



# NEWS



## News Headlines 6/01/2018

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- Fire Station 301 in Hesperia demolished as annexation to County Fire moves forward
- Fire burns wood and brush on Morongo Valley property
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## MORONGO VALLEY MAN ARRESTED FOLLOWING DIFFICULT FIRE AT MORONGO VALLEY PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS “JUNKYARD”

Staff Writer, z1077news  
Posted on June 1, 2018

A Morongo Valley man was arrested Thursday following a fire at a property that firefighters described as a “junkyard.” About 11:45 a.m., firefighters from Morongo Valley, Yucca Valley, Calfire and Yucca Mesa were called to the blaze at the corner of Fobes Road and Via Hacienda. **County Fire** Battalion Chief Donnie Vilorio said the property was covered with shacks, shanties, old cars, and “years and years of pack-ratting and storage.” Because there were no fire hydrants nearby, firefighters used the water in their engines to knock down the fire, which was burning old cars, trailers, and a lot of old wood. Vilorio said that in the 30 minutes it took for the engines to refill their water tanks at hydrants along the highway, and while they were waiting for a fire tender from Yucca Mesa to arrive, the winds stoked the fire back up. The fire was pretty much out by 1:30 p.m., although some firefighters remained on the scene until about 5 p.m. Deputies arrested Jonathan Thompson, 62, in the 9600 block of Fobes Road about 6:30 p.m. for investigation of arson. Jonathan Thompson was booked into the Morongo Basin Jail with his bail set at \$25,000.

<http://z1077fm.com/local-news/todays-full-newscast/>

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## Fire Station 301 in Hesperia demolished as annexation to County Fire moves forward

Rene Ray De La Cruz, Daily Press  
Posted: May 31, 2018



The former Hesperia Fire Station 301 was torn down recently as the city prepares to annex its fire services into the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

**HESPERIA** — Local **San Bernardino County Fire** Station No. 301 is no more after city workers recently razed the aging structure that sat along Eleventh Avenue.

Over Memorial Day weekend, piles of debris sat on the property that once housed the old station operated by the city-operated Hesperia Fire Protection District.

Fire Station 301 was originally a converted single-family home that had been in use as a station since the 1960s. It closed in January 2012 and reopened in August 2013 with the use of a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant. The station closed for good when the SAFER grant expired in August 2015.

The SAFER grant increased Hesperia’s fire resources to a total of three fire engines with advanced life support/paramedic capabilities and five paramedic ambulances, according to the city.

“The demolition of the old station paves the way for the county to build a new station, possibly on the same property,” Councilman Paul Russ told the Daily Press. “The county will have the funds to build a new station with over \$5 million in capital expenditures from the city.”

The station was shuttered in 2012 because of “funding” issues, with the city not able to subsidize the station through its general fund, Russ said.

The decision to raze the building was made as part of the annexation process that will see the HFPD taken over by the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District-North Desert Service Zone, said city spokeswoman Rachel Molina.

She added the city wanted to make the annexation as “complete” as possible so that an “unusable asset” — a nearly 50-year-old structure — wasn’t transferred during the process.

The transfer process began in early May when the Local Agency Formation Committee approved the move that includes the city relinquishing all assets and control of all fire and emergency services to County Fire.

County Fire will pick up an estimated \$3.5 million in property tax revenue transfers from the city and revenues of just over \$5.3 million, which will be available to fund services beginning in the next fiscal year, according to officials. The cost of providing emergency services to Hesperia will be approximately \$11.2 million.

Over the past four years, the city has worked to identify solutions to funding shortfalls in the fire district by examining its options closely, said city manager Nils Bentsen

The annexation does not include the expansion of Special Fire District 941, which would have meant an additional fire tax for citizens, something the Council has vehemently opposed since submitting its application to LAFCO last year.

County Fire will provide existing services to over 42,000 properties in 73.2 square miles. The annexation will also increase the city’s general tax revenue from 1.59 percent to 3.50 percent, with the bump in funds paying the “pension legacy cost” that comes from the current Hesperia Fire Protection District, Russ said.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20180531/fire-station-301-in-hesperia-demolished-as-annexation-to-county-fire-moves-forward>

## Fire burns wood and brush on Morongo Valley property

Stacy Moore, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: May 31, 2018, 1:11 p.m.



