



NEWS



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Las Flores Fire – Held To 15 Acres (UPDATE 8)

Michael P. Neufeld, Rim of the World News

Posted: June 18, 2016, 12:35 AM



The Las Flores Fire is off Highway 173 consumed 15 acres, according to San Bernardino County Fire. (Photo by San Bernardino County Fire)

UPDATE 8: Sunday, June 19 – 3:46 a.m.

Hesperia, CA – The Las Flores Fire off Highway 173 in Hesperia burned about 15 acres before being contained. There was no structure threat, according to San Bernardino County Fire.

On the ground firefighters were assisted by Heaps Peak Helitak 534 that made water drops on the fire.

Crews remained on scene overnight.

The three (3) alarm fire was battled by firefighters from **County Fire**, CAL FIRE, U.S. Forest Service, and San Manuel Fire Department. Engines from Rialto and Rancho Cucamonga covered High Desert stations.

UPDATE 7: Saturday, June 18 – 8:43 p.m.

Hesperia, CA – The Las Flores Incident Command is starting to release units from the fire and has announced the forward rate of spread has been stopped.

UPDATE 6: Saturday, June 18 – 8:39 p.m.

Phelan, CA – Crews from both San Bernardino and Los Angeles County were unable to locate a fire near county line off Highway 138. However, they were able to locate an illegal bonfire on Highway 2.

UPDATE 5: Saturday, June 18 – 8:29 p.m.

Phelan, CA – Units enroute to a new report of vegetation fire near San Bernardino County – Los Angeles County line west of Phelan.

UPDATE 4: Saturday, June 18 – 8:05 p.m.



Phelan, CA Water Tender 92 from Lake Arrowhead. (Photo by San Bernardino County Fire)

Hesperia, CA – Water tender 92 from County Fire’s Station 92 in Lake Arrowhead is responding to the Las Flores Fire.

The Incident Command has determined the fire is in County Fire’s Local Responsibility Area (LRA).

UPDATE 3: Saturday, June 18 – 7:40 p.m.

Hesperia, CA – The Heaps Peak Helitak crew has landed on the area of the Las Flores Fire.

Fire is currently 10-15 acres and Heaps Peak chopper 534 is making water drops as ground crews establish hose lays.

The fire was reported about 6:45 p.m.

UPDATE 2: Saturday, June 18 – 7:25 p.m.

Hesperia, CA – A third alarm has just been issued.

Units are making access to the fire through Los Flores Ranch.

UPDATE: Saturday, June 18 – 7:15 p.m.

Hesperia, CA – A second alarm has been requested.

Scanner: FIRE IS CURRENTLY MOVING NORTH EAST AWAY FROM THE SBD NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDRY – RATE OF SPREAD HAS SLOWED

Original Story

Hesperia, CA – A full response has been requested for a vegetation fire — currently at about 5 acres — off Highway 173 and Los Flores Road.

San Bernardino County Fire has requested U.S. Forest Service and CAL FIRE respond with a dozer and additional hand crews.

First units on scene reported a header was showing as they worked to locate a road to access the fire/

<http://rotwnews.com/2016/06/18/breaking-news-header-showing-on-highway-173-fire-hesperia/>

UPDATE: Crews Quickly Extinguish Fire in Hesperia

Victor Valley News
Posted: June 18, 2016

UPDATE @ 10:30 PM -**San Bernardino County Fire** Captain Mike McClintock has confirmed the fires forward rate of spread has been stopped.

The fire scorched an estimated 15 acres and there was no immediate structure threat.

According to McClintock, “8 engines, 2 water tenders, 1 hand crew, 1 fire investigator and 2 chief officers are on scene. Most of them, if not all will stay for the night into the am”.

A helicopter from Lake Arrowhead responded and assisted with multiple water drops.

This was a mutual aid response that consisted of Cal Fire, USFS, San Manuel FD, crews from Rancho and Rialto assisted with covering engines to the High Desert.

More information will be updated as it becomes available.

HESPERIA, Calif: (VVNG.com) Firefighters are battling a second-alarm fire in Hesperia that started as a vehicle fire and spread to vegetation.

The well-established fire started after 6:30 p.m. on Saturday just north of Los Flores Ranch.

