



# NEWS



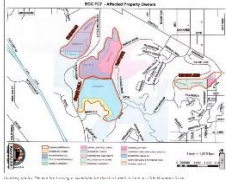
## News Headlines 05/29/2019

- SB County Fire given consent to practice live fire training on Little Mountain Drive
- Driver pushed into oncoming traffic suffers deadly injuries
- Car crashes into home, starts fire

## SB County Fire given consent to practice live fire training on Little Mountain Drive

Manny B. Sandavol, Inland Empire Community News

Posted: May 28, 2019



Courtesy photo: The live fire training is scheduled for the third week in June on Little Mountain Drive.

On May 15, San Bernardino City Council gave consent to **San Bernardino County Fire** to practice live burns alongside Little Mountain Drive.

“It is recommended that the mayor and city council of the City of San Bernardino adopt Resolution No. 2019-76, authorizing the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District to conduct a live fire training exercise and prescribed burn on city-owned property located along North Little Mountain Drive,” said Teri Ledoux, San Bernardino acting city manager.

The live fire training was originally scheduled to take place on May 28th, 29th, 30th and 31st at 9 a.m., but due to inclement weather it has been postponed to the third week of June.

“This training exercise will enable the fire protection district to provide firefighters with critical wild-land fire management skills in addition to helping to mitigate the potential for an uncontrolled wildfire in this area by burning grasses that have grown during the rainy season, therefor creating defensible spaces around homes,” said Ledoux.

According to the council agenda, the current conditions in the area including vegetation growth, climate and topography combine to make the potential for another local-area wild-land fire extremely high.

“The prescribed live fire training will provide for the safety of San Bernardino residents by mitigating fire hazards and protecting homes surrounding North Little Mountain Drive while fostering close working relationships,” said Chris Gorman, San Bernardino County Fire Battalion Chief.

“The streets in San Bernardino surrounding the live training include Little Mountain Drive, east to E. St., south of Kendall and north of Marshall. We are also asking the public to use caution and slow down when driving through the area,” said Kathleen Opliger, San Bernardino County Fire incident commander.

A portion of the property within the prescribed burn training area is owned by the City of San Bernardino, the other area being a San Bernardino County pocket.

For more information, visit <https://www.sbcfire.org>.

<http://iecn.com/sb-county-fire-given-consent-to-practice-live-fire-training-on-little-mountain-drive/>

## Driver pushed into oncoming traffic suffers deadly injuries

Staff Writer, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: May 28, 2019



All three occupants of this Cadillac were taken to Desert Regional Medical Center after a collision on Old Woman Springs Road Monday. The driver of the Staurn in the background, 84-year-old Sharon Meler, was also critically injured and died at the hospital. San Bernardino County Fire Dept. photo

YUCCA VALLEY — Sharon Meler, an 84-year-old Yucca Valley woman, died and a family of three were critically injured in a collision around 3:10 p.m. Monday on Old Woman Springs Road at Terra Vista Road.

The Sheriff's Department reports that the driver of a Ford F-150 truck traveling north rear-ended Meler's Subaru Impreza as she was waiting for oncoming traffic to pass before turning left.

The impact pushed the Subaru into oncoming traffic, where it crashed with a southbound white Cadillac CTS.

Meler and the man, woman and child in the Cadillac all suffered critical injuries, **San Bernardino County Fire Capt. Zack Taylor** said.

Two medic engines from the Yucca Valley and Joshua Tree fire stations, three ambulance crews from the Yucca Valley and Yucca Mesa stations and Battalion Chief Scot Tuttle responded to the scene along with a Morongo Basin Ambulance crew.

The man driving the Cadillac was trapped and firefighters rescued him using the Jaws of Life, Taylor said.

Firefighters and paramedics triaged all four people, gave them advanced lifesaving care and determined they had to be taken to trauma centers immediately.

The woman in the passenger seat of the Cadillac was driven by ambulance to the Yucca Valley Airport, where she was picked up by a Mercy Air helicopter crew and flown to Desert Regional Medical Center, Taylor said. The other three people hurt in the crash were driven to Desert Regional by ground ambulance.

Meler succumbed to her injuries and was pronounced dead at 5:25 p.m., the Riverside County coroner said.

This was at least the second deadly crash this month on Old Woman Springs Road.

Col. Alexander Merz, 50, from Texas, died May 19 from injuries he suffered in a May 16 crash in Johnson Valley. According to the California Highway Patrol, he was hit by 27-year-old Anthony Wilson, of Twentynine Palms, who wanted to pass slower traffic and drove his Ford F150 into Merz's path.

[http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article\\_c95fb31e-817a-11e9-b652-3377f994b2ce.html](http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_c95fb31e-817a-11e9-b652-3377f994b2ce.html)

## Car crashes into home, starts fire

Carl Baker, Redlands Community News

Posted: May 28, 2019



A driver crashed the garage and the wall of this two-story house on Foothill Way igniting a fire. Courtesy photo

The Redlands Fire Department responded to a report of a vehicle into a house in the 1300 block of Foothill Way, shortly after midnight Sunday morning, May 26.

The first arriving engine crew found a vehicle had driven through the garage door and through an exterior wall of the two-story residence. The vehicle severed the electrical and gas lines, which ignited a fire along the exterior wall and under the vehicle.

Firefighters extinguished the fire and waited on scene for gas and electric company crews to secure the utilities.

The driver of the vehicle was treated on scene and declined transport to the hospital. The house was occupied at the time of the incident. The residents were safely evacuated from the house without injury.

Property damage was estimated at \$20,000.

Thirteen Redlands firefighters responded to the fire, along with three firefighters from the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department. Crews were on scene for approximately four hours.

The cause of the accident is under investigation.

[https://www.redlandscommunitynews.com/news/public\\_safety/car-crashes-into-home-starts-fire/article\\_11e8a532-81a3-11e9-ae14-bfa1ab62bfcc.html](https://www.redlandscommunitynews.com/news/public_safety/car-crashes-into-home-starts-fire/article_11e8a532-81a3-11e9-ae14-bfa1ab62bfcc.html)