



# NEWS



## News Headlines 10/30/2019

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## CAUSE OF MASSIVE FIRE IN JOSHUA TREE LAST NIGHT CALLED SUSPICIOUS

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: October 30, 2019



A fire deemed as “suspicious”—with flames that could be seen from miles away—forced the evacuation of several residents in a Joshua Tree mobile home park Tuesday night. Firefighters from Joshua Tree, Yucca Valley, and Yucca Mesa were called to a structure fire in the 61900 block of Commercial Street about 11:00 last night. As crews arrived on scene, they were confronted with multiple abandoned structures on fire that were threatening an additional occupied structure on the property. Flames stretched over 50 feet into the night sky and could be seen from 10 miles away. A life hazard alert was issued due to a fire-damaged electrical service drop. While the giant flames raged on, several nearby residents of the Lazy H RV and Mobile home park were evacuated by Sheriff’s deputies as the fire grew in size. It took 14 firefighters and one battalion chief 30 minutes to knock down and control the massive blaze. An aggressive attack by fire crews using hand lines and deck guns ultimately saved the occupied exposure as well as the entire RV/mobile home park. The fire remains under investigation and appears suspicious in nature.

<http://z1077fm.com/cause-of-massive-in-joshua-tree-fire-last-night-called-suspicious/>

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## INJURY, SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE FROM FIRE IN YUCCA VALLEY YESTERDAY

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: October 30, 2019



Firefighters prepare to leave the 7600 block of Cibola Trail after saving a house from a fire Tuesday morning.

One person was injured, an addition was destroyed, and a couple of outbuildings were damaged in a fire in Yucca Valley Tuesday morning. Firefighters from Yucca Valley, Yucca Mesa, and Joshua Tree were called to the 7600 block of Cibola Trail at 9:25 a.m. where they found an addition on the back of the house fully involved with flames. The fire was knocked down in about 10 minutes. **County Fire Battalion Chief Donnie Vilorio** said it was due to aggressive and competent firefighting that crews were able to save the house from being destroyed and the residents will be able to move back in. However, a couple of outbuildings behind the house were completely destroyed by the blaze.

Vilorio said the home’s occupants were outside waiting for firefighters when they arrived, and a man, identified only as being in his 20s, suffered second degree burns to his upper extremities. Vilorio said that the fact that he was taken to Hi-Desert Medical Center indicates the burns were not life-threatening.

The house in the 7600 block of Cibola Trail appears undamaged by fire. Firefighters were able to contain the blaze to the rear of the home.

The cause of the fire is unknown and investigators from the Sheriff and Fire Department's Bomb and Arson units were called to the scene.

Viloria added that complicating the efforts of firefighters to put out the fire at the home on Cibola Trail was a call of a vegetation fire at 10:33 at Cherokee Trail and Sunland Drive in Yucca Valley, that required a crew to leave the house fire to fight the vegetation fire. He added that the area of the fire was small—only 20 feet by 20 feet, and that it was completely unrelated to the house fire on Cibola Trail.

<http://z1077fm.com/firefighters-save-yucca-valley-house/>

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## **SMALL BRUSH FIRE DIVERTS FIRE RESOURCES**

**Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News**

Posted: October 30, 2019

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<http://z1077fm.com/small-brush-fire-diverts-fire-resources/>

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## **SoCal fire danger: Homeowners, schools preparing for powerful winds, potential wildfires**

**Rob McMillian and Jessica De Nova, ABC 7 News**

Posted: October 29, 2019, 9:39 pm

With some of the most powerful Santa Ana winds in years expected to hit Southern California overnight, communities throughout the region are preparing for what could be a very dangerous time for fires.

While temperatures will be cool, winds could hit 50 to 70 mph in parts of Los Angeles and Ventura counties early Wednesday, with gusts in the mountains up to 80 mph.

Already in recent days, the powerful winds have helped fuel damaging blazes like the Getty Fire, the Tick Fire and the Palisades Fire, among others.

### **SCHOOL CLOSURES**

In some communities, schools are already closing in anticipation of the danger.

Cal State San Bernardino announced it will close the campus on Wednesday. The campus will update the community Wednesday night about its status for the next day.

In Ventura County, schools and districts closing Wednesday include: ACE Charter High School, Briggs School District, Fillmore Unified School District, Mupu School District, Santa Clara Elementary School District, Santa Paula Unified School District

Those are in addition to the dozens of schools that were closed this week for the Getty Fire.

## INLAND EMPIRE PREPARATIONS

In the Inland Empire, residents are worried not just about the fires, but about expected power outages. The utility companies have been turning off the electricity at times of high winds in order to reduce the possibility of sparking wildfires.

Rosena Ranch resident Bertha Payas says during one such outage last week, her 80-year-old father was having a heart attack and couldn't get help when he tried calling 911.

"He did (call) but the reception wasn't going through," she said.

Thankfully she says she was able to get home in time to rush him to the hospital.

There are other concerns as well.

"Not only that, it's completely dark, and you're opening it up for criminals to come in and loot the homes," Payas said.

Rosena Ranch resident Eleanor Williams says her husband spent some \$1,500 to set up a generator at their home.

It was worth it.

"Every power outage, we've had no problem. We're the only ones that are lit up here," she said.

Thankfully the local school has a generator. So even if the power shuts down overnight, classes will go forward.

At the mouth of the Cajon Pass, four hand crews, dozers, and two full strike teams are standing by.

"Where there might be 40-50 guys every day, today we have over 120," said Jimmy Schiller with the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

## ORANGE COUNTY

Orange County residents have also seen their share of destructive wildfires in recent years.

Sandy Monson knows all too well the potential danger of Santa Ana winds.

In 2017, the wind-driven Canyon Fire raced through her Anaheim Hills community, destroying her home and about two dozen others.

Just more than a year and a half after losing their house - the Monsons returned, their new home nestled against the same hill they saw go up in flames.

But Monson says their new home is better prepared. Windows are triple-paned, eaves are protected with cement.

"It's a tough go but we had a lot of support through the whole process and its been a blessing and amazing and a lot of learning," she said.

Chad Thompson, a battalion chief with Anaheim Fire and Rescue, says increasing staffing and placing them in strategic locations will help firefighters be prepared.

"Upstaffing the engines, the patrols and overhead - that is going to mission-task us with additional resources, faster, earlier to hopefully keep fires small."

<https://abc7.com/socal-fire-danger-communities-prepare-for-red-flag-conditions/5657873/>