According to the San Bernardino County Fire Department, the fire has already grown to over 10 acres as of 7:35 p.m.

This article will be updated as more information becomes available.

<http://www.vvng.com/breaking-active-brush-fire-quickly-spreading-in-hesperia/>

Multi Dwelling Structure Fire in Hesperia

Victor Valley News
Posted: June 18, 2016

HESPERIA :(VVNG.com)- **San Bernardino County Fire** is working a multi-dwelling structure fire on the 16200 block of Juniper Street.

The fire was reported at about 9:00 p.m. On Saturday, June 18, 2016.

Firefighters have conducted a primary search of the units for any possible occupants and everything was clear.

Per scanner traffic, several families have been evacuated and building and safety has been requested to respond.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

More information will be updated as it becomes available.

<http://www.vvng.com/multi-dwelling-structure-fire-in-hesperia/>

Single-unit apartment fire in Hesperia displaces six

Blaze reported Saturday night, knocked down within 20 minutes

Staff Reports, Daily Press

Posted: June 19, 2016, 4:30 PM

HESPERIA — **San Bernardino County Fire** crews knocked down a well-involved blaze to a single-unit apartment late Saturday, officials said.

The incident was reported at 8:52 p.m. in the 16200 block of Juniper Street, County Fire spokesman Ryan Vaccaro said. The fire was out within 20 minutes after firefighters arrived on scene.

Crews went into attack mode, reporting heavy fire, officials said on Twitter.

Vaccaro said the Red Cross was notified that four adults and two children were displaced as a result of the blaze. No injuries were reported.

The cause of the fire was under investigation.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20160619/single-unit-apartment-fire-in-hesperia-displaces-six>

Devastating illegal firework injuries in San Bernardino highlights danger of pyrotechnics

Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: June 17, 2016, 12:13 PM

Updated: June 18, 2016



People enjoy the Independence Day fireworks show at the University of Redlands. File Photo

Students are out for vacation, the temperature is beginning to creep upwards and red, white and blue merchandise is starting to appear on store shelves. Among these telltale signs of summer are fireworks.

“We start getting calls for fireworks starting a few weeks before the Fourth of July and they just keep coming until a few weeks after,” said San Bernardino firefighter Jason Serrano.

One month before the holiday, June 4, firefighters were called to North Park Elementary School, 5378 N. H Street, for two 12-year-old boys who had been severely injured by explosives.

According to Serrano, it appears the boys were playing with M-100 or higher explosive. These kinds of illegal devices are usually made from flash powder and are designed to make a large bang. Nearby neighbors reported hearing two very loud booms, according to reports.

Although Serrano could not be specific about the boy's injuries, he said they were devastating.

The tragic event illustrate the dangers of fireworks and explosives during the Fourth of July holiday.

“Around the Fourth of July, we're just running from one call to another,” said Serrano.

According to a U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission report, there were 11 nonoccupational fireworks-related deaths in 2014. Four victims died in house fires caused by fireworks. Seven victims died from direct impacts of fireworks. An estimated 10,500 people were hurt by fireworks that same year, the report shows.

“People have to be careful with all sorts of fireworks and explosives, even the ones called Safe and Sane that are allowed (in San Bernardino),” Serrano said.

The city of San Bernardino allows legal Safe and Sane fireworks to be purchased and lit below the 210 Freeway, but there are nearby cities, including Redlands, that do not allow the use of any firework, Serrano warns.

The possession of any type of fireworks, including Safe and Sane, is illegal in any unincorporated area of San Bernardino County, however the sale of Safe and Sane fireworks are allowed in the cities of Adelanto, Barstow, Chino, Colton and Rialto, as well as specific locations in Fontana, Grand Terrace and San Bernardino, according to **San Bernardino County fire** officials.

Injuries are just one of the possible dangers of using fireworks.

Sparks, even from the Safe and Sane fireworks, can cause a large brush or even home fire.

“Sometimes the sparks can end up in palm trees and those embers can then fly and ignite a building or home,” Serrano said.

A responsible adult should always supervise all firework activities and they should never give fireworks to children, according to fire officials.

Authorities also advise those lighting fireworks should wear safety glasses and should only light them once at a time.

