



NEWS



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Fire fighters recognized by LACSD

Gail Fry, Alpenhorn News

Posted: September 23, 2016



From left to right: Arrowbear Lake Fire Department Captain Jim Ozias, firefighters Patricia Perry and Ryan Dorset, Lake Arrowhead Community Services District General Manager Catherine Cerri, San Bernardino County Fire Department Public Information Officer Marc Peebles and division Chief Kathleen Opliger and San Manuel Fire Department Assistant Chief Matt Woodring (Photo by Gail Fry)

At its September 13 regular meeting, the Lake Arrowhead Community Services District invited representatives of participating fire departments, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol to attend its meeting for recognition for their efforts in fighting the Pilot Fire, which threatened its Grass Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant.

According to a resolution obtained by *The Alpenhorn News*, the Pilot Fire was within "less than a half a mile from the District's Grass Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant" and fire personnel "were stationed at the plant 24-hours a day" with part of their efforts including "gelling the methane tanks, cutting large fire breaks and surrounding the plant with Phos-Chek."

As a result, the Lake Arrowhead Community Services District (LACSD) Board, through its resolution, approved at the September 13 meeting, recognized "the efforts of the fire crews for the importance they placed on protecting the plant" and their "efforts during the Pilot Fire."

A separate resolution was approved to recognize district staff for their efforts to man the Grass Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant (GVWWTP) 24-hours a day, maintain full operations and come up with a contingency plan "that would avoid overflow at the facility" in case they were forced to leave with its field operations department preparing for "increased water flow" for the community of Deer Lodge Park.

Arrowbear Lake Fire Department Captain Jim Ozias, firefighters Patricia Perry and Ryan Dorset, **San Bernardino County Fire Department** Division Chief Kathleen Opliger, public information officer Marc Peebles, San Manuel Fire Department Assistant Chief Matt Woodring, California Highway Patrol Public Information Officer Juan Quintero were present to receive recognition for their efforts in fighting the Pilot Fire and protecting LACSD's GVWWTP.

At its August 23 regular meeting, LACSD Operations Manager Matt Brook shared how the Pilot Fire got to "upwards of 1/8 mile away from the fence" of the GVWWTP with fire crews from all over the country there to defend it.

“It was very scary at times,” Brooks recalled, explaining, it was impressive to see the firefighter crews bulldoze fire breaks and create fire roads, while air resources blanketed the plant with phos-chek and told LACSD personnel that if necessary they would receive a 15-minute warning to leave.

In the meantime, LACSD personnel were developing a contingency plan in case of a worst case scenario where if they needed to abandon the plant and what they would do if they had to walk away from the place assuming “it would burn to the ground” and to “prevent any release of untreated wastewater there.”

Due to the efforts of the firefighting personnel, LACSD personnel did not have to abandon the wastewater treatment plant.

Another item on LACSD’s agenda was the approval of an interfund loan from wastewater operating fund to the Rimforest Operating Fund.

General manager Catherine Cerri explained the interfund loan is to cover the cost of the purchase and installation of meters for the community of Rimforest, with its ratepayers able to pay the loan back within a few years.

LACSD President Bill Thompson called for the vote, with directors Ryan Gross, John Wurm and Steve Boydston voting yes and Thompson voting no, explaining his protest to interfund loans.

District Engineer Aida Hercules-Dodaro presented and the LACSD board unanimously approved, awarding a contract to Trinity Construction, Inc. to rehabilitate and seal manhole covers that have been paved over on roads in the northern section of Lake Arrowhead.

<http://alpenhornnews.com/fire-fighters-recognized-by-lacsd-p7510-154.htm>

San Bernardino County supervisors to consider rave task force

A county supervisor wants to put officials and residents together to find solutions

Joe Nelson, Press Enterprise

Posted: September 26, 2016, 5:38 PM



In an effort to crack down on unruly conduct, heavy traffic and noise levels associated with raves at the San Manuel Amphitheater in Devore, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today will consider forming an Electronic Dance Music Task Force.

Supervisor Janice Rutherford, in response to more than 100 resident complaints, proposed terminating the county's contract with Live Nation to host the Nocturnal Wonderland rave and its sister events, which have been held annually at the amphitheater since the county entered into a 3-year contract with Live Nation in 2013. But Rutherford's proposal failed in June due to lack of board consensus.

Now, the board is proposing to form a task force that would develop health and safety guidelines for all raves at the amphitheater. The task force would consist of representatives from the county administrator's office, County Counsel, the Sheriff's Department, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, the **San Bernardino County Fire Protection District**, the county Regional Parks Department and Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency.

