



NEWS



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Woman Dies in Hesperia Car Crash Thursday Night

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: May 11, 2017



A black Challenger and a Honda collided at the intersection of Maple Avenue and Olive Street Thursday night. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) A woman in her 40's died after being involved in a two-vehicle traffic collision Thursday night.

The accident was reported around 7:44 p.m at the intersection of Maple Avenue and Olive Street in Hesperia.

Firefighters from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, and Hesperia Deputies from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department responded and located an unconscious female driver adult inside a Honda Accord, and another male adult in a 2014 Dodge Challenger, officials confirmed.

"My brother checked on one of the drivers. Unfortunately, she was unresponsive and had a low pulse," Stacie Miller posted in the_Victor Valley_News group.

The female was extricated and transported to Desert Valley Hospital where she later died from her injuries, stated Deputy Eric Getts with the Hesperia Sheriff's station.

The male driver of the Challenger was transferred to Arrowhead Regional Center with a fractured leg.

According to initial reports, the Honda had been traveling westbound on Olive Street and entered the intersection. The Challenger was traveling northbound on Maple Avenue.

"The Honda pulled out in front of the Challenger and got broadsided," stated Getts. "The female driving the Honda was immediately unresponsive, there was no pulse detected."

A hard road closure was requested to block off the area of Maple and Olive Street while the Major Accident Investigation Team processes the scene.

The Challenger sustained major front-end damage and the Honda sustained the majority of the damage to the driver side door.

The cause of the accident is currently under investigation at this time.

<http://www.vvng.com/woman-dies-hesperia-car-crash-thursday-night/>

Authorities ID Oak Hills woman killed in Thursday night crash

Jose Quintero, Daily Press

Posted: May 12, 2017, 9:38 AM



San Bernardino County Sheriff Department deputies investigate a traffic collision at the intersection of Maple Avenue and Olive Street that resulted in a fatality on Thursday evening. [David Pardo, Daily Press]

HESPERIA — Authorities identified the woman who was pronounced dead at a local hospital after a collision at the Maple Avenue and Olive Street intersection in Hesperia on Thursday night.

San Bernardino County Sheriff-Coroner officials said Carrie Sutherland, 45, of Oak Hills, was found unresponsive with no pulse and transported to Desert Valley Hospital, where she was later pronounced dead.

Hesperia Sheriff's Station deputies and **San Bernardino County Fire Department** personnel responded to the crash a little after 7:40 p.m. and found a Honda Accord and Dodge Challenger involved.

Authorities on scene said Sutherland, traveling west on Olive Street, entered the intersection and broadsided the Dodge.

The man in the Dodge suffered a leg fracture and was transported to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center for treatment. No other injuries were reported.

Deputies shut down the intersection for several hours to investigate the incident.

This was the sixth fatal collision reported in Hesperia this year.

The investigation was ongoing as of 9:35 a.m. Friday.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170512/authorities-id-oak-hills-woman-killed-in-thursday-night-crash>

Firefighters extinguish small fire in Devore near 15/215 split

Jose Quintero

Posted: May 11, 2017, 10:27 AM

CAJON PASS — Firefighters extinguished a small fire in a culvert in Devore on Thursday morning.

San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel responded to reports of a fire in a drainage ditch near the Interstate 15 and 215 Freeway split a little after 9 a.m., according spokesman Ryan Vaccaro.

Three County Fire engines and one from the San Bernardino National Forest responded and found someone had “burned wires” near the culvert.

“The fire was out quickly,” Vaccaro said.

According to California Highway Patrol traffic logs, black smoke was reported by passing motorists.

Vaccaro did not have any further information on the incident.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170511/firefighters-extinguish-small-fire-in-devore-near-15215-split?nocache=1>

Rider rescued, horse airlifted after 300-foot fall in San Bernardino National Forest

Doug Saunders, Press Enterprise

Posted: May 11, 2017, 4:51 PM



A 1200 pound horse that fell down a 300 foot ravine in Angelus Oaks is hoisted to safety on Thursday, May 11, 2017 in the San Bernardino National Forest, Ca. (Micah Escamilla, The Sun/SCNG)

ANGELUS OAKS >> Firefighters successfully rescued a horse and its rider after they tumbled down a 300-foot ravine in the San Bernardino National Forest.

Shortly before noon Thursday, the rider and his horse were on the Santa Ana Trail when they tumbled down the ravine, officials said.

The rider had been extricated from the canyon area, but the horse remained in the ravine until it could be sedated.

“The horse is approximately 1,200 pounds and needs to be sedated before the airship can lift it out,” **San Bernardino County fire** spokesman Ryan Vaccaro said. “The horse seems to be uninjured, but it can’t walk out on its own due to the steep walls of the canyon.”

