



NEWS



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Evacuations ordered for Lucerne Valley fire, now 20 percent contained

Gail Wesson, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: July 23, 2017, 5:08 PM

The High Fire in Lucerne Valley has grown to 100 acres but was considered 20 percent contained by 7:45 p.m. Sunday, July 23, according to a Cal Fire San Bernardino County tweet.

The fire was reported at 3:57 p.m. and soon after evacuations were ordered for the area south of Highway 18 and east of High Road in Lucerne Valley, according to a Cal Fire San Bernardino County tweet.

The highway was closed for almost three hours, but by 7 p.m. had reopened between Joshua and Willow Wells roads, according to a Caltrans tweet. The fire was spreading rapidly.

In a tweet, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department described the evacuation area as bordered by High Road on the west, Santa Rosa Road on the south, Buena Vista Road on the east and Sutter Road on the north, all south of Highway 18.

This map shows the area of the blaze.

The state agency and **San Bernardino County Fire Department** are sharing the lead in fighting the fire, with help from the U.S. Forest Service.

Sheriff's deputies are assisting with evacuations in the area of scattered homes typically on 1-acre or larger lots, according to Cal Fire spokeswoman Capt. Liz Brown.

No evacuation center has yet been opened.

This story is developing. Check back for updates.

<http://www.pe.com/2017/07/23/evacuations-ordered-for-fast-moving-lucerne-valley-fire-area/>

High Fire in Lucerne Valley prompts evacuations, road closure

Daily Press

Posted: July 23, 2017, 7:33 PM

LUCERNE VALLEY — A fast-moving fire in Lucerne Valley prompted mandatory evacuation orders and the closure of a stretch of Highway 18 on Sunday afternoon.

Dubbed the High Fire, the blaze, which was reported just before 4 p.m., spread quickly, forcing authorities to order evacuations for residents living south of Highway 18 and east of High Road, according to CALFIRE San Bernardino officials.

Estimated at 100 acres with a rapid rate of speed and 20 percent containment as of 7:15 p.m., the fire forced the closure of Highway 18 between Joshua Road and Willow Wells Avenue Caltrans District 8 officials announced in a tweet.

CALFIRE officials reported that the evacuation area, which is south of Highway 18, stretched from High Road to the west to Buena Vista Road east, and from Sutter Road to the north to Santa Rosa Road to the south.

CALFIRE San Bernardino and the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** are in a unified command battling the blaze, with assistance from the San Bernardino National Forest Service, and are utilizing air and ground attacks.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170723/high-fire-in-lucerne-valley-prompts-evacuations-road-closure>

High Fire in Lucerne Valley Burns 170 Acres, now 45 percent contained

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: July 24, 2017



The High fire in Lucerne Valley burned 170 acres, but is now 45 percent contained as of Monday. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

LUCERNE VALLEY, Calif. (VVNG.com) The High Fire in Lucerne Valley has grown to 170 acres but was considered 45 percent contained by 1:00 p.m. Monday, July 24, according to Cal Fire spokeswoman Capt. Debbie Chapman.

The fire broke out Sunday afternoon at around 4:00 p.m. and immediately prompted mandatory evacuations and road closures. Officials said on Monday all evacuations have been lifted, no roads are closed, and the forward rate of spread has been stopped.

Chapman said 200 firefighters worked in a unified command to battle the blaze, including Cal Fire San Bernardino and the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** along with assistance from the San Bernardino National Forest Service and Apple Valley Fire Protection District.

In addition, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Deputies and California Highway Patrol officers assisted in evacuation and road closures.

There have been no reports of injuries or structure damage as a result of the fire, Chapman said.

<http://www.vvng.com/high-fire-lucerne-valley-burns-170-acres-now-45-percent-contained/>

UPDATE: Fire crews increase containment to 95 percent on Lucerne Valley blaze

Kevin Trudgeon, Daily Press

Posted: July 25, 2017, 8:30 AM



Fire crews increased containment to 90 percent for the High Fire, which was first reported Sunday in Lucerne Valley and had burned 170 acres as of Tuesday morning. [Photo courtesy of CalFire San Bernardino]

LUCERNE VALLEY — For a second straight night the High Fire showed no growth, and crews have achieved almost full containment of blaze.

