



# NEWS



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## Body found in aqueduct Monday evening

*Believed to be that of man who went missing Saturday*

Matthew Cabe, Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: August 1, 2016, 12:01 AM



Neighbors and onlookers watch San Bernardino County Fire Department and other agencies recover a body from the California Aqueduct near Halinor Street on Monday night. (James Quigg, Daily Press)

HESPERIA — A deceased male was discovered in the California Aqueduct near Halinor Street, but as authorities worked through a recovery effort Monday evening, it was unclear whether the body was that of a man who went missing early Saturday.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Cindy Bachman said units from the Hesperia Sheriff's Station were notified at 5:17 p.m. by a citizen who observed a body in the aqueduct.

“**San Bernardino County Fire** (officials) responded to assist with the recovery of the body,” Bachman said.

The San Bernardino County coroner was also on scene Monday evening as residents stood behind police tape and watched the drama unfold.

A woman within the group told the Daily Press she called 911 after seeing the body. She said she regularly walks in the area near where the aqueduct moves underground, but declined to comment on details related to the discovery out of respect for the victim's family.

On Saturday, the search began for a man who was reportedly last seen shortly after 9:30 a.m. when a witness traveling Main Street told sheriff's officials they saw a man bobbing his head up and down in the aqueduct before disappearing under water, according to a previous Daily Press report.

Hesperia Sheriff's Station units and the sheriff's dive team were dispatched to search the waters for the victim, as was a sheriff's helicopter. Crews suspended Saturday's several-miles-long search in the evening, picking it up again at 8 a.m. Sunday, San Bernardino County Sheriff's spokeswoman Cindy Bachman previously told the Daily Press.

Authorities suspended a search-and-rescue operation again late Sunday afternoon. Bachman said Sunday that 11 personnel, including divers and support staff, covered more than a mile of underwater terrain, searching "well outside the point the man was last seen."

Just after 8 p.m. Monday, Bachman said positive identification had not yet been made; however, Michael Croy, 34, of Hesperia, previously told the Daily Press the missing man was his father.

Croy said he believed his father had been walking his service dog for exercise per his morning routine, and he suggested the dog may have fallen into the water first, leading his father to go in afterward to save the dog.

Croy added that he found his father's truck running and the dog covered in mud upon arriving on scene after receiving the call that something had happened. His father's glasses were located near the aqueduct shore.

"He loves his dog and treats him like his own kid," Croy said.

At approximately 8:20 p.m. Monday, a yellow bag was observed being pulled from the aqueduct, but sheriff's officials had not confirmed recovery of the body as of 9 p.m.

This story is will be updated as more information becomes available.

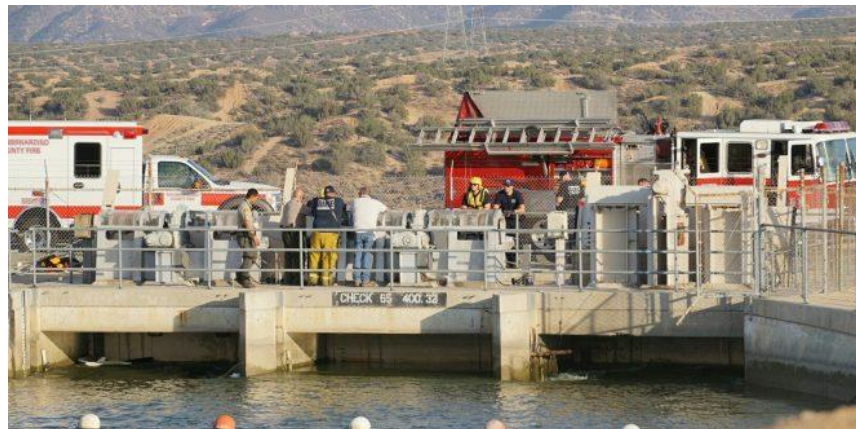
<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20160801/body-found-in-aqueduct-monday-evening>

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## **Breaking: Body Surfaces in Aqueduct; Believed To Be Missing Man**

**Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News Group**

Posted: August 1, 2016



(photo by Steven Brittain, for Victor Valley News)

**HESPERIA, Calif: (VVNG.com)-** A body believed to be that of 62-year-old Michael Paul Croy Sr. was located in the California Aqueduct on Monday, August 1st.

