



NEWS



News Headlines 09/15/2016

- Aguilar Hosts Homeland Security Summit On Emergency Preparedness
- Board of Supervisors OK's \$700K in aid for Bluecut Fire victims
- Firefighters extinguish blaze at abandoned Adelanto home Wednesday morning
- San Bernardino pipeline fire closes south 215 Freeway lanes (UPDATE)
- Blue Cut Fire assistance extended
- Firefighters extinguish structure fire in Hesperia Wednesday night
- Fire Destroys Home
- Rollover Injures Driver

Aguilar Hosts Homeland Security Summit On Emergency Preparedness

Highland News

Posted: September 13, 2016, 2:19 PM

Washington, D.C. – Today, Rep. Pete Aguilar (D-San Bernardino) hosted a panel at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute’s annual conference, entitled Homeland Security: Community Readiness Strategies for the Latino Community. The discussion, which coincided with National Preparedness Month and Hispanic Heritage Month, focused on strengthening communication between law enforcement, schools and hospitals in Latino communities so municipalities are prepared for extraordinary emergency situations, including natural disasters like earthquakes and wildfires, or man-made situations like the attack at the Inland Regional Center.

Rep. Aguilar moderated the panel, which included Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Associate Deputy Director, David Bowdich; Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association Executive Director, Anthony Chapa; U.S. Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary for State and Local Law Enforcement, Heather Fong; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health Assistant Secretary Director, Dr. Nadine Gracia; and **San Bernardino County Fire Department** Chief, Mark Hartwig.

“Efficient communication is critical during extraordinary emergency situations, as we saw during the attack at the Inland Regional Center. It’s because of quality training and effective communication between our law enforcement, first responders and medical personnel that more lives weren’t lost that day,” said Rep. Aguilar. He added, “Today’s summit was important because it brought together local and national representatives to share best practices about preparedness, particularly in places like the Inland Empire where linguistic barriers may arise.”

San Bernardino County Fire Department Chief Mark Hartwig said, “Today’s panel allowed us to come together and talk about how we can work within our communities to develop plans and always be ready. San Bernardino County Fire already has important resources in place, which can be found on our website at SBCFire.org or Ready.gov. I’m glad we had a platform to share these tools and connect with other agencies about preparedness.”

During the 90 minute panel, Rep. Aguilar and summit participants discussed preparedness training for first responders, the importance of community relationships between local agencies, access to multilingual training resources, and the need to foster relationships between localities that have experienced similar situations. Rep. Aguilar remains committed to working with leaders at every level of government to ensure San Bernardino County has the resources it needs to train and prepare first responders and local agencies in the event of an emergency.

http://www.highlandnews.net/news/political/aguilar-hosts-homeland-security-summit-on-emergency-preparedness/article_d42ba722-79f7-11e6-af37-37411edc22af.html

Board of Supervisors OK's \$700K in aid for Bluecut Fire victims

Daily Press

Posted: September 14, 2016, 8:57 AM

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday authorized more than \$700,000 in assistance for victims of August's devastating Bluecut Fire.

The Board authorized \$500,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to provide assistance to qualified residents impacted by the 36,000-acre-plus blaze. The Board also authorized \$110,000 to cover the cost of roll-off bins to remove fire debris and \$100,000 in miscellaneous assistance.

"This is an important first step on the road to recovery and rebuilding," said Board of Supervisors Vice Chair Robert Lovingood.

The recovery effort continues on multiple fronts for the hardest hit areas, including the steps required for debris removal. Providing roll-off bins will aid the fire victims in the clean-up process and help jump start rebuilding efforts by simplifying the challenging task of disposing of fire debris.

The Bluecut Fire started Aug. 16 in the Cajon Pass. The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** put water-dropping helicopters on scene within minutes, along with U.S. Forest Service aircraft. But erratic winds spread the fire quickly and carried embers up to two miles away, touching off new fires. At the peak of the battle to control the Bluecut Fire, 2,684 personnel were actively involved in the fire fight.

