



# NEWS



## News Headlines 6/29/2018

- BEWARE OF SCAMMERS POSING AS FIRE MARSHALS
- Car fire quickly extinguished near Summit Valley Road
- Zone Expansion Suggested for Fire Tax

## **BEWARE OF SCAMMERS POSING AS FIRE MARSHALS**

Staff Writer, z1077news

Posted: June 29, 2018

Fire marshals perform routine inspections of businesses to enforce fire safety codes and ensure public safety, a fact that some scammers have taken advantage of. With tips on how to spot the difference between a real fire marshal and a scammer, here's reporter Andrew Dieleman...

Scammers who pose as fire marshals will often threaten to fine, or shut down, a business if they do not receive immediate payments to repair fire extinguishers. Don't fall for the scam. According to **County Fire Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle**, real fire marshals in the Morongo Basin will be wearing official uniforms, driving official County Fire vehicles, and will have appropriate identification and badges with them. Remember, fire marshals do not make on-site repairs to fire extinguishers or suppression systems and will never ask for money up front. If you believe you have been a victim of this fire marshal scam, contact the Sheriff's Department at 760-366-4175.

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

---

## **Car fire quickly extinguished near Summit Valley Road**

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: June 28, 2018, 2:14 p.m.

SUMMIT VALLEY — A car on fire briefly threatened brush near Summit Valley Road on Thursday afternoon, but the blaze was quickly doused with no injuries.

Reported at 12:42 p.m., it took **San Bernardino County Fire** Department units about 15 minutes to combat the blaze, which occurred on Los Flores Ranch Road just south of Summit Valley Road.

Because of its proximity to heavy vegetation nearby, multiple resources were initially sent out to battle the blaze, according to County Fire officials.

"It was originally dispatched as a vegetation fire because of the location and no one had eyes on it," County Fire spokesman Eric Sherwin said. "As units got closer, they confirmed it was a vehicle fire. The fire did not establish itself into the brush."

With two medic engines on scene, firefighters extinguished the blaze by 1 p.m., Sherwin said. The car itself was believed to be abandoned. No injuries were reported.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20180628/car-fire-quickly-extinguished-near-summit-valley-road>

## Zone Expansion Suggested for Fire Tax

Heidi Fron, Mountain News

Posted: June 28, 2018, 1:59 p.m.

As the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department endeavors to secure its annual finances, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors voted at its June 12 meeting on a proposal to fund services by broadening an annual parcel tax to include property owners in all unincorporated communities.

Property owners included in the expanded service zone will have an annual parcel tax of \$157.26, which can be increased by up to 3 percent each year.

The proposal was presented by Mark A. Hartwig, fire chief/fire warden, according to the supervisors' agenda. The purpose of the zone expansion is to fill a current \$29 million funding gap for County Fire. The expansion is expected to generate \$27 million more in revenue each year.

In recent years, County Fire's budget has had the effect of depleting cash reserves and investments from the county's general fund. Moving toward an expanded tax plan is being considered because officials believe that certain areas do not generate enough property taxes to fund the level of services required in those areas. They have been subsidized by those that do generate higher property taxes.

According to the minutes of the June 12 meeting, supervisors James Ramos, Curt Hagman and Josie Gonzales voted in favor of initiating proceedings to expand the boundaries of the FP-5 Service Zone and to establish protest procedures to be used pursuant to the changing of boundaries for service zones. Supervisors Janice Rutherford and Robert A. Lovingood voted against the proposal.

Notices will be sent to affected parties in August, and the first of two public hearings will be held later in the same month.

The board also voted unanimously to pursue preliminary steps of proposing an election on a special tax for fire services. If the special tax is protested, it can be killed by more than 50 percent of affected landowners. Alternatively, if at least 25 percent protest, the issue will be sent to voters on a ballot.

The minutes of the meeting reflect that the supervisors directed staff members to hire a consultant to analyze the impacts of implementing a special tax and to return to the board with the results.

The special tax, if preferred, would not be in addition to a zone expansion: One or the other would be chosen to move forward.

The zone currently includes San Bernardino, Helendale, Needles, Twentynine Palms and Upland, where property owners pay a \$157.26 parcel tax each year.

In addition to encompassing unincorporated communities, the zone expansion proposal might include certain incorporated cities that don't already pay the tax, but where County Fire does provide service.

Some communities and cities will be exempt from the plan, including areas within the boundaries of Yermo, Newberry Springs, Baker, Daggett, as well as other inland areas and places outside the High Desert. Also excluded are the cities of Hesperia, Adelanto, Apple Valley, Barstow and Victorville, which operate their own fire departments.

[http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article\\_37d5e23a-7b16-11e8-a5ac-83bdb531f99f.html](http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_37d5e23a-7b16-11e8-a5ac-83bdb531f99f.html)