DATE: August 10, 2014
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Victor Valley Transit Authority, County Fire and CHP rescue overheated travelers

Date/Time: August 7, 2014, 2:43pm
Location: Interstate 15 near Dale Evans Parkway
Incident: Twenty (20) Stranded and Overheated Tourists on Interstate in Desert

SUMMARY: At 2:43pm on August 7, the San Bernardino County Fire Communications Center received an emergency call for assistance for twenty overheated tourists stranded for five (5) hours along Interstate 15 in the Desert.

County Firefighters were immediately dispatched along with units from the California Highway Patrol and AMR to assess for medical related emergencies. Upon arrival, crews found the tourists, some of them children, had been stranded in the Desert without air conditioning for nearly five hours, with ambient air temperatures exceeding 95 degrees.

The disabled charter company bus was not affiliated in any way with Victor Valley Transit Authority (VVTA). Despite no affiliation, when requested by Firefighters, VVTA provided immediate assistance and responded without delay and arrived to the scene in forty-five minutes. VVTA then transported all of the overheated tourists, free of charge, to the Mall of Victor Valley for air conditioning and food. VVTA operates all public bus routes throughout the Victor Valley and works with Firefighters to serve the public during emergencies when large-capacity transportation needs exist.

One Paramedic Engine Company, one CHP unit, one AMR Ambulance and VVTA responded to this incident. Fortunately, there were no serious medical emergencies resulting from this situation and no occupants were transported by ambulance to the hospital.

Safety Message from your County Firefighter Paramedics: When traveling during the hot months, please remember to have ample supplies of drinking water and limit your intake of energy and soda drinks.