



# NEWS



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## Four dead after head on crash on Air Expressway Friday night

Daily Press

Posted: April 28, 2017, 12:01 AM

VICTORVILLE — Authorities identified a 33-year-old woman who was killed along with three children in a crash on Air Expressway late Friday night.

San Bernardino County Sheriff-Coroner officials identified Mercedes Montee Breda, of Adelanto, Saturday evening as the driver of the 1999 green Toyota Corolla that was traveling westbound on Air Expressway just west of Phantom West and collided head on with a 2003 Ford Explorer pickup truck that was traveling eastbound on the same road.

Paramedics responded to the scene and pronounced Montee and two children, a 11-year-old girl and a 2-year-old boy who were passengers in her vehicle, dead at the scene.

A third child, a 6-year-old boy, was also transported to Victor Valley Global Medical Center and pronounced dead just before 9 p.m., according to officials.

A fourth passenger, a 9-year-old girl, was airlifted to Loma Linda University Medical Center with major injuries and is listed in critical condition.

The driver of the Ford was transported to St. Mary's Medical Center for complaint of pain and for treatment of pre-existing medical conditions that are unrelated to this collision, officials said.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and **County Fire** officials responded to reports of a crash on Air Expressway between Phantom West and Emerald Road at around 8:15 p.m. Friday.

According to officials, Breda was driving behind another vehicle when she entered the No. 1 westbound lane passing a Chevrolet Impala and sideswiping the driver side of a Honda Accord. After colliding with the Accord, Breda then crossed into the eastbound lanes of Air Expressway and collided with the Ford in a head-on collision in the No. 2 eastbound lane.

Nelson said the pickup truck was only occupied by its driver while the second vehicle, driven by Mercedes, was carrying six passengers.

Air Expressway was shut down in both directions for several hours between Phantom West and Emerald Road as authorities investigated the crash.

The identities of the children have been verified and their names will be released depending on notification of next of kin, officials said.

The collision is under investigation by the Victorville Police Department Major Accident Investigation Team (M.A.I.T.). Anyone with information about this collision is asked to contact the Victorville Police Department M.A.I.T. team, 760-241-2911. Callers wishing to remain anonymous may call the WeTip hotline at 800-782-7436 or visit [www.wetip.com](http://www.wetip.com).

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170428/four-dead-after-head-on-crash-on-air-expressway-friday-night>

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### **3 people killed in traffic collision near Adelanto**

**Brian Rokos, Press-Enterprise**  
Posted: April 28, 2017, 10:42 PM

Three people died and two people were hospitalized Friday night, April 27, in a traffic collision near Adelanto, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** said.

The crash was reported at 8:11 p.m. on Air Expressway at Emerald Road, spokesman Eric Sherwin said. The area is near Southern California Logistics Airport.

One person was taken to a hospital by ground ambulance and a second was transported by a helicopter, Sherwin said.

No other details were immediately available.

<http://www.pe.com/2017/04/28/3-people-killed-in-traffic-collision-near-adelanto/>

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### **Tower Fire in Cajon Pass is 200 acres, 20 percent contained**

**Charity Lindsey, Daily Press**  
Posted: April 30, 2017, 5:28 PM



A quick-moving blaze dubbed the Tower Fire broke out in the Cajon Pass around 4 p.m. Sunday, spurred on by gusty winds. [David Pardo, Daily Press]

A quick-moving blaze dubbed the Tower Fire broke out in the Cajon Pass around 4 p.m. Sunday, spurred on by gusty winds.

San Bernardino National Forest Service reported via Twitter just before 8 p.m. that the Tower Fire, which was burning near Cleghorn Road and Interstate 15, was “holding” at 200 acres and 20 percent contained.

There were no road closures in place or communities threatened, Forest Service spokesperson Lin Sieliet told the Daily Press around 7 p.m. Sunday.

Reports of visible smoke came from as far as Apple Valley, and according to an InciWeb report online, the flames were moving in a northerly direction.

As firefighters continued to battle the blaze, winds were picking up, and are predicted to gust up to 32 miles per hour Monday with temperatures in the mid-80s, according to Accuweather data online.

A total of 250 personnel were battling the fire, including Forest Service, **San Bernardino County Fire Department** and Cal Fire, with 20 engines, eight hand crews, four heli-tankers and two air tankers with an air attack, according to Sieliet.