After growing to 170 acres on Monday, the quick-moving fire that was first reported just before 4 p.m. on Sunday remained the same size Tuesday morning, with CalFire officials announcing that containment had increased to 95 percent as of 7 p.m. that evening.

The fire spread quickly on Sunday, reaching 100 acres before 7 p.m. and forcing authorities to order mandatory evacuations for residents living south of Highway 18 and east of High Road.

CalFire officials reported that the evacuation area, which is south of Highway 18, stretched from High Road to the west to Buena Vista Road east, and from Sutter Road to the north to Santa Rosa Road to the south.

A hard closure of Highway 18 between Joshua Road and Willow Wells Avenue was issued at 5:14 p.m., Caltrans District 8 officials announced in a tweet.

That closure was lifted by 7 p.m. Sunday, and all evacuations and road closures have since also been lifted, CalFire Captain Debbie Chapman said Monday.

CalFire San Bernardino and the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** are in a unified command battling the blaze, with assistance from the San Bernardino National Forest Service, and utilized air and ground attacks to battle the blaze. Chapman said approximately 200 firefighters remained assigned to the blaze Monday evening.

“We’re continuing to work on securing and reinforcing containment lines around the fire,” Chapman said.

No injuries have been reported from the blaze, which remains under investigation.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170725/update-fire-crews-increase-containment-to-95-percent-on-lucerne-valley-blaze>

Marijuana THC extraction lab discovered in Twin Peaks

Gail Wesson, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: July 23, 2017, 10:25 PM

Evidence of a potentially explosive THC extraction lab was found Saturday, at a Twin Peaks house, authorities said.

A deputy from the San Bernardino County sheriff's Twin Peaks station went to the home in the 890 block of Strawberry Peak Lane to serve a warrant but suspected a lab was in place and instead called the Sheriff's marijuana enforcement and lab team, a new release stated.

Personnel from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** and a hazardous materials team responded because of the potential for an explosion or fire because of the flammable chemicals used during the extraction process. THC is responsible for most of marijuana's psychological effects.

Ryan Michael Parker, a 30-year-old Twin Peaks resident, was arrested on suspicion of manufacturing a controlled substance and a felony drug warrant from Riverside County. Chad Robert Freed, a 30-year-old San Bernardino resident, and Jose Mata, a 23-year-old Rialto resident, both were arrested on suspicion of sales of concentrated cannabis/marijuana.

None of the men were still in custody Sunday night, jail records show.

Results of the investigation will be presented to the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office for possible criminal charges, the news release states.

<http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/general-news/20170723/marijuana-thc-extraction-lab-discovered-in-twin-peaks>

Marijuana Team arrests 3 subjects during a search warrant for a THC Extraction Lab

Highland News

Posted: July 24, 2017, 7:49 AM

Deputy K. Bush from the San Bernardino Sheriff's Twin Peaks Station went to the residence at 892 Strawberry Peak Lane, to serve a felony arrest warrant for a fugitive. He attempted to make contact at the residence but noticed items that were consistent with a THC extraction lab. Deputy Bush opted not to attempt contact at that time and requested the assistance from the Sheriff's Department Gangs/Narcotics Division.

The Sheriff's Marijuana Enforcement Team and Clandestine Lab Team served a search warrant at the residence and assumed the investigation.

Investigators found evidence of a THC extraction operation at the location. The three suspects, identified as Ryan Michael Parker, 30, of Twin Peaks, Chad Robert Freed, 30, of San Bernardino and Jose Mata, 23, of Rialto, were inside the residence at the time and were arrested. Personnel from the **San Bernardino County Fire District** and HAZMAT responded to the scene because of the dangerous circumstances and potential for an explosion or fire. Investigators found evidence to suggest the manufacturing of concentrated cannabis, referred to as Wax, Shatter, Dabs or (Butane) Honey Oil, was occurring at the residence. The illegal operation was capable of making several pounds of product.

Concentrated cannabis can sell for much more than marijuana itself. Some marijuana users prefer using the concentrated by-product over the straightforward method of smoking marijuana (bud) because of the higher concentration of THC levels produced. Therefore, the effects are much stronger than the traditional method of smoking the plant material. THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol) is the main or active ingredient in marijuana that causes the “high” when using the drug.

