



NEWS



News Headlines 4/22-24/2017

- Tankers help extinguish 30-acre Sterling fire in San Bernardino
- Firefighters Battle 30-Acre Brush Fire in San Bernardino's Borea Canyon
- Sterling fire in northern San Bernardino 80 percent contained
- Blaze burns through 3 acres in Fontana
- Grass fire erupts in northern Fontana on April 22
- Family displaced after fire tears through Victorville condo Friday
- Cat Killed, Family Displaced After Townhouse Fire Starts On Stove
- Victorville Teen Falls 75 Feet Near Heart Rock Trail in Crestline
- Young Female Hiker Falls 75 Feet From Heart Rock Trail Requiring Hoist Rescue
- Victorville girl injured after falling down ravine while hiking near Camp Seely
- Helicopter hoist used to carry teen hiker to safety
- Rosary Held For San Bernardino School Shooting Victim Jonathan Martinez
- Inauspicious Time For Needles Motel Fire Following Annexation
- Controlled Burn In Twentynine Palms
- Victorville Head-On Collision Causes Multiple Injuries

Tankers help extinguish 30-acre Sterling fire in San Bernardino

Gail Wesson, Press Enterprise

Posted: April 22, 2017, 7:23 PM

A brush fire above North Sterling Avenue in San Bernardino, north of the Del Rosa area, was stopped at about 30 acres after air tankers dropped a retardant line around the fire to slow it, according to tweets from **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

The fire was reported in the Borea Canyon area, north of the 210 Freeway, before 7 p.m.

It started in the city of San Bernardino and burned into the San Bernardino National Forest. No structures are threatened.

The fire has been dubbed the Sterling fire and county fire and Forest Service crews are battling it together.

Seventeen fire engines, two handcrews, two helicopters and two air tankers had fought the blaze. Crews were set to work into the night to reinforce the fire line.

Smoke from the fire was seen in Highlands and as far away as Redlands.

<http://www.pe.com/2017/04/22/brush-fire-burning-north-of-del-rosa-area-near-san-bernardino/>

Firefighters Battle 30-Acre Brush Fire in San Bernardino's Borea Canyon

Erika Martin And Steve Kuzj, KTLA 5 News

Posted: April 22, 2017, 8:14 PM



A plane drops retardant on a fire in San Bernardino. (Credit: San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters Local 935 via Twitter)

Authorities on Saturday were working to contained a brush fire that broke out in San Bernardino, officials said.

San Bernardino County firefighters reported the blaze began at 5:30 p.m. It is being dubbed the Sterling Fire due to its location off of Sterling Avenue north of the 210 Freeway.

The flames had engulfed about 30 acres in the area of Borea Canyon as of 8:05 p.m. but their forward rate of spread had stopped, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** tweeted.

By 10 p.m. the fire was 25 percent contained.

Earlier in the evening, crews placed a line of retardant around the flames and were "making good progress."

There was no immediate threat to structures, according to Assistant San Bernardino County Fire Chief Jeff Burchfield.

"There are some home nearby but the direction the fire was running was away from the homes," he told KTLA. "Some of the other issues that we're facing is the high heat that's early in the season, and the grasses are starting to cure now and starting to burn."

Firefighters will remain at the scene overnight to construct and reinforce lines, Burchfield said, noting officials expected to control it.

"You never know what can happen with the weather tomorrow, but we're optimistic that we'll get good work in tonight and (there) shouldn't be any issues tomorrow once it heats up," he said.

Fire crews' response included 17 engines, two hand crews, two helicopters and two air tankers.

The blaze ignited in the city of San Bernardino before making its way up to the forest, firefighters said, but it was unclear what caused the fire to break out.

<http://ktla.com/2017/04/22/firefighters-battle-30-acre-brush-fire-in-san-bernardinis-borea-canyon/>

Sterling fire in northern San Bernardino 80 percent contained

David Danelski, Press Enterprise

Posted: April 23, 2017, 2:46 PM

A brush fire that started Saturday in northern San Bernardino has burned 43 acres as of Sunday evening, April 23, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

The Sterling fire is 80 percent contained, San Bernardino County Fire Capt. Dan Nelson said. No homes are threatened and there have been no injuries, Nelson said.

