



# NEWS



## News Headlines 10/26-29/2018

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## One person is injured in rollover crash in Fontana on Oct. 28

MIKE MYERS, Fontana Herald News

Posted: October 29, 2018



Officers and firefighters respond to the scene of a rollover crash in northwestern Fontana on Oct. 28. (Contributed photo by Mike Myers)

One person was injured in a rollover crash in northwestern Fontana on Oct. 28.

At about 10:50 p.m., the Fontana Police Department and **San Bernardino County Fire** Department responded to the incident, which took place in the 7400 block of Tucson Lane.

According to a Fontana P.D. officer, authorities were investigating why the driver of a blue Honda Civic sideswiped two parked cars and then rolled over.

Residents in the area said they heard a loud crash sound. When they went outside, they saw a male out of the car and walking around.

The driver was transported to a hospital for minor injuries.

The Fontana P.D. is investigating the accident.

[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/one-person-is-injured-in-rollover-crash-in-fontana-on/article\\_19d8c8d2-db8e-11e8-9029-1f790fb502a8.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/one-person-is-injured-in-rollover-crash-in-fontana-on/article_19d8c8d2-db8e-11e8-9029-1f790fb502a8.html)

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## Vehicle hits fire hydrant, sending water gushing into the air in Fontana

MIKE MYERS, Fontana Herald News

Posted: October 29, 2018



Firefighters responded to an incident in western Fontana in which a vehicle hit a fire hydrant, causing water to shoot up into the air on Oct. 26. (Contributed photo by Mike Myers)

The California Highway Patrol and the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department responded to a report of a truck hitting a fire hydrant in the western area of Fontana on Oct. 26.

At about 3:09 p.m., authorities found a geyser of water shooting about 60 feet into the air and hitting power lines in the 14500 block of Merrill Avenue.

According to a CHP officer, witnesses said the driver of a semi-tractor trailer was traveling westbound on Merrill and hit a fire hydrant on the shoulder of the road. Witnesses said the driver failed to stop and continued westbound on Merrill before turning northbound onto Cherry Avenue.

Firefighters were able to shut off the water in about 30 minutes.

No injuries were reported.

The CHP is handling the hit-and-run investigation.

[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/vehicle-hits-fire-hydrant-sending-water-gushing-into-the-air/article\\_857b19d8-db8d-11e8-9b71-0b536266193b.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/vehicle-hits-fire-hydrant-sending-water-gushing-into-the-air/article_857b19d8-db8d-11e8-9b71-0b536266193b.html)

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## **MORONGO BASIN CERT ACTIVATED TO ASSESS JOSHUA TREE STORM DAMAGE**

**Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM**

Posted: October 29, 2018

“THIS IS ACTUAL ... THE REAL DEAL ... WE ARE ACTIVATED!”

That was the heading to a priority dispatch from Morongo Basin Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT, president Steve Ball last Friday afternoon. Reporter Mike Lipsitz picks up the story from there...

The dispatch went out in response to a call for assistance from the **county Fire** Department’s Office of Emergency Operations. Similar calls went out to area VOAD members. VOAD stands for Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster and includes local community and faith-based organizations. About 40 responders assembled in Joshua Tree Saturday morning to receive their marching orders from county Emergency Services Officer John Ferdon. Their assignment was to canvas the hardest hit areas of Joshua Tree assessing storm damage and addressing immediate and unmet needs of those most severely impacted. Because initially damage was underestimated, Saturday’s effort would likely not have happened, but due to persistence of individual residents and Third District County Supervisor James Ramos’ Field Rep Mark Lundquist a re-evaluation put damage estimates in the millions of dollars category and likely enough to reach the \$2 million threshold for state assistance.

A county Proclamation of Local Emergency signed on Friday, along with a formal damage assessment based on the data collected this weekend, will this week go to the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services to determine eligibility for state aid.

