



NEWS



News Headlines 10/22/2019

- Firefighters extinguish apartment fire, rescue two cats
- Fatal collision closes Twentynine Palms Highway near Eagles Aerie
- 'Shining Stars' stand out during State of the City event
- Pedestrian killed; CHP seeks driver
- UPDATE: CHP searching for driver who struck and killed a pedestrian on US Highway 395
- Little Mountain fire near San Bernardino is 80% contained, damage assessment underway
- Little Mountain fire: 9 San Bernardino homes damaged as containment reaches 80 percent
- Fire erupts in Little Mountain area of San Bernardino; 9 homes damaged
- California prepares for more wildfires, power outages
- Fires burn across Southern California as dangerous winds continue through Friday
- Fire damages three homes in San Bernardino on Oct. 21; one firefighter is injured
- Fire on Little Mountain in San Bernardino County burns homes, threatens others
- Little Mountain Fire burns 17 acres and homes in San Bernardino
- Little Mountain fire damages 9 homes in San Bernardino; 5 injuries reported
- Fire Burns San Bernardino Homes After Winds Scatter Embers in Dry Brush
- 17-Acre Little Mountain Fire Burns Homes in San Bernardino

Firefighters extinguish apartment fire, rescue two cats

Carl Baker, Redlands Community News

Posted: October 22, 2019



Firefighters used specialized pet breathing masks to treat cats for smoke inhalation.
Courtesy photo

Redlands firefighters, along with crews from the Loma Linda, **San Bernardino County** and San Manuel fire departments, extinguished a blaze in a second-story apartment unit in the 1200 block of East Lugonia Avenue Monday afternoon. Two cats were rescued from the otherwise unoccupied apartment.

Firefighters responded to the fire at the apartment complex shortly before 1 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21. Upon arrival, responding units found smoke coming from one second-story apartment and began to attack the fire, ventilate the building and to search the apartment.

Two small cats were located inside the apartment. Fire personnel used a special pet oxygen mask to treat the cats on the scene for smoke inhalation. Both cats were transported by Redlands Animal Control to a local veterinarian for further evaluation. At the time of transport, both cats were in stable condition.

No other injuries were reported.

It took firefighters approximately 10 minutes to extinguish the blaze. Crews remained on scene for approximately an hour and a half.

The damage was contained to one apartment and the loss was estimated at approximately \$40,000. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

https://www.redlandscommunitynews.com/news/public_safety/firefighters-extinguish-apartment-fire-rescue-two-cats/article_df487bdc-f4e5-11e9-8a01-674cb79deb93.html

Fatal collision closes Twentynine Palms Highway near Eagles Aerie

Kurt Schauppner, The Desert Trail/Hi-Desert Star

Posted: October 21, 2019



Investigators examine the aftermath of a fatal collision on Twentynine Palms Highway Monday morning, Oct. 21. The accident took place on the highway east of Rotary Way late Sunday night, Oct. 20.

TWENTYNINE PALMS — A three-vehicle crash claimed the lives of two male victims Sunday night, Oct. 20, on Twentynine Palms Highway near Peterson Road.

Deputies were called to the scene around 7:11 p.m., according to the Sheriff's Department. They found that the driver of a Toyota traveling east on the highway crossed into oncoming traffic and ran head-on into an Audi going west.

A male passenger in the Toyota was thrown from the vehicle and died. A male passenger in the Audi was also pronounced dead at the scene.

Right after the crash, a Dodge traveling west ran into debris from the collision and ran off the road.

The Morongo Basin Ambulance Association reported it sent four ambulances to the collision. Arriving medical crews found two victims had died and three other people were suffering from critical injuries. MBA requested two helicopters, which landed at Hi-Desert Medical Center and flew two of the critically injured people to regional trauma centers. The third was taken by a ground ambulance.

Two other people who suffered less serious injuries were taken to local hospitals.

Law enforcement has not yet identified any of the people involved in the crash.

A huge section of the highway, from Sunfair Drive in Joshua Tree to Lear Avenue in Twentynine Palms, remained closed in both directions until noon Monday as investigators continued to work on the scene.

The Sheriff's Department advised drivers to take alternate routes, especially through the national park. The park route reportedly was opened for free for people using the detour.

