



# NEWS



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## 8-Year-Old Boy Rescued From 15-Foot Sinkhole In Victorville

ABC7.com

Posted: January 15, 2017, 11:44PM



VICTORVILLE, Calif. (KABC) --

An 8-year-old boy was rescued after falling into a sinkhole in Victorville on Sunday.

The incident happened at an apartment building near Bear Valley Road and Cypress Avenue shortly after 3p.m., according to officials from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

Fire crews lowered some ropes to the boy, who was conscious and talking, officials said. They had him slip the ropes on and they pulled him out.

The child was taken to a nearby hospital with minor injuries.

Officials said the sinkhole was about 15 feet deep and had liquid at the bottom.

City crews were expected to arrive to the scene to assess the hole.

<http://abc7.com/news/8-year-old-boy-rescued-from-15-foot-sinkhole-in-victorville/1704363/>

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## Boy, 8, Survives Fall Into Sinkhole

CBS2 News

Posted: January 15, 2017, 5:53 PM

VICTORVILLE (CBSLA.com) – An 8-year-old boy sustained minor injuries after falling into a watery sinkhole Sunday afternoon in the Victorville area.

The fall occurred before 3:12 p.m. near an apartment complex at Cypress Avenue and Bear Valley Road. According to Victorville police, the mother of the boy called police to report that her son had fallen into the sinkhole and could not get out. Police and **San Bernardino County Fire Department** crews responded to find the boy stuck in a hole about 10 feet deep and five feet wide, with two feet of water in the bottom.

The parents of the boy told KCAL9 they were incredibly scared during the ordeal.

“I went crazy,” said Henry Camarena, the boy’s father. “It was the worst experience of my life, actually.”

Camarena said his son, Aiden, was taking out the trash, with his younger sister running behind him, when he ran onto a sandy area. He was waiting for his sister to catch up when the ground gave way and fell out of sight. His sister ran back inside, screaming for help.

Firefighters used a rope to pull Aiden out to safety. He was taken to a nearby hospital for evaluation, but had no major injuries. He has since returned home.

The recent rainfall likely softened the ground and created the hole, the fire department said. City of Victorville Public Works crews were called in to evaluate the sinkhole, police said.

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/01/15/child-survives-fall-into-hesperia-sinkhole/>

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## 8-Year-Old Boy Rescued After Falling Into Sink Hole

Victor Valley News

Posted: January 15, 2017



Photo Courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com)- A Victorville Sheriff's deputy along with **San Bernardino County Fire** helped rescue an 8-year-old-boy who fell into a sinkhole Sunday afternoon.

On January 15, 2017, at about 3:12 p.m., the mother of the child called to report that her autistic son had fallen into a sinkhole at their home on the 15400 block of Bear Valley Road and they were unable to get him out.

Deputy Monique Carabajal, from the Victorville Police Department, responded to the apartment complex. The hole was approximately ten feet deep, five feet wide and had an estimated 2 feet of water in the bottom. Carabajal retrieved a swift water rescue rope from her patrol unit and lowered one end down to the boy. She laid at the edge of the hole and instructed him to place the rope around his waist and tie several knots.

Carabajal continued to talk to the young victim, keeping him calm until fire personnel arrived on scene to assist. Two truck companies, one paramedic engine, one heavy rescue, one paramedic ambulance and a chief officer responded to the incident for a total of 12 fire department personnel.

Firefighters initial priorities were to secure the area around the hole to prevent any further soil from falling in onto the child. Two ladders were placed in order to distribute the weight and allow firefighters to make contact with the victim.

Additional resources were requested to the scene to assist in the rescue. Since the victim was alert and communicating with firefighters and due to the instability of the soil around the opening, a rapid extraction was effected by lowering pre-tied ropes down to the child which secured his torso, legs and upper extremities. The child was then extracted vertically from the hole without any complications in about 15 minutes.

The boy was transported to a local hospital to be examined. According to his parents, he suffered no injuries.

Employees from the City of Victorville, Public Works Department were contacted to cover the hole. It is unknown at this time how long the hole has existed.

Anyone with information about this investigation is asked to contact the Victorville Police Department at (760) 241-2911. Callers wishing to remain anonymous are urged to call the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-78CRIME (27463) or you may leave information on the We-Tip website at [www.wetip.com](http://www.wetip.com).

