



NEWS



News Headlines 2/25-27/2017

- 1 firefighter, 2 civilians injured in San Bernardino apartment fire that displaces 15
- Apartment fire displaces 15 people
- Police, County Fire, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and Burrtec join forces to improve quality of life
- San Bernardino Quality of Life team wins award
- Contractor pouring concrete for new lanes on damaged portion of Interstate 15
- Adelanto sets sights on overburdened fire crew
- Woman charged with arson
- Joshua Tree Family Loses Their Home In Saturday Evening Fire

1 firefighter, 2 civilians injured in San Bernardino apartment fire that displaces 15

John M. Blodgett, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: February 24, 2017, 10:29 PM



San Bernardino County firefighters Ryan Vaccaro, left, and Andrew Weiss refuel a ventilation fan at an apartment fire in the 1200 block of East Lynwood Drive in San Bernardino Friday night, Feb. 24. One firefighter and two civilians were injured. Staff Photo by John M. Blodgett



San Bernardino County firefighters converge outside an apartment complex in which 4 units burned Friday night. They knocked the fire down within half an hour. Staff Photo by John M. Blodgett

SAN BERNARDINO >> One firefighter and two civilians were injured Friday night in a fire that burned four units in an apartment complex, a fire official said.

The firefighter suffered minor to moderate injuries when he fell through a floor, said **San Bernardino County firefighter** Chris Prater. He did not know at 9 p.m. the condition of the two other injured people. All three were hospitalized.

Prater said the fire was reported 7:45 p.m. in the 1200 block of East Lynwood Drive. Firefighters were able to knock it down within 30 minutes.

Four units in the apartment complex were damaged and 15 people were displaced, Prater said. The Red Cross was on its way at 9 p.m. to help them with housing.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170224/1-firefighter-2-civilians-injured-in-san-bernardino-apartment-fire-that-displaces-15>

Apartment fire displaces 15 people

Inland News Today

Posted: February 25, 2017

SAN BERNARDINO - (INT) – Investigators are trying to determine what started a weekend fire that displaced fifteen people from a burning apartment complex.

Two people were hurt and a firefighter suffered a shoulder injury.

The 2-alarm blaze Friday night erupted in a downstairs apartment unit on East Lynwood Drive. Four units were damaged before the flames were knocked down.

Residents had evacuated the 2-story building before the first of 34 fire personnel arrived to find flames pouring from a ground floor apartment.

Damage estimates are being totaled up.

<http://www.inlandnewstoday.com/story.php?s=45291>

Police, County Fire, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and Burrtec join forces to improve quality of life

Inland Empire News

Posted: February 25, 2017



ABOVE: The Quality of Life Team with Councilmember Benito Barrios, Councilmember Fred Shorett, and Mayor Davis at the Red Tape to Red Carpet Awards Event.

San Bernardino, CA_ – Last night, the region’s only economic development organization, Inland Empire Economic Partnership (IEEP), recognized the San Bernardino Quality of Life Team with the Public-Private Partnership Award at their Fourth Annual Red Tape to Red Carpet Awards sponsored by J.P. Morgan Chase. The purpose of the event is to recognize agencies that have developed innovative ways to avoid bureaucratic red tape for the betterment of local economies and communities.

“The proactive manner by which the team deals with issues of illegal dumping and beautifying our public spaces is something to be proud of.”

— MAYOR DAVIS

The Quality of Life Team was nominated for their innovative and collaborative approach to providing a solution to address visible blight concerns expressed by San Bernardino residents and business community. Four finalists from the region competed in the Public-Private Partnership category, and the San Bernardino team was awarded and recognized for the partnership formed with solid waste company, Burrtec, in response to the needs of the community.

Since its inception, the Quality of Life Team has encountered and resolved thousands of complaints in relation to concerns expressed by businesses and residents in San Bernardino.

Their efforts have created visible improvement to city parks, vacant lots, as well as many other important thoroughfares within the City. The team has used a proactive approach to solving resident issues and has been touted by families and businesses that have developed rapport with the team members. The partnership with Burrtec has not only allowed the team to respond to the community's needs more adequately, it has made room for Burrtec to become a fixture in the city's weekly strategic meetings, shaping and improving the team in its effort toward improving the quality of life in the community.

"The proactive manner by which the team deals with issues of illegal dumping and beautifying our public spaces is something to be proud of. I am grateful for the commitment and dedication of each member of the Quality of Life Team and I congratulate them on their victory," Mayor Davis said in response to the team's win.

