



NEWS



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1 motorcyclist is dead, 1 in critical condition after I-15 crash on Utah-Arizona border

Staff Writer, Gephardt Daily

Posted: March 31, 2019



One of two motorcyclists died in a crash on I-15 near Beaver Dam, Arizona, on Sunday, March 31, 2019. Photos: Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire Department

BEAVER DAM/LITTLEFIELD, Ariz., March 31, 2019 (Gephardt Daily) — One of two motorcyclists involved in a collision Sunday afternoon near the Arizona-Utah border died at the scene.

The accident happened a little before 2 p.m.

The Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire Department said in a Facebook post that emergency crews responded to a call on Interstate 15 at mile marker 13, where one of the riders sustained fatal injuries and was pronounced dead after life-saving measures were unsuccessful.

A second motorcyclist was transported in critical but stable condition to a local trauma center.

According to the post, an off-duty firefighter/paramedic from **San Bernardino County Fire** Department and an off-duty paramedic from Seattle witnessed the accident and administered initial aid to the injured motorcyclists.

The Arizona Department of Public Safety is investigating the cause of the accident, and the Mohave County Sheriff's Office assisted with traffic control.

The names of the motorcyclists have not been released pending notification of family members.

<https://gephardtdaily.com/southern-utah/1-motorcyclist-is-dead-1-in-critical-condition-after-crash-on-i-15-in-arizona/>

Firefighters battle the Beach Fire along Colorado River

Bill Gabbert, Wildfire Today

Posted: March 31, 2019, 4:53 pm



The Beach Fire along the Colorado River near Lake Havasu City, Arizona. Photo by San Bernardino County FD.

(UPDATED at 7:12 a.m. PDT April 1, 2019)

The Bureau of Land Management reported Sunday evening that the fire had burned 80 acres and most of the resources were being released. However, some would remain on scene overnight others will staff it today, Monday.

(Originally published at 4:53 p.m. PDT March 31, 2019)

Firefighters are working on the Beach Fire burning on the banks of the Colorado River at Body Beach in Lake Havasu City, AZ. At about 3:45 p.m. PDT fire officials said the northeast wind had picked up and it was moving the fire, which was 40 acres at that time, south along the shoreline on land managed by the Bureau of Reclamation. County and Bureau of Land Management structures were being threatened.

BLM, **San Bernardino County Fire**, and other departments were on scene.

These photos were shot from a San Bernardino County FD fire boat.

<https://wildfiretoday.com/2019/03/31/firefighters-battle-the-beach-fire-along-colorado-river/>

Fire whipped up by winds at Havasu's Body Beach

Joseph Terry, Tristan Jandrew and Brandon Bowers, Today's News-Herald Havasu News

Posted: March 31, 2019



San Bernardino County Fire Department

The fire near Body Beach burned 80 acres, according to Lake Havasu City Mayor Cal Sheehy. The fire area included Body Beach to the water safety center at Contact Point, as well as an area behind the safety center and the cove north of the Havasu Riviera launch ramps.

The cause of the fire wasn't immediately clear, but Sheehy said the city's street crimes unit turned over information from its fire investigation to the BLM's law enforcement division.

The Body Beach area is frequented by homeless people who make camp along the lakeside. Susan Harris of Cornerstone Homeless Services said all the homeless people known to live in the Body Beach area were accounted for Sunday afternoon after the fire.

The fire mop-up was turned over to the Bureau of Land Management's fire department around 4 p.m., but some smoke and flames were still visible from the highway at dusk. Sheehy said the fire remained along the shoreline, in the salt cedar. The fire area included land belonging to the BLM and the Bureau of Reclamation, as well as state trust lands. The city additionally called in help from the Desert Hills and Buckskin fire departments.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department's fire boat stayed near the water safety center to protect buildings and equipment in the area from the nearby flames.

There were no injuries and no structure damage was reported, Sheehy said.

Earlier: State Route 95 has reopened to traffic after a fire near Body Beach forced it to close for about five hours on Sunday.

A spokesman for The Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management said the agency sent two hand crews and some air support to help fight the fire.

A spokesman for the BLM said the agency has moved its equipment from Partners Point as a precaution, and BLM officials are providing assistance as needed.

Throughout the afternoon, onlookers lined up along Lake Havasu Avenue and Jamaica Boulevard, and near the Aquatic Center, to watch the fire. Witnesses said the fire had three separate "pops" as it moved southward, but it was contained near the water safety center at Contact Point.

