



# NEWS



## News Headlines 2/9/2017

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## Vacant Victorville Coco's destroyed by fire

Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: February 9, 2017, 7:35 AM



Fire destroyed the vacant Coco's restaurant on the 15500 block of Park Avenue Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2017, in Victorville. (Photo courtesy of the San Bernardino County Fire Department)

VICTORVILLE >> A shuttered Coco's restaurant was destroyed by a late-night fire Wednesday, and authorities are investigating the cause of the blaze.

“(The building) is known to house some transients and it's something that we're looking into but right now we don't know why the fire started,” said Eric Sherwin, spokesman for the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**. No one was hurt in the fire.

The fire was first reported just before 10 p.m. at the former restaurant located in the 15500 block of Park Avenue, Sherwin said.

It took two dozen firefighters about half an hour to knock down the blaze.

Initial reports to fire officials said a nearby hotel was on fire, said Sherwin, but arriving fire crews soon determined it was the vacant restaurant that was ablaze.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170209/vacant-victorville-cocos-destroyed-by-fire>

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## Former Coco's Bakery in Victorville Destroyed By Fire

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: February 9, 2017



A San Bernardino County Firefighter runs through flames at the former Coco's Bakery Restaurant in Victorville. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)



The former Coco's Bakery caught fire Wednesday night. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com)- Fire officials are investigating a fire at the old Coco's Restaurant in Victorville Wednesday night.

At about 9:53 p.m. on February 8th **San Bernardino County Fire** was dispatched to the 15500 block of Park Avenue reference a hotel on fire. Upon arrival, firefighters discovered large flames and heavy smoke coming from the former Coco's Restuarant which closed its door in March of 2015.

Since the restaurant abruptly shuttered the location has been a constant problem with transients frequenting the vacant business.

"Our biggest concern is that it's frequented by local homeless and so that was our priority when we arrived on scene," stated San Bernardino County Fire Captain David Burkart.

Firefighters called this incident a 2 alarm fire, meaning they brought in extra crews since another building sits right next to this old restaurant.

In total four engines, three trucks, one squad, one heavy rescue, one investigator, and three Chief Officers responded for a total of 23 personnel.

According to Chief Burkart, “when the first engine arrived on scene they went interior to the building to try and extinguish the fire. When the first truck arrived on scene we sent them to the roof to establish ventilation so we can make the interior more obtainable for the firefighters. We proceeded to work and extinguish the fire.”

It took firefighters approximately 20 minutes to knock down the fire. Firefighters are expected to remain on scene for several hours for overhaul operations.

At about 11:45 p.m. firefighters cleared the building and confirmed no one was inside, per scanner reports.

Investigators are working to determine the cause of the fire.

<http://www.vvng.com/former-cocos-bakery-victorville-destroyed-fire/>

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## **Fire Rips Through Closed Down Victorville Coco’s Restaurant**

24/7 Headline News

Posted: February 9, 2017

VICTORVILLE – **San Bernardino County firefighters** rushed to a fire at the closed Coco’s Restaurant located at 15570 Park Avenue East at around 9:55 p.m.

Following the initial and later confirmed report of the fire being at the Coco’s Restaurant, subsequent reports came in reporting that the fire was at a nearby hotel. Early reports indicated that screaming for help was heard and someone may have been trapped inside of the restaurant that was suddenly shut down last spring. When fire officials arrived at the over 6,000 square foot structure they determined that the screaming for help heard was a patron at the motel next door.

Firefighters went to the roof to provide vertical ventilation, while others attempted to make entry into the restaurant. The firefighters had difficulties making entry due to it being boarded up to prevent illegal entry by those seeking shelter. Approximately 23 fire personnel arrived at the scene to assist with fighting the blaze, which caused a plume of smoke and flames that can be seen from miles away. The building was cleared of occupants during the primary search. The fire was knocked down at around 10:15 p.m. and a secondary search confirmed that no one was inside of the structure.

No injuries were reported to firefighters or civilians. The cause of the fire and estimated damage remains under investigation at this time. Information will be updated as it becomes available.

<https://247headline.com/fire-rips-through-closed-down-victorville-cocos-restaurant/>

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## Community Paramedics improve patient quality of life

Hesperia Star

Posted: February 8, 2017, 9:32 AM



Chief Mark A. Hartwig, right, applauds the County Fire Paramedics making a difference. Photo by SBCFD

SAN BERNARDINO - In January 2015, **San Bernardino County Fire (SBCoFD)** was chosen to conduct one of 13 pilot projects in California aimed at studying the value of community paramedicine.

