



NEWS



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NEWS FOR YOU

Staff Writer, Big Bear Grizzly

Posted: August 13, 2019



Getting around. The Mountain Area Regional Transit Authority board meets Wednesday, Aug. 14, in the training room at Big Bear Lake City Hall. On the agenda is the 2019-20 operating and capital budget. The board will consider the budget that includes \$3.3 million in income that comes from fare revenue, pass and token sales, Measure I, the city of Big Bear Lake and San Bernardino County among other sources. Expenses match income, with funds allocated to administration, maintenance and operations.

The board meets at 10:30 a.m. at City Hall, 39707 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake.

Desert fire. On Aug. 12, **San Bernardino County Fire** crews battled a vegetation fire in the area of Highway 247 and Lucerne Road in Lucerne Valley. It started as a 3-acre vegetation fire in light fuels, with difficult access and no structures threatened. The fire was burning adjacent to BLM land. Total acreage burned in the county area was 670 acres and 15 in BLM. The San Bernardino County Fire Marshall's office is investigating the cause the fire.

Coming up in the Aug. 14 issue of the Big Bear Grizzly, look for more on Liz Harris as Humanitarian of the Year, the Big Bear Fire Department's move toward putting the decision to form a community facilities district on the ballot, filling vacancies on two Big Bear governing boards, Big Bear High School prep teams are getting ready for action and the airport board wish list for the new terminal. Look for these stories and more.

http://www.bigbeargrizzly.net/news-for-you/article_16daa8fe-bdc8-11e9-bbc4-7bb89f201337.html

"Barstow Fire" in Lucerne Valley Burns 685 Acres

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: August 12, 2019



(Photo courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire)

LUCERNE VALLEY, Calif. — At 10:54 am on August 11, 2019, **San Bernardino County Fire** (SBCoFD) crews were dispatched to a reported vegetation fire in the area of Highway 247 & Lucerne Road in Lucerne Valley.

When crews arrived in the area they found a 3-acre vegetation fire in light fuels, with difficult access and no structures threatened.

The fire was found to be in San Bernardino Local Responsibility Area (LRA), adjacent to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land. BLM crews also responded due to the threat to their lands and assisted #SBCoFD in initial firefighting efforts.

The incident commander quickly requested a San Bernardino County Sheriff Helicopter to assist in suppression, additional type 3 Engines, a SBCoFD dozer & hand crews. Crews engaged in fire attack, making access and starting hose lays to contain the fires spread.

Due to the steep terrain, windy conditions & dry grasses the fire continued to spread throughout the afternoon and into the evening. By nightfall the fire had spread to more than 450 acres. Crews remained on the scene throughout the night to monitor the fire, work on containment, suppression and line construction.

San Bernardino County Sheriff Department utilized (2) helicopters for their water dropping capabilities, utilizing portable tanks for a water source.

This asset helped limit the fires spread, provided drops in inaccessible areas and intelligence on the fire from the sky.

Total acreage is 670 acres in LRA, with 15 acres in BLM jurisdiction. The fires cause is under investigation by SBCoFD Office of the Fire Marshall's office. No structures were threatened or damaged. No injuries to firefighters or civilians were reported as well.

Crews will continue to monitor the burn area through the day to watch for hot spots.

<https://www.vvng.com/barstow-fire-in-lucerne-valley-fire-burns-685-acres/>

Brush fire burns nearly 700 acres in Lucerne Valley

Garrett Berghold, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: August 12, 2019, 5:06 PM

LUCERNE VALLEY — Two helicopters helped battle a brush fire that burned 685 acres of raw land Sunday in Lucerne Valley.

San Bernardino County Fire crews were first dispatched to the blaze at about 11 a.m near Highway 247 and Lucerne Road, said David Pingree, a department spokesman.

Upon arriving, crews found a three-acre fire in an remote area that was difficult to access due to the lack of roads, Pingree said.

The blaze spread to 450 acres by nightfall, yet favorable conditions including a stoppage of winds and an increase in humidity aided firefighters overnight, according to the department. No structures were threatened during the fire, Pingree said, and no one was hurt.

By the morning, the rate of spread was halted as crews remained on scene to watch for hotspots.

Helicopters with the capacity to hold 500 gallons of water each aided in the firefight, the department said. The helicopters collected water from a portable pool-like apparatus filled by water tenders on the scene of the fire.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation. Pingree said the fire should be 100% contained by Monday evening.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20190812/brush-fire-burns-nearly-700-acres-in-lucerne-valley>

Fire burns 675 acres of desert brush

Staff Writer, Inland News Today

Posted: August 12, 2019

LUCERNE VALLEY – (INT) -**San Bernardino County Fire** Department brought out a full compliment and air and ground forces to battle Monday's wildfire near Lucerne Valley.

When the fire was finally surrounded, 675 acres of desert brush was blackened.

The fire of unknown cause flared near Highway 247 and Lucerne Road.

Fire crews are patrolling the area for hot spots.

There were no injuries and no buildings were damaged.

<http://www.inlandnewstoday.com/story.php?s=55785>

Vehicle fire causing heavy traffic on the NB-15 in the cajon pass

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: August 12, 2019



(Photo credit Frank the tank Olvera)

CAJON PASS, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A vehicle fire on the northbound I-15 prompted authorities to issue a Sig Alert Monday afternoon.

It happened at about 4:34 pm on the I-15, just north of the Kenwood Avenue in the cajon pass.

According to the California Highway Patrol incident logs, a brown van was on fire in the no. 4 lane. The occupants were reported to be out of the vehicle.

