



NEWS



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Firefighters extinguish motorhome fire Sunday morning

Staff Writer, VVNG

Posted: May 6, 2018



(Photo by Edgar Santiago)



(Photo by Anthony Franco)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Residents from around the Victor Valley reported seeing a thick black plume of smoke billowing into the sky here Sunday.

It happened at about 8:15 am, when firefighters with **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to a motorhome fire in the 11800 block of Old Ranch Road, near Amethyst Road in Victorville.

Fire crews responded and located a ‘Class A Motorhome’ fully engulfed in the backyard of the residence threatening other adjacent structures, scanner traffic reported. The fire spread to a nearby large metal outbuilding.

Firefighters were able to quickly get a handle on the fire and had it knocked down within approximately 20 minutes. Firefighters will remain on scene for an unknown amount of time to assist with ‘mop-up’ efforts.

An investigator will respond to the scene to determine the cause of the fire.

<http://www.vvng.com/firefighters-extinguish-motorhome-fire-sunday-morning/>

One critically injured in Lucerne Valley crash Sunday

Staff Writer, VVNG

Posted: May 6, 2018



LUCERNE VALLEY, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Firefighters with **San Bernardino County Fire** are on scene of a single-vehicle rollover crash in Lucerne Valley.

It happened at 6:23 pm, in the area of Clark Road and Banta Road in Lucerne Valley on Sunday, May 6, 2018. According to the California Highway Patrol incident logs, a green vehicle overturned leaving one person trapped. Firefighters responded to the scene and required the jaws of life to extricate the driver from the vehicle.

At 6:42 pm, firefighters had extricated the occupant from the vehicle, scanner traffic reported.

Paramedic-firefighters requested a medical helicopter to transport the critically injured patient to an out of area trauma center.

The cause of the accident is currently unknown. Information will be updated as it becomes available.

<http://www.vvng.com/one-critically-injured-in-lucerne-valley-crash-sunday/>

Several injured in crash on Highway 58 near Kramer Junction

Staff Writer, VVNG

Posted: May 6, 2018



(Photo: CHP Inland Division Air Operations)

BARSTOW, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Several people were injured following a multi-vehicle traffic collision near Kramer Junction here Sunday.

At about 3:02 pm, dispatch received numerous reports of a major injury traffic collision on Highway 58 near Kramer Road.

According to the California Highway Patrol incident logs, the crash is believed to be involving a semi and several other vehicles. CHP logs were reporting the semi was on the right-hand shoulder of eastbound lanes facing the wrong way.

BLM personnel arrived on scene and advised they were on scene with two critical patients with head and back injuries. According to scanner traffic, four vehicles are involved in the crash and the preliminary patient count is four to seven injured. One airship is responding to airlift a critically injured patient and additional ground ambulances have been requested to the scene.

Firefighters with **San Bernardino County Fire** balanced their response to include extrication after receiving reports of someone trapped, scanner traffic reported.

All lanes on Highway 58 are blocked in both directions for an unknown duration.

Details regarding the crash are developing and information will be updated as it becomes available.

<http://www.vvng.com/several-injured-in-crash-on-highway-58-near-kramer-junction/>

May 6-12 is Wildfire Awareness Week

Susan P. Neufeld, ROTW News

Posted: May 6, 2018

Mountain Communities- May 6-12 is Wildfire Awareness Week, Is Your Home Ready for fire?

San Bernardino County Fire has a Ready! Set! Go! Personal Wildfire Action Plan to give you the tips and tools to successfully prepare for a wildfire. This plan will help you prepare your home, yourself and your family so that you can leave early, well ahead of a fast approaching wildfire.

Get Ready! Get Set! Now Go!

- Create a defensible area, firebreaks that divert flames around property, by clearing weeds and dry grass at least 100 feet around the home, as wind-fed flames can race up hills and mountainsides quickly.
- Store flammable liquids in approved safety can, AWAY from occupied buildings.
- Keep propane tanks clear of vegetation.
- Keep all combustibles, such as firewood, lawn furniture, picnic tables, etc... away from structures.
- Clean rain gutters regularly to avoid leaf and needle accumulation.
- Clear vegetation and other flammable materials from beneath decks or other wooden structures. Remove tree limbs and vegetation that overhang the roof.
- Remove all branches lower than 6 feet.
- Don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger. Dispose of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire.
- Dispose of stove or fireplace ash, and charcoal briquettes, after soaking them in a metal pail of water for 24 hours.
- Keep garden hose connected to faucet.
- Review your home escape plan with your family & have a fire drill exercise.
- Ensure address is clearly visible from the street.

County fire urges residents to be prepared for a wildfire and know what to do when asked to evacuate.

To learn more on how you can be prepared for a wildfire and create your own Ready! Set! Go! plan, visit <http://www.sbcfire.org/ReadySetGo.aspx>

San Bernardino County Fire wishes you a safe summer.