The concentrated cannabis products mentioned previously are commonly made by extracting the THC from the marijuana plant or plant material. The THC extraction process is extremely dangerous and has a high potential for explosion and fire due to the use of large amounts of flammable chemicals during the extraction process. This dangerous operation was occurring in a confined residential area with several homes on the street. An explosion or fire would have had a devastating effect on the forest and other homes in the area. This chemical process is illegal and is a violation of California’s Health & Safety Code.

The investigation is ongoing. It will be sent to the San Bernardino County District Attorney’s Office for review of criminal charges against the suspect(s). Parker was booked at the Central Detention Center in San Bernardino for charges of Manufacturing a Controlled Substance and an outstanding felony drug warrant from Riverside County. His total bail is set at \$700,000. Freed and Mata were also booked for charges of Sales of Concentrated Cannabis/Marijuana. They will appear in court at a later date.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation is urged to contact the Sheriff’s Gangs / Narcotics Division at 909-387-8400. Callers wishing to remain anonymous are urged to call the We-tip Hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME (27463) or you may leave information on the We-Tip Hotline at www.wetip.com.

http://www.highlandnews.net/news/crime_and_fire/marijuana-team-arrests-subjects-during-a-search-warrant-for-a/article_5e6303da-707f-11e7-adbc-cbf66ad7f0b7.html

Person impaled in violent Fontana crash

Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: July 24, 2017, 12:47 PM

FONTANA >> Firefighters are working to free a person from a mangled vehicle who was impaled as a result of a violent crash in Fontana Monday, **San Bernardino County Fire** officials said.

The crash was first reported just before 12:30 p.m. in the 9000 block of Oleander Avenue, said Eric Sherwin, spokesman for the fire department.

It wasn’t clear if another vehicle was involved in the crash. The condition of the person was not immediately available

Check back later as further information is made available.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170724/person-impaled-in-violent-fontana-crash>

Person suffers life-threatening injuries when vehicle smashes into fence and trailer in Fontana on July 24

Fontana Herald News

Posted: July 24, 2017, 3:25 PM

A person suffered serious, life-threatening injuries when a vehicle smashed into a fence and then hit a fifth-wheel trailer in Fontana on July 24, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

The incident took place at about 12:30 p.m. in the 9000 block of Oleander Avenue.

The injured person, whose age was not immediately available, was extricated from the vehicle by the Fire Department and later transported to a hospital.

Another person who was in the vehicle declined medical treatment, according to Public Information Officer Eric Sherwin.

No persons were inside the trailer at the time of the incident, Sherwin said.

The cause of the crash was under investigation.

http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/person-suffers-life-threatening-injuries-when-vehicle-smashes-into-fence/article_f2c2a1c2-70be-11e7-af4a-0b12c0dbdce0.html

Authorities: Alcohol or drugs believed to be a factor in Hwy 395 rollover crash

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: July 21, 2017, 11:40 AM



Two men suffered major injuries in a single-vehicle rollover crash on Highway 395, north of Palmdale Road, Thursday afternoon. [Paola Baker, Daily Press]

This story has been updated with more information from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. An earlier version of this story stated that one person had been killed in the crash, citing California Highway Patrol logs that listed the crash as a fatality. Sheriff's officials, however, said two men suffered major injuries and were airlifted to trauma centers.

VICTORVILLE — Alcohol or drugs appear to have been a factor in a fiery single-vehicle rollover crash on Highway 395 Thursday afternoon, authorities said.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and Fire Department personnel responded to the crash, which occurred on Highway 395 just north of Palmdale Road at 4:47 p.m.

The vehicle, a blue 2001 BMW sedan, was reportedly traveling north on Highway 395 when, for reasons unknown, the driver lost control of the vehicle, skidding across the No. 2 lane and hitting the curb, causing it to overturn several times before colliding with a tree and bursting into flames, according to authorities.

Several witnesses reported that the BMW “jumped the curb” in front of a Panda Express restaurant on Highway 395 and Crossroads Way before it began to overturn. Witnesses also said flames erupted right after the impact.

The flames were quickly extinguished, but **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman Ryan Vaccaro said two of the occupants were ejected from the vehicle due to the impact. Identified as the driver and one of the passengers by sheriff's officials, the two men were airlifted to trauma centers with major injuries, authorities said.