The Tower Fire began in the same region as the Bluecut Fire, which scorched more than 36,000 acres in August last year and destroyed an estimated 105 homes, mostly in the West Cajon Valley, according to previous Daily Press reports.

According to InciWeb, the Tower Fire was burning through light to medium brush/chaparral in the Cajon Pass area.

Two separate fires were originally reported Sunday afternoon on the northbound Interstate 15, and were later combined to one incident on California Highway Patrol logs.

This story is still developing and will be updated as more information becomes available.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170430/tower-fire-in-cajon-pass-is-200-acres-20-percent-contained>

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## **Tower fire in Cajon Pass wildfire slows to smolder**

Gail Wesson, Press-Enterprise

Posted: April 30, 2017, 6:19 PM

A 200-acre wildfire burned on both sides of the 15 Freeway north of the Cleghorn Road exit in the Cajon Pass area Sunday, April 30, but appeared to be laying down and was 20 percent contained by nightfall.

Named the Tower fire, the blaze appeared to be smoldering around 7:30 p.m. and traffic had resumed moving normally along the freeway lanes. The fire had been moving north toward the 138 Highway exit.

It was first reported about 4:30 p.m, according to **San Bernardino County Fire Department** tweets.

The fire was fought by U.S. Forest Service, the San Bernardino County Fire Department and San Bernardino/Cal Fire.

<http://www.pe.com/2017/04/30/fire-burning-along-15-freeway-north-of-devore/>

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## Tower Fire in Cajon Pass now 50 percent contained

Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: May 1, 2017, 6:48 AM



CAJON PASS >> Firefighters worked through the night battling the Tower Fire, and as of Monday morning it was 50 percent contained, according to officials.

The latest update from U.S. Forest Service said the blaze charred 200 acres on both sides of the 15 Freeway in the Cajon Pass.

The fire was first reported about 4:30 p.m. Sunday along the 15 Freeway just north of Cleghorn Road, according to **San Bernardino County Fire Department** tweets.

The fire burned through light to medium brush.

Smoke and flames from the fire cause some traffic issues through the Cajon Pass, but by 7:30 p.m., vehicles were again moving along the 15 Freeway.

The U.S. Forest Service, with assistance from San Bernardino County Fire and San Bernardino CalFire, is working to contain the fire.

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/general-news/20170501/tower-fire-in-cajon-pass-now-50-percent-contained>

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## **Tower Fire Holding at 200 Acres and is 50 Percent Contained**

Christie Martin, 24/7 Headline News

Posted: May 1, 2017

CAJON PASS – Motorists became alarmed when they saw a fire in the hills near Cleghorn and the 15 freeway on Sunday afternoon. After the destruction of the Blue Cut fire in 2016, tensions have been high.

The Tower Fire was reported at around 3:55 p.m. on Sunday, April 30, 2017, and spread quickly to 200 acres. As of Monday morning at 8:00 a.m. the U.S. Forest Service, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** and CalFire firefighters have been able to hold the fire at the same 200 acres and have it 50 percent contained.

No injuries were reported as a result of this fire and no closures of the 15 freeway have been made or are expected. Information will be updated throughout the day as it is received.

<https://247headline.com/tower-fire-holding-at-200-acres-and-is-50-percent-contained/>

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## **Wildfires burn hundreds of acres across Inland Empire**

Matt Hamilton and James Queally, LA Times

Posted: May 1, 2017, 5:50 AM

A fast-moving wildfire threatening homes in Riverside County on Sunday grew to at least 1,350 acres around midnight, officials said.

Dubbed the Opera fire, the blaze was reported at about 3:45 p.m. in a field in Highgrove, a community between San Bernardino and Riverside, according to the Riverside County Fire Department. It's unclear what sparked the fire.

Over the next six hours, the fire grew from 30 acres to about 1,200. By midnight, it had swept across 1,350 acres, with officials saying the blaze was 25% contained. Fifteen homes were in danger of being damaged or destroyed as of midnight, officials said.

More than 125 firefighters were trying to control the fire with air tankers, helicopters and ground crews. At one point, civilian drones brought aerial firefighting to a halt.

Whipped by strong wind, the flames were initially posed a threat to radio towers on Box Springs Mountain and a warehouse on Palmyrita Avenue, but no structural losses were reported.

