



NEWS



News Headlines 12/07/2017

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Firefighters quickly extinguish fire at Casey Elementary school in Rialto

Beatriz E. Valenzuela San Bernardino Sun

Posted: December 7, 2017 at 7:20 a.m.

Rialto and **San Bernardino County firefighters** quickly extinguished a fire that erupted in a Rialto elementary school's portable classroom Thursday morning.

The fire was reported by Rialto school district staff just before 7 a.m., according to the Rialto Fire Department and the California Highway Patrol. By 7:10 a.m., the fire at Casey Elementary, 219 N Eucalyptus Ave., was out.

<http://www.sbsun.com/2017/12/07/firefighters-quickly-extinguish-fire-at-casey-elementary-school-in-rialto/>

Southern California wildfires burn with little containment as conditions worsen

Mark Osborne, Morgan Winsor, abc News

Posted: December 7, 2017, 11:33 a.m.

Firefighters across Southern California are battling four major wildfires, and brutal Santa Ana winds are expected to continue fanning the flames into Thursday.

The weather is not cooperating with the hundreds of officials trying to contain the flames in the region. Red flag warnings have been extended across much of Southern California through Saturday, while high winds warnings are in effect for mountains and valleys in Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

Sustained winds were gusting to 66 mph at Boney Mountain in Ventura County, according to the National Weather Service. Winds could gust to 80 mph in the early hours of Thursday, causing embers to spread even more. Much of Southern California is also experiencing humidity levels in the teens or even single digits.

More than 5,000 firefighters are dealing with the four large wildfires, as well as a smaller one in San Bernardino, which is entirely contained, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The Thomas fire, which was the first to ignite, has already burned about 96,000 acres of land and is expected to intensify due to the increasing winds. The Skirball fire is the smallest of the wildfires currently, but its threat to heavily populated areas of Los Angeles has drawn widespread attention. The Creek fire and Rye fire also continued to burn Thursday with little containment.

All Los Angeles Unified School District schools in the San Fernando Valley, as well as 17 schools on Los Angeles' west side, were shuttered through Friday. At least 265 schools have been closed. The University of California, Los Angeles, also canceled classes Thursday due to the Skirball fire.

Thomas fire

The Thomas fire in Ventura County, the largest of the four blazes, started Monday night as a 50-acre brush fire in foothills east of Santa Paula and rapidly grew to 10,000 acres in just four hours, authorities said.

It had swelled to over 108,000 acres by midnight local time on Thursday, according to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, which is comprised of nine government agencies, among them the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, National Park Service and United States Fire Administration.

The fire was just 5 percent contained as of Thursday morning.

More than 88,000 residents have been evacuated and 15,000 homes are threatened by the flames, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Authorities on Thursday morning upgraded voluntary evacuation orders to mandatory for parts of Carpinteria in Santa Barbara County. Officials expected the fire to cross the county line into Santa Barbara overnight as winds continued to strengthen.

Officials were concerned about part of the Thomas fire heading northeast and threatening a nursing home in Ojai. The 25 residents and staff were evacuated as a precaution, authorities said.

Creek fire

The Creek fire, in the Kagel Canyon area above Los Angeles' Sylmar neighborhood, has scorched 12,605 acres of land and destroyed more than 30 buildings. Over 99,000 residents have been evacuated, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The blaze was 10 percent contained as of Thursday morning and 1,100 personnel are currently fighting the blaze.

While no people have died in any of the fires, the Creek fire was responsible for the death of almost 40 horses at Rancho Padilla, according to ABC station KABC in Los Angeles. The horses were trapped in a barn that burned to the ground as the owners were evacuated with no warning.

Skirball fire

The Skirball fire has only burned 475 acres of land so far, but its proximity to Los Angeles and responsibility for briefly shutting down the infamously crowded 405 Freeway has garnered nationwide attention.

The fire is threatening the Getty Center, a museum in western Los Angeles. Officials were focused on keeping the flames from jumping the freeway and heading east. The blaze was 5 percent contained as of Thursday morning, and firefighters had managed to keep it from breaching containment lines.

Authorities said six structures had been lost in the blaze .

Los Angeles County declared a state of emergency Wednesday afternoon due to the Skirball fire in the city's Bel-Air neighborhood.