Per scanner traffic, at about 5:20 p.m. dispatch received a call reporting a body found in the Aqueduct near the area of Farmington Street and 7th Avenue.

Authorities responded and immediately confirmed there was, in fact, a body in the Aqueduct.

Croy Sr. went missing at about 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 30th. When authorities arrived at the scene, they located his dog Maximus wet and muddy next to Croy's Dodge Ram pickup truck, along with his two other dogs inside the truck and the engine running.

Katrina Croy, daughter in law of the missing man, told Victor Valley News the family strongly believes Croy Sr. went into the Aqueduct in an attempt to rescue one of his dogs.

A dive team, along with a Sheriff's aviation helicopter, and about a dozen other personnel assisted during the extensive two-day search. At about noon on Sunday the search was officially suspended.

Cori-Lynne Croy commented in Victor Valley News and said, "Thank you all so much. We know it's our dad so please continue to say a prayer and light a candle for our dad tonight."

This tragedy has sent emotional shockwaves to residents of the Victor Valley. Many of whom never personally met Croy Sr., but can't help to feel heartbroken and devastated for the Croy's.

Hundreds of Victor Valley News members have expressed deep sorrow and sent condolences to the Croys as they watched the tragedy unfold over the past several days.

Authorities have requested the San Bernardino Coroners to respond to the scene. **San Bernardino County Fire** will assist the sheriff's department in recovering the body from the Aqueduct.

Information will be updated as it becomes available.

<http://www.vvng.com/breaking-body-surfaces-in-aqueduct-believed-to-be-missing-man/>

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## **Sheriff's Department conducts hoist rescue for injured mountain biker**

**Big Bear Grizzly**

Posted: July 31, 2016

On Saturday, July 30, at approximately 10:40 a.m., San Bernardino County Sheriff's Air Rescue 07 was dispatched to the Snow Summit Ski Resort to assist the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** regarding an injured mountain biker. The victim, Jamie Adamson of Lakewood, California, was riding her mountain bike near the resort when she fell. During the fall, Adamson suffered major injuries and was unable to walk.

Fire department personnel arrived and located Adamson before the crew arrived. Personnel determined Adamson would need to be hoist rescued due to her injuries and the remote location.

Once the helicopter was in position, Deputy Steve Miller lowered Air Medic Li down to Adamson. After a brief assessment, Adamson was placed into a litter and hoisted into the helicopter, followed by Air Medic Li.

Adamson was flown to Loma Linda University Medical Center for treatment of non-life threatening injuries.

Adamson was participating in the 20K Big Bear MTB Gran Fondo when the fall occurred.

[http://www.bigbeargrizzly.net/news/sheriff-s-department-conducts-hoist-rescue-for-injured-mountain-biker/article\\_d96ba98a-5760-11e6-9815-ab02b031bf6e.html](http://www.bigbeargrizzly.net/news/sheriff-s-department-conducts-hoist-rescue-for-injured-mountain-biker/article_d96ba98a-5760-11e6-9815-ab02b031bf6e.html)

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## **California burning**

**Daniel B. Jeffs, Letter to the Editor, Victor Valley Daily Press**

Posted: August 1, 2016, 10:25 AM

Immediate use of DC-10 water drops would have extinguished the Sand Fire brush fire along the 14 freeway before it spread into an out-of-control wildfire.

Indeed, with the history of firefighting incompetence by the U.S. Forest Service and Cal Fire at Lake Arrowhead, the Cajon Pass into the Victor Valley, Santa Barbara, San Gabriel Canyon, Lake Isabella, and many fires in Northern California, needless loss of forest lands, property and lives could have been simply prevented.

Clearly, all of these wildfires and more across the county could have been prevented by a fleet of DC-10 tankers subject to immediate dispatch with enormous water drops at the start of each fire, extinguishing them before they spread.