The fire was reported sometime before 7 p.m. Saturday in the Borea Canyon area, north of the 210 Freeway. It started within San Bernardino city limits but burned into land within the San Bernardino National Forest above North Sterling Avenue, northeast of the Del Rosa area.

Crews from the San Bernardino County Fire Department and U.S. Forest Service are battling it together.

On Saturday, air tankers dropped a retardant line around the fire to slow it. Fire officials said Saturdaynight that they had forward progress stopped at 30 acres, but by Sunday the size had grown to 43 acres.

The fire should be 100 percent contained sometime Monday, Nelson said.

<http://www.pe.com/2017/04/23/sterling-fire-near-san-bernardino-grows-to-43-acres/>

Blaze burns through 3 acres in Fontana

Alex Groves, Press-Enterprise

Posted: April 22, 2017, 1:25 PM

A blaze torched about three acres, a motorhome and one vehicle in Fontana Saturday afternoon, April 22, fire officials confirmed.

The fire was first reported shortly before 11:30 a.m. in a backyard of a home in the 16400 block of Baseline Avenue, said **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman Eric Sherwin.

He said the blaze spread at a moderate way through brush and trash and, at some point, the motorhome and vehicle both caught fire.

The forward spread of the blaze was stopped shortly after noon and it was completely put out a little before 1 p.m.

It wasn't immediately clear how much damage the fire caused. Sherwin said its cause was still under investigation.

<http://www.pe.com/2017/04/22/blaze-burns-through-3-acres-in-fontana/>

Grass fire erupts in northern Fontana on April 22

Mike Myers, Fontana Herald News

Posted: April 22, 2017, 7:28 PM



A grass fire burned three acres in northern Fontana on April 22 but was extinguished before it could burn any homes. (Contributed photo by Mike Myers)

A late morning grass fire erupted dangerously close to homes in northern Fontana on April 22, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

At about 11:45 a.m., the blaze started behind homes in the 7100 block of Cypress Avenue, near Baseline Avenue, and burned three acres. The fire reached the backyard of a home, where a truck and two trailers were destroyed, but the structure was saved. There were no reports of injuries.

A camp crew from Glen Helen had been training nearby and responded to help extinguish the fire.

Police evacuated residents in the immediate area due to the fire, but they were able to return to their homes early in the afternoon.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department is investigating the cause of the fire.

http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/grass-fire-erupts-in-northern-fontana-on-april/article_9bf43986-27cc-11e7-a03b-1f23dde34429.html

Family displaced after fire tears through Victorville condo Friday

Paola Baker, Hesperia Star

Posted: April 21, 2017, 4:10 PM

VICTORVILLE — A fire tore through a condominium Friday afternoon, leaving its residents uninjured but displaced from their home, authorities said.

San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel responded to reports of a stove fire at a condo in the 18300 block of Burning Tree Drive at 12:22 p.m. Friday. Although firefighters made quick work of the blaze, the flames damaged a downstairs unit, County Fire spokesman Eric Sherwin said.

“A quick attack by firefighters was instrumental in keeping the fire from spreading to adjoining condos,” Sherwin said.

Several County Fire personnel responded, including five engines, two trucks, one squad and one chief officer. Sherwin said the blaze was knocked down within 12 minutes.

A family of two adults, one child and one infant were displaced from the condo due to the blaze, and Red Cross was requested to assist them.

The blaze remains under investigation by County Fire.

<http://www.hesperia.com/news/20170421/family-displaced-after-fire-tears-through-victorville-condo-friday>

Cat Killed, Family Displaced After Townhouse Fire Starts On Stove

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: April 21, 2017



A cat died and a family was displaced after a stove fire spread throughout the unit. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) A family of four were displaced and the family cat was killed after a townhome caught fire Friday afternoon.

