



NEWS



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TWO FOUND DEAD FOLLOWING TWENTYNINE PALMS FIRE SUNDAY NIGHT

Staff Writer, Z107.7 NEWS

Posted: June 10, 2019

Two people were found dead following a fire in Twentynine Palms Sunday night. **(San Bernardino) County Fire** Battalion Chief Mike McClintock said firefighters were called to a fire with people trapped inside a house in the 75500 block of Valle Vista Road in Twentynine Palms at 10:24 p.m. Arriving firefighters discovered the home was fully involved with flames through the roof and throughout most of the house. Because of the report that people were trapped inside, he said firefighters aggressively attacked the flames and performed a very risky maneuver in which they broke out windows to a room and entered it, looking for victims. McClintock said the victims—who have not yet been identified—were found in two bedrooms in the home. Because there were no fire hydrants nearby, firefighters had to depend on water tenders shuttling water to the scene to fight the blaze. Firefighters from Twentynine Palms, Wonder Valley, Joshua Tree, and the Combat Center had the blaze knocked down in about 45 minutes. McClintock said the Sheriff's Department is investigating the cause of the fire.

<http://z1077fm.com/two-found-dead-following-twentynine-palms-fire-sunday-night/>

FP-5 FIRE TAX BACK ON THE COUNTY SUPERVISORS AGENDA TOMORROW

Staff Writer, Z107.7 NEWS

Posted: June 10, 2019

At tomorrow's 10 a.m. meeting of county supervisors in San Bernardino, supervisors are expected to add a 3 percent increase to the new Fire Protection Zone 5 fire tax, continued from the May 21 meeting. Here's reporter Mike Lipsitz with the details ...

The 3 percent increase in the per parcel fire tax will bring next year's total to \$162 up from this year's \$157. The tax applies to every property in Fire Protection Zone 5, which last year was expanded to nearly all county unincorporated areas plus some municipalities including Yucca Valley— more than 19,000 square miles in total. The higher charge will show up on next year's property tax bills and apply to every parcel be it unimproved or home to a McMansion. The courts have ruled against two lawsuits aimed at reversing the expanded zone. The case may come up again in appeal, but not before this year's property tax bills go out. Nevertheless, some community groups are encouraging property owners to speak out against the expanded zone and associated tax.

In Morongo Basin the public may comment via live video link from the first-floor teleconferencing room in the County Government Center on White Feather Road in Joshua Tree.

<http://z1077fm.com/fp-5-fire-tax-back-on-the-county-supervisors-agenda-tomorrow/>

At Least 4 Brush Fires Ignite Across SoCal Amid Hot, Windy and Dry Conditions

Kristina Bravo and Megan Telles, KTLA

Posted: June 9, 2019



The San Bernardino County Fire District tweeted this image from Fontana, where firefighters extinguished a brush fire on June 9, 2019.

A brush fire that burned more than 40 acres less than a mile east of Six Flags Magic Mountain was one of several fires that broke out as heat, strong winds and low humidities hit Southern California Sunday.

The National Weather Service urged residents to "be extra careful with ignition sources." Gusty 25 to 40 mph offshore winds, temperatures in the 90s, and humidities between 7 and 17% were expected in the mountains, valleys and deserts -- conditions that increase the likelihood of fast-moving fires.

Similar weather in Northern California's Yolo County fueled flames that ignited Saturday afternoon and exploded to 1,800 acres overnight, CalFire said.

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. had shut off power in some parts of the area to prevent wildfires.

Six Flags Magic Mountain

A brush fire in the area of The Old Road and Sky View Lane in Santa Clarita started around noon and caused panic in the nearby Six Flags Magic Mountain and Hurricane Harbor, where guests were told to evacuate then asked to remain in place.

Several videos posted online showed guests running towards the exit as smoke filled the park. Two people were seen hopping over a fence, while another post showed a group gathering at a gate as the caption read, "Security won't let us out!"

Temperatures in the vicinity soared to around 93 to 96 degrees Fahrenheit as 10 to 15 mph northeast winds blew with gusts of up to 25 mph, the National Weather Service said. Relative humidity was at 10% at 1 p.m., forecasters said.