A third passenger also reported injuries, Vaccaro said, but sheriff's officials described him as uninjured in a statement Friday that also said, “It appears alcohol or drugs were a factor in the collision.”

At 5:33 p.m. Thursday, California Highway Patrol logs reported that a fatality occurred as a result of this crash, but no further information was provided.

Highway 395 was closed in both directions between Seneca Road and Crossroads Way. Officials briefly opened up both southbound lanes and one northbound lane and traffic was moving at around 5:30 p.m., but CHP logs showed a hard closure was requested for both lanes shortly after.

A portion of one northbound lane was closed for several hours as deputies conducted the investigation, authorities said.

Anyone with information about this crash is urged to contact the Victorville Sheriff's Station at 760-241-2911. Callers wishing to remain anonymous are urged to call the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-782-7463 or visit www.wetip.com.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170720/authorities-alcohol-or-drugs-believed-to-be-factor-in-hwy-395-rollover-crash>

What one year without a city fire department has meant for San Bernardino

Ryan Hagen, Press-Enterprise

Posted: July 21, 2017, 2:23 PM



Firefighter/Paramedic Steven Avila, left, and Engineer Brandon Didonato check saws from the ladder truck to make sure they are in top shape at San Bernardino County Fire Station 221 in San Bernardino, Friday, July 14, 2017. (Eric Reed/For The Sun/SCNG)

Since **San Bernardino County firefighters** took over the city of San Bernardino's fire and emergency service one year ago, the average time for firefighters to respond to a 911 call has fallen dramatically, dropping more than 3 minutes from 9:50 to 6:07.

That 38 percent improvement compared with 2014, the last year with data available, contradicts some critics' prediction that service levels would worsen under county management and fulfills one of the main promises of the controversial annexation, which took effect the first week of July 2016.

But other effects are more ambiguous, even now that a full year of data is available.

"That response time is critical — it can save lives," said Assistant Chief Dan Munsey, who has overseen fire services for the city since February. "At the same time, I think there's been some significant challenges. We've developed short- and long-range plans for that."

The change to county services in San Bernardino, and more recently in Upland, is opposite with trends in Riverside County, where some cities are considering breaking away from county services and considering forming local or regional agencies.

FINANCIAL IMPACT COMPLICATED

When San Bernardino's consultant, Andy Belknap of Management Partners, presented the plan in August 2015, he projected "an \$11 million contribution to solvency."

That was downgraded to about \$7 million by the time of the vote, and now city officials say it's difficult to put a single number on how the outsourcing has affected the city's bottom line, given the combination of lost revenues and savings. Reconciliation with the county is ongoing, according to city officials.

The annexation added a new tax on each parcel of land in the city, which was \$148 per year for fiscal year 2016-17 and can increase up to 3 percent per year.

And all of that money goes directly to the county every year, no matter how much the city's property values grow in the future.

The city's payments to the county — all of its regular property tax and about one-third of its so-called Vehicle License Fee property tax — were negotiated as approximately what fire services cost annually, according to City Manager Mark Scott.

In the fiscal year that ended in June 2016 — the same time the county took over fire services — the city spent \$29.8 million on fire services, compared with \$400,000 in the 2016-17 year that just ended. That \$400,000 is payments for five firefighters on medical leave who remained the city's responsibility, and is down to one firefighter now, according to Dixon Mutadzakupa, the city's budget officer.

Since the annexation went into effect, the city exited bankruptcy after nearly five years. Its budget for the current year includes a small surplus, but officials say they still don't have the money to invest in many important areas.

OPINIONS SPLIT

Mayor Carey Davis said the fire chief is making important improvements, and residents he speaks to are pleased with the fire service.

“At my Evenings with the Mayor, it's not something anyone complains about,” Davis said. “I understand response times have decreased, and (Munsey's) moving an engine to Station 221 (200 E. Third St.), which will be more of a benefit.”

Firefighters, who had a contentious relationship with the city before the outsourcing, also now seem to be happy, Davis added.

Some residents, though, continue to see the move as shortsighted and chafe in particular at the new tax, which was added without a vote.