Other drivers took unpaved back ways and several people reported getting stuck in the soft sand.

At Lear Avenue, Citizen Patrol volunteers spent Sunday night sending westbound traffic north on Lear to Winters Road, but in the morning they got word that overuse of the road had made it impassible. Westbound drivers were forced to go back to Utah Trail and then travel through Joshua Tree National Park to get to the west side of the Basin.

Copper Mountain College was closed until 10 a.m. Monday as staff waited for the highway to be reopened.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_a93b3ab6-f41d-11e9-a4bd-d71ab9c449d6.html

‘Shining Stars’ stand out during State of the City event

Rene Ray De La Cruz, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: October 21, 2019, 3:58 pm



During the annual State of the City, Hesperia Mayor Larry Bird and the Council recognized several residents who have made notable contributions to the community. [RENE RAY DE LA CRUZ, DAILY PRESS]

HESPERIA — Knockout Pizza owners Eddie and Crystal Hendrix received the “Mayor’s Award” during the city’s annual State of the City luncheon on Monday at the Courtyard Marriott.

City of Hesperia Mayor Larry Bird thanked the Hendrix family for serving the community during the “Above & Beyond” themed event, during which the City Council also presented awards to a handful of so-called “Shining Stars” who have gone above and beyond in their service.

Hosted by Hesperia Chamber of Commerce, the sold-out event was attended by members of the Sheriff's Department, school district, park district, fire department, chamber, nonprofit and business community.

During the luncheon, Bird presented his Shining Star award to Hesperia Unified School District Police Chief Steve Hinojos, who has been with the district since 2015 and oversees eight sworn officers, three staff and nearly 22,000 students.

City of Hesperia Planning Commissioner Cody Leis received a Shining Star award from Mayor Pro Tem Bill Holland, who said Leis is part of "the next generation of city leadership."

Councilwoman Rebekah Swanson presented her Shining Star to Victor Valley Rescue Mission Director Bill Edwards for "providing hope" to the needy across the region. Swanson also presented gifts to Edwards and his wife, Marianne.

After the luncheon, Edwards told the Daily Press that the legacy of working for the VVRM is "Not about storing up treasures on earth, but storing them in heaven."

During the event, Councilman Cameron Gregg presented a "Shining Star" award to Sheriff's Deputy Justin Carty, and Bird introduced newly appointed District 4 Councilwoman Brigit Bennington, who was sworn in on Oct. 15.

The audience also viewed brief video segments that highlighted the state of the city in the areas of public safety, community growth and capital improvement projects.

Video highlights included the recent opening of several businesses, including Texas Roadhouse, Kahoots and Caliche Town Restaurant. Also, the current construction of Mama Caprino's, Chop Stop and the Bear Valley Retail Center that will include an ALDI shopping center and Panera Bread.

The video also highlighted the completion of the city's street improvement project, the paving of Wells Fargo, Larch and Ash streets; the construction of nearly 10 miles of purple pipe for recycled water and a water reservoir; and the \$700,000 remodel project at the Animal Shelter.

Public safety highlights in the video revealed that for last year, the Hesperia Sheriff's Station received 86,975 calls for service, wrote 3,923 citations and received 21,377 volunteer hours. The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** responded to 1,391 vegetation/structure fires and 8,300 medical calls in the city.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20191021/shining-stars-stand-out-during-state-of-city-event>

Pedestrian killed; CHP seeks driver

Scott Nordhues, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: October 21, 2019, 5:10 pm

A pedestrian was killed early Monday after being struck by two vehicles on Highway 395 near Trenton Road north of Adelanto.

The California Highway Patrol reported that the pedestrian was standing in the northbound lane of Highway 395 shortly before 6 a.m. when he was struck by a passenger vehicle, also traveling north on the highway. A

CHP statement did not explain why the pedestrian, who has not been identified, was standing in the traffic lane.

The driver of the vehicle did not stop after hitting the pedestrian and continued traveling north on 395, according to the CHP.

After being struck, the pedestrian, sitting in the traffic lane, was hit by a Freightliner commercial truck, heading northbound on Highway 395.

The pedestrian was declared dead at the scene by **San Bernardino County Fire** Department personnel.

Authorities are still seeking the driver of the passenger vehicle. The CHP's Victorville office is asking the public for help in finding a gray Toyota sedan with damage to the left front.

