



NEWS



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Fire Family Foundation creates fund for Menifee firefighter's wife

MyValleyNews.com

Posted: December 10, 2016

Ten-year veteran of the San Bernardino County Fire Department, firefighter and paramedic David Bonney recently received the tragic news that his wife Melissa Bonney was struck by a truck, while in a crosswalk, after dropping off their daughter Kiya at school.

Melissa Bonney is currently in the intensive care unit at Inland Valley Medical Center in Wildomar with a severe head injury; she is in a chemically-induced coma to help with her recovery. Doctors are optimistic for her recovery, however, the stress and worry of the situation is a heavy weight for the rest of the family to bear. David Bonney and their children, 8-year-old Kiya and 10-year-old Caiden, are thankful for their friends and for the Fire Family Foundation who have shown tremendous help and support.

Fire Family Foundation has established the Bonney Family Fund to help support this fire family and the medical costs not covered by insurance, as well as ancillary expenses the family will encounter during these critical times.

All donations to Fire Family Foundation are tax-deductible. To make a donation to the Bonney Family Support Fund, visit www.FireFamilyFoundation.org.

Fire Family Foundation responds when tragedy affects firefighters and fire victims. The nonprofit was founded by Firefighters First Credit Union. Fire Family Foundation offers immediate assistance to firefighters and their families, fire victims, fire departments, and charities. The foundation believes that by coming together as a "Fire Family," assistance can be provided to those impacted by fire.

<http://myvalleynews.com/regional-news/fire-family-foundation-creates-fund-menifee-firefighters-wife/>

Woman suffers major injuries in SUV vs. semitrailer collision; Highway 395 closed for several hours

Monica Solano, VV Daily Press

Posted: Dec. 9, 2016, 11:56 a.m. Updated: Dec. 9, 9:02 p.m.

VICTORVILLE - Authorities shut down a stretch of Highway 395 on Friday when an SUV and semitrailer collided just north of Bear Valley Road.

The crash was reported a little before 11:30 a.m., according to scanner traffic. Authorities found a semitrailer off the road and a silver Toyota Sequoia with major damage to the passenger's side on Highway between Bear Valley and Luna roads.

San Bernardino County Victorville Sheriff's Station Deputy Amir Award said the Sequoia was traveling north on 395 and the semitrailer was traveling south when the collision occurred.

The female driver of the Sequoia was swerving back and forth, according to Awad and witnesses at the scene, when she lost control of the vehicle and turned in front of the semitrailer, causing it to strike the front passenger side of the Sequoia.

Matt Orr, 35, of Victorville, was traveling behind the Sequoia when he said it caught the end of the pavement

on the right shoulder and swerved out in front of the truck. Orr said he immediately called 911 to report the crash.

"I wasn't sure if she was reaching for something or she became unconscious at the moment, but I saw her swerve back and forth and that's when she turned and the truck had hit her," Orr said. "I went to make sure everyone was OK. The driver of the truck was really shaken up from what just happened."

San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel extricated the driver of the Sequoia and originally requested a helicopter to airlift her, but she was instead transported by ground to Desert Valley Hospital due to the severity of her injuries, per scanner traffic.

Her injuries are unknown at this time, but Awad said the driver would be flown to a local trauma center once she's stable. The driver of the semitrailer was uninjured.

The crash is under investigation and a hard closure was put in place between Bear Valley and Luna roads for Highway 395 in both directions. Awad said the closure is expected to last for several hours.

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

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20161209/woman-suffers-major-injuries-in-suv-vs-semitrailer-collision-highway-395-closed-for-several-hours>

Authorities ID woman killed in Hwy. 395 crash

Monica Solano, VV Daily Press

Posted: December 10, 2016 1:16 p.m. Updated: Dec. 10, 6:26 p.m.

VICTORVILLE - Authorities identified a 52-year-old woman who was died Friday morning after her SUV and a semitrailer collided just north of Bear Valley Road on Highway 395.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department officials said Diane Brayford, of Upland, was pronounced dead later Friday after succumbing to her injuries at a local hospital.

Just before 11:30 a.m., authorities found a semitrailer off the road and a silver Toyota Sequoia with major damage to the passenger's side with Brayford trapped inside and unresponsive on Highway 395 between Bear Valley and Luna roads.

