



NEWS



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Man pinned under SUV taken to hospital

Monica Solano, Daily Press

Posted: November 8, 2016, 1:28 PM

VICTORVILLE — A 30-year-old man was transported to a local hospital after he was pinned under a SUV Monday night, officials said.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department deputies were dispatched to a report of a vehicle having crashed at the 15600 block of Choctaw Street in Victorville at 10:55 p.m.

Upon arrival, deputies discovered a single vehicle crash involving a red 1997 Ford pickup and the male driver pinned under the vehicle, according to Victorville Sheriff's Station spokeswoman Mara Rodriguez.

San Bernardino County Fire Department firefighters arrived on scene to assist deputies and the driver was transported by ground to Arrow Regional Medical Center for minor injuries.

Rodriguez told the Daily Press the truck's registration was found to be expired and was towed and stored.

The cause of the crash was unknown Tuesday and is currently under investigation.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20161108/man-pinned-under-suv-taken-to-hospital>

Improvements on the horizon after Measure A's big win

Matthew Cabe, Daily Press

Posted: November 9, 2016, 3:38 PM

APPLE VALLEY — One day after nearly 17,000 voters passed a tax measure designed to bolster fire services in the town, the district's chief vowed that the promise of reopened stations is now on the horizon.

Apple Valley Fire Protection District Chief Sid Hultquist told the Daily Press he was humbled and overwhelmed by the support behind Measure A, which voters passed by a wide margin, and said the reopening of two closed fire stations is "going to happen."

"We are going to reopen the Jess Ranch and Yucca Loma fire stations," Hultquist said, "and it's going to create much needed relief to the three open fire stations we have. That is our No. 1 priority."

Revenue generated from the new tax, which indefinitely extends and increases a similar tax passed by voters in 1997, will not be available until next July, according to Hultquist, who said the district will work toward preparing for those reopenings in the interim.

"In the next few board meetings," he said, "the district will be working to put together a staffing plan along with timelines with the logistics needed to open those fire stations, which means we'll be recruiting new firefighters. It's going to take a little bit of time to get the firefighters and paramedics needed to open those fire stations, but I'm committed to that, and we're going to start on it right away."

Final unofficial election results released by San Bernardino County show that 16,916 voters said yes to Measure A, accounting for nearly 77 percent of the total vote.

“Almost 77 percent said volumes about what the Apple Valley Fire Protection District is doing in our community,” Hultquist said. “We are eternally grateful and thankful. We don’t take that support lightly.”

In 1997, nearly 69 percent of voters — 5,531 total votes — passed Measure V, a 20-year tax that’s sunsetting in 2017.

The revenue generated from that tax accounted for approximately 30 percent of the district’s revenue, but the Great Recession led to budget cuts that ultimately resulted in the closure of the Jess Ranch — Station 337 — just a few years after it opened in 2007, according to a previous Daily Press report. Yucca Loma — Station 336 — followed suit not long after in 2011 despite attempts to staff that station on a part-time basis.

In 2014, Measure G — which would’ve extended current tax funding from Nov. 4, 2017, to June 30, 2034 — was narrowly defeated by voters. Like Measure A, Measure G needed a two-thirds majority vote to pass, but received just over 59 percent approval from about 9,000 voters served by the district.

Doug Qualls, former AVFPD fire chief and Measure A’s principal officer, said Tuesday’s crucial win for the district “was not happenstance.”

"In 2014, a majority of the people certainly supported (Measure G), but it didn’t reach the 67 percent needed to pass,” Qualls said. “In terms of Measure A this year, really it’s the overwhelming majority that recognized that we needed to beef up our public safety, and the message got out.”

As a result, Hultquist said he wouldn’t be surprised if people in Hesperia and Victorville could hear the shouts and cheers coming from Measure A headquarters as the first results rolled in on election night.

“It was the overwhelming joy in knowing our community supported us,” Hultquist said, “and it was wives and children knowing that our firefighters have a future. The bottom line is the district hasn’t been able to develop and grow because we had this lingering unseen future as to whether or not we would even continue to exist. That creates a lot of struggles, but now we can move forward.”

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20161109/improvements-on-horizon-after-measure-as-big-win>

Fire Destroys Home

Mike Harris, Mountain News

Posted: November 10, 2016, 6:00 AM



A fire of undetermined origin on Nov. 3 destroyed a Crestline home along the 23500 block of Crest Forest Drive and for a time threatened neighboring homes.

According to **County Fire** Captain Eric Sherman, at about 1:38 a.m. several 9-1-1 calls reported a multi-level house on fire just above Highway 138.

Fire Engines 25 from Station 25 in Top Town and 26 from Twin Peaks were joined by Engines 91 and 94 from Lake Arrowhead in responding to the call.

“Firefighters arrived to discover a 2,000-square foot single family residence on fire with flames going through the roof,” Sherman said.

Due to the level of the fire’s involvement, it was determined to fight a defensive attack by only streaming water onto the burning home and not having firefighters enter the structure.

Because the initial report said nearby trees were also on fire, Cal Fire units responded, and flames were quickly knocked down.

It took firefighters about 43 minutes to knock down the fire but, because the structure collapsed in on itself, ME25 remained throughout the morning to put out persistent hot spots. Firefighters finished just before lunch time.

There were no reports of injuries to firefighters or civilians, and the house was reportedly unoccupied at the time.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. No dollar estimate of the damage was given, other than to say that the house was a total loss.

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_3f0b0dda-a6da-11e6-a3cf-9ba4b573704c.html