One firefighter sprays down flames leaping from a collection of belongings while another moves to keep the lines free from the piles of wood and metal on the property. In addition to the lack of a hydrant, firefighters were slightly hampered when their hoses got stuck or kinked around items on the ground. (Stacy Moore)

**MORONGO VALLEY** — A fire burned piles of wood, debris and brush on a property on Fobes Road Thursday.

Sprawling on the southwest corner of Fobes and Via Hacienda, the property is covered with detritus, from planks of wood to an old Carnation milk truck, along with a wooden house. The man who lives on the property was home, but did not want to talk to fire officials or the press.

A neighbor reported the fire around 11:45 a.m. and the Morongo Valley, **San Bernardino County** and state **fire** departments all responded. The property has no running water and there was no nearby hydrant, so firefighters had to rely on the water in their engines to start dampening the flames. San Bernardino County Battalion Chief Don Vilorio said each engine carries 500 gallons and together they were able to knock down the main body of the fire before running out of water.

Without water, firefighters had to stand monitoring the flames for roughly 20 minutes until a county water tender from Yucca Mesa arrived. A steady breeze and plenty of fuel kept the flames alive and growing while they waited. “Very rarely does wind help a fire,” Vilorio remarked.

Once the water tender arrived on the scene, firefighters were able to grab their lines again and extinguish the flames.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

[http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article\\_d4112312-650e-11e8-8215-13931bbac114.html](http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_d4112312-650e-11e8-8215-13931bbac114.html)

## Man is injured in violent collision in southwestern Fontana on May 30

Mike Myers, Fontana Herald News

Posted: May 31, 2018



Police investigate a crash in which a car was destroyed in southwestern Fontana on May 30. (Contributed photo by Mike Myers)

A man was injured in a late-night vehicle collision in southwestern Fontana on May 30, according to the Fontana Police Department and **San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

Police are investigating what caused the driver of a Honda Accord to crash into the center divider in the 13300 block of Jurupa Avenue, violently ripping the car into two pieces.

The driver had been heading eastbound on Jurupa when the Accord hit the cement divider, police said. Tire marks were found where the car traveled about 500 feet in the divider, shredding parts of trees and shrubs before stopping in the westbound lanes of Jurupa.

The back half of the car was found on the dirt shoulder on the westbound side. The driver was found outside the car and in the bushes on the center divider, according to a police officer.

The Fire Department treated the driver and he was transported to a hospital with unknown types of injuries. The road was littered with tree limbs, car parts and debris. Jurupa was closed to westbound traffic from Mulberry Avenue to Etiwanda Avenue during the investigation.

The Fontana P.D. is investigating whether being under the influence and/or excessive speed caused the accident.

[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/man-is-injured-in-violent-collision-in-southwestern-fontana-on/article\\_2506be3a-64f1-11e8-9f3b-dfc00f286e86.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/man-is-injured-in-violent-collision-in-southwestern-fontana-on/article_2506be3a-64f1-11e8-9f3b-dfc00f286e86.html)

## **Sheriff's Hoist at Big Falls in Forest Falls**

**Michael P. Neufeld, Rotwnews**

Posted: May 31, 2018



Forest Falls, CA – On Tuesday, May 29, 2018, Araceli Hernandez, a 49 year old resident of Rialto, was attempting to climb up a rock face at Big Falls when she slipped and fell approximately 30 feet. Hernandez came to rest at the base of the falls and sustained serious injuries. Several witnesses called 911 to report the incident.

**San Bernardino County Fire** Department quickly responded to the incident location. Due to the rugged and remote location, ground personnel requested Sheriff's Air Rescue 306. When Air Rescue 306 arrived they lowered rescue personnel to the base of the waterfall. Hernandez was placed into a rescue litter, hoisted up into the helicopter, and transported to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

<https://rotwnews.com/2018/05/31/sheriffs-hoist-at-big-falls-in-forest-falls/>