Anyone with information on the incident is asked to contact the CHP at 760-241-1186.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20191021/pedestrian-killed-chp-seeks-driver>

UPDATE: CHP searching for driver who struck and killed a pedestrian on US Highway 395

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: October 21, 2019

ADELANTO, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A pedestrian was killed after being struck by a hit-and-run motorist Monday morning on US Highway 395.

The California Highway Patrol is asking for the public's help in finding the driver of the sedan.

It happened on October 21, 2019, at about 6:00 am, on US-395, north of Trenton Road.

According to a CHP news release, the pedestrian, was standing in the northbound traffic lane when he was struck by a passenger vehicle that was also traveling north and failed to stop.

The pedestrian came to rest, on the roadway surface within the northbound lane.

A northbound Freightliner, 3-axle, commercial truck, doing about 55 mph struck the pedestrian a second time, officials said.

The pedestrian was pronounced deceased at the scene by **San Bernardino County Fire**. The identity will be released pending notification of next of kin by the coroner's office.

CHP is looking for the driver of the vehicle who remains outstanding. Anyone with information is asked to call Victorville CHP at 760-241-1186.

<https://www.vvng.com/pedestrian-struck-and-killed-by-semi-on-highway-395-monday-morning/>

Little Mountain fire near San Bernardino is 80% contained, damage assessment underway

Richard K. De Atley, Daily Bulletin

Posted: October 22, 2019, 9:34 am



Homeowners survey the damage near their home on Edgerton Drive near Little Mountain Basin in San Bernardino on Monday, Oct 21, 2019. (Photo by Terry Pierson, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

The Little Mountain fire that coursed toward a hilltop neighborhood near San Bernardino was 80% contained Tuesday morning, Oct. 22, after the wind-driven fire injured five people and damaged nine homes.

The fire broke out Monday evening and remained at 17 acres. The injured include a firefighter and a family of four, **San Bernardino County Fire** Department spokesman Jimmy Schiller said Tuesday.

He said the family had suffered minor burns and smoke inhalation and was taken to a hospital Monday evening, but did not have information beyond that. The firefighter, reportedly hurt in a fall, also was taken to a hospital for moderate injuries.

“He’s in good shape and we expect a positive outcome,” Schiller said. He did not know if any of the five remained hospitalized Tuesday.

Three homes were heavily damaged, Schiller said, while six had minor to moderate damage, mostly to the exteriors.

A damage assessment team was going through the neighborhood Tuesday, and “those numbers could stay the same, or be fine-tuned,” he said.

The fire started just after 5 p.m. Monday on the north face of Little Mountain and gusting Santa Ana winds quickly pushed it up slope. While the fire’s footprint was small, it was near terrain with hilltop homes on winding streets.

At one point, 40 homes had been threatened and residents were asked to evacuate. Some sheltered in place and ultimately about 20 residents were evacuated, officials said.

A fire that threatened homes also broke out in Pacific Palisades on Monday.

The National Weather Service issued a fire weather watch for much of Southern California effective late Wednesday night through Friday evening.

<https://www.dailybulletin.com/2019/10/22/little-mountain-fire-near-san-bernardino-is-80-contained-damage-assessment-underway/>

Little Mountain fire: 9 San Bernardino homes damaged as containment reaches 80 percent

Rachal Brown, ABC 7 News

Posted: October 22, 2019

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (KABC) -- Officials say the wind-driven fire that scorched at least 17 acres and damaged nine homes in the Little Mountain area was 80 percent contained as of Tuesday morning.

Several residents were evacuated after high winds fueled the vegetation fire near West 39th and North Severance streets around 5 p.m. Monday., according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

Footage from AIR7HD showed trees and smoke blowing sideways as the blaze burned.

Two firefighter were injured, including one who sustained moderated injuries and was treated at a local hospital. Four children were rescued from a house that was later reduced to rubble, and a woman in her 90s who lived across the street was also rescued as flames raced up the mountain. Five people were hospitalized for smoke inhalation, including a family of four who also suffered minor burns after getting caught by the fire as they evacuated.

Southern California Edison, which had warned of possible safety outages at any time, announced Monday evening that none would take place in the next 48 hours but warned that it was monitoring the weather.

