



NEWS



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Remodeling closes downtown fire station

The Desert Trail

Posted: June 22, 2016, 7:24 AM

TWENTYNINE PALMS — Twentynine Palms firefighters will respond to calls from a residence in the 6000 block of Desert Knoll until early August.

The front office of the downtown fire station, Adobe Road south of Twentynine Palms Highway, is closed because of renovations being completed by the city of Twentynine Palms.

As part of an agreement between the city and the Twentynine Palms Water District, the city purchased the downtown fire station and will renovate the structure and lease it to **county fire** officials after they take over fire protection services within water district boundaries in July.

The on-duty crew will work out of the Desert Knoll residence until the remodel is completed, possibly by the first week in August.

The fire department will continue to be in full operation during this period. In an emergency dial 9-1-1. To leave a message for the on-duty crew, call (760) 367-7524.

Fire Chief Jim Thompson has advised that no burn permits will be issued until further notice.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/the_desert_trail/news/article_209e95b0-3885-11e6-b010-dbbf0f185ebc.html

Trailer erupts in flames on I-15 near Main Street

No injuries reported; southbound traffic snarled

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: June 22, 2016, 10:28 AM

Updated: June 22, 2016, 5:50 PM

HESPERIA — A blaze tore through the trailer section of a tractor-trailer on Interstate 15 early Wednesday, causing heavy traffic delays, authorities said.

Reports of a vehicle fire on southbound I-15 just north of Main Street were received just after 8:45 a.m. California Highway Patrol Officer Matt Hunt told the Daily Press a 50-year-old man driving a tractor-trailer from Cincinnati to Ontario noticed smoke coming from the trailer, and pulled over to check it out.

The driver got out of the truck and noticed the trailer was fully engulfed in flames, Hunt said. Authorities were requested to combat the blaze and all southbound lanes were briefly shut down as they responded to the scene.

San Bernardino County Fire Department officials said crews were in attack mode and a water tender was requested to combat the flames. The fire was doused just before 9:30 a.m., officials said. No injuries were reported.

The blaze caused traffic to slow to a crawl for miles on southbound I-15. Hunt said the No. 1 southbound lane was open to allow traffic to move past, but traffic was still moving slowly as of 10 a.m.

The cause of the fire is was unavailable as of Wednesday afternoon.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20160622/trailer-erupts-in-flames-on-i-15-near-main-street>

How San Bernardino County firefighters are preparing for the next Dec. 2

John M. Blodgett, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: June 22, 2016, 7:48 PM

Updated: June 23, 2016, 2:26 AM



Members of the Fontana Police participant in training during an active shooter drill at Water of Life Community Church in Fontana Wednesday. San Bernardino County Fire, San Bernardino County Sheriff and Fontana Police Department conducted a joint Escalated Threat Drill. John Valenzuela — Staff Photographer



Fontana Police Corporal Joe Ferreira stands nears as San Bernardino County Firefighters attend to a mock victim during an active shooter drill at Water of Life Community Church in Fontana Wednesday. San Bernardino County Fire, San Bernardino County Sheriff and Fontana Police Department conducted a joint Escalated Threat Drill. John Valenzuela — Staff Photographer

FONTANA >> The prospect of donning ballistic helmets and vests, like a SWAT team, was unsettling for many **San Bernardino County firefighters**.

Then Dec. 2 happened.

“For us to put on protective gear was a difficult thing to wrap our heads around,” said firefighter and spokesperson Jeremy Kern. But the San Bernardino shooting “really brought it home for our personnel.”

“We’re talking minutes and seconds here,” Kern said. “The sooner we get firefighter/paramedics in to stop bleeding, to triage and to extract victims, the better chance we have of survivability.”

Getting firefighters to victims sooner rather than later takes more than putting them in body armor. It requires police protection and unprecedented coordination between the two agencies. So beginning earlier this year, county fire began a series of coordinated law enforcement and firefighting training in the communities it serves.

For 10 days beginning June 13, San Bernardino County Fire Department and Fontana Police Department, assisted by San Bernardino County sheriff’s personnel, have trained at Fontana’s Water of Life Community Church to respond together to escalated threat situations such as a shooting. Friday will conclude the exercise.

On Wednesday, the training was opened to the media. Outside, incident command centers were set up in the parking lot. Inside, 28 volunteers played the victims, from those with no injuries to those who perished.

