



NEWS



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Wednesday afternoon vehicle fire causes brief closure of I-15

Staff Writer, VVNG

Posted: March 28, 2018



(photo by Travis Dixon)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A Wednesday afternoon vehicle fire caused officials to briefly shut down the southbound I-15 freeway creating a traffic jam for motorists.

At 1:47 pm, a silver SUV stopped along the right-hand shoulder of the freeway was reported to be on fire, south of Main Street in Hesperia.

Firefighters with **San Bernardino County Fire** responded and found the SUV fully engulfed with all occupants out safely. The wind pushed thick black smoke across lanes of the freeway, prompting authorities to briefly shut down the 15 freeway at around 2:00 pm.

The male driver of the SUV said he was driving and saw smoke coming from underneath the hood so he decided to pull over to check it out. Moments after the man exited the SUV he said it burst into flames but thankfully he was not injured.

According to CHP incident logs, all lanes were re-opened by 2:13 pm. Traffic traveling through the area is reportedly jammed as officials continue to clear the roadway.

<http://www.vvng.com/wednesday-afternoon-vehicle-fire-causes-brief-closure-of-i-15/>

After Oasis of Mara fire in Joshua Tree National Park, man arrested on suspicion of arson

Corinne S Kennedy, The Desert Sun

Posted: March 28, 2018



A fire on Monday night burned 2.5 acres of Oasis of Mara, a Joshua Tree National Park landmark.
Joseph Hong/The Desert Sun

A man was arrested late Tuesday night at Joshua Tree National Park in connection with a fire that scorched a grove of palm trees in a historic oasis at the park.

George William Graham, 26, was taken into custody on suspicion of arson inside the park around 11 p.m. He was being held in the West Valley Detention Center in Rancho Cucamonga, according to San Bernardino County jail records.

Graham was being held in lieu of \$25,000 bail on the arson charges and without bail on parole violation charges. He was set to appear in Morongo Superior Court Wednesday.

Graham was previously convicted of arson in 2015 and burglary in 2013. He was also charged with petty theft in 2015, but the charges were dismissed.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department and National Park Service fire staff responded to reports of a fire at the Oasis of Mara around 9:15 p.m. Monday.

The fire, near the park's Oasis Visitor's Center at the intersection of National Park Drive and Palm Vista Road, burned 2.5 acres and charred numerous trees.

According to a statement from the National Parks Service, a preliminary assessment has revealed damage to palms, vegetation and wildlife, as well as "archaeological resources."

No structures were damaged in the fire, which remains under investigation by San Bernardino fire officials, the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

The oasis was first settled centuries ago by the Serrano people who named it Mara, meaning "the place of little springs and much grass." According to legends, the Serrano planted 29 palms, one for each boy that was born in the oasis during the first year of their residence.

Due to its water source, the oasis served as a hub for farmers and miners for over a century.

In 1950, the Twentynine Palms Corporation donated the Oasis of Mara to the NPS. Today, the oasis sits near park headquarters, greeting the many of the visitors entering the park.

Authorities said the oasis would be temporarily closed to visitors and would reopen at a later date.

Reporter Joe Hong contributed to this report.

https://www.desertsun.com/story/news/crime_courts/2018/03/28/man-arrested-suspicion-arson-connection-joshua-tree-national-park-fire/466158002/

Suspected 29 Palms Oasis Arsonist in Custody, Charred Trees Cut Down

Staff Writer, z1077 news

Posted: March 28, 2018

The fire that ravaged the historic Oasis of Mara in Twentynine Palms Monday night is being investigated as an arson. George William Graham, 26, of Twentynine Palms, was arrested late Monday night for investigation of arson by federal authorities and is being held at the West Valley Detention Center on \$25,000 bail for the arson and without bail for a parole violation. Graham was previously convicted of arson in 2015.

The National Park Service said it is conducting a site damage assessment of the burned area to determine the extent of the loss. A preliminary assessment includes damage to palm trees and other vegetation, as well as potential harm to wildlife and archaeological resources. No structures were damaged in the blaze. As part of the mop-up efforts, the Park Services was cutting down the burned palm trees, saying that they may be on fire internally and burst into flame. Without cutting them down, the Park Service said someone would have at the scene watching the trees for days. Park Superintendent David Smith said the investigation into the arson is ongoing. Sheriff's deputies assisted with locating George Graham, who is an arson registrant, at the scene.

<http://z1077fm.com/local-news/todays-full-newscast/>

Egg hunt returns to park

Kurt Schauppner, The Desert Trail

Posted: March 28, 2018, 9:38 a.m.

TWENTYNINE PALMS — **The San Bernardino County Fire** Department and San Bernardino County Explorer Post 121 will help the community celebrate Easter this weekend.

Firefighters working out of the downtown Twentynine Palms fire station on Adobe Road will join Fire Explorers in hosting this year's Easter Egg Hunt at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 1, at the Little League baseball diamonds at Luckie Park, Two Mile Road and Luckie Avenue.

Egg hunters will be divided into two age groups on the day of the hunt depending on who shows up.

Younger children will be let loose first on one diamond followed by older children on another.

Participants will also get a closeup look at a fire engine and a medic brush patrol vehicle.

Participants are cautioned to arrive before the start of the hunt as it wraps up quickly once it gets started.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/the_desert_trail/news/article_79dd9366-32a6-11e8-b302-a3eff3957e2c.html

Wendy's Restaurant catches fire Wednesday night in Victorville

Staff Writer, VVNG

Posted: March 28, 2018



(photo by Javier Ortega)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A fire at a Victorville Wendy's forced employees to evacuate Wednesday night, but no one was hurt.

At about 10:30 pm, firefighters from **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to the fast-food restaurant in the 14300 block of Bear Valley Road reference a commercial structure fire.

Firefighters arrived and found the building charred with thick smoke and an active fire in the kitchen, scanner traffic reported. After a search of the building, firefighters went into the attack mode and knocked down the fire by 10:57 pm.

According to employees inside the restaurant, the fire started after a fryer burst into flames. The manager acted quickly and rushed everyone who was in the building to evacuate.

Victorville City Building & Safety, Southern California Edison, Southwest Gas, and an SBC Fire Investigator have all been requested to respond to the scene.

The official cause of the fire remains under investigation. The story is developing and information will be updated as it becomes available.

<http://www.vvng.com/wendys-restaurant-catches-fire-wednesday-night-in-victorville/>

Dunia Plaza Wendy's Damaged During Wednesday Night Fire

Staff Writer, 247headline

Posted: March 29, 2018

VICTORVILLE – San Bernardino County Firefighters responded to a commercial fire at the Wendy's located on Bear Valley Road near Dunia Road on Wednesday night.

At around 10:30 p.m. the restaurant evacuated when a kitchen fire became out of control. Firefighters arrived to find heavy smoke and a working fire in the kitchen area of the restaurant. Firefighters fought the fire in an attack mode, attempting to mitigate the damage to the restaurant, which they quickly determined was free of any occupants upon their arrival. The fire was extinguished by around 11:00 p.m.

The cause and damage will be determined through further investigation. No firefighters or civilians were injured as a result of the fire.

<https://247headline.com/dunia-plaza-wendys-damaged-during-wednesday-night-fire/>