Earlier in the day, firefighters beat back a rapidly growing blaze that raced up canyon walls toward multimillion-dollar ocean-view homes on a coastal ridge of Pacific Palisades.

An investigation continues into what sparked the blaze.

<https://abc7.com/little-mountain-fire-80-percent-contained/5637709/>

Fire erupts in Little Mountain area of San Bernardino; 9 homes damaged

Leanne Suter, ABC 7 News

Posted: October 22, 2019, 12:32 am

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (KABC) -- **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to a vegetation fire that damaged multiple homes in the Little Mountain area.

Several residents were evacuated after high winds were being reported at West 39th Street and North Severance Street near the Little Mountain area Monday after 5 p.m.

Nine homes were damaged in the blaze and 17 acres were burned.

Footage from AIR7HD showed wind-whipped trees and smoke blowing sideways as the fire burned.

One firefighter received moderated injuries and was being treated at a local hospital. A family of four suffered smoke inhalation and minor burns after getting caught by the fire as they evacuated. Several residents were rescued as the fire raced up the mountain.

Multiple engines were being requested.

Fire investigators are trying to determine what sparked the blaze.

<https://abc7.com/fire-damages-6-homes-in-little-mountain-area-of-san-bernardino/5636703/>

California prepares for more wildfires, power outages

Holly Yan and Amir Vera, CNN

Posted: October 22, 2019

(CNN) - Just as firefighters got a grip on a blaze that tore through the swanky Pacific Palisades, other Californians are at risk of unpredictable wildfires this week.

About 209,000 customers could have their power shut off this week mitigate the risk, Pacific Gas & Electric said.

"The potential safety shutoff is planned for varying start times depending on location beginning Wednesday evening," the company said.

The power shutoff could affect 15 counties in the Sierra Foothills and the North Bay, including Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, San Mateo, Sierra, Sonoma, Sutter, and Yuba counties, PG&E said.

Customers will be notified by texts, emails and automated phone calls about 48 hours in advance.

PG&E's announcement comes as firefighters grapple with a busy wildfire season.

The Little Mountain wildfire burning in San Bernardino County has damaged at least three homes and injured at least one firefighter, the **San Bernardino County Fire** District said.

Another 40 homes are still threatened by the fire, which has been difficult to contain due to high winds and sloping terrain.

Windy conditions in the San Bernardino area will likely continue through Tuesday, the fire district said.

On Monday, the Pacific Palisades fire torched 40 acres, Los Angeles Fire Chief Patrick Butler said.

Many Californians are grappling with the reality that wildfires can strike at any time.

"You go into denial immediately, saying, 'I hope it's not what I think it is,'" Charlie Lyons said after he noticed the plumes of smoke while hiking Monday. "We're in a terrible cycle right now."

His daughter, also named Charlie, said she feared for the worst. "I immediately started packing my stuff, my valuables," 22-year-old Charlie Lyons said. "My friend last year lost her house in Malibu. You can't predict what Mother Nature is going to do."

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/10/22/us/california-fires-tuesday/>

Fires burn across Southern California as dangerous winds continue through Friday

LEILA MILLER, HANNAH FRY, JACLYN COSGROVE, SONJA SHARP, Los Angeles Times

Posted: October 22, 2019, 4:00 am

Dangerous fire conditions Monday fueled blazes in Pacific Palisades and San Bernardino, where at least three homes burned and evacuations were underway nearly into the night, as firefighters throughout the state braced for extreme fire conditions in coming days.

Much of California is under high fire risk with high temperatures, dry conditions and windy weather through Friday. Moderate to strong Santa Ana winds are predicted to bring an “extreme Red Flag Warning event” in parts of Southern California on Thursday and Friday, with the possibility that “very rapid fire spread and extreme fire behavior could threaten life and property,” according to National Weather Service reports.

Even in light winds on Monday, firefighters rushed to stop a blaze that quickly chewed through about 40 acres in Pacific Palisades, burning dangerously close to multimillion-dollar homes in a hillside neighborhood and sending a plume of smoke visible throughout the basin.

Firefighters responded about 10:40 a.m. to the fire, which erupted near 500 N. Palisades Drive. The fire, initially reported at one acre, grew to an estimated 30 acres in less than an hour before reaching about 40 acres by midday, Los Angeles Fire Department officials said.