<https://rotwnews.com/2018/05/06/may-6-12-is-wildfire-awareness-week/>

Above and beyond: Assemblyman Obernolte honors 20 public safety employees at inaugural Everyday Heroes banquet

Staff Writer, Daily Press

Posted: May 5, 2018, 7:42 a.m.



Assemblyman Jay Obernolte, presents David Sotomoradel an Everyday Heroes award during a dinner ceremony at Sunset Hills in Apple Valley on Thursday. The awards were for public safety workers who rose above and beyond their assigned duties to help the community. [James Quigg, Daily Press}

APPLE VALLEY — Everyday heroes can range from mothers and wives to teachers, public safety personnel and volunteers. They live and work among us, but often toil in anonymity.

Assemblyman Jay Obernolte decided it was past time to do something about that, so he and his staff put together the inaugural 33rd Assembly District Everyday Heroes banquet and awards ceremony.

More than 100 people turned out for the event Thursday night at Sunset Hills Mortuary in Apple Valley, including San Bernardino County Sheriff John McMahon and **San Bernardino County Fire** Chief Mark Hartwig. Obernolte honored 20 High Desert public safety employees, from firefighter/paramedics and engineers to deputy sheriffs, California Highway Patrol officers and even military law enforcement personnel. Next year, he hopes to include emergency medical technicians.

“One of the things I enjoy most about my job is recognizing deserving people in our community,” said Obernolte, who said before becoming mayor of Big Bear he was chairman of that community’s Fire Protection District.

Obernolte said after regularly honoring business leaders and others in his district, he realized first-responders needed to be recognized.

“I can’t imagine the difficult job that you do,” Obernolte told the honorees. “I don’t know how you do it without becoming jaded.”

Obernolte also apologized for legislation that has made law enforcement more difficult in recent years, including AB 109 (early prison release), Proposition 47 (reducing many offenses from felonies to misdemeanors) and Proposition 57.

“We’re sorry,” he said. “Many of the problems we face with law enforcement are directly attributable to decisions made in the Capitol.”

McMahon and Hartwig also addressed the crowd and shared a bit about their personal everyday heroes. Hartwig, the youngest of seven children whose father died when he was 6, said his mother was his hero. She went back to school so she could get a job that would support the family, never remarried and became a college president.

McMahon said his wife was his hero because she took on the prime responsibility of raising their children and running their household while McMahon was spending long hours catching criminals and overseeing a massive organization.

“Behind every successful person in our profession there’s someone at home” supporting them, he said.

The 20 honored as Everyday Heroes included six San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department members, four San Bernardino County Fire Department members, three California Highway Patrol officers from the Barstow station, two Apple Valley Fire Protection District members, two members of Fort Irwin’s law enforcement agencies, an officer from the CHP’s Victorville station, a retired captain for the Victor Valley College Fire Department, and a Marine Corps police officer. All went above and beyond the call of duty in performing their job.

CHP Barstow Officers Jeremy Vargas and Walter Aguayo provided medical aid to a motorist who collapsed. San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel Capt. Jeremy Kern, firefighter/paramedic Aaron Berman and engineer Jason Gibson pulled a coworker to safety during a blaze after he fell and was injured. CHP Barstow Officer Don Perez freed a young girl from a kidnapper and arrested the man. San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Deputy Francisco Demara bought food for an elderly woman whose Social Security check had been stolen.

Others, like Sheriff’s Deputy Matthew Baltierra and Cpt. Maher Awad, made it a point to reach out to children. Baltierra helped a teenage girl attend her senior prom and also paid for her yearbook and grad night. Awad, who works in Trona, regularly reads to children in that community.

Each of the honorees received a plaque from Obernolte and a few well-deserved minutes in the spotlight.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20180505/above-and-beyond-assemblyman-obernolte-honors-20-public-safety-employees-at-inaugural-everyday-heroes-banquet>

Residents upset as fire station remains closed

Jenna Hunt, The Desert Trail

Posted: May 4, 2018, 3:44 p.m.



Deputy Fire Chief John Chamberlin talks to residents of Wonder Valley who want answers about whether their fire station will reopen, at a Wednesday meeting in the community center. (Jenna Hunt The Desert Trail)

WONDER VALLEY — This remote desert community will remain without an active fire station as issues of asbestos, water contamination and costs continue to dominate discussions.

The plans for the future of the Wonder Valley Fire Station were discussed during a community meeting Wednesday morning. About 25 residents awaited officials at the Wonder Valley Community Center.

Morongo Basin Municipal Advisory Council delegate Teresa Sitz shared that contamination of the property's well water continues to keep the kitchen closed in the community center where they were meeting.

John Chamberlin, a deputy fire chief for San Bernardino County, shared information with residents, who at times passionately pleaded their case for fire protection.

