



NEWS



News Headlines 05/07/2019

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If You See Something, Say Something

Tracey Martinez of San Bernardino County Fire Department, Mountain News

Posted: May 6, 2019



May 5-11 is Arson Awareness Week.

Southern California is no stranger to the destruction caused by wildfires. Sometimes these fires are caused by weather conditions, other times they are arson. Every year arson fires claim lives, property, and natural resources placing your families, our communities, firefighters and law enforcement officers at risk with every response. Thousands of wildfires are set by arsonists each year in the U.S., resulting in billions of dollars in damages as well as thousands more residential and commercial structure fires that are equally as costly. In San Bernardino County alone, a high percentage of our investigated fires have been set by arsonists.

“With fire season being year-round, we must take a harder stance on those that mindfully start fires,” said Fire Marshal Mike Horton. “**San Bernardino County Fire** has set a “zero tolerance” approach to arson. We will continue citing and prosecuting arsonists to the fullest extent.”

Did you know approximately 95 percent of all wildfires are caused by human activity? This means most wildfires are preventable. When an arsonist sets a fire, we all pay the price and we need each other to effectively confront this problem.

Help us spread the word and be a part of the solution. SBCoFD encourage you to report directly or use We-Tip to aid fire investigators and law enforcement stop fires before they start while solving cases and placing criminal arsonists where they belong, behind bars.

What can you do to help? We need you to be the eyes and ears for County Fire. Keep an eye out for suspicious activity in your neighborhood. Suspicious activity can be described as something that is not normal behavior or draws your attention. Not every act that appears suspicious is criminal. However, something that draws your attention and causes concern should be checked out by law enforcement as a precaution. Write down vehicle information, including license plate number, and a description of the occupants. See someone discarding a cigarette out the window, call 9-1-1.

Your information may make the difference in arresting and convicting an arsonist. “If you See Something, Say Something”. Report the information to SBCoFD at 909-386-8400 or anonymously by calling the We-Tip hotline at 1-800-47-ARSON. That's 1-800-472-7766 or visit WeTip.com.

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_87c46a7a-7023-11e9-950e-27f229a643dd.html

READY! SET! GO! Personal Wildfire Action Program

Tracey Martinez of San Bernardino County Fire Department, Mountain News

Posted: May 6, 2019, 10:10 am

May 5-11 is Wildfire Awareness Week. Are you prepared in the event of a wildfire?

San Bernardino County is one of the most beautiful places to live, but for those living in what are called “urban interface areas”, it does not come without risks. Fire is, and always has been, a natural part of this landscape. Wildfires are now a year-round reality in San Bernardino County. This means that both firefighters and residents must be on heightened alert for the threat of wildfire.

To create safer communities, **County Fire** initiated a program called **READY! SET! GO!**; targeting communities in high risk wildfire prone areas. **READY! SET! GO!** is about helping residents understand how their home’s location, surrounding vegetation, construction elements, and other factors place their property and them at risk during a wildfire. More importantly, it teaches them what they can do to reduce that risk – get **READY!** It also instructs them on the importance of having an evacuation and survival plan – get **SET!** Finally, it emphasizes the need to **GO!** and go early, before the fire arrives to ensure the safety of themselves and their family. The goal of this program is to educate and engage residents in reducing the risk in their communities, which will help save lives and property.

“Firefighters train hard and make countless preparations to be ready for a wildfire. Residents need to do the same,” stated Fire Chief Don Trapp. “Successfully preparing for a wildfire requires residents to take personal responsibility for protecting themselves, their family, and their property.”

It’s not a question of if, but when, the next wildfire will occur. Advance planning and preparation can dramatically increase your safety and the survivability of your property. San Bernardino County Fire offers residents a free home wildfire consultation to help residents make their home and property more fire safe. Contact your local fire station to schedule a consultation.

San Bernardino County Fire is committed to providing Premier Fire Service - protecting the communities we serve with safety first. The **READY! SET! GO!** Program is another tool in providing such service.

County Fire relies on Fire Safe Councils. They are a great resource in not only getting information out to the community, but in developing and implementing fire safety programs. Visit the Inland Empire Fire Safe Alliance web site at www.fireinformation.com and learn how you can get involved. For more information on wildfire safety and preparation, including the **READY! SET! GO!** Program, visit our web site at www.sbcfire.org.

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_ce54209a-7021-11e9-be70-d716b1ed4c73.html