



# NEWS



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## New policy aims to get Inland patients out of ambulances faster

Anne Millerbernd, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: December 14, 2016, 7:54 PM



Scott Boyle, an emergency medical technician for American Medical Response, wheels out a gurney after dropping off a patient at the emergency room at Riverside University Health System-Medical Center in Moreno Valley on Monday, Nov. 21, 2016. Stan Lim , Staff Photographer

The 911 system was devised as a safe, rapid way to help people in an emergency. But in the Inland Empire, it can — and often does — take more than an hour for a patient to be transferred from an ambulance into a hospital’s care.

Those waits have been considered a significant issue for years in San Bernardino and Riverside counties, which suffer from a doctor shortage and a population that overuses the 911 system, county and hospital officials say. Ambulance crews here spend tens of thousands of hours each year waiting to offload patients into an emergency department.

Starting today, both counties will wipe clean a slate of previous attempted fixes and implement a policy that will allow paramedics to drop off patients more quickly.

The policy is expected to reduce offload delays — cases in which ambulances wait more than 25 or 30 minutes to turn over responsibility for a patient — in both counties. It’s also essentially a job description for both hospital staffs and paramedics.

“You’ve got to get everybody speaking the same language before you put actions in place,” said Riverside County EMS Administrator Bruce Barton, who helped spearhead the effort along with his counterpart at the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency, which serves San Bernardino, Inyo and Mono counties.

The policy is designed only to reduce the time ambulance crews have to spend with patients so they can get back into circulation sooner; it won’t necessarily reduce the amount of time patients wait before a doctor sees them.

Under the new policy, paramedics who note an ambulance shortage during an offload delay will be able to leave certain patients in a waiting room, instead of waiting until hospital staff are available to take the patients.

## PROBLEM WITH DEEP ROOTS

A survey in a 2014 report from the California Hospital Association asked 33 local emergency medical services agencies how significant an issue offload delays were. Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency and Riverside County EMS were among 10 that responded “extremely” or “very” significant.

Patients are considered delayed after they’ve waited for 25 minutes in San Bernardino County, or 30 minutes in Riverside County. The data the two counties collect on offload delays do not include ambulance transports that are completed within those time frames.

Between 2013 and 2015, about 35 percent of ambulance transports were delayed in San Bernardino County, and about 22 percent were delayed in Riverside County, according to data from the counties’ emergency medical services agencies.

Desert Valley Hospital in Victorville had the highest percentage of delays of any hospital in the two-county area during those years. Almost 60 percent of patients taken there by ambulance were considered delayed; on average, those delayed patients waited an hour to be offloaded.

The longest average delays came for patients at Corona Regional Medical Center, the data show. Among the approximately 40 percent of delayed patients, the average wait was 72 minutes.

Riverside University Health System-Medical Center, the county’s public hospital in Moreno Valley, is just below the county average when it comes to offload delays. However, the percentage of delayed ambulances has risen in recent years, reaching about 20 percent in 2015.

The emergency department’s nursing director, Keven Porter, attributes that in part to abuse of the 911 system: “They scrape their toe and they call an ambulance,” he said of some patients.

Kaiser Permanente’s San Bernardino Area Manager Greg Christian, in an emailed statement, called it the “911 for everything” phenomenon. He said it’s on the rise.

Limited access to physicians plagues both counties and plays a major role in the offload delays, said Tom Lynch, administrator of Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency.

There were 182 M.D. licenses per 100,000 people in San Bernardino County in 2012, according to the California Hospital Association report. That number in Riverside County was 128, less than half of the state average of 272.

## NOT A PANACEA

The new ambulance offloading policy solves none of those underlying issues.

Emergency department overcrowding is a complex web of issues, and almost none can be solved with a simple policy change. Ambulance delays are one small string in the web that can be isolated and fixed. So that’s where Lynch and Barton decided to start.

While the new policy outlines the standard for offloading a patient, paramedics and hospital staff will have to decide on a case-by-case basis who paramedics need to stay with — often as the patient waits on a gurney in a hospital hallway — and who can be put in a wheelchair, waiting room or bed so the ambulance can leave.

To be offloaded, a patient has to meet a set of criteria, including that paramedics haven't needed to perform lifesaving measures on the patient, and the patient has to be stable.

“Stable” is commonly used among medical staff to describe a patient's condition, but Christian, of Kaiser Permanente, said Kaiser would have preferred the policy include a more solid way to identify a patient as “stable.” Still, he's optimistic about the change.

