



# NEWS



## News Headlines 2/17/2017

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## Forest Falls homes voluntarily evacuated due to potential landslide risk

Doug Saunders, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: February 16, 2017, 6:11 PM



A landslide is seen in the Slide Canyon area of Forest Falls Thursday afternoon in this screen grab from a video courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire Department.

FOREST FALLS >> Fire officials said activity on Slide Canyon appears to have temporarily stabilized following a landslide Thursday afternoon.

“Approximately a 300-meter section of the hillside began sloughing this afternoon,” said Eric Sherwin, **San Bernardino County Fire** spokesman. “Four homes and county fire station 99 are in the slide area path.”

Residents in two of the homes voluntarily evacuated. The other two homes are vacant.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department issued a reverse 911 call at 6:24 p.m. advising residents of potential for a landslide blocking Valley of the Falls Road, according to the California Highway Patrol incident website. Residents were advised to take precautions and prepare to evacuate if necessary, the CHP website stated.

Firefighters pulled equipment out of station 99 staging it nearby, but out of the path of potential landslide activity as a storm makes its way to Southern California today.

Officials held a critical town hall meeting Thursday evening at Valley of the Falls Community Church, 40626 Valley of the Falls Dr., to discuss the incoming storm and landslides.

Heavy rainfall is expected to begin this afternoon through Saturday morning.

Flash-flood warnings have already been issued by the National Weather Service and fire officials are preparing for the possibility of mud and debris flows in the Blue Cut and Pilot fire scars.

This storm is expected to drop copious amounts of water to areas affected by drought and fire scars as well as a bark beetle infested forest, fire spokeswoman Tracey Martinez said.

Sandbags can be used in order to protect property from flooding and debris flows by diverting those flows elsewhere.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170216/forest-falls-homes-voluntarily-evacuated-due-to-potential-landslide-risk>

## Forest Falls Area Landslide

Cathy Herrick, Big Bear News KBHR

Posted: February 16, 2017

UPDATE: Due to the potential for incoming weather to impact the volatile landslide at Forest Falls, the Bear Valley Unified School District has made the decision to close Fallsvale Elementary School for Friday, February 17th.

Authorities are closely monitoring a landslide in the area of Forest Falls which began sliding on Thursday. According to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, the slide area is directly behind the fire station on Valley of the Falls Drive. The slide did stabilize in the mid-afternoon hours, however, there is concern for continued movement with the upcoming rain, snow and high winds expected on Friday. Four homes, and the fire station, are threatened. Two of the homes are vacant and residents of the two remaining homes have voluntarily evacuated. Additionally, firefighters have relocated their equipment out of the fire station. According to the Public Information Officer for County Fire, they will continue to monitor the situation and adjust their plan as needed. Valley of the Falls Drive is the main roadway in and out of Forest Falls and is open at this time. Travel on Highway 38 is not impacted by this situation.

<http://kbhr933.com/current-news/forest-falls-area-landslide/>

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## Man drowns in aqueduct while trying to rescue his dog

Melissa Etehad, LA Times

Posted: February 15, 2017, 3:50 PM



A section of the California Aqueduct near where a man died Tuesday while trying to rescue his dog from the canal. (KTLA 5)

A man who tried to rescue his dog after it fell into the California Aqueduct in Hesperia drowned Tuesday after he too fell into the canal, authorities say.

The tragedy occurred around noon as Lucas Hermenegildo, 58, of Victorville, was on a Valentine's Day stroll with his wife and three dogs, according to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

As the group walked along the aqueduct, one of the dogs fell into the canal somewhere between Yucca Terrace Drive and Amargosa Road.

Hermenegildo approached the water in order to grab the dog but lost his balance and fell into the water.

Emergency personnel pulled the victim out of the water and performed CPR. He was pronounced dead at a hospital, the Sheriff's Department said in a news release.

The dog was able to get out of the aqueduct unharmed, authorities said.

After an investigation, the Sheriff's Department determined that Hermenegildo had been in the water for 10 to 15 minutes before emergency personnel were able to pull him onto dry ground.

"The Hesperia Sheriff's Station wants to remind citizens that even though the water on the surface of the aqueduct appears calm and slow moving, there is an undertow that is very fast moving and can pull a person under," a department statement said.

The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** and Hesperia school police also responded to the incident.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-man-dies-aqueduct-dog-20170215-story.html>

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## **Sheriff's Aviation with San Bernardino County Fire Department rescue two hikers from Mt. Baldy**

**Highland News**

Posted: February 16, 2017, 11:46 AM



Rescue 307

On Wednesday, February 15, 2017, David Quezada, 24, of Riverside and Angelica Reyes, 20, of Ontario were hiking on the Barret Stoddard Truck Trail in Mt. Baldy. At approximately 6:00 p.m., they hiked to a steep location off the trail at the 3,500-foot elevation. Due to the steep inclination of the mountainside, they were unable to move any further safely, and called 911 for help. Sheriff's Patrol helicopter 40 King 1, Crewed by Deputies Jim Landry and Brad Heard, responded to the location utilizing night vision goggles (NVG's) and located Quezada and Reyes stuck on the steep mountainside. The patrol crew determined a hoist rescue would need to be performed.

Air Rescue 307, with the crew of Pilot Sergeant Al Daniel, Crew Chief Sergeant Dan Futscher, Fire Captain Mark Murphy and Firefighter-Paramedic Eric Sherwin responded to the location to conduct an NVG hoist. Futscher lowered Sherwin approximately 175 feet to Quezada, Sherwin secured him with a safety harness,

and both were hoisted to the aircraft. Quezada was flown to the San Antonio Dam where ground personnel treated him.