About 200 homes in the area bordered by Charmel Lane, Bienveneda Avenue, Merivale Lane and Lachman Lane were under evacuation orders for most of the day, largely because of the amount of smoke and aircraft in the area, fire officials said.

“We will be expecting more fire weather as the week progresses, and because of that, we’re not going to leave any stone unturned in this community because our concern is to make sure that these lines are contained and make sure the fire doesn’t go outside,” said Assistant Chief Patrick Butler, the incident commander of the Pacific Palisades fire.

In San Bernardino, firefighters took on a blaze that broke out Monday afternoon dangerously close to homes in the Little Mountain area.

The fire started shortly after 5 p.m. Monday in thick brush near West 39th Street and North Severance Avenue. Aided by wind gusts of up to 30 mph, the fire raced up hills, burning about 20 acres and damaging at least three homes.

Jimmy Schiller, a field public information officer with **San Bernardino County Fire**, said Little Mountain is an area that’s prone to fires, in part because it is in the direct path of wind that comes through a nearby mountain pass.

Firefighters regularly perform prescribed burns in the area, the latest about three months ago. Firefighters burned about 100 acres in hopes of mitigating fire risk, he said.

Little Mountain has a small number of hydrants, meaning firefighters were taking frequent trips up and down the hill to fetch more water.

“It was a recipe for an unfortunate afternoon,” Schiller said.

National Weather Service forecasters predict weak to moderate Santa Anas will develop in Los Angeles, Ventura, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties through Wednesday with temperatures spiking into the high 80s and low 90s.

By Thursday and Friday, fire weather conditions could be as severe as seen during the first two days of Saddleridge fire, which burned almost 8,800 acres, damaged 88 structures and destroyed 19, including some homes.

Los Angeles firefighters got a taste of the unpredictable nature of brush fire dangers as they fought the Pacific Palisades blaze.

Before noon, fire crews had largely beaten back a significant portion of the flames that were threatening homes. Several helicopters were fighting the fire with water drops as crews scaled a section of the hillside in an effort to extinguish the smoldering blaze.

“This is an extremely challenging fire for hand crews,” Butler said. “They’re essentially clawing their way up this hillside with rocks coming down on them.”

An all-female inmate firefighting crew retreated just before 1 p.m. as the fire jumped toward them over the ridge.

One firefighter was taken to Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center with heat exhaustion. Roughly 30 minutes later, a group of people received an evacuation alert on their phones as rocks began to slide down the ridge.

One person was taken to the hospital after complaining of moderate respiratory distress.

Fire officials say no homes sustained significant damage, in part because of firefighters’ efforts and the lack of wind in the area.

Tom Danco said he had told his wife, Lynne, to evacuate when she called him Monday morning. She had been walking their dog and said she could see flames several hundred yards from their home in the Palisades Highlands. She took her dog and some important documents from their safe and left.

Danco, who was nearby, headed home to try to retrieve more items but was stopped at a roadblock on Palisades Drive. He said he wasn’t concerned at the moment about their home, citing favorable weather conditions.

“As long as there’s not a lot of wind, the fire department is really good,” he said.

Ash rained down nearby on Pacific Coast Highway as the canyon smoldered.

Saleem Major, 34, was taking a walk on the beach with his service dog, Eve, near Coastline Drive when he heard several firetrucks zooming by on Pacific Coast Highway, sirens blaring.

He checked Twitter to see where the fire was. Then, he looked up.

“Next thing you know, I look to my left and it was right behind the hill where I’m at,” said Major, who lives in Venice. “I didn’t even notice it.”

At Palisades Charter High School, less than two miles southeast of the fire, a number of students left school early because their families were in the evacuation zone, Palisades High spokeswoman Ashley Austin said.

Tracey Price, 45, picked up her daughter Audrey, 6, and several of her daughter's classmates from Calvary Christian after neighborhood friends sent her photos of smoke near the campus on Palisades Drive.

"I got here as soon as I could," she said as she packed the children into the car.

Vince Downey, the head of the school, waved as the last few dozen students got picked up from campus.

Downey said that although many parents came to collect their children, the school didn't instruct anyone to do so, partly to prevent street congestion as officials tried to keep the area clear for fire engines.

