



# NEWS



## News Headlines 12/27/2019

- Two people are rescued after being stranded in snow in Lytle Creek
- Crews rescue stranded motorists in snow-covered forest
- Norton veterans give toys for the children
- New fire chief speaks to SB Rotary

## Two people are rescued after being stranded in snow in Lytle Creek

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: December 26, 2019



Lots of snow fell on Lytle Creek Road, south of Mountain Lakes Campground in Lytle Creek, on Dec. 26. (Contributed photo by Rick Myers)

Local motorists are urged to use caution while driving in rainy and snowy conditions. It's a lesson that two stranded motorists learned the hard way.

The two people became lost and stranded in the snow while off-roading in the back country north of Lytle Creek late on Christmas Day, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

On Dec. 26, Fire Department personnel on a bulldozer located both victims after traversing more than five miles into the forest.

"Both were extricated by off-road apparatus and taken to the Incident Command Post for medical evaluation. Both persons signed AMA and were reunited with their friends and family," the Fire Department said on Twitter.

Earlier in the day on Dec. 26, Interstate 15 was shut down in the Cajon Pass for several hours before reopening.

Weather conditions were expected to be more favorable during the upcoming weekend.

[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/two-people-are-rescued-after-being-stranded-in-snow-in/article\\_f4900948-2801-11ea-8d20-3f7d045da85e.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/two-people-are-rescued-after-being-stranded-in-snow-in/article_f4900948-2801-11ea-8d20-3f7d045da85e.html)

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## Crews rescue stranded motorists in snow-covered forest

Oscar Flores, Fox 11 News

Posted: December 26, 2019



(San Bernardino County Fire Department)

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. - A couple of motorists are counting their lucky stars Thursday after becoming stranded in the San Bernardino National Forest during heavy snowfall.

The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** says the two individuals got lost after going off-roading at about 10:30 a.m. somewhere north of Lytle Creek. When heavy snow began falling, the pair became stranded, officials said.

Fortunately, the stranded pair were able to get a cell phone signal out and call 911, but due to poor visibility and rough conditions, emergency crews were unable to use aircraft.

With the pair's cell phone battery running low, rescuers were able to lock onto the couple's location coordinates and used dozers to push over five miles into the forest through rough terrain, officials say.

At about 2:30 p.m., rescuers located the stranded motorists and extricated them from the forest. They were taken to a command post for a medical evaluation. They were met by relieved family and friends.

Fire officials credit the coordinated efforts with the Sheriff's Department and extra staffing for the winter storm with saving the lives of these two individuals.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department reminds the community to plan accordingly when going out during unprecedented weather conditions. This includes being prepared with the right safety gear, know the limitations of your vehicle, and let someone know where you will be and when you expect to return.

<https://www.foxla.com/news/crews-rescue-stranded-motorists-in-snow-covered-forest>

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## **Norton veterans give toys for the children**

Staff Writer, Highland Community News

Posted: December 26, 2019



San Bernardino County Fire Dept's "Spark of Love toy drive [Courtesy Photo]

Members of the Norton AFB Museum and the 63rd / 445th Norton Veterans Group made a donation to Mary's Mercy Center Inc to help offset the cost of preparing a Thanksgiving Meal for veterans in need around the greater San Bernardino area this year. Also two groups of volunteers also collected toys and funds to purchase a "sleigh" full of toys that were donated to the **San Bernardino County Fire Dept's** "Spark of Love" toy drive. This has been the fifth year the Norton AFB Museum along with the 63rd / 445th Norton Veterans Group has made a contribution to these charities.

[https://www.highlandnews.net/community/norton-veterans-give-toys-for-the-children/article\\_3c6e0020-2826-11ea-bb4d-533a678696d7.html](https://www.highlandnews.net/community/norton-veterans-give-toys-for-the-children/article_3c6e0020-2826-11ea-bb4d-533a678696d7.html)

## New fire chief speaks to SB Rotary

Jason Miller, Highland Community News

Posted: December 26, 2019



San Bernardino County Fire Chief Dan Munsey [Courtesy Photo]

Members of the San Bernardino Rotary Club gathered on Tuesday, Dec. 3, to hear the vision of the San Bernardino's counties new Fire Chief Dan Munsey who started on November 20 of this year.

We should note that **county fire** covers 20,000 square miles in 60 different communities including San Bernardino with the fifth-biggest fire engine in the nation.

Munsey began his career in 1995 as a paid-call firefighter serving the community of Yucca Valley and later decided to pursue a career as a full-time firefighter.

In 1998 Munsey joined the San Bernardino County Fire District as the youngest captain in southern California at the age of 26. Munsey said at the time nine fire stations including Joshua Tree and Mentone were taken over by the county.

Since then, Munsey has enjoyed a diverse career including executive leadership and management experiences in both the rural and metropolitan fire service communities which include having worked in every division of San Bernardino County Fire.

In addition to Munsey's duties with San Bernardino County, he is president of the California Fire Chiefs Association Operations Section and is the chair of the International Fire Chiefs Association Technology Council Communications and Data section.

Munsey is also a member of the National Fire Protection Agency Forum and has instructed dozens of fire service, and incident command systems courses throughout his career.

He enjoys speaking about his command experiences, leadership and the use of emerging technology in the fire service at conferences around the nation.

Munsey says the department teaches probationary first year firefighters to not ever sit down. He explained "the moment you sit down your telling us you know everything about our craft," and that "instead every single day we want to see you studying, we want to see you reading books, we want you to read the policy manuals," and "we want you to seek out the experts that have been here."

Munsey says the first thing he is doing as fire chief is "making himself assessable," he went on to say that "the first time you see your fire chief should not be when there is a natural disaster," and that "we have to have true connections with our community."

Munsey believes county firefighters should be more involved in the community and wants to create more opportunities for community involvement. He also said that the department not only fights fires but also provides "emergency services" to the community.

He said his three Cs are communication, community-based and cooperation.

[https://www.highlandnews.net/news/new-fire-chief-speaks-to-sb-rotary/article\\_c6a93510-27ff-11ea-983f-3bc067259926.html](https://www.highlandnews.net/news/new-fire-chief-speaks-to-sb-rotary/article_c6a93510-27ff-11ea-983f-3bc067259926.html)