



# NEWS



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## 2 children, 2 adults found dead in Bloomington house after fire

Alex Groves and Beatriz E. Valenzuela, Press Enterprise

Posted: August 23, 2017, 8:56 AM



A woman becomes emotional as she speaks with an investigator near the scene of a house fire in which at least two adults and one child were found dead on Wednesday, August 23, 2017 in Bloomington, Ca. Cause of the fire is under investigation. (Micah Escamilla, The Sun/SCNG)

The bodies of four people, including two children, were found Wednesday, Aug. 23, following a house fire in Bloomington, according to officials.

The second child was found hours after the adults and a young girl died, according to San Bernardino County sheriff's officials. Officials confirmed the second child to be another young girl.

"It's so tragic. We never know what tomorrow is going to bring," said Patsy Lara, a minister who lives in the area who was driving along Santa Ana Avenue and noticed firefighters pulling a woman, one of the victims, from the home in the 17900 block of Santa Ana Avenue.

Lara comforted a woman who arrived at the scene worried one of the three dead could have been a family member.

"(San Bernardino County Sheriff's investigators) wouldn't tell her anything yet," Lara said after she embraced the woman in black and offered her prayers of encouragement.

As of Wednesday afternoon, sheriff's spokeswoman Jodi Miller characterized the probe as a death investigation — meaning authorities hadn't yet determined whether the deaths were accidental or homicidal.

The fire was reported just after 7:30 a.m. on Santa Ana Avenue near Locust Avenue – less than a block from Bloomington High School, according to **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman Eric Sherwin.

Neighbors told arriving firefighters people may be inside the home, Sherwin said, and rescuers began searching for victims.

They entered the home and found one woman hurt and unresponsive. As they continued to search, they found the man and girl dead, Sherwin said. Initial information given was that the man was taken to the hospital, but that was later clarified.

Paramedics performed CPR on the woman at the scene and as they took her to Kaiser, where she ultimately died, officials said.

The Office of the Fire Marshal and San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department bomb and arson detail were at the scene of the fire, Sherwin said. It wasn't known Wednesday morning what may have sparked the blaze.

Although Lara does not know the family, she said she drove by the home a few days ago and noticed what appeared to be a child's party taking place.

Kim Sanchez, who lives in the neighborhood, says it was rare to see the family outside.

Aside from the traffic because of the school, she said it's a very quiet neighborhood.

"It's devastating because I have little ones myself," she said about the fire.

The California Highway Patrol had been requested to close off both sides of Santa Ana Avenue around the fire.

Traffic spilled over into Slover Avenue a block north as people who usually take Santa Ana are forced to take a new route.

Several kids on their way to school have had to go around the crime scene tape.

Officials were asking anyone with information about how the fire might have started to contact We-Tip at 1-800-472-7766.

<http://www.pe.com/2017/08/23/3-dead-following-structure-fire-in-bloomington/>

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## **UPDATE: Four people, including two children, found dead following house fire on Aug. 23**

**Alejandro Cano, Fontana Herald News**

Posted: August 23, 2017, 4:16 PM



Residents, including relatives of the victims, pray after four people, including two children, were found dead following a house fire in Bloomington on Aug. 23. (Herald News photo by Alejandro Cano)

Four people, including two children, were found dead following a house fire in Bloomington on the morning of Wednesday, Aug. 23, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

Just after 7:30 a.m., the Fire Department responded to multiple reports of a residential structure fire in the 17900 block of Santa Ana Avenue.

Firefighters arrived to find an approximately 1,300-square-foot single story house with heavy smoke showing from a front corner of the structure. Neighbors advised that people were still inside the home.

With that knowledge, firefighters made entry into the house and quickly located an adult female who was unresponsive. She was rescued from the house, and firefighters initiated lifesaving measures, including advanced cardiac life support. These interventions were continued during transport to a local hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries, the Fire Department said.

During the ongoing rescue and fire attack, an adult male and child were located further inside the house. Both were deceased.

Firefighters knocked down the fire in just over 20 minutes.

Later, investigators found the second deceased child.

Outside the home, the adult female victim was identified as Karina Salinas by her brother, Manuel Salinas.

“My sister was caring and loving, very motivated. She worked a lot,” said Manuel Salinas.

