



# NEWS



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## MAIL IN YOUR FP-5 PROTEST VOTE BY FRIDAY

Staff Writer, Z107.7 News

Posted: October 9, 2018

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department has a shortfall of \$29 million. To increase its revenues so it can maintain its services throughout the county, the county Board of Supervisors has authorized the expansion of fire protection zone 5 to include most of the county, including Yucca Valley and most of the county's unincorporated areas. (Twentynine Palms is already in the FP-5 zone.) Along with the expansion comes a fire protection fee of \$157.26 on each parcel within the fire protection zone. Managing editor Tami Roleff says the last day to mail in your vote to protest the expansion is Friday...

The last day to mail in your ballot to protest the expansion of FP-5 is Friday, October 12. Ballots must be received at the County by close of business on Monday, October 15, although ballots can be turned in during the Board of Supervisors' meeting on Tuesday, October 16. If at least 25 percent of property owners who own at least 25 percent of the total impacted land value submit protest letters to the County, then an election will be triggered. If at least 50 percent of property owners who own at least 50 percent of the total impacted land value submit protest letters to the County, the expansion will be terminated. An outside organization has been hired to count and tabulate the ballots during the Board of Supervisors' meeting on Tuesday morning.

Residents may watch the meeting via a live video link at the Joshua Tree Government Center on Whitefeather Road in Joshua Tree.

<http://z1077fm.com/mail-in-your-fp-5-protest-vote-by-friday/>

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## Let's Move on the Trail event will be held in Fontana on Oct. 13

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: October 7, 2018



People and their pets enjoyed the Let's Move on the Trail event in Fontana in 2017. This year's event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 13. (Herald News photo by Alejandro Cano)

Local residents are invited to walk, bike or run on over to Healthy Fontana's annual Let's Move on the Trail event taking place on Saturday, Oct. 13.

The free event will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. along the Pacific Electric Trail (PET) between Cypress Avenue and Sierra Avenue.

The City of Fontana, the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department and numerous members of the Fontana community will be coming together to provide several health, safety and fitness activities and resources, including:

- Family Walk/Run, beginning on North Cedar Avenue at 9 a.m.

- The Bike Experience -- A group bike ride beginning on North Heritage Circle at 9 a.m.
- Fontana Police Department open house and live demonstrations
- Fire Station No. 71 open house and demonstrations
- Art and fitness expos featuring numerous vendors
- Taste of Fontana -- A food festival at Seville and Juniper avenues

A variety of vendors will line the PET, including Fontana Police Department Animal Services, Friends of the Lewis Library, San Bernardino County's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program, MADD and many more. Central City Community Health Center will also have a mobile clinic onsite offering free glucose and iron screenings.

City officials said that Let's Move on the Trail is not just a health fair that focuses on eating healthy and being active, but also serves to remind participants that "health" includes mental wellness and safety, such as emergency preparedness for families.

Leashed pets are also invited to join the party.

"This is a great event for the whole family that will provide a wealth of information and resources not just for humans, but also your furry family members as well," said Healthy Fontana's Community Services Coordinator Jasmine Sarsadias.

All ages and fitness levels are welcome.

For more information and to register for the walk/run/bike ride, contact Healthy Fontana at (909) 350-6542 or visit the Healthy Fontana web page at <https://www.fontana.org/1328/Healthy-Fontana>.

[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/let-s-move-on-the-trail-event-will-be-held/article\\_a4932e50-ca71-11e8-b227-e36467caa96f.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/let-s-move-on-the-trail-event-will-be-held/article_a4932e50-ca71-11e8-b227-e36467caa96f.html)

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## **1 airlifted, 2 others injured after hit and run crash on SR-138**

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: October 7, 2018

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Three people were seriously injured following a rollover crash on Highway 138 Sunday.

It happened at 12:08am, on October 7, 2018, along SR-138, just west of Summit Valley Road.

According to the California Highway Patrol incident logs, a red Acura occupied by three young adults overturned and landed in a ditch approximately 20 feet off the roadway.

The second vehicle involved fled the scene of the crash, per the logs.