"San Bernardino County staff have come together and worked hard to provide relief to Bluecut Fire victims," Lovingood said. "We had 14 County agencies and numerous community partners and volunteers helping evacuees at the Local Assistance Center at the fairgrounds. Now we have shifted into a new phase in providing assistance."

Residents affected by the Blue Cut Fire who need help with services and housing are urged to call 211 or 877-410-8829.

Low-interest disaster loans available through the SBA's Disaster Loan Outreach Center at San Bernardino County Fire Station 305, 8331 Caliente Road in Hesperia. The center is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays through Sept. 22. No appointment is necessary.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property. Interest rates can be as low as 4 percent for businesses, 2.625 percent for private nonprofit organizations and 1.563 percent for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years.

Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition. Foreign language assistance is available by calling 800-305-9673.

Disaster loan information and application forms are also available from SBA's Customer Service Center by calling 800-659-2955 or emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. For more disaster assistance information or to download applications, visit www.sba.gov/disaster.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20160914/board-of-supervisors-oks-700k-in-aid-for-bluecut-fire-victims>

Firefighters extinguish blaze at abandoned Adelanto home Wednesday morning

Jose Quintero, Daily Press

Posted: September 14, 2016, 11:30 AM



San Bernardino County Fire Department fighters work on the roof of an abandoned Adelanto home, in the 11000 block of Chamberlaine Way, Wednesday morning. Jose Quintero, Daily Press

ADELANTO — Firefighters extinguished a blaze at an abandoned home and a man was being detained in a San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department vehicle in Adelanto Wednesday morning.

San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel responded to the fire at 8:46 a.m. in the 11000 block of Chamberlaine Way and arrived on scene within six minutes, according to Battalion Chief Dan Mejia. Three fire engines and a fire truck responded and found the house roughly 50 percent engulfed in flames.

Mejia said the firefighters attacked the fire and extinguished it at roughly 9:18 a.m.

“We had a fire to the back and it extended to the house,” he said. “We have no idea if it was a debris fire in the exterior of the home and the cause is under investigation.”

A fire investigator arrived on scene at 9:40 a.m. Mejia said there were two people at the abandoned home and no injuries were reported.

A man located at the home was sitting in the back of a deputy's squad car. Sheriff's officials did not immediately return a media inquiry for additional information.

The deputy was diverting traffic at New Hampshire Street as firefighters used a nearby fire hydrant to run a fire hose.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20160914/firefighters-extinguish-blaze-at-abandoned-adelanto-home-wednesday-morning>

San Bernardino pipeline fire closes south 215 Freeway lanes (UPDATE)

Doug Saunders, The Sun/Scng

Posted: September 14, 2016, 3:48 PM



As motorists drove south on the 215 Freeway Tuesday night, flames could be seen shooting through a ventilation shaft coming from an underground pipeline.

Fire officials determined Wednesday that an unknown flammable liquid made its way into the storm drain. Flames were seen in two spots between Base Line and Fifth Street.

“Arson investigators are in the process of determining what the liquid is and how the fire ignited,” fire spokeswoman Tracey Martinez said. “Caltrans is taking the lead in the clean-up process to remove the flammable liquid from the storm drain.”

Shortly after 9:30 p.m., firefighters were on scene of the blaze trying to put the flames out, but they couldn’t determine the liquid actually fueling the fire. Firefighters specializing in hazardous materials were called to the scene to deal with possible hazardous fuels if necessary.

Caltrans officials arrived shortly after midnight at the incident command post on the Ninth Street overpass with maps to determine the layout of the underground system.

Two lanes on the southbound 215 freeway were shut down so fire crews could safely work and to keep the passing motorists safe.

“Firefighters removed manhole covers and began to douse the flames with foam and water until the fire was out,” Martinez said.

By 1 a.m., the fire was reported to be out and traffic resumed with all lanes open.

Arson investigators were on scene Wednesday morning in an attempt to determine what caused the blaze.