“The whole LAFCO process is a slap in the face of the democratic process,” said resident Kathy Mallon. “Now they're going to do it in Upland again. It's pretty much a money grab as far as I see it. It's a money grab on the back of taxpayers, where we have no chance in hell to meet the requirements of their process.”

While California law normally requires an election to institute a tax, that isn't the case when residents annex themselves into an existing area that has a tax, such as the county's fire protection district. Instead, the Local Agency Formation Commission — LAFCO — mails landowners seeking protests. An election is held if a protest is received from at least 25 percent but less than 50 percent of the registered voters, or if 25 percent to 100 percent of the number of landowners — who own at least 25 percent of the total land value — submit written protest. (A protest from a majority stops the annexation.)

The plan also requires approval from the City Council, which passed it 4-3 last year. Several of the council members who opposed it then remain strong opponents.

“We sort of gave away the farm in many ways,” Councilman Henry Nickel said, referring to the agreement to give property tax revenue to the county. “I don't think the county wants to see the city go into bankruptcy, but

if they deprive of us of a significant portion of our property value, there's no real incentive to increase our property tax base."

Councilman John Valdivia, who also strongly opposed the move, declined to assess it in detail this week.

"Response times will be longer, taxes will be higher, and fire stations in minority communities are still (going to be) shuttered and closed," Valdivia said in 2016.

Asked this week if he would have done anything differently if he had known that response times have been shown to be shorter, Valdivia said he appreciated the hard work of firefighters.

"That's really all I have to say. I think we need to look forward, not backwards," he said. "I'm very appreciative of our fire professionals, and I have nothing but praise for them. By all accounts, they're happy, and I'm certainly happy."

Councilman Fred Shorett, one of the most vocal advocates for outsourcing, said he was pleased with the improved service, although he stressed that he didn't want to disparage any of the firefighters who had formerly worked for the city.

"I think the employees and we are better served with a larger organization," Shorett said, adding that fire officials continued to work closely with the city's elected officials.

"I actually called (Assistant Chief Dan) Munsey today, and he called me back within two or three minutes and was very understanding and very responsive," he said.

And Shorett blasted those he said had made empty threats about outsourcing.

"That's kind of John's MO, to talk about things without really having facts," he said. "And the facts come out later."

Former San Bernardino firefighters say the change has been good for them.

"When you take a Fire Department that's 138 years old, with a lot of tradition, it's bittersweet," said Capt. Steve Tracey, a longtime city firefighter who now does training for the county. "With the one year anniversary, it's kind of ironic, because now Upland is going to be transitioning in, so now a lot of the former city folks are helping with that transition to make sure they're as welcome as we are."

DIFFERENT FEELINGS IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY

While consolidation is the movement in San Bernardino County, talk of breaking away from county control is swirling — though it is only talk for now — to the south.

Both Calimesa and Canyon Lake have bucked cost increases from Riverside County. Canyon Lake took the biggest step, ending its deal with the county in an attempt to form its own department. The move led to the gated community's only fire station being shuttered and relying on services from neighboring cities Lake Elsinore and Menifee.

Canyon Lake and Calimesa have since agreed to new deals with the county. In the case of Canyon Lake, it included reopening the city's station. However, questions over staffing and costs will continue to be discussed.

In San Jacinto, the city attempted to form a Joint Powers Authority with the Idyllwild Fire Protection Authority in 2016 in an effort to change fire services. The two communities have since abandoned the plan, though the issues that pushed San Jacinto to make the move in the first place still remain.

EXPENSIVE IMPROVEMENTS

The 10 fire stations in San Bernardino responded to more than 41,200 calls for service between July 2016 and June 30, 2017, according to Fire Department data — significantly more than the 30,000 that city firefighters responded to the year before.

“That’s among the busiest in the state of California,” Munsey said, attributing most of the increase to the county responding to the less-serious medical calls that the city had handed off to the private ambulance company American Medical Response since 2014. “It might be a lower priority emergency, an alpha or bravo, but if the patient is untreated it turns into a more critical incident.”

That heavy call load cuts down on time for training and for community events, he said.

But the biggest challenge is the condition of the equipment inherited from the city, according to Munsey.

Seven of the city's 10 fire stations need immediate replacement, he said, while the funding model expects those replacements to take 21 years.

