NEWS

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YUCCA VALLEY FIRE CAUSED BY ILLEGAL FIREWORKS

Staff Writer, z1077news
Posted: July 5, 2018

Yucca Valley firefighters were called out to a small fire last night related to illegal fireworks. **County Fire** Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle said they were called to a vacant lot in the 57900 block of Hidden Gold Drive about 8:20 p.m. The fire was contained to about a 10-by-10-foot area. The parties responsible for the fireworks were not on scene when firefighters arrived. Tuttle reminded residents that all fireworks are illegal in San Bernardino County and there is a fine of up to $1250 for illegal fireworks.

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

Authorities confiscate nearly 31,000 pounds of illegal fireworks in San Bernardino County

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News
Posted: July 4, 2018

These are some of the illegal fireworks that have been confiscated through weeks of interdiction operations conducted by a multi-agency task force led by San Bernardino County Fire Department's Fire Investigations Unit. (Contributed photo by San Bernardino County Fire Department)

Nearly 31,000 pounds of dangerous and illegal fireworks have been confiscated through weeks of interdiction operations conducted by a multi-agency task force led by **San Bernardino County Fire** Department's Fire Investigations Unit.

County Fire investigators issued 121 citations totaling $151,250 in fines for possession of illegal fireworks, the Fire Department said in a news release.

"San Bernardino County has a zero-tolerance policy for bringing any and all illegal fireworks into our communities. Anyone attempting to smuggle these dangerous explosives into the county will face a minimum $1,250 fine and a misdemeanor or felony charge with the possibility of arrest," Fire Marshal Mike Horton said.

With San Bernardino County facing a dangerous wildland fire season, the Fire Department has increased its vigilance in enforcing state and county firework laws to protect public health and safety.

The multi-agency task force includes representatives from San Bernardino County Fire's Office of the Fire Marshal, Chino Hills Fire Department, Loma Linda Fire Department, and Rancho Cucamonga Fire Department.

Investigators also teamed up with San Bernardino County Sheriff's Arson/Bomb Squad to utilize K9s trained to sniff out explosives. Once seized, the illegal fireworks are picked up by the State Fire Marshal's office and are safely destroyed.

Fire officials will continue to issue citations for the illegal use, possession, or storage of fireworks. Property owners may be cited if they allow fireworks to be possessed, stored, or used on their property.

All fireworks that explode, shoot into the air or move along the ground are termed dangerous and are illegal anywhere in California. "Safe and Sane" fireworks have the State Fire Marshal seal on the packaging and are only allowed in the following cities: Adelanto, Barstow, Chino, Colton, and Rialto, as well as specific locations in Fontana, Grand Terrace, and San Bernardino. All fireworks are illegal elsewhere in the county.

Residents can report illegal fireworks to local authorities or to WeTip at 1-800-47-ARSON or WeTip.com.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/authorities-confiscate-nearly-pounds-of-illegal-fireworks-in-san-bernardino/article_82cf067c-7fdf-11e8-9932-ff30de073a40.html

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Five Fires Flare Up on Mountain
Heidi Fron, Mountain News
Posted: July 4, 2018

Smoke from the Creek Fire could be seen from great distances, including Holcomb Valley and Fawnskin where reporting parties through new fires had broken out.

A wildfire in the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) near Running Springs was reported around 12:12 p.m. on June 30. Although originally reported as 50 acres, the Forest Service has since remapped the burn area and reported that the fire burned 33 acres of brush and timber.

The location of the fire was described as being off State Highway 330 at Old City Creek Road near Fredalba. No evacuations were ordered and no structures were threatened or damaged.

Drift smoke was prominently visible Saturday afternoon, and triggered new reports of fires from Big Pine Flat Campground in Holcomb Valley and from Fawnskin. After helicopters checked out the reports, it was determined that there were no new fires and the reports were deemed to be false alarms.

As of Saturday night, officials said the 50-acre fire was about 15 percent contained. At that point, a retardant line had been completed around the entire fire, which had been named the "Creek Fire."

Units responding included the Running Springs Fire Department, **San Bernardino County Fire**, the U.S. Forest Service and Calfire.

Early reports estimated 175 personnel were working on the fire, and units responding thereafter brought the total to 250 personnel at the scene. One minor injury was reported at one point; two injuries were reported on Sunday, but the Forest Service gave no details.

By Sunday morning, firefighters reported that they had created a line around the fire with either hand crews or hose lines. The Creek Fire had not increased since Saturday afternoon, remaining at 50 acres and was 50 percent contained. Forest Service Road 1N09 remained closed in the fire area near its intersection with State Highway 330, but agencies reported that firefighters were "making great progress."

