



# NEWS



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## Five-acre 'Cleghorn Fire' near northbound I-15 spurs heavy traffic in Cajon Pass

Daily Press

Posted: July 5, 2017, 1:53 PM



A San Bernardino County inmate hand crew works its way through brush while fighting the Cleghorn Fire in the Cajon Pass near Kenwood Avenue on Wednesday. Several fires were reported along Interstate 15 during the day. [James Quigg, Daily Press]



Clark Coble of the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** douses a small brush fire along the Interstate 15 in Hesperia on Wednesday. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

A brush fire just south of Cleghorn Road was one of a number of blazes reported along Interstate 15 Wednesday.

Dubbed the Cleghorn Fire, the blaze was reported at about 1:30 p.m. as motorists noticed smoke coming from a hillside along northbound I-15 about a half-mile south of Blue Cut.

San Bernardino National Forest Service officials said the fire had reached 3 acres with a moderate rate of spread and was heading in a northwest direction as of 2 p.m., but firefighters on scene were able to stop its growth at 5 to 6 acres and contain it by 2:15 p.m.

The Cleghorn Fire did prompt a closure of the No. 5 lane on northbound I-15, with a SIG Alert being issued, and heavy traffic was reported by California Highway Patrol logs in both directions. The No. 5 lanes was expected to be reopened by 6 p.m.

Earlier in the day a vehicle fire was reported on northbound I-15, north of Oak Hill Road, just before 11 a.m. and it ignited vegetation along the right shoulder, but crews were able to extinguish it before it spread.

Other vehicle fires were reported on southbound I-15 near the Outlet Center Drive on-ramp in Barstow at 4:37 p.m. and in the Cajon Pass.

With triple-digit temperatures expected through the weekend, motorists are encouraged to make sure their vehicles are properly maintained, check oil and coolant levels and travel with a fire extinguisher whenever possible. If the vehicle shows signs of overheating, pull over and call for assistance.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170705/five-acre-cleghorn-fire-near-northbound-i-15-spurs-heavy-traffic-in-cajon-pass>

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## **Fire burns 6 acres in Cajon Pass, jams 15 Freeway for miles**

**Doug Saunders, The Sun**

Posted: July 5, 2017, 2:07 PM

CAJON PASS >> Firefighters have stopped the forward progress of a fire in the Cajon Pass before it could get out of control, officials said Wednesday afternoon.

San Bernardino National Forest officials said the fire held at 4 and one half acres and freeway lanes began to reopen shortly after 5:30 p.m.

**San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman Eric Sherwin said the additional incoming second alarm resources were canceled shortly after 2 p.m.

Nonetheless, the Cleghorn fire snarled traffic for miles in both directions on the I-15.

The fire was reported shortly after 1:30 p.m. off the northbound side of the 15 south of the Cleghorn Road exit and began climbing a hillside, San Bernardino National Forest officials said in a tweet.

Hand crews could be seen on the hillside, working inside the red stripes of fire retardant dropped by aircraft to stop the blaze from spreading.

One northbound lane was closed because of the firefighting activity.

A Caltrans traffic map showed that, for hours, the northbound lanes were jammed all the way through the 15/215 junction in Devore to the Sierra Avenue entrance in northern Fontana, while the southbound lanes were backed up through Rancho Road in Hesperia.

It's been nearly a year since the horrific Blue Cut fire in the same area consumed thousands of acres of desert last August. That blaze destroyed more than 300 structures, about a third of which were homes.

The cause of the Cleghorn Fire is under investigation.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Officials who are the lead agency investigating the cause of the Blue Cut Fire said they have no new developments in the case.

Anyone with information regarding the 2016 Blue Cut Fire is asked to call 909-387-8313 or through the WeTip arson hotline at 1-800-47-ARSON (27766).

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170705/fire-burns-6-acres-in-cajon-pass-jams-15-freeway-for-miles>

## Day after hiker falls, a daring rescue in Wrightwood

Daily Press

Posted: July 5, 2017, 1:39 PM

*The 50 year old had come to Heath Canyon, a treacherous area with “near vertical walls that peak about 2,500 feet from the valley floor,” authorities say. “The canyon walls are peppered with over 100-foot trees and have several slide areas with loose shale and gravel.”*

WRIGHTWOOD — Matthew Paulson was hiking the Pacific Crest Trail south of this community Monday evening.

More specifically, the 50 year old had come to Heath Canyon, a treacherous area with “near vertical walls that peak about 2,500 feet from the valley floor,” authorities say. “The canyon walls are peppered with over 100-foot trees and have several slide areas with loose shale and gravel.”

