



# NEWS



## News Headlines 01/17/2019

- Man killed in Victorville crash Wednesday night
- Mysterious gas cylinder discarded
- 19-car pileup leaves 35 injured in Southern California's Cajon Pass
- Morning pileup on I-15 involves up to 25 vehicles, injures nearly 40 people
- 15 Freeway Reopens After 19-Vehicle Crash Injured up to 35 People in Cajon Pass
- 15 Freeway in Cajon Pass reopens after 19-vehicle crash
- Wicked storm rolling out of California could drop 40 inches of snow in New England
- Latest Pacific Ocean storm pounds California with rain, snow
- The Latest: Mudslide snarls commute over Golden Gate Bridge
- Falling tree kills man in Oakland as storm lashes California
- Fire Chief Mark Hartwig is Leaving County Fire to Take the Reins in Santa Barbara
- Fire Chief Mark Hartwig taking the reins in Santa Barbara County
- Mark Hartwig Named Santa Barbara County's New Fire Chief

## Man killed in Victorville crash Wednesday night

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: January 17, 2019



Photo credit: Michael Spanos

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A man who was critically injured in a crash here late Wednesday night has died from his injuries, officials confirmed.

At about 11:04 pm, January 16, 2019, deputies from the Victorville Station and rescue personnel from the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department and AMR responded to a two-vehicle traffic collision on National Trails Highway south of Air Expressway.

“Upon arrival, deputies determined that a gray 2010 Honda Civic was traveling north on National Trails Highway and a white, 1996 Dodge Ram 3500 was traveling south on National Trails Highway,” officials said in a news release.

Deputies investigating the crash determined the roadway was wet due to rain earlier that night, and for unknown reasons, the driver of the Honda lost control while navigating the curve in the roadway and crossed the double yellow lines colliding with the Dodge causing major damage to both vehicles.

“[The] gray Honda Civic flew past me about 90mph and flipped over and hit a pickup truck traveling in the opposite direction,” according to Michael Spanos who witnessed the crash.

The driver of the Honda was flown by helicopter to a hospital where he was later pronounced deceased.

The driver of the Dodge suffered minor injuries and did not require immediate medical treatment.

Investigators are continuing the investigation into the cause of the collision.

National Trails Highway, north the I-15 Freeway and south of Air Expressway, was closed in both directions for several hours while investigators processed the scene for evidence and interviewed witnesses.

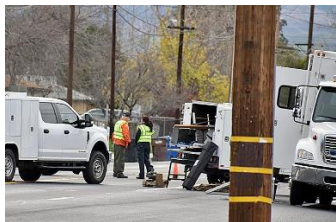
Anyone with information or anyone who may have witnessed the collision is asked to contact Deputy A. Hylin or Deputy J. Dean at the Victorville Police Station. (760) 241-2911

<https://www.vvng.com/man-killed-in-victorville-crash-wednesday-night/>

## Mysterious gas cylinder discarded

Staff Writer, Highland Community News

Posted: January 16, 2019



Authorities gather Tuesday morning on Victoria Avenue south of Base Line after a gas cylinder was left in a parking lot. Highland Community News photo by James Folmer

Deputies in Highland were dispatched at 9:25 a.m. Tuesday to a commercial business complex on Base Line at Victoria Avenue regarding suspicious circumstances. A Highland city employee saw an unknown male driving a white pick up truck stop at the location and discard a metal gas cylinder in the parking lot.

Deputies arrived at the location and immediately closed off the area and evacuated the businesses in the strip mall. Investigators from the Sheriff's Arson/Bomb Detail were called to assist with the possible explosive device. After several hours, the cylinder was examined and determined to be safe. The **San Bernardino County Fire** HAZMAT Unit responded to the location to pick up and discard the cylinder.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is urged to contact the Highland Police Department (909) 425-9793. Callers wishing to remain anonymous are urged to call the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME (27463), or you may leave information on the We-Tip Hotline at [www.wetip.com](http://www.wetip.com)

[https://www.highlandnews.net/news/public\\_safety/mysterious-gas-cylinder-discarded/article\\_cf691f12-19dc-11e9-b8f7-b79d635a2f4a.html](https://www.highlandnews.net/news/public_safety/mysterious-gas-cylinder-discarded/article_cf691f12-19dc-11e9-b8f7-b79d635a2f4a.html)

---

## 19-car pileup leaves 35 injured in Southern California's Cajon Pass

Staff Writer/Associated Press, WTNH News 8

Posted: January 17, 2019, 7:38 am

(AP) - Numerous vehicles have collided in a foggy mountain pass as a storm system passes through Southern California.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department says 19 vehicles collided Wednesday morning on the southbound side of Interstate 15 in Cajon Pass, about 60 miles east of Los Angeles.