San Bernardino County Victorville Sheriff's Station Deputy Amir Award said Brayford was traveling north on 395 and the semitrailer was traveling south when the collision occurred.

Brayford was swerving back and forth, according to Awad and witnesses at the scene, when she lost control of the vehicle and turned in front of the semitrailer, causing it to strike the front passenger side of the Sequoia.

San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel extricated Brayford from her vehicle and originally requested a helicopter to airlift her, but she was instead transported by ground to Desert Valley Hospital.

Brayford was later airlifted to Loma Linda Medical Center where she was pronounced dead due to the severity of her injuries, officials said. The driver of the semitrailer was not injured.

Highway 395 was closed in both directions until midnight as officials conducted an investigation, officials said.

Anyone with information about the collision is requested to contact Deputy A. Awad or J. Dean at 760-241-2911.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20161210/authorities-id-woman-killed-in-hwy-395-crash>

Bicyclist hit by card on Rancho Road in Hesperia, suffers minor injuries

Jose Quintero, VV Daily Press

Posted: December 9, 2016 8:36 a.m.

HESPERIA — A 33-year-old bicyclist was transported to a local hospital after a Friday morning collision on Rancho Road.

Authorities responded to the collision near Topaz Avenue a little before 7 a.m., California Highway Patrol spokesman Matt Hunt said.

San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel found the bicyclist in the road and transferred him to Desert Valley Hospital with minor injuries, according to spokesman Peter McKernan.

A Hesperia Unified School District officer was on scene at approximately 7:30 a.m., along with two pickup trucks, on the side of the road. There was also significant amount of shattered glass on the road. However, traffic was flowing smoothly near the scene at 7:30 a.m.

Hunt said the bicyclist, a Victorville resident, was riding on Topaz Avenue and was struck by a westbound 1965 Chevrolet C-10 on Rancho Road driven by a 50-year-old Oak Hills man. Hunt said the man served to the right but was unable to avoid the collision.

The crash remained under investigation Friday afternoon, Hunt said.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20161209/bicyclist-hit-by-car-on-rancho-road-in-hesperia-suffers-minor-injuries?start=2>

Shed fire extinguished before speeding [sic] at mobile home park

Hector Hernandez Jr., Highland News

Posted: December 9, 2016 3:25 p.m.



Highland Mobile Estates residents put their hoses down and evacuate their homes as fire crews arrive to a shed fire threatening to spread to their homes Friday afternoon, Dec. 9.

Thanks to the assistance of neighbors, a mailman and fire crews from several local departments, a large shed fire at a mobile home at 7717 Church Ave. was put out before spreading to the home of neighboring residences Friday afternoon, Dec. 9.

Residents of the Highland Mobile Estates had several intense and nervous moments as neighbors evacuated their homes and fought the fire with garden hoses as fire crews arrived to find a fully engulfed backyard shed at about 1 p.m.

According to the Highland Fire Department, everyone was evacuated with the only reported injury being a minor case of smoke inhalation from one of the residents who attempted to put the fire out with a hose.

Fire engines from the Highland, San Bernardino, San Manuel and Redlands fire departments crowded the area and were able to put out the fire with only minor exterior damage to home itself. The residents were able to return to their home once the firefighters were done.

For Maryann Ornelas who lives a few houses down from the fire, the smell of smoke was the first indication of a fire. According to Ornelas, the mailman, Derek Garcia, was one of the heroes of the afternoon as he was one of the first to warn people of the danger.

Garcia, a former Highland firefighter, was on his route a few blocks away when he first saw the pillar of smoke.

"I saw the smoke and thought, 'That looks intense,' and decided to check it out," Garcia said. "No one was here yet, and it's just instinct and a natural reaction to help out and protect family and friends. Those are my customers and nice people."

Garcia helped evacuate the family and was one of the first to put a hose on the fire.

"I hate to see that happen. They lost a couple homes here last year, but not on my shift," Garcia quipped. "And, I'll still make my delivery time."

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

http://www.highlandnews.net/news/public_safety/shed-fire-extinguished-before-speeding-at-mobile-home-park/article_d2aef1de-be66-11e6-888b-5f0cea66d81a.html

Firefighters Battle 2-Alarm House Fire in Wrightwood

Victor Valley News

Posted: December 10, 2016 12:28 p.m.