<http://z1077fm.com/morongo-basin-cert-activated-to-assess-joshua-tree-storm-damage/>

## Deputies devour competition to win Kamikaze Nacho challenge

Kurt Schauppner, The Desert Trail

Posted: October 29, 2018



Competitors race to see who can complete a plate of super-hot nachos first at a Sheriff's Explorer fundraiser Wednesday, Oct. 24.  
Kurt Schauppner, The Desert Trail

**TWENTYNINE PALMS** — The Morongo Basin Sheriff's Explorer Post benefited to the tune of \$600 from the Taco Lunch and Kamikaze Nacho Competition hosted Wednesday by the Morongo Basin Sheriff's Station.

The money will pay for equipment for Explorer Post members and defray the costs of their statewide competitions.

About 130 people paid \$10 each for tacos, beans and rice provided Mexican Street Tacos of Twentynine Palms and watched as 16 men and women, representing seven first responder agencies, crammed down as many spicy nachos as they could in the Kamikaze Nacho Competition.

The Kamikaze Nachos, which are served at Mexican Street Tacos, are so hot that customers who clean their plates in 30 minutes or less get their photos on the restaurant wall.

**San Bernardino County Fire**, Combat Center Fire, California Highway Patrol, NCIS, the Provost Marshal's Office, San Bernardino County Probation and the Sheriff's Department were represented in the race to see who could finish a nacho plate first.

In the end, Deputy Jon Arden earned first place and broke the previous record of 6 minutes, 40 seconds by finishing his plate, leaning back to shovel those last few morsels into his mouth, in 4 minutes, 55 seconds.

Sitting next to him, Deputy Shane Crowl earned second place. Probation Officer Luis Salazar took third.

Sgt. Dan Hanke, who organized the fundraiser, said he was hoping to break even at what he hopes will be the first such event, so he was happy to have netted \$600 after expenses.

Deputy Shane Crowl, who coordinates the Explorer Post at the Morongo Basin station, and Explorers Caesar Suarez, Matthew Disher and Robert Moreno greeted the public at the event and talked about the training they go through.

"I love everything," said Suarez, who has been a member of the post since 2014. "It gives me a boost in law enforcement. I want to be in law enforcement."

Before recruits can call themselves post members, they have to get through an academy that mirrors the one Sheriff's Deputies must complete.

"Graduating the academy was probably the hardest thing I ever did," Suarez said. He thinks he probably got four hours of sleep a night the first week.

"It's a good program for anyone," Crowl said. "They get to have first-hand experience with a lot of things."

The idea is to introduce young people to law enforcement and get them interested in careers with the Sheriff's Department.

[http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article\\_bdb2ba6c-d972-11e8-9d6b-0357f4cbcdaba.html](http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_bdb2ba6c-d972-11e8-9d6b-0357f4cbcdaba.html)

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## Teen stabs two people at a Victorville house party

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: October 28, 2018



(Photo by Anthony Franco)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A pre-Halloween house party took a turn when two people were stabbed in the early morning hours.

It happened at about 3:00 am, on Sunday, October 28, 2018, in the 14000 block of Cortez Drive in Victorville.

"Deputies responded to the report of a stabbing, once on scene two victims were located suffering from apparent stab wounds," stated sheriff's spokeswoman Jodi Miller.

Firefighters with **San Bernardino County Fire** along with American Medical Transport paramedics responded to the scene. One patient was transported to a local hospital via ambulance and a second patient was airlifted to a trauma center via helicopter H325.

Residents in the area said there was a big house party with many residents wearing costumes and many cars were parked in the streets. As the party continued late into the night a fight broke out in the street involving multiple people from the party.

One witness told Victor Valley News she heard people saying they had been stabbed and saw two men with blood covering their stomachs as they were transported away.

According to Miller, police arrested a male juvenile suspect and booked him into Juvenile Hall.

Miller said no other information was available for release and the incident is under investigation by the Victorville Station.

Anyone with information is asked to call the station at 760-241-2911.

<https://www.vvng.com/teen-stabs-two-people-at-a-victorville-house-party/>

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## San Bernardino's SBD Fest brings back 2018 SB Strong Battle of the Badges

Michel Nolan, San Bernardino County Fire, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: October 27, 2018, 10:00 am



The Patriot Jets precision aerobatics team will perform at the 2018 SBD Fest Nov. 3-4 at San Bernardino International Airport. (Courtesy photo)

You know it's fall when the leaves change colors and the festivals begin.

