



NEWS



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Fontana P.D. receives 362 calls for service regarding fireworks, including seven fires

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: July 9, 2019



These are some of the illegal fireworks that were confiscated by the Fontana Police Department. (Contributed photo by Fontana Police Department)

The Fontana Police Department received a total of 362 calls for service regarding fireworks, including seven fires that were started by fireworks, during the period of July 1-6, police said.

The department had 77 total confiscations of illegal fireworks during that time period and issued 36 citations.

The department had 39 officers working on July 4 in order to address fireworks-related problems.

The Fontana P.D. teamed up with the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department for the "Say No to Illegal Fireworks" Awareness and Enforcement Campaign.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/fontana-p-d-receives-calls-for-service-regarding-fireworks-including/article_11b3b0d4-a264-11e9-97bd-63be2337ac20.html

Fire at complex put out quickly

Garrett Bergthold, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: July 9, 2019

APPLE VALLEY — A two-alarm fire tore through at least one apartment unit on July 1 before being quickly extinguished by firefighters.

Authorities first received reports of a blaze near Thunderbird and Straight Arrow roads at a single-story apartment complex just before 2 p.m., said Jennifer Eisenbrey, fire inspector for the Apple Valley Fire Protection District.

Eisenbrey said the first units on scene reported a fence and spots of vegetation on fire, and that the fire was already burning in an apartment unit.

Kenyard Edwards, 17, who lives in the apartment complex, said he smelled smoke for about 30 minutes before being alerted by a passerby that a fire was raging close by.

"I thought it could of been my oven, so I turned my oven off," Edwards said while sitting outside on his phone while firefighters shuffled in and out of the courtyard. "Then I hear somebody saying 'fire,' so I ran out."

Edwards said the passersby told him the fire was in the central courtyard that separates two rows of apartment buildings.

Eisenbrey said the fire was elevated to two alarms to make sure enough resources were on the scene. Units from the AVFPD along with Victorville Fire Department and **San Bernardino County Fire Department** responded.

The area features multiple dense apartment complexes within close proximity to one another.

Dozens of empty butane canisters sat atop a dumpster in the property. Butane is often used as a solvent to produce manufactured cannabis oil through a highly flammable process. The cause of the fire is still under investigation, Eisenbrey said.

<http://victorvilledailynews.com/>

MORONGO BASIN MAC MEETS, GIVES INPUT ON COUNTY HOUSING PLAN

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: July 9, 2019



The Municipal Advisory Council swearing in Jim Harvey (right) as the new representative for Johnson Valley

The Morongo Basin Municipal Advisory Council, the MAC, met last night at the Joshua Tree Community Center. The meeting began with the swearing in of Jim Harvey as the council's new representative for Johnson Valley. The council then turned its attention to giving input on San Bernardino County's community development housing plan. Reporter Andrew Dieleman was there and files this report...

At last night's meeting, the Morongo Basin Municipal Advisory Council gave community input on San Bernardino County's community development housing plan presented by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Meeting attendees emphasized the need for grant funding to assist in repairing community centers and public parks in unincorporated areas; restricting the number of Air B&B rental properties in unincorporated areas; and the need for far more affordable housing in nearly all areas of the Morongo Basin. The public input collected from this meeting will be reviewed in the creation of the finalized community development housing plan.

The council also received public safety reports from **San Bernardino County fire** Battalion Chief Scot Tuttle, Morongo Valley Fire Chief Gary Yearsley, California Highway Patrol Officer Jason Cavalli, and San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Captain Trevis Newport. The next Morongo Basin Municipal Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for September 9.

<http://z1077fm.com/morongo-basin-mac-meets-gives-input-on-county-housing-plan/>

Detectives investigate double-fatal shooting across from Hesperia Lake

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: July 8, 2019



(Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A man and a woman were found shot dead across from Hesperia Lake on Monday evening.

On July 8, 2019, at about 5:20 pm, **San Bernardino County Fire** were dispatched to a gunshot victim call in the 7500 block of Outer Arrowhead Lake Road in Hesperia.