Community paramedicine (CP) is an innovative model of care services that uses paramedics and emergency medical services (EMS) to treat local patients and meet their health care needs directly in their homes. For this study, SBCoFD has partnered with Rialto Fire Department, San Bernardino County Department of Public Health, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC), and the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA) to provide post-discharge follow-up visits to patients with congestive heart failure (CHF) in Fontana, Hesperia, and Victorville.

"Community paramedicine is the next innovation in healthcare," said Fire Chief Mark Hartwig. "The goal of this program is to augment the patient's current plan of care with resources currently established within the community which will provide the patient with the education and tools to maintain and improve wellness outside the hospital."

The pilot project's objective is to reach out to CHF patients within the first 48-72 hours of being released from ARMC and improve the quality of life for the patient by decreasing the rate of readmission to the hospital and reducing the need to access 911 for non-emergencies.

A statewide evaluation of the pilot project found that community paramedics identified 129 post-discharge patients (14 percent) who misunderstood how to take their medications or had duplicate medications and were at risk for adverse effects (Coffman, Wides, Niedwiecki, & Geyn, 2017). The evaluation also found that four of five post-discharge pilot projects achieve cost savings for payers, primarily Medicare and Medi-Cal due to reductions in inpatient readmissions within 30 days of discharge. Hospitals realized savings as well by lowering their risk of being penalized by Medicare for having excess readmissions.

The community paramedicine pilot projects also accumulated savings for parts of the health care system due to fewer ambulance transports, emergency department visits, and hospital readmissions. Thus far the pilot project has shown that EMS and paramedics can facilitate more appropriate use of emergency care resources

and/or enhance access to primary care for medically underserved populations when they function outside their customary role as an emergency transportation service.

In preparation for this project, SBCoFD specially trained 17 firefighter paramedics in CHF patient assessment, medication reconciliation, laboratory evaluations, and home safety inspections. State officials have extended the project through November 2017. SBCoFD has enrolled 179 post-discharge patients since 2015 and expect to enroll up to 300 before the end of the project.

During a visit, SBCoFD Community Paramedics perform a detailed physical assessment on the patient and ensure they are maintaining or improving their post-discharge status. They also will consult with the patient and/or caregiver to ensure the patient understands their condition, is eating properly, and knows how to take prescription medications. Visits also include a home safety check to reduce risk of accidental injury and to avoid potential emergencies.

San Bernardino County is home to one of the largest per capita populations of CHF patients in the U.S. Sufferers of this condition who are unable to properly have their disease managed depend on the emergency medical system (both 911 and emergency departments) to keep their condition in check; community paramedics help address the healthcare needs of this population.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department is an all-risk/full-service fire department committed to providing premier fire services through a balance of regionalized delivery and accountability to our local communities. We provide services beyond emergency response through our Office of Emergency Services, Office of the Fire Marshal, and state-of-the-art Communications Center. Our jurisdiction encompasses 19,278 square miles of extremely diverse deserts, mountains and valleys that span from the Los Angeles County line to the Colorado River and include over 60 distinct communities/cities.

<http://www.hesperia.com/news/20170208/community-paramedics-improve-patient-quality-of-life>

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## Firefighters prevent vehicle fire from spreading to home Wednesday

Jose Quintero, Daily Press

Posted: February 8, 2017, 11:13 AM



A San Bernardino County firefighter douses a burnt car on Wednesday. The car became completely involved in flames inside the garage, but firefighters were able to keep it from spreading to the structure. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

**VICTORVILLE - San Bernardino County Fire Department** Captain Jesse Martinez and his crew arrived to a vehicle fire Wednesday morning in the 13100 block of Pacific Terrace and knew he had to "act quick" to save the home from the threatening flames.

Firefighters responded at 10:07 a.m. and found a Chevrolet Yukon fully engulfed in flames in the driveway with the fire threatening the home.

"The flames and black smoke was shooting into the garage," Martinez said. "I knew we had to act quick. I evacuated the residents of the house and made them go into the backyard because it wasn't safe to come to the front yard. I had my firefighter knock down the fire and he got out it within minutes. It was a close call. If the residents would have waited a few more minutes to call 911 we would have had a vehicle and structure fire."

The fire was contained to the front end of the SUV and no injuries were reported.

The residents told the Daily Press that the vehicle was not on when they noticed the fire. The residents said they grabbed a water hose and hoped the blaze would not spread to their newly purchased home.

Martinez said an electrical issue in the SUV is believed to be the cause of fire.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170208/firefighters-prevent-vehicle-fire-from-spreading-to-home-wednesday>

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## **San Bernardino structure fire causes intersection to be shut down**

**Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun**

Posted: February 8, 2017, 4:20 PM

SAN BERNARDINO >> A busy San Bernardino intersection was shut down temporarily as firefighters battled an abandoned building fire Wednesday morning, officials said.