About 20 miles south in Temescal Valley, another wildfire was reported about 6:30 p.m. in the hills around large housing subdivisions.

Called the Jameson fire, the blaze had burned about 15 acres in the 23200 block of Jameson Road, about one mile west of the 15 Freeway, according to the Riverside County Fire Department. Small spot fires had ignited palm trees and foliage near several homes, according to aerial video of the fire broadcast by KNBC-TV.

The news station's images showed fire trucks fanning out across neighborhoods, trying to douse the flames. One resident was seen using a garden hose to spray water on burning palm trees in a backyard.

Fire officials said they had stopped the blaze's advance around 9:30 p.m., and as of midnight, it remained at 15 acres in size. Officials said no homes were in danger.

In **San Bernardino County**, **firefighters** were also battling a vegetation fire in the Cajon Pass near the northbound 15 Freeway. The Tower fire had spread to 200 acres and was 20% contained as of 7:30 p.m., according to San Bernardino National Forest officials.

In an unincorporated area of Temecula, the 5-acre Rosa fire was reported about 2 p.m. amid avocado fields and heavy vegetation, according to the Riverside County Fire Department.

More than 100 firefighters had responded to the Rosa fire, and fire officials said air crews dumped retardant around the perimeter.

By 6:30 p.m., the Rosa fire was fully contained; the cause was under investigation.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-wildfires-inland-empire-20170430-story.html>

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## **Firefighters are kept busy in Inland Empire during April 29-30 weekend; small fire is extinguished in Fontana**

**Fontana Herald News**

Posted: May 1, 2017 8:51 AM



A firefighter helps put out a small fire which erupted at Foothill Boulevard and Cherry Avenue in Fontana on April 29. (Contributed photo by Mike Myers)

Firefighters were kept busy during the past weekend (April 29-30) because of fires that erupted in the Inland Empire, including a small blaze in Fontana on Saturday, April 29.

Several fires began on Sunday, April 30, including the Opera Fire in Highgrove, which burned 1,350 acres, and the Tower Fire in the Cajon Pass, which burned 200 acres. The Tower Fire was 50 percent contained as of Monday, May 1, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

Back on Saturday, a vegetation fire was extinguished after burning two acres in northwestern Fontana. The fire erupted in a grass field at Foothill Boulevard and Cherry Avenue, near the Jack in the Box and Las Playas restaurants.



The fire, fueled by strong winds, spread to the field south of Las Playas, and an engine and crew were sent to 8383 Cherry Avenue to protect the mobile home community that was in the path of the fire, according to the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

Despite the strong winds and smoke conditions, the firefighters were able to put out the blaze before any structures were lost, and there were no injuries or evacuations.

A total of three engines, a water tender, a battalion chief and about 12 firefighters were assigned to the incident.

[http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/firefighters-are-kept-busy-in-inland-empire-during-april-/article\\_1cc458ba-2e86-11e7-98d7-530a9d759789.html](http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/firefighters-are-kept-busy-in-inland-empire-during-april-/article_1cc458ba-2e86-11e7-98d7-530a9d759789.html)

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## **Burning train car travels from Hesperia to Victorville before being doused**

Charity Lindsey, Daily Press  
Posted: April 30, 2017, 3:40 PM

VICTORVILLE — Authorities responded to a train car on fire Saturday night, originally reported in Hesperia, but put out almost an hour later in Victorville, where the train stopped at the Amtrak Station. **San Bernardino County Fire** received reports of a train car on fire near Santa Fe Street in Hesperia at 9:38 p.m., authorities said, with smoke seen coming from the engine compartment.

Once firefighters tracked down the train, it had stopped just north of Interstate 15 at the Amtrak Station on D Street in Victorville.

County Fire spokesperson Ryan Vaccaro said it was determined that the blaze in the locomotive was caused when an air filter on the engine caught fire.

No injuries were reported as a result of the fire, which was doused at about 10:27 p.m., authorities said.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170430/burning-train-car-travels-from-hesperia-to-victorville-before-being-doused>

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## Locomotive Traveling Through Victor Valley Catches Fire

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: April 30, 2017



VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) **San Bernardino County Firefighters** responded to a rail car fire Saturday night.