Sara Morning, a nurse educator and EMS technician with county fire, applied simulated wounds as a makeup artist. She made it appear that a bullet had grazed the neck of Kalia Flores, 13, of Beaumont, who also was told to act as though she had a hurt knee. Another volunteer was instructed to stay near a \$98,000 mannequin that simulated a victim with an amputated leg and other injuries.

During each round of training, waves of officers fanned through the building at 7625 East Ave. in search of a gunman who preceded them, firing blanks from an M-16. After the gunman moved to the second floor, diamond formations of armored firefighters, surrounded by armed officers, followed and started triaging the first-floor wounded under police protection.

They moved upstairs only after that floor was deemed safe enough for them to proceed.

In between rounds, police and firefighters gathered in a large circle to discuss what worked well and what needed improvement.

Former practices kept firefighters away from “hot” scenes for their own protection, delaying possible life-saving efforts, Kern said.

County fire began looking into acquiring ballistics gear in March 2014, Kern said. The move was prompted by news of firefighters in other areas being attacked or threatened while performing their duties.

It took the department almost two years to acquire the funding — a \$415,000 Homeland Security grant — and to assemble a program and policies. The money went toward the training and the purchase of 400 vests and helmets, each set assigned to a firefighter.

In Fontana, even though the county provides fire protection to the city, the city raised its own money to purchase 30 sets of protective gear.

County fire will continue to roll out the training in communities it serves, Kern said. It’s already done so in Hesperia and Victorville, for example, and Yucca Valley and Needles are slated for coming months.

Fontana Mayor Acquanetta Warren attended Wednesday's training to interview organizers for a community television show and to witness firsthand her city's police and fire departments learning to better work together.

"Doing this kind of exercise makes sure we stay on our mission (as a city) to keep people safe," she said. In the long run, she added, the training will benefit not only Fontana but the region, with Fontana serving as a "guiding light."

"It can happen at any time," Warren said.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160622/how-san-bernardino-county-firefighters-are-preparing-for-the-next-dec-2>

Man Found Dead in Front of Victorville Restaurant

Victor Valley News
Posted: June 22, 2016

VICTORVILLE:(VVNG.com)- The body of a deceased male was discovered on a sidewalk early Wednesday morning.

At about 7:20 a.m. dispatch received a report of a male adult wearing a black t-shirt and blue jeans lying on a sidewalk and appeared to be unresponsive.

San Bernardino County Fire responded to the parking lot of Tom's Restaurant at the corner of Palmdale Road and Amargosa Road. Upon arrival, they located a Black male adult near the entrance and pronounced him dead at the scene.

According to San Bernardino County Sheriff's spokeswoman Mara Rodriguez, it appears the death is related to natural causes. The Coroner's office has been requested to respond.

<http://www.vvng.com/man-found-dead-in-front-of-victorville-restaurant/>

Brush Fire Held to 15 Acres

Mike Harris, Mountain News

Posted: June 23, 2016, 6:00 AM



Firefighters were able to hold a Saturday afternoon brush fire off Las Flores Ranch Road to 15 acres with Forest Service Helicopter 534 from the Heaps Peak Helibase assisting with water drops. San Bernardino County Fire

County Fire crews held a Saturday afternoon vegetation fire off Las Flores Ranch Road in Hesperia to just 15 acres with water drops from Forest Service Helicopter 534 from the Heaps Peak Helibase providing early response.

According to County Fire, several 9-1-1 calls late Saturday afternoon sent firefighters to an area about a mile off the pavement, who then called in a second alarm requesting additional resources. The fire could be seen from Highway 138, with 9-1-1 calls coming from some of those traveling along the highway.

County Fire Engineer Jeff Allen said the tough hillside terrain and poor access about a mile off the pavement made the initial response difficult.

The cause of the fire, according to County Fire, was a vehicle fire. There were no injuries.

In all, 10 County Fire engine companies including one from Crestline responded to the incident, as well as one inmate fire crew, two battalion chiefs and one investigator. Brush units from Cal Fire and the Forest Service also responded, with County Fire serving as incident command.

County Fire kept a watch on the area after the fire was out for several days with brush patrol.

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_07d09b74-38cf-11e6-b443-cf2ce29f8657.html