Scanner traffic reported there were two shooting victims at the location and first responders were asked by deputies to stand-by before entering the scene.

Firefighters were cleared in and confirmed two people deceased at the location.

Crime scene tape was placed surrounding a 2014 silver BMW that was partially over the edge on Arrowhead Lake Road.

A Victor Valley News Group reporter at the scene said the door to the BMW was open and the body of a female was slumped over in the driver seat. However, it's unclear where exactly the second deceased person was located.

Sheriff's spokeswoman Jodi Miller said detectives from the Specialized Investigations Division are conducting a death investigation and there are no outstanding suspects. Miller said it was very early in the investigation and no further details were being released at this time.

This is a developing story and additional information will be updated as it becomes available.

<https://www.vvng.com/detectives-investigate-double-fatal-shooting-across-from-hesperia-lake/>

California Teen Drowns Near Mohave Rock

Staff Writer, Mohave County Rattler

Posted: July 8, 2019

LAKE HAVASU CITY — A 16-year-old California boy has drowned near Mohave Rock.

The Mohave County Sheriff's Office Division of Boating and safety was notified about 4:20 p.m. July 7 of a person who had jumped into the water near Mohave Rock and had not resurfaced.

Early reports indicated that a 16-year-old boy had jumped off a cliff near the sand bar and had failed to resurface. The Division of Boating Safety began the investigation with help from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

Dive teams and side scans were used for underwater searches, while search and rescue units were activated for shoreline and aerial searches.

The boy was finally located deceased about 9:15 a.m. July 6 by side scans. His body was recovered by divers. The victim has been identified as Chance Huerta, 16, of Victorville, Calif.

MCSO said the victim had tried to do a flip off a cliff and landed wrong. He came to the surface briefly, before witnesses on-scene lost sight of him.

This investigation is ongoing.

<http://mohavecountyrattler.com/2019/07/08/california-teen-drowns-near-mohave-rock/>

Quake-damaged highways get permanent fix

Staff Writer, Inland News Today

Posted: July 8, 2019



RIDGECREST – (INT) – Getting around and through the earthquake zone is being expedited as repairs shift into high gear.

Caltrans is spending \$3.1 million for permanent repairs on Highway 178. Work began Monday and was expected to be finished by the end of the week.

There were three locations in a 4-mile stretch east of Ridgecrest where the pavement had cracked or separated. Rock slides also damaged the road 6-miles east of Ridgecrest.

During the repairs, pilot cars are escorting motorists one-way at a time.

Caltrans engineers evaluated all bridges and drainage culverts in the area and have determined all routes are safe.

Residents in the quake zone are urged to report damage or specific needs to the **San Bernardino County Emergency Operations Center** at 909-356-3998 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The most powerful of the two quakes created a massive crack in the Earth that was visible from space. Satellite images provided to INT by Planet Labs, Inc. show a crack has formed in the area close to the epicenter.

<http://www.inlandnewstoday.com/story.php?s=55382>

Trona residents reflect on earthquakes

John D. Bennett, Mojave Desert News/The Ridgecrest Daily Independent

Posted: July 8, 2019, 1:16 PM



New Hope of Searles Valley Foursquare Church Pastor Jon Goebel speaks to a reporter from the Wall Street Journal about damage to the church buildings. -John D. Bennett/Mojave Desert News

SEARLES VALLEY — Hope, gratitude, community, resilience and a little bit of frustration are the buzzwords in the Searles Valley after a pair of earthquakes rocked the area.

Eric Cartmell sits on the porch of his home on 4th Street in Argus with two of his neighbors and his dog while his son Gunnar volunteers at New Hope of Searles Valley Foursquare Church. Cartmell owns three other nearby homes which he rents out. All homes have significant damage from the earthquakes and are now uninhabitable.

“We need people, man,” he said. “The governor put out an emergency in Ridgecrest and this is called the Searles Valley freakin’ earthquake and they don’t even say enough about here. I heard it was on the news that Trump is the one that said what about San Bernardino? So Trump, even though a lot of people don’t like him, ol’ Trump’s the one that said it. We had no water here yesterday. We had nothing. It was bad.”