San Bernardino County Firefighters arrived on scene and located the van fully engulfed and blocking three lanes.

Officials said the no 3-5 lanes just north of Kenwood Avenue will be closed for approximately 30 minutes. Prompting a Sig Alert to be issued at 4:56 pm.

Traffic is gridlocked at the 15/215 interchange. No injuries were reported as a result of the fire.

<https://www.vvng.com/vehicle-fire-causing-heavy-traffic-on-the-nb-15-in-the-cajon-pass/>

Unshakeable: Seabees in China Lake Recognized for Disaster Recovery Efforts Following Multiple Earthquakes

Lt. Cmdr. Jake McIlvaine, Naval Construction Training Center Port Hueneme/Defense Visual Information Distribution Service
Posted: August 13, 2019



Courtesy Photo | 190808-N-N0443-2001 CHINA LAKE, Calif. (Aug. 8, 2019) Equipment Operator 1st Class Gregory Torres of Minneapolis, Minnesota, center, receives a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal presented by Cmdr. Gregory Benton, right, commanding officer of Naval Construction Training Center Port Hueneme, to recognize Torres's efforts following multiple earthquakes in the China Lake area during summer 2019. Torres and Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Bryan Krueger of Elmhurst, Illinois, left, are instructors at Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering Learning Site China Lake, and both volunteered to support recovery efforts for Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, families, and the local community. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Equipment Operator Cody Pauxtis/Released)

CHINA LAKE, Calif. — Two Seabees from Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering (CSFE) Learning Site China Lake received Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals Aug. 8, in recognition of their determination and dedication to disaster-recovery efforts at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake following multiple earthquakes this summer.

For Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Bryan Krueger of Elmhurst, Illinois, Equipment Operator 1st Class Gregory Torres of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and other members of CSFE Learning Site China Lake, Independence Day 2019 was marked by the rumblings of the earth rather than the pounding of fireworks. While far from a celebration, the occasion served as another reminder of the Seabee's unconquerable "Can Do" spirit.

At approximately 10:33 a.m. on July 4, 2019, a 6.4 magnitude foreshock shook the town of Ridgecrest and Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake. Within 24 hours, 5.4 and 7.1 magnitude earthquakes - the latter registering as the strongest quake in 20 years to hit California - rocked the recovering community.

Since July 5, California Institute of Technology seismologists have recorded well over 1,400 aftershocks in the area.

Damage from the series of shocks left about 6,900 people without power, ruptured water mains, and resulted in two structural fires. Considering the strength of the earthquakes, the impact could have been much worse. Fortunately, for the community of Ridgecrest, the majority of their infrastructure and construction post-dates the enactment of California seismic building codes.

For Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, Seabees from CSFE Learning Site China Lake were onsite and ready to roll. Despite a mandatory evacuation for all non-essential personnel, Seabee instructors volunteered to stay at the epicenter of the natural disaster and devote themselves to supporting the installation and families.

With their water well drilling and blasting and quarry operations courses on hold, they integrated within the installation's Emergency Operations Center and the local **San Bernardino County Fire Department** to lead the charge in assessing damage, repairing roads, restoring power, and delivering supplies.

Chief Equipment Operator David Cobbel, CSFE Learning Site China Lake's officer in charge, humbly shrugs off any compliments surrounding the actions of his team. "This is our job," said Cobbel. "We do whatever needs to be done."

Putting action to his words, Cobbel divided his time between coordinating with leadership to direct recovery operations, operate a forklift through a damaged, off-limits Navy Exchange, or deliver critical supplies, such as diapers and baby formula, to stricken families.

“We could have evacuated, but we said no thanks,” said Torres, mirroring Cobbel’s attitude. “We wanted to stay put and make things happen.”

Torres did more than make things happen by integrating into a damage assessment team. He helped restore operations by repairing roads and supplying generator power to the airfield. He also assisted a U.S. Geological Survey team by assessing the fault line to gain an understanding of the tectonic forces and better prepare for future occurrences.

Out in the local community, Krueger served as a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical service provider with San Bernardino County. Responding to crises of every type, inspecting damaged facilities, and distributing supplies, he assisted 30,000 residents return to their normal way of life after many of the residents spent nights sleeping outside with neighbors in fear of being alone in their homes in case of an aftershock.

Over thirty days later, recovery actions are still ongoing. Following the events of each day, the team of Seabees gather and share notes. “We talked about what was hard, what was easy, and what was painful,” said Cobbel. “We never used words like impossible, couldn’t, or won’t.”

Cmdr. Gregory Benton, commanding officer of Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) Port Hueneme, presented the awards to Krueger and Torres. The CSFE Learning Site China Lake Seabees’ unselfish response to the Ridgecrest earthquakes adds to the rich traditions and proud heritage of the Naval Construction Force.

“We put our training to use and did what Seabees do best,” said NCTC Port Hueneme’s Command Master Chief Kevin Nolan, who oversees the China Lake Seabees. “We did everything asked, and more, to make everything better for everyone.”

CSFE Learning Site China Lake is one of five learning sites in the CSFE domain. Their mission is to prepare Seabees and Airmen for success by providing top-notch training in water well drilling and blasting and quarry operations.

For more info about CSFE Learning Site China Lake, visit <https://www.public.navy.mil/netc/centers/csfe/chinalake/> or follow them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CSFEChinaLake/>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/335571/unshakeable-seabees-china-lake-recognized-disaster-recovery-efforts-following-multiple-earthquakes>