San Bernardino County Fire would like to remind citizens that if anybody should ever fall into a pit or sink hole to keep a safe distance until firefighters arrive. Soil can become soft and collapse unless specific precautions are put in place to secure the ground. This can risk the safety of the victim and potentially hurt would be rescuers.

<http://www.vvng.com/8-year-old-boy-rescued-after-falling-into-sink-hole/>

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## Boy, 8, rescued after falling into sinkhole in Victorville

Jose Quintero, Daily Press

Posted: January 16, 2017, 7:29 AM



San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel rescued an 8-year-old boy from a sinkhole in front of an apartment complex in the 15400 block of Bear Valley Road, on Sunday. The boy fell into the sinkhole and was transported to a local hospital after he was rescued. The boy's parents told authorities he did not suffer any injuries. Photo courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire Department

VICTORVILLE - An 8-year-old boy was transported to a local hospital Sunday after he was rescued from a sinkhole in front of an apartment complex in the 15400 block of Bear Valley Road, authorities said.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and **San Bernardino County Fire Department** personnel responded to a report of a boy, who is autistic, falling into a hole, roughly 15-feet deep and with about 2 feet of water in the bottom, at 3:14 p.m.

Victorville Sheriff's Station Deputy Monique Carabajal arrived, retrieved a swift water rescue rope from her patrol unit and lowered one end down to the boy.

"She laid at the edge of the hole and instructed him to place the rope around his waist and tie several knots," sheriff's officials said in a statement. "Carabajal continued to talk to the young victim, keeping him calm until fire personnel arrived on scene to assist."



County Fire spokesman Jeremy Kern said firefighters found unstable soil around all edges of the hole and placed two ladders over the hole in order to distribute the weight.

"Since the victim was alert and communicating with firefighters and due to the instability of the soil around the opening, a rapid extraction was effected by lowering pre-tied ropes down to the child which secured his torso, legs and upper extremities," Kern said. "The child was then extracted vertically from the hole without any complications in about 15 minutes."

Paramedics evaluated the boy and then transported him to a local hospital to be examined.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170116/boy-8-rescued-after-falling-into-sinkhole-in-victorville>

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## **Young Child Rescued from Victorville Sinkhole**

24/7 **Headline News**

Posted: January 16, 2017

VICTORVILLE – An 8-year-old autistic boy was safely rescued from a sinkhole on Sunday afternoon. The incident was reported at around 3:12 p.m. when the boy had fallen into the sinkhole in the 15400 block of Bear Valley Road near Cypress Avenue. The mother of the boy told dispatchers that she had attempted to help her son out of the over 10' deep, 5-foot wide hole that had approximately 2 feet of water at the bottom authorities said. The edges of the hole had unstable soil around the edges.

A deputy with the Victorville station arrived at the apartment complex and immediately retrieved a swift water rescue rope from her patrol unit. As she laid on the edge looking into the hole, she lowered one end of the rope down to the boy. She instructed him to place the rope around his waist and to tie several knots. She talked to the child, and was able to keep him calm while the **San Bernardino County Fire** personnel arrived at the scene to assist with the rescue. "Firefighters initial priorities were to secure the area around the hole to prevent any further soil from falling in onto the child," said San Bernardino County Fire spokesman Jeremy Kern in a news release. "Two ladders were placed in order to distribute the weight and allow firefighters to make contact with the victim."

Fire officials said that pre tied ropes were lowered down to the child to secure his torso, legs, and upper extremities. The boy was pulled from the hole within around 15 minutes, alert and communicating with firefighters. "The boy was transported to a local hospital to be examined," said Victorville Sheriff's Station spokeswoman Mara Rodriguez in the news release. "According to his parents, he suffered no injuries. Public Works were requested at the scene to cover the hole. It is unclear how long the hole has been at the location.

San Bernardino County Fire officials would like to remind citizens that if anybody should ever fall into a pit or sink hole to keep a safe distance until firefighters arrive. Soil can become soft and collapse unless specific precautions are put in place to secure the ground. This can risk the safety of the victim and potentially hurt would be rescuers.