San Bernardino County Firefighters responded to the 18300 block of Burning Tree Drive for a townhouse on fire at approximately 12:22 pm.

Upon arrival, firefighters were able to knock down the fire in 12 minutes. The two-story townhome sustained significant damage to the first-floor level, San Bernardino County Fire Department spokesman Jeff Allen said.

The Red Cross was requested to assist two adults, a 5-year-old, and a toddler that were residing in the unit.

Allen said the family's cat was upstairs under a bed and died as a result of the fire.

Four paramedic engines, a truck company equipped with a ladder, a battalion chief, and a fire investigator assisted the operation, bringing the total personnel count to 17.

According to National Fire Protection Association, Cooking equipment was the leading cause of home fires and fire injuries, causing 46% of home fires that resulted in 19% of the home fire deaths and 44% of the injuries.

As a reminder, ensure all smoke detectors are properly operating with working batteries. No other units were damaged by the fire.

<http://www.vvng.com/cat-killed-family-displaced-townhouse-fire-starts-stove/>

Victorville Teen Falls 75 Feet Near Heart Rock Trail in Crestline

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: April 23, 2017



(Photo by Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

CRESTLINE, Calif. (VVNG.com) – A 17-year-old girl from Victorville was rescued after falling 75 feet while hiking in the popular “heart rock” trail, authorities said.

On Saturday, April 22nd, at 3:55 p.m. San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Aviation was requested by the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** for a hoist rescue of a 17-year-old fall victim.

The victim was hiking in the Camp Seely area of Crestline and fell approximately 75 feet down a steep ravine. As a result of the fall, the victim sustained serious but non-life threatening injuries.

The Valley patrol helicopter 40King4 quickly responded and located the victim. The crew could not complete the hoist due to the height of the trees in the area and requested Sheriff’s Air Rescue 307 to respond. Air Rescue 307 has a hoist with a length of over 200 feet. Air Rescue 307 responded and lowered rescue/medical personnel approximately 220 feet to the victim.

The victim was placed in a rescue litter, hoisted up into the helicopter and flown to Loma Linda University Medical Center for her injuries.

<http://www.vvng.com/victorville-teen-falls-75-feet-near-heart-rock-trail-crestline/>

Young Female Hiker Falls 75 Feet From Heart Rock Trail Requiring Hoist Rescue

24/7 Headline News

Posted: April 23, 2017

CRESTLINE – A female juvenile was hiking near Camp Seely on the Heart Rock Trail on Saturday afternoon when she lost footing and fell approximately 75 feet.

At around 2:40 p.m. the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** additional rescue personnel responded to the area to locate the girl. Due to the location of the juvenile, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's helicopter was requested and responded to the scene to hoist the victim out of the area.

The hoist was successful and the juvenile was transported to Loma Linda University Medical Center for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

<https://247headline.com/young-female-hiker-falls-75-feet-from-heart-rock-trail-requiring-hoist-rescue/>

Victorville girl injured after falling down ravine while hiking near Camp Seely

Daily Press

Posted: April 24, 2017, 7:38 AM

A Victorville teenager was airlifted to a local trauma center Saturday with serious after falling down a “steep ravine” in the Camp Seely area in Crestline.

San Bernardino County Fire Department responded to the Camp Seely area a little after 3:30 p.m. and requested the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department's 40King4, which responded and located the Dakota Strahl, 17.

“The crew could not complete the hoist due to the height of the trees in the area and requested Sheriff's Air Rescue 307 to respond,” sheriff's officials said in a statement. “Air Rescue 307 has a hoist with a length of over 200 feet. Air Rescue 307 responded and lowered rescue/medical personnel approximately 220 feet to the victim. The victim was placed in a rescue litter, hoisted up into the helicopter and flown to Loma Linda University Medical Center for her injuries.”

Authorities said the Strahl suffered serious but non life-threatening injuries.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170424/victorville-girl-injured-after-falling-down-ravine-while-hiking-near-camp-seely>

Helicopter hoist used to carry teen hiker to safety

Gail Wesson, Press Enterprise

Posted: April 22, 2017, 10:51 PM

A teenage girl was rescued by helicopter after she suffered non-life threatening injuries when she fell 75 feet down a trail at a camp near Crestline on Saturday, April 22, according to a **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman.