The Quality of Life Team has continued its collaboration with neighboring agencies, nonprofit partners, and community based organizations. The team, led by San Bernardino Police Lieutenant Richard Lawhead, has made it a point to engage residents, local businesses, and vested partners. The coordination between the Police, Fire, Public Works, Parks and Recreation Departments, and Burrtec addresses concerns on a daily basis, and it has sparked a communal interest in creating a safe, clean and attractive area for business and residents.

Congratulations to the San Bernardino Quality of Life Team.

<https://inlandempire.us/police-county-fire-public-works-parks-recreation-burrtec-join-forces-improve-quality-life/>

San Bernardino Quality of Life team wins award

Ryan Hagen, The Sun

Posted: February 26, 2017, 11:41 AM



In this file photo, San Bernardino police Lt. Rich Lawhead leads a tour in February 2016 of problem areas in San Bernardino with the city's Quality of Life Team, consisting of police, parks & recreation and public works employees, at a homeless camp near Magnolia Avenue and H Street. File Photo by Rachel Luna/Staff Photographer

SAN BERNARDINO >> The blight-fighting Quality of Life Team made up of employees from four different government departments and the trash collection company Burrtec won the Public-Private Partnership Award from the Inland Empire Economic Partnership Thursday night.

The region's only economic development agency, IEEP gives out six awards at the annual "Red Tape to Red Carpet Awards," intended to recognize agencies that have developed innovative ways to avoid bureaucratic red tape for the betterment of local economies and communities.

San Bernardino's Quality of Life Team has resolved thousands of complaints such as illegal dumping in the city's parks, vacant lots and thoroughfares since it was formed last February, according to city officials.

"The proactive manner by which the team deals with issues of illegal dumping and beautifying our public spaces is something to be proud of," Mayor Carey Davis said in a news release. "I am grateful for the commitment and dedication of each member of the Quality of Life Team and I congratulate them on their victory."

Police Lt. Rich Lawhead leads a team that includes members of the city Police, Public Works and Parks and Recreation departments, as well as **County Fire** and Burrtec.

Community partners are also key to the effort. In fact, the team has made it a point to engage residents, local businesses and others, according to a news release.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170226/san-bernardino-quality-of-life-team-wins-award>

Contractor pouring concrete for new lanes on damaged portion of Interstate 15

Steve Hunt, Daily Press

Posted: February 24, 2017, 3:59 PM



Between 40 and 100 Skanska workers have been working around the clock to try to repair the damage to southbound Interstate 15 in the Cajon Pass. [David Pardo, Daily Press]

Skanska workers already have begun pouring concrete for lanes on southbound Interstate 15 in the Cajon Pass where a 200-foot section of the pavement south of Highway 138 disappeared during last week's epic storm, a Caltrans spokeswoman said Friday.

According to Terri Kasinga, Caltrans' chief of public and media affairs for District 8, between 40 and 100 workers have been working around the clock to try to repair the damaged freeway.

When a creek overflowed below the interstate during a powerful storm on Feb. 17, the water eroded the slope supporting the right lanes of the freeway. A big rig and a **San Bernardino County Fire Department** engine both toppled into the water below when the slope gave way.

"I know we're pouring concrete right now and we have another pour Saturday, and it's got to cure, so it's going to be early March before we get lanes reopened, weather permitting," Kasinga told the Daily Press.

After the Portland Concrete Cement cures, the lanes will have to be restriped, Kasinga said.

"We're using the Portland Concrete Cement, which is the same thing we used in the Cajon Pass Rehabilitation Project," she said.

That concrete is very strong, and should last 40 or 50 years or more. But it must cure properly before it is driven on to assure maximum strength and longevity.

Gov. Jerry Brown was scheduled to hold a press conference Friday at Caltrans' Cajon Maintenance Center at the junction of Highway 138 and Interstate 15, but Kasinga said he changed his plans at the last minute. Instead, Gov. Brown elected to stay in Sacramento and hold a press conference about the state's most pressing water and flood-control needs.

In the Cajon Pass, the \$3 million in emergency repairs on I-15 came about via a director's order, Kasinga said, but because of that Caltrans can't do some things now that it would have preferred.

"We would have loved to put in a concrete slope, but you can't do that under a director's order," she said. "You can only do what was there previously."

"We will be doing more aggressive protection down there. It'll be a lot longer and stronger riprap (which consists of rock, grout and other material). We'll be going further down (the slope) because we do have a little bit" of erosion past where the slope collapsed.