<https://247headline.com/young-child-rescued-from-victorville-sinkhole/>

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## Victorville Boy Recounts Falling Down 15-Foot Sinkhole

Leticia Juarez, ABC7 News

Posted: January 16, 2017, 6:52PM



VICTORVILLE, Calif. (KABC) --

Eight-year-old Adenn Camarena recalled the terrifying moments after being swallowed up by a sinkhole near his family's apartment in Victorville.

The ground was so unstable, firefighters with the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** had to use ladders to attempt their rescue.

The incident happened Sunday afternoon, when Adenn and his 7-year-old sister, Avangelilline, returned from taking out the trash.

"He was running in front of me and then when he went past the hole, he fell in," Avangelilline said.

After watching her brother disappear down the nearly 15-foot deep hole, she ran for help.

"My daughter came screaming inside. It was a scream, like, that we'd never heard, so we knew something was wrong," shared father Henry Camarena.

At first, the couple said they thought their son had simply stepped into a pothole and injured his ankle.

"So I went to the hole and I looked down and I could barely catch a glimpse of him when the sun would shine on it just right," described mother Corrina Camarena.

A Victorville police officer first to arrive had Adenn tie a rope around his waist. By this time, the water had reached 2 feet deep.

"When I fell down I whacked my arm on something, but I didn't know what I whacked. When I would tie the rope, it would hurt," Adenn recalled.

Firefighters were able to tie more ropes to Adenn and lift him to safety. He was taken to the hospital and treated for a sprain to his arm.

Neighbors said an ongoing issue with a broken water main may be to blame.

The Camarenas said the terrifying ordeal made them realize just how close they came to losing their son.

Adenn's family said the city will be out in the next couple of days to inspect the hole to determine how the sinkhole was created and determine what needs to be done to fix it.

<http://abc7.com/news/victorville-boy-recounts-falling-down-15-foot-sinkhole/1705619/>

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## **Woman rescued after falling from ‘Devil’s Backbone Trail’ on Mt. Baldy**

**Doug Saunders**, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: January 16, 2017, 4:28 PM

**MT BALDY >> A San Bernardino County Fire department** helicopter swooped in to rescue a woman injured after she fell from the “Devil’s Backbone Trail” on Monday.

Shortly before 3:30 p.m., San Bernardino County firefighters learned a woman had fallen and slid from the 12.9-mile Angeles National Forest trail.

She was successfully extracted by Air Rescue 7, according to the fire department’s official Twitter page. She was transported to Cow Canyon Saddle and released to ground units.

Officials didn’t specify the severity of the woman’s injuries.

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/general-news/20170116/woman-rescued-after-falling-from-devils-backbone-trail-on-mt-baldy>

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## **Dangerous Hiker Rescue On Mt. Baldy Caught On Camera**

CBS2

Posted: January 16, 2017, 11:53 PM

**Mt. Baldy (CBSLA.com)** — A **San Bernardino County Fire Department** helicopter swooped in and rescued an injured hiker on Mt. Baldy Monday afternoon. The dangerous rescue was caught on camera.

The woman had slipped 50 feet down the Devil's Backbone Trail and ended up on a steep side of a snowy mountain.

During her fall, she managed to stab her ice axe into the snow and hung on to it for dear life. Captain Paramedic Eric Spies captured the rescue on a camera strapped to his chest.

"You're just focused on your mission and getting it done," he said.

The video showed Spies moving fast to get the harness around the hiker. "The gusts were pretty hard to keep it steady," he said.

The conditions were dangerous. The rescue was tricky for the team's pilot.

"The pilot allowed the helicopter to move, and it pulls him off of her, and she's not secured. It could potentially cause her to fall" a few hundred feet onto sharp rocks, a San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department pilot pointed out.

"It wouldn't be a position I would want to be in. I would consider her very lucky," San Bernardino County Fire Department Captain Jeremy Kern said.

She was told to take her backpack off. If it fell, better it than her.

She was also told to leave her ice axe that had saved her up to this point.

"Lift up. You're going to hug me as tight as you can," Spies told the hiker. "Okay, here we go. Hang tight."

Strapped together, they were lifted off the mountain and into the chopper to safety.

"She was very thankful for what we were able to do for her," Spies said.