The department says 35 people suffered minor to moderate injuries but most are declining to be taken to hospitals.

The department says weather was a contributing factor in the collision, which has closed the southbound side of the interstate. It is a major route between Southern California and Las Vegas.

<https://www.wtnh.com/news/national/19-car-pileup-leaves-35-injured-in-southern-california-s-cajon-pass/1707491568>

## Morning pileup on I-15 involves up to 25 vehicles, injures nearly 40 people

Matthew Cabe, Daily Press

Posted: January 16, 2019, 10:48 am



A Caltrans worker covers spilled fuel and liquids with absorbent while clearing a multi-vehicle crash in the Cajon Pass on Wednesday. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

**CAJON PASS** — Southbound Interstate 15 was shut down for several hours Wednesday following a multi-vehicle pileup that resulted in numerous injuries, according to responding agencies.

Reports from officials varied throughout the day, but anywhere from 13 to 25 vehicles were involved in the crash on a rainy morning that saw heavy fog blanket the Cajon Pass and reduce visibility to 30 feet, according to witnesses.

Caltrans District 8 spokesperson Terri Kasinga told the Daily Press the crash occurred around 9 a.m. approximately 3 miles south of Oak Hill Road.

The California Highway Patrol issued a Sig Alert at 9:19 a.m., CHP logs show, and all southbound lanes of the freeway were closed beginning at Ranchoero Road.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department tweeted shortly before 9:45 a.m. that an estimated 35 people suffered minor to moderate injuries during the pileup.

County Fire spokesperson Eric Sherwin told the Daily Press no fatalities resulted from the crash, which did not affect northbound lanes. Three people were taken to area hospitals for treatment to non-life-threatening injuries, he said.

“It does look like it was a chain reaction that resulted in why so many vehicles became involved,” Sherwin said.

Kasinga told the Daily Press the No. 1 and 2 lanes were reopened around 11:15 a.m. to clear the traffic on the interstate that had backed up to Ranchoero Road. The No. 3 and 4 lanes reopened at around 12:05 p.m.

Prior to the No. 3 and 4 lanes reopening, Kasinga said crews were waiting on a street sweeper from Victorville to arrive, as well as a tow truck for the last of three tractor trailers involved in the crash.

CHP Sgt. Paul Antillon said fog is believed to be a contributing factor. The official cause of the crash remains under investigation, according to CHP officials on scene.

<https://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20190116/morning-pileup-on-i-15-involves-up-to-25-vehicles-injures-nearly-40-people>

## 15 Freeway Reopens After 19-Vehicle Crash Injured up to 35 People in Cajon Pass

Cindy Von Quednow and Tracy Bloom, KTLA 5 News

Posted: January 16, 2019



Video from the scene of a 19-vehicle pileup in the Cajon Pass area on Jan. 16, 2019 showed some cars suffered extensive damage. (Credit: Travis Dixon)

The 15 Freeway has been reopened through the Cajon Pass after a 19-vehicle crash left potentially dozens of people injured on a foggy Wednesday morning, officials said.

The pileup occurred along the southbound 15 Freeway south of Oak Hills shortly after 9 a.m., according to authorities.

Victims were triaged at the scene, and preliminary reports indicated 35 people suffered minor to moderate injuries, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

The majority of patients declined to be transported, the Fire Department said. It was unclear how many were taken to hospitals for treatment.

The 15 Freeway was shut down in both directions at Oak Hills in the immediate aftermath of the crash, according to Caltrans, which tweeted a photo showing a major traffic backup in the area.

The southbound 15 Freeway remained closed south of Oak Hills an hour later as emergency personnel worked to clear the wreck.

All lanes were reopened around noon.

It is unclear what exactly caused the crash, but weather was a contributing factor, according to the Fire Department. Video from the scene showed there was dense fog in the area at the time.

Among the vehicles involved were FedEx delivery trucks and big rigs. Many of the vehicles suffered extensive damage, according to the footage.