The proposed task force also would seek input from the community, especially Devore residents, and consider changes to accommodate their concerns.

Devore resident Valerie Henry, president of the Devore Rural Protection Association and a 32-year resident of Devore, said that short of ending the events at the amphitheater altogether, she said she would at least like to see the events end at 11 p.m. instead of 2 a.m.

"All other concerts or festivals end at 11 p.m. It shouldn't be any different for these," Henry said Monday in a telephone interview.

Another thing Henry suggests is to convert the rave into a "silent disco" after 10 p.m., where attendees wear wireless headphones and the music is broadcast through a radio transmitter, which would end the noise problem altogether.

"The kids get the same experience, but the surrounding neighborhoods don't get the impact of the noise," Henry said.

Rutherford is pushing to get the raves back to an 11 p.m. end time, as was agreed in its original contract with Live Nation, but later amended to extend the end time to 2 a.m. She said the silent disco idea was broached with the event promoters, but it was determined it wouldn't work for such a large, outside venue.

“Apparently it works at small indoor venues, but no one has figured it out for the large outdoor venues yet,” Rutherford said Monday in a telephone interview. “I thought it was a great solution, but it won't actually work.”

She said she also is interested in expanding the scope of the task force to include other events at the amphitheater and similar issues that arise from them in terms of traffic and noise.

“I had a lot of complaints this past weekend with the Ozzfest,” Rutherford said, adding that the most prevalent complaint was regarding traffic congestion and traffic control.

The two-day Ozzfest/Knotfest event drew in 75,000 people, according to organizers. The Sheriff's Department reported that more than 62,000 attended; 16 people were taken to the hospital for various medical reasons, and 30 people were arrested, most for alcohol-related offenses.

The Board of Supervisors on Tuesday also will hear a presentation on how things went at the recent Nocturnal Wonderland event over Labor Day weekend. The presentation was given to the board at its Sept. 13 meeting, the first meeting of the board following the event, but the presentation was not placed on the board agenda, leading to criticism of a possible Brown Act violation.

While no deaths were reported at the three-day Nocturnal Wonderland event over Labor Day weekend, drug overdose-related deaths have been a big concern at the raves. One man died after attending the inaugural event at the amphitheater in 2013 and another man died after attending Beyond Wonderland in March 2015.

Additionally, three people died at the Hard Summer Music Festival rave at the Auto Club Speedway in Fontana in July. Auto Club Speedway representatives have not commented on the deaths and what they plan to do in response.

“That's paramount in everybody's mind,” Henry said. “We've had far too many deaths. One is too many, and we've had five in San Bernardino County. I can't imagine anything worse for a parent to go through. And a lot of these kids were college students. It's a waste of life.”

<http://www.pe.com/articles/county-814295-board-amphitheater.html>

Destructive Blue Cut Fire Failed to Burn Homes Protected by Gel

"We apply the gel, and for the most part, the fire cannot penetrate through."

Patrick Healy, NBC4 News

Posted: September 27, 2016, 5:50 AM

The devastating Blue cut fire failed to burn any homes that had been covered with fire-resistant gel, including a new version being tried by fire officials for the first time, according to the **San Bernardino Fire Department**.

For more than two decades, gel has proven its ability to resist flames and protect buildings.

"We've had a 100 percent success rate so far," said San Bernardino County Fire Capt. Shane Glaze, who described his department as an early adopter of the technology. "Nothing is fireproof, but we apply the gel, and for the most part, the fire cannot penetrate through."

Sadly, as quickly as the Blue Cut Fire expanded, the county's gel strike teams could not get to every structure that was threatened, and some 100 burned.

Where firefighters have hoped for gel improvement, Glaze said, is in the first generation delivery system, not compatible with the tanks most every fire engine or truck with pumper carries to hold fire-suppressing foam. Instead, a five gallon, 40-plus pound container of gel is usually mounted in a backpack that feeds the gel into a small water hose.

Generally one tank has enough gel for an average size house, and then the firefighter must re-load another. The cost per home can exceed \$100.

Apart from the weight and the lack of capacity, the low pressure system also limits the roaming distance from the water source to under 300 feet, Glaze said.

In the past year, San Bernardino County has been working with a newer technology developed by Oregon-based Atira Systems. It offers what Glaze sees as breakthrough technology: the gel is formulated to be stored and delivered directly from a standard foam tank with a standard pump.

This means not only doing away with the heavy backpack, but also larger capacity, and the gel mixture can be delivered at a higher pressure and volume so each house can be covered more quickly. What's more, the higher pressure extends the hose run to a thousand feet, which means firefighters can gel houses that were previously inaccessible, Glaze said.

