



NEWS



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Officials rescue two men after falling into lake

Monica Solano and Paola Baker

Posted: June 8, 2016, 6:27 PM

Updated: June 8, 2016, 7:21 PM

SILVERWOOD — Firefighters and park officials rescued two men who fell into a lake Wednesday afternoon.

At around 3:30 p.m. **San Bernardino County Fire Department** received reports for a possible drowning at Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area located south of Hesperia in the San Bernardino Mountains off Highway 138 near the Cajon Pass.

County Fire Engineer and Paramedic Ryan Vacarro told the Daily Press two men, a 71-year-old male and a 25-year-old male, were out fishing near the Cedar Springs Dam when the two men fell from the bluff and into the lake.

Firefighters and the State Park Rangers responded to the scene where the incident occurred and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Aviation Team and the Sheriff's Dive Team were notified, according to officials.

Prior to the arrival of County Fire, the park rangers initiated a search and rescue and were able to locate the 71-year-old male, who they transported back to the boat ramp for treatment.

The 25-year-old male was missing for a short period of time, Vacarro said.

After a thorough search of the lake, the park rangers and Air Rescue Team were able to locate the 25-year-old male submerged in the lake and officials were able to pull him to shore, Vacarro said.

He was then transported to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center by air in grave condition with CPR in progress, officials said. The 71-year-old male was transported by ground to Desert Valley Hospital for minor injuries.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20160608/officials-rescue-two-men-after-falling-into-lake>

Near Drowning Victims Rescued From Silverwood Lake

Victor Valley News

Posted: June 8, 2016

SILVERWOOD LAKE:(VVNG.com)- Two people were rescued after drowning in Silverwood Lake near Cedar Springs Dam on Wednesday afternoon.

At about 3:30 PM, on June 8th **San Bernardino County Fire**, received reports of a drowning at Silverwood Lake State Recreation area located south of Hesperia in the San Bernardino Mountains.

Due to the nature of the incident, San Bernardino County Sheriff's helicopter 40 King, Air Rescue 307, and The sheriff's dive team were requested to respond.

According to a San Bernardino County Fire press release, "prior to the arrival of County Fire and County Sheriff, the state park rangers initiated a search and successfully rescued the first victim, who was transported

back to the boat ramp for further treatment”. The victim was transported by ground ambulance to Desert Valley Medical Center in stable condition.

“The 2nd victim was also located submerged in the lake after a thorough search by state park rangers and paramedics from Air Rescue 307 and was ultimately transported by air to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in grave condition with CPR in progress”.

County Fire dispatched one paramedic engine company and two paramedic ambulances. Cal Fire also responded with two engines and 1 battalion chief.

More information will be updated as it becomes available.

<http://www.vvng.com/drowning-victims-rescued-from-silverwood-lake/>

Man in grave condition following near-drowning in Silverwood Lake

Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun; John Valenzuela, Redlands Daily Facts

Posted: June 9, 2016, 6:12 AM

Updated: June 9, 2016, 9:05 AM

SILVERWOOD LAKE >> A 25-year-old man was last listed in grave condition after he and a second man fell into Silverwood Lake during a fishing trip Wednesday, **San Bernardino County fire** officials said.

The men were fishing from the bluff near Cedar Springs Dam Wednesday around 3:30 p.m. when they somehow slipped and fell into the water, said Ryan Vaccaro with the fire department.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department rescue helicopter and dive team were called to help with the search for the men, fire officials said.

A boater and state park rangers were able to rescue a 71-year-old man from the lake, located south of Hesperia off of Highway 138, before fire and San Bernardino County sheriff’s officials arrived. He was brought back to a boat ramp for treatment of his minor injuries then driven to Desert Valley Medical Center in Victorville, officials said.

The unidentified 25-year-old was later found submerged in the lake, according to Jeffrey Allen with the fire department. That man was flown to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in grave condition. His current medical state was not clear Thursday morning.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160609/man-in-grave-condition-following-near-drowning-in-silverwood-lake>

Vehicle Goes off Freeway and Crashes into Utility Pole

Victor Valley News

Posted: June 8, 2016



(Photo by Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE:(VVNG.com)- On Wednesday at about 10:30 AM, the California Highway Patrol and **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to a solo vehicle traffic collision.

The vehicle, a Nissan Versa, was traveling northbound on the 15 freeway when for unknown reasons the driver lost control of his vehicle.

The vehicle crashed through a chain link perimeter fence north of Stoddard Wells Road causing the vehicle to leave the freeway. As the vehicle continued moving it collided into a utility pole on Frontage Road. The vehicle eventually came to a stop in the desert approximately 50 feet from the roadway.