Surely, waiting until fires get out of control, then sending DC-10s to drop red Fosh-Chek slurry to keep out-of-control fires from spreading further is nothing more than an exercise in futility. Particularly, after thousands of firefighters, equipment and millions of taxpayer dollars are wasted.

Alas, it's beyond time to get it right with a vastly distributed fleet of DC-10s loaded with water and waiting for the call to keep California and America from burning.

Apple Valley

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/opinion/20160801/letters-to-editor-08-01-16>

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## **Train collides with tractor trailer on Phelan Road**

*Engineer's quick thinking' helps avoid injuries, major damage*

**Victor Valley Daily Press**

Posted: August 1, 2016, 10:33 AM



A train collided with a tractor trailer on Phelan Road a little before 6 a.m. on Monday. Photo courtesy of Timothy Hickerson

**PHELAN** — A train collided with a tractor trailer on Phelan Road a little before 6 a.m. on Monday, authorities said.

California Highway Patrol officers responded to the collision on the Phelan Road railroad tracks, just west of Baldy Mesa Road, at approximately 5:57 a.m., according to CHP Officer Daniel Rodriguez.

The tractor trailer was traveling westbound on Phelan Road and was unable to stop as it approached the train tracks. Rodriguez said the tractor trailer came to a rest on the center divider.

The oncoming Union Pacific train engineer saw the tractor trailer and attempted an emergency stop, Rodriguez said, but was unable to avoid the collision.

“Thankfully the engineer noticed the big rig and was able to make the emergency stop and minimized the impact,” said Rodriguez, who reported the crash resulted in no injuries.

Phelan resident Timothy Hickerson said he was traveling eastbound on Phelan Road and was stopped on the opposite end of the tracks. Hickerson said he backed up his vehicle and prayed for the train and tractor trailer.

“The train engineer’s quick thinking, and also the fact it was a light train, (made it so he) was able to stop the train and collided at about 8 mph,” Hickerson said. “The collision wasn’t loud at all and the truck was pushed back, maybe three to four feet. The driver of the truck was a little shaken up but not injured.”

Rodriguez said the crash shut down Phelan Road and diverted traffic. Phelan Road was clear at approximately 8:20 a.m. and the collision remained under investigation, Rodriguez said.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/article/20160801/NEWS/160809978>

## Hesperia City Council: What to watch for

*Council to discuss fireworks and Prop 57 during special meeting*

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

Posted Aug. 1, 2016 at 11:54 AM

HESPERIA — The City Council will conduct their bimonthly meeting earlier than usual Tuesday to participate in the National Night Out event that same evening.

During the special council meeting which begins at 3 p.m., the Council's list of agenda items includes:

— A presentation by Hesperia Sheriff's Station Captain Gregg Wielenga, who will discuss enforcement and illegal fireworks used during the Fourth of July weekend.

The captain's report will come after last month's holiday weekend where "the use of fireworks appeared to have increased over past years evidenced by the volume of inquiries and complaints from citizens received by various internal City staff, Fire and Police Departments," a staff report said.

During July's meeting, Mayor Bill Holland and Councilman Russ Blewett directed staff to prepare and return with a report at a future date.

The agenda item reveals that a Fireworks Task Force comprised of the Hesperia Sheriff's Station and **San Bernardino County Fire Department** handled 255 fireworks related calls from July 1 to July 4, a number that almost doubled from the previous year.

— The discussion to enter into a professional services agreement with independent certified public accountants firm White Nelson Diehl Evans LLP in the amount of \$87,800 for performing the audit of the city for the previous fiscal year ended June 30.

— The possible adoption of a resolution to revise and extend certain emergency water conservation measures authorized by the Public Utilities Ordinance and mandated by the California State Water Resources Control Board as previously adopted.

Current drought emergency water conservation regulations and restrictions are still in effect until Jan. 31, 2017, as mandated, with no additional restrictions and/or regulations in order to ensure adequate water supply for an additional three years of drought based on the formula established by the SWRCB.

