



NEWS



News Headlines 3/23-26/2018

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Motorcycle Rider Killed in Yucca Valley Crash Saturday

Staff Writer, z1077news

Posted: March 26, 2018

UPDATES TO IDENTIFY MOTORCYCLE RIDER KILLED

A Yucca Valley motorcycle rider was killed Saturday evening in a crash in Yucca Valley, at the same location where another motorcycle rider was killed in January. About 8:15 p.m., a silver SUV traveling westbound on Highway 62 attempted a left-hand turn into the AM/PM gas station driveway, just east of Balsa Avenue, directly in front of a 50-year-old motorcycle rider who was traveling eastbound on the highway. The motorcycle rider, identified by a family member as Chad Smithling, a father of three girls, broadsided the car and was thrown from the bike. **County Fire** Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle said that Yucca Valley paramedics pronounced Chad Smithling deceased at the scene. The Sheriff's department is investigating. That dangerous intersection is no stranger to tragedy, Town Councilman Merl Abel said the town has asked Caltrans, who has jurisdiction on the State Highway, repeatedly, to put in a median or highway delineators there and have been turned down. On January 1, a car leaving the AM/PM gas station eastbound on the highway made a U-turn, and Benjamin Lawrenson, 21, T-boned the vehicle with his motorcycle. Lawrenson died at Hi-Desert Medical Center and his female passenger was injured.

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

Henderson charter school students escape as bus catches fire in California

Marvin Clemons, News 3 LV

Posted: March 26, 2018



Photo Courtesy MGNOnline

HENDERSON, Nev. (KSNV) – Thirty charter school students from Henderson escaped a burning bus Friday afternoon as they began a trip home from a science camp in Big Bear, Calif.

The students and staff members at SLAM Charter School were in the Lucerne Valley when the bus caught fire for unknown reasons about 2 p.m. on Highway 18 at Camp Rock Road.

The bus was able to pull over to allow students to evacuate the bus. The vehicle was engulfed in flames by the time **San Bernardino County Fire** Department personnel arrived.

The bus was a total loss as were all possessions of the students and staff.
The students were from SLAM Academy Charter School.

The students were returning to Henderson after two and half day camp in Big Bear.

Charter bus catches fire with 30 students on board in Lucerne Valley

Staff Writer, VVNG

Posted: March 23, 2018



(Submitted photos)

LUCERNE VALLEY, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A charter bus transporting thirty students returning from a science camp in Big Bear caught fire Friday afternoon.

It happened on March 23, 2018, at around 2:00 pm, in the 3660 block of Highway 18 at Camp Rock Road in Lucerne Valley.

The bus was transporting 30 students from SLAM Academy Charter School in Henderson, Nevada back home after spending two and a half days at a camp in Big Bear.

According to people familiar with the incident, the bus was descending into Lucerne Valley when the fire started. The driver managed to pull over in time for the students to evacuate the bus. The flames grew larger and eventually engulfed the entire bus by the time **San Bernardino County Fire** personnel were able to arrive.

Once the fire was extinguished, the bus was a total loss as was all the possessions of the students and staff. According to a chaperon, they were waiting for a bus from Las Vegas as well as two other buses that were also returning to Henderson after other field trips in Southern California.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

<http://www.vvng.com/charter-bus-catches-fire-with-30-students-on-board-in-lucerne-valley/>

Highway 395 closed after head-on crash; 2 airlifted

Staff Writer, VVNG

Posted: March 24, 2018



(Photo: Lara Khodanian)

BORON, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A man and a woman were airlifted to trauma centers following a crash that shutdown a stretch of US Highway 395 for several hours.

It happened on Saturday, March 24, 2018, according to the California Highway Patrol incident logs, a head-on crash involving a Acura SUV and a white Nissan Altima was reported at 12:08 am, on Highway 395, one mile south of SR-58 near Kramer Junction.

Firefighters with **San Bernardino County Fire** responded and treated a total of three patients in two separate vehicles. Two of the patients were classified as ‘immediate’ and the third as ‘delayed’, scanner traffic reported.

Lara khodanian, 46, of Hesperia was ending her shift at the Pilot Truck Stop and was one of the first to arrive on scene of the traffic collision.

Lara told Victor Valley News, the crash was caused by the female driver of the SUV who attempted to pass-up two tractor-trailers traveling northbound on 395 and crashed head-on with the Nissan leaving the male and female occupants trapped.

Firefighters had to use the jaws of life to extricate the 38-year-old male and 27-year-old female, of Hesperia, from the mangled Nissan. Both were airlifted to Antelope Valley Hospital trauma center with major injuries. The driver of the SUV was in shock but declined medical transportation at the scene.

According to a Saturday morning CHP news release, the 32-year-old female driver of the Acura SUV was at fault in causing the accident due to her ‘unsafe driving’.

“The driver of the Acura traveled from the northbound lane, crossed over a broken yellow line and entered the southbound lane in an attempt to pass slower moving traffic ahead, while following an unknown vehicle, also passing. The unknown vehicle merged safely back into the northbound lane. As a result of the Acura’s unsafe driving, it was not able to merge safely back into the northbound land and the Acura collided head-on with the Nissan,” stated the news release.

Alcohol and/or drugs are not believed to be a contributing factor in this collision. Barstow CHP is continuing the investigation and anyone with additional information is asked to call 760-255-5900.

<http://www.vvng.com/highway-395-closed-after-head-on-crash-2-airlifted/>

Woman pushing walker across 7th Street struck by truck in Victorville

Staff Writer, VVNG

Posted: March 23,2018



(Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A homeless woman jaywalking across a busy street using a walker was flown to a trauma center after she was hit by a truck.

It happened Friday, March 23, 2018, at about 7:35 pm, on 7th Street near Circle Drive in Victorville. Deputies from the Victorville sheriff's station responded and found a black Ford Ranger in the no. 1 lane with a mangled walker in front of the truck and a woman down in the roadway.

A witness at the scene told Victor Valley News, the woman had just purchased a bag of chips from the Quick Shop Market & Liquor and was trying to walk back across 7th Street to get home.

“She is homeless and sleeps over by the library. All we have is each other and I can't believe this just happened to her,” stated a friend of the pedestrian.

The pedestrian, described as a Black Female Adult in her early 50's is expected to survive. Due to the woman's injuries, firefighters with **San Bernardino County Fire** requested an air ambulance to transport the patient to a trauma center.

The male driver of the truck remained at the scene and cooperated with police. Officials at the scene confirmed alcohol or speed were not a factor in this collision.

Northbound traffic on 7th Street was temporarily detoured through the adjacent shopping center as officials cleared the scene.

<http://www.vvng.com/homeless-woman-pushing-walker-struck-by-truck-in-victorville/>