Cartmell said he also heard that people in Ridgecrest were quick to remind others that the Searles Valley residents needed help as well.

“I’m just glad to the people in Ridgecrest talked,” he said. “We’re just tired, this is No Man’s Land.”

Due to injuries suffered on the job at Searles Valley Mineral, Cartmell says he can’t walk and depends on income from the rentals.

“This house right here, it’s a foot over from where it was,” he said. “I can’t fix crap, man. So I kind of depend on Gunnar and all these other guys. Yeah, I mean, shoot, man. I guess it’s overwhelming. Yeah, I’m in a bad way.”

A family friend is letting the Cartmell’s sleep in a fifth-wheel travel trailer that they’ve parked in the driveway.

Back down at the Foursquare Church, Gunnar Cartmell said he just dragged his mattress out of his room and put in the back of his truck. In addition to volunteering as a youth leader at the church, he works for the local water company.

“After the 6.4 we fixed about eight mainline leaks,” he said. “We’d just started getting the water boosted back up over here. I’d just got home from work and then that 7.1 hit and then the mainline got completely shut off, the mainline carrying it from Ridgecrest to here.”

Gunnar Cartmell was philosophical about the nearly back to back earthquakes taking a toll on lines that had just been repaired.

“It is what it is,” he said. “You can’t really mess with Mother Nature. If it hits, it hits. It’s kind of upsetting, but oh well. At least we’re safe.”

Meanwhile, Pastor Jon Goebel is helping direct donation efforts.

“We had guys from Orange County, Yorba Linda/Anaheim area that came up and brought water,” he said. “And then they brought help. I mean they were physically here to offload this stuff and then load it into families’ vehicles. I mean, what a blessing that was.”

Husband and wife team Glyn and Jena Jones drove through from in Hilldale, Utah with a trailer full of supplies. The couple is campus directors for the Short Creek Dream Center - a faith-based community, recovery, and education program in Hilldale.

“We knew of the Trona Pinnacles, we’d never been here, but we’d heard of it,” said Glyn Jones. “We were watching TV and we heard about the need here. We run a food bank, so we had all this extra food in our warehouse.”

The Jones’ brought about 4,000 pounds of water and food to distribute in the Searles Valley.

“We saw the tweets and the need go out on Facebook that Trona needed some water and some assistance,” said Jena Jones. “We called Ridgecrest and they said they were already getting some donations, so we thought we’ll just come deliver it right to Trona.”

Further up along Trona Road, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department Office of Emergency Services** had set up a water distribution point at Trona High School and were seeing a steady stream of people seeking help. Members of Community Emergency Response Team and Army National Guard Soldiers were assisting with the distribution. Behavioral health specialists were also on hand at the school offering counseling services and an emergency communication center of amateur radio operators had set up shop.

“A Pepsi distributor in Mojave donated six pallets of water,” said Emergency Services Officer Miles Wagner. “That’s 72 cases per pallet and 24 bottles per case. It was just out of the blue and we’re very appreciative.”

In the Pioneer Point area of Trona, First Baptist Church of Searles Valley Pastor Larry Cox was about to start Sunday services under generator power, but feeling fortunate.

“We had no structural damage,” he said. “I mean, we have surface cracks and things like that, but nothing to the structure. So that was a blessing for us.”

Ceiling tiles fell down in the church office and auxiliary building and kitchen area as a result of shaking from the second earthquake. The parsonage, where Cox lives with his family, also suffered only minor damage.

“There are four buildings on the property and other than our kitchen looking a little messed up, we’re good,” he said. “Other than that, we fared quite well, we’re counting our blessings for sure.”

Immediately after the earthquake Cox and other church members fanned out through the community.

