



# NEWS



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## Heightened awareness

*Officials preach caution with fireworks during dry season; Pet owners also warned to be careful*

**Rene Ray De La Cruz, Daily Press**

Posted: June 20, 2016, 11:58 AM

Updated: June 20, 2016, 12:38 PM



Several local agencies are making preparations to protect people, dogs and property with the Fourth of July weekend approaching. Kenneth Sousa, for The Daily Press

**APPLE VALLEY** — Firework season is here — and while cities and individuals across the High Desert prepare to light up the sky with the rocket’s colorful glare, several agencies are also making preparations to protect people, dogs and property.

As the Fourth of July weekend nears, some High Desert residents have already experienced the sight and sounds of fireworks throughout the Victor Valley even though the pyrotechnic devices are illegal in every city except for Adelanto.

Apple Valley Fire Protection District Chief Sid Hultquist said because of an extremely arid season and more dry grass than usual, the district is planning to have more resources available before and after the Independence Day weekend.

“We’re also going to be dealing with low humidity and high temperatures that —coupled with the drought — will result in a higher potential for fire,” Hultquist said. “Fireworks are illegal in most of the High Desert. One small spark from a sparkler or Safe and Sane (firework) could be a vegetation or structure fire.”

Hultquist said the AVFPD and other agencies have already received calls from local residents reporting neighbors using illegal fireworks.

“Typically we don’t respond to illegal fireworks if we don’t have a correct physical address,” Hultquist said. “Unless we get that address, it’s hard to track them down.”

Hultquist said the district will contact local law enforcement if they catch a person using illegal fireworks. He added violators will be cited and could be sent a bill from the AVFPD.

“There’s been many times when we caught someone using illegal fireworks and they claim they didn’t know fireworks were illegal,” Hultquist said. “Fireworks are illegal all over the High Desert, except for Adelanto.”

Firework stands are already beginning to pop up in Adelanto as vendors try to draw attention to their location, which will be allowed to operate from June 28 through July 5th, the same window of time fireworks are legal in the city.

Possession of any type of fireworks, including Safe and Sane, is illegal in unincorporated areas of the county and carries a minimum \$1,250 fine, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

Pet experts across the High Desert said pet owners should take extra precaution with their animals during the firework season as the loud sounds frighten dogs. More pets will run away during the Independence Day holiday season than any other time of the year.

Several pet owners told the Daily Press that Spring Valley Lake's firework celebration has caught them off guard, making their dogs cower in fear or jump fences and run away.

As residents prepare for the 11th annual Spring Valley Lake Association Family Festival in Victorville, Gina Whiteside, animal services manager for the Town of Apple Valley Animal Services Department, said people should prepare.

Whiteside told the Daily Press about 90 percent of the calls they receive during the holiday season are for stray dogs in traffic, with frightened animals jumping fences, digging holes and squeezing through small gaps in barriers they wouldn't normally cross.

Last year, the Marin family of Apple Valley reported that their Labrador, Molly, was spooked by the SVL fireworks and escaped from the family's secured property. The dog finally came home after two days, looking dirty and ragged. During the family's search for Molly, they encountered multiple dogs running loose in the area.

Whiteside suggests placing animals in a secure room with adequate food and water, turning on music or a television for background noise and leaving a light on. Animals left outside should also have plenty of food and water, and the property should be secured to reduce the chance a pet can escape.

Other experts suggest pet owners leave a yard gate open in the event that their runaway dog should return.

Rachel Molina, spokeswoman for the City of Hesperia, suggests pet owners place their pets at a local kennel if they can't care for them at home. For pets that are especially anxious, owners should consult their veterinarian for methods to calm them.

Hultquist said from fire safety to protecting dogs, the public should be on high alert this summer holiday season and throughout the year.

"Every year we respond to several spot fires during the Fourth for July season," Hultquist said. "I suggest that people stay safe by attending the Freedom Festival in Apple Valley or the firework show in Victorville."