A fog advisory is in effect on the 15 Freeway through the Cajon Pass, Caltrans reported around 10:15 a.m.

A series of winter storms has drenched Southern California with rain this week, though there was a lull in stormy weather when the multivehicle collision took place.

Another round of rain is expected to begin in the Southland on Wednesday afternoon.

Motorists traveling through the Cajon Pass should expect delays because of the inclement weather and traffic from the earlier incident.

<https://ktla.com/2019/01/16/several-people-injured-in-19-vehicle-crash-in-cajon-pass-area/>

## 15 Freeway in Cajon Pass reopens after 19-vehicle crash

Richard K. De Atley, San Bernardino County Sun/Press Enterprise

January 16, 2019 10:21 am



Crews work to clear one of the crashed big rig trucks involved in a major pile up on the southbound I-15 Freeway in the Cajon Pass Wednesday morning. The southbound I-15 Freeway was shut down in the Cajon Pass Wednesday, January 16, 2019 for several hours following a major pile up at approximately 9 a.m. involving at least 19 vehicles which was believed to be weather related. No major injuries were reported. (Photo by Will Lester, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG).

A crash involving at least 19 vehicles Wednesday morning shut down the 15 Freeway in the Cajon Pass for nearly three hours.

Authorities temporarily reopened two lanes of the freeway around 11:30 a.m. but then they were shut down again as crews finished taking all the damaged vehicles off the roadway.

The California Highway Patrol issued a SigAlert for the area, which was lifted just before noon.

Motorists can still expect some residual slowing due to the series of crashes, Officer Marcelo Llerana said.

Traffic was at a standstill for almost three hours following the crash, which was first reported around 9 a.m., according to CHP reports.

Several motorists were walking around the foggy freeway waiting for crews to clear the road.

The crashes are blamed in part on the stormy weather throughout Southern California.

Caltrans issued a fog advisory for the Cajon Pass Wednesday morning.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department set up triage for patients on site but tweeted that the majority of patients were declining to be sent to hospitals.

The California Highway Patrol also said it appeared none of the crash victims were unconscious or suffering major injuries.

At one point during the shutdown, motorists were reported going northbound on the southbound freeway's shoulder to get out of traffic, and some cars were reported making a wrong-way exit off Highway 395, which intersects the freeway north of the crash site, in Hesperia.

During the closure Rancho Road was being used as a detour.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/01/16/19-vehicle-crash-in-cajon-pass-shuts-down-southbound-15-freeway/>

## Wicked storm rolling out of California could drop 40 inches of snow in New England

John Bacon and Doyle Rice, USA Today

Posted: January 17, 2019, 10:09 am



Truck drivers watch damaged semitrailers get removed from the scene of a multi-car collision in the Cajon Pass near Hesperia, Calif., on Wednesday Jan. 16, 2019. (Photo: James Quigg, AP)

The last and strongest in a week-long march of storms was pounding California with heavy rainfall, mountain snow and flooding Thursday that threatened to trigger mudslides in areas previously scarred by devastating wildfires.

The storms will then roll east, bringing heavy snow to parts of the Midwest barely recovered from up to 20 inches of snow last week, the National Weather Service forecast.

Before the storms exit the country, AccuWeather warns that parts of New England could be slammed with 40 inches of snow.

"The second of two storms this week will be a blockbuster in terms of impact and dangerous conditions," said AccuWeather senior meteorologist Alex Sosnowski.

In Northern California, trees and power lines toppled in some areas deluged by up to five inches of rain in recent days. The scenic Pacific Coast Highway was closed overnight near Big Sur due to mudslides and flooding.

In Southern California, the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department said 19 vehicles crashed and 35 people suffered "minor to modest injuries" in a crash in fog near mountainous Cajon Pass.

"This is a life-threatening situation," the weather service said of the storm's rage.

Three feet of snow or more were forecast high in the Sierra Nevada, where blizzard warnings were in effect deep into Thursday, the weather service said.

Precipitation will begin to wind down by Thursday night and into Friday morning as the storm heads east. The heaviest snow Friday will hit South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Kansas, Missouri and Iowa, AccuWeather said.

"Those who are on the road through the heart of the snow and ice area will be at risk for becoming stranded for many hours," Sosnowski said, adding that they "may have to face temperatures plummeting to dangerously low levels."

