



NEWS



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Transformer explosion causes oil spill in Adelanto

Shea Johnson, Daily Press

Posted: February 20, 2017, 11:16 AM



A transformer explosion at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Converter Station here Saturday morning cracked a seal and spilled mineral oil. [Photo courtesy of the City of Adelanto]

ADELANTO — A transformer explosion at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Converter Station here Saturday morning cracked a seal and spilled mineral oil, Adelanto spokesman Michael Stevens said Monday.

The explosion occurred at 7:15 a.m. Saturday, and the mineral oil isn't toxic, according to Stevens. But while most of the leak was contained to the 300-acre site on Aster Road, oil was discovered as far as nearly 2 miles north at Aster and Bartlett Avenue.

"Even though the oil isn't toxic," Mayor Rich Kerr said in a statement, "we could have had quite a mess had the majority of the leak escaped DWP property."

Stevens said the exact size of the leak was unknown because the majority of it was contained in a pit underneath the transformer, which he said was a purposeful design in case of transformer failure.

San Bernardino County Fire, which along with LA County DWP and Adelanto's public works crews responded to the scene, had reported on Twitter that the leak was possibly 2,000 gallons.

Kerr said residents were never in danger and no one was injured. Stevens said that oil didn't seep into the city's water table, and that oil was to be removed from contaminated dirt.

Booms were in place at several key points along the drainage path to isolate and retain the oil, Stevens said. Public works crews had used a city-owned loader, and a rented one, to "build a makeshift detention pond" on the property to capture escaped oil and to construct two additional ponds.

"My hat is off to our operator Lowell Thomas, who, in addition to digging the detention pond, moved 325 yards of dirt to create a 4-foot berm around the detention pond in the event of failure," Kerr said.

For more information about Saturday's explosion, contact the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power at 760-246-6932.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170220/transformer-explosion-causes-oil-spill-in-adelanto>

LADWP Transformer Explosion Causes Oil Leak in Adelanto

24/7 Headline News

Posted: February 20, 2017

ADELANTO – A Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Converter Station transformer located in the City of Adelanto exploded on Saturday morning officials said. The incident that was reported at around 7:15 a.m. could have been disastrous, but the quick action of crews, Adelanto Public Works, and the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** the risk was quickly mitigated.

The explosion at the 300-acre station on Aster Road in the City of Adelanto was caused by a cracked seal which caused a leak of non-toxic mineral oil. “The disaster would have been if the leak had not been contained on site,” said Adelanto Mayor Rich Kerr in a news release. “The residents of Adelanto were in no danger at any time because the situation was quickly contained by LADWP staff with the help of Adelanto Public Works crews and County Fire.”

City officials said that much of the leak was contained in a pit under the transformer as it is designed to do in the case of failure. “Although the majority of the oil was captured and retained on site, we know that some material was discovered as far north as Bartlett Avenue and Aster Roads, almost 2 miles away,” said Kerr.

The oil, along with the water used to extinguish the fire and overnight rain water drained from the site of the explosion and could have caused a potential disaster. “Even though the oil isn’t toxic, we could have had quite a mess had the majority of the leak escaped D.W.P. property,” said Kerr.

City of Adelanto officials said that booms were placed at several key points along the drainage path to isolate and retain the oil while allowing the water to drain while the majority of the oil stood within the D.W.P. property. Adelanto Public Works responded to assist and used city-owned and rented loader to build multiple makeshift detention ponds on D.W.P. property to capture the oil that escaped the explosion site. “My hat is off to our operator Lowell Thomas, who, in addition to digging the detention pond moved 325 yards of dirt to create a four-foot berm around the detention pond in the event of failure,” said Kerr.

The oil fortunately did not seep into the water table and the water and oil was to be siphoned and the contaminated dirt removed.” Fortunately no one was injured in Saturday’s explosion, and it appears that D.W.P. crews executed their contingency plan as they were trained to make sure the situation didn’t deteriorate,” said Kerr.

<https://247headline.com/ladwp-transformer-explosion-causes-oil-leak-in-adelanto/>

Firefighters extinguish residential structure fire in Old Town Victorville

Jose Quintero, Daily Press

Posted: February 21, 2017, 10:55 AM



Firefighters work to extinguish a residential structure fire at the intersection of Fifth and B streets in Victorville on Tuesday morning. [Jeremy Kern, San Bernardino County Fire Department]

VICTORVILLE — Firefighters extinguished a residential structure fire at the intersection of Fifth and B streets in Victorville on Tuesday morning.

San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel responded to the blaze, reported at 10:15 a.m., and found the single-family home engulfed in flames. Firefighters found heavy smoke and flames coming through the front door and took an interior attack. Firefighters cut a hole in the roof for ventilation, according to fire officials on scene.

Firefighters knocked down the blaze at approximately 10:50 a.m. No injuries were reported to any residents or firefighters, according to County Fire spokesman Eric Sherwin. There were three fire engines, a truck, chief officer and a fire investigator on scene, according to Sherwin.