“The station replacement alone is the biggest nugget that I’ll have to crack,” Munsey said. “They’re modulars built in the ’70s, and nobody expected them to still be in use now. They’re built for smaller apparatus, built without earthquake standards, built using asbestos, and as we’ve been digging ... (we’re finding) large amounts of asbestos and black mold.”

One station, on Kendall Drive near University Avenue, closed in February when repair efforts discovered mold, and it remains closed.

A new fire station costs about \$3.5 million, according to Munsey.

Already, though, the department has spent \$1 million in apparatus repair and maintenance that was mostly deferred because of the city's financial difficulties, according to the department.

An additional \$272,000 was spent on medical equipment upgrades including modern life-support monitors, and \$150,000 on structural improvements to the fire stations.

Staffing, which is already two higher than before by three firefighter/paramedics and three firefighters, is expected to add an additional squad soon.

That came after a call from county Supervisor Josie Gonzales, who represents part of the city.

“The city of San Bernardino is producing (an emergency) call volume on or about 40,000 calls a year. The city of Fontana is producing on or about 20,000 calls per year,” Gonzales said at the county budget meeting in June. “San Bernardino has the same staffing that Fontana has, minus one. ... There could be liability on down the line.”

Even before those additional resources come, the city is seeing improvements because of the ability to draw from nearby stations and the county’s other resources, according to Munsey.

That’s part of the reason for the much-faster response times, he said.

“And it’s good planning, it’s using computer modeling to see where our fire engines should be and deploying them,” he said. “Now we can start to make other changes. So the future is exciting for us. With the (parcel tax) funding, it provides a very stable platform for us to improve our responses and continue to serve the residents better.”

<http://www.pe.com/2017/07/21/what-one-year-without-a-city-fire-department-has-meant-for-san-bernardino-2/>

CHP investigates fatal collision

Big Bear Grizzly

Posted: July 22, 2017

On July 21, at approximately 2:23 p.m., Arrowhead Area officers responded to the scene of a traffic collision on Highway 38 east of Angelus Oaks.

Frank J. Zuppiger, a resident of Big Bear City, was driving a gray 1994 Jeep Grand Cherokee westbound on the highway when, for unknown reasons, the vehicle left the roadway and entered onto the south shoulder of the highway where it overturned.

Zuppiger was trapped and would later be extricated by witnesses. After extrication, it was determined the victim was not breathing and CPR was performed by witnesses until relieved by **San Bernardino County fire** personnel.

An airship was requested and the solo driver was transported to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center where he succumbed to his injuries.

Officer R. Kundrath is handling the collision investigation. The cause of the collision is still under investigation.

http://www.bigbeargrizzly.net/news/chp-investigates-fatal-collision/article_52906012-6f11-11e7-b158-9bb47d08e01d.html

Fire Crews Extinguish Blaze Burning Near Homes in Highland

KTLA 5

Posted: July 23, 2017, 8:18 AM

Firefighters were able to fully contain the 30-acre Seine fire less than a day after it broke out in Highland, officials announced Sunday.

The blaze was fully contained after it had been burning dangerously close to homes on Saturday, with flames seen coming up along residents' fences, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

However, crews were able to protect the structures, and no damage was reported as a result of the fire.

The flames were first reported around 2 p.m. Saturday near Piedmont Drive and Seine Avenue, which gave the blaze its name. About 75 firefighters ultimately responded, officials said.

No roads were closed or evacuations ordered because of the Seine Fire, although drivers were urged to use caution on Highway 330 due to another blaze that broke out east of Highland dubbed the Dollar fire.

Firefighters had not provided an update on that incident Sunday, but as of Saturday evening the fire had burned about 85 acres and was 40 percent contained.

<http://ktla.com/2017/07/23/fire-crews-extinguish-blaze-burning-near-homes-in-highland/>

Upland Fire Department leaves legacy of dedication as new era begins: Debbie Stone

Debbie Stone, Daily Bulletin

Posted: July 24, 2017, 1:55 PM



Upland fire personnel are sworn in as San Bernardino County firefighters during the transfer of authority ceremony in Upland on July 20, 2017. (Photo by John Valenzuela/Inland Valley Daily Bulletin)

The true value of a fire department can be measured in the quality, professionalism and dedication of its personnel. For the past century, Upland has been blessed to have been served by the best any community has to offer.