Paramedics arrived on scene and evaluated the driver for possible injuries. However, the male driver and sole occupant of the vehicle declined medical treatment.

Southern California Edison has been requested to respond for the pole that was completely damaged.

At this time, the cause of the crash remains under investigation.

<http://www.vvng.com/vehicle-leaves-freeway-and-crashes-into-telephone-pole/>

Fire Destroys Two Condos

Mike Harris, Mountain News

Posted: June 9, 2016, 6:00 AM



Fire destroyed two Lake Arrowhead condominiums and damaged a third in an early Sunday morning fire which required firefighters from multiple agencies to bring it under control. Photo San Bernardino County Fire

An early Sunday morning fire destroyed two Lake Arrowhead condominiums and damaged a third with firefighters from **County Fire** and several other jurisdictions successfully keeping the blaze from spreading into nearby vegetation.

According to County Fire, firefighters just before 2 a.m. on June 5 received reports of a commercial fire in the 27000 block of Peninsula Drive in Lake Arrowhead.

Medic Engine 94 arrived on scene six minutes after dispatch and reported a two-story condominium complex with heavy fire showing from one unit with exposures to the adjoining occupancies and the vegetation.

With flames threatening adjoining units and nearby vegetation, five additional engine companies and another chief officer were requested.

Additional units quickly arrived on scene, including Medical Engine 25 from Crestline and Medical Engine 26 and Medical Ambulance 26 from Twin Peaks.

“It became evident that with the amount of fire present upon arrival and the immediate threat to adjoining occupancies there was a need to place multiple hose lines in service as well as a master stream capable of flowing up to 1,500 gallons per minute,” County Fire engineer/paramedic Jeff Allen told the Mountain News.

A master stream, also known as a deck gun or monitor, was on one of the engines responding to the fire.

“Once the master stream knocked down a significant amount of heat, crews were able to advance their attack lines closer to the complex, which allowed them to gain control of the fire,” Allen, who served as public information officer for the incident, said. “Ultimately it took 39 minutes to knockdown.”

Subsequent arriving engines supported the defensive fire attack by deploying multiple hose lines, which prevented lateral fire spread throughout the complex.

There were no civilian injuries during the fire, but one firefighter suffered burns to his knee and was transported to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center for treatment.

The cause of the fire is under investigation by the office of the fire marshal. No dollar estimate was given for the loss of two condos and damage to a third.

One of the condos was owned by John MacArthur, who owns and operates Cedar Glen Laundry. MacArthur told the Mountain News he received a call from his property manager at 3 a.m. that his condo was on fire. MacArthur quickly drove to the scene and saw the condo complex fully engulfed by flames.

“It was terrible,” he said.

MacArthur said he had recently finished getting the condominium ready to rent and that it was unoccupied at the time. He lost everything in the unit.

County Fire responded with five paramedic engine companies, two paramedic ambulances, two chief officers, one fire investigator and one incident support person for a total of 21 personnel.

County Fire was assisted by numerous cooperating agencies including Cal Fire, Running Springs Fire, San Bernardino City Fire, Redlands Fire, San Manuel Fire, Loma Linda Fire and Colton Fire. Several engines from outlying agencies were called back, however, because of the distance.

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/subscription_news/article_e88bc64c-2dd6-11e6-885f-032049dcdc54.html?_dc=369931291109.6706

Snake Bites Man

Mike Harris, Mountain News

Posted: June 9, 2016, 6:00 AM



Warmer weather has increased chances of seeing rattlesnakes when hiking.

A Forest Lawn Scout Reservation staff member hiking on camp property in Cedar Glen on Saturday was bitten by a rattlesnake and had to be air-evacuated to a valley area hospital for treatment.

Without releasing the staff member's name, a spokesperson for the Greater Los Angeles Area Council, Boy Scouts of America said the 18-year-old male staff member was hiking with another staff member around noon when he was bitten by a rattlesnake.

County Fire responded to the call with two engine companies—Medical Engine 92 and Medical Ambulance 91—and it was determined that the bitten staff member needed to be quickly evacuated for treatment.

Sheriff's Air Rescue 6 helicopter was dispatched and landed at an area on the 2,000-acre reservation designated for helicopters to land. The staff member was taken to Loma Linda University Medical Center where he was evaluated and given anti-venom treatment.

According to Victor Zuniga, Greater Los Angeles Area Council spokesperson, on Monday the injured staff member was reported to be responding well to treatment but remained at the medical center for observation.

Rattlesnakes are more prevalent in the wild now that warmer weather has returned to the San Bernardino Mountains.