The victim had been hiking on the Heart Rock Trail for about a mile at Camp Seely in the San Bernardino Mountains before she fell, according to county fire spokesman Eric Sherwin.

The accident was reported about 2:40 p.m. Firefighters from Crest Forest, Lake Arrowhead and a specially trained technical rescue team responded and hiked in to the victim.

Sherwin said it was quicker to use a San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department helicopter to hoist the victim out and transport her to a hospital in Loma Linda for treatment. Fire crews were committed to the rescue for about 2 1/2 hours.

<http://www.pe.com/2017/04/22/helicopter-hoist-used-to-carry-teen-hiker-to-safety/>

Rosary Held For San Bernardino School Shooting Victim Jonathan Martinez

Leticia Juarez, ABC7 News

Posted: April 21, 2017, 6:18 PM

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (KABC) –

A private rosary service was held Friday for Jonathan Martinez, the 8-year-old killed in a murder-suicide at his San Bernardino elementary school April 10.

Family and friends, including police and first responders with the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** paid their respects to Martinez at the church.

Martinez's uncle said at the service that the family has been devastated by the loss.

The boy was one of several students in a special needs classroom at North Park Elementary School when 53-year-old Cedric Anderson walked in, pulled a gun and shot his estranged wife, 53-year-old teacher Karen Smith.

Martinez and one other boy standing near Smith were struck by bullets and rushed to area hospitals. Nine-year-old Nolan Brandy survived. Martinez died at the hospital before making it into surgery.

Martinez's family wanted people to know he was a happy child, born with a genetic condition known as Williams syndrome and had survived heart surgery.

Williams syndrome is a rare disorder characterized by learning delays, mild intellectual disability and heart problems, according to San Bernardino City Unified School District Superintendent Dale Marsden. Children with Williams syndrome tend to be social, friendly and endearing.

<http://abc7.com/news/rosary-held-for-san-bernardino-shooting-victim-jonathan-martinez/1901615/>

Inauspicious Time For Needles Motel Fire Following Annexation

Venturi, SBC Sentinel

Posted on April 22, 2017

The America's Best Value Inn, located directly across the street from County Fire Station 32 in Needles, underwent extensive damage in a fire that began Saturday morning.

Before it was doused, the conflagration persisted for at least an-hour-and-a-half and attracted a response from six fire stations, including four from across the river in Arizona.

A consistent report from four eyewitnesses was that the three-man team at County Fire Station 32 did not respond to the fire until after a unit from Arizona, which came from 12 miles away, was on the scene, an indication that county fire station personnel did not respond to the fire until 25 minutes after it had broken out.

Assistant **San Bernardino County Fire** Chief Tom Marshall, who was not on duty at the time of the fire and did not respond to it, told the Sentinel the crew at Fire Station 32 responded to the blaze within three minutes of being contacted. That version of events was contradicted by four eyewitnesses, including the U.S. Post Office worker who reported the fire to the fire crew at Station 32 by knocking on the front door of the firehouse to alert the firefighters to the fire.

There were a number of conflicting reports from witnesses and officials, several elements of which could not be reconciled.

Two reliable witnesses on the scene say the fire had become apparent some time after 8 a.m. and before 8:05 a.m. when flames were visible through the roof at the motel, located at the east Broadway offramp of I-40, at the intersection of I-40 and Highway 95 south, across the street from new county fire station.

There is no dispute that the blaze began on the second floor, most probably in room 214, which is at about the middle of the east wing of the structure.

According to a news account by Robin Richards of the Needles Desert Star, the fire was noted by a passing postal worker a few minutes after 8 a.m., which is consistent in most of its aspect with what an individual close to the postal worker told the Sentinel. Further, according to the Star account, “within five minutes responders were pouring water on the flames.”

This was at a variance with the accounts provided by several witnesses at or near the scene, including the postal worker.