Kasinga said work on the slope will take several weeks.

"They'll be working down below for more than a month," she said.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170224/contractor-pouring-concrete-for-new-lanes-on-damaged-portion-of-interstate-15>

Adelanto sets sights on overburdened fire crew

Shea Johnson, Daily Press

Posted: February 26, 2017, 11:04 AM



"We need to staff this correctly and we need to find the money to get it going," Mayor Pro Tem Jermaine Wright said about the city's County Fire contract Wednesday. [Jose Huerta, Daily Press]

ADELANTO — One priority for officials here if the green industry indeed excavates the city out of the red: Upgrading fire protection services, even if its baby steps at first.

Adelanto leaders have invited San Bernardino County Fire officials to meet at the next Council meeting to talk about potentially adding staff and an extra engine in the city — upgrades to its current contract, however slight, that would ease the burden for a thinly stretched crew.

Right now, three personnel and a single fire engine are assigned to cover 50-plus square miles while serving more than 30,000 residents, Mayor Pro Tem Jermaine Wright said.

San Bernardino County Fire Assistant Chief Dan Mejia, who has managed the city's contract for only less than a week, said it's fair to suggest that the current set-up is "not enough."

In Adelanto, the small fire staff responds to 5,500 calls each year, he said.

It would be "premature," he added, to speak to any possible adjustments to the city's contract before discussions with city officials take place.

But it was Wright on Wednesday night who suggested "we need to take some steps here in the city" to bolster fire services.

"The amount of calls that they're doing is staggering," Wright said, "and we really need to do something immediately to get some things done."

His initial thought is to add one firefighter to the staff and a second engine, but any specifics will be vetted during requested Council-supported talks, which Wright asked be had in closed session followed by an open-session presentation.

"We need to staff this correctly and we need to find the money to get it going," he said, adding that County Fire had done its best to save the city money. "They still put themselves on the line, going in and waiting for backup, so they can actually put out a fire."

Financing will obviously be a point of concern. The city is spending about \$2.24 million on the contract this fiscal year, according to Accounting Supervisor Penny Rose, a figure which represents roughly 20 percent of Adelanto's general fund revenues.

At the beginning of this month, officials said they were operating under a \$1.7-million deficit expected to be erased by next fiscal year when more than a handful of medical pot businesses start operations.

When the surplus begins to flow, as officials vow that it will, Wright's comments Wednesday and the subsequent planned get-together with County Fire could serve as the hint that fire protection will be among the first budget line items to get attention.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170226/adelanto-sets-sights-on-overburdened-fire-crew>

Woman charged with arson

Needles Desert Star

Posted: February 26, 2017, 6:07 PM

NEEDLES — A 26-year-old Needles woman was being held in the Colorado River Station jail on charges of arson, after allegedly setting a structure on fire in the 2000 block of Flora Vista. Bond was set at \$100,000.

Deputies from the San Bernardino County Sheriff Department's CRS reported responding to the first about 4:44 a.m. on Feb. 8. Detectives assisted and conducted an investigation which led them to an apartment complex. They contacted the suspect there, took her to the CRS where she was interviewed and subsequently arrested.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information is urged to contact Det. Nick Caronna or Det. Tim Preston at the CRS, 760-326-9200. Reference case no. 211700131.

Anonymous reports can be made at the We-tip Hotline, 800-78-CRIME (27463); or at www.wetip.com.

http://www.mohavedailynews.com/needles_desert_star/woman-charged-with-arson/article_ca2f69cc-fc90-11e6-83c8-3b80a6b6155f.html

Joshua Tree Family Loses Their Home In Saturday Evening Fire

Z107.7 FM

Posted: February 27, 2017



Photo Courtesy Cindy Kaarle

A Joshua Tree family lost their home in a fire Saturday. **County Fire Battalion Chief Mike Snow** said firefighters were called to the Joshua Tree Mobile Estates in the 64200 block of 29 Palms Highway at 5:42 p.m. Crews arrived to find heavy smoke and flames erupting from the double-wide mobile home, which were also threatening adjacent homes. The residents had evacuated from the home prior to the arrival of the firefighters. Firefighters had the fire out in about 20 minutes. Snow said the fire started near a bathroom and bedroom and is believed to be electrical in nature. There were no injuries. The structure and contents are valued at about \$75,000 and are a total loss.

<http://z1077fm.com/local-news/todays-full-newscast/>