



# NEWS



## News Headlines 07/08/2016

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## Firefighters battle another blaze in San Bernardino foothills

Doug Saunders, *The Sun*

Posted: July 7, 2016, 1:46 PM

Updated: July 8, 2016, 3:25 AM



SAN BERNARDINO — Fire trucks lined the intersection of Foothill Boulevard and Sterling Avenue Thursday as firefighters battled a wildfire in the foothills above the city.

The Eucalyptus Fire broke out shortly after 9:30 a.m.

They arrived to find a plume of smoke and flames emanating from an area east of the water tower.

Firefighters, assisted by water-dropping helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft, were able to stop the fire at 8 acres with full containment, San Bernardino County Fire spokesman Jeremy Kern said.

“It was mainly grass and medium fuels in the canyon area that was burning,” Kern said. “But luckily it ran into the area that burned the other day.”

On Sunday, a 5-acre fire charring mostly grass, scorched an area just east of Thursday’s blaze, U.S. Forest Service spokesman Bob Poole said.

In that blaze, firefighters were assisted by two helicopters, and two fixed-wing air tankers were called in along with about 100 firefighters on the ground, Poole said.

Both fires are being considered suspicious and are under investigation by the county’s arson squad and the San Bernardino Police Department.

Kern said the winter rains mixed with the recent heat wave have made conditions worse than prior years.

San Bernardino County Fire officials say homeowners can make a difference in wildfire preparedness by utilizing their [Ready, Set, Go](#) program.

They suggest homeowners remove fuels 100-feet from homes and create a defensible space.

Many fire officials fear the fire season ahead may become one of the worst they've seen in years.

“We're in our fifth year of drought and we've already seen devastating fires in recent weeks,” Poole said. “The Lake Isabella area, the Complex Fire in the Angeles National Forest and even in the city with the Kendall Fire. It's not looking good.”

[http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160707/firefighters-battle-another-blaze-in-san-bernardino-foothills?source=most\\_viewed](http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160707/firefighters-battle-another-blaze-in-san-bernardino-foothills?source=most_viewed)

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## **PUBLIC SAFETY: Fireworks laws are simple, enforcement tough**

Anne Millebernd, *Press Enterprise*

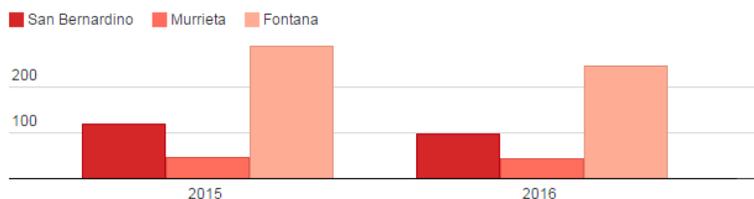
Posted: July 6, 2016, 1:46 PM

Updated: July 7, 2016, 4:50 PM

In most parts of the Inland area, the laws governing fireworks are pretty clear; they're illegal to have and to use.

But police and fire officials are out on July 4, knowing that law is likely to be ignored by some on the holiday. Officials in San Bernardino and Murrieta said there wasn't a noticeable spike in calls for service related to fireworks from 2015 to 2016, but others say there has been an increase over the years.

Firework-related calls for service on July 4



Patrol teams from Riverside police and fire departments confiscated more than 700 pounds of fireworks in the city between July 1 and 4, said Fire Investigations Capt. Ray Mendoza. That number isn't unusually high, but officials would prefer people obey the law instead of losing their fireworks. The tricky part is holding violators accountable.

If someone calls police and says his or her neighbor set off a firework, it's difficult for police to get to the call right away. By the time they arrive, the whole debacle could be over.

“Once something's in the air it could be over 100 different houses that it comes from,” said Lt. Rich Lawhead with the San Bernardino Police Department.