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/01/16/dangerous-hiker-rescue-on-mt-baldy-caught-on-camera/>

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## The ambulance conundrum: Firefighters call out AMR, which questions union's motive in going public

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted Jan 14, 2017, 1:10 PM



AMR personnel assist in treating and preparing an accident victim for transport. James Quigg, Daily Press

VICTORVILLE - Amid calls to action from a local firefighters' union to fix severe issues with ambulance transport systems in the High Desert, officials close to the issue point at several other factors at play while acknowledging the need for an overhaul.

The San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters Union, or Local 935, recently decided to go public in detailing problems with ambulance response times in the region. In a series of social media posts, the union claimed ambulances from American Medical Response, or AMR, are frequently unavailable to cover their response area - a scenario described as "Level Zero."

"The issue of Level Zero is a growing problem and AMR is consistently not staffing enough ambulances for the areas they are responsible for," the union said in a Facebook post. "This has been a problem of concern for several months in the High Desert."

Union president Jim Grigoli stressed that AMR paramedics and emergency crews are not part of the problem.

"We have a good working relationship with EMTs and the medics. The issue is with the corporate office," Grigoli said. "There's this belief that the system is working, but it's not."

Inland County Emergency Medical Agency EMS Administrator Tom Lynch, as well as AMR Director of Communications and Government Relations Jason Sorrick, said hospital bed delay is one of the underlying causes of the "Level Zero" problem. A bed delay is a scenario where a hospital requests that ambulance crews wait with a patient before taking custody and providing care.

"This is an issue we've been working on for years," Lynch said. "As complex as it is, there is no easy fix."

AMR units going on "Level Zero" status means no ambulance units are immediately available to respond to incidents in the High Desert. Units from other areas or **County Fire** units are then required to respond, tying up resources and causing treatment delays, Grigoli said.

"It affects our resources because we have to stay on scene longer to wait for their ambulance," Grigoli said, "so then we can't respond to other emergencies."

The union posted a recording of dispatch audio from an incident that occurred on New Year's Eve, where two pedestrians were struck by a vehicle on Mojave Drive.

In the recording, first responders can be heard requesting ambulances to respond to the incident and are told that since no units are available in the High Desert, units from San Bernardino would respond.

While the incident was eventually handled by AMR units in the area, the union claimed this response can be common, with ambulance units having to come from as far as Redlands to respond to High Desert incidents.

"When ambulances are dispatched to 911 calls in the High Desert from as far away as 40 miles in San Bernardino, we believe there is a problem that needs to be addressed," the union stated in the Facebook post.

Grigoli said AMR ambulances go on "Level Zero" status in the High Desert at least once a day. He acknowledged that there are several other factors contributing to the lack of resources, but continued to stress the need for change - and pointed at the Inland County Emergency Medical Agency, or ICEMA, to lead the way.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170114/ambulance-conundrum-firefighters-call-out-amr-which-questions-unions-motive-in-going-public>

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## To battle rising public safety costs, Victorville suggests parcel tax

Shea Johnson, Daily Press

Posted: January 16, 2017, 12:01 AM



The strategy calls for a tax on 94 percent of the 40,407 taxable parcels within city limits as part of a regional program launched by County Fire in 2008. The Service Zone FP-5 tax is projected to result in \$5.8 million during fiscal year 2017-18. Daily Press File Photo

**VICTORVILLE** - The city is actively considering a plan to transfer certain fire protection and other related costs to **County Fire** by July 1 in exchange for a \$153 special tax on nearly 38,000 parcels here.

Under the plan, to be broached and potentially pushed forward Tuesday by the City Council, the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District would collect the tax money and assume financial responsibility from the city for specific costs of fire protection, suppression and emergency medical services.

County Fire's new financial duties would include receiving transfer of city-owned fire apparatus and facilities, as well as necessary capital improvements and service expansions, according to a city staff report. The resulting relief to the city would enable it to keep more of its property tax dollars and re-focus funds toward law enforcement expenses and more, officials say.

The strategy calls for a tax on 94 percent of the 40,407 taxable parcels within city limits as part of a regional program launched by County Fire in 2008. The Service Zone FP-5 tax is projected to result in \$5.8 million during fiscal year 2017-18.

It's important to underscore that while the FP-5 tax, itself, is not new - San Bernardino, Needles and Rancho Cucamonga are among cities to participate - the city of Victorville's buy-in would effectively represent a new tax for its residents.