— The possible adoption of a resolution to oppose Proposition 57, the Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act of 2016. In January Gov. Brown unveiled his plan to overhaul the rules regarding parole eligibility for inmates serving time for nonviolent crimes.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160801/NEWS/160809975/0/SEARCH>

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## Firefighters use Jaws of Life to extricate man, woman after crash on Bear Valley Road

Jose Quintero, Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: August 1, 2016, 3:33 PM



San Bernardino County firefighters extricate a victim from a Kia Soul on Monday after a two-car collision on Bear Valley Road near the Mall of Victor Valley. James Quigg, Daily Press

VICTORVILLE — A man and woman were extricated from a Kia Soul after a two-vehicle collision near Bear Valley and Amargosa roads just before 2 p.m. Monday.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department deputies on the scene did not provide information on the crash, but a witness said a man driving in a Chrysler sedan collided with a street sign prior to crashing into the Kia near the southern entrance of the Mall of Victor Valley.

A media inquiry with the Victorville Sheriff's Station was not immediately returned Monday afternoon.

Victorville resident Julieth Vargas said she was traveling westbound on Bear Valley Road in the No. 3 lane when she had to slam on her brakes as she was cut off by the Chrysler.

"The Chrysler then took out the street sign, crashed into the Kia and lost control as he drove up the sidewalk," Vargas said. "I have no idea where the Chrysler came from. I just had to slam on my brakes really hard in order to avoid crashing into the car."

The Chrysler veered through the center divider across the eastbound lanes and came to a rest on the sidewalk. The driver was helped out of the Chrysler a little after 2 p.m. and loaded into an ambulance with unknown injuries.

Vargas said the Kia was stopped and attempting to exit the Mall of Victor Valley parking lot to turn onto westbound Bear Valley Road. The impact sent the Kia up the nearby sidewalk, coming to a rest on a portion of landscape directly in front of the former David's Bridal's building.

**San Bernardino County Fire Department firefighters** used the Jaws of Life to extricate a man and woman from the Kia and they were taken to a hospital with unknown injuries. County fire officials said an airship was required for an "immediate patient."

The crash shut down the westbound No. and No. 3 lanes, causing a slight a backup at the Bear Valley and Amargosa intersection as the scene was cleared.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/article/20160801/NEWS/160809969/0/SEARCH>



## How 20 public safety officers in San Bernardino move a giant 757 plane 40 feet

Michel Nolan, The Sun

Posted: August 1, 2016, 4:03 PM



San Bernardino police, sheriff's deputies and county firefighters on Monday participated in a test pull of a 757 jet at San Bernardino International Airport. The SB Strong Plane Pull is part of the 2016 SBDFest Airshow, scheduled for Sept. 10. (Photo: Rick Sforza)



San Bernardino police, sheriff's deputies and county firefighters on Monday participated in a test pull of a 757 jet at San Bernardino International Airport. The SB Strong Plane Pull is part of the 2016 SBDFest Airshow, scheduled for Sept. 10. (Photo: Rick Sforza)

**SAN BERNARDINO >>** Gigantic 757 airplanes typically need a tank full of jet fuel to move. On Monday, though, all it took was a long line of SB Strong.

Strength, stamina and endurance were put to the test as fire department and law enforcement teams faced off in 90-degree-plus temperatures to see which could pull a 757-200 aircraft the farthest in two minutes.

Monday was only a test pull.

The real thing — the SB Strong Plane Pull competition — is for the 2016 SBDFest Airshow on Sept. 10 at San Bernardino International Airport.

“It will be awesome at this event with the airshow going — really fun. This event will raise money for our volunteer forces,” said San Bernardino County sheriff's Deputy Kristin Garcia. “This is great.”

San Bernardino police, **San Bernardino County firefighters** and San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies will be joined Sept. 8-10 by three New York Police Department officers and three New York Fire Department firefighters who will travel west to help promote the event and show New York City's solidarity with the city of San Bernardino.