Hospitals had a chance to look the policy over and request changes. Christian said a lot of those suggestions were implemented.

Under the old policy, which is being replaced today, ambulances delayed more than 90 minutes at a hospital would contact other ambulances and tell them to avoid that hospital.

Barton said that method worked, but it bothered patients who could not be taken to their hospital of choice.

This effort is different, Barton said, because everyone is willing to work together to solve the problem.

“I think we have all the hospitals' attention, and it didn't always feel like we had that,” he said.

Lynch and Barton both said the new policy is just the beginning of their efforts to mitigate delays.

#### WORKING ‘AT THEIR MAX’

Hospital overcrowding that leads to ambulance delays is not an Inland-specific issue. It's not even a California-specific issue.

American Medical Response, an ambulance provider that serves swaths of both counties, experiences offload delays everywhere, said spokesman Jason Sorrick.

“That said, because of California's size and the volume of patients moving through the emergency system, the cost and impact that these delays place on our operations is significant,” he wrote in a statement.

It's easy to blame hospitals for the wait because they are where the bottleneck happens. But California Hospital Association Vice President of Nursing Services BJ Bartleson said area hospitals have taken big steps to reduce the delays.

Some hospitals have added technology in the emergency department, she added, and some have begun to track ambulance wait times as they sit at the hospital.

The real blame sits on those systemic issues that aren't so easily solved, she said.

“I guarantee in Riverside and San Bernardino counties, the (local EMS agencies) are working at their max,” Bartleson said. “So now we've got to look at the community to help us.”

## New Guidelines

Under a policy going into effect today, a patient can be “offloaded” – transferred from an ambulance to a hospital’s care – when all of these criteria are met:

- The delay benchmark – 25 minutes in San Bernardino County and 30 in Riverside County – has passed.
- The ambulance provider finds there is low ambulance availability.
- The patient has stable vital signs, is alert, isn’t on a psychiatric hold and hasn’t required lifesaving measures.
- A paramedic attempts to notify emergency department staff that they have to leave; a paramedic may use a written report to transfer the patient if emergency department staff aren’t available to take a verbal report.

<http://www.sbsun.com/health/20161214/new-policy-aims-to-get-inland-patients-out-of-ambulances-faster>

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## San Bernardino firefighters battle 2 early morning fires at vacant homes

Doug Saunders, The Sun

Posted: December 15, 2016, 9:25 AM



San Bernardino firefighters battled two vacant house fires in the city Thursday morning. Courtesy Photo

SAN BERNARDINO >> Firefighters battled two structure fires in the early morning hours Thursday.

Both incidents happened in vacant homes shortly before 4 a.m.

The first blaze was reported at a home in the 200 block of East Ennis Street, fire officials said.

Crews reported smoke billowing from the roof of the home.

The fire burned through portions of the subfloor and the attic space, according to a **San Bernardino County Fire Department** news release.

It took firefighters about 20 minutes to knock down the flames.

Arson investigators determined the fire was caused by squatters living in the home.

Six minutes after the first call, another structure fire in a vacant home was reported, this time in the 1300 block of North D Street.

Firefighters found heavy fire and smoke billowing from the attic and rear of the home.

It took firefighters nearly 90 minutes to put out the fire due to the shoddy construction and remodeling of the structure over the years, according to the release.

Arson investigators have yet to determine the cause of the second fire.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20161215/san-bernardino-firefighters-battle-2-early-morning-fires-at-vacant-homes>

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## Three-vehicle crash shuts down portion of Amargosa Road Thursday afternoon

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: December 15, 2016, 4:12 PM



A portion of Amargosa Road was closed following a crash involving multiple vehicles Thursday, authorities said. David Pardo, Daily Press

**VICTORVILLE** - A portion of Amargosa Road was closed following a crash involving multiple vehicles Thursday, authorities said.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department officials are continuing to investigate the crash, which occurred in the 12600 block of Amargosa Road at 2:14 p.m. Details on the crash are still scarce, but a green Kia Soul, a dark green Ford Ranger, and a white Chevrolet pickup were involved, and one person is reportedly in custody.

Victorville Sheriff's Station Deputy Chris Dekeyrel told the Daily Press the white pickup truck struck the Kia Soul as the pickup truck exited the parking lot of the Office Max on Amargosa Road. The impact then caused the pickup truck to collide into the Ford Ranger.

**San Bernardino County Fire Department** Captain Jeremy Kern said medical aid was requested for three patients. One person was airlifted by the Air Rescue 06 helicopter to a local trauma center, while two others were taken by ground ambulance to a local hospital. The severity of the injuries suffered is not yet known.