Castaic

About 7 miles north, flames ignited in the 29000 block of Barringer Road at around 1:30 p.m., L.A. County Fire Department spokeswoman Melanie Flores told KTLA.

Firefighters kept the flames contained to 2 acres before declaring the fire's forward progress had been stopped by 2 p.m., Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department officials said.

Hollywood Hills West

It took 55 firefighters just over an hour to knock down and prevent an uphill grass fire from damaging homes in the 2000 block of North Laurel Canyon Boulevard, the L.A. Fire Department said. The blaze broke out at around 12:30 p.m. Wind did not affect the flames, according to officials.

Fontana

At around 9:30 a.m., a wind-driven vegetation fire scorched less than an acre along the northbound Interstate 15 in Fontana. The flames did not pose any threat to structures, and no injuries were reported, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** said. Firefighters with the U.S. Forest Service assisted in the incident.

<https://ktla.com/2019/06/09/forecasters-warn-of-fire-conditions-as-high-temps-winds-and-low-humidities-hit-social/>

Junkyard in unincorporated Bloomington area goes up in flames

Jonah Valdez, San Bernardino County Sun

Posted: June 8, 2019

A large fire tore through a junkyard Saturday evening in the unincorporated area of Bloomington, authorities said.

The fire began at about 6:45 p.m., burning through 1/4 acre of scrapped cars and a mobile home, said Battalion Chief Mike McClintock with the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**. The large fire left heavy amounts of charred debris throughout the yard.

Fire crews were expected to stick around at the scene until midnight, extinguishing hot spots in the yard located on Agua Mansa Road, just outside the city limits of Riverside and Colton, McClintock said. The blaze was considered an outside fire and did not spread to any structures beyond the yard.

The cause of the fire was under investigation.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/06/08/junkyard-in-unincorporated-bloomington-area-goes-up-in-flames/>

ALL BURN PERMITS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED

Staff Writer, Z107.7 NEWS

Posted: June 10, 2019

After another wet winter, warm temperatures and winds are quickly drying out the superbloom vegetation and grasses in San Bernardino County. The increasing fire danger posed by the high volume of dead vegetation and hotter, drier conditions in the region has led to the County Fire Department and Cal Fire to suspend all burn permits, including in the State Responsibility Areas of San Bernardino County. These burn suspensions took effect on Monday, June 3, and ban all residential outdoor burning of landscape debris such as branches and leaves. For more information about the suspension of burn permits, and keeping your property safe from wildfires, see the complete Cal Fire and County Fire reports below.

FROM CALFIRE:

“Last year was a devastating reminder that the public cannot let their guard down. Together, we must adapt and evolve to be able to withstand the intensity of these fires, keeping in mind, that the only way to mitigate the damage they cause is through preparation,” said Chief Thom Porter, CAL FIRE director. “The dry, hot weather that fueled the massive fires last year will return again this year, so it is up to the public to be ready.”

CAL FIRE’s Unit Chief for San Bernardino, Glenn Barley said that “last year’s incredibly destructive fire season is a stark reminder to all Californians to be prepared for wildfires.”

Since January 1, 2019 CAL FIRE and firefighters across the state have already responded to over 950 wildfires. While outdoor burning of landscape debris by homeowners is no longer allowed, CAL FIRE is asking residents to take time to ensure that they are prepared for wildfires by maintaining a minimum of 100 feet of Defensible Space around every home and buildings on their property and being prepared to evacuate if the time comes.

Here are some tips to help prepare homes and property:

- Clear all dead and or dying vegetation 100 feet from around all structures.
- Landscape with fire resistant plants and non-flammable ground cover.
- Find alternative ways to dispose of landscape debris like chipping or hauling it to a biomass energy or green waste facility.

The department may issue restricted temporary burning permits if there is an essential reason due to public health and safety. Agriculture, land management, fire training, and other industrial-type burning may proceed if a CAL FIRE official inspects the burn site and issues a special permit.

The suspension of burn permits for residential landscape debris does not apply to campfires within organized campgrounds or on private property. Campfires may be permitted if the campfire is maintained in such a manner as to prevent its spread to the wildland. A campfire permit can be obtained at local fire stations or online at PreventWildfireCA.org.

