



NEWS



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WITH RISING TEMPERATURES, WATCH OUT FOR SNAKES

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: April 18, 2019



With the rising springtime temperatures, desert snakes are becoming more active and can be found basking in the sun. Managing editor Tami Roleff has these reminders about how to prevent being bitten by rattlesnakes...

As the temperature increases during the day, rattlesnakes may seek shade from the afternoon heat. Often, snakes seek refuge under debris near homes, under cars, or even under bushes or rocks in residential yards. In the evening when the temperatures cool, the snakes will be on the move seeking a meal. With this in mind, be careful about where you place your hands and feet when you cannot see where you are reaching. The majority of snakebites occur on the hands, feet and ankles. If you are bitten, remain calm and assess your symptoms. If the area of the bite begins to swell and change color, the snake was probably venomous. Keep the bitten area still and below the heart. Remove any jewelry or constricting items near the affected area. Seek medical attention immediately.

<http://z1077fm.com/with-rising-temperatures-watch-out-for-snakes/>

BACK-TO-BACK CRASHES IN YUCCA VALLEY WEDNESDAY MORNING

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: April 17, 2019



A man and woman were injured in this crash at Sage Avenue and Highway 62 in Yucca Valley Wednesday morning. Firefighters had to extricate a man from this crash at Cherokee Trail and Highway 62 in Yucca Valley Wednesday morning. **San Bernardino County Fire photos**

Firefighters responded to back-to-back crashes in Yucca Valley on Highway 62 this morning. The first crash happened about 7:10 this morning at Highway 62 and Cherokee Trail, with the second crash about a minute later at Sage Avenue and the highway. The vehicles had been T-boned at their respective intersections. However, there was a mix-up and responding firefighters weren't aware of the earlier crash at Cherokee Trail. They arrived at the crash at Sage Avenue and extricated a woman and a man; the woman was taken to Desert Hospital in Palm Springs; the man was taken to Hi-Desert Medical Center. Firefighters then learned of the other crash at Cherokee Trail. A man at that crash was taken to Hi-Desert Medical Center.

<http://z1077fm.com/back-to-back-crashes-in-yucca-valley-wednesday-morning/>

Lack of funding may force Big Bear Fire Department to shut down one of its fire stations

Rob McMillan, abc 7 Eyewitness News

Posted: April 17, 2019

SUGARLOAF, Calif (KABC) -- The Big Bear Fire Department could soon close its Sugarloaf station, which is one of the four fire stations in the Big Bear Valley. It's an effort to balance its budget, which has been operating in the red for years.

Sugarloaf is made up of around 2,000 people, many of whom are elderly. So the thought of losing their fire station right around the corner is a big worry for people like Patrice Duncan.

"I have a neighbor behind me who is part time, but she's in a wheelchair. In a medical emergency every minute counts," said Duncan.

But Duncan's not just worried about the medical side of things, because when you live in the forest, a simple grass fire can spread quickly to the towering pines, just like it did in this area back in 2007. That fire ripped through 14,000 acres, but Duncan fears something even worse.

"This could become another Paradise, California," Duncan said.

The wind driven Camp Fire devastated Paradise in Northern California in November 2018, burning more than 153,000 acres. There were 85 fatalities.

To be sure, CALFIRE, the Forest Service and **San Bernardino County Fire** can and would still respond if there's a big fire, but it's that quick, first response from local fire stations that can make all the difference.

Engineer paramedic Andrew Crane works out of the Sugarloaf station. He says the area is already understaffed. And he says they're being told that unless they can come up with more money, this station could close within months.

"Right now we have limited staff, we're getting it done, but it's just not enough," said Crane.

The Big Bear Fire Department sent Eyewitness News a statement that read in part: "At issue is the continuous need to spend reserves to fund the five staffed stations and the entire operation. On March 20, 2018 the governing board, through consensus discussion, decided to operate within a balanced budget. To do so requires the closure of a fire station.

"The Sugarloaf station that was selected for closure was based on its geographic location within the service area. This allows the remaining fire stations to best service the entire jurisdiction including the Sugarloaf community.

"The community justifiably wants a 4-minute response time, but not everyone wants to finance to that level. This is a community discussion and a community issue. At this point, we are not sure what level the community is willing to fund. But we are working towards a tax measure in the form of a Community Facilities District to be before the voters by March of 2020."

That would mean raise taxes, on both residents and possibly visitors. Residents could have assessments placed on parcels, visitors could be required to pay additional fees on any number of things, including hotel rooms, ski-lift tickets and boat rentals.

The exact specifics of that plan have yet to be worked out.

<https://abc7.com/fire-station-in-sugarloaf-could-be-closed-to-save-money/5256578/>

Big Bear Fire Department Considering Closing Station 283

Michael P. Neufeld, Rim Of The World News

Posted: April 17, 2019

Big Bear Valley, CA – Big Bear Fire Department is considering closing Station 283. This station primarily serves Sugarloaf, Big Bear City, Erwin Lake, Lake Williams and Baldwin Lake communities and is staffed by a Type 1 fire engine and an ambulance, which can be cross staffed when the need arises. Fire Chief Jeff Willis was given direction by the Board of Directors to create a neutral budget that would not take any money from reserve funds. This means that Station 283 would be browned out (CLOSED). The Big Bear Professional Firefighters Association does not condone the reduction in services at any point in time.

The closure of this station will increase the risk to Big Bear Valley as a whole, and increase ALS and Fire calls on scene arrival time by at least 4 minutes. It will also increase their system load, with the inability to run an engine and cross staff and ambulance. Five of the last structure fires have been in 283's "first in" response area.

In 2018 The Big Bear Fire Department experienced Level Zero (which means there are no available apparatus to respond to emergencies) 112 times. This year they have already experienced Level Zero 60 times! The closure of this station will result in far more Level Zero situations.

Everyday the Big Bear Fire Department has a minimum of 13 fire suppression personnel on duty, the closing of this station would bring the minimum on duty personnel down to 11. This is not only a huge safety factor to the residents but also to the firefighters.

On April 17th at 4:30 p.m., there is a Fire Authority Board Budget Workshop at Station 281, which is located at 41090 Big Bear Blvd, Big Bear Lake. All residents are encouraged to attend the Budget Workshop Meeting and voice your concerns over this matter.

The Big Bear Firefighters Association is proud to serve this great community and they need to be supported in order provide exceptional service to everyone.

<https://rotwnews.com/2019/04/17/big-bear-fire-department-considering-closing-station-283/>