Then it's on to the East, where AccuWeather said 40 inches is possible in parts of northern New England. Close to 30 inches of snow may fall on parts of central and northern New York state to perhaps the northern tier of Pennsylvania. Snowfall rates could reach 2-3 inches per hour.

Snowfall of 12-24 inches is likely to be more common in the heaviest band from the storm, AccuWeather forecast. But, blowing and drifting at the height and conclusion of the storm may cause the snow depth to vary by several feet.

"Plows are not likely to be able to keep up," Sosnowski warned. "As the storm strengthens, winds will cause major blowing and drifting of snow."

[https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/01/17/winter-storm-east-coast-midwest-new-york-pennsylvania/2601621002/?utm\\_source=feedblitz&utm\\_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm\\_campaign=usatoday-newstopstories](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/01/17/winter-storm-east-coast-midwest-new-york-pennsylvania/2601621002/?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=usatoday-newstopstories)

---

## **Latest Pacific Ocean storm pounds California with rain, snow**

**Paul Elias and John Antczak, Associated Press/Miami Herald**

Posted: January 17, 2019, 10:35 am

SAN FRANCISCO – The latest in a series of Pacific Ocean storms pounded California with rain and snow Thursday, prompting officials to put communities on alert for mudslides and flooding and making travel treacherous.

Runoff flowed from the San Francisco Bay Area to the Sierra Nevada foothills and from Central Coast counties to Los Angeles and the inland region to the east.

Blizzard conditions blanketed the higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada with snow while high surf rolled ashore along the coast.

Concern was high in communities near burn scars of recent wildfires.

The Santa Barbara County community of Montecito that was devastated by a deadly debris flow a year ago received 1.5 inches (3.8 centimeters) of rain in 24 hours, but had so far avoided a repeat of the disaster.

A flash flood watch was in effect for the area burned by the wildfire that obliterated the Northern California town of Paradise in November.

Areas under evacuation orders included parts of fire-scarred Malibu, where all public schools were closed. Several vital canyon roads in the area were closed due rock fall danger.

At least five deaths have been reported during the week of stormy weather.

Three people, including a 1-year-old girl, were killed Tuesday when a car went out of control Tuesday during heavy rain in El Dorado County, the San Francisco Chronicle newspaper reported.

Wednesday saw toppled trees, snarled roads and downed power lines all around Northern California, sometimes with deadly consequences.

A homeless man who may have been trying to shelter under some trees near an Oakland freeway was killed when the tree toppled and he was crushed by a 30-foot-long (9-meter) branch, authorities said.



The man may have been "just trying to stay dry," California Highway Patrol Officer Herman Baza said. "Unfortunately, that protection was deadly."

In Napa County, one person died when a car went out of control on a wet roadway and hit another vehicle, the California Highway Patrol said.

Tens of thousands of people were without electricity in Pacific Gas & Electric utility areas, including more than 15,000 in San Jose late Wednesday night.

The weather service issued a high surf warning for San Francisco County through Friday, with 30-foot (9-meter) breakers along the coast of the North Bay, Monterey Bay and Big Sur.

Weather concerns also kept a stretch of scenic Highway 1 in Big Sur closed.

San Francisco saw only an inch (2.5 centimeters) of rain but Venado in Sonoma County got 5 inches (13 centimeters) over 24 hours.

Rain and winds forced the cancellation of more than 140 flights at San Francisco International Airport.

In Southern California, fog on a mountain highway triggered a 19-vehicle crash. Thirty-five people were evaluated for injuries after the pileup on Interstate 15 in Cajon Pass, but most declined to be taken to hospitals, the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department said.

In areas recently scarred by wildfires, authorities feared small rivers and creeks would flood their banks and cause massive mudslides, further damaging communities struggling to recover from a historically bad fire season.

The blazes stripped hillsides of trees and other vegetation that stabilize soil and prevent mudslides, putting at risk thousands of people living in foothill and canyon areas devastated by wildfires.

The hillsides were holding but people in burn areas were urged to remain alert.

In Malibu, a boulder crashed into a car, injuring the driver.

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/article224669450.html>

---

## **The Latest: Mudslide snarls commute over Golden Gate Bridge**

Staff Writer, KHQ Q6 News

Posted: January 16, 2019

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The Latest on California storms (all times local):

11:55 a.m.

