



# NEWS



## News Headlines 12/21/2016

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## Fifty children get a chance to go on holiday shopping spree at Fontana Target

Fontana Herald News

Posted: December 19, 2016 2:10 PM



A young participant is excited about going on a shopping spree at the Fontana Target store through the Heroes and Helpers Program. (Herald News photo by Alejandro Cano)

Fifty children enjoyed a special early Christmas celebration at the Target store in southern Fontana on Dec. 17.

The kids, ages 5 to 11, were chosen to participate in an early-morning shopping spree with a \$100 gift card, accompanied by a Fontana Police Department officer or **San Bernardino County Fire Department** firefighter.

The children had been selected for the Heroes and Helpers program through references by Fontana P.D. staff members and the Children's Fund.

Sponsors of the program were the Fontana Police Officers Association, Fontana Police Management Association, Target, San Bernardino County Firefighters Association, JJJ Reglaze and Action RV.

[http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/business/fifty-children-get-a-chance-to-go-on-holiday-shopping/article\\_eaeb1664-c637-11e6-9efe-a79a3a9b4976.html](http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/business/fifty-children-get-a-chance-to-go-on-holiday-shopping/article_eaeb1664-c637-11e6-9efe-a79a3a9b4976.html)

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## UPDATE: Homeless encampment fire shuts down stretch of D Street Tuesday

Jose Quintero, Daily Press

Posted: December 20, 2016, 9:04 AM



A San Bernardino County firefighter looks over the debris that burned during a fire underneath the D Street bridge over the the Mojave River in Victorville Tuesday. James Quigg, Daily Press



A fire underneath the D Street bridge over the the Mojave River in Victorville closed the road on Tuesday. The fire was in a homeless camp under the bridge. James Quigg, Daily Press

VICTORVILLE - A Tuesday morning homeless encampment fire resulted in the shut down of D Street, between 11th Street and Stoddard Wells Road, causing heavy traffic delays in the area.

**San Bernardino County Fire Department** personnel responded to a report of fire at 7:09 a.m. Officials said the blaze was initially reported as a railroad bridge on fire.

Firefighters arrived on scene and reported the fire was under the iron D Street bridge, just west of Stoddard Wells Road. The fire was fueled by large amounts of debris and clothing that had been accumulated by people living under the bridge, officials said.

Firefighters requested San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department deputies to evacuate the homeless residents of the "large encampment."

Authorities shut down D Street in both directions while railroad traffic was slowed to allow fire personnel a safer working environment, officials said. The road closures caused traffic to slow to a crawl on northbound Stoddard Wells Road early Tuesday.

A total of 26 firefighters responded to combat the blaze. Officials said three fire engines, one truck company, one squad and a chief officer were originally assigned to the incident, but a hand crew and water tender were added when the nature of the fire was determined. The blaze was under control in 45 minutes.

The westbound D Street lanes were opened at approximately 7:50 a.m., while the eastbound lanes remained closed until after 8:30 a.m. Traffic appeared to be moving smoothly by Tuesday afternoon.

No injuries were reported due to the blaze. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20161220/update-homeless-encampment-fire-shuts-down-stretch-of-d-street-tuesday>

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## **STRUCTURE FIRE: Firefighters Battle Early Morning Blaze**

Michael P. Neufeld, Rim of the World News

Posted: December 21, 2016, 3:09 AM

Crestline, CA – **San Bernardino County firefighters** were dispatched to the 600 block of Arbula Drive in Crestline at about 1:30 a.m. Wednesday to reports of a structure fire.

The first units on scene went into attack mode as flames were visible from at least one residence.

The incident was dispatched at 1:27 a.m. and neighbors report firefighters converged on the scene near Arosa Drive and Basel Drive.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

One residence was reportedly completely destroyed and another may have suffered heavy damage. However, firefighters were still on scene and additional information was not immediately available.

<http://rotwnews.com/2016/12/21/structure-fire-firefighters-battle-early-morning-blaze/>

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## Rash of fires at local apartment complex raises concerns of serial arsonist

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: December 21, 2016, 6:18 AM



A blaze at the Mountain Vista Apartments on Nisqualli Road left several bushes scorched last Friday. Residents say several fires have occurred at the apartment complex recently and fear a serial arsonist may be responsible. Photo courtesy of John Martinez.

VICTORVILLE - A rash of fires at a local apartment complex has residents concerned that a serial arsonist is in their midst - and some claim the property's management company isn't doing enough to combat the issue.

Several small blazes have occurred at the Mountain Vista Apartments in the 15400 block of Nisqualli Road in the last week, including one last Friday and another on Tuesday. While both fires were quickly contained, residents say the incidents are the latest in a series of fires to recently plague the property.

John Martinez, a resident of the complex, told the Daily Press there have been several fires since he moved into the building. A second blaze last Friday occurred close to his apartment door.

"I noticed a very strong smoky odor, so I opened my front door and a blast of smoke, embers and ashes rushed into my apartment," Martinez said. "The staircase was hardly visible from the smoke."

Martinez said Friday night's blaze is the third to occur since he moved into the building in September. Erik Dain, another resident at the complex, said he was aware of at least six or seven fires at the complex since July, with four occurring next to his apartment.

"My 4-year-old daughter was the one who told us about the last fire," Dane said. "The window in her room was glowing from the fire inside."

Dain claims the blazes occur "at least once a week" and believes it is the work of a serial arsonist who is attempting to cause major damage to the complex and its residents.

"They used accelerant and canisters for the bush fire [on Friday] that could have ignited a main gas line," Dain said.

**San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokeswoman Tracey Martinez said firefighters have responded to a total of 30 fires at the property since the beginning of August. The majority of these blazes have been dumpster and vegetation fires.

Martinez said the investigations into the blazes indicated most of the fires were "incendiary caused," which is defined as a fire that is deliberately ignited.

"According to our fire investigators, they have been following up on leads, mainly anonymous callers," Martinez said. "At this point in the investigations, it is undetermined if the fires are all connected or if there is a serial arsonist."

In the meantime, residents continue to live in fear that the next blaze may cause lasting damage, with some calling for action from the complex's property management company.

"The owners and managers of the complex have done nothing to prevent these events," John Martinez said. "There are multiple lives on the line. It's insane that we have to go through this."

The Daily Press was referred by Mountain Vista's local leasing office to E & S Ring Management Corporation, who manage the property. Portfolio manager Scott Seymour said the company is just as concerned as Mountain Vista's residents about the fires and is doing what it can to ensure residents' safety.

"Whoever is setting these fires seems to be becoming more brazen," Seymour said. "When they are lighting bushes on the side of the building and putting residents in danger, it's a very serious matter to us, so we are taking whatever steps necessary to find out who is doing this."

Seymour said the company has maintained contact with the Sheriff's Department and County Fire over the last few months. The company has also added extra patrols on the property, with additional security guards at night to try to find the culprit responsible for the blazes.

"We are looking into surveillance systems so we can install cameras on the property," Seymour said. "We continue to ask our residents to assist us in any matter so we can hopefully put an end to this."

But to some residents, these efforts are just not enough.

"I've actually spoken to the security guard and he said, 'What the hell am I supposed to do?'" Dain said. "We are very, very scared and would like this to stop. But the leasing office is not listening. They are not doing anything."

Authorities are continuing to investigate the incidents. Anyone who may have information on any of these fires is urged to call the Arson We-Tip hotline at 1-800-472-7766 or County Fire's dispatch center at 909-386-8408.

Witnesses can also contact the Victorville Sheriff's Station at 760-241-2911.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20161221/rash-of-fires-at-local-apartment-complex-raises-concerns-of-serial-arsonist>