Dekeyrel said the southbound lanes of Amargosa Road was blocked off for about an hour from King Ranch Road to La Mesa Road for as authorities continued the investigation. Scanner traffic reported that a vehicle failed to yield immediately following the crash, but no other details were provided by authorities on scene.

This story is developing and more information will be updated as it is received.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20161215/three-vehicle-crash-shuts-down-portion-of-amargosa-road-thursday-afternoon>

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## Car goes up in flames on Palmdale Road Thursday

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: December 15, 2016, 4:36 PM



Firefighters quickly extinguished a blaze that engulfed a vehicle on Palmdale Road and Mariposa Road Thursday. No injuries were reported. Photo courtesy of the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

VICTORVILLE - Firefighters quickly extinguished a blaze that engulfed a vehicle on Palmdale Road Thursday afternoon, authorities said.

Reports of a car on fire at the intersection of Palmdale Road and Mariposa Road were first received at 2:47 p.m. Thursday. **San Bernardino County Fire Department** Captain Jeremy Kern said the vehicle, described as a red Scion, was fully engulfed within minutes.

Firefighters arrived and quickly knocked down the blaze. Kern said no injuries were reported.

The fire caused a minor traffic delay on Seventh Street as firefighters responded to the scene, but traffic was moving smoothly by 4 p.m. The cause of the blaze remains under investigation.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20161215/car-goes-up-in-flames-on-palmdale-road-thursday>

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## **Storm Expected to Bring Heavy Rain, Snow and “Damaging Winds”**

**Victor Valley News**

Posted: December 15, 2016

VICTOR VALLEY – Forecasters with the National Weather Service have predicted a Pacific Storm that will move across our region tonight through Friday.

The local snow mountain level will fall to about 8,000 feet on Thursday and lower to 5,500-4,000 feet by Friday night.

The storm will bring “damaging west to southwest winds” that will become very strong late Thursday afternoon and continue into 8pm Friday.

According to the NWS, max wind gusts are predicted to reach 60-75 mph. The winds will be strongest along the desert mountain slopes into adjacent desert areas.

Driving conditions will be extremely difficult for high-profile vehicles and vehicles towing trailers.

NWS has issued the flash flood watch for southwest California. Rainfall of 2-4 inches is expected, isolated areas could receive near 5 inches.

**San Bernardino County Fire** issued the following warning:

Heavy rain could lead to flash flooding and debris flow in or near Blue Cut Fire and Pilot Fire burn areas. Areas affected include the Cajon Pass and areas near Silverwood Lake.

Residents should monitor latest forecasts and be prepared for potential flash flooding. Sandbags are available free of charge at San Bernardino County Fire Stations.

<http://www.vvng.com/storm-expected-to-bring-heavy-rain-snow-and-damaging-winds/>

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## Rain leads to traffic havoc on Inland Empire freeways

Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: December 16, 2016, 6:22 AM

A much-anticipated winter storm has dropped rain and snow on the Inland Empire leading to several crashes early Friday on local freeways.

One of the most troublesome crashes took place on the southbound 15 Freeway near Jurupa Avenue in the Ontario area involving three tractor-trailers, according to the California Highway Patrol incident log. Southbound traffic was backed up to the 10 Freeway, and additional fender benders have been reported.

In Riverside, a law enforcement vehicle was involved in a crash on the northbound 215 Freeway near Martin Luther King Boulevard. No major injuries were reported in that early-morning incident, according to CHP reports.

Throughout the morning, CalTrans officials warned those making a drive into the local mountains including the Mt. Baldy area, to be aware of several rock runs on the winding local roadways.

The rain began to fall Thursday night and is expected to remain in the area until late Friday morning, according to the National Weather Service.

Many local cities, including San Bernardino, Chino Hills and the Glen Helen area, saw more than an inch of rain, according to overnight totals.

There is a high wind warning in effect for the mountain areas of the Inland Empire until 8 p.m. and a flash flood watch until noon.

There were reports that the strong winds and rain may have led to downed power lines in the area of South Pinon Avenue near Fox and Fir lanes in Sugarloaf around 7 a.m. Friday. It's unclear if power was lost in the area.

The rain is a matter of concern for rescuers, especially in locations that traditionally flood as well as burn areas.