A mudslide on a major Northern California freeway just north of the Golden Gate Bridge snarled the morning commute as road conditions throughout the state deteriorated amid heavy rain and snow.

The California Highway Patrol said the 7 a.m. slide Wednesday closed southbound Highway 101 for about an hour. The route across the bridge is the only direct access motorists north of the city have to San Francisco.

Traffic remained heavy after the slide was cleared. The CHP warned of dangerous road conditions while the heavy winds and rain persist.

Three people, including an infant, were killed Tuesday night in a freeway spinout accident in Placerville, California, about 130 miles (210 kilometers) east of San Francisco.

The CHP says a 51-year-old man driving a Volvo west on Highway 50 lost control of the car and spun into the eastbound lane, striking a Subaru traveling about 65 mph. The Volvo's driver, a 1-year-old girl and an adult passenger were killed. The Subaru's driver suffered major injuries and was flown to a nearby hospital.

The CHP says speed and rain-slickened roads appear to have played factors in the accident. The victims' names weren't released.

10:45 a.m.

Numerous vehicles have collided in a foggy mountain pass as a storm system passes through Southern California.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department says 19 vehicles collided Wednesday morning on the southbound side of Interstate 15 in Cajon (kuh-HOHN) Pass, about 60 miles (95 kilometers) east of Los Angeles.

The department says 35 people suffered minor to moderate injuries but most are declining to be taken to hospitals.

The department says weather was a contributing factor in the collision, which has closed the southbound side of the interstate. It is a major route between Southern California and Las Vegas.

7:10 a.m.

Light rain is falling in some parts of Northern California ahead of a Pacific storm expected to bring heavy rain and strong winds that could unleash mudslides to the site of the deadliest wildfire in state history.

Forecasters said Wednesday there could be water level rises on small rivers and creeks and debris flows in burn scars areas, including Butte County. That's where a November wildfire killed 86 people and destroyed nearly 15,000 homes.

An evacuation warning is in place for the community of Pulga, near the town of Paradise which was decimated by the blaze.

The storm is expected to arrive later Wednesday and continue into Thursday.

A blizzard warning for much of the Sierra Nevada and Lake Tahoe takes effect Wednesday night, with meteorologists predicting as much of 5 feet (1.5 meters) of snow in upper elevations and wind gusts of up to 100 mph (160 kph) on ridgetops.

12:00 p.m.

Another Pacific storm is bearing down on California, bringing a threat of mudslides to the site of the deadliest wildfire in state history and a rare blizzard warning in the Sierra Nevada.

An evacuation warning is in place for Pulga a neighboring town of Paradise, which was virtually incinerated two months ago by the Camp Fire that killed 86 people and destroyed nearly 15,000 homes.

Flash flood and high wind watches will go into effect Wednesday afternoon and night in the Sacramento and San Francisco areas.

A blizzard warning for much of the Sierra Nevada and Lake Tahoe takes effect Wednesday night, with meteorologists predicting as much of 5 feet (1.5 meters) of snow in upper elevations and wind gusts of up to 100 mph on ridgetops.

[https://www.khq.com/national/the-latest-mudslide-snarls-commute-over-golden-gate-bridge/article\\_f5713658-6a76-5c11-a86a-cecde1fa62d1.html](https://www.khq.com/national/the-latest-mudslide-snarls-commute-over-golden-gate-bridge/article_f5713658-6a76-5c11-a86a-cecde1fa62d1.html)

---

## **Falling tree kills man in Oakland as storm lashes California**

**Paul Elias, The Press Democrat**

Posted: January 16, 2019, 10:17 pm

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A falling tree killed a man in Oakland on Wednesday as a powerful storm lashed Northern California with high winds and rain, authorities said.

The man was struck on an embankment near Interstate 580 and died at the scene.

The man, who was homeless, may have been "just trying to stay dry," California Highway Patrol Officer Herman Baza said. "Unfortunately, that protection was deadly."

The latest storm in a series that has pounded California all week closed a major freeway, triggered deadly wrecks on slick roads, had people in wildfire-ravished communities bracing for dangerous mudslides and mountain residents facing "potentially life-threatening" blizzard conditions in the Sierra Nevada.

In Lake County, winds gusts of 71 mph (114 kph) were reported.