Rye fire

The Rye fire has scorched 7,000 acres in Santa Clarita, west of Valencia. The blaze was 15 percent contained as of Thursday morning, the highest of any of the four fires, though 5,420 homes were still being threatened by flames, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

About 2,000 residents have been evacuated, though mandatory evacuation orders in the area have been lifted. Some 775 firefighters were on the scene battling the Rye fire Wednesday afternoon.

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/southern-california-wildfires-burn-containment-conditions-worsen/story?id=51638141>

Phelan Neighborhood Watch Meeting planned Dec. 13

VVNG Staff, Victor Valley News

Posted: December 6, 2017

Phelan community residents who want to learn more about the benefits of the Neighborhood Watch Program are urged to attend a special meeting organized by First District Supervisor Robert Lovingood's office in collaboration with the High Desert Association of Realtors, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and **San Bernardino County Fire** on Dec. 13 at 6 p.m.

Neighborhood watch is one of the oldest and most effective crime prevention programs in the county. The program aims to bring citizens together in order to make communities, like Phelan, safer. The program strengthens communities, heightens awareness of your surroundings and allows neighbors to collaborate with law enforcement representatives.

Representatives from the Citizens on Patrol (C.O.P.S.), San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, First District Supervisor's Office and San Bernardino County Fire are scheduled to attend.

The Neighborhood Watch presentation will begin at 6pm on Wednesday, Dec. 13 at the Phelan Community Center, 4128 Warbler Road, Unit B Phelan, CA 92371.

<http://www.vvng.com/phelan-neighborhood-watch-meeting-planned-dec-13/>

Hesperia Woman Killed in Crash Caused by Driver's Failure to Stop

Staff Writer, 247 Headline

Posted: December 7, 2017, 8:46 a.m.

HESPERIA – A 53-year-old Hesperia woman lost her life in a traffic collision on Tuesday night after a 23-year-old driver ran a stop sign slamming into her vehicle.

At around 10:37 p.m. deputies from the Hesperia Stations and personnel from the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department were dispatched to the area of Balsam Avenue and Live Oak Street in the City of Hesperia. When they arrived they located two vehicles, that had been involved in a collision.

Through investigation, deputies believe that the 2003 Ford Escape driven by Scott Enriquez, 23, of Hesperia, was traveling eastbound on Live Oak Street approaching Balsam Avenue. A 2005 Toyota Matrix, driven by Debbie Harr, was traveling northbound on Balsam Avenue approaching Live Oak Street.

“Investigators believe Enriquez failed to stop at the intersection's posted stop sign and broadsided the driver's side of Harr's Toyota Matrix,” Sheriff's officials said in a written statement. “After the collision, the Toyota collided with a telephone pole, electrical box, and chain link fence. The Ford rolled over multiple times and collided with a chain link fence.”

Harr died at the scene as a result of her injuries. Enriquez was transported to the hospital with minor injuries. It is unknown if alcohol was a factor in this collision.

The Hesperia Station Major Accident Investigation Team (MAIT) is conducting the investigation and Balsam Avenue and Live Oak Street remained closed in both directions until approximately 5:28 a.m. while investigators collected evidence.

<https://247headline.com/hesperia-woman-killed-in-crash-caused-by-drivers-failure-to-stop/>

Man is hospitalized after being injured during a fight at a gasoline station in Fontana

MIKE MYERS, Fontana Herald news

Posted: Thursday, December 7, 2017 8:56 am

Injured man



Fire Department personnel take an injured man to the hospital after a fight at a gasoline station in Fontana on Dec. 4. (Contributed photo by Mike Myers)

A man was hospitalized after being injured during a fight in the parking lot of a gasoline station in Fontana on Dec. 4.

Fontana Police Department officers and the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department responded to the Chevron station in the 14400 block of Foothill Boulevard at about 10:43 p.m., after a passing motorist saw two men fist fighting and called 911. The Fontana P.D. arrived at the location within a few minutes and saw the men on the ground fighting, according to an officer.

One man was handcuffed and arrested, and one man required medical treatment and was transported to a hospital with unknown injuries.

The Fontana P.D. is investigating the cause of the incident.

http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/man-is-hospitalized-after-being-injured-during-a-fight-at/article_9ec51fde-db6f-11e7-95a2-6345f0e113b1.html