It's time for one of those festivals — SBD Fest is coming back for its fourth year and is ready to make some noise.

The air show-car show-concerts-motorcycles-jumpers-sky divers kind of festival will pull out all the stops Nov. 3-4 — on the ground and in the air.

Fun runs from 12:30 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 3, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday with Lucha Libre wrestlers from Empire Wrestling Federation, motorcycle demos by Quaid Harley Davidson and Saturday night fireworks will light up the sky.

In year's past, the SBD Fest hosted a plane pull, in which a team of 20 firefighters and an equal force of police officers each pulled a 127,000-pound Boeing 757 down the runway for two minutes.

This year there may not be a plane, but no SB Strong San Bernardino event could prove its might without a tug of war — this one between the San Bernardino Police Department and San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

It starts at 3:05 p.m. Saturday.

The winners will compete against last year's SB Strong Champions, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** in the 2018 SB Strong Battle of the Badges at 11:40 a.m. Sunday.

This year's edition will be another colossal event, with the Quaid Harley-Davidson "Ride the Runway" as the opening ceremonies get your attention. A formation of Harley Davidson motorcycle riders will arrive from the

Quaid Harley in Loma Linda, led by a Black Hawk Helicopter hovering above the riders carrying American flags.

Hosted by San Bernardino International Airport, SBD Fest gives us an opportunity to see the Air Force A-10C Thunderbolt II, a.k.a. “the Wart Hog” perform, we’ll see an Air Force Special Ops Virtual Reality Experience trailer, and the rare opportunity to view the US Navy Hornet and the US Navy F18 Growler, according to Catherine Pritchett, airport show administrator.

“This event would not be possible without the support of all of our sponsors,” Catherine said.

Festival-goers will be able to walk aisles of cars – hot rods, low riders, vintage military vehicles, motorcycles and more. Displays also include the Batmobile and the Oscar Meyer Weinermobile.

Ten plaques will be awarded for entries in the car show, sanctioned by the Over the Hill Gang, in addition to \$3,000 in cash provided by Stater Bros. Markets.

“There’s good stuff for everyone – no matter the age,” said Steve Portias, car show coordinator.

And up above? Throughout the day, skies overhead will be busy – a T-34 Flyby, Red Bull Helicopter, the John Collver Wardog, The Tumbling Bear, Greg Colyer and Acemaker, a 10C Thunderbolt II and the Patriots Jet Team.

And don’t miss the Just in Time Skydivers and the Saturday evening fireworks display.

Watch out for neck cramps.

Saturday evening’s 5 p.m. concert features opening act country performer Sheyna Gee, and headliners the Gin Blossoms. On Sunday at 1:15 p.m., slow jam to old school favorites with Latin R&B legends Tierra. Admission includes concerts.

Michel Nolan appears in The Sun on Sundays. Reach her at [michelnolan77@gmail.com](mailto:michelnolan77@gmail.com).

## **SBD Fest**

- 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Nov. 3; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 4
- San Bernardino International Airport, Third Street and Victoria Avenue entrance, Highland
- Admission includes air shows and concerts, \$20 general; children 12 and younger are free; active duty military are free with ID, and their family members 13 and up are \$10; military veterans with proper ID and seniors 65 + are \$10. VIP tickets are available online
- Car registration is \$25 and includes entry for two people for two days.
- [www.sbdfest.com](http://www.sbdfest.com)

<https://www.sbsun.com/2018/10/27/san-bernardinos-sbd-fest-brings-back-2018-sb-strong-battle-of-the-badges/>

## Car fire in cajon pass spreads to vegetation Friday night

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: October 26, 2018



Photo by Steven Lozoya

UPDATE @ 10:00 PM – Firefighters have established a wet line around the fire and have stopped the forward rate of spread. The fire was contained to approximately an acre and a half.