Pacific Gas & Electric reported that some 46,000 customers were without power Wednesday evening.

The heaviest rain was expected to fall Wednesday night but problems piled up earlier in the day.

Heavy snowfall and crashes shut down westbound Interstate 80 at the Nevada border, blocking one of the two routes to the Sierra Nevada and most of Northern California's ski resorts, authorities said.

In Southern California, fog on a mountain highway triggered a 19-vehicle crash. Thirty-five people were evaluated for injuries after the pileup on Interstate 15 in Cajon Pass, but most declined to be taken to hospitals, the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department said.

A mudslide on a major Northern California freeway just north of the Golden Gate Bridge disrupted the morning commute. The slide closed southbound Highway 101 across the bridge for about an hour, shutting off the only direct access to San Francisco for drivers north of the city.

Weather concerns also kept a stretch of scenic Highway 1 in Big Sur closed.

In areas recently scarred by wildfires, authorities fear small rivers and creeks will flood their banks and cause massive mudslides, further damaging communities struggling to recover from a historically bad fire season.

The blazes stripped hillsides of trees and other vegetation that stabilize soil and prevent mudslides, putting at risk thousands of people living in foothill and canyon areas devastated by wildfires. That includes the Northern California region where a November fire killed 86 people and destroyed nearly 15,000 homes.

"If flooding occurs, this can quickly become a dangerous and life-threatening situation," the Butte County Sheriff's Office said.

Authorities told residents of Pulga to prepare to flee their canyon community that neighbors the town of Paradise, which was leveled two months ago by the Camp Fire.

Conditions started deteriorating on California roadways Tuesday night.

Three people, including an infant, were killed when their car spun out on a freeway in Placerville, about 130 miles (202 kilometers) east of San Francisco. Authorities blamed it on high speed and rain-slickened roads.

In the mountainous community of Truckee where it snowed Tuesday, residents were preparing for the next storm by clearing driveways and buying wood and food in case they have to stay inside.

"It took my husband an hour to get to Safeway last week because there were so many people and no one could get home," Whitby Bierwolf told the Sacramento television station KCRA. "You just need to have an alternate plan and have enough stuff in your car because accidents happen."

The Sierra Nevada and Lake Tahoe regions could see up to 5 feet (1.5 meters) of snow.

In the south, some evacuation orders were in place in the Malibu area west of Los Angeles and parts of neighboring Ventura County. Both were affected by a November fire that destroyed more than 1,500 homes and killed four people.

A rockslide Paul Manion was busy filling sandbags in the community of Bell Canyon.

"It's something we have to do. I mean, if the water comes, it comes," Manion told KABC-TV. "Everything around our house burned. All the houses around our house burned. But it's the hillsides that we're worried about."

Others refused to leave after authorities went door to door at the high-risk Paradise Cove mobile home park in Malibu. Beaver Valenzuela said he's survived fiercer storms and wouldn't leave until he was convinced the danger was more immediate.

"I'm not going anywhere," he told the Los Angeles news station.

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/9180954-181/falling-tree-kills-man-in?artslide=6&slide=GAL&sba=AAS>

---

## **Fire Chief Mark Hartwig is Leaving County Fire to Take the Reins in Santa Barbara**

Michael P. Neufeld and Susan A. Neufeld, Rim Of The World News

Posted: January 17, 2019

San Bernardino, CA – **San Bernardino County** Fire Chief, Mark Hartwig, announced he has accepted an offer to serve as fire chief for Santa Barbara County.

“Building a team of leaders and succession has been a high priority for me. We have a talented group of leaders at County Fire that will move forward as the Board decides how to select my replacement,” Hartwig said.

“Chief Hartwig has been a steadfast and effective leader for San Bernardino County.” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Curt Hagman, who represents the Fourth District. “The County has benefited from his expertise in emergency medical services and his service on behalf of our community. We will miss working with him and look forward to seeing him succeed in his new role.”

Hartwig became San Bernardino County Fire Chief on May 2, 2011, after serving as a Deputy Chief in Rancho Cucamonga. Hartwig had previously served with the San Bernardino County Fire Department from 1992 until 2005.

The Fire District underwent tremendous growth during Hartwig’s tenure, including a partnership with the Crest Forest Fire Protection District and the cities of Needles, Hesperia, San Bernardino, Upland and Twentynine Palms to annex into the district.