He added that Karina had three children, one of whom is 18 years old and lives in Bakersfield.

“We are devastated. Whatever happened, this is too much to handle,” Manuel added as he walked away.

Patricia Lara, a local minister, stopped him and Jose Vasquez, the uncle of Karina, for a spontaneous prayer on a sidewalk. Lara prayed for the souls of the victims and asked God to give the family members the strength they need to bear the pain.

Three engine companies, two truck companies, two squads, a chief officer and three investigators were assigned to the incident.

The fire is being investigated as a possible crime. Anyone with information related to this incident is asked to contact WE-TIP at (800) 472-7766.

[http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/update-four-people-including-two-children-found-dead-following-house/article\\_2258bd56-8841-11e7-9c29-2f1027c419b1.html](http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/update-four-people-including-two-children-found-dead-following-house/article_2258bd56-8841-11e7-9c29-2f1027c419b1.html)

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## **2 children among four dead in house fire in Bloomington**

**Veronica Rocha, LA Times**

Posted: August 23, 2017, 3:55 PM

A man, woman and two children died when flames swept through a Bloomington home Wednesday, fire officials said.

The fire erupted about 7:30 a.m. in the 17900 block of Santa Ana Avenue, according to Eric Sherwin, spokesman for the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

When firefighters arrived, they found heavy smoke inside the 1,300-square-foot home.

“Neighbors advised that people were still inside the home,” he said.

Firefighters immediately searched the home and found an unconscious woman trapped inside.

She was pulled from the home and loaded into an ambulance, but later died at a hospital, Sherwin said.

Fire crews continued their search of the home, where they found the man and two children.

It took firefighters 20 minutes to extinguish the blaze.

Arson investigators were looking into the cause of the fire, he said. Sherwin did not know whether the home was equipped with smoke alarms.

Authorities have not identified the victims, but Manuel Salinas told KTLA-TV that his sister, husband and her two children lived at the home.

“She was a nice person, she was motivated,” Salinas told the news station.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-four-killed-house-fire-bloomington-20170823-story.html>

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## **Two Kids and Two Adults Dead After Bloomington Fire**

24/7 Headline News

Posted: August 23, 2017

BLOOMINGTON – Two children and two adults died after a fire tore through their home in the 17900 block of Santa Ana Avenue in the town of Bloomington.

**San Bernardino County Fire** received a report of the fire at around 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday morning. When firefighters arrived at the scene they found the single-story home with heavy smoke coming from the front of the home. Neighbors told firefighters that the residents were still inside the home. Firefighters went inside the home and located an unresponsive woman. She was removed from the home and life-saving measures were made, but the woman was pronounced dead shortly after arriving at the hospital.

A man and child were also found inside the home deceased. “While processing the scene, investigators have located a fourth individual deceased inside the home of this morning’s incident,” San Bernardino County Fire officials said. The fire took approximately 20 minutes to knock down. No firefighters were injured as a result of the fire. The cause of the fire remains under investigation. Anyone with information related to this incident is asked to contact WE-TIP at (800) 472-7766.

<https://247headline.com/two-kids-and-two-adults-dead-after-bloomington-fire/>

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## Fire Chiefs, Labor call on lawmakers to invest in Disaster Response Network

Santa Clarita Valley Signal

Posted: August 23, 2017



A member of a hand crew readies a water hose as he joins firefighters and water dropping helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft fighting flames of the Sand Fire along Placerita Canyon Road in July. Dan Watson/Signal

(SACRAMENTO – August 23, 2017) California’s world-class system of responding to major emergencies is being stretched to its limits, and needs help to ensure that our state is ready for climate disasters.

California

That’s the message delivered in Sacramento today by the leaders of many of California’s largest fire agencies. At a State Capitol news conference, fire chiefs serving nearly a quarter of California residents joined their labor counterparts to call for a secure investment of cap-and-trade funding to address the extreme threats climate change poses to Californians right here and now.

“Every year, the danger posed by extreme wildfires grows, with no end in sight,” said Michael DuRee, president of the California Fire Chiefs Association and chief of the Long Beach Fire Department. “With millions of Californians in the path of destruction, it’s essential that our state’s world-class disaster response network is equipped, trained and ready to meet the danger we know is coming.”

