



NEWS



News Headlines 1/24/2017

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Firefighters rescue man, six puppies, two dogs and rooster from Mojave River

Daily Press

Posted: January 23, 2017, 10:29 AM



San Bernardino County Firefighter pull out Larry McLaughlin's puppies after a swift water rescue from the Mojave River in Victorville on Monday. James Quigg, Daily Press

VICTORVILLE - Authorities rescued a man along with his six puppies, two dogs and rooster after he said he woke up and realized his homeless encampment was surrounded by water flowing in the Mojave River bottom.

San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel responded to reports of a man and several animals in the river bottom a little after 7:30 a.m. Monday. Authorities arrived on scene and found the man's homeless encampment, just off the river near the D Street bridge in Victorville.

County Fire Battalion Chief Bobby Cox said rescue personnel requested an airship to assist in the save, but a helicopter was unable to respond due to snow flurries in the Cajon Pass. A rescue crew finally entered the river a little after 8:50 a.m. and pulled Larry McLaughlin and his pets to the shore at approximately 8:55 a.m.

No injuries were reported and authorities requested response from City animal control officials.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170123/firefighters-rescue-man-six-puppies-two-dogs-and-rooster-from-mojave-river>

Man, 8 dogs and Rooster Rescued From Mojave River

Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: January 23, 2017



A man, 8 dogs, and a rooster were rescued from a homeless encampment on the Mojave River. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com)– Firefighters rescued a man along with his rooster, 2 dogs, and 6 puppies Monday morning from the Mojave River.

At about 8:00 a.m., dispatch received reports of a homeless man trapped on a small island in the Mojave River and immediately started a rescue operation.

Battalion Chief Bobby Cox said **San Bernardino County Fire**, along with the assistance of Apple Valley Fire Protection, responded with a Swift Water Rescue Team and deployed an inflatable boat to reach the island.

Cox said the man was stranded with four feet of moving water surrounding him, making it dangerous for him to cross the water with his animals.

The rescue team entered the waters at around 8:50 a.m. and successfully completed the task in about 5 minutes.

The homeless man, who later identified himself as Larry McLaughlin, said he was thankful for the help San Bernardino County Department.

“I woke up this morning and went to step out of my bed, and there was a flood, I didn’t even know it,” said McLaughlin.

He said he has lived in the same spot for over 7 years and never seen the river rise the way it did.

The Mojave River is unique in the sense that most of its flow is underground, while its surface channels remain dry most of the time, with the exception extreme heavy rains.

McLaughlin said he was able to keep his two adult dogs, but requested assistance with the six puppies due to his situation.

That's when Tonie Cici Mason stepped in and offered to rescue the puppies to ensure they will be placed in good homes.

Mason volunteers for the Pets Forever Found Animal Rescue and says she has a passion for helping dogs in need.

"I spend about \$300 a month in dog food, but this is what I love to do and wouldn't change it for a thing," said Mason.

Those wishing to adopt a dog can email news@vvng.com to be connected with Tonie Cici Mason, or message her on Facebook. If you would like donate to help the puppies as well as to Mason's cause, you may do so by clicking her link here... [paypal.me/Paws4u](https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/Paws4u)

<http://www.vvng.com/man-8-dogs-and-rooster-rescued-from-mojave-river-video/>

TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN: Swift Water Rescue In Cajon Pass

Michael P. Neufeld, Rim of the World News

Posted: January 23, 2017, 12:09 AM



Two people were rescued after they were trapped in their pickup in swift water in the Cajon Pass area. An excellent reminder to TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN. (Photo by Doug Wolfe/San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department)

Cajon Pass – A swift water rescue Sunday afternoon of two persons trapped in their pickup truck serves as a reminder to all motorists — TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN.

THE INCIDENT

The incident — which was reported about 2:30 p.m. — occurred in storm water near Old Cajon Boulevard and Swarthout Canyon in the Cajon Pass area still recovering from last October's Blue Cut Fire.