When lighting fireworks, always have a bucket of water and water hose nearby and dispose of spent fireworks by wetting them down and placing them in a metal trash can away from any building or combustible materials until the next day.

Instead of using any fireworks, Serrano and county fire officials advise people watch some of the many local fireworks displays hosted by various cities and groups in the Inland Empire.

To find a list of organized fireworks shows visit sbcfire.org.

<http://www.sbsun.com/lifestyle/20160617/devastating-illegal-firework-injuries-in-san-bernardino-highlights-danger-of-pyrotechnics>

Paper mill fire sends smoke billowing over Fontana

John M. Blodgett, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: June 17, 2016, 4:38 PM

Updated: June 18, 2016



A worker at a recycling yard at 13733 Valley Blvd in Fontana is hosing down cardboard Friday afternoon following a small fire that erupted in the yard. Photo by John Blodgett

FONTANA >> Burning cardboard with smoke and flames visible from the 10 Freeway was contained Friday afternoon to the yard of a recycling center and extinguished within about a half-hour, fire officials said.

Shortly after 2:45 p.m. firefighters arrived at 13733 Valley Blvd. and determined the blaze could be fought with three engines and was limited to a portion of an outside lot. That's when the alarm response was reduced, fire officials said.

The fire was declared out about 3:15 p.m., according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department's** Twitter page.

It's unclear what caused the fire.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160617/paper-mill-fire-sends-smoke-billowing-over-fontana>

Protest hearing regarding annexation planned

Needles Desert Star

Posted: June 19, 2016, 6:39 PM

NEEDLES — A protest hearing regarding the city's annexation into the **San Bernardino County Fire District** is planned for 3 p.m. Wednesday, June 22, in the El Garces intermodal transportation facility.

The hearing will be to hear and receive any oral or written protests, objections or evidence which are made, presented or filed in regards to the annexation. There are two portions property owners can protest. The first is the annexation itself but also the possible parcel tax being sought to help pay for the cost of being in the fire district.

Any registered voter or owner of land within the area proposed to be annexed into the fire district may file an official protest. All protests must be in writing and submitted to the Local Agency Formation Commission office, 215 North D St., Suite 204, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0490 prior to the conclusion of the protest hearing or be submitted at the hearing.

Protest forms are available online at www.sbclafco.or or they can be picked up at the LAFCO office in San Bernardino. Protest forms with a date prior to June 1 or received after the conclusion of the hearing will be disregarded. Protests can't be accepted by fax or email.

For more information or questions about the hearing call LAFCO at 909-388-0480.

http://www.mohavedailynews.com/needles_desert_star/protest-hearing-regarding-annexation-planned/article_28662718-3687-11e6-a4b9-4bb1bd740890.html

Firefighters face “perfect storm” in Western wildfires

CBS and the Associated Press

Posted: June 18, 2016, 9:32 PM

GOLETA, Calif. -- Firefighters in the Western U.S. said Saturday they were up against a "perfect storm" as hot, dry conditions -- even triple-digit temperatures in some places -- were fanning at least a dozen large fires.

North of Los Angeles, Santa Barbara County was under a state of emergency Saturday as the Sherpa Fire destroyed more than 7,800 acres. Lighter winds allowed crews to perform "burn-out" operations late Friday night and contain 45 percent of the fire.

Firefighters tried to create a buffer zone between drought-dry brush and hundreds of threatened homes before the return of strong winds that pushed flames onto California's main coastal highway earlier this week.

Santa Barbara County Fire Chief Eric Peterson said Saturday firefighters are also dealing with extreme heat.

"We've got a hard Sunday and Monday potentially, but I'm confident everything that can be done is being done," Peterson said.

The county is home to a billion-dollar agriculture industry. Avocado, citrus, and olive crops have already been lost.

Rancher Pat Brown watched the fire consume hundreds of acres of his pastureland but told CBS News' Teri Okita he didn't feel like he was in danger.

"Not at that point, but I knew what was coming," Brown said. "There was no doubt in mind, it was bad."

No homes have burned, but about 270 structures are at risk. Campgrounds were evacuated as flames moved only two miles from more densely populated coastal communities.



Flames and smoke from the Sherpa Fire obscure the mountains near Santa Barbara, California, on Saturday, June 18, 2016. **CBS NEWS**

Despite the threat, Brown said he was grateful that, so far, firefighters have been able to save his property.