“I mean, literally, within a couple minutes after we made sure all power and gas and electric and everything was off here, we got into vehicles and went off in different directions called all of our deacons and had them

start checking in on that the shut-ins and the widows and the elderly right away,” he said. “We found out pretty much the same thing everywhere, with some exceptions. There are 40 buildings in town that have had enough significant damage to them to be red-tagged. You know, we’ll see how everything fares out with this, but yeah, everybody seems to be fine. We’re quite thankful, quite thankful.”

As they prepared for services, church members were arriving with supplies to donate to those in need.

“We have water. We have cleaning supplies coming in and we are going to see about possibly bringing in food in the week or so to come in case something like that becomes a need,” said Cox. “At this point. I know it’s not a need. And of course the roads are open so we’re not anticipating that will be a need. But, you know, our (water) tank up there is less than a quarter full right now. So Trona, Westend and Argus are out of water. That’s why bottled water is going out. And that’s why there was such a push to get it here. We need it much more than Ridgecrest.”

Cox said the community was also thankful for the response by utility companies and others.

“SCE and Caltrans were just marvelous,” he said. “I mean, they were immediately on things, I mean, right away. And we had our power back on, you know, very soon after the earthquake. The roads were impassable, but Caltrans jumped on it within, I think, four or five hours everybody was able to drive through. Some parts of the road had dropped five feet or more. So that’s really saying something. I mean, we are just so very thankful for them.”

<https://www.ridgecrestca.com/news/20190708/trona-residents-reflect-on-earthquakes>

Help is Now Offered in Trona, But Not Enough or Fast Enough

Staff Writer, 24/7 Headline News

Posted: July 8, 2019



TRONA, Calif. – The frustration and the anguish of those in Trona, as well as some in Ridgecrest is finally slowly being met with assistance. Assistance, but not yet to all areas for those without adequate transportation, those without funds for fuel or those who are elderly or disabled.

The Red Cross, other organizations, and groups of people have gone out attempting to get to all areas affected by the earthquake. Trona is the main area in need of attention at this time.

Most people can not imagine being forced out of their home with nowhere to go or having to forget all privacy to take your family to an emergency shelter. This is what happened to many people in the areas where the earthquake hit the hardest. Several mobile homes were deemed unsafe as they swayed off of their raised foundations as a result of both of the earthquakes.

Almost all of Trona has lost water, power, and gas. Gas was the first to be restored, but still, some are without water and power. For those who do not understand the magnitude of the issue, this means no showers, no toilet flushing, no hand washing, no cleaning, no laundry, no lights, no television, no way to charge phones,

and no light. San Bernardino County Supervisor Lovingood's office reported that the delay in water service restoration is due to extensive damage to the water main. This is being repaired and there is no estimate for water service restoration at this time.

Since all natural gas has been restored to the Trona area, according to San Bernardino County Sheriff's Barstow Station officials. Pacific Gas & Electric customers needing gas restoration should call 1-800-743-5000. Residents calling should mention that they are calling for earthquake restoration services in order to expedite service. Bulk water was delivered to Trona High School for those needing water for their livestock.

Caltrans is diligently repairing roads that were damaged during the earthquakes. They reported on Monday, July 8, 2019, that the repairs are expected to be completed earlier than expected. The Los Angeles County Fire Department is assisting in surveying the damage, both structural and infrastructure.

Beginning Monday, transportation is being provided from Trona High School located at 83600 Trona Road at 10:00 a.m. each day. The shuttle will return from the Red Cross Shelter back to the high school at 12:00 p.m. The **San Bernardino County Emergency Operations Center** is handling calls reporting damage or specific needs from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m, Monday through Friday at 909-356-3998.

The needs are still great, but resources are moving in slowly as Trona residents experience record heat today. Temperatures of over 100 degrees are expected to last throughout the week.

The County of San Bernardino is offering free Mental health services for those affected by the earthquake from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on until Friday at Trona High School.

The Red Cross is feeding warm meals to those in need. Anyone needing assistance with a warm meal or a place to stay can go to the Kerr McGee Community Center at 100 W. California Avenue in Ridgecrest. All assistance at the Kerr McGee Community Center is from the Red Cross and is offered free of any charge. Those with pets can bring pets as long as you have a crate for your pet to stay in. If you do not have a crate, they may have one there for you, call (760) 499-5151 to ask.