With annexation into the **San Bernardino County Fire Protection District**, we welcome a new era of fire protection, while looking back with appreciation and reverence for those who have dedicated themselves to protecting our property and our lives.

The transition will largely be a seamless one. All of Upland's firefighters have been offered positions with the county, and many will continue serving our community. But we know, too, that an organizational change such as this is not easy, and that sacrifices have been made.

For that, I am grateful beyond words. Annexation was a difficult decision, but with the support of our firefighters, we knew it was the right path to take.

In truth, we're not losing a fire department, but gaining several significant advantages when it comes to fire protection — fiscal stability, the ability to leverage regional fire resources, improved response times in many of our neighborhoods.

Providing fire protection the right way has been part of our city's history almost from the start. The Upland Fire Department was formally created in 1911 — just a few years after the city was incorporated. It was an all-volunteer unit, under the leadership of Chief F.H. Manker.

They used a manual hose cart back then, which seemed to do the trick until 1913, when the first serious fire in the new community destroyed all the businesses on the east side of Second Avenue south of Ninth Street. That fire led to the building, in 1915, of the city's first fire station on D Street. The first motorized fire engine was purchased at this time, as well.

The volunteer firefighters had a visible presence throughout the community, and in 1924, the Upland News wrote, "Upland has the most successful fire company of any city in the state." In 1963, the first full-time firefighters were hired to supplement the volunteer firefighters.

Throughout all those years, Upland firefighters have battled house fires, wildfires, business and school fires. They've rescued lives, assisted with medical emergencies and traffic accidents, delivered babies and saved children from drowning.

We have been a far safer community because of them, and we know that the dedication they given all of us will continue through the county fire district.

Again, I want to thank all of our firefighters, past and present, for the commitment you have given us. I also want to thank our community for supporting annexation. We owe you all a debt of gratitude.

To our neighbors in San Antonio Heights who voiced their concerns over being included in the annexation plan, I do understand — and I hope that moving forward, we can build upon our own history together.

Thank you, again.

Debbie Stone is the mayor of Upland.

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/opinion/20170724/upland-fire-department-leaves-legacy-of-dedication-as-new-era-begins-debbie-stone>

Fatal Accident Shuts Down Highway 38 on Friday

Steve Cassling, Big Bear News KBHR 93.3

Posted: July 24, 2017

Big Bear, CA – On Friday, July 21, at approximately 2:23 pm, Arrowhead Area Officers responded to the scene of a traffic collision on SR-38, East of Angelus Oaks. Mr. Frank J. Zuppinger, a resident of Big Bear City, was driving a gray, 1994, Jeep Grand Cherokee, westbound on SR-38, east of Angelus Oaks. For unknown reasons, the Grand Cherokee left the roadway and entered onto the south shoulder of SR-38 where it overturned. Mr. Zuppinger was trapped and would later be extricated by witnesses. After extrication, it was determined Mr. Zuppinger was not breathing and CPR was performed by witnesses until relieved by **San Bernardino County Fire** personnel. An airship was requested and the solo driver was transported to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, where he succumbed to his injuries. The cause of the collision is still under investigation.

<http://kbhr933.com/current-news/fatal-accident-shuts-down-highway-38-on-friday/>

15-Year-Old Pedestrian Hit, Seriously Injured On The Highway In Twentynine Palms

Z107.7 News

Posted: July 24, 2017

A 15-year-old boy was seriously injured about 9:20 p.m. Saturday night when he was hit by a car . According to **County Fire** Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle, the boy was walking eastbound on Highway 62 at Utah Trail when he was hit by a car, also traveling eastbound on the highway. When rescue personnel arrived, two Good Samaritans were helping the boy, who was lying on the side of the road. The driver told deputies that boy suddenly walked into the road. The boy sustained major injuries and was taken to Hi-Desert Medical Center and then flown by Mercy Air to Desert Hospital in Palm Springs. No one inside the car was injured. The Sheriff's Department is investigating.