WRIGHTWOOD, Calif.(VVNG.com) – **San Bernardino County Firefighters** were dispatched to a house fire in the community of Wrightwood Saturday night.

At about 9:15 p.m., dispatch received numerous reports of a house fire on the 5500 block of Easter Drive.

When the first engine arrived on scene they located a 2,400 sqft. two-story family residence with major fire and exposures and requested a 2nd Alarm.

As a safety precaution, A life hazard alert was issued due to a downed power line.

Per scanner reports, the fire burned through the roof of the home. Hand crews were requested to the scene.

San Bernardino County Fire posted a tweet saying, “Transition to defensive attack due to percentage of structure involved. Investigator enroute.”

No injuries have been reported to firefighters or civilians as a result of the fire.

Information will be updated as it becomes available.

www.vvng.com/san-bernardino-county-fire-battling-house-fire-in-wrightwood/

Fire Battalion Chief Involved in Morning Crash on Highway 395

Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News

Posted: Dec. 10, 2016



A Battalion Chief SUV was rear-ended, making this the 5th crash on Hwy 395 in two days. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) A third collision on Highway 395 happened just before 11:00 a.m. Saturday morning.

This collision involved a **San Bernardino County Fire** Battalion Chief SUV and a Ford pickup truck.

A female driver traveling southbound on 395 rear-ended the back of the red Battalion Chief vehicle, just north of Mojave Drive.

The female driver declined treatment at the scene, and the Fire Chief was not injured.

This is the 5th accident Victor Valley News covered in the past 24 hours. One of those accidents claimed the life of a 52-year-old Upland woman, Diane Brayford.

All three collisions today occurred before noon time.

<http://www.vvng.com/fire-battalion-chief-involved-in-morning-crash-on-highway-395/>

Employees evacuated after smoke fills Office Depot in Redlands

Alex Groves, Press Enterprise

Posted: December 10, 2016 6:35 p.m.

Employees were evacuated and firefighters were summoned Saturday morning after part of an Office Depot in Redlands filled with smoke.

A possible fire was reported about 8:06 a.m. at the Office Depot at 602 Orange St., said San Bernardino County Fire Department Dispatch Supervisor Otto Schramm.

Employees of the Office Depot were evacuating as firefighters arrived, he said.

Schramm said some fire resources — one engine, one truck and a battalion chief — were still at the scene about 8:20 a.m.

He said it was not yet known what caused one of the offices at the business to fill with smoke. When reached Saturday afternoon, a manager said the store opened on schedule at 9 a.m. but declined to comment further.

This is a developing story. Check back for updates.

<http://www.pe.com/articles/employees-820616-summoned-office.html>

Caught on video: Firefighters Rescue Cat From Tree

Gabriel, D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News

Posted: December 10, 2016



(Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) Animal lovers began pleading on Facebook asking for help in getting a cat down from a tree that had been stuck for a whole week.

Aiyana Haberman-Ellis was prepared to climb the tree and rescue the cat herself, but the dead tree would not have supported anybody that attempted to climb it.

“I’m not going to leave no cat in a tree, so I brought my own ladder and I was going to try to get up in the tree and get him,” Aiyana said.

That’s when Battalion Chief Bobby Cox pulled up and saved the day.

“We’ve received calls over the last two or three days saying there was a cat stuck in a tree; it’s normally something we don’t respond to because usually if a cat can get up, they can get down,” The San Bernardino County Fire Department Battalion Chief told Victor Valley News.

“But they called this morning and said the cat had been up there for seven days, so I came out and took a look and said ‘yeah, bring the truck out’ and if we can safely bring it down we’re going to do so,” Cox said.

As a true man of his word, a ladder truck responded moments later and the cat was safely rescued by firefighter Matthew Durham from Victorville Station 311.

Cox said that in his 20-year career he had never rescued a cat from a tree, “this is not something we usually do, but it was a new experience for me,” stated Cox.

Aiyana, who works with the Star Tails Hair Animal Rescue, immediately took the cat to a vet for a medical evaluation, and other than few broken claws, the cat was healthy.

A picture of the rescued cat was posted in the Victor Valley News group, and within a short amount of time the cat was reunited with its owner.

The owner said it was the cat's first time getting out, and it won't be getting out again.

<http://www.vvng.com/caught-on-video-firefighters-rescue-cat-from-tree/>