Then, there's deciding who did it. An officer has to be present and see a firework go off for them to cite someone for lighting fireworks, Lawhead said. Even if an officer or firefighter finds the firework still hot from

the explosion, and people standing around, a finger has to be pointed and a form has to be signed to get someone cited.

In the city of Riverside, two tree fires started in areas where fireworks were being set off, Mendoza said. Those kind of statistics weren't readily available for all of Riverside or San Bernardino counties on Wednesday.

Mendoza said fire officials don't patrol on July 4 hoping to cite folks – they want to educate people who genuinely don't know they can't have fireworks.

Police and fire officials patrolled the city and told offenders to hand over their fireworks. If a person didn't cooperate, they'd get a citation that comes with a \$500 fine. Twenty people were cited in Riverside.

For Lynne Pendergrass, that's not enough. She's grown frustrated with firecrackers she hears at her neighbor's house and wants to see harsher punishment for setting them off.

"It literally shakes my house," she said. "My cats are scared to death (and) the dogs next door they have to lock up."

The Murrieta Fire Department's new fire marshal, Jason Briley, wants to implement an administrative citations program that would require anyone caught with fireworks to pay a \$1,000 fine. He'd also like to create a task force-type relationship between the police and fire departments to combat firework use in the city.

San Bernardino authorities received 97 calls for service about fireworks on July 4. In 2015, they got 119 – a negligible difference, Lawhead said.

The same can be said for Murrieta, where Briley says calls about fireworks fluctuated between 40 and 47 between 2014 and 2016.

The number of people injured while setting off illegal fireworks is difficult to quantify because if a person is doing something illegal and gets hurt, they don't always call law enforcement.

But some of the more egregious accidents are released by authorities. A 57-year-old Yucca Valley man was severely injured when a homemade firework exploded July 5, according to a news release from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

Though the change isn't dramatic, Briley said he thinks people are getting more brazen about lighting off fireworks, which is why he wants to nip it in the bud.

"Everything that goes up has to come down, and our biggest fear comes down in brush zone," he said.

<http://www.pe.com/articles/fireworks-807638-fire-police.html>

## **UPDATE 3: Eucalyptus Fire – Cause and Origin Under Investigation**

Michael Neufeld, *ROTWNews.com*

Posted: July 7, 2016, 11:31 AM

San Bernardino, CA – “The cause and origin of the Eucalyptus Fire is under investigation,” according to Forest Service spokesperson Bob Poole as crews conducted mop up work at the 6-acre fire in San Bernardino.

“There was a massive response,” Poole told ROTWNEWS.com, “and a unified command with San Bernardino County Fire, CALFIRE and the U. S. Forest Service.”

Poole reported that there were about 100 firefighters at the fire along with two water-dropping helicopters.

“Because of the quick response and the resources available,” Poole noted, “the fire was pretty much knocked down by about 10:30 a.m.”

### UPDATE 2: Thursday, July 7 – 11 a.m.

San Bernardino, CA – San Bernardino County Fire is reporting the Eucalyptus Fire has been stopped at about 5 acres with crews working on containment lines.

### UPDATE: Thursday, July 7 – 10:50 a.m.

San Bernardino, CA – The Eucalyptus Fire in San Bernardino is still reported at 5-6 acres. However, San Bernardino Police Chief Jarrod Burguan reports officers are at the scene of the fire conducting an investigation.

### ORIGINAL STORY

San Bernardino, CA – Motorists on both Highways 18 and 330 can see the smoke from the Eucalyptus Fire in San Bernardino that was reported just before 10 a.m. Thursday, according to San Bernardino County Fire.

The fire — located near North Del Rosa and Foothill — had burned 5-6 acres but the Incident Command advised it had the potential for 100-200 acres.

However, at last report, it was burning at a slow rate of spread into the old Sterling Fire acreage. Air Rescue 06 has been requested for water drops.

Additional details will be released when they become available.

<http://rotwnews.com/2016/07/07/witnesses-sought-to-lake-arrowhead-boating-accident/>