Firefighters with **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to the scene and treated three patients described as having critical injuries.

Helicopter H325 was requested to land at the scene and airlift a 16-year-old with life threatening injuries. The patient was airlifted to Loma Linda University Medical Center.

The other two patients were transported by ground ambulances to LLUMC.

CHP Officers temporarily shutdown SR-138 at the I-15 freeway heading east towards Summit Valley Road while the helicopter landed at the scene.

Additional information will be updated as it becomes available.

<https://www.vvng.com/1-airlifted-2-others-injured-after-hit-and-run-crash-on-sr-138/>

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## **Town hall meeting reveals challenges for Big Bear emergency services**

**Kathy Portie, Big Bear Grizzly**

Posted: October 7, 2018



Phil Hamilton talks about the challenges facing the Big Bear Fire Department during a town hall meeting at Baldwin Lane Elementary School Oct. 5 in Sugarloaf.

Big Bear Fire Chief Jeff Willis was frank and up front with the crowd attending the first fire department town hall meeting Oct. 5 at Baldwin Lane Elementary in Sugarloaf. Increased call volume over the past few years has put a strain on the Big Bear Fire Department, he told the crowd of more than 60 people.

The crowd filled the multipurpose room at the elementary school to watch the presentation and listen to the proposed set of solutions. According to Willis, there was a 15.4 percent increase in emergency medical and fire incidents in Big Bear Valley between 2014 and 2016. And in 2017, the department responded to more than 4,500 emergency calls. Fifty-seven percent of those 911 calls were medical emergencies, Willis said.

Willis explained that the fire department does not have the personnel needed to maintain and sustain the level of calls expected in the coming years. There hasn't been an increase in staffing for years. The bottom line, he said, is the Big Bear Fire Department does not have the budget to meet the increasing demands.

Willis outlined four options regarding funding for the Big Bear Fire Department, telling the crowd that it is up to the people to decide which option is best for the community.

"The first option is to do nothing," Willis said. The do-nothing option means that cuts will have to be made, he said. Without an increase in funding Valley residents should expect an increasing number of emergency response failures and delays, he said.

To maintain services at the existing level would require the passage of a local revenue measure equalling an annual parcel tax of \$90. Option two would not address the growing demand for services and could still result in level zero draw-downs, or failure to respond to a 911 call if all resources are assigned and out on calls, he said. There have been 82 level zero draw-downs so far this year, Willis said.

Option three is to strengthen services. This option would allow the fire department to hire more staff and secure new or improved emergency medical equipment and fire protection equipment. An annual parcel tax estimated at \$150 is required to strengthen services to meet the Valley's growing need, Willis said.

Option four is an expansion of option three to include an additional fire engine or rescue squad in service each day. Willis said this option would minimize level zero draw-downs. The cost of this option would be a parcel tax of approximately \$240 a year, Willis said.

It will be a challenge to receive community approval for any parcel tax, Willis said. A parcel tax requires a 66.7 percent approval by property owners who vote on the measure.

Audience members asked a variety of questions. Many wondered what it would mean if the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department took over the Big Bear department.

If the Big Bear Fire Department could not provide adequate services under the do nothing plan, Willis said one option would be to be absorbed by the county fire department. That takes control away from the Valley, Willis said, adding that the county fire department is planning a \$156 annual parcel tax increase within its territory. "That's \$6 more a year than our option three," Willis said.

Many voiced concern over the fate of the Sugarloaf Fire Station. Willis said that would be the first station to be adversely affected if no parcel tax was levied.

More than one person said that visitors and Big Bear Mountain Resort should share the financial burden because of increased tourism. Willis agreed, saying if the community selected and voted on option three then it would show Big Bear is willing to do its part. Willis said with option three he believes he can then make the argument that the financial burden should be shared by visitors and the resort as well.

Willis encouraged people in attendance to submit comments to the fire department and talk to neighbors about the issue and attend the town hall meetings.

The Big Bear Fire Department hosts two more town hall meetings to discuss finances and options with the public, and receive input. The next town hall meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 16, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency board room, 122 Palomino Drive, Big Bear City. The third town hall meeting is Nov. 8 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Community Church Big Bear, 40946 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake.