"We feel that it is important to develop friendships and connections that will help us learn from each other's misfortunes," said Lt. Patrick Mulcahy, of the New York City Police Department. "The events that occurred in San Bernardino were felt by all of us in New York City and we are happy to do anything we can to help the community heal."

Together on Monday, 20 police, sheriff and fire personnel tugged the 120,000-pound plane 40 feet in 45 seconds.

In the first plane-pull attempt, 15 officers, deputies and firefighters pulled the plane only one foot.

Then the call went out for five more participants.

The latest recruits grabbed hold, and then slowly, the giant aircraft rolled along the tarmac.

The final tally: 20 team members pulled the plane 40 feet in 45 seconds.

"It's worth the work and we're all sweatin'," said Deputy Matt Yost.

Talk of participating in a "once-in-a-lifetime experience," could be heard in the crowd, and several of the deputies agreed.

There was a stress component to it, said Sheriff's Captain Horace Boatwright, but once they got it moving, there was a "refreshing feeling."

The effort is for a good cause, too.

Fundraising is done through online pledging, with funds benefitting the three local public safety organizations — a much-needed boost.

In spring, San Bernardino Police Chief Jarrod Burguan presented the plane-pull concept to the SBD Airport staff, according to Catherine Pritchett, director of administrative services for the San Bernardino International Airport Authority.

"He said it would be a fun event to add to the airshow, and we developed it into a fundraiser for the public safety nonprofits," Pritchett said.

For tickets and information: [www.sbdfest.com](http://www.sbdfest.com). For information on the SB Strong Plane Pull or to make pledges: <https://anython.com/SBDFest2016PlanePull>.

<http://www.sbsun.com/social-affairs/20160801/how-20-public-safety-officers-in-san-bernardino-move-a-giant-757-plane-40-feet>

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## EMS Crews Share their Experience of the San Bernardino Terrorist Attack

Carly Crews, RN, BSN, MICN, A.J. Heightman, MPA, EMT-P, Journal of Emergency Medical Services

Posted: August 1, 2016



Photos Micah Escamilla

With three months of careful planning completed for a multi-agency mass casualty incident (MCI) drill, Dec. 8 was quickly approaching. It was to be the first joint drill conducted between **San Bernardino City Fire Department** (SBCFD), San Manuel Fire Department (SMFD), and CAL FIRE Highland. The scenario: a vehicle crashing into a bus with approximately 30 victims. The objective: fine-tuning incident command support roles and use of simple triage and rapid treatment (START), and orienting staff to new MCI supplies.

Six days before the big drill, EMS Coordinator Carly Crews and fire engineer Scott Leidner were finalizing preparation of new MCI kits and individual packs in the EMS office at SBCFD. Engineer/tactical paramedic Ryan Starling, along with members of the SWAT team, were training on the north end of town on their response procedures at active shooter events.

Two battalion chiefs and the deputy fire chief were attending an antiterrorism class in a neighboring city, and the fire chief was in a meeting at city hall dealing with the transition of SBCFD to the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

In a city of approximately 215,000 residents, and a call volume of an average of 30,000 calls per year, the call volume was lower than normal that morning. Fire and police dispatchers located on the same floor in the San Bernardino Communications Center were answering calls as they routinely do, in an arrangement that has greatly assisted the interoperability of communication for major events in the past.

At 10:58 a.m., calls reporting shots being fired at a public building began bombarding the police dispatchers. A minute later on the other side of the room, fire dispatcher Kathy McRaven received a water flow alarm. With her outstanding listening skills, she realized the addresses of the calls and the alarm were the same: the Inland Regional Center (IRC)-a two-story, state-run facility for individuals with developmental disabilities where community events are held.

McRaven, operating without a second fire dispatcher at the time, was forced to switch from her first call to a second call. The second came from a woman hiding in a bathroom, frantically attempting to assist another woman who'd been shot. Similar calls of this nature continued.

Because the attack lasted less than five minutes, victims and witnesses could only provide the dispatchers minimal information, which varied. However, all those in the dispatch center almost immediately realized this was an active shooter incident, and McRaven began dispatching units. The first paramedic engine, ME231, was sent at 11:03 a.m. along with an ALS ambulance from American Medical Response (AMR).