Extreme climate events are a direct threat to the lives and livelihoods of millions of Californians. Two million households are at risk of extreme wildfire. Upwards of seven million people live in areas at risk of flooding. Because of increased construction in the wildland-urban interface, California’s most populated areas have faced the greatest peril. Of the 13 major wildfires (50,000 acres+) that have happened within two miles of a city since 2000, 11 happened in California.

“For California’s firefighters, the impact of climate change isn’t a theoretical discussion: Climate disasters are a reality that we confront every day,” said Lou Paulson, president of California Professional Firefighters. “To protect Californians and the climate, our local and state response network needs more resources in place to keep small fires from becoming environmental disasters.”

Extreme wildfires are a significant source of greenhouse gases linked to climate change.

According to the *Journal of Geophysical Research*, wildfires are responsible nearly one-fifth of all human-caused carbon emissions. Even more urgently, increasing evidence suggests the number and intensity of

wildfires in California are a result of the changing climate. One study estimates that the wildfire risk in California could grow six-fold by 2050. Another study co-authored by the Natural Resources Defense Council estimates climate change could increase U.S. wildfire costs by \$10 billion to \$60 billion within a few decades.

“The combination punishing drought and long-term effects of devastating pest invasions has put millions of our residents in the shadow of wildland fire disasters,” said Mark Hartwig, chief of **San Bernardino County Fire Department** and incoming president of CalChiefs. “Our ability to protect our citizens depends on a mutual aid system that can meet the threat before it climbs onto our doorsteps.”

These costs are felt most particularly by the local agencies that form the backbone of California’s disaster response network. Since 2012, local agencies have been unable to fill a growing number of mutual aid requests for wildfire response because the resources and equipment weren’t available. Last year, the number of requests that couldn’t be filled tripled from that in 2015.

“Our world-class mutual aid system is built on the motto of ‘one team ... one fight,’” said Daryl Osby, chief of the Los Angeles County Fire Department. “If we are to protect California from the risks posed by climate disasters, we need to make sure that our entire system is equipped and ready. No one agency can do the job by itself. We have to work together.”

At the Capitol news conference, the chiefs urged lawmakers to allocate funds for disaster response from the state’s newly-extended cap-and-trade law. The allocation would be earmarked for expanded training, equipment and support for local agency emergency response, a long-delayed expansion of disaster response engines pre-positioned in high-risk areas, and full restoration of the funding for CAL FIRE lost with the repeal of the SRA fee.

Joining Chiefs DuRee and Osby and Hartwig at today’s event was Jeff Carman, chief of Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and chair of the California Metro Fire Chiefs. Joining the chiefs were representatives of their respective labor groups – Long Beach Firefighters, Los Angeles County Firefighters, San Bernardino County Firefighters and United Firefighters of Contra Costa County.

<https://signalscv.com/2017/08/23/fire-chiefs-labor-call-lawmakers-invest-disaster-response-network/>

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## **Man who admits to setting 8 wildfires in Highland, San Bernardino is arrested**

Beatriz E. Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: August 24, 2017, 9:45 AM

A 38-year-old San Bernardino man has been arrested on suspicion of arson in the setting of at least eight fires that have consumed 670 acres, police say.

Peter Joe Granados was arrested on suspicion of arson Wednesday morning at a home in the 2900 block of Park Avenue, according to a San Bernardino police news release.

“Upon questioning, he confessed to arson in all eight fires,” a news statement said.

More information on the arrest is expected to be announced on Thursday afternoon at a press conference near the area where the Mart fire ignited in Highland in late June.

Though authorities say Granados is suspected of setting fires ignited in trash cans and wooded areas in the foothills above Highland and San Bernardino, they did not specify which fires he is accused of starting.

Granados’ arrest comes only a few weeks after officials announced the arrest of Jarrod Anthony Samra, 23, of Yucaipa, in connection to several fires in the county.

Samra had participated in a fire explorer program through the Boy Scouts of America and San Manuel Fire Department, officials confirmed.

<http://www.sbsun.com/2017/08/24/man-who-admits-to-setting-8-wildfires-in-highland-san-bernardino-is-arrested/>