CAJON PASS, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Fire crews are on scene a vegetation fire in the Cajon Pass that was started by a car fire.

At about 8:38 pm, a vehicle fire was reported on the northbound I-15 freeway north of Kenwood Avenue in the Cajon Pass.

According to CHP incident logs, the vehicle, a white Hyundai sedan, pulled over on the right-hand shoulder and quickly spread into the nearby vegetation.

Upon arrival, firefighters located the fully engulfed car and approximately a quarter to half an acre of brush on fire moving up the slope.

Steven Lozoya, a tow truck driver for G&M Towing was driving thru the area and noticed the fire starting. “I tried to use a shovel to put out the fire but it was too late, the fire had quickly spread,” Lozoya said.

Fire crews are on scene and working to get a line around the fire.  
No injuries have been reported. Information will be updated as it becomes available.

<https://www.vvng.com/car-fire-in-cajon-pass-spreads-to-vegetation-friday-night/>



## Group vows to sue over fire department's new annual fee

Stacy Moore, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: October 26, 2018

MORONGO BASIN — A nonprofit group says it will sue San Bernardino County over the new \$157 fire department fee to be levied on most properties in the Morongo Basin starting next year.

The annual fee will be charged next year to properties in the fire department's Service Zone FP-5, which was expanded earlier this month by a vote of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors. Everyone in the Morongo Basin is now in the zone except for Morongo Valley, which has its own fire department.

"We're trying to maintain the status quo where FP-5 is not expanded and the tax is not imposed on thousands of people who did not vote for it," said Sean Wade, attorney for the Red Brennan Group.

The group tried to stop the board's vote by asking for a temporary restraining order on Oct. 11, but a judge ruled against them.

"The judge denied our application for a temporary restraining order, but the suit is still active and we are bringing further legal action in the coming weeks," Wade said. "They haven't been served yet but they will be very soon."

The Red Brennan Group is based in Wrightwood, but spokesman Tom Murphy said it is working with the Johnson Valley Improvement Association and Homestead Valley Community Council, which represents Yucca Mesa, Landers, Flamingo Heights and Johnson Valley.

The new charge, defined as a fee by county officials, was passed after affected property owners got mail notices that they could download online protest ballots and mail them in to try to prevent the zone expansion.

Just 3.2 percent of affected landowners sent in protests, according to the company hired to count ballots.

But critics said the fire department was wrong to require property owners to download and print their protests. "They made the assumption that everybody could get the form off the internet and that was really unreasonable," Claudia Sall, of Pioneertown, said during the Oct. 16 public hearing where the fee was approved.

Wade said he will also argue that the fee is actually a special tax, which by state law needs a two-thirds approval of registered voters.

"What we're hoping is that we'll get a judge to look at the full merits of the case and decide essentially the tax was enacted in a manner that was unconstitutional and it shouldn't exist," he said

Tracey Martinez, spokeswoman for the **county fire** department, said they stand by the protest process.

"Our position remains the same, that the fire district board of directors is authorized to expand the fire service zone under fire protection district law of 1987," Martinez said.

"At the direction of the fire board, San Bernardino County Fire Protection District will continue forward with the approved FP-5 special tax levy, which will be applied to the 2019 tax roll," Martinez said.

[http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article\\_1d1a2a68-d972-11e8-84c6-8b081a83a9e6.html](http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_1d1a2a68-d972-11e8-84c6-8b081a83a9e6.html)

## Majority female fire crew is ready to protect people and property

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: October 25, 2018



Corpsmembers from CCC Inland Empire Crew 3 begin the firefighter pack test outside of Norton Air Base in San Bernardino. The pack test is a three-mile walk that must be completed in under 45 minutes while wearing a 45-pound vest.

Sweat pouring down her face, her muscles burning head to toe, this is not Gabby Delores' typical morning walk.

A 45-pound vest weighs on her shoulders, making the three-mile walk feel like a brutal crawl.

But for Delores, stopping or turning back is not an option. The walk must be completed if she is to make the cut to be on the California Conservation Corps' new Inland Empire Fire Crew.