For more information, visit [www.bigbearfire.com](http://www.bigbearfire.com). Share your input or comments with Chief Willis at 909-866-7566 or [chiefjeffwillis@bigbearfire.org](mailto:chiefjeffwillis@bigbearfire.org).

[http://www.bigbeargrizzly.net/news/town-hall-meeting-reveals-challenges-for-big-bear-emergency-services/article\\_43e44b62-cac5-11e8-be1f-1b92fbf20ebe.html](http://www.bigbeargrizzly.net/news/town-hall-meeting-reveals-challenges-for-big-bear-emergency-services/article_43e44b62-cac5-11e8-be1f-1b92fbf20ebe.html)

## Victorville's family block party

Joselyn Villalobos, Daily Press

Posted: October 6, 2018



San Bernardino County's Fire Department mascot, Sparky, was on hand to greet the young and the young at heart, while also handing out replica fire hats to children Saturday at Victorville's Fall Festival. [Daniel Diaz, for the Daily Press]

VICTORVILLE — The city's 17th annual Fall Festival pulled in thousands of attendees, completing its two-day run on Saturday.

Blocking off a portion of Civic Drive, the Fall Festival offered a street-fair with more than a 100 vendors, a free kid's zone, live entertainment and more.

Along with first responders, the **San Bernardino County Fire** Office of Emergency Services were on hand with their seismic simulator, quickly grabbing the attention of festival-goers.

Performing on the main stage was latin rock band Tabu, classic soul and Motown group Stone Soul and modern caribbean band Upstream.

The kid's zone provided a number of free activities, including carnival rides, bounce houses, a petting zoo, pony rides and games.

Such as Native American performer Eric Runningpath, who made his 16th appearance at the Fall Festival, the kid's zone also saw a variety of live performers.

Monique Williams-Randolph, owner of Unity Dance Studio, brought her students to perform at the festival hoping it would help them build confidence while having some fun.

"The (Fall Festival) also opens up a different avenue for people to come out and see what's in the community," Williams-Randolph said.

Victorville Mayor Gloria Garcia visited the festival and made a stop at the kid's zone to read to children.

"They enjoyed it and I enjoyed reading to them," Garcia said. "I have been with the festival since day one, I have seen the growth and unity it has created for our community. I thank everyone that has been a part of it."

In attendance with their three children, 7-month-old Raegen, 6-year-old Kyren, and 15-year-old Leilani, Victorville residents John and Natasha Holman said their first Fall Festival was "awesome."

"I like the atmosphere, and there is a lot of kid-friendly stuff," John Holman added.



“I’m enjoying (the Fall Festival), it’s a lot better than last year and my kids (8-year-old Chloe and 10-year-olds Alexis and Bianca) are having a good time,” Victorville’s Franco Salvador, age 47, said. “I am also learning a lot of information about the community.”

Waiting with her 2-year-old son Isaac while her 8-year-old daughter Adriana got her face painted, Victorville resident, Stephanie Ramos, 24, said she “loved” the festival and “it is so much fun.”

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20181006/victorvilles-family-block-party>

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## **San Bernardino County Helmet Cam-Firefighters at work on a fire in Hesperia**

Staff Writer, Firefighter Nation

Posted: October 6, 2018



First-person view of a structure fire in Hesperia. (San Bernardino Co FFs)

**San Bernardino Co FFs - Incident Video Release:**On September 10th, 2018 at 10:07PM SBCoFD responded to a residential structure fire in the 17000 block of Birch St in the City of Hesperia.

Medic Engine 314 arrived on scene in approximately 3 minutes, they reported heavy smoke and fire coming from an attached garage with extension into the attic of the home. Crews made entry from the rear of the structure and initiated an offensive interior attack. Truck crews supported this operation with vertical ventilation on the roof above. The fire was ultimately declared out approximately 25 minutes later.

San Bernardino County Fire responded with 3 paramedic engines, 2 truck company, 1 ambulance, 1 battalion chief and 1 investigator for a total of 19 personnel. There were no injuries to civilians or fire personnel. The cause is currently under investigation.