"I was doing everything at that moment," McRaven said. "I was answering calls, hand-ling all radio traffic, and within moments, had dispatched every fire department medical vehicle available, plus two battalion chiefs. We wiped out everything we had to cover the city," said McRaven. "In addition, we called AMR to send 15 ambulances to the scene. Then we had to worry about covering the remainder of the city for any other calls that came in that were not related to the shooting."

### Initial Incident Command Report

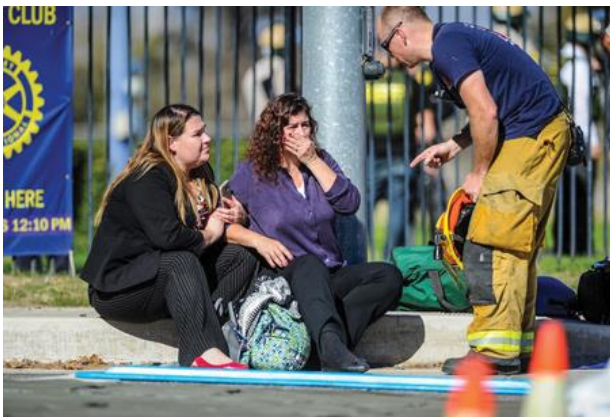
Battalion Chief Grant Hubbell, the first command officer on scene, established incident command as well as tactical command. He assigned other incident command responsibilities to responding and staged fire personnel, who were instructed to stage north and south of the incident and wait for clearance to enter the scene. Predetermining these roles en route was a key factor in the success of the response.

The Medical Communications (Med Com) officer, firefighter/paramedic Cody Underwood, on the job for only four months, declared an MCI through the County Communication Center (Comm Center) after reports confirmed approximately 20 victims. He then requested bed availability through the county's Reddinet system.

"Engineer Chris Bowen decided to listen to the police traffic," said Underwood. "This was huge because it provided further details to us about the severity of the incident."

Both Underwood and firefighter/paramedic John Marini then made calls to the base station and trauma center to inform them of the incident.

Starling and his team received notice of the incident immediately. They traded their blanks for live ammo and traveled what was normally a 22-minute route in just nine minutes.



Shooting victims aren't uncommon in the San Bernardino area, so SBCFD responders knew how to respond and care for each patient.

On arrival, the SWAT team and Starling entered the southeast entrance of the building to find smoke lingering from discharged weapons in and around the conference room where the first shots had been reported.

Victims pleaded for help, fire alarms were sounding and there was a rush of water from the sprinkler system that created a chaotic and loud environment.

"The water was flowing out the entrance door and had a red tinge of color to it. It was obvious it was blood from the victims," Starling said.

Starling branched off from his tactical medic duties and began triaging patients within the conference room, utilizing START. He marked victims with medical tape to best identify those who needed immediate and rapid extrication to the casualty collection point and the treatment area.

This identification system made it easier to direct the officers to victims they should extract first; the officers would then drag, carry or use chairs to extract the victims to waiting vehicles that could transfer them to the EMS treatment area.

Crews recalls, "When the first [alarm] taps came through the station, it seemed like a normal call for San Bernardino. Dispatch requested ME231 to 'stage for multiple gunshot victims.' It was the second taps that requested the whole city that made me realize this was bigger than we could have imagined. I realized if I didn't make it onto an engine, I wouldn't be going."

Shooting victims aren't uncommon for SBCFD first responders, so, whether it was one patient or multiple, they knew what to do.

"Being able to monitor the police radio traffic was huge," Marini recalls. "I kept thinking, 'This is going to be a big event, this is going to be make the news, this has to be done right.'"

The triage and treatment area was set up utilizing salvage covers and paramedic gear from the engines and AMR. Ironically, all of the updated medical gear and new, color-coded triage/treatment tarps remained in the EMS coordinator's office ready to be delivered to each engine that afternoon and the following morning.

