



# NEWS



## News Headlines 11/4/2016

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## San Bernardino pallet fire could be arson

Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: November 4, 2016, 6:08 AM



Firefighters battle a pallet fire that broke out about 4 a.m. Friday, Nov. 4, 2016, at Mountain View Avenue and Riverview Drive in San Bernardino. (Photo by Beatriz Valenzuela/San Bernardino Sun)



A pallet fire broke out about 4 a.m. Friday, Nov. 4, 2016, at Mountain View Avenue and Riverview Drive in San Bernardino. (Photo by Beatriz Valenzuela/San Bernardino Sun)

SAN BERNARDINO >> As firefighters were getting a handle on a pallet fire that broke out in the early morning hours today in San Bernardino local pallet yard owners wonder if the fire wasn't intentionally set.

"This is the fourth pallet yard fire in just this year," said Lisa Montes, owner of G.O. Pallets in Fontana which was had its own fire in January. "All these fires in the same industry? Something is happening."

The cause of Friday morning's fire was still under investigation and authorities could not comment if Friday's fire was a result of arson, **San Bernardino County fire** officials said.

Montes and other members of the North American Pallets Association arrived at the pallet yard on Riverview Drive near Mountain Avenue as soon as they heard about the blaze, which was first reported just after 4 a.m.

"We're here to show the owner support," said Rigoberto Salas, a member of NAPA and owner of a yard in Fontana.

Several fire trucks, additional engines, a dozer and a hand crew helped battle the pallet-fueled blaze, said San Bernardino County fire Capt. Mike McClintock.

Several agencies, including the San Manuel, Redlands and Loma Linda fire departments, helped in the fight.

Firefighters attacked the blaze from all sides. Around 6:30 a.m., crews were still hitting hot spots as the fire died down. There were no injuries.

Hazmat crews were called out to the fire because there were worries about items that may be stored at nearby buildings.

Because of the way pallets are created and stacked, they burn hotter and tend to be more difficult to put out, said McClintock.

“You have very dry wood, and air that can get between the pallets, so they really just burn hot,” McClintock said.

About 3 to 4 acres of pallets and equipment burned in the fire, McClintock said.

There were concerns the flames may have reached an adjacent strip mall, but that did not happen. However, it appears the heat did damage some items on nearby properties.

Tom Thompson, the manager at a door and window company across the street from the pallet yard, said the flames were very high and intense.

“It’s was so hot and intense I was scared it was going to spread. I had to back up, and I was already 200 feet away,” Thompson said.

Thompson said the yard has only been here for a few months.

The intense heat melted large plastic containers at a nearby business.

The fire caused extensive damage, and firefighters are expected to remain on scene well into the day, San Bernardino County Fire’s Capt. McClintock said.

The fire was brought under control in about one to two hours, which is fairly quick for a pallet fire, McClintock said.

“We’ve had a number of these in Fontana, and we are familiar with them. What really helped was getting a lot of crews here quickly,” he said.

It’s the number of fires at pallet yards in recent years that concern Montes and members of NAPA.

“In the last five years, we’ve had 15 fires,” she said. “You can’t help feel that it’s on purpose. Is it because of our industry, or because we’re Latinos?”

According to Montes, all the businesses affected by the recent rash of fires are owned by Latinos.

Only five days ago, on Sunday, Meza Pallets on Merrill Avenue near Cherry Avenue experienced a fire that was caught on video.

The footage shows a large flash in the lower corner of the screen. “There is no electrical there, so how did it start?” questioned Montes. “It looks like someone threw a Molotov (cocktail).”

After Montes’ business, which she owns with her sister, was hit by fire, the NAPA members raised \$32,000 for a reward for information leading to the arrest of the person responsible for the fire, which was determined to have been arson.

“We just want this to stop,” said Montes. “We’re trying to survive, too.”

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/general-news/20161104/san-bernardino-pallet-fire-could-be-arson>

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## Pallet fire dying out in San Bernardino

Beatriz Valenzuela, Press Enterprise

Posted: November 4, 2016, 7:14 AM



Firefighters are getting a handle on a pallet fire that broke out in the early morning hours today in San Bernardino and threatened a nearby strip mall.

The fire ignited about 4 a.m. at Mountain View Avenue and Riverview Drive, said **San Bernardino County fire** Capt. Mike McClintock.

Five trucks, five additional engines, a dozer and a hand crew are battling the pallet-fueled blaze, the county fire department reported. Several agencies, including the San Manuel, Redlands and Loma Linda fire departments, are helping in the fight.

Firefighters have been attacking the blaze from all sides. There have been no injuries.

Tomorrow Thompson, the manager at a nearby door and window company, said the flames were very high and intense.

“It’s was so hot and intense I was scared it was going to spread. I had to back up, and I was already 200 feet away,” Thompson said.

Thompson said the yard has only been here for a few months.

<http://www.pe.com/articles/handle-817608-broke-strip.html>

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## Third Alarm Fire: Pallet Yard Blaze Visible From Mountain Communities (Update 3)

Michael P. Neufeld, Rim of the World News

Posted: November 4, 2016, 5:02 AM



San Bernardino County Fire is reporting the “Mountain View” incident at a pallet yard in San Bernardino has been contained. (Photo by San Bernardino County Fire)



(Photo by San Bernardino County Fire)

UPDATE 3: Friday, November 4 – 7:40 a.m.

