



NEWS



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CAR CRASH LEADS TO FIRE IN JOSHUA TREE SUNDAY

Staff Writer, Z107.7 News

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Joshua Tree firefighters were called to a single-vehicle crash Sunday evening that resulted in a fire. According to **County Fire** Battalion Chief Donnie Vioria, the driver of a small passenger car lost control of the car in the 6000 block of Sunfair Road in Joshua Tree just after 5:30 p.m. Vioria said it's not often when a single-vehicle crash results in a fire; a nearby abandoned home and a grove of trees were threatened by the blaze, but firefighters managed to keep the fire from spreading. There were no injuries in the crash.

<http://z1077fm.com/car-crash-leads-to-fire-in-joshua-tree-sunday/>

Opinions

Victorville Daily Press

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20180925/your-letters-9-25-2018>

- **County Fire's tax scheme**

A new tax scheme has just been launched by the County Fire Department. Notices are being mailed to affected property owners. Tax protests to be counted by the County Fire Department!

Maps of affected areas are imprecise. They want \$157 per property. Yearly increases are included in the tax. Seems like they intend to hit property owners in non-fire hazard areas, according to their inadequate map.

Is any of this legal? Are they complying with all the requirements in Article XIII D of the California Constitution? What if your property is not in a high fire hazard zone as mapped by the state's Teale Data Center?

Sounds like we could use a cost-benefit analysis of this proposal by an outside consultant. That might throw some light on our tax-and-spend bureaucrats. Some volunteer fire departments have very high ratings by the fire insurance industry due to very good management. It all comes down to good management and dedication to public service. - **Fred Stearn, Newberry Springs**

- **A wrong-way fire fee**

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors recently approved a plan to expand Fire Protection Service Zone 5. This will mandate a fee of \$157.26 to be charged to property taxes (increasing up to 3 percent per year). There are three serious problems with this:

1. The fee will be the same for every parcel, regardless of value. Contrast this to fire insurance, for which the owner of a mansion pays more than the resident of a typical home. The proposed fire fee, like insurance, is a form of fire protection — yet a billionaire's estate, which has more to protect, is to be charged the same fee as a trailer on a plot in Wonder Valley.
2. The fee will be put to a vote by the people only if 25 percent of affected property owners protest it. However, only bare notices of the fee have been mailed out, not protest forms (you have to go to www.sbcfire.org or phone 211 — and find them!).
3. If the fire fee goes through, it may encourage the imposition of other special "fees" on every parcel, regardless of value. What other fees might be coming? - **Mark Snowden, Yucca Valley**

- **Legal question about FP-5 Fire Tax**

I downloaded my protest letter to vote against the yearly fire tax of \$157.26 and hand delivered it to the office that receives the protest letters. The office in San Bernardino, 157 W. Fifth St., is actually handling the vote. That office is the Fire Department Headquarters and Chief Mark Hartwig's office. Fire Chief Hartwig has said employees would lose their jobs if this fee is not voted in.

Is it legal for these same employees to check mail and oversee the vote? - **Bill Tuck Jr., Phelan**