The tax is also subjected to an annual 3-percent cost-of-living increase, which has equated to \$36 in extra tax since 2008 when it was only \$117.

But Victorville officials say it's the best option as the city is faced with escalating public safety costs, and fire officials say the city's annexation into the district's Service Zone FP-5 will ultimately improve services.

The city's contract with County Fire for the upcoming fiscal year is an estimated \$15.4 million, representing roughly 90 percent of the total \$16.9 million the city is projecting to collect in property taxes - a share the city warns is "unsustainable."

With revenue received from the annexation plan's special tax, the share of contract-to-property tax dips to 56 percent, officials say.

The plan would include \$2.4 million more for an apparatus reserve account, station maintenance, to open Fire Station 315, which was built in 2008 on Eucalyptus Street but has never been fully staffed, and to open new stations in the future, Victorville Fire Chief Dan Munsey said Monday.

The net benefit to the city - by spending \$2.4 million more on the contract and being relieved of \$5.8 million paid through the special tax - would equate to roughly \$3.4 million.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170116/to-battle-rising-public-safety-costs-victorville-suggests-parcel-tax>

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## **Firefighters extinguish fire in Victorville, two people injured**

Jose Quintero, Daily Press

Posted: January 16, 2017, 10:17 AM

VICTORVILLE - Two people were injured and transported to local hospitals after a Sunday night fire in the 13000 block of Aurora.

According to **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman Jeff Allen, firefighters responded to numerous calls of a fire with victims possibly trapped a little after 8:45 p.m.

Firefighters arrived on scene and found heavy smoke and flames in the garage, went in attack mode and searched the home for any trapped parties.

Allen said there were not any trapped victims and all the occupants were able to escape the house prior to firefighters arriving on scene.

Firefighters confined the blaze to the garage, preventing spread into the home and a nearby structure, Allen said.

Two people injured and were taken to local hospitals with minor injuries.

The cause of fire was unknown and under investigation.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170116/firefighters-extinguish-fire-in-victorville-two-people-injured>

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## Victorville City Council meeting: On the agenda

Daily Press

Posted: January 16, 2017, 5:22 PM

VICTORVILLE - The City Council will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday for a regular session at City Hall, located at 14343 Civic Drive. Here are some of the items listed on the agenda:

- Introduction of new Victorville Sheriff's Station Captain John Schuler
- Hearing of an appeal filed by First Assembly of God against the decision to approve a proposed upscale market and gas station
- Review and approval of monthly reports and projects
- Approval of project funding agreement between San Bernardino County Transportation Authority and the City of Victorville for right-of-way acquisition for the Green Tree Boulevard Extension Project
- Decision on possible annexation of City of Victorville fire services to the **San Bernardino County Fire Protection District** and reorganizations to include annexations to County Fire Protection District, its High Desert Service Zones and Service Zone FP-5
- Adoption of priorities identified through the citizen participation process for the fiscal year 2017-18

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170116/victorville-city-council-meeting-on-agenda>

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## Manure pile fire prompts firefighter response in Barstow

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: January 16, 2017, 6:14 PM



San Bernardino County firefighters work to contain flames from reigniting from a manure and wood fire on Monday evening in Hinkley. Jose Huerta, Daily Press

**HINKLEY-** Local firefighters had their hands full combating a blaze that began after a manure pile went up in flames Monday afternoon.

Reports of a structure fire at a home in the 32900 block of Hinkley Road were first received at 3:38 p.m. Monday. According to scanner traffic, the reporting party said his neighbor's home was on fire.

**San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman Jeff Allen said the first firefighters arrived on scene shortly after and found an 150-foot-long pile of manure and wood in flames.

Several County Fire personnel responded to the blaze, including 2 brush patrols, 2 water tenders, a hand crew and a battalion chief. A fire engine from the Marine Corps Logistics Base also assisted in combating the blaze, Allen said.

The blaze was extinguished just before 7 p.m., but fire crews remained on scene for about an hour afterwards for cleanup. Allen said the flames did not spread to nearby structures or vegetation. No injuries were reported.

The cause of the blaze remains under investigation by the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170116/manure-pile-fire-prompts-firefighter-response-in-barstow>