At about 9:40 p.m. dispatch received reports of a northbound train with large flames showing near Santa Fe Avenue East and Sultana Street in Hesperia.

Deputies from the Hesperia Sheriff's station searched the area and reported seeing residual smoke but no visible fire.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Helicopter (40king) assisted deputies with attempting to locate the train.

As the train continued into the City of Victorville, the helicopter located a moving northbound train with a column of smoke coming from the rear locomotive.

"We dispatched additional units towards the Victorville area and got a hold of the railroad to get the train stopped, stated Battalion Chief Bill Mahan.

At approximately 10:00 p.m. the train came to a complete stop just northwest of the I-15 freeway on E Street near the cement plant.

"Once we were sure that the train was stopped and safe, we dispatched the closest fire station to the scene from station 311," said Mahan.

Once stopped, large flames with heavy smoke began to billow from the rear locomotive engine compartment.

Firefighters managed to knock down the fire in approximately 10 minutes.

No injuries were reported as a result of the fire.

<http://www.vvng.com/locomotive-traveling-victor-valley-catches-fire-video/>

## Motorcyclist dies in collision with SUV in Yucca Valley

Hi Desert Star

Posted: May 1, 2017, 8:34 AM



County firefighters and a passer-by work to get the driver of a Hummer H3 out of the vehicle after a deadly collision with a motorcyclist Sunday afternoon. The driver of the SUV was driven by ambulance to the Yucca Valley airport, then flown to a hospital. Cindy Melland, Hi-Desert Star

YUCCA VALLEY — Motorcyclist William Allen, 72, of Yucca Valley, died in a collision with an SUV about 4 p.m. Sunday at Twentynine Palms Highway at Katje Way.

Allen was riding his 1995 Harley Davidson west on the highway when the driver of a 2005 Hummer H3 pulled in front of him from Katje Way to make a left turn into the eastbound lanes of the highway, according to the county coroner.

Allen hit the SUV and was thrown from the motorcycle.

Witnesses rushed to the scene to try to help Allen and called 911.

Responding sheriff's deputies pronounced Allen dead at the scene at 4:12 p.m. according to the coroner. The driver of the SUV was flown to an unnamed hospital for treatment.

The Sheriff Department's Major Accident Investigation Team was called in to investigate the collision, according to the Morongo Basin sheriff's station.

Anyone with information for the investigation is asked to call the sheriff's station at (760) 366-4175.

[http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article\\_a3bf0a8e-2e83-11e7-a97a-9fb9b0c843f8.html](http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_a3bf0a8e-2e83-11e7-a97a-9fb9b0c843f8.html)

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## Yucca Valley Man Injured When Car Falls On Him

Z107.7 News

Posted: May 1, 2017

A Yucca Valley man was injured when the car he was working on fell off its jack on top of him. According to County Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle, firefighters were called to the 58300 block of Carlyle Drive at 11:44 a.m. Friday. Tuttle said a neighbor pulled the unidentified man—who was breathing and awake—out from under the car before paramedics arrived. The man was taken to the Yucca Valley airport where he was flown to Desert Hospital in Palm Springs.

<http://z1077fm.com/yucca-valley-man-injured-when-car-falls-on-him/>

## County Supervisors Meet: Morongo Basin Items On The Agenda

Z107.7 News

Posted: May 1, 2017

Topics specific to our Morongo Basin are the subjects of several agenda items at tomorrow's 10 a.m. meeting of the County Board of Supervisors in San Bernardino. Reporter Mike Lipsitz has details...

Item 49 on the board of supervisor's agenda tomorrow will green light a \$200,000 grant to pay for the planning of a bicycle and pedestrian transportation plan that will link Twentynine Palms and Yucca Valley along the way. Item 75 will authorize **County Fire** to enter a \$1, three-year lease agreement with Copper Mountain College for a portion of the Lear Fire Station in order to hold fire technology related courses. Item 86 will shift responsibility for administering the licensing program for hotels and motels in the unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County from the Clerk of the Board to the Code Enforcement Division of Land Use Services. Item 87 will do the same for rental units. Tomorrow's meeting streams online and to the first-floor teleconferencing room in the County Government Center on White Feather Road where public comment may be made via live video link.

<http://z1077fm.com/county-supervisors-meet-morongo-basin-items-on-the-agenda/>