"While we were staging, I kept thinking that I had spent 16 years on the SWAT team as a tactical medic, and now it was the real deal. I was praying for Ryan [Starling] since I knew he was all alone as the sole medic," Captain Craig Mashburn said.

After the triage, treatment and transportation areas were established, "There was an awkward 4-5 minute period while we waited anxiously for the first patient," Marini said.

Captain Ron Good was designated as the triage unit leader. He, Captain Greg Soria, Engineer John Miller, and firefighter/paramedic Cody Strickland were approached by Starling to assist with triage within the building.

"When I said, 'Let's go in,' my team didn't hesitate and did a great job, even in an unsecured environment," Soria recalls.

The crew worked to re-triage patients directly around and within the IRC. Black triage tags were placed on deceased patients and they were left in place. Red-, yellow- and green-tagged patients were placed in various probation and police vehicles and moved from the casualty collection point to the triage and treatment area.

Rapid Care & Patient Distribution

Patients moved to the triage and treatment area were found to have massive gunshot wounds that needed immediate attention.

(See Table 1, below.) Although MCI kits and bags with a large volume of important supplies were yet to be deployed, it was fortunate that the paramedics carried wound clot and pressure dressings, occlusive chest seals, and tourniquets in their kits.

**Table 1: Patient types and severity**

Injury severity and deaths	No.	Definition
Deaths	14	Triaged on scene as dead.
Gunshot wounds—critical	11	Patient required emergency surgery.
Gunshot wounds—complex	5	Patient had wounds involving multiple systems, i.e., soft tissue with fractures or soft tissue with neurological deficit.
Gunshot wounds—soft tissue only	4	Patient didn't require surgical repair or wasn't accompanied by life-threatening blood loss.
Orthopedic injuries	8	Non-life-threatening wounds not caused by gunshots, i.e., trip and fall.
Total	42	

AMR sent multiple supervisors to the scene and they connected with Captain Kevin Whitaker, the transport unit leader, to assist with transportation of patients.

Whitaker made several key decisions regarding patient destinations as he worked alongside MedCom and the treatment group. One decision was to utilize San Bernardino County Fire Department Air Rescue 6 to transport one immediate and one delayed patient to a trauma center out of the county. The time from liftoff to touchdown was 11 minutes, the same time it would have taken to drive these patients to a local facility. This decision helped avoid overloading local hospitals that had already received critical patients.

Seventeen critical patients were transported within 17 minutes of their arrival to the triage and treatment area. All 21 patients transported by EMS survived the incident.

### More Commotion

Just when fire and EMS crews believed the scene was stabilized, and shortly after the initial removal of patients from the center, crews were instructed by police personnel to evacuate the building and triage/treatment areas and reestablish them at SBCFD Station 231 because tactical teams had located a suspicious package in the conference room of the primary assault building. Fortunately, the package turned out to be unrelated to the incident.

Because the roadway was blocked directly in front of the IRC from numerous police vehicles, providers had to carry their gear a long way from the engine to the new triage/treatment areas. They reported an uneasiness proceeding down the road to the treatment area, not knowing if the building was cleared, what the package was, or if the assailants were still on location and going to engage the officers in a gun battle.

A decision was made to transport walking wounded (i.e., START triage green classification) away from the emotionally-charged treatment area. Two separate locations were designated for them to be taken for triage, assessment and transport. After each patient was cleared, probation department staff assisted EMS/fire crews in loading these minor injury patients on school buses to transport them for basic care, debriefing and reunification with family members.

Approximately four hours after the initial incident, commotion began again. Reports of a car pursuit and a shootout were spreading among personnel on scene. It was discovered that police were in pursuit of a vehicle believed to contain the shooting suspects. The SWAT team, three SDCFD engines and three AMR ambulances responded.

Rapidly boxed in by multiple police vehicles, both assailants were killed. Crews worked alongside the SWAT team to provide safety and care to the civilians and officers, as well as to an officer who received minor injuries during the shootout.