The cause of fire was under investigation Tuesday.

According to scanner traffic, American Red Cross officials were requested to assist two adults and multiple children.

This story is developing and will be updated as more information is released.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170221/firefighters-extinguish-residential-structure-fire-in-old-town-victorville>

Blaze Rips through Victorville Home Leaving Seven Displaced

Christie Martin, 24/7 Headline News

Posted: February 21, 2017

VICTORVILLE – Two adults and five children are displaced following a fire at the corner of 5th and B Streets on Tuesday morning. According to **San Bernardino County Fire Department** public information officer Eric Sherwin, the fire at the single-story home was reported at around 10:15 a.m.

When firefighters arrived the home in the 15500 block of 5th Street the home was fully involved with smoke and flames showing. Firefighters aggressively attacked the fire using hose lines and vertical ventilation. A total of three fire engines, a truck, a chief officer and a fire investigator responded to the scene officials said.

No injuries were reported as a result of the fire. As of 11:00 a.m. the firefighters were still working on fully extinguishing the fire. The Red Cross was called to provide assistance to the residents. Animal control was requested at the scene to provide shelter for the residents now displaced pets. The cause of the fire remains under investigation at this time. This story is still developing and information will be updated as it is received.

<https://247headline.com/blaze-rips-through-victorville-home-leaving-seven-displaced/>

7 Displaced After House Fire in Old Town Victorville

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: February 21, 2017



(Photo credit SBCoFD)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com)- A family of seven were displaced after a fire broke in old town Victorville Tuesday morning.

At about 10:20 a.m., dispatch received reports of a house on fire at the corner of Fifth and B Streets.

The fire was across the street from a Historical Point of Interest in the City of Victorville, the First Church in Victorville

San Bernardino County Firefighters arrived on scene and located large flames showing from the roof of a single story residence.

Firefighters went into the attack mode and are currently in the offensive mode and cut a hole in the roof for ventilation.

No injuries have been reported as a result of the fire. The Red Cross is assisting the 2 adults and 5 children that were in the house, per scanner reports.

The fire was out by 10:50 a.m. and a total of three fire engines, a truck, chief officer and a fire investigator responded.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. Building and safety have been requested to respond.

Information will be updated as it becomes available.

<http://www.vvng.com/firefighters-battle-house-fire-old-town-victorville/>

Several Kittens, Puppies Found Dead In Victorville House Fire

CBS 2 News

Posted: February 22, 2017, 7:46 AM

VICTORVILLE (CBSLA.com) — Three kittens, three puppies and a dog were found dead in a house fire in Victorville, authorities said Wednesday.

Firefighters found visible flames and smoke coming out of the home in the 15500 block of Fifth Street when they responded to the residence just after 10 a.m. The fire was under control within 15 minutes, but several pets were found dead, **San Bernardino County Fire** spokesman Capt. Jeremy Kern said.

No injuries to civilians or firefighters were reported.

Authorities say the fire is suspected to be arson. Anyone with information about the fire can contact Investigator Mike Ward at (760) 995-8190.

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/02/22/several-kittens-puppies-found-dead-in-victorville-house-fire/>

Skiers briefly stranded on lift after outage at Mountain High

Associated Press via Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: February 21, 2017, 2:42 PM

WRIGHTWOOD — About three dozen skiers and snowboarders were stuck on a chairlift for more than an hour during a power outage at Southern California's Mountain High resort.

The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** says several riders called 911 when the lifts suddenly stopped around 8:45 p.m. Monday.

Officials say emergency crews responded but nobody needed medical attention.

The mountain eventually got its backup generator online and the lifts started moving again around 10:15 p.m.

The fire department says a downed power line was found just east of the resort.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170221/skiers-briefly-stranded-on-lift-after-outage-at-mountain-high>

Sheriff's officials fatally shoot dog after man mauled by 'extremely aggressive pit bulls'

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: February 21, 2017, 4:58 PM



San Bernardino County Deputy S. Hamilton picks up the clothing of a man which was attacked by dogs in Victorville CA on Tuesday Feb. 21, 2017. The man was severely injured in an attack by two dogs, which continued attacking even as fire and sheriff's officials arrived. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

VICTORVILLE — A man was airlifted to a trauma center after he was attacked by "two extremely aggressive pit bulls," one of which was fatally shot, in Victorville on Tuesday afternoon, authorities said.

The incident occurred in the 14500 block of Anacapa Road just after 4 p.m. Tuesday. Victorville Sheriff's Station Deputy S. Hamilton said the man was walking through an alley in the area when he was mauled by two pit bulls.

"He was bit everywhere," Hamilton said. "It's the worst animal attack I've ever seen."

The man was still being attacked by the dogs when Sheriff's officials and **San Bernardino County Fire Department** personnel first arrived. Fire personnel used "forcible entry tools" from their engine to establish a safe area around the victim, according to County Fire spokesman Jeff Allen.

Hamilton said one dog was shot about 4 times, but the second dog ran away, and Sheriff's officials were still trying to determine where the dogs came from.