<https://www.firefighternation.com/articles/2018/10/san-bernardino-county-helmet-cam.html>

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## **Accidents claim lives of 2 people in Victorville**

Staff Writer, Daily Press

Posted: October 6, 2018, 4:17 pm

Two people died Friday in separate traffic collisions in Victorville.

The first occurred just before 5 p.m. at the intersection of Mariposa and Nisqualli roads. Through investigation, San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department deputies learned that a black Chevrolet was being driven south on Mariposa Road when for an unknown reason, it went off the road and came to rest in the wash north of the intersection.

Medical personnel pronounced the driver dead at the scene. Authorities have not identified the driver, pending notification of family members. One lane of Mariposa Road north of Nisqualli was closed for several hours as deputies investigated.

Meanwhile, Major Accident Investigation Team members are investigating a second fatal collision that occurred near the intersection of Amethyst and Luna Roads.

The collision occurred at 10:21 p.m. Friday. Through investigation, deputies determined that a Honda motorcycle was being pushed by the rider in the number one northbound lane of Amethyst Road when a silver Toyota sedan also traveling in the number one northbound lane struck the motorcycle and the rider.

The motorcycle rider was declared dead at the scene by **San Bernardino County Fire** Department personnel.

The driver of the Toyota was not injured. The motorcycle rider's identify has not been revealed, pending notification of family.

Amethyst Road and Luna Road were closed during the investigation and were reopened at about 5:07 a.m. Saturday.

Anyone with information about the collision at Mariposa and Nisqualli is asked to call Deputy C. Dekeyrel at 760-241-2911. Anyone with information about the collision at Amethyst and Luna is asked to call Deputy Dekeyrel or Deputy A. Ramos at 760-241-2911.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20181006/accidents-claim-lives-of--2-people-in-victorville>

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## **Driver killed in Friday crash on Mariposa Road in Victorville**

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: October 5, 2018



(Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — One person was killed following a single vehicle traffic accident Friday afternoon.

It happened at about 5:54 pm, on Mariposa Road, just north of Nisqualli Road in Victorville.

Firefighters with **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to the scene and located the vehicle down in a wash approximately 20 feet off the roadway.

An occupant inside the vehicle was pronounced deceased at the scene by emergency personnel.



Based on preliminary reports, the vehicle, a black Corvette, was heading southbound on Mariposa Road when for reasons still unknown the driver lost control and crossed over northbound lanes. The vehicle left the roadway and crashed into a flood control channel.

The official cause of the crash remains under investigation by the Victorville Police Department.

<https://www.vvng.com/driver-killed-in-friday-crash-on-mariposa-road-in-victorville/>

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## **Peak fire season arrives with scars**

**Brian K. Sullivan and Mark Chediak, Daily Press**

Posted: October 9, 2018

California is poised to set an annual record it never wanted to break: the amount of earth scorched by wildfires.

Blazes have already ripped through enough acres to blacken the entire state of Delaware, and what's typically California's worst month for fires is just beginning. At least 11 people have died this year from wildfires that shut down Yosemite National Park, drove thousands from their homes and destroyed more than 2,000 buildings. And forecasters say prospects for rain are slim.

"We are going into a difficult period of the year," said Scott McLean, a deputy chief at the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, or Cal Fire. And unlike in past years, when blazes were more intermittent, "the fires just haven't stopped" in 2018, he said.

Eleven of California's 20 deadliest fires occurred in previous Octobers, along with 11 of its most destructive, according to Cal Fire. They include last year's Tubbs fire, the most destructive on record.

Parched grasses and brush are providing ample fuel for more fires to start. About 88 percent of California was abnormally dry as of Oct. 2, and almost half of it was in some stage of drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor in Lincoln, Nebraska. A year ago, only 8.2 percent of the state was in drought.

"The landscape is definitely dry and we're definitely having fire issues continue," said Mike Anderson, California's state climatologist. "For the second year in a row we're setting records for the size of fires, that is definitely not a good trend."