<http://z1077fm.com/boy-hit-by-car-in-twentynine-palms-saturday-night-seriously-injured/>

Van Crashes Into Power Pole In Yucca Valley Saturday Morning

Z107.7 News

Posted: July 24, 2017

A woman was injured early Saturday morning when a van crashed into a power pole in Yucca Valley. According to **County Fire** Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle, the large passenger van was westbound on Onaga Trail, just west of Sage Avenue about 4 a.m., when, for unknown reasons, the van left its lane and crashed into the pole, shearing it off. The male driver was out of the van and walking around when rescue personnel arrived. His female passenger, however, was trapped inside the van. It took firefighters about 15 minutes to extricate her using the Jaws of Life. She was taken to Desert Hospital in Palm Springs with moderate injuries. Southern California Edison was called to repair the pole.

<http://z1077fm.com/van-crashes-into-power-pole-in-yucca-valley-saturday-morning/>

Structure fire on Seventh Street quickly knocked down

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: July 25, 2017, 8:08 AM



County Fire personnel quickly knocked down a fire inside a vacant building on Seventh Street Monday afternoon. [Paola Baker, Daily Press]

VICTORVILLE — Firefighters quickly doused a blaze that erupted in a vacant building on Seventh Street Monday afternoon.

San Bernardino County Fire Department officials responded to reports of a fire at a building in the 14900 block of Seventh Street just before 5 p.m. Monday.

County Fire Battalion Chief Josh Sprague said a maintenance worker reported seeing fire in the building. Firefighters arrived and found flames coming from the back side of the building, Sprague said.

As firefighters entered the building, Sprague said they found the flames coming from an electrical panel on an external wall, which had spread into the inside of the wall. However, firefighters were quickly able to douse the flames and prevent them from spreading further.

There was minimal internal damage to the building, no exposure to nearby buildings or vegetation, and no injuries, Sprague said.

The cause of the blaze remains under investigation.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170725/structure-fire-on-seventh-street-quickly-knocked-down>

Oak Hills Man, 77, Attacked by Swarm of Bees, Airlifted in Critical Condition

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: July 25, 2017



(stock photo)

OAK HILLS, Calif. (VVNG.com) A 77-year-old man was air flighted to a trauma center after he was attacked by a swarm of bees in Oak Hills.

On July 25, at 11:38 am, **San Bernardino County Fire Department** responded to the 7400 block of Escondido Avenue reference a bee attack.

When firefighters arrived on scene, they located the elderly victim suffering life-threatening injuries as a result of the bee attack, officials said.

“He was stung dozens of times all over the body,” stated SB County Fire Public Information Officer Eric Sherwin.

An airship landed at Oak Hills High School and airlifted the man to Loma Linda University Medical Center.

A family member spoke with NBC4 news reporter Tony Shin, and said the elderly man remains in critical condition and “fighting for his life.”

Tony Shin reported the attack was caused by Africanized Bees, commonly known as killer bees.

Tony Shin will have a full-story on the incident today Tuesday, July 25, on NBC4 at 5:30 pm.

SAFETY MESSAGE courtesy of Eric Sherwin:

“If you come across a hive, do not disturb it, leave it alone and contact a qualified pest control company. Swarming bees that are moving from place to place are relatively docile because they don’t have a hive to protect. Once they set-up shop and start creating that hive that they are protecting the queen and the hive. Often times when we get bee swarms that are moving through the area we leave them undisturbed and they move off within a matter of minutes.”

<http://www.vvng.com/oak-hills-man-77-attacked-swarm-bees-airlifted-critical-condition/>

Two Injured When Truck Hits Washed-Out Bridge, Bursts Into Flames

Z107.7 News

Posted: July 25, 2017

Two men are lucky to be alive after their truck landed short over a washed out bridge caused by severe thunder storms early Tuesday morning. According to **County Fire** Battalion Chief Mike Snow, paramedics were called to a crash on National Trails Highway in Danby, just east of Cadiz, about 5 a.m. While the bridge over a wash had just been washed out, the men, employees of a gas pipeline company, were unaware of the washed out bridge and attempted to drive their truck over the bridge to the other side. The truck landed short with the front axle catching the trench on the other side. Snow said the truck instantly burst into flames upon landing but the men were able to get out of the truck on their own. The truck was a total loss. The men were flown to a hospital in Las Vegas for treatment of moderate injuries.

<http://z1077fm.com/two-injured-when-truck-hits-washed-out-bridge-bursts-into-flames/>