The source close to the postal worker said he drives past the motel on his daily sojourn to work, and on Saturday he was on his way to work around 8:15 a.m. when he saw smoke and flames coming out of the roof of the motel. He used his cell phone to take a picture of the burning motel. At that point, he maneuvered his vehicle into the fire station parking lot to report the fire or see if the personnel at the fire station knew about the fire. He said he pounded at the fire station door. The fireman answering the door was on his cell phone, he said. He asked the fireman if he knew that the motel right across the street was on fire. The fireman said “It is?” but did not come out of the station to look at the fire, according to the postman.

The postal worker said he remained outside the fire station for a while to see if there would be any response. He said he waited until 8:25 a.m. and when there was no response by that time he left because he had to be at work by 8:30 a.m.

A second witness, identified as Marianne Jones, made multiple attempts to call 911, but could not get through.

A third witness located by the Sentinel standing among what appeared to be a group of either guests or residents of the hotel who were there while firefighting efforts were yet ongoing said that none of them had seen anything of note with regard to the ignition of the fire.

A fourth witness, believed to be the hotel’s janitor who lived at the hotel with his wife, a maid at the hotel, was heard to remark “I hope I turned everything off.”

A fifth witness, also a resident of the hotel, claimed that the first fire engine to respond was from a fire station in Arizona that did not arrive at the hotel until 20 minutes after the fire broke out. He said it took nearly ten minutes for that crew to set up and begin applying water to the fire.

A sixth witness, an Asian male believed to be affiliated with the ownership of the hotel and involved in its operation, said he saw the fire start but declined further comment.

A seventh witness, also a resident or guest, said the San Bernardino Fire Department arrived about 20 minutes after the fire ignited. He said he had walked from the hotel to the nearby Mobil gas station, commented on the fire and was told that the hotel custodian/handyman was in the station buying beer because he had the shakes and that the handyman was working in the room where the fire ignited.

An eighth witness, an evacuated occupant of the hotel said that the source of the ignition was at room 214, due to a ceiling fan malfunction. “The employees were in the bathroom working on the fan last night and again this morning,” he said. “When someone turned the fan on, it went ‘bang’ and the fire started. There was an employee who attempted to put out the fire with a handheld fire extinguisher.”

An ninth witness said he believed the San Bernardino County Fire Department was on the scene five minutes after the fire had grown to a detectable level. He claimed that the county fire fighters saw the smoke from the nearby fire house.

There was confusion among the witnesses as to both response time and the order in which the differing engines, several from Arizona fire agencies, arrived on the scene. This lack of clarity was due to an inability of many of the witnesses to identify or discern the difference between the various responding agencies. All told, crews from Mohave Valley, Bullhead City, Fort Mojave, Lake Havasu City as well as San Bernardino County Fire, including Needles and Twentynine Palms units, responded.

Adding to the uncertainty, the first responders and some of their vehicles were obscured by smoke in the parking lot of the hotel.

Needles City Manager Rick Daniels arrived at the scene of the fire and was seen consoling the Asian man who resided at the end of the hotel’s second floor who is believed to be involved with the ownership and management of the hotel. A witness also said that the fire spread from room 214 through the attic to room 217 where this Asian man lived and he was forced out before he could grab his computer or personal effects.

The size of the blaze required an upgrade to a second alarm fire, with additional resources responding, including two ladder trucks, one from Bullhead City and one from Lake Havasu City.

An ambulance from Fort Mojave Mesa and Needles, Baker Ambulance Service arrived, and the property manager at the hotel was evacuated by Baker to the hospital for treatment for smoke inhalation. One report to the Sentinel was that after the fire began with the ceiling fan, an effort by the hotel manager and the custodian to bring the fire under control followed, including using several fire extinguishers. The flames had advanced into the attic. This version of events partially explains the delay in phoning the fire department and perhaps the property manager’s smoke inhalation. The ceiling fans are standard accoutrement in the America’s Best Value Inn chain, which are extended living motels with kitchenettes.