More than 600,000 acres went up in flames on land under the jurisdiction of state and local fire agencies in the first nine months of the year, according to Cal Fire statistics. That's 2.5 times more than during the first nine months of 2017 and 22 percent higher than the full-year total. About 1.36 million acres have burned on both state and federal lands through September, compared with 1.25 million in all of 2017.

The possible repercussions are huge: Insured losses from wildfires that tore through the state in October and December last were about \$12 billion, according to the California Department of Insurance. State utilities PG&E Corp. and Edison International face billions of dollars in potential liabilities.

Already, investigators have found that PG&E equipment caused 16 fires in wine country last year. They're still trying to determine whether PG&E played a role in causing the Tubbs fire

and whether equipment from Edison's Southern California Edison utility started the second-largest blaze in state history, the Thomas fire that burned in December. It lost the top slot in July when the Mendocino Complex burned more than 1.5 times more land.

California Gov. Jerry Brown, D, signed legislation in September that would help utilities pay for mounting wildfire costs; he said the blazes are growing in frequency because of climate change. The new law also provides \$1 billion for forest management.

One silver lining is that most of the state's large reservoirs are at about average capacity.

It's hard to say how wet California's rainy season, which is just starting, will be. Both Anderson and Pete Fickenscher, a service coordination hydrologist with the California Nevada River Forecast Center in Sacramento, said there is a chance a weak El Nino could form in the Pacific. While the weather-changing phenomenon can bring more rain to California when it's strong, weaker events don't offer many clues.

And in the short term, it may not matter.

"Rain will not make a difference," Cal Fire's McLean said, noting that grass can dry out in an hour and "the vegetation is still very dry."

Rain can be a mixed blessing. While it can soak dry plants, potentially slowing fires, it also can trigger deadly floods and mudslides in areas where fires have already scorched the earth, McLean said.

"Anyone who lives or travels around the burns scars needs to be aware," he said.

<http://victorvilledailynews.com/>

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## **THIS IS FIRE PREVENTION WEEK, SOME SAFETY REMINDERS**

Staff Writer, Z107.7 News

Posted: October 8, 2018

Fire Prevention Week, the longest running public health and safety observance on record, is October 7-13.

This year's fire safety campaign theme is, "LOOK. LISTEN. LEARN. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere."

For example, look for places in your home where fires can start. Listen for the sounds of smoke alarms and know what to do if you hear them. And, learn how to make a home escape plan. Managing editor Tami Roleff offers more fire safety tips from the National Fire Protection Association...

The National Fire Protection Association offers the following fire safety tips...

Every family should draw a map of their home and mark two exits from each room and how to escape to the outdoors. Practice home fire drills twice a year, once at night, and once during the day. Teach your children how to get out on their own. Make sure your street address is clearly marked to help the fire department find it easily. Install smoke alarms in the kitchen and outside bedrooms, and never disconnect them. Test them monthly. If you do have a house fire, close doors behind you to slow the spread of the flames. Once you are outside, never go back into a burning building.

- Draw a map of your home with all members of your household, marking two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit. Visit the website for more about fire safety at <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week-audience>.
- Practice your home fire drill twice a year. Conduct one at night and one during the day with everyone in your home, and practice using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- Make sure the number of your home is clearly marked and easy for the fire department to find.
- Close doors behind you as you leave – this may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Once you get outside, stay outside. Never go back inside a burning building.
- Smoke alarms should be installed throughout the home including the kitchen, basement, and every bedroom and outside sleeping area.
- Never remove or disable smoke alarms.
- Test smoke alarms at least once per month by pushing the test button.
- Interconnect smoke alarms so if one sounds, they all do.
- If smoke alarms don't work, replace the correct size battery or the entire smoke alarm unit.
- Don't let children play with fire.
- Don't leave cooking items or clothing irons unattended.
- Place a portable ladder in each second-floor room.
- Have an updated, emergency first aid kit.
- Develop a family plan and conduct a home "Fire Drill" at least twice a year.
- Check fire extinguishers for expiration and replace as needed.
- Handle gasoline or propane-powered equipment cautiously.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors.

<http://z1077fm.com/this-is-fire-prevention-week-some-safety-reminders/>