The San Bernardino County sheriff's dive team has been on alert since Thursday night, according to a Twitter post. The **county's fire department** is also ready to act in case they are called to assist with any rescue operations.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20161216/rain-leads-to-traffic-havoc-on-inland-empire-freeways>

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## Fire at apartment complex quickly knocked down Friday

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: December 16, 2016, 8:34 PM



San Bernardino County Fire Department firefighters battled a fire at the Mountain Vista Apartments on Nisqualli Road and 11th Avenue late Friday. No injuries were reported due to the blaze. Paola Baker, Daily Press.

VICTORVILLE - A blaze at an apartment complex was quickly extinguished before it could spread into the building late Friday, authorities said.

Reports of a structure fire at the Mountain Vista Apartments in the 15400 block of Nisqualli Road were first received at 7:24 p.m. **San Bernardino County Fire Department** Battalion Chief Bill Mahan said firefighters arrived minutes later and found what appeared to be an active fire at an apartment on the second floor of the complex.

"It was determined the fire was actually on the bushes outside the building," Mahan said. "The flames did not spread inside the building."

Nearby residents said they saw flames on bushes just outside the windows of the apartment. Mahan said several residents attempted to extinguish the blaze before firefighters arrived. Once they did, the flames were extinguished within minutes.

Fire officials stayed on scene after the blaze was knocked down to clear out any smoke and check for fire damage to the building. The exterior window shutters on the building were melted from the flames, Mahan said, but no other damage was detected.

No injuries were reported due to the blaze. The cause remains under investigation by the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20161216/fire-at-apartment-complex-quickly-knocked-down-friday>

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## Man cited for operating illegal trucking business behind Highland residences

John M. Blodgett, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: December 16, 2016, 10:15 PM

HIGHLAND >> A man was issued multiple citations Thursday for operating an illegal trucking company and maintenance facility behind a handful of residences, officials say.

A citizen complaint about the illegal activity sent San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies and City of Highland Code Enforcement staff to the 25000 block of 5th Street in Highland about 11:30 a.m. Thursday, according to a sheriff's news release.

"A large trucking company and maintenance facility was located in the back of several combined residential parcels, along with several non-permitted buildings and trailers behind the residential homes," the news release states.

The discovery of several hundred gallons of diesel fuel and waste oil and an open-pit restroom prompted a response by **San Bernardino County Fire** Hazmat units, the news release states.

The Highland Fire Chief, a Highland building official and the California Highway Patrol also were called to the scene.

Danny Sanchez, 53, was issued citations for operating a business without a license, violating various city codes and for storing the hazardous materials, the news release states.

Officials ask anyone with additional information about this property to call the Highland Code Enforcement Department at 909-864-6861, ext. 201, or the anonymous WeTip hotline at 800-782-7436. Tipsters can also leave information anonymously at [www.wetip.com](http://www.wetip.com).

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20161216/man-cited-for-operating-illegal-trucking-business-behind-highland-residences>

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## Sandbags Available At Area Fire Stations

Edica Gonzalez, z1077 FM

Posted: December 16, 2016

With a 50 percent chance of rain today, flash flooding is a possibility in the Morongo Basin. The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** reminds residents that sandbags and sand are available if you should need them during the rainy season. Sand bags may be picked up at the local fire stations in Twentynine Palms, Joshua Tree, Yucca Valley, Yucca Mesa, and Morongo Valley. Residents may get up to 10 free sandbags per household; more sandbags are available at area hardware stores.

<http://z1077fm.com/sandbags-available-at-area-fire-stations/>

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## Local CHP and Firefighters Collecting Toys For TLC

Edica Gonzalez, z1077 FM

Posted: December 16, 2016

The Morongo Basin Area California Highway Patrol is currently accepting new, unwrapped gifts for needy children and families of our local community. All are invited and encouraged to bring donations to the area office at 63683 29 Palms Highway in Joshua Tree or wherever you see them. **County Firefighters** are busy throughout the Morongo Basin placing collection boxes at area businesses, including the Z107.7 studios in Joshua Tree, as part of the Tender Loving Christmas event. The hope is to fill the boxes with new, unopened toys and help bring Christmas to families in need. The toys will be distributed at the TLC event in Yucca Valley on Christmas Day. Tax deductible donations toward the purchase of other toys are also sought. Arrange your contribution by emailing [DFaller@sbcfire.org](mailto:DFaller@sbcfire.org) or [JHaddock@sbcfire.org](mailto:JHaddock@sbcfire.org).