Air Rescue 307 responded back to the location. Futscher lowered Sherwin approximately 179 feet to Reyes, Sherwin secured her with a safety harness, and both were hoisted to the aircraft. Reyes was flown to the San Antonio Dam where ground personnel treated her.

As a reminder when hiking in the forest, please assure you have the appropriate hiking equipment and are adequately prepared for the weather and environment.

[http://www.highlandnews.net/news/public\\_safety/sheriff-s-aviation-with-san-bernardino-county-fire-department-rescue/article\\_99b1dcd4-f480-11e6-a4ff-83135b50dcac.html](http://www.highlandnews.net/news/public_safety/sheriff-s-aviation-with-san-bernardino-county-fire-department-rescue/article_99b1dcd4-f480-11e6-a4ff-83135b50dcac.html)

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## Victorville City Council explores funding options after voting to terminate contract with County Fire

Monica Solano, Daily Press

Posted: February 16, 2017, 4:47 PM



The City Council voted 4-1 to terminate the city's contract with the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District during a workshop Wednesday night, then discussed future funding options for fire protection. [David Pardo, Daily Press]

VICTORVILLE — The City Council voted 4-1 to terminate the city's contract with the **San Bernardino County Fire Protection District** during a workshop Wednesday night, then discussed future funding options for fire protection. City Councilwoman Blanca Gomez cast the dissenting vote.

Based on impending changes to the County Fire contract, which is scheduled to end on July 5, 2018, and "a lot of unknowns in the future," City Manager Doug Robertson urged the Council to vote on a notice of termination so that city staff could "move quickly" on bidding for fire services as part of a request for proposal process. According to Victorville spokeswoman Sue Jones, County Fire had notified the city its contract would increase about \$3 million for mostly capital costs.

"County Fire has been an excellent service provider. I can't recall one single incident where a firefighter ever caused a complaint," Robertson said. "This isn't anything to do about County Fire's services, it is top notch, it's about due diligence and we are running it up to the end of our contract."

According to Jones, the city expects to launch a public bidding process, or request for proposal (RFP), for fire service in the coming months. The city also expressed its hope County Fire would bid to continue to provide fire services for Victorville beyond 2018, but also expects other entities, such as Cal Fire and the Apple Valley Fire Protection District, might also bid on the contract. Another possibility involves the city restarting its own Fire Department, Jones said.

"It would be disingenuous to go out for an RFP while still under contract without first providing the notice of termination," Robertson said.

Following the Council's vote to terminate the contract — which requires notice to be given to County Fire at least one year before the end of the contract term — the rest of the workshop involved the discussion of other funding options, including the possibility of a general tax, special tax or benefit assessment, on top of certain sub tax options available to the city. In the end, the Council asked staff to investigate three options more fully: a parcel tax, benefit assessment and a transactions and use tax (TUT).

"Public safety is our No. 1 priority for the city. This is an unsustainable decision for us and not something we're doing lightly, but we have to figure out another way and look at all the alternatives," said Councilman Eric Negrete. "There's a way everyone can share in the cause and we want to be able to make a decision that will be fair."

A general tax, which could take the form of a sales tax or a utility users tax, would require majority approval from voters, but could not be placed on the ballot until the next general election in November 2018, according to city officials. A special tax, with options that include a sales tax, parcel tax or the creation of Mello-Roos Community Facilities Districts, could be placed on the ballot as early as June, but it would require a two-thirds majority vote for approval.

The benefit assessment, meanwhile, would require a majority vote from affected property owners based on weighted ballots and would determine each property's share of fire suppression services. It would not require a ballot measure, city officials said.

The possibility to annex into the Apple Valley Fire Protection District also was discussed. If the city decides to go this route it would require the same process as annexing into County Fire, or a Service Zone FP-5 tax, Robertson said.

The Council previously opted not to vote to annex the city's fire services, which would have called for County Fire to assume financial responsibility from Victorville for specific costs of fire protection, suppression and emergency medical services by July 1 in exchange for a \$153 parcel tax on nearly 38,000 parcels.

"There's no reason to wait. We know we have to do something and we're looking at all options," Councilman Jim Kennedy said. "If nothing happens or nothing is decided we're going to annex into FP-5 (with County Fire)."

Robertson told the Daily Press that annexation could still be considered an option, but not for this July as "any hope of anything happening with LAFCO" needed to happen last month as the process would take too long to complete by the appropriate time.

"I don't want the Council to make a decision based on uncertainty," Robertson said. "We are open to any and all options in hopes to ultimately make the best decision for our city." The Council will next meet for its regular City Council meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday at City Hall, 14343 Civic Drive.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170216/victorville-city-council-explores-funding-options-after-voting-to-terminate-contract-with-county-fire>

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## County Assistant Fire Chief, Yucca Valley Resident, Dan Munsey Reassigned

Z107.7 News

Posted: February 17, 2017



County Fire Assistant Chief Dan Munsey of Yucca Valley, who serves as a Hi-Desert Water District Board member, has been reassigned to the East Valley Division 6 effective tomorrow (Saturday, February 18). The East Division covers the metropolitan area of San Bernardino including the southern base of the San Bernardino Mountains to the Oak Glen Preserve. Division 6 also encompasses major sections of I-215, I-10, and State Route 210, all major highways in San Bernardino County. Munsey began his career in the fire service in 1995 as a paid-call firefighter. He became a fulltime firefighter in 1998 in Arrowhead. Munsey has worked in every division of the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, and was promoted to captain in 2004 and battalion chief in 2008. Munsey and his wife Amanda live in Yucca Valley with their four children. Chief Munsey fills the vacancy left due to the promotion of John Chamberlin to deputy chief.

<http://z1077fm.com/county-assistant-fire-chief-yucca-valley-resident-dan-munsey-reassigned/>

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