"The whole time I kept thinking, 'You're going to be a firefighter, you're going to be a firefighter,'" Delores said. "My passion is the outdoors, what better way to help the outdoors than being a fire fighter."

Growing up in Colton, weekend hikes developed Delores' love for the outdoors. She first became aware of the CCC while running along the Santa Ana River Trail in San Bernardino, where she saw Corpsmembers gathering for early morning roll call.

"If they could do it, I could do it," Delores said of the Corpsmembers she used to watch. Now, after more than a month in the CCC, Delores isn't just one of those Corpsmembers -- she's a member of a majority female fire crew.

"I'm really excited," Delores said. "I never thought I'd be holding a chainsaw and cutting down a tree. And when I got out there I was like, 'Wow!' It is such an amazing feeling. I just feel like I'm a part of something now, that I have such a big purpose."

In late September, Delores joined more than a dozen other female Corpsmembers for fire training. The work included field exercises where they used a tool -- a combination axe and adze -- called a Pulaski to cut fire lines. The Bureau of Land Management provided the training on how to use fire hoses and on fire safety and weather.

"I didn't know that there were so many elements that go into a fire," said Corpsmember Alondra Romero. "I thought it was just water. But it's clearing all the brush and all the fuel. It's interesting."

In just a few short weeks, the Corpsmembers tackled the educational challenges of becoming firefighters. Most had never held a chainsaw. Now, they can take one apart, clean it, sharpen it, put it back together, and use it.

"I've been very, very impressed with this crew," said Anthony Larios, a CCC crew supervisor who has led fire crews in the past. "It just blows my mind how fast they're picking it up. They're just hungry for it, they really want it. They want to prove themselves."

There is no greater challenge to becoming a wildland firefighter than the pack test -- that grueling three-mile walk in under 45-minutes that Corpsmembers must pass to become firefighters. To top it off, a 45-pound vest must be worn, which is like carrying a four or five-year-old child on your back.

"There was a lot of pressure, but everyone was pretty motivated," said Corpsmember Diana Vaca, a veteran of the CCC trails program. "I definitely feel accomplished and relieved. I feel like I legit lost 45 pounds after doing that."

Eight female Corpsmembers taking the pack test in early October passed, including Vaca, Romero and Delores. Finishing with just 59 seconds to spare, Delores' face was drenched in sweat and tears of joy.

"It was definitely emotional," Delores said. "Happiness and overwhelmed that I am actually maximizing my potential and going after everything the CCC provides."

Delores wants to turn her time in the CCC into a career in forestry. Vaca and Romero both plan to pursue firefighting careers.

"The primary reason for doing this was to get people interested in fire management and develop an applicant pool," said James Gannon, a BLM fuels specialist. "We're looking to get a broader applicant pool; just increasing the diversity of applicants to more closely match the population. There's a large pool of people that would be interested if only they knew about the opportunities."

The new CCC Inland Empire Crew 3 will be a valuable resource to BLM and the National Park Service as it will be the only firefighter hand crew in the Southern California desert region. It's not just beneficial to local communities, but will enhance the lives of crewmembers, like Aleena Gonzalez.

"With everything I've been through personally, it's worth it," Gonzalez says of the physical and mental hurdles. "I made it. I was half way through and I could just see that my life is about to change. I'm so grateful."

And, when Crew 3 isn't working on the fire lines, the Corpsmembers will be removing dead and overgrown vegetation to lessen fire danger on federal lands. It's future work that suits Delores just fine as she begins her career in the outdoors and making California an even better place to live.

"The CCC is a place where your passions can grow," Delores said. "You feel like you have a purpose. There are so many opportunities here, it's a great feeling overall."

[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland\\_empire\\_news/majority-female-fire-crew-is-ready-to-protect-people-and/article\\_c0b2c7c8-d898-11e8-aa1b-73ddb14e1691.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/majority-female-fire-crew-is-ready-to-protect-people-and/article_c0b2c7c8-d898-11e8-aa1b-73ddb14e1691.html)