Groups from the Trona area, as well as those from out of the area are providing items to those in need. They are in need of things like fresh fruit, water, pop tarts or other packaged foods, diapers, dry shampoo, hand sanitizer, baby wipes, diapers, larger wipes for adults to clean up without showers, and pet food. They also need blankets for humans and pets that were scared off from their homes and in shelters. Puppy pads and dog crates are needed at both area rescues and at the Ridgecrest Animal Shelter.

The City of Ridgecrest is asking for Engineers and Contractors who are able to volunteer some time. They would like to use these knowledgeable individuals to answer phones and evaluate inspection priorities. Anyone able to assist should call 760-499-5100.

<https://247headline.com/help-is-now-offered-in-trona-but-not-enough-or-fast-enough/>

PHOTOS: 6.4 and 7.1 earthquakes rattle Southern California

Staff Writer, Los Angeles Times

Posted: July 8, 2019, 9:15 AM



Top, the Horta family sleeps in the back of their pickup truck in a fire station parking lot in Trona as the sun rises hours after being forced from their home by a magnitude 7.1 earthquake. At left, Ronnie Tolbert, left, and her husband, Danny, sleep on mattresses in the front yard of their Trona home, which was damaged in a 7.1 magnitude earthquake. Brothers Joey, 8, right, and Jimmy Raya, 5, sleep in the back seat of their mother's car in the parking lot of **San Bernardino County Fire Station 57** in Trona after their home was damaged in a 7.1 magnitude earthquake hours earlier. (Robert Gauthier / Los Angeles Times)

The seismic one-two combo that hit Southern California last week left residents particularly unnerved because it robbed them of the single bit of solace that normally comes with a big quake: the sense that the worst is over.

After the 6.4 magnitude quake hit near Ridgecrest on Thursday, many expected aftershocks that would gradually decrease in strength and frequency. They'd been through it before, in Northridge, Sylmar and Whittier. But when a much larger 7.1 magnitude temblor struck Friday night, the shock quickly gave way to a newfound dread: What's next?

Southern California could experience another sizable earthquake over the next week, seismologists said.

The U.S. Geological Survey has calculated a 27% probability the region will be hit by a magnitude 6 or greater quake in the coming days, according to Caltech seismologist Egill Hauksson.

Under the shade of a salt cedar tree, next to a shipping container and near a sign that said "Prayer Changes Things," the Byrds of Trona had camped out overnight and planned to for the foreseeable future.

A sleeping bag was laid out on the patchy grass. Bags of chips and candies surrounded a basket of green apples and fruit on a picnic table. The Byrds — mother Kay; father Fred; sisters Karen and Cynthia Thompson; and the latter's daughter, Brooke — were trying to re-create a household after two major earthquakes. A magnitude 6.4 foreshock on Thursday, then a magnitude 7.1 rumblor the following evening had wrecked their town of 2,000 and left them scared.

Across Trona, an unincorporated community on the edge of Death Valley long mythologized in California for its desolate location and tough character (the high school football team is one of the few, possibly the only, in the United States to play on an all-dirt field), residents are still cleaning up after the quakes.

And though it's hard enough to live here even in the best of conditions, many Tronans say they now face a reckoning about their future.

Though many storefronts in Ridgecrest looked to be intact and residents were out and about on Saturday, it's clear there is a lot of work ahead. Many businesses remained closed because of damage and several homes at the mobile home park Trousdale Estates were red-tagged.

Kenneth O'Dell, a structural engineer, had arrived from Los Angeles on Saturday with engineer Martin Hudson and his son, geologist Kenneth Hudson, to assess earthquake damage in Trona and nearby Ridgecrest after massive quakes rocked the region.

Their goal was to study the structural damage of the buildings in Trona so they could understand how exactly the earthquakes affected those structures and surrounding areas. These findings, they hoped, could someday be published in a research paper and help guide future geologists and engineers.

