



# NEWS



## News Headlines 11/18/2016

- Chimney Fire Burns Home
- Forming first responders: VVC drill day exposes students to emergency scenarios
- Eight firefighting agencies train at Fontana speedway
- Firefighters Extinguish Fire at Homeless Encampment in Victorville

## **Chimney Fire Burns Home**

**Mike Harris, Mountain News**

Posted: November 17, 2016, 6:00 AM

A chimney fire is being blamed as the cause of a Lake Arrowhead house fire on Nov. 12 that was quickly knocked down by **County Fire firefighters**.

According to County Fire Battalion Chief Marc Peebles, the call of a house on fire on the 1300 block of Portillo Lane came in shortly after 10 p.m.

Lake Arrowhead engine companies 91, 92, 94 and engine 26 from Twin Peaks responded and, as they pulled up, firefighters saw fire coming from the side of the multi-story home and burning through the eaves.

“The first engine went into attack mode and we able to knock down the fire both from the interior and the exterior,” Peebles said.

A preliminary review showed the fire originated from the fireplace. “Basically it was a chimney fire that had breeched through the wall,” he said.

The fire was knocked down in 15 minutes, and there was no exposure to neighboring homes or vegetation. Firefighters had been advised that all occupants were out of the building. No firefighters or civilians were injured. No estimate for the cost of the damage was available at the time of this writing.

As the nights grow colder, more residents tend to have a fire in the fireplace. “Residents should be sure to get their chimneys professionally checked and swept if needed before having a fire,” Peebles said.

[http://www.mountain-news.com/news/crime\\_log/article\\_a145aa32-ac57-11e6-bb0c-b351b2f67627.html](http://www.mountain-news.com/news/crime_log/article_a145aa32-ac57-11e6-bb0c-b351b2f67627.html)

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## Forming first responders: VVC drill day exposes students to emergency scenarios

Charity Lindsey, Daily Press

Posted: November 17, 2016, 4:25 PM



Victor Valley College students participate in a multi-discipline drill at VVC's Regional Public Safety Training Center on Thursday. David Pardo, Daily Press

APPLE VALLEY — As firefighters in training hurriedly packed on 50 pounds worth of protective gear, they were cheered on by dozens of high school student observers attending a Victor Valley College drill day.

The "two-minute challenge" to gear-up was one of many drills held during VVC's biannual multi-discipline event held on Thursday at the Regional Public Safety Training Center, providing a full day of challenging, "real-life" emergency scenarios for students to practice in.

In addition to offering training for VVC students who are pursuing careers as firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians and law enforcement officers, the drill also served as a learning experience for the Regional Occupational Program students of several area high schools.

"By having the high schools out here, we're growing this program," VVC Administration of Justice Director Rand Padgett said. The schools attending were Barstow, Hesperia and Granite Hills high schools.

**San Bernardino County Fire** spokesman Jeff Allen added that attending the event is part of the County Superintendent of Schools' "Cradle to Career" program.

"The hope is that this entices students to engage in a career in public safety," Allen said.

Along with County Fire, officials from American Medical Response, California Highway Patrol and County Sheriff's also participated in the event, proving ambulances, fire apparatus and vehicles to create immersive activities.

The drills were held back-to-back, kicking off with a dumpster fire in the morning, and "escalating throughout the day," Padgett said, with an active shooter training drill in the afternoon.

"The purpose is for them to be exposed to all types of nature of calls," Padgett said. "It's about exposing, mentoring and coaching — not evaluating."

The event also welcomed faculty from Palomar College in San Diego County, including lead Paramedics Instructor Sarah De Simone, who began her teaching career at VVC in 2007.

“The training and support I received at VVC is what propelled me and motivated me to pursue this profession,” De Simone said. “We don’t have a training center yet at Palomar, so I brought out a few instructors to see what it’s like and observe today.”

Since opening in 2012, the RPSTC has served thousands of students pursuing degrees or certificates and many of them, according to Padgett, find work immediately upon graduation.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20161117/forming-first-responders-vvc-drill-day-exposes-students-to-emergency-scenarios>

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## **Eight firefighting agencies train at Fontana speedway**

**John M. Blodgett, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin**

Posted: November 17, 2016, 7:58 PM



Eight firefighting agencies trained Thursday at the Auto Club Speedway of California in Fontana. Photo Courtesy Chino Valley Fire District

FONTANA >> Firefighters from eight agencies converged Thursday at the Auto Club Speedway of California to cap off a year’s worth of hazardous material and urban search and rescue training, according to a Chino Valley Fire District news release.

One scenario simulated the release of a hazardous material after an explosion and included victims requiring care, while another scenario replicated a high-rise rescue of a victim hanging off the ground, the news release states.

As part of the training, firefighters learned to use a drone to survey each team’s emergency response and to relay information to participating teammates, the news release states.

In addition to Chino Valley Fire District, the training was attended by Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District and fire departments from Ontario, Upland/Montclair, **San Bernardino County**, Redlands, Rialto and San Manuel.

[http://www.dailybulletin.com/general-news/20161117/eight-firefighting-agencies-train-at-fontana-speedway?source=most\\_viewed](http://www.dailybulletin.com/general-news/20161117/eight-firefighting-agencies-train-at-fontana-speedway?source=most_viewed)

## Firefighters Extinguish Fire at Homeless Encampment in Victorville

Victor Valley News

Posted: November 17, 2016



Black smoke was visible for miles after a rubbish fire began near a homeless encampment in Victorville. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif:(VVNG.com)- A small brush fire at a homeless encampment in Victorville was quickly extinguished by **San Bernardino County Fire** Thursday afternoon.

On November 17th at about 2:40 p.m. dispatch received multiple reports of a possible traffic collision with fire in the area of Roy Rogers Drive and Civic Drive.

“Upon arrival, our initial Battalion Chief found a homeless encampment off the roadway in a field near the area of Civic Drive behind the Arco AmPm gas station,” according to Capt. Jeremy Kern of the San Bernardino County Fire District.

Firefighters made access and discovered a small homeless encampment that was well involved with fire. Crews were able to suppress the fire and extinguished it within a few minutes.

“The fire didn’t extend to any nearby brush any other encampments, or any buildings that were in the area,” stated Kern.

The official cause of the fire is currently under investigation. No injuries were reported by firefighters or civilians.

<http://www.vvng.com/firefighters-extinguish-fire-at-homeless-encampment-in-victorville/>