"We can spray it, let the fire front come through, pull our firefighters out of harm's way, fire front goes through, we come back in immediately, we knock down any hotspots, and that's how we've been doing it," Glaze said. "We've been very successful, not only in protecting the homes, but in ... firefighters' safety."

Not every fire agency uses gel. In Los Angeles, city fire equips its engines with gel containers. Los Angeles County relies on foam and does not use gel, but can increase the foam concentration in certain cases to offer structures some protection, the department said.

Some insurance companies have set up brigades to gel the houses of policy-holders when threatened by wildfire.

Home gel kits are also available from manufacturers, such as Florida based Barricade, which developed the first gel product for fire fighting. The company advocates home storage of gel in areas potentially threatened by wildfire, so that even if the resident is not prepared to apply the gel, it's already there for firefighters, said Barricade Founder and President John Bartlett.

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/--Next-Generation-Fire-Resisting-Gel-Passes-Trial-by-Fire-394889041.html>

Man dies in accident on Interstate 15 Freeway in Fontana on Sept. 26

Fontana Herald News

Posted: September 27, 2016 8:43 AM.

A man died in a solo vehicle accident on the southbound Interstate 15 Freeway in northwestern Fontana on the night of Sept. 26, according to the California Highway Patrol.

The crash occurred at 10:40 p.m. north of the Duncan Canyon Avenue interchange, when a 2016 GMC Yukon was traveling in the No. 2 lane at a speed of about 80 mph, the CHP said.

For an unknown reason, the Yukon drifted to the right and then hit a guard rail, overturned, and burst into flames, the CHP said.

The man was pronounced deceased at the scene by the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/man-dies-in-accident-on-interstate-freeway-in-fontana-on/article_35b56a60-84c9-11e6-8ca2-078d213d726d.html

Canyon Fire: 20-Year-Old Arson Suspect Arrested

Michael P. Neufeld, Rim of the World News

Posted: September 27, 2016, 7:07 PM



The Canyon Fire along lower Waterman Canyon Road burned about two acres early Monday morning. (Photo by Clayton Malcom/RimFire)

San Bernardino, CA – The 20-year-old man suspected of setting the Canyon Fire — Edwin Valentino Lizano — will have a video arraignment at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 28 from the West Valley Detention Center.

Lizano — who is being held on \$250,000 bail — is suspected of setting the Canyon Fire and another fire in the lower Waterman Canyon area this past weekend.

THE INCIDENTS

Lizano is charged with two counts of arson with great bodily injury in connection with allegedly setting the two vegetation fires on Sunday night and early Monday in lower Waterman Canyon, fire officials reported late Tuesday.

The media advisory indicates that a resident told firefighters Lizano started a fire about 8:15 p.m. Sunday and provided authorities with his description. The fire was extinguished before firefighters arrived on scene.

An extensive search of the area failed to locate the male subject.

A short time later, at about 12:15 a.m. on Monday, the so-called Canyon Fire started in the same area.

Two residents were able to catch up to Lizano and detained him near a creek until U.S. Forest Service investigator Brandon Smith and **San Bernardino County Fire** Investigator Brian Headley arrived on scene, fire officials reported.

Lizano was turned over to San Bernardino Police Department officers who booked him at the West Valley Detention Center in Rancho Cucamonga.

COUNTY FIRE STATEMENT

San Bernardino County Fire officials were quick to thank the residents for getting involved and possibly saving their neighborhoods from going up in flames and for helping put the arson suspect behind bars.

“County Fire thanks these residents for being vigilant,” the press release stated, “seeing something, saying something.”

INFORMATION SOUGHT

Individuals who have information about the arson fires are urged to call Fire Dispatch at (909) 356-3805 or We-Tip at 800-47ARSON [800-472-7766].

<http://rotwnews.com/2016/09/27/canyon-fire-20-year-old-arson-suspect-arrested/>

Waterman Canyon firebug caught, jailed

Inland News Today

Posted: September 27, 2016

SAN BERNARDINO – (INT) – Two residents are being praised for catching a suspected arsonist who started two small fires in Lower Waterman Canyon.

The initial fire late Sunday night was started at the side of Highway 18 by a man seen disappearing into the brush. Early Monday, another fire in the same area burned about 2-acres. Both fires had the potential of becoming much larger.

The witnesses followed a man into the underbrush and eventually caught him near a creekbed.

Edwin Lizano is held at the West Valley Detention on two counts of arson with bail set at \$250,000.

<http://www.inlandnewstoday.com/story.php?s=43641>