Call 911 to report a fire or individual using illegal fireworks. To report sick, injured, vicious or stray animals in traffic in Apple Valley, call 760- 961-6001; for missing pets, call 760240-7000 ext. 7555. For Hesperia, call 760-9471700. For Victorville, call 760-955-5089.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160620/NEWS/160629977/0/SEARCH>

## San Bernardino brush fire prompted evacuations in midtown neighborhood

Doug Saunders, The Sun

Posted: June 20, 2016, 2:56 PM

Updated: June 20, 2016, 10:40 PM



Firefighters battle a vegetation fire in the area of Third Street and Tippecanoe Avenue in San Bernardino Monday afternoon. Photo by Doug Saunders

SAN BERNARDINO >> A vegetation fire charring several acres and burning five outbuildings to the ground was out but still being investigated early Monday evening, fire officials said.

The blaze erupted shortly before 3 p.m. and quickly burned out of control claiming numerous outbuildings, fire officials said.

San Bernardino police officers along with firefighters from several agencies — surrounded by walls of flame and smoke — evacuated homes in the fire's path Monday afternoon.

**San Bernardino County**, Loma Linda, Colton, CalFire and San Manuel fire departments worked together to knock down the blaze in the 1000 block of Third Street near Tippecanoe Avenue.

"I heard a loud explosion and watched everything start to catch fire," 42-year-old James Ross said.

Ross, who was walking along the north side of Third Street at the time, said after the explosion a big black plume of smoke began to rise.

Temperatures soared to more than 110 degrees, making it more difficult to battle the blaze, officials said.

Fire officials were looking into the possibility that a makeshift clandestine methamphetamine lab was the cause of the blaze, but shortly after 6:30 p.m. announced there wasn't any lab deeming the fire suspicious in nature.

Residents were allowed back into their homes shortly after 6 p.m., officials said.

HazMat specialty investigators, as well as arson investigators, are on scene attempting to determine the cause of the blaze.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160620/san-bernardino-brush-fire-prompted-evacuations-in-midtown-neighborhood>

## Small Vegetation Fire in Joshua Tree Monday Evening

Z107.7 News

Posted: June 21, 2016

Joshua Tree firefighters were called to a vegetation fire about 8:19 p.m. Monday evening. **County fire** captain Trent Blanchard said the small blaze burned a fence, but did not burn any structures. Firefighters had the flames out within a few minutes of arrival, and were on scene for 30 to 45 minutes. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

<http://z1077fm.com/small-vegetation-fire-in-joshua-tree-monday-evening/>

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## 2 big wildfires in LA-area foothills burn toward each other

Andrew Dalton, The Associated Press via Daily Press

Posted: June 20, 2016, 2:19 PM

Updated: June 20, 2016, 2:20 PM



Smoke from a wildfire rises from a hillside near power lines outside of Azusa, Calif., Monday, June 20, 2016. Two fires have erupted in the San Gabriel Mountains northeast of Los Angeles amid withering heat. The first fire reported Monday was near Morris Reservoir north of suburban Azusa. AP Photo/Nick Ut)

LOS ANGELES — Two wildfires that together burned 7 square miles and drove several hundred people from their homes in foothill suburbs of Los Angeles were growing fast and surging closer to each other.

Aggravated by triple-digit heat that hastened similar fires from the Pacific Coast to New Mexico, the two blazes erupted Monday near Azusa and Duarte and gave a big scare to homeowners before burning mostly away from the cities and toward the Angeles National Forest.

Charlie Downing, out of breath and with his shirt off because of the heat, said when he first smelled fire and felt heat that he ran outside of his house in Duarte and was astonished by size and nearness of the flames.

"I came running over just to look and it was 15 to 20 feet in the air," Downing told reporters. "By the time I came back and told my grandma and my kids to get in the car, it was right by the car."