"I would love to have a fire station every 8 miles, but that is not going to happen," Chamberlin said.

Residents said they are not satisfied with the current coverage, which comes from the station on Adobe Road in Twentynine Palms.

"Actions speak louder than words," Larry Levoir, a Wonder Valley resident, said, adding he feels the fire station is not a priority.

Chamberlin reminded Wonder Valley residents that fire protection is one of many public services provided by the Fire Department, which also includes paramedics.

"The majority of our calls are not fire-based," Chamberlin said. "They are more EMS (emergency medical services)."

Chamberlin, who playfully said during the long meeting he is the "designated whipping boy," answered questions asked in great detail. He stayed relatively calm under pressure during the meeting. Several times, Sitz had to hit the gavel when residents' comments became heated.

"We're trying to be as transparent as possible," Chamberlin said toward the end of the meeting.

The **county Fire Department** closed the Wonder Valley fire station in September 2017 after an analysis of the water showed contamination by more than a dozen substances, including included arsenic, chromium 6 and fluoride levels thousands of times higher than government limits.

One fire department employee had reported skin irritations last year, which resulted in the water tests. This employee currently has a worker's compensation claim, Chamberlin said.

"Did he have bed bugs or something?" said Jim Copeland, a Wonder Valley resident. "We're being held hostage."

Chamberlin said last fall and again on Tuesday that he was the one who decided to pull firefighters out of the station after seeing the water testing results. He stressed to residents that safety for employees and local residents is his department's top priority.

"You are being provided the service," Chamberlin said. "We're not holding you hostage. We collectively need to come up with a solution."

Residents protested on Tuesday that they have been living with the same water for decades, but Chamberlin said he cannot force employees to remain in a situation which is considered unhealthy.

"We also have some asbestos issues in the station," Chamberlin. "It has to be mitigated long term."

Molly Wiltshire, chief of staff for county Supervisor James Ramos, promised she will continue to work with fire administration, field representative Mark Lundquist and Sitz to solve the public health safety issues. "We're trying to find solutions to the problems," Wiltshire said.

The proposed county budget, once approved, includes emergency cash funds that will cover a \$1 million shortfall and keep Wonder Valley's Fire Protection District operating for another year.

"It is not a ongoing commitment," Chamberlin said. "The supervisor may not be able to leverage that every year."

Property owners pay a \$35 annual assessment in the district, covering about 20 percent of operating expenses, according to the Fire Department.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/the_desert_trail/news/article_b3563e0a-4fec-11e8-a14f-73f10b84e676.html

Young girl is seriously injured and two adults are also hurt in hit-and-run collision in Fontana

Mike Myers, Fontana Herald News

Posted: May 4, 2018



A young girl was seriously injured and two adults were also hurt in a hit-and-run collision in the 15100 block of Foothill Boulevard in Fontana on May 3.

At about 2:53 p.m., the driver of a purple Scion XB was driving westbound on Foothill in the northwest part of Fontana. According to witnesses, the driver of the Scion was making a left turn to go south on Hemlock Avenue. Witnesses said that as the driver was turning on a left green arrow, and a gold colored Cadillac SUV ran the red light at a fast rate of speed and collided with the Scion.

The three injured persons were treated by the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department and were transported to a hospital. The two adults had non-life-threatening injuries, according to a CHP officer.

Witnesses said that after the collision, the driver in the Cadillac backed up without stopping and sped away southbound on Hemlock Avenue.

According to a California Highway Patrol officer, a witness followed the driver of the SUV and was able to get the license plate number. A suspect was stopped by the CHP and detained in a vehicle matching the description of the Cadillac at Hemlock and Whittram Avenue in Fontana. The driver was arrested on a hit-and-run charge.

The accident is being investigated by the CHP.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/young-girl-is-seriously-injured-and-two-adults-are-also/article_08276ac2-4fbf-11e8-bdeb-176b803e36ac.html.

2 injured in Friday afternoon crash on Air Expressway in Victorville

Staff Writer, VVNG

Posted: May 4, 2018



(Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)



(Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Two people were injured following a two-vehicle traffic collision here Friday afternoon.

At about 1:25 pm, Paramedics with American Medical Response, Firefighters with **San Bernardino County Fire** and Victorville Station Sheriff's Deputies responded to a traffic collision at the intersection of Air Expressway and National Trails Highway.

Units arrived on scene and located a Honda CRV on the dirt shoulder and a silver Chevy sedan blocking the northbound turning lane of Air Expressway.

The male driver of the sedan was transported by ground ambulance to St. Mary's Medical Center. A woman from the SUV was airlifted to an out of area trauma center with unknown injuries.

Traffic through the intersection was temporarily detoured as officials worked to remove the vehicles from the roadway.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

<http://www.vvng.com/2-injured-in-friday-afternoon-crash-on-air-expressway-in-victorville/>