Cause of the Creek Fire is under investigation.

As of press time, the Forest Service reported that the burn area has been remapped to 33 acres with 75 percent containment.

OTHER FIRES

Four other fires also had been reported, with two on June 29 and two on June 30.

At 3:45 p.m. on Friday, a fire was reported in the 300 block of Zermatt Drive in Crestline. The nearest cross streets were identified as Wylerhorn Drive and Zurich Drive. San Bernardino County Fire responded.

Also on Friday, at 7:56 p.m., a structure fire was reported on Crest Forest Drive at Lakeview Drive. Eight units from county fire responded.

On Saturday at 12:29 p.m., just 17 minutes after the Creek Fire was reported, two county fire units responded to the 23300 block of Knapps Cutoff in Crestline after a traffic collision was reported with a fire involved.

Later in the evening on Saturday, another fire — "type unknown" — was reported at 5:36 p.m. near Bear Springs Road and Bridal Path in Rimforest. Two different units from county fire were on hand to handle that flareup.

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_74a18d00-7f0c-11e8-8371-975075ae7542.html

Nearly 80 firefighters responded to the River Fire in Victorville

Staff Writer, VVNG
Posted: July 4, 2018

(Photo by Dallas Dunn, for Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — This morning, San Bernardino County firefighters reinforced containment lines on the "River" incident which is now contained at close to 5 acres.

The blaze which started just after 3pm yesterday as a vehicle fire near the Mojave Riverbottom and Interstate 15 in the city of Victorville quickly spread to nearby dry vegetation.

Ultimately, the blaze spread to nearby dry brush, grass, and other vegetation. Firefighters efforts included a ground and aerial assault with close to 20 fire engines, 3 hand crews, 1 helicopter and 1 firefighting bulldozer.

Captain Jeff Allen of the County Fire District stated " close to 80 San **Bernardino County Fire** Fighters and the wildland division of county fire were critical in containing this fire and protecting the city of Victorville from more damage," said Allen.

The fire is now 100% contained. There were no injuries to firefighters or civilians and the cause remains under investigation.

https://www.vvng.com/victorville-river-fire-final-update/

Car fire leads to river bottom blaze

Paola Baker, Daily Press
Posted: July 3, 2018, 5:59 p.m.

San Bernardino County Fire Department officials battle a blaze at the Mojave River Bottom off Interstate 15 and E Street Tuesday. The fire burned 3 acres before containment. [Paola Baker, Daily Press]

VICTORVILLE — A car caught fire and spread into the Mojave River bottom Tuesday afternoon, burning through 3 acres before firefighters could contain it, officials said.

Reported at 3:10 p.m., the fire spread from a car parked at a construction zone just off Interstate 15 and E Street, according to **San Bernardino County Fire** officials, who swiftly responded to handle the flames.

It's still unknown how the car fire began, but County Fire Cpt. Jeff Allen said it quickly spread to nearby vegetation before it jumped a levee and began to burn through thick brush in the river bottom.

"We are making good progress on it," Allen said while on scene. "There's no threats to nearby structures or the freeway."

With several County Fire resources on hand, including 14 engines, two battalion chiefs, three hand crews, four water tenders, a dozer and mutual aid units from the Apple Valley Fire Protection District and Bureau of Land Management, firefighters were able to contain the blaze before further spread.

"The hand crews have got a line around the fire," Allen said just before 5 p.m. "The forward rate of spread is stopped."

County Fire resources were expected to remain on scene for several hours for clean-up. No injuries were reported.

http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20180703/car-fire-leads-to-river-bottom-blaze

No end in sight for fire station closure

Kurt Schauppner, Hi Desert Star
Posted: July 3, 2018

WONDER VALLEY — There still is no timeline or plan for reopening the Wonder Valley fire station which has been closed since it was evacuated Sept. 22 because of concerns about water quality.

"No, nothing new," **San Bernardino County Fire** Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle said recently of the status of the fire station on Amboy Road next to the Wonder Valley Community Center.

The community center remains open but a kitchen is not being used because of the same water concerns that closed the fire station.

County fire personnel who serve the Wonder Valley have been working out of the downtown Twentynine Palms fire station, Adobe Road south of Twentynine Palms Highway, since the Wonder Valley station was closed last year.

On Oct. 2, Tuttle attended a Wonder Valley community meeting to explain that after testing of the station's well water showed contamination by more than a dozen substances the station was evacuated on Sept. 22.