<http://z1077fm.com/local-chp-and-firefighters-collecting-toys-for-tlc/>

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## Illegal Marijuana Grow Located During House Fire in Victorville

Victor Valley News

Posted: December 17, 2016



(submitted photo)

VICTORVILLE, Calif.(VVNG.com) – A house fire led to the discovery of an illegal indoor marijuana grow at a Victorville home Saturday afternoon.

On December 17th at about 2:50 p.m., **San Bernardino County Firefighters** responded to a residential structure fire on the 13700 block of Dove Court in Victorville.

When firefighters arrived at the scene, they located light smoke showing from a 3,480 sqft. two-story home.

The fire is suspected to have started in an electrical panel, and extended into the structure, according to a tweet from SB County Fire.

The majority of the fire was knocked down by 3:05 p.m. Firefighters conducted a primary & secondary search of the residence and everything checked out clear.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Bombs & Arson was requested to respond to the scene, along with Southwest Gas and Southern California Edison.

Per scanner reports, a drug lab was located inside the residence. Neighbors told Victor Valley News, deputies were seen hauling as many as 40 black large garbage bags containing marijuana. Grow lights and other materials used in the indoor cultivation of marijuana were also confiscated.

No injuries to civilians or firefighters were reported as a result of the fire.

Information will be updated as it becomes available.

<http://www.vvng.com/illegal-marijuana-grow-located-during-house-fire-in-victorville/>

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## **San Bernardino fire causes \$75,000 in damage**

**Ryan Hagen, The Sun**

Posted: December 18, 2016, 12:30 PM



A fire Sunday caused about \$75,000 in damage to a home in the 800 block of West Belleview in San Bernardino, according to firefighters. Photo courtesy San Bernardino County Fire Department

**SAN BERNARDINO >>** A fire in the 800 block of West Belleview caused about \$75,000 in damage Sunday, firefighters say.

San Bernardino County firefighters responded within six minutes of the 7:43 a.m. call and found fire and heavy smoke in a single-family home, according to a news release.

The fire was knocked down in about 10 minutes, after cutting holes in the roof to provide relief from the heat and smoke inside, allowing firefighters to search the home, according to the release.

No injuries of civilians or firefighters were reported.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20161218/san-bernardino-fire-causes-75000-in-damage>

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## Vehicle Erupts Into Flames After Crash on Pamdale Road

Victor Valley News

Posted: December 18, 2016



(Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

ADELANTO, Calif.(VVNG.com)– A 21-year-old Apple Valley man is thankful to be alive following a crash that caused his vehicle to erupt into flames Saturday evening.

At about 4:10 p.m. dispatch received reports of a traffic collision with fire on Palmdale Road between Bellflower Street and Pearmain Street in Adelanto.

When authorities arrived, they located a 1997 Mercedes-Benz engulfed with flames and a 1998 Jeep Grand Cherokee. Both vehicles were along the dirt shoulder along the eastbound side of Palmdale Road.

The driver of the Mercedes, Ayrick Mcallister, told Victor Valley News he was traveling eastbound on Palmdale Road when a black truck tried to pull in front of him.

As he veered in attempted to avoid hitting the truck, his vehicle spun out. The Jeep was traveling westbound when it collided with his car.

Moments after exiting his Mercedes-Benz, the car erupted into flames. **San Bernardino County Fire** arrived and extinguished the vehicle fire.

The driver and passenger of the Jeep were transported to a local hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

The official cause of the collision remains under investigation.

<http://www.vvng.com/vehicle-erupts-into-flames-after-crash-on-pamdale-road/>

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## Free Disposal Options For Safe Disposal Of Your Christmas Tree

24/7 Headline News

Posted: December 19, 2016



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, with beautifully decorated homes, Christmas lights, shoppers filling the stores, and the traditional Christmas trees. The **San Bernardino County fire department** wants to keep you and your home safe and would like to remind you of a few tips for before and after Christmas. The first thing is keeping your tree properly watered to keep it from drying out if caught on fire a tree can burn with the flames spreading to a structure; your home.

Once your Christmas festivities are complete you should promptly and properly dispose of your naturally cut trees. Fire officials warn that dried-out trees are a fire danger and they should not be left in your home, garage, or even placed outdoors against your home. Plastic tree bags can be found at your local hardware stores and can help prevent a mess and make for easier disposal of your tree.

The fire department officials also urge residents to not burn Christmas trees in your home fireplace, these burns can be explosive; putting your family and property at risk. "The pitch in the wood creates huge, fast-moving sparks that can jump right out of the fireplace and into your room, or up the chimney and onto the shingles of your roof potentially causing a fire," fire officials said in a news release.