When the Sentinel arrived at the motel parking lot at 9:20, the sheriff’s department had the highway around the motel blocked. When a deputy was asked what time the fire began, the Sentinel was told “around 8:30.” After the Sentinel began gathering information and taking witness statements, one of its reporters was approached by the motel custodian, who attempted to seize the reporter’s notebook. Shortly thereafter, the reporter was told to leave the premises.

Even after the fire was brought under control, there remained a degree of confusion about the extent of the damage to the motel. According to a public statement, the fire wreaked \$750,000 worth of damage, destroying the roof, inflicting smoke and water damage on 12 upstairs units and water damage to eleven units downstairs. One source, however, told the Sentinel the entire interior of the second floor is gutted, making the motel a total loss.

The fire and the reports that the local fire company did not respond to it with alacrity carries with it a wider implication, given that within the last two years, Needles and three other county cities have already or are in the process of dissolving their municipal fire departments and annexing into a county fire district, an arrangement by which those communities now have, or will have, their fire safety service provided, and their local fire stations manned, by the county fire department. In all those cases that have occurred – in San Bernardino, Twentynine Palms and in Needles – and in the case that is yet ongoing – in the City of Upland and its outlying sphere of influence area San Antonio Heights – those annexations have entailed the creation of an assessment district,

meaning that residents in those areas are now paying a \$130 to \$150 per year tax, called a parcel fee, they were not previously forking out for fire protection service. Thus, the perception of a tardy response in Needles to a fire that was literally a stone's throw from a county fire station, has created quite a stir.

Assistant San Bernardino County Fire Chief Tom Marshall said the reports of a substantial delay in his department's response to the Needles America's Best Value Inn fire was "not true. The first unit was on the scene within three minutes," he said.

That the firefighter in Station 32 who answered the postal worker's bang on the station door lackadaisically carried on with his cell phone conversation and did not move his colleagues into immediate action was "absolutely inaccurate," Marshall said. "Fire Station 32 is directly across the street from the motel. They were alerted not by a 911 call, but by someone pounding on the fire station door." Marshall said that when the Needles fire battalion got into place across the street, "The fire was already through the roof on the second floor. The fire originated on the second floor. I was not there. The engine was there. The fire spread through a common attic. The fire ran the entire length of the attic."

According to Marshall, "[Mohave Valley Fire] Chief [Ted] Martin said they had control around 9:30, which would have been around an hour-and-a-half."

Marshall did not dispute that the building is likely a complete loss.

"The entire second floor was affected," he said. "I would imagine they might have to take the entire building. That determination is to be made by the fire insurance carrier. I'm not a construction guy."

That so many other agencies participated in knocking the fire down is not an indictment of the county fire company stationed in Needles, Marshall said.

"Having that many engines respond is standard operating procedure," Marshall said. "We request mutual aid from nearby agencies, who have specialized equipment. In this case it was a two story building so we had a ladder truck from Bullhead City and Lake Havasu City."

Marshall questioned the credibility of the accounts of a delay in the Station 32's response. He said that the Sentinel was basing its narrative on questionable fonts of information and that it was relying on a less than trustworthy gatherer of facts.

"Mr. [David] Buckley continues to make these accusations about the county," Marshall said. "He is a completely unreliable source of information. He has not been accurate in one single stretch of the imagination."

Marshall said he could not explain how it was that the post office employee was unable to see the immediate efforts of Station 32's personnel to bring the fire under control.

San Bernardino County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig told the Sentinel on Thursday that it was his understanding that "the fire had been burning quite a while, probably ten minutes, before we were called. It was burning because some employees at the motel were trying to take care of the problem themselves before they reported it."

Hartwig said the first report received by the department came "when someone was knocking on the door." Hartwig did not discount the reports of efforts to alert the department by 911 calls that did not get through. He said there is an existing flaw in the emergency communications system in the Tri-state Area [California, Arizona and Nevada], in that cell phones can be routed out of state. "It all depends on what direction the tower is pointed," he said. Thus, a call that went to a dispatch center on the Arizona side might have resulted in dispatchers there not being able to determine where the incident being referenced was occurring, Hartwig said.