Downey said it was middle school students who alerted school officials to the fire in between classes. Teachers attempted to continue classes as usual, despite the distraction.

"We tried to make it as normal a day as possible," he said.

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-10-22/>

Fire damages three homes in San Bernardino on Oct. 21; one firefighter is injured

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: October 22, 2019



Fire Department crews gathered to fight a fire which broke out in San Bernardino on Oct. 21. (Contributed photo by San Bernardino County Fire Department)

A fire damaged three homes and threatened 40 more in the Little Mountain area of San Bernardino on Oct. 21, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

One firefighter suffered an injury which was described as being moderate in nature and was being evaluated at an area hospital, the Fire Department said on Twitter.

An evacuation center was set up at Cajon High School.

"Crews will continue to work tirelessly through the night patrolling the area for hot spots due to forecasted wind," the Fire Department said on Twitter.

"Crews to remain on scene throughout the evening to improve containment, complete mop-up and patrolling."

The fire initially burned 17 acres, but "containment was still an issue due to wind and slope," and firefighters were very concerned about the winds which were expected to continue on Oct. 22.

Nineteen engines and four hand crews were battling the blaze.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/fire-damages-three-homes-in-san-bernardino-on-oct-one/article_8314d10e-f48a-11e9-92d3-2b38a70bb92f.html

Fire on Little Mountain in San Bernardino County burns homes, threatens others

JACLYN COSGROVE, Los Angeles Times

Posted: October 21, 2019, 8:53 pm



A fire burning in San Bernardino County is threatening structures.(Alert Wildfire)

A brush fire on Little Mountain in San Bernardino County spread rapidly Monday night, burning 20 acres and damaging at least three homes, fire officials said.

The fire started shortly after 5 p.m. Monday in thick brush near West 39th Street and North Severance Avenue. It grew rapidly as winds with gusts of up to 30 mph pushed the blaze uphill toward homes, causing an immediate threat, the agency said.

Jimmy Schiller, a field public information officer with **San Bernardino County Fire**, said several residents were evacuated. A resident whose home was in direct path of the fire was rescued by emergency personnel, Schiller said.

Some residents refused to leave their homes, causing additional challenges for firefighters, he said.

“When the fire department asks you to leave, go,” said Schiller, a firefighter and paramedic.

At least 100 firefighters were on the scene Monday evening, including 16 fire engines, four chiefs, aircraft and two hand crews. The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department aviation unit assisted with water drops.

Children in nearby after-school programs sheltered in place at 5:30 p.m. and remained indoors, according to the San Bernardino City Unified School District.

There are few hydrants in the Little Mountain area. Crews had a limited water supply, with water tenders running up and down the hill to resupply.

Multiple power lines were down in the area. Crews will spend the rest of the night putting out hot spots, combing the hillside with hand tools to ensure they don’t miss anything, Schiller said.

Little Mountain is an area prone to fires, in part because it is in the direct path of wind that comes through a nearby mountain pass, Schiller said. Firefighters regularly perform prescribed burns in the area. About three months ago, the agency burned about 100 acres to help mitigate fire risk, he said.

However, with wind, dry conditions and a limited water supply, all that was needed Monday was a spark.

“It was a recipe for an unfortunate afternoon,” Schiller said.

The cause of the Little Mountain fire remains under investigation.

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-10-21/fire-on-little-mountain-in-san-bernardino-county-threatening-structures>

Little Mountain Fire burns 17 acres and homes in San Bernardino

Erika Martin, KTLA 8 News Now

Posted: October 21, 2019, 6:23 pm



Little Hill Fire, San Bernardino

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (KLAS) — A brush fire moved into a residential neighborhood after breaking out near Little Mountain Basin in San Bernardino Monday afternoon.

#LIVE : Fire threatening homes in the Little Hill neighborhood in San Bernardino. <http://bit.ly/2MzVS9z>

Posted by 8 News Now on Monday, October 21, 2019

Crews were on scene by 5 p.m., less than 10 minutes after flames were first reported in the 200 block of West 39th Street, near the Newmark Little League field, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

High winds pushed the blaze — dubbed the Little Mountain Fire — into a hilltop neighborhood south of the Little League field, officials said.

After initially saying the fire damaged six homes, the Fire Department later said three were damaged.