"Let's try to start recovering now," Ridgecrest Police Chief Jed McLaughlin told the crowd at a town hall on Sunday. Ridgecrest Regional Hospital is open again, he said, and he urged residents to start reentering their houses and asked them to recognize the emotional toll of the earthquakes.

<https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-earthquake-unfurled-pictures-2019-htmlstory.html>

Southern California rocked by strongest quake in two decades

Staff Writer, RTL Today

Posted: July 7, 2019



A home damaged by the earthquake in Ridgecrest, California, where the mayor said she had received reports of some house fires / © AFP

Southern California was rocked by its largest earthquake in two decades on Thursday, a 6.4-magnitude tremor that caused "substantial damage" at a military facility but otherwise only minor injuries in the sparsely populated area.

The shallow quake, followed by dozens of aftershocks, struck in the Mojave Desert six miles (10 kilometers) from the small city of Ridgecrest at 10:33 am (1733 GMT).

It was felt 160 miles away in Los Angeles and even as far afield as Las Vegas in the neighboring state of Nevada, as the United States celebrated its July 4 Independence Day holiday.

Although the quake in the most populous US state of California revived fears of the "Big One" -- a powerful tremor along the San Andreas Fault that could devastate major cities in Southern California -- President Trump was quick to reassure that this wasn't it.

"All seems to be very much under control!" he tweeted two hours after the quake in the Searles Valley of San Bernardino County.

The area "will continue having a lot of aftershocks," some maybe as strong as magnitude five, California Institute of Technology seismologist Lucy Jones told a press conference.

The earthquake was the largest in Southern California since 1999 when a 7.1-magnitude quake struck the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps base, according to The Los Angeles Times.

Thursday's epicenter was in or on the edge of the US Navy's sprawling desert bomb testing range known as China Lake.

The Naval Air Weapons Station covers 1.1 million acres (445,000 hectares) and strictly controls the airspace above it. Inside, the Navy develops and tests missiles, bombs, artillery shells and other war ordnance, and the aircraft used to deliver it.

An official at China Lake told AFP there was "substantial damage" to their facilities, including fires, water leaks and spills of hazardous materials.

Paul Dale, the station's commanding officer, said later at a news conference that officials were making "damage assessments," and declined to elaborate.

David Witt, the fire chief in Kern County which includes Ridgecrest, reported "minor, minor injuries," stemming from broken glass and shelves falling down in supermarkets.

He was not able to provide an exact number of casualties.

Peggy Breeden, mayor of Ridgecrest which has a population of 28,000, said the local hospital had been evacuated as a precaution, and she had received reports of a handful of house fires.

Some areas of the city had lost power, while gas had been cut due to ruptured lines, she said.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department said that "buildings and roads have sustained varying degrees of damage."

This included "buildings with minor cracks, broken water mains, power lines down, rock slides on certain roads."

The quake struck at a depth of 6.6 miles (10.7 kilometers) in the vast desert region.

Residents told local TV that the shaking set off panic, while sending televisions plunging to the ground and causing drawers to fall open.

AFP reporters in Los Angeles clearly felt the earthquake for about 10 seconds.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said there was no significant damage in the second-largest US city.

- 'Even bigger earthquake' -

Jones said there is a small possibility this quake is the prelude to a larger one.

"There is about a one-in-20 chance that this location will be having an even bigger earthquake within the next few days, that we have not yet seen the biggest earthquake of the sequence," she said.

"There have been hundreds of earthquakes today," she said, including more than 100 that the United States Geological Survey measured at greater than magnitude 2.5.

But Jones noted that the quake was not along the San Andreas fault.

"It is an area with a lot of little faults but no long fault," she tweeted.

For filmmaker Ava DuVernay, a lifelong resident of Los Angeles, "that was the longest earthquake I've ever experienced. Not jerky. Smooth and rolling. But it was loooong."

<https://today.rtl.lu/news/science-and-environment/a/1372183.html>