### Lessons Learned

This high-risk/low-frequency active shooter incident demonstrates the value of preplanning, training and experience in managing MCIs. Whitaker said, "If anyone involved in patient care had ended up at the hospital, we would have felt that we screwed up. Since our engines retained their full complement of personnel after the incident and were able to go back into service when we were done, we did well."

However, after sifting through stacks of reports and documentation, along with the accounts of personnel on scene, we've identified the following lessons learned:

- Unified command needs to be set up and followed immediately between fire/EMS and law enforcement at the scene;
- Interoperability of communication is critical so that all agencies know what is transpiring and when it is transpiring;
- Patient funnels and containment zones need to be established rapidly and triage/treatment put into operation immediately to control or avoid patients being transported by civilian, law enforcement or personal vehicles;
- Assignments such as triage, treatment and transportation need to be made prior to crews arriving on scene;
- Set up triage/treatment area as close as possible to the casualty collection point for easy access in and out;
- Salvage covers and color-coded tarps aid in delineating priority treatment and transport areas and help reduce confusion at the scene;
- Triage/treatment area perimeter control by law enforcement needs to occur for the early into the incident;
- The safety officer needs to be tasked with assessing the location and safety of the triage, treatment and transportation areas as well as ensuring there are an adequate number of armed officers positioned around these zones throughout the incident in the event of a secondary assault occurring as has happened at other incidents;

- Apparatus should be positioned as safety barriers to protect personnel working in the triage/treatment and transportation areas at active shooter and other high-threat incidents;
- Treatment area leaders should be designated, identified by scene vests and tasked with managing and remaining in the immediate, delayed and minor treatment areas/tarps throughout the incident. They're tasked with performing secondary triage and ensuring the proper management of patients in their priority zone; and
- Triage, treatment and transport managers must all be tasked with time management of patient assessment, care, movement and transportation at the scene to ensure effective treatment, maximum efficiency and minimal delays at the scene.

**Table 2: Triage, treated and transported patients from initial incident**

Injury	Triaged	Treated	Transported
Gunshot	33	19	19
Other	3	3	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>

**Included in this table:**

- Fourteen victims were declared deceased at the incident and left on scene.
- Two victims denied medical aid on scene and later sought care at local hospitals; one gunshot wound (GSW)-related, one with other injuries.

**Not included in this table:**

- One victim bypassed EMS and drove himself immediately to a local hospital with injuries other than gunshot related.
- Four patients were transported to a local hospital for injuries received from the secondary incident.
- One patient with GSW-related wound from secondary incident transported to local hospital.
- Two suspects were triaged on scene and declared deceased at the secondary incident.

## The Aftermath

Forty-two victims (not including the two terrorists) were triaged, treated and transported as a result of both the primary and secondary incidents. (See Table 2, above.)

Critical incident debriefings were conducted and open to all on-duty personnel the evening of the incident as well as on the following Monday.

SBCFD and AMR received tremendous support and appreciation from the victims, families, survivors and community after the incident. President Barack Obama traveled to the city twice after the incident; on his first visit he made a point to thank all of the emergency responders.

During the second visit, Hubbell was front and center during the president's reflection of the incident, a moment that was justly deserved to recognize Hubbell's outstanding job.

In April, both on-duty dispatchers received the California Public-Safety Radio Association's Team Award for 2015 *Dispatcher of the Year*. That same day, Starling received both a Lifesaving and a Star of Merit medal alongside police personnel who performed acts of personal bravery in the line of duty.



On July 1, the SBCFD transitioned to San Bernardino County Fire District due to an annexation. As a final farewell and celebration of a legacy of 137 years, the department held a recognition dinner to acknowledge the selfless acts of all responders who acted during the attacks.

This article is intended to recognize everyone who responded to the IRC terrorist attack and recognize them for their bravery and selflessness. Our goal in presenting this account of our incident in *JEMS* is to also share our experiences and lessons learned to assist other departments in preparation and program development. And, above all, it is our intention to remember those who lost their lives that awful day.

<http://www.jems.com/articles/print/volume-41/issue-8/features/ems-crews-share-their-experience-of-the-san-bernardino-terrorist-attack.html>