Rancho Cucamonga Fire District’s Technical Rescue Team was on scene assisting county firefighters with the rescue.

“They specialize in confined space rescues, building collapse rescues, high angle rope rescues and large animal rescues,” spokeswoman Kelley Donaldson said.

After firefighters fitted the horse with a specially made harness, a Los Angeles County Fire rescue helicopter airlifted it to safety.

San Bernardino County air rescue pulled the rider from the ravine, but it had to abort the mission due to an emergency in the High Desert area, Vaccaro added.

The airship flew the horse to a designated landing zone on Highway 38 and lowered the steed safely to the ground.

<http://www.pe.com/2017/05/11/sbs-1-airrescue-webonly/>

Protest period begins in Upland fire annexation process

Liset Marquez, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: May 11, 2017, 7:50 PM



FILE PHOTO A fire engine pulls out of Upland Fire Station 163 on Benson Avenue Wednesday November 27, 2013 for an assignment. Residents in Upland and San Antonio Heights have a month — starting Friday — to protest a plan to disband Upland’s fire department.

UPLAND >> Friday marks the start of a month-long period when residents in Upland and the community of San Antonio Heights can protest a plan to disband Upland’s fire department.

It will culminate June 14, with a hearing at Upland City Hall, said Kathleen Rollings-McDonald, executive director of the Local Agency Formation Commission, also known as LAFCO.

In December, Upland and **San Bernardino County Fire** adopted resolutions which specifically requested that LAFCO — which oversees annexations — begin the transfer process. If approved, the city’s fire station properties, employees, assets, obligations, as well as liabilities, will be transferred to County Fire.

During a hearing in March, the plan was amended to include the unincorporated community of San Antonio Heights in the Service Zone FP-5. Property owners in San Antonio Heights — along with Upland landowners — would have to pay an annual \$150 parcel tax, which may increase 3 percent annually.

“The commission has directed that this take precedence because this is very complicated,” Rollings-McDonald said.

The notice sent to landowners about the protest period directs them to download the form off LAFCO’s website, fill it out and mail it to the agency, Rollings-McDonald said.

If LAFCO receives protests from more than 50 percent of the landowners or registered voters, the process is terminated, Rollings-McDonald said. Protest coming from between 25.01 and 50 percent of registered voters or parcel owners will force an election on the matter.

Protest from 25 percent or fewer landowners or voters will trigger approval of the annexation, she said.

There are slightly more than 21,900 parcels in the modified proposal and 42,000 registered voters. For the election to occur, LAFCO would need to get opposition letters from roughly 12,000 voters.

LAFCO will announce at the June 14 hearing how many protests were received, she said.

“If the raw numbers are more than 25 percent in either category, than LAFCO would have to close the public hearing and continue it so the County Assessor’s office and Registered of Voters can verify the signatures,” she said.

San Antonio Heights resident John Goss said he recruited a core group of 50 volunteers who hope to gather enough signatures to force an election.

“That’s going to be hard, that’s a lot of voters,” he acknowledged Thursday evening.

The plan is for the group to form subcommittees, based on voting districts, and reach out to property and business owners, and landowners. Bob Cable, president of Cable Airport, is tasked with working to get signatures of protest from the business sector, Goss said.

Goss said LAFCO is strict in deeming protest forms acceptable. For example, most voters aren’t aware they will have to fill their information exactly as listed on their voter registration.

The next 30 days will be hectic, but Goss says he remains optimistic.

Goss, who proclaims to have spent countless of hours on the proposal, said his son and wife think he’s “a little nuts,” for dedicating so much time and effort on the cause.

An open meeting will be held 6:30 p.m. Monday at Life Bible Fellowship Church, 2426 N. Euclid Ave. for those interested in helping stop the annexation.

At LAFCO, Rollings-McDonald said notices will be sent Friday for the June 14 hearing, which is scheduled for 6 p.m., at Upland City Hall, 460 N. Euclid Ave.

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/government-and-politics/20170511/protest-period-begins-in-upland-fire-annexation-process>

Wildfire and arson awareness discussed at press conference

Terri Hill, Mountaineer Progress

Posted: May 11, 2017

As a kick-off to Wildfire Awareness Week and Arson Awareness Week, multiple agencies gathered on Old Cajon Boulevard for a press conference and demonstration of fire line maintenance.

Usually held at the Wrightwood Fire Station, the annual event took place this year near the origin of the Blue Cut Fire, to underscore the importance of wildfire readiness. While wildfire is generally associated with mountain regions, the Blue Cut Fire's devastation included the desert communities of Phelan, West Cajon, and Oak Hills. Likewise, the North Fire in 2015 scorched 4,250 acres of desert land in the Oak Hills area. Firefighters from Cal Fire and **San Bernardino County Fire** (SBCoF) spoke to the urgency for all rural residents to be "Wildfire Ready."