"You get guys you don't know putting their life on the line," Brown said. "Some guys put out a hot spot, didn't even see the guy's face. But I'm thankful."

Smoke from the Santa Barbara fire has reached Los Angeles and Orange counties, prompting air quality advisories amid a heat wave, CBS Los Angeles reported.

People were being advised to stay indoors and reduce power use as much as possible through the middle of next week, when the heat wave will peak. Cooling centers were opened to the public in L.A. County, Riverside County and San Bernardino County.

Elsewhere, Gov. Susana Martinez directed the New Mexico National Guard to assist in securing communities affected by the massive wildfire in the central part of the state. Guardsmen will be patrolling and protecting evacuated homes from possible looting. They also will be called on to help with potential flooding.

Firefighters took advantage of cooler weather overnight to reinforce holding lines around a blaze that has destroyed two dozen homes. Fire lines were strengthened on the western and southern boundaries of a blaze that erupted in the Manzano Mountains south of Albuquerque.

However, erratic light winds were possible during the day, which could drive embers and start new spot fires, the U.S. Forest Service warned.

The fire has burned more than 27 square miles about six miles northwest of Tajiue since Tuesday and spread a pall of smoke as far as Denver. The damage includes 24 homes and nearly as many structures near the small community of Chilili.

In Arizona, a fire southwest of Show Low was 30 percent contained. Firefighters beefed up containment areas on the northern and western sides of the blaze.

Evacuation orders remain in effect for the community of Forestdale. The fire has burned nearly 19 square miles since Wednesday.

Crews in Utah also made gains against three wildfires in the southern part of the state.

A 350-acre wildfire near Cedar City was 30 percent contained, but the blaze still threatened 20 structures including homes and outbuildings.

Weekend fire dangers already were expected to worsen as a heat wave will bring potentially record-shattering temperatures across the Southwest.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/firefighters-face-perfect-storm-in-western-wildfires/>

Dangerous fires, extreme heat across Southern California

Frank Shyong, Cindy Chang and Kate Mather, Los Angeles Times

Posted: June 19, 2016, 8:15 PM



Firefighters marched into El Capitan Canyon in Santa Barbara County on Friday, trying to corral the Sherpa fire before winds pick up. (Marcus Yam / Los Angeles Times)

A massive heat wave descended on Southern California on Sunday, bringing record-breaking temperatures and fueling fires throughout the region, including one in Silver Lake that threatened homes and forced the closure of the 2 Freeway for several hours.

Temperatures hit triple-digits in several valley and inland area cities, including 106 degrees in Pasadena and Lancaster, sending residents to air-conditioned shops and movie theaters as fire officials kept a wary eye on the forecast, worried that dry, gusty winds would make already-ripe fire conditions more dangerous.

Forecasters expected the heat to peak Monday, with temperatures ranging from 100 to 110 degrees in most inland areas and potentially breaking records along the coast. Public officials braced for the impact, issuing a flex alert asking residents to conserve electricity and opening cooling centers across the region.

As fire crews continued to battle the so-called Sherpa fire that has burned roughly 7,893 acres in Santa Barbara County, firefighters in Los Angeles got their own scare in Silver Lake, where a fire spread into brush along the 2 Freeway, which was shutdown about 2 p.m. and reopened at 5:30 p.m.. Scores of firefighters – and some residents – quickly descended on the scene Sunday afternoon, trying to save nearby homes.

“I hope it’s not telling us what’s going to happen this summer,” said Leesa Martling, a 56-year-old landscape designer who watched people try to douse the Silver Lake fire with water buckets. “I hope this isn’t going to be the hottest summer ever.”

Meanwhile, a wildfire fueled by dry brush and sweltering temperatures has scorched 1,500 acres just north of the U.S.-Mexico border and prompted mandatory evacuations for the entire East County community of Potrero.

About 25 homes south of state Route 94 and east of state Route 188, near where the fire initially sparked about 11:30 a.m., were also evacuated.

Tuesday could mark the start of a cool-off, as a high-pressure system moves east and moisture-filled clouds blow in from Baja California, said Stuart Seto, a weather specialist with the National Weather Service. Temperatures should drop by about 10 degrees, he said.