He and two neighbors sprayed the flames with their yard hoses until firefighters arrived minutes later.

It was "very fortunate" that the fire then shifted toward the mountains, though it could easily move back during the night, Los Angeles County Fire Department Deputy Chief John B. Tripp said.

"If we get down-canyon winds, it could shift and homes could be in danger again," Tripp said.

The fires were less than 2 miles apart, burning out of control, and could soon merge into one, authorities said.

Two towering columns of smoke visible by day became a single vast glow after night fell.

Elsewhere, crews made progress against a nearly week-old blaze in rugged coastal mountains west of Santa Barbara. Overnight winds pushed flames into previously burned areas, allowing firefighters to boost containment to 54 percent.

Most mandatory evacuations will be lifted Wednesday morning and nearly all by Saturday, authorities said Monday night.

About 270 homes and other buildings were threatened by the blaze, which has charred more than 12 square miles since Wednesday.

Another wildfire was growing near Potrero, a small desert town close to the Mexico border. It surged to nearly 12 square miles and forced the evacuation of about 75 people from the ranching community about 40 miles southeast of San Diego.

Other blazes burned wide swaths across Arizona and New Mexico, where firefighters also faced blistering temperatures.

In central New Mexico, a 28-square-mile fire that erupted last week and destroyed 24 homes in the Manzano Mountains south of Albuquerque showed signs of slowing down. Higher humidity has allowed crews to strengthen lines around the fire, and some evacuees would be allowed to return home on Tuesday.

In eastern Arizona, a fire doubled to nearly 42 square miles and led officials to warn a community of 300 residents to prepare to evacuate. The blaze on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation southwest of Show Low was not moving quickly toward the community of Cedar Creek because of sparse vegetation and shifting winds.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20160620/2-big-wildfires-in-la-area-foothills-burn-toward-each-other>

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## Summer solstice adds up to heat, wildfires

Inland News Today

Story Date: June 21, 2016



**Fish fire near Duarte**



**Third Street fire in San Bernardino**

SOUTHLAND – (INT) – Parts of Southern California have become a raging inferno as a searing heat wave peaked.

Temperatures pushing above 110 degrees, single-digit humidity and a Red Flag fire warning combined Monday to fuel the worst outbreak of wildfires this year.

Most attention was focused on the Angeles National Forest where two fires above Duarte and Azusa merged covering more than 4,500 acres at last estimate. Mandatory evacuations were ordered for residents in the Mountain Cove and Rainbow Ranch neighborhoods along Highway 39 in Azusa, according to the Azusa Police Department.

The initial fire was believed started by a vehicle that ran off the road killing the driver.

Aerial tankers dumped thousands of gallons of red fire retardant to slow the advance of the flames, but there was little hope of early containment.

AQMD issued smoke advisories for the San Gabriel and San Bernardino valleys because of drift smoke.

Firefighters in the Inland Empire battled several fires Monday in the record-setting heat.

Five outbuildings were destroyed by a blaze on East Third Street in San Bernardino and some homes were evacuated.

Riverside firefighters made a quick stop on a 2 alarm fire on Jurupa Avenue Monday afternoon.

A fire burning in some trees spread to a shed, and then to a building in Desert Hot Springs.

In Santa Barbara County, containment is not expected until Thursday on a fire that has covered more than 7,800 acres near Goleta.

Statewide, 4,700 firefighters are battling six active wildfires.

Elsewhere, Two hikers overcome by heat on the Bump-and-Grind Trail above Palm Desert had to be rescued.

At the Palm Springs Airport, two flights to Phoenix were cancelled because the intense heat didn't give the air enough lift for a safe take-off.

Cooler weather and higher humidity is predicted to sweep across the Southland by mid-week. But, the fire season is only beginning and the arrival of the summer solstice Monday could signal a heightened fire danger.

<http://www.inlandnewstoday.com/story.php?s=42642>

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