<http://www.pe.com/articles/shaft-813250-drove-ventilation.html>

Blue Cut Fire assistance extended

Inland News Today

Posted: September 14, 2016

SAN BERNARDINO - (INT) - County Supervisors have authorized more than \$700,000 in assistance for victims of last month's Blue Cut Fire.

The allocations come from the following sources: \$500,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to provide assistance to qualified residents impacted by the fire. The Board also authorized \$110,000 to cover the cost of 'roll-off' bins to remove fire debris and \$100,000 in miscellaneous assistance.

The recovery effort continues on multiple fronts for the hardest hit areas including debris removal.

The Blue Cut Fire erupted August 16th at the bottom of Cajon Pass and within three days had consumed 105 homes. It was California's 20th most-devastating fire.

Residents affected by the Blue Cut Fire who need help with services and housing are urged to call 2-1-1 or 877-410-8829.

Low-interest disaster loans are available through the SBA's Disaster Loan Outreach Center at **County Fire Station #305**, in Hesperia.

<http://www.inlandnewstoday.com/story.php?s=43495>

Firefighters extinguish structure fire in Hesperia Wednesday night

Jose Quintero, Daily Press

Posted: September 15, 2016, 7:34 AM

HESPERIA — Firefighters responded to a structure fire in the area of Hickory Avenue and Sultana Street in Hesperia Wednesday night.

According to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department's** Twitter account, firefighters responded to reports of visible smoke and flames a little after 9 p.m. A fire engine from Hesperia Station 304 responded to the scene and found a fully engulfed detached garage behind a home with multiple exposures to nearby structures and vegetation.

The threat to possible exposures was mitigated and the firefighters were in attack mode and awaited additional units.

According to the department's Twitter account, there was not a water source in the area and units were "shuttling water." Fire officials said the fire was out at approximately 9:45 p.m. and the firefighters went into overhaul.

Additional information on the fire was not available and a message left with a department spokesman was not immediately returned Thursday morning.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20160915/firefighters-extinguish-structure-fire-in-hesperia-wednesday-night>

Fire Destroys Home

Mike Harris, Mountain News

Posted: September 15, 2016 6:00 AM

A late night Sunday fire of undetermined origin destroyed a vacant multi-story home along the 800 block of Deer Trail in Crestline with firefighters initially having a tough time locating the blaze.

According to **County Fire** officials, a 9-1-1 call around 10:20 p.m. on Sept. 11 reported a house on fire somewhere in the heavily treed area of either Deer Trail or Fern Drive. With little else to go on, firefighters finally located a structure ablaze on Deer Trail.

“Firefighters reported a well-involved structure and immediately went into defense mode due to the intensity,” a County Fire spokesperson said.

Responding to the call were three engine companies, a medical ambulance, a battalion chief and a fire investigator. Station 25 in Top Town and Station 26 in Twin Peaks responded as did units from Lake Arrowhead. A County Fire truck company from a San Bernardino city station also was dispatched.

Because the residential structure was located in a state responsibility area (SRA), two Cal Fire engines also were dispatched due to concerns that the fire could spread into nearby vegetation.

Neighbors reported to firefighters that the home had not been occupied at the time.

The fire was knocked down in 30 minutes, with units remaining on scene to ensure the blaze was out. While no dollar estimate was placed on the damage due to the fire, firefighters said the damage was significant.

There were no reported injuries either to firefighters or civilians, and the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_f4ed4bd4-7acc-11e6-825f-37e31a008267.html

Rollover Injures Driver

Mountain News

Posted: September 15, 2016, 6:00 AM

The driver of a vehicle traveling along Highway 138 was injured Sept. 10 when his vehicle rolled over the side of the road.

A **County Fire** official said a medical ambulance was dispatched shortly before 3 p.m., along with a County Fire engine company, a Forest Service brush engine and a CHP unit, to an area between Silverwood Lake and Crestline around mile marker 31.

The unidentified 64-year-old male suffered unspecified injuries and was transported to St. Bernardine Medical Center for treatment.

The vehicle did not cause a fire to nearby brush, and was later retrieved by a tow truck.

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_2c240a98-7acd-11e6-96e1-0723f716c964.html