There are many safe and responsible tree disposing options available to residents:

- **Curbside pick-up:** Many waste management providers will collect trees during regular pickup schedules the two weeks following Christmas. Check with your local provider for requirements and details.
- **Drop-off recycling center:** Some jurisdictions will have free drop-off locations and/or recycling containers. Check with your local government office for more information.
- **Yard waste:** Cut your tree to fit loosely into your yard waste container.
- **Mulch:** A Christmas tree and its branches can be removed, chipped, and used as mulch.

Residents in the following areas have these methods of disposal available to them for Christmas tree removal and recycling:

### **Valley, High Desert, and Mountain residents serviced by Burrtec Waste**

- o Burrtec will collect and recycle Christmas trees from single-family residences. Place trees curbside during the period after Christmas (Dec. 26 through Jan. 6, 2017) on normal collection day. Trees six feet and over need to be cut in half. Take all ornaments, lights, and metal stands off of the tree.

### **Chino area residents serviced by Waste Management**

- o Curbside collection starting Dec. 28 through Jan. 4, 2017.

### **Phelan & Wrightwood residents serviced by CR&R Disposal**

- o Trees collected for recycling made via requests on Dec. 29, Jan. 5, Jan. 12, and Jan. 19.
- o Recycling container at CR&R yard in Phelan for drop-off of Christmas Trees from Dec. 27 through Jan. 23 (Phelan residents only).
- o Recycling container at Wrightwood True Value Hardware Store for drop-off from Dec. 27 through Jan. 23 (Wrightwood residents only).
- o Trees collected for disposal on regular service days starting Dec. 26.

### **Hesperia & Oak Hills residents serviced by Advance Disposal**

- o Spring Valley Lake residents will have a roll-off for tree disposal.
- o All other residents will have curbside collection starting Jan. 2 through Jan. 27. Collection will take place on normal service days.
- o Advance Disposal residential customers can also take trees to their facility at 17105 Mesa St. in Hesperia for free.

### **Twentynine Palms residents serviced by Burrtec Waste**

- o Burrtec will collect and recycle Christmas trees from single-family residences. Place trees curbside during the period after Christmas (Dec. 26 through Jan. 9) on normal collection day.

Trees four feet and over need to be cut in half. Take all ornaments, lights, bags, nails, and metal stands off of the tree. Trees with tinsel, ornaments, or tree stands will not be recycled.

- o Residents living in apartments and condominiums can drop off trees to be recycled at the Twentynine Palms City Hall (west end of parking lot) located at 6136 Adobe Rd., Twentynine Palms.

### **Mountain area residents serviced by Big Bear Disposal**

- o Christmas trees will be picked up curbside for residents serviced by Big Bear Disposal. There are no special collection dates. They will be picked up on Thursdays, the regular scheduled service day. Residents do not have to call ahead of time. Trees must be at the curb and cannot have stands, flocking, or tinsel. They also must be cut in half or to lengths no longer than four feet. Residents are also allowed to bring the trees to

their Clean Bear Site No. 1 at 41970 Garstin Dr. A special roll off just for trees will be placed next to the Buy Back Center from Dec. 23 through Jan. 15. Same rules apply, no stands flocking or tinsel, and they must be cut in half or to four foot lengths.

Residents not included above should check with their waste management provider or local jurisdiction.

<https://247headline.com/free-disposal-options-for-safe-disposal-of-your-christmas-tree/>

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## **Two Families Homeless After Fires In Pioneertown, Yucca Mesa Saturday Night**

z1077news

Posted: December 19, 2016

Two families are homeless following fires in Pioneertown and Yucca Mesa Saturday night. About 9 p.m. a home caught fire in the 300 block of Gilrock Lane, near Gamma Gulch Road and Parson Ranch Road in Pioneertown, believed to have been sparked by embers from a chimney. Water tenders from nearby fire departments were called in to help. Neighbors said frozen water lines delayed firefighting efforts. The owner's goats, chickens, ducks and geese, as well as dogs and cats are also without shelter. A Go Fund Me account has been set up to help the resident; <https://www.gofundme.com/judysfirerescue>.

Before fire fighters had finished putting out the fire in Pioneertown, some were called away to a second fire about 10:30 p.m. near Long View Road and Breezy Lane in the Yucca Mesa neighborhood of Yucca Valley. Arriving firefighters found flames in the attic of a modular home. **County Fire** Engineer David Faller said the strong winds made fighting the fire difficult. The home is a total loss.

<http://z1077fm.com/local-news/todays-full-newscast/>