At least one home that may be a total loss and several yards along Edgerton Drive had gone up in flames, aerial video showed just after 6 p.m. A portion of a second home appeared to be charred by flames that been extinguished.

As of 7 p.m., the flames had burned roughly 17 acres, firefighters said. Officials also reported that multiple power lines were down in the area.

By 6:30 p.m., it appeared firefighters had knocked down most of the large flames and were focusing on mopping up embers and spot fires. But authorities said crews were continuing to defend structures Monday night.

A temporary shelter for affected residents was set up in the gymnasium at Cajon High School, 1200 W. Hill Drive in San Bernardino.

Children in nearby after-school programs were being sheltered in place, the city school district said around 5:30 p.m.

Roughly 75 firefighters were on scene as of 5:15 p.m., and some hand crews and engines would remain on scene overnight, officials said.

Crews were having a difficult time fully containing the flames due to winds — expected to continue through Tuesday — and the steepness of the terrain, according to the Fire Department.

Aerial video also showed some residents using garden hoses to put out spot fires.

One firefighter suffered a moderate injury and was being evaluated at a hospital.

Earlier this year, in July, authorities had said they were searching for an arson suspect after a 70-acre blaze erupted in the same neighborhood.

The cause of Monday's fire remained under investigation.

<https://www.8newsnow.com/news/live-little-hill-fire-burning-in-san-bernardino/>

Little Mountain fire damages 9 homes in San Bernardino; 5 injuries reported

Robert Gundran, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: October 21, 2019, 5:57 pm



High winds blow embers from brush as a vegetation fire burns by Edgerton Drive near Little Mountain Basin in San Bernardino on Monday, Oct 21, 2019. (Photo by Terry Pierson, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

A vegetation fire broke out in San Bernardino in the Little Mountain area on Monday evening and spread quickly amid windy conditions, forcing evacuations, damaging at least nine homes and injuring five people including a firefighter.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department said the fire was measured at 17 acres and that crews would remain on scene into Tuesday to secure containment lines and to mop up.

The cause of the fire was under investigation. It originated on the north face of Little Mountain and winds carried it up the slope, Battalion Chief Josh Sprague said.

As of 8 p.m., crews had knocked down most of the fire, said Battalion Chief Mike McClintock.

Four residents were hospitalized with smoke inhalation or minor burn injuries and one firefighter suffered moderate injuries in a fall, officials said.

Forty homes had been threatened by the fire and those residents were asked to evacuate. Some sheltered in place and ultimately about 20 residents were evacuated, officials said.

McClintock said nine homes were damaged in the fire. He said three of the homes were damaged to the point of being currently uninhabitable, while the other six received mild to moderate external damage.

“Crews (are) still engaged in structure defense,” the Fire Department said on social media in an update at 6:57 p.m., adding some power lines were down in the area.

Some residents in the area were seen on the roofs of their homes, preemptively spraying down their homes with water, but McClintock said fire departments don’t advise doing that.

“The biggest thing for us is if we ask people to evacuate, we want them to evacuate,” he said. “We have enough trouble as is putting out fires with our hoses that spray hundreds of gallons of water quickly. A garden hose isn’t going to stop a rapidly spreading fire.”

McClintock noted that people standing on the roof can become stranded and need to be rescued, making the job of the fire department that much more complicated.

“Obviously we can’t force people to evacuate,” McClintock said. “But when we ask people to leave the area, we’d prefer they do that as it makes our jobs easier in fighting the fire.”

A shelter was established for those evacuated at Cajon High School with assistance from the American Red Cross. Several ambulances were in the area of the fire, but San Bernardino police said most were used to evacuate people. Assisting agencies included the Redlands and Colton fire departments and Cal Fire’s San Bernardino unit.

The fire was initially reported at one acre just after 5 p.m. and was spreading quickly. Crews were working in the area of Arrowhead Avenue and Mayfield Place; as well as the area of Edgerton Drive and Newmark Avenue. Some roads were closed by the fire-fighting activity.

Later in the evening, a resident was patrolling the streets, checking on neighbors and asking how they were doing while crews worked to contain the fire.

Rena Martinez said she was also concerned about the well-being of her nieces and nephews.