"As springtime calls people and snakes alike to the outdoors, encounters with snakes become inevitable," according to the California Fish and Wildlife Department.

"Generally not aggressive, rattlesnakes strike when threatened or deliberately provoked, but given room they will retreat," according to a Fish and Wildlife Department spokesperson. "Most snake bites occur when a rattlesnake is handled or accidentally touched by someone walking or climbing. The majority of snakebites occur on the hands, feet and ankles."

It's not known how the snake bite incident occurred at the Forest Lawn Scout Reservation near Cedar Glen other than the staff member was hiking on the camp property.

There are several safety measures that can be taken to reduce the likelihood of startling a rattlesnake.

- Never go barefoot or wear sandals when walking through wild areas. Wear hiking boots.
- When hiking, stick to well-used trails and wear over-the-ankle boots and loose-fitting long pants. Avoid tall grass, weeds and heavy underbrush where snakes may hide during the day.
- Do not step or put your hands where you cannot see, and avoid wandering around in the dark. Step on logs and rocks, never over them, and be especially careful when climbing rocks or gathering firewood. Check out stumps or logs before sitting down, and shake out sleeping bags before use.
- Never grab "sticks" or "branches" while swimming. Rattlesnakes can swim.
- Never hike alone. Always have someone with you who can assist in an emergency.
- Do not handle a freshly killed snake, it can still inject venom.
- Teach children early to respect snakes and to leave them alone. Children are naturally curious and will pick up snakes.

The first thing to do if bitten is to stay calm, according to Fish and Wildlife Department information. Generally, the most serious effect of a rattlesnake bite to an adult is local tissue damage which needs to be treated. Children, because they are smaller, are in more danger if they are bitten. Seek medical treatment as soon as possible.

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/subscription_news/article_aa78a54a-2dd7-11e6-b705-a3c4a5064cae.html

Overtured Truck Closes Highway

Mountain News

June 9, 2016 Edition

A catering truck that collided with the hillside on Highway 330 and subsequently overturned, blocking both directions of the road, led to the highway being closed for just over three hours on June 7.

Damicela Garcia, a 50-year-old resident of Palmdale, was driving the white 1994 truck southbound on the 330 when, for an unknown reason, lost control of the truck and allowed its right front to collide with the hillside. The truck then overturned on its left side.

Both Garcia and the passenger, 44-year-old Alfonso Ceja of Sylmar, were transported by the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** to Loma Linda University Medical Center with moderate injuries.

Highway 330 was closed from 3 p.m. to 6:16 p.m. The cause of the collision is under investigation.

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

Fire Warnings Should Be Heeded

Mountain News Editorial

June 9, 2016 Edition

The scenes on television screens over the weekend of a 500-acre brush fire climbing into the Calabasas hills west of Los Angeles, sending thousands of residents fleeing from their homes, should be enough to send all of us a clear message.

Another wildfire over the weekend blackened 139 acres of brush near the San Diego-Riverside county line. If those two fires weren't for some of us, two small spot fires were reported in Waterman Canyon and quickly extinguished.

What we have been cautioning our readers about in our Spring into Summer publication and in the Memorial Day edition of our Lake Arrowhead Update finally has arrived. It's fire season, and that means we all should be taking steps to make our properties more fire safe, creating defensible space around our homes and getting ready to evacuate should conditions warrant.

So why is defensible space so important? Cal Fire's Mountain Division Chief Jeff Viek put it succinctly when he told us, "It ultimately gives a family dwelling or building the best chance to survive a wildfire; and it gives us [firefighters] room to protect a building."

The five-year drought we've been experiencing is still with us, and hopes for strong El Niño rains over the winter faded even as weather experts now say a dry La Niña condition is ahead of us. That leaves us with grass and brush that is beginning to cure and dry.

As with the Calabasas hills fire, it doesn't take much to get a brush fire going. Officials said it was a pickup truck that lost control, hit a power pole, dropping power lines, which then arched into brush that quickly got out of hand. It could just as easily happen up here. Or maybe someone flicks what's left of a burning cigarette out of a car window and into nearby brush. No, it doesn't take much.

Homeowners need to be proactive and not wait for **County Fire** or Cal Fire personnel to inspect homes and vacant lots. Defensible space inspections began June 1, and there are plenty of tips available about steps you can take to make your home and property more safe. You're welcome to come by the Mountain News office in Lake Arrowhead and pick up a copy of the two publications mentioned above.

Remember, now is the time to get ready, not when you're being told to evacuate. Just ask the residents of Calabasas hills who were told to get out with only a few minutes notice. By the way, fire officials involved in the Calabasas hills fire said aggressive brush clearance by residents prevented more damage than was recorded.

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