SBCoF Chief Mark Hartwig said that when asked if the rain makes it easier or harder for firefighters, he replies, "It just creates a different problem for us. It creates more moist fuels, especially the larger fuels." Hartwig pointed out the grasses and bushes that have grown since the winter, and have already dried out. He reiterated the fact that there is no longer a "fire season," evidenced by the 200-acre fire just last week that closely followed a wet season.

Chief Hartwig described the Ready Set Go program for wildfire preparations that homeowners and residents can implement, to protect their homes and property. He stressed the importance of being "Set," by looking for anything suspicious on dry, hot, red flag days. Have a plan and follow it if told to evacuate. And, if told to evacuate, "go" Hartwig continued, "If you don't go, you not only put your life at risk, you put firefighters at risk."

He went on to suggest that residents get involved in volunteer programs like Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), local Fire Safe Councils, and the new Fire Corps program.

Fire Corps is an SBCoF program that mirrors the Citizens on Patrol volunteer program employed by the County Sheriff Department. Volunteers with Fire Corps can help with fire patrols on windy, high fire danger days, answer phones during a fire event, and more.

Chief Hartwig concluded by mentioning the partners of County Fire: Forest Service Fire, Cal Fire, inmate crews, and the sheriff helicopters that assist with fires.

Cal Fire's San Bernardino Unit Chief Glenn Barley spoke to the statewide fire outlook for the coming year. The rainfall totals, while good for the water supply, are not expected to alter the fire danger in California this year. Grasses and other fuels are dry and the brush will take several years to recover from the drought. Barley also mentioned the tree mortality in the state, more than 100 million dead trees threaten the central and southern Sierra, as fire fuel that will exist for decades to come.

Barley reiterated the importance of evacuating when asked to by fire agencies. He said they are seeing a growing trend of residents staying in their homes under evacuation orders, "Which puts not only the homeowner in danger, but puts our firefighters in danger too."

Fire Marshall Mike Horton presented statistics related to arson. Nationally, arson fires cause damage to public lands, homes, infrastructure, and businesses, costing lives and millions of dollars each year, and putting firefighters in danger with every alarm. Horton said the public's vigilance is necessary to combat the arson

problem in San Bernardino County, “When you see something, say something.” Of 465 suspect fires in the county, 40% were incendiary, and 25% of those were determined to be arson.” Over the last year, SBCoF has made nine arrests for arson, and they have a 33% conviction rate on arsonists. This does not include work by Cal Fire or the Forest Service on recent fires such as the Blue Cut, which is still under investigation.

The presentation ended with a demonstration by SBCoF Old Cajon Crew of tools and techniques of fighting wildland fires.

The Ready SB County App is available at <http://readydl.com/san-bernardino-county>.

<http://mtprogress.net/home/newsmay112107.html>

Blood, death and a lesson in safety

Kurt Schauppner The Desert Trail

Posted: May 12, 2017, 7:18 AM



Firefighters use the jaws of life to remove Derek Sutherland from the vehicle. Kurt Schauppner The Desert Trail

TWENTYNINE PALMS — At least one student and one adult chaperon was killed and one student was arrested for driving under the influence following a three car post-prom accident.

Fortunately it was just a dramatization, as the Every Fifteen Minutes program made its once every two years return to Twentynine Palms High School Thursday, May 11.

Timed to take place just before prom, the dramatization, using students and faculty members from the school to increase the emotional impact, is shown to members of the school junior and senior classes.

The program’s title is based on the idea that someone is killed in an alcohol-related accident every fifteen minutes.

To underline that concept one student was pulled out of class every fifteen minutes, and declared dead, in the hours before the mind-morning drama.

Just before 10:30, students were led out to the school track where the demonstration unfolded.

The scenario was simple and takes place after the school’s prom.

Ryan and Nick Stowers, Lahla Sison and Justin Silvas left the prom early and went to a party where they did some drinking before Ryan got behind the wheel.

Another group of Wildcats, Derek Sutherland Tatiyanna Mackall, Hope Culver and Hugh Carpenter stayed behind at the prom to help clean up.

Just before the crash, Ryan Stowers was driving down Encelia Avenue and failed to stop at the traffic signal at the highway where he collided with the vehicle with Sutherland, Mackall, Culver and Carpenter.

Also caught up in the accident were chaperons Melissa McGivern and, behind the wheel, Richard Sanchez, who could not avoid being part of the three vehicle collision.

Before the scenario played itself out, Carpenter had assaulted Ryan, who he blamed for the tragedy, Ryan had been arrested for driving under the influence, Sutherland had been flown to a local hospital for emergency treatment and toe tags had been placed on the feet of Nick Stowers and Sanchez.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/the_desert_trail/news/article_e4fddaf0-371d-11e7-a410-3fb58b932e6d.html