San Bernardino, CA – The “Mountain View” incident involving Inland Pallets in San Bernardino has been contained. Cooperating agencies have been released.

Overhaul is underway, according to **San Bernardino County Fire**.

No injuries have been reported.

UPDATE 2: Friday, November 4 – 5:24 a.m.

San Bernardino, CA – San Bernardino County Fire has updated the location of the fire at Inland Pallets at 1990 East Riverview Drive in San Bernardino.

The media advisory indicates crews are making progress on pallet yard and adjacent strip mall.

UPDATE: Friday, November 4 – 5:14 a.m.

San Bernardino, CA – Five additional engines have been requested to respond to the Pallet Yard Fire in San Bernardino.

Resources on scene now include an extra engine, 1 dozer and 1 hand crew, according to County Fire.

Motorists heading off the hill can see the flames from the fire.

#### ORIGINAL STORY

San Bernardino, CA – A Third alarm fire in a pallet yard in San Bernardino is visible from several mountain locations.

San Bernardino County Fire is reporting the blaze is in the 1200 block of Mountain View and that the commercial structure is exposed.

The multi-agency response began about 4:20 a.m., according to information provided by San Bernardino County Fire. At last report there were 14 engines and 2 truck companies assigned to the fire

<http://rotwnews.com/2016/11/04/third-alarm-fire-pallet-yard-blaze-visible-from-mountain-communities/>

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## Abandoned building burns in Muscoy

John M. Blodgett, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: November 3, 2016, 11:25 PM



San Bernardino County firefighters knock down a fire at an abandoned building in Muscoy Thursday night. Photo By John M. Blodgett



San Bernardino County firefighters knock down a fire at an abandoned building in Muscoy Thursday night. Photo By John M. Blodgett

MUSCOY >> No one was injured Thursday night when an abandoned building in Muscoy burned.

The fire in the 2800 block of California Street was reported at 9:18 p.m., according to a **San Bernardino County fire** news release. Firefighters found heavy smoke and flames and the fire burning through parts of the roof, the news release states. They attempted an offensive attack “but were quickly pushed back due to a compromised roof.”

The firefighters regrouped and went on the defensive, fighting the fire from the exterior and knocking it down in about 25 minutes, the news release states.

The office of the fire marshal is investigating the cause.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20161103/abandoned-building-burns-in-muscoy>

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## **Bluecut victims still need assistance**

**Opinion, Daily Press**

Posted: November 4, 2016

More than two months have passed since the massive Bluecut Fire, which started in the Cajon Pass and moved northward into the High Desert, forcing the attempted evacuation of more than 80,000 residents of Phelan, Oak Hills, Victorville and Hesperia.

More than 100 homes were destroyed, as well as other property, including vehicles and outbuildings. All told, the loss was estimated in the millions of dollars. Among the properties burned was the historic Summit Inn at the top of the Cajon Pass, adjacent to Interstate 15 off Oak Hill Road.

For 64 years the restaurant was a landmark and gathering place for not only local residents but also travelers to Las Vegas and visitors to Route 66. It was said that Elvis Presley once stopped at the Summit Inn and no doubt other celebrities did as well.

Summit Inn owner Otto Recinos vows to rebuild the restaurant, but he is finding — like many of those who lost homes — that isn't as easy as one might think.

Asbestos and lead were found in the Summit Inn, as well as other destroyed properties, and there are certain rules that have to be followed to dispose of these and other toxic debris.

Unfortunately, disposing of this material isn't cheap.

Recinos told Daily Press Staff Writer Matthew Cabe clean-up costs will run \$320,000, as he will have to do Level 5 abatement, which is very expensive. Recinos had fire insurance on the property, but said no insurers cover asbestos or lead.

As a result, others are coming to Recinos' aide as he attempts to rebuild this historic landmark. There is a car show scheduled for Saturday in the parking lot of Midway Home Solutions at 14444 Atstar Drive, Victorville. Proceeds will go to the Summit Inn clean-up fund.

Meanwhile, San Bernardino County will hold an open house for Bluecut Fire victims from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at Phelan Elementary School, 4167 Phelan Road, Phelan. The goal is to tell people how to get help in removing asbestos and other debris from their property. For instance, low or zero interest loans may be available to help victims clean up and rebuild.

The United Way also will be on hand Saturday, as well as personnel from the county's Community Development and Housing, Code Enforcement, Solid Waste, Building and Safety, Environmental Health and Behavioral Health departments.

Those who lost homes in this fire are far from returning to normal and need all the help they can get. We encourage the county to continue to reach out to these residents, who undoubtedly feel overwhelmed and may not know where to turn.

One important step that the county took immediately was the Aug. 29 creation of a web page containing valuable resource information. We salute the county for doing that, but urge continued outreach to victims.

For those who need immediate assistance, we recommend a visit to: [www.sbcounty.gov/bluecut](http://www.sbcounty.gov/bluecut)

[\(Print Edition Only\)](#)