Hartwig was recognized as the 2017 California Fire Chief of the Year by the California State Fire Chief’s Association and was appointed by the-Governor Brown to the California Commission on Emergency Medical Services on which he continues to serve.

The County will make an announcement about the future leadership of the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District at some point prior to February 15, 2019.

“It has been my honor to lead such a talented and distinguished team of men and women. They have accomplished more than I ever imagined was possible.” Hartwig said. “County Fire is well-positioned to address future opportunities and challenges.

<https://rotwnews.com/2019/01/17/fire-chief-mark-hartwig-is-leaving-county-fire-to-take-the-reins-in-santa-barbara/>

## **Fire Chief Mark Hartwig taking the reins in Santa Barbara County**

County Press Release, Highland Community News

Posted: January 16, 2019



**San Bernardino County Fire** Chief Mark Hartwig on Tuesday accepted an offer to serve as fire chief for Santa Barbara County.

After serving nearly eight years at the helm of the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, his final day with the district will be Feb. 15.

“Building a team of leaders and succession has been a high priority for me,” Hartwig said.

“We have a talented group of leaders at county fire that will move forward as the board decides how to select my replacement.”

Hartwig became San Bernardino County fire chief on May 2, 2011, after serving as a deputy chief in Rancho Cucamonga. Hartwig had previously served with the San Bernardino County Fire Department from 1992 until 2005.

The Fire District underwent tremendous growth during Hartwig's tenure, including a partnership with the Crest Forest Fire Protection District and the cities of Needles, Hesperia, San Bernardino, Upland and Twentynine Palms to annex into the district.

Hartwig was recognized as the 2017 California Fire Chief of the Year by the California State Fire Chiefs' Association and was appointed by then-Gov. Jerry Brown to the California Commission on Emergency Medical Services on which he continues to serve.

One of the many areas in which Hartwig has distinguished himself is his collaboration with law enforcement in the pursuit of public safety. Under his leadership, county fire partnered with the sheriff in creating an airship program for firefighting and emergency medical response and the Inmate Hand Crew Program. Hartwig also helped develop a protocol in which fire personnel enter active shooter situations with law enforcement to ensure immediate medical aid to victims.

“I'd like to congratulate Chief Hartwig and wish him well on his new endeavor,” said Sheriff John McMahon. “I'm sure Mark will do a phenomenal job for the citizens of Santa Barbara County as he did here in San Bernardino. Mark has been a great partner in our efforts to deliver public safety. He has been at the forefront of progress, innovating services and collaboration between our departments.”

The county will make an announcement about the future leadership of the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District at some point prior to Feb. 15.

“It has been my honor to lead such a talented and distinguished team of men and women,” Hartwig said.

“They have accomplished more than I ever imagined was possible,” Hartwig said. “County Fire is well-positioned to address future opportunities and challenges.”

[https://www.highlandnews.net/news/public\\_safety/fire-chief-mark-hartwig-taking-the-reins-in-santa-barbara/article\\_6b288d90-19db-11e9-bbb6-ff6cbcf223a.html](https://www.highlandnews.net/news/public_safety/fire-chief-mark-hartwig-taking-the-reins-in-santa-barbara/article_6b288d90-19db-11e9-bbb6-ff6cbcf223a.html)

---

## **Mark Hartwig Named Santa Barbara County’s New Fire Chief**

**Maya Chiodo, Santa Barbara Independent**

Posted: January 16, 2019

On Tuesday, January 15, the Board of Supervisors officially announced the appointment of Mark Hartwig as Santa Barbara County’s new Fire Chief. After Chief Eric Peterson’s retirement last fall, Hartwig is taking over for Interim Fire Chief Mike Dyer.

Hartwig had served as the Fire Chief of the **San Bernardino County Fire** District, where he oversaw more than 1,000 employees. In 2017, he was awarded the title of California Fire Chief of the Year by the State Fire Chief’s Association, and he continues to serve on the California Emergency Medical Services Commission, where he was appointed to by then-Gov. Jerry Brown in 2017.

Hartwig stood out among his fellow candidates due to his expertise in emergency medical services and “understanding of disaster readiness,” said a prepared statement from the county. Hartwig will officially begin in February 18.

<https://www.independent.com/news/2019/jan/16/mark-hartwig-named-santa-barbara-countys-new-fire-/>