Contaminants, he said, included arsenic, Chromium 6 and fluoride levels thousands of times too high.

When residents protested that they have been living with the same water for decades Tuttle repeated that he can not force employees to remain in a situation which is considered unhealthy.

Tuttle recently repeated that county fire is still planning to reopen the station with officials continuing to call the closure, now in its tenth month, temporary.

Part of the problem is finding the right solution to the water problem, Tuttle said, another is finding enough money to pay for the solution.

"Estimates are so widely varying," he said.

He added that he did not know when the station will reopen.

"I would hate to give a timeline and not meet it," he said.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/the_desert_trail/news/article_433f1332-7ed4-11e8-8f4e-c7d1b6280861.html

Keep children safe in swimming pools

Tracey Martinez, SBCoF Pio
Posted: July 4, 2018

A lifeguard watches children swim at the Miller Pool in Fontana. (Contributed photo by City of Fontana)

Drowning usually occurs quickly and silently. Childhood drowning and near-drowning occurrences happen in seconds, often because a child is left unattended or there is a brief lapse in supervision.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 10 people die every day from unintentional drowning in the United States. Of these, two are children 14 and younger.

For every child who dies from drowning, another five receive emergency department care for nonfatal submersion injuries.

The majority of drowning and near-drowning occur in residential swimming pools and in open water sites. However, children can drown in as little as one inch of water and are therefore at risk of drowning in wading pools, bathtubs, buckets, toilets, spas and hot tubs. Devices (such as bathtub seats or water wings) cannot be relied upon to keep them afloat and alive.

Pools filled with water are a potential death trap for a young child.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department suggests these simple water safety tips to keep your children safe:

• Install four-sided isolation fencing equipped with self-closing and self-latching gates around pools.

• Pool alarms and pool covers can offer an extra layer of protection. These should be used with fencing.

• If your children do not know how to swim, enroll them in swimming lessons taught by qualified instructors. Do not consider young children to be drown-proof because they have had swimming lessons.

• Children must be watched closely while swimming.

• Know which of your child's friends and neighbors have pools and make sure they are supervised.

• Keep rescue equipment, a telephone and emergency numbers by the pool.

• Instruct babysitters about potential pool hazards to young children.

• Maintain constant supervision. Actively supervise kids whenever around the water.

• If a child is missing, check the pool first. Seconds count in preventing death or disability.

• Do not allow a young child in the pool without an adult.

• Learn CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). Other caretakers, such as grandparents and older siblings, should also know CPR.

• Remove toys from in and around the pool when it is not in use.

• Empty all buckets, containers and wading pools immediately after use and store them upside-down.

The difference a second makes is the difference between life and death. San Bernardino County Fire encourages parents to take necessary precautions before it's too late. For more safety tips, visit www.sbcfire.org.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/opinion/keep-children-safe-in-swimming-pools/article_8f6d35ba-7fdb-11e8-9b7a-0f92dac1664c.html

31,000 pounds of illegal fireworks confiscated in San Bernardino County resulting in more than $151,000 in fines

Brian Rokos, Daily Bulletin
Posted: July 3, 2018, 8:09 p.m.

San Bernardino County firefighters load fireworks into a trailer. A county task force confiscated almost 31,000 pounds of illegal fireworks and issued 121 citations in an operation spanning several weeks, the Fire Department said July 3, 2018. (Courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire Department)

Almost 31,000 pounds of illegal fireworks were confiscated and 121 citations totaling $151,250 in fines were written during a weekslong operation conducted by a multi-agency task force led by the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

Anyone attempting to smuggle the fireworks into the county faces a minimum $1,250 fine and a misdemeanor or felony charge, county Fire Marshal Mike Horton said in a news release. The fireworks pose a threat to start wildfires, Horton said.

Fire officials will continue to issue citations for the illegal use, possession, or storage of fireworks, the release said. Property owners may be cited if they allow fireworks to be possessed, stored, or used on their property.

Fireworks that explode, shoot into the air or move along the ground are termed dangerous and are illegal anywhere in California. "Safe and Sane" fireworks have the State Fire Marshal seal on the packaging and are allowed only in the following San Bernardino County cities: Adelanto, Barstow, Chino, Colton, and Rialto, as well as specific locations in Fontana, Grand Terrace and San Bernardino.

https://www.dailybulletin.com/2018/07/03/31000-pounds-of-illegal-fireworks-confiscated-in-san-bernardino-county-resulting-in-more-than-151000-in-fines/