut Fire.

Yoo's own home — situated about half a mile from where the Chois house stood — was spared, but flames engulfed his orchard of 300 cherry, apple and jujube trees; 20 or so remain. Still, Yoo, 73, is "a lucky man" in Michael Choi's eyes because Yoo, who emigrated from Seoul, South Korea, nearly 20 years ago, has electricity to power the pump to his well that's considered one of the most reliable in the area.

The Chois have no electricity, which renders their well useless, save the droplets that dribble out of a spigot into a metal bowl every few seconds. So, the water taken from Yoo's well allows them to tend to the remains of what was once an expansive orchard.

As Sarah Choi siphons water from the drums into paint buckets with a garden hose, her husband explains how they've been affected.

"Tragedy, you know?" Michael Choi said. "Tragedy, tragedy, tragedy on my life. Before (the fire) burn house, I made \$1,000 a month (selling) plants, vegetables. So I can make money. But not now, even one dollar. No make money. So I (have) very, very big problem."

Nearly 50 days have passed since the Bluecut Fire torched more than 36,000 acres and covered much of the High Desert in a blanket of smoke. In that time, the Chois began renting somewhere else while Yoo has worked to sort out the electricity issue with Southern California Edison.

Yoo needs power before he can even think of rebuilding the destroyed home.

On Thursday, as he awaited on an SCE representative to arrive for a 9:30 a.m. appointment, he told the Daily Press he's not the only one in this predicament.

“Korean people, maybe 16 (homes) all gone. I know just the Koreans,” he said, implying that 16 isn’t a full tally.

When the SCE rep arrived, he relayed information to which Yoo wasn’t privy: most of the responsibility for returning power to the property will rest on Yoo’s shoulders.

In situations like Yoo’s, temporary service — up to one year — is the preferred option, according to SCE spokesman Robert Laffoon-Villegas. For that, a new service pole and electrical panel must be purchased by the SCE customer. The pole and panel then have to be installed in a spot that’s accessible by an SCE vehicle.

Before SCE can install a new meter, however, a laundry list of arduous steps must be achieved by the customer, including pulling permits with San Bernardino County, filing an application with and paying a \$437 fee to SCE, getting the site inspected and labeling the panel with the proper address.

Laffoon-Villegas said the fee is waived in cases of “total loss” like Yoo’s, and he acknowledged the significant burden the process creates for customers who’ve been displaced.

“It is a daunting process for the homeowner,” he said, “but because of the nature of the services we’re providing, we can’t take chances on safety. We couldn’t, in good conscious, connect someone if the work wasn’t done properly.”

SCE has approximately 5 million accounts in its coverage area, according to Laffoon-Villegas, who said the company has replaced 550 poles, 100 transformers and more than 300,000 feet of wire as a result of the Bluecut Fire.

Then came a moment of empathy.

“I used to work in the insurance business,” Laffoon-Villegas said, “and I’ve seen a lot of people who’ve lost their homes. It’s devastating. The shock wears off eventually, but then getting back to where you were before is daunting. We’re very cognizant of that.

“It may take a long time for the community to come back to where it was before the fire. We do everything we can on our side of the meter in order to be there once their side of the work is done.”

And so the process remains. Laffoon-Villegas said construction companies are more accustomed to it than homeowners, and SCE includes a service number on every bill for customers who need help learning the steps.

For conversations hindered by language barriers, Laffoon-Villegas said SCE provides “language lines” that should help.

“If customers call and indicate their language, we can accommodate them,” he said.

Yoo completed the first step — contacting SCE for a spot — by meeting with the rep on Thursday, but it could be months before power is restored. In the meantime, the Chois clean debris off the property to keep their minds from a catastrophic reality.



But a majority of the work involves removing all that they've lost. Sarah Choi, her face protected from the sun by a floral-patterned bonnet, bends down to pick up a carcass off the dirt where a coop once housed 62 chickens that didn't survive the fire.

"I come here, I have a headache," she said through tears. "Many thinking and all the time sad."

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20161001/for-families-displaced-by-bluecut-fire-restoring-power-can-be-harder-than-maintaining-hope>

---

## Transient arrested in Waterman Canyon arson fires

Douglas W. Motley, Alpenhorn News

Posted: October 1, 2016

A 20-year-old Hispanic male transient, identified by authorities as Edwin Lizano, was arrested in the early morning hours of Monday, September 26 on two counts of arson related to two suspicious wildland fires set late Sunday and early Monday in Waterman Canyon.

The first blaze, dubbed “The Old Fire,” which was reported around 10 p.m. Sunday in the lower end of Waterman Canyon reportedly charred about 25 square feet of dry chaparral before it was quickly brought under control by units from Cal Fire, U.S. Forest Service and **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

A second blaze, dubbed “The Canyon Fire,” was reported at 12:31 a.m. Monday near what was described as “the second bridge” on Old Waterman Canyon Road. It was held by firefighters to about two acres. According to U.S. Forest Service spokesman Gregg Goodland, one bulldozer, as well as a night-vision helicopter from the Angeles National Forest aided firefighters on the ground. Goodland said the copter wasn’t needed for water drops, but that it aided in searching for nearby spot fires.

San Bernardino County Fire Marshal Mike Horton told *The Alpenhorn News* Tuesday that several residents of Waterman Canyon were able to capture and detain the alleged arsonist until he could be handcuffed and placed under arrest by authorities. Horton dispelled reports on a local Facebook page that there were two suspects, one of which was seen fleeing northbound on Highway 18 in a white Jeep Wrangler. “The suspect was down on the ground on Old Waterman Canyon Road with the Forest Service, not on Highway 18,” Horton said.

According to County Fire Lead Investigator Brian Headley, Lizano was transported by ambulance to St. Bernardine Medical Center for a checkup, after which the San Bernardino Police Department transported him to County Jail for booking.” Lizano’s bail has been set at \$250,000.

Asked whether Lizano may have been responsible for a suspicious brush fire reported around 5 p.m. Sunday in the hills above Sterling Avenue and Foothill Drive in San Bernardino, Headley said, because of the distance between the fires, that it’s unlikely the arrested arson suspect was involved in the Sterling/Foothill fire.

Headley said he couldn’t discuss what may have been responsible for Sunday’s Sterling fire or any of the other dozen or so fires set in the foothills above San Bernardino since June of this year because it could compromise the investigations. “We are working with our sister agencies in aggressively investigating all of the San Bernardino foothill fires.”

In emphasizing the importance of witnesses reporting arson suspect information, Fire Marshal Horton said, “If you see something, say something.” He said witnesses are encouraged to call the Arson Hotline at 1-800-47-ARSON.

<http://alpenhornnews.com/transient-arrested-in-waterman-canyon-arson-fires-p7532-155.htm>