The hot, dry weather was a sharp contrast to the cooler, cloudier days Los Angeles has seen in recent weeks – nicknamed “June gloom” by locals.

“It changes so fast,” said Terry Choi, a Torrance resident avoiding Sunday’s heat at an ice cream parlor in Alhambra. “I was wearing cardigans last week.”

Downtown L.A. hit 96 degrees by mid-afternoon Sunday – far cooler than San Bernardino (111 degrees) or Ontario (110). Burbank peaked at 109 degrees, surpassing the previous record of 104 degrees set in 1973. Woodland Hills tied a record of 109 degrees set in 2008.

The National Weather Service also issued a red-flag warning, saying the soaring temperatures, low humidity and gusty “sundowner” winds could present an “extreme fire danger.”

That danger was highlighted in Silver Lake, where a fire quickly spread Sunday afternoon, threatening a neighborhood along the 2 Freeway. Smoke spread over the closed roadway as some residents tried to douse hot spots, shoveling dirt or spraying water from garden hoses.

Marnie Klein was sitting on her couch when she heard a rustling noise, like leaves. She looked up to see a telephone pole just beyond her Lake View Avenue backyard completely engulfed in flames. She grabbed a phone to call 911, wielding a garden hose in her other hand.

“Somebody help!” she screamed.

The fire started near the intersection of Lake View Avenue and Allesandro Way – the cause was under investigation – and pushed northwest by winds, Los Angeles fire officials said. Nearly 200 firefighters responded as a helicopter swooped over the freeway, dropping fire retardant.

Crews needed about 45 minutes to get the fire under control. Two homes on Corralitas Drive were damaged along with three sheds on nearby properties, said David Ortiz, a spokesman for the Los Angeles Fire Department.

The dry weather and 100-degree heat set the stage for the fire, Ortiz said.

“The biggest factor was the high temperature,” he said. “The grass was 100% receptive to the fire.”

The flames stopped alarmingly close to Klein’s home. Part of her back fence lay in a charred pile. The cushions on her patio furniture were singed. Her house smelled of smoke, but it wasn’t damaged.

“I’m the most lucky person of the day,” Klein said. “There were guardian angels watching over me.”

Another fire broke out Sunday afternoon in San Diego County, tearing through 100 acres of rocky, steep terrain and prompting dozens of evacuations west of Potrero, located not far from the Mexican border.

In Santa Barbara County, firefighters worked to better contain the Sherpa fire before the weather conditions worsened. That fire, which sparked Wednesday afternoon near Refugio Road, chewed through a combusive combination of chaparral, tall grass and brush in a wilderness area that hasn’t burned since 1955.

The fire also burned a small water treatment building at El Capitan state beach, fire officials said, and damaged avocado, lemon and olive crops. At one point, the fire forced the closure of the 101 Freeway.

As of Sunday afternoon, officials estimated the fire was 51% contained, but warned that the biggest challenge could still be ahead. A red-flag warning has been issued until 10 a.m. Tuesday.

“The greater danger of the fire is always at night here because of the sundowner winds,” said Costa Dillon, an information officer stationed at the command post.

Elsewhere in Southern California, families looked for ways to stay cool.

For Bryan Adams and Katia Kaplun, the year’s hottest day began with a stop at a splash park in City Terrace, where their young son could run through jets of water. After that came a stop at Fosselman’s Ice Cream, where outdoor seats were empty as customers crammed into the air-conditioned parlor.

Adams said his family’s house isn’t well-shaded and doesn’t have air-conditioning. They rely on wall-mounted units, outdoor fans and a kiddie pool to get through the summer, he said.

“We have to be creative about ways to stay cool,” Adams said.

Down the street, Valerie and Richard Gonzalez walked out of Target pushing a shopping cart loaded with two large tower fans. There’s no air-conditioning at their home in El Sereno, they said, so they planned to set up a pool, blast the fans and ice beers to stay cool.

“We’re just going to hang out and wait for the sun to go down,” Valerie Gonzalez said.

When they reached their car, she sent her husband back inside the store to buy a towel for their drive home. The steering wheel was too hot to touch.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-sherpa-fire-sunday-20160619-snap-story.html>

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