San Bernardino County Fire and Sheriff's Department dive and swift water teams converged on the area, floated a raft to the Ford F-150 pickup and instructed the male and female in the truck to exit out the passenger side window into the raft.

Emergency personnel then pulled the raft and its occupants to safety.

<http://rotwnews.com/2017/01/23/turn-around-dont-drown-swift-water-rescue-in-cajon-pass/>

Winter wallop: Storm pounds High Desert with rain, snow

Jose Quintero & Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: January 23, 2017, 7:33 PM



Larry McLaughlin gets help from San Bernardino County Fire Department firefighters after he was rescued from his camp in the flooded Mojave River bottom on Monday morning. James Quigg, Daily Press

The last of the three consecutive storms to hit the High Desert brought snow, swift water rescues, flooded roads and school closures on Monday.

About three-quarters of an inch of rain fell before noon and snow made its first appearance in the region in the early morning hours.

Caltrans traffic logs reported that southbound Interstate-15 traffic was at a crawl a little after 6 a.m. The snow began to stick to the roadway just before 8:30 a.m., according to Caltrans District 8 spokeswoman Terri Kasinga, who said a little more than an inch of snow fell in the Cajon Pass in the morning.

The snowfall continued throughout the day, prompting Caltrans to deploy snow plows to keep the interstate safe for motorists. Many local residents feared authorities would shut down I-15, but that didn't happen. However, the California Highway Patrol did escort drivers through the Cajon Pass at times, keeping speeds around 20 mph.

Several traffic breaks also were conducted, but the interstate remained open in both directions all morning and afternoon. However, traffic was slowed to a crawl on southbound I-15 between Highway 138 and Oak Hill Road for much of the morning. Traffic was moving smoothly in both directions by mid-afternoon.

Snow blanketed several areas, including Oak Hills and parts of Phelan and Hesperia. Numerous residents took advantage of the wintry weather to play in the snow-covered hills just off the Oak Hill bridge. The snow prompted Snowline Joint Unified School District officials to announce that all schools would close for the second consecutive day due to the inclement weather.

The storm also brought significant rainfall to the region. In the Victor Valley, several roads flooded, including Rock Springs Road near Deep Creek Road, Morada Road near Village Road, and White Road between Phelan and Muscatel Roads. The region also saw some hail and water was flowing in the Mojave River on Monday afternoon, partly because water was released from Silverwood Dam on Sunday, according to the Mojave Water Agency.

The river flow prompted a rescue early Monday, when **San Bernardino County Fire Department** firefighters pulled Larry McLaughlin and his pets out of a homeless encampment surrounded by water near the D Street bridge in Victorville. Shortly after McLaughlin's rescue, authorities received a report of a woman in need of help nearby.

At roughly 10:30 a.m., County Fire responded to a portion of the Mojave River off Dante Street and Stoddard Wells Road after receiving reports that a woman had become stranded on an island 100 to 150 yards off the bank, Battalion Chief Bobby Cox said.

Swift water rescue teams suited up and waded into the river bottom, where water fluctuated between 6 inches and 4-feet deep, while battling dense, tall trees and brush. They yelled out "Dottie!" on a bullhorn.

The woman, who had earlier responded to calls by firefighters, could not be found after crews completed a full search of the river bottom, and crews called off the search shortly after noon.

"It was reported by someone else who heard the screaming," County Fire Captain Mike McClintock said. "Due to the heavy vegetation we were unable to make contact with (the woman), but the screaming stopped and it appears like she left the area on her own."

The storm tapered off by Monday evening, but the National Weather Service issued a flash flood watch for the region that was expected to remain in effect until 10 p.m. Sunny and clear skies are expected for the remainder of the week.

Tuesday's forecast calls for a high of 46 degrees with mostly sunny skies and a nighttime low of 30 degrees. Daytime highs will gradually climb into the 50s with a high of 59 degrees expected Sunday. However, overnight lows will remain in the mid-30s.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170123/winter-wallop-storm-pounds-high-desert-with-rain-snow>