Cody Delgado, a Lake Havasu native working for the Yucca Fire Department, was in the area during the fires.

He said the fire's distinct smell could be attributed to the salt cedars in the burn area." Delgado said firefighters from the Desert Hills Fire Department were also on scene.

Earlier: State Route 95 remains closed in both directions as fire crews fight the Body Beach Fire. The highway is closed at South Acoma Boulevard and Mulberry Avenue.

The fire has burned about 60 acres, and Lake Havasu City Mayor Cal Sheehy says fire officials estimate about 100 acres will have burned when the fire is finally contained.

There have been no injuries or structural damage, he said. Fire crews have all the food and water they need, he said.

Mohave County Sgt. Kyler Cox said the water safety center at Contact Point was evacuated as a precaution, which meant relocating employees and patrol equipment to another location.

Sheehy said winds have caused the fire to jump and spread, but fire crews have the blaze under control.

"The salt cedars are burning hot and causing lots of smoke," Sheehy said. "It looks shocking, but crews are confident."

Sheehy said the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management is the lead agency on the fire.

Earlier: Firefighters are responding to a vegetation fire near Body Beach. State Route 95 is closed at south Acoma Boulevard intersection. The fire started on the year anniversary of another fire at Body Beach. That fire was blamed on homeless camps in the area. It is not yet clear what started this latest fire.

https://www.havasunews.com/free_access/fire-whipped-up-by-winds-at-havasus-body-beach/article_26c11e90-53e4-11e9-8bb5-7f0a6f606cb2.html

Fired up: ‘Exciting’ first day of operations for Victorville’s new fire department goes well

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: March 31, 2019, 11:47 am

VICTORVILLE — Firefighters for the new city-run fire department reported for duty bright and early Saturday morning, nearly ten years after the department was first disbanded.

They were immediately greeted by a barrage of calls for service, with the majority being for medical aid, Fire Chief Greg Benson said. Personnel inspected equipment and got fire stations ready as one of the department’s newly purchased medic squads ran call after call after call.

It’s all in a day’s work for the re-launched Victorville Fire Department.

“Going from numbers on a page to a workable concept, from interviews and the first hires to a fully running fire department, it’s exciting,” Deputy City Manager George Harris II said. “And I think there’s 58 guys out there just as excited as I am.”

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department officially ended its fire protection services in the city at 8 a.m. Saturday. The 60 new fire employees now on duty will work under the city’s banner for the first time since July 2008.

The transition marks the end of a 15-month process. City officials believe operating its own fire department will cut costs, with Harris II projecting annual savings of \$1 million for the city, and improve the relationship between residents and emergency responders.

The public may not notice a difference in service at first.

“You can’t put a pause on a 911 call,” Benson said. “A transition like this requires cooperation on various levels. It takes time and effort, but we also have to be ready and able to run calls.”

There will be 18 firefighters available per shift on any given day. All personnel were on duty Saturday to ensure the transition would run smoothly, Benson said.

As the Daily Press took a tour through station 311 on Seventh Street Saturday afternoon, Benson said operations were going off without a hitch.

“ICEMA inspected both our medic squads and all of our engines yesterday and today,” Benson said, referring to the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency, which oversees emergency medical services in this county. “Everything was approved for use.”

The city’s split from the County was a source of contention for some time. Doubts about the city providing the same level of service were addressed. Tensions rose during negotiations to temporarily extend County services with Victorville until the city’s new department was up-and-running.

Benson, however, has remained unfazed. As the department’s first official hire, he’s had a chance to foster relationships with the High Desert community for almost a year now. The focus on engagement seems to have paid off for Benson.

“The community has been incredibly welcoming, as you can see,” Benson said, as firefighters took a quick break to munch on cookies baked for them by the High Desert Church. “Everyone is very supportive. And to go back to their own city-run fire department, that really resonates as well.”

For recent hire Ben Baladez, previously an airport fire chief at the small fire station at Southern California Logistics Airport, it’s a welcome chance to serve under the banner of the community he’s called home for years.

“I can’t even tell you how good it feels to have this uniform on and see when people recognize it as ‘the city fire department’,” Baladez said. “It’s an amazing feeling to see Victorville Fire back.”

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20190331/fired-up-exciting-first-day-of-operations-for-victorvilles-new-fire-department-goes-well>