For additional information on how to create Defensible Space, on how to be prepared for wildfires, as well as tips to prevent wildfires, visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org

FROM (SAN BERNARDINO) COUNTY FIRE:

Division 4 – All unincorporated South Desert and River Areas, as well as the Town of Yucca Valley, the City of 29 Palms, and the City of Needles, with the exception of Morongo Valley.

THIS SUSPENSION SHALL TAKE EFFECT MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019, AT 0600 HOURS AND SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL LIFTED.

Covered barbeques as well as recreational fires fueled solely by natural gas or propane are exempt from this suspension. Cooking fires of any type are permissible under permit only when NO alternate means of cooking are available. Open fires conducted in the course of filming, public fireworks displays, or ceremonial events are exempt if properly permitted and conducted by a licensed professional, or other responsible person, when the attending fire department Fire Safety Officer determines that local climactic conditions are safe.

Residential burning of trash, yard clippings and tree trimmings are ALWAYS prohibited in the Mountain and Valley areas, regardless of conditions. Regardless of location or permit conditions, ALL open fires (except for fires fueled solely by natural gas or propane) must be extinguished during Red Flag or Fire Weather Watch Conditions, when local winds exceed 10 miles per hour or when directed by Fire Department personnel.

Please check with CalFire within State Responsibility Areas, the United States Forest Service (USFS) within the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests, or the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within outlying desert regions for additional restrictions and permitting requirements. Unlawful fires may result in administrative or legal action against the person kindling the fire and/or the owner of the property on which the fire occurs.

<http://z1077fm.com/all-burn-permits-have-been-suspended/>

San Bernardino County fire tax could go up even before many have had to pay it

Sandra Emerson, San Bernardino County Sun

Posted: June 7, 2019



A home burns as San Bernardino County Fire Capt. Bob Kittleman is silhouetted against a wall of flames on N. Tamarind Avenue in Rialto on Wednesday, March 13. (Photo by Terry Pierson, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

On Tuesday, supervisors will discuss a 3% bump to a parcel tax that already has spurred two lawsuits.

An already controversial parcel tax placed on unincorporated San Bernardino County property owners as a way to raise money for fire services soon might be increased.

The Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, June 11, will consider a request from the fire protection district to raise the annual tax by 3%, from \$157.26 to \$161.98. The money will help cover the cost of fire and emergency services during the fiscal year starting July 1.

“This will be an annual process in the event that the fire chief still feels it necessary to ask for an increase,” said Tracey Martinez, fire district spokeswoman. “There may be a time he does not. It’s all based on the financial needs of the district.”

In October, the supervisors approved extending the fire protection zone known as FP-5 to all unincorporated county areas, and some cities, as a way to pay down a \$29 million budget shortfall. The expansion came with an annual \$157 parcel tax that could be increased by up to 3% every year.

The property owners in the newly expanded zones have yet to pay the tax. If the supervisors approve the increase Tuesday, they should expect to see the \$161.98 fee on their property tax rolls this summer.

The upcoming fiscal year budget will be the first to include revenue from the FP-5 expansion, and revenue from other special tax zones will not be collected for the 2019-20 budget because the expansion of FP-5 replaced those.

District officials said the agency expects to get \$42.7 million from the protection zone, including \$27.1 million from the new expanded area. The 3% increase accounts for \$1.2 million.

The supervisors approved the expansion after a lengthy and sometimes contentious hearing. Voters had an opportunity to weigh in, but not enough property owners submitted written protests to defeat it or send the proposal to the ballot. In October, opponents of the tax filed two lawsuits against the county and fire protection district, challenging the legality of the expansion.

The increase was scheduled to be debated by the county board on May 21, but two supervisors were absent so the issue has been rescheduled to June 11.

Tom Murphy, a spokesman for The Red Brennan Group, one of the agencies that sued the county over the expansion, urged the board to reconsider its October decision.

“If the execution of that resolution was done incorrectly, it feels like we have an opportunity and that opportunity is to go back and redo what was done,” Murphy said.

The Board of Supervisors will meet for closed session at 9 a.m., followed by open session at 10 a.m. in the temporary chambers at the county government center, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., San Bernardino.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/06/07/san-bernardino-county-fire-tax-could-go-up-even-before-anyone-has-had-to-pay-it/>