“I get worried you know,” Martinez said. “I’m always checking on them. It’s what I do.”

The fire, along with one in Pacific Palisades on Monday, broke out as the National Weather Service issued a fire weather watch for much of Southern California effective late Wednesday night through Friday evening.

Forecasters warned of coming strong Santa Ana winds, high heat and low humidity in Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/10/21/fire-threatens-homes-on-little-mountain-in-san-bernardino/>

Fire Burns San Bernardino Homes After Winds Scatter Embers in Dry Brush

Hetty Chang and Jason Kandel, NBC 4 News

October 21, 2019 5:54 pm

Firefighters kept watch over a hillside community in San Bernardino overnight after a brush fire fueled by 28-mph gusts Monday burned multiple homes on a sweltering day.

The Little Mountain Fire grew to about 17 acres, heavily damaging three homes and caused minor damage to another six, according to Mike McClintock of the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department. About 100 people were evacuated as winds scattered embers in dry hillside brush.

Containment was at 80 percent early Tuesday.

"It's scary to think a small little fire can just pick up like that," Sonia Kibbe, an evacuated resident, said.

Five people, including a family of four, were treated smoke inhalation. One firefighter fell and was also taken to the hospital, according to the SBCFD.

Forty homes were threatened, the SBCFD said. Power lines were knocked down and containment was still an issue due to the slope and strong winds, which were expected to keep up through the night and into Tuesday, according to the SBCFD.

The earliest re-population of the area would be Tuesday morning because Southern California Edison would need to come and fix the downed power lines, McClintock said.

One person was rescued from a home that was in danger of being burned, the department's spokesman James Schiller said.

Some 75 firefighters were working to douse the flames.

One firefighter could be seen using a dust pan to scoop up pool water to toss onto burning brush off a hillside from a backyard while firefighters elsewhere used buzz saws to cut brush.

Others assisted evacuees down a steep hill with family pets, birds and dogs, in tow.

<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Brush-Fire-in-San-Bernardino-Area-Threatens-Homes-563590731.html>

17-Acre Little Mountain Fire Burns Homes in San Bernardino

Erika Martin and Nerissa Knight, KTLA 5 News

Posted: October 21, 2019, 5:40 pm



A home burns during a vegetation fire in San Bernardino on Oct. 21, 2019. (Credit: KTLA)

A brush fire moved into a residential neighborhood after breaking out near Little Mountain Basin in San Bernardino Monday afternoon, officials said.

Crews were on scene by 5 p.m., less than 10 minutes after flames were first reported in the 200 block of West 39th Street, near the Newmark Little League field, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

High winds pushed the blaze — dubbed the Little Mountain Fire — into a hilltop neighborhood south of the Little League field, officials said.

After initially saying the fire damaged six homes, the Fire Department later said three were damaged.

At least one home that may be a total loss and several yards along Edgerton Drive had gone up in flames, aerial video from Sky5 showed just after 6 p.m. A portion of a second home appeared to be charred by flames that had been extinguished.

As of 7 p.m., the flames had burned roughly 17 acres, firefighters said. Officials also reported that multiple power lines were down in the area.

By 6:30 p.m., it appeared firefighters had knocked down most of the large flames and were focusing on mopping up embers and spot fires. But authorities said crews were continuing to defend structures Monday night.

A temporary shelter for affected residents was set up in the gymnasium at Cajon High School, 1200 W. Hill Drive in San Bernardino.

Children in nearby after-school programs were being sheltered in place, the city school district said around 5:30 p.m.

Some hand crews and engines would remain on scene overnight, officials said.

Firefighters were having a difficult time fully containing the flames due to winds — expected to continue through Tuesday — and the steepness of the terrain, according to the Fire Department.

Aerial video also showed some residents using garden hoses to put out spot fires.

One firefighter suffered a moderate injury and was being evaluated at a hospital, authorities said. He was hurt by falling, according to the San Bernardino Sun.

The newspaper also reported that four civilians were also taken to the hospital for smoke inhalation and minor burns.

Earlier this year, in July, authorities had said they were searching for an arson suspect after a 70-acre blaze erupted in the same neighborhood.

The cause of Monday's fire remained under investigation.

<https://ktla.com/2019/10/21/little-mountain-wildfire-threatens-homes-in-san-bernardino/>