The severity of the man's injuries wasn't given but he was treated and flown to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center. No other injuries were reported.

The incident remains under investigation and anyone with information is urged to contact the Victorville Sheriff's Station at 760-241-2911.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170221/sheriffs-officials-fatally-shoot-dog-after-man-mauled-by-extremely-aggressive-pit-bulls>

Completion of 15 Freeway repairs are 7-10 days away, Caltrans says

Brian Rokos, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: February 21, 2017, 6:27 PM



Construction crews work to repair four southbound lanes of Interstate 15 through the Cajon Pass, which sustained significant damage from last weeks heavy rain, Tuesday afternoon, February 21, 2017. A 200-foot section of the southbound freeway's No. 5 lane collapsed Friday night due to an overflowed creek weakening the road's base, according to a Caltrans news release. A big-rig and a San Bernardino County fire engine were taken out during the collapse. (Photo by John Valenzuela/The Sun)

A round-the-clock operation to repair and reinforce a portion of the southbound 15 Freeway in the Cajon Pass that was eroded by a river of debris should be completed in seven to 10 days, Caltrans said Tuesday.

Contractor Skanska is rolling in seven truckloads of dirt per hour to fill the spot where the shoulder and right lane collapsed Friday, claiming a semi-truck and a fire engine. Concrete will be poured by the end of the week, weather permitting, Caltrans spokeswoman Terri Kasinga said.

The concrete will then need time to set.

Caltrans on Saturday authorized \$3 million for emergency repairs. The agency then tabbed Skanska, which is realigning Summit Valley Road off Highway 138, about 5 miles east of where the 15 Freeway washed out.

Skanska is taking dirt from that project to rebuild the base of the 15 Freeway. To clear a path for the trucks, Highway 138 has been closed between the 15 Freeway and Summit Valley Road.

Caltrans may reopen that portion of Highway 138 in time for the morning commute today, if that repair is completed in time, Kasinga said. Motorists can follow the Inland Caltrans district on Twitter @Caltrans8 for updates.

In the area of the 15 Freeway where the No. 5 lane collapsed, about one-eighth mile south of Highway 138, the freeway has been restriped into four narrower lanes. Traffic has been flowing well, Kasinga said, as motorists are observing Caltrans' request to slow down and limit lane changes in the area.

"We thank the traveling public for their patience and cooperation," she said.

Caltrans is trying to prevent the erosion from happening again. Construction crews will replace the slope with "a lot stronger base" that includes grout, boulders and rocks, Kasinga said.

Crews also will replace existing slope protection with that mix for one-quarter mile to the south.

The damage resulted from a debris flow from the area of the Blue Cut fire, which burned 105 homes and 8,110 acres in August.

The riverbed between railroad tracks and the 15 Freeway is usually dry, Kasinga said. But a heavy storm Friday changed that.

With the fire having robbed the hillside of vegetation that holds the ground stable, a mix of ash, rocks and mud was let loose and overwhelmed the freeway's base, Kasinga said.

"This was not a typical debris flow that was brought on by heavy rains," she said. "It was almost like a flow of cement."

A **San Bernardino County Fire Department** engine heading south on the 15 Freeway after responding to flooding in the West Cajon Valley went over the side of the road when the lane collapsed, though the crew made it out safely.

Fire Department spokeswoman Tracey Martinez said the engine, valued at \$600,000, was totaled. The engine also carried about \$200,000 worth of equipment such as computers and medical and rescue gear, and while some of it was salvaged, "the majority of it was ruined," Martinez said.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170221/completion-of-15-freeway-repairs-are-7-10-days-away-caltrans-says>

Chemical Spill at Cajon Pass Scales Prompts Hazardous Material Response

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: February 22, 2017



CAJON PASS, Calif. (VVNG.com)- **San Bernardino County Firefighters** responded to a hazardous materials incident at the cajon pass scales Tuesday afternoon.

The leak was first noticed at about 4:00 p.m. when a semi truck entered the scales on the northbound I-15 freeway located just south of Highway 138.

The California Highway Patrol requested County Fire to respond to the incident.

Firefighters responded and ultimately located a 55-gallon drum in the back of the trailer leaking an unknown substance, stated San Bernardino County Fire Public Information Officer Eric Sherwin. The First Alarm Hazmat response included an engine, chief officer, ambulance, hazmat rig. The response was reinforced by hazmat 73 from Fontana, medic engine 2 from Devore, County hazmat personnel, and station 22 hazmat from Spring Valley Lake.

According to CHP logs, the spilled substance was described as “hypo chloride” However, Eric Sherwin said the leaked material had not been “definitely identified”.

The leak was stopped at about 6:30 p.m. “The contents of the drum have been placed in a proper container so there is no further threat of the leak,” stated Sherwin.

No injuries or complaint of ill effects were reported as a result of the leak.

<http://www.vvng.com/chemical-spill-cajon-pass-scales-prompts-hazardous-material-response/>