



NEWS



News Headlines 06/21/2019

- CHP investigating fatal rollover crash in Barstow Thursday night
- Brush Fire in Hesperia burns 39.5 acres
- Fire ignites along I-15 in Hesperia
- Other Funding Methods to be Considered in Replacing Special Fire Tax

CHP investigating fatal rollover crash in Barstow Thursday night

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: June 20, 2019



BARSTOW, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Authorities are investigating a rollover crash that left one person dead Thursday night.

It happened on June 20, 2019, in the area of Main Street also known as National Trails Highway and Sylvan Avenue in Barstow.

San Bernardino County Fire was dispatched to the traffic accident after receiving reports the vehicle was on fire.

Crews arrived on scene and determined there was no fire.

Per scanner traffic reports, one person was pronounced deceased at the scene.

According to CHP incident logs, the San Bernardino County Coroner's office has been advised.

<https://www.vvng.com/chp-investigating-fatal-rollover-crash-in-barstow-thursday-night/>

Brush Fire in Hesperia burns 39.5 acres

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: June 20, 2019



Firefighters responded quickly and contained the fire. (Gabe Espinoza, VVNG)

UPDATE @ 5:25 PM – Fire crews are holding the fire at 39.5 acres and the forward rate of spread has been stopped. Crews will remain committed for several hours to mop-up. No injuries have been reported and the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) A brush fire prompted a second-alarm fire and precautionary evacuations Thursday afternoon.

The fire broke out just before 3:30 p.m. on June 20, 2019 in the 9300 block of Mariposa Road, just south of Main Street.

According to **San Bernardino County Fire**, the Fire is spreading quickly due to high winds.

First responding firefighters estimated that at least 3-5 acres are burning and is posing an immediate threat to a nearby college.

Students and staff at San Joaquin College are being asked to leave the campus at this time.

<https://www.vvng.com/firefighters-battling-blaze-in-hesperia-evacuations-in-progress/>

Fire ignites along I-15 in Hesperia

Garrett Bergthold, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: June 20, 2019 at 6:18pm



HESPERIA — A brush fire broke out along a road parallel to Interstate 15 on Wednesday, prompting a nearby college campus to cancel its classes as students left amid a building tower of smoke which blanketed across the freeway.

San Bernardino County firefighters were called to the fire at around 3:11 p.m. in a field just south of San Joaquin Valley College's Victor Valley Campus on Mariposa Road, north of Muscatel Street.

The first arriving engine reported two to three acres of flame moving at a rapid rate of spread with threat to a commercial building, County Fire tweeted.

The response was upgraded to a second alarm.

"Firefighters engaged the blaze in 20-30 mph winds. The wind funneled the fire into a long, narrow strip which limited the fire's spread to the west and east while at the same time pushing it parallel to Mariposa Road," a County Fire statement read.

The National Weather Service had issued a wind advisory for the area from Thursday until Friday morning, forecasting 40 to 50 mph winds in portions of the Mojave Desert.

SJVC officials canceled classes for the rest of the day as smoke briefly affected the campus, officials said. No evacuations were put in place.

Firefighters battled for just over an hour before halting the Mariposa Fire's spread just south of the college.

The fire charred 39.5 acres when it was finally stopped.

Officials said there was no damage to buildings or any injuries reported.

Over 70 County Fire personnel responded including six engines, one truck, three hand crews, two water tenders and two chief officers.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Mariposa Road, between Main Street and Muscatel Street, is expected to remain closed until 6 p.m., according to scanner traffic.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20190620/fire-ignites-along-i-15-in-hesperia>

Other Funding Methods to be Considered in Replacing Special Fire Tax

Staff Writer, Mountain News

Posted: June 20, 2019, 9:00 AM

San Bernardino County Third District Supervisor Dawn Rowe recently voted to end the controversial special tax known as FP-5, which partially funds the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department operating budget. Rowe was joined by Supervisors Curt Hagman, Josie Gonzales and Janice Rutherford in supporting the measure.

FP-5 was originally presented by Fire Chief Mark Hartwig, who has since relocated to work in Santa Barbara. FP-5 was a solution to the county's \$29 million dollar budget shortfall for the Fire Protection District, which covers "19,278 square miles and serves more than 60 communities/cities," according to the www.sbcfire.com. Also according to www.sbcfire.com, FP-5 was designed to tax "each legal parcel within Service Zone FP-5" for \$157.26/year... [and could] increase up to 3% each year."

The proposed fire tax was then put to a protest vote, where a certain percentage of affected homeowners, who controlled a certain percentage of affected land, would have to mail in a protest form to get the tax put on a ballot or "killed" outright.

During a meeting on Tuesday, June 11, the Board of Supervisors supported a motion by Rutherford to end the FP-5 special tax, requiring the County's Chief Executive Officer, Gary McBride, to report back to the board in 90 days with funding alternatives to pay for county fire services. At that point, the board will consider placing the preferred alternative on the November 2020 General Election ballot for a vote of the people.

"Property owners deserve to have a voice in this process, which is why I believe FP-5 should be put before the public for a vote," Rowe said. "I understand that taxpayers must fund basic government services like fire protection, but they should have an opportunity to weigh in on how much of their hard-earned dollars are collected by the county," she added.

In addition, Rowe added a provision that eliminated the 3% proposed increase to the FP-5 special tax that would have taken effect in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

"Removing the proposed tax increase was the right move in light of the serious concerns I have over how the FP-5 assessment was imposed on citizens. I couldn't, in good conscience, support the increase before the public has a chance to vote on the matter," explained Rowe.

In a video posted to Rowe's supervisor Facebook page, Rowe explained more about her history with the tax.

"Before I was appointed to your county supervisor position, I was a private citizen that spoke out pretty passionately against FP-5, Fire Protection 5 zone, and a vote that annexed in a large portion of the county. It did not have representation that we all believe in," Rowe said.

In the video, Rowe also spoke of the future. "Moving forward, the board of supervisors is committed to finding funding to help fire with a vote of the citizens," Rowe said. "We will take the next three months and study the different options and present them to voters so that you all have a say in your government and how we move forward.... I thank you to everyone who reached out.... Your voices were heard and every vote does really count. I encourage you to continue reaching out to our offices."

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_94a6b484-9371-11e9-8935-bb9a253ce0c0.html