Hartwig said an investigation into the fire was already being conducted. He indicated that he had been told that his agency had acted competently in response to the fire report and he assumed that was true. "I don't know all the specifics, but from what I can tell we were the first ones on the scene, not through a 911 report but a knock on the door," Hartwig said. "Our staff's opinion was it had been burning for a while. I wasn't aware of any delay." Nevertheless, Hartwig said, the postal worker's statement gave him pause. "We will put that into our investigation."

Hartwig said he thought the political backdrop, in which Needles, among several other communities, has recently lost its traditional municipal fire department, may have colored the attitude of those now questioning the county fire department's performance.

"My sense is the complaints you are hearing might be an outgrowth of the contentious process that went with the fire protection district annexation," he said. "That contention hasn't died down yet. I would be interested in finding out exactly what brought this to your attention."

<http://sbcsentinel.com/2017/04/inauspicious-time-for-needles-motel-fire-following-annexation/>

Controlled Burn In Twentynine Palms

Z107.7 News

Posted: April 23, 2017

Most residents of rural areas are accustomed to seeing occasional "controlled burns" of unwanted brush and plant life. What's not usually included, however, are buildings. Reporter David Haldane says that's about to change...

If you happen to see smoke in Twentynine Palms this week, don't be alarmed; it's just the fire department burning down some houses.

It's all part of a joint action by the city and the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** to benefit both. The firefighters get to train 40 new recruits in actual structure fires and the city gets rid of two duplexes and four single family dwellings standing in the way of Project Phoenix. One of them, officials say, is among the nicest houses around.

Fortunately, the city compensated various owners at their properties' assessed values. To accomplish the demolition by fire, Cholla, Smoketree, Yucca and Tamarisk Avenues will be closed between Highway 62 and Cactus Drive from April 24-28. Oh, and a bit of advice from the fire department: if you see any smoke that you're not sure comes from the training burns, please call 911. For Z1077, this is David Haldane.

<http://z1077fm.com/controlled-burn-in-twentynine-palms/>

Victorville Head-On Collision Causes Multiple Injuries

Christie Martin, 24/7 Headline News

Posted: April 23, 2017

VICTORVILLE – Three were injured following a head-on traffic collision on Mojave Drive between Amargosa Road and Village Drive on Saturday evening.

At around 7:00 p.m. deputies from the Victorville Station, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, and AMR were dispatched to the major damage traffic collision. Nearby residents heard the explosive sound and rushed to the aid of those inside the vehicles.

The small crowd attempted to open the door of the white Toyota 4Runner where there was an injured teen, but the door would not budge. One of the residents used a crowbar to free the teen from the mangled SUV. Witnesses said that the teen boy suffered from an apparent broken leg and unknown other injuries. His mother was able to get out of the vehicle on her own and had an apparent facial injury witnesses said.

As the good samaritans attempted to aid the female in the gray Land Rover she became belligerent. She exited her vehicle and witnesses said she appeared to be inebriated by her behavior and the stagger in her steps. Witnesses attempted to calm the combative woman, but had a difficult time until deputies arrived. Deputies arrived at the scene shortly after and conducted a sobriety check on the driver of the Land Rover. The results are unclear at this time.

The family of the woman and her son in the 4Runner, who lived nearby, rushed to the scene and were clearly shaken.

According to authorities, the 4Runner was traveling east on Mojave Drive in the eastbound lanes. For reasons that remain under investigation, the driver in the Land Rover who was driving westbound on Mojave Drive, crossed over into eastbound lanes causing the head-on collision.

Both women were transported to the hospital by ground ambulance, while the teen boy was transported to Victor Valley Global Medical Center in preparation to be airlifted to Loma Linda University Medical Center.

Mojave Drive was closed to both east and westbound traffic from Don Roberto Road to Topanga Avenue.

<https://247headline.com/victorville-head-on-collision-send-three-to-the-hospital/>