The fire was first reported just after 9 a.m. at 17th Street and Mt. Vernon Avenue and led to authorities to ask San Bernardino police to shut down traffic to the intersection.

“We were called out for traffic control,” Sgt. John Cardillo said.

The fire was knocked down after about 15 minutes, according to initial information provided by **San Bernardino County Fire** officials.

By 9:30 a.m., the northbound lanes of Mt. Vernon Avenue had been reopened, but police and fire personnel remained in the area.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170208/san-bernardino-structure-fire-causes-intersection-to-be-shut-down>

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## Woman injured after Wednesday afternoon rollover crash in Victorville

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: February 8, 2017, 4:29 PM



Southern California Edison Workers help remove a light pole knocked over by a car in Victorville CA on Wednesday Feb. 8, 2017. The driver lost control of the car while attempting a u-turn and struck a fire hydrant and pole before the SUV flipped. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

**VICTORVILLE** – Authorities said a woman suffered minor injuries after a rollover crash Wednesday afternoon.

The crash, which occurred near the intersection of Jasmine and Yuma streets, was reported just before 2:30 p.m. Wednesday. Victorville Sheriff's Station Deputy Zachary Vogel said the crash occurred as a woman in a dark green Jeep Cherokee was making a U-turn on Jasmine Street.

"She was headed east on Jasmine Street and made a U-turn to go west," Vogel said. "After making the U-turn, the vehicle left the roadway, hit the curb and hit a light pole, which caused the vehicle to flip and land on its roof."

Witnesses said the impact could be heard almost a block away, and the car was reportedly airborne as it overturned. The impact was hard enough to shear the light pole, and Southern California Edison personnel was requested for repairs.

While an extrication was initially requested, **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman Eric Sherwin said it wasn't needed. The woman suffered minor injuries and was taken to a local hospital for treatment.

There were no other passengers in the Jeep and no other vehicles involved.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation by the Victorville Sheriff's Station.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170208/woman-injured-after-wednesday-afternoon-rollover-crash-in-victorville>

## Man's Body Found Near Mount Baldy Area Where Missing Hiker Disappeared

Rob McMillan, ABC 7 News

Posted: February 08, 2017, 8:28PM



MOUNT BALDY, Calif. (KABC) --

A man's body has been found near the Mount Baldy area where a 23-year-old hiker went missing on Saturday, authorities said.

The deceased man was discovered Wednesday about 1,000 feet below the ridgetop on Devil's Backbone, a trail whose terrain is so treacherous that it is expected to complicate the recovery of the body. He was not immediately identified.

The grim discovery was made after a search-and-rescue team from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department scoured the area.

In an interview on Wednesday, hiker Terry Lynn Whitfield described Devil's Backbone as "way too slippery, way too dangerous."

"It's extremely rocky and it's a straight fall down," she said.

The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** said firefighters have made five rescue attempts so far this year. That includes an operation Jan. 26 after a pair of hikers were overtaken by an avalanche and slid several hundred feet down a hillside.

Both individuals survived the incident.

Some local residents say many hikers set out without being properly prepared.

"We saw one guy in shorts and a T-shirt and flip-flops," Whitfield said. "That was pretty ridiculous."

Ruth Parker, who has lived in the area since the mid-1980s, said some outdoor enthusiasts "underestimate Mount Baldy a lot when they're hiking."

"People come up here and think they can do whatever they want to do," she said. "It's not so."

<http://abc7.com/news/mans-body-found-near-mount-baldy-area-where-hiker-went-missing/1745299/>

## **Needles woman accused in blaze**

**Mohave Valley Daily News**

Posted: February 8, 2017, 11:03 PM

NEEDLES — A Needles woman has been arrested in connection with an early morning fire, authorities announced Wednesday.

Rosemary Carmen Tompkins, 26, was booked on suspicion of arson, the San Bernardino County Sheriff-Coroner's Department said.

At about 4:44 a.m., sheriff's deputies were called to the 2000 block of Flora Vista Street for a report of a structure fire.

Detectives conducted an investigation that led them to an apartment complex where they contacted Tompkins, according to a department press release.

She was taken to the Colorado River/Needles Police Station, where she was interviewed and subsequently arrested.

Tompkins was being held on \$100,000 bail.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Det. Nick Caronna or Det. Tim Preston at 760-326-9200. Any callers wishing to remain anonymous may call the We-tip Hotline at 1-800-782-7463 or leave information online at [www.wetip.com](http://www.wetip.com).

[http://www.mohavedailynews.com/news/needles-woman-accused-in-blaze/article\\_80b0f66e-ee8d-11e6-8c46-1f24446c7be8.html](http://www.mohavedailynews.com/news/needles-woman-accused-in-blaze/article_80b0f66e-ee8d-11e6-8c46-1f24446c7be8.html)