At some point in the evening, Paulson fell.

San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department officials said Wednesday that Paulson could not get cellphone reception after the accident.

“Due to darkness, Paulson decided to spend the night in a bush on the side of the mountain,” Victor Valley Sheriff’s Station officials said. “The next day, Paulson was able to scramble a short distance up the side of the mountain to a point where he was able to get reception on his phone and call for help.”

Then the rescue effort began.

Sheriff’s desert patrol helicopter 40King3 responded to the accident scene and found Paulson hanging onto a small bush at roughly 7,800 feet. Due to his precarious position, 40King3 requested Sheriff’s Air 306 to conduct a hoist rescue.

Eric Sherwin, a county firefighter and paramedic, was lowered approximately 135 feet down to the man. Again, factoring in the conditions, “Sherwin remained attached to the helicopter’s rescue cable and carefully placed Paulson into a rescue harness.”

The two were then hoisted back into the helicopter and Paulson, of Carpenteria, was flown 2 miles to an awaiting ambulance and taken to the hospital for treatment of non-life threatening injuries.

Others involved in the rescue include, from 40King3, deputies Ryan Conner and Larry Scott, and from Air Rescue 306, Cpl. Jon Anderson, Crew Chief Mike Ells and Capt. Mark Murphy.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170705/day-after-hiker-falls-daring-rescue-in-wrightwood>

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## **Carpenteria hiker rescued in Wrightwood after falling from the Pacific Crest Trail**

**Doug Saunders, The Sun**

Posted: July 5, 2017, 9:16 PM

WRIGHTWOOD >> A hiker who fell 500 feet down the side of the Pacific Crest Trail Monday was rescued by the joint San Bernardino County Sheriff's and Fire aviation rescue team the next day.

Matthew Paulson, 50, of Carpenteria, was hiking the trail Monday night when he lost his footing plummeting down steep terrain. Paulson was unable to get cell reception so he made the decision to stay put for the night.

On Tuesday the fallen hiker climbed to a point on the mountain where he was able to get cell reception and call for help.

The Sheriff's patrol helicopter, piloted by Deputy Ryan Conner along with his flight officer Deputy Larry Scott, was dispatched to Heath Canyon to search for Paulson. The two deputies spotted Paulson clinging to a small bush on the side of the mountain.

The county's rescue helicopter, known as Rescue 306, was summoned to the incident to get the man to safety.

The pilot, Corporal Jon Anderson along with crew chief Mike Ells and paramedics Eric Sherwin and Capt. Mark Murphy, fired up the helicopter's engines and raced to the scene to rescue the fallen hiker.

Sherwin was lowered about 135-feet and placed the hiker in a safety harness. Once Paulson was secure both men were hoisted back into the helicopter.

The rescue team flew Paulson two miles to an awaiting ambulance where he was driven to a nearby hospital to be treated for non life-threatening injuries.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170705/carpenteria-hiker-rescued-in-wrightwood-after-falling-from-the-pacific-crest-trail>

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## Summit Valley Fire Quickly Contained Monday Night

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: July 4, 2017



Photo by Amber Lee Rodriguez

SUMMIT VALLEY, Calif. (VVNG.com) Cal Fire and **San Bernardino County Fire** quickly extinguished a vegetation fire dubbed the Valley Fire Monday night.

At 8:31 pm., dispatch received reports of a fire in the area of Summit Valley west of Honda Valley in the unincorporated area of Hesperia.

The Sheriff's helicopter 40 king responded to reports of fireworks seen in the area and confirmed the vegetation fire burning in the hills.

Cal Fire and San Bernardino County Firefighters responded and made access to the fire.

Firefighters determined the fire was 1-2 acres in size with a slow-moderate rate of spread and no threat to any structures.

The fire was fully contained at 7.7 acres. No injuries were reported as a result of the vegetation fire.

The official cause of the fire is currently under investigation.

<http://www.vvng.com/summit-valley-fire-quickly-contained-monday-night/>

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## Silver Fire size reduced to 13 acres, containment increased to 60 percent; Highway 138 reopened

Daily Press

Posted: July 5, 2017, 9:22 AM



A firefighter battles the Silver Fire near Silverwood Lake on Tuesday afternoon. Thirteen acres burned, authorities said. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

**SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAINS** — The size of the Silver Fire was reduced to 13 acres Wednesday afternoon, with crews increasing containment of the blaze that erupted on the Fourth of July.

San Bernardino National Forest Service officials announced Wednesday morning that containment of the vegetation fire near Highway 138 at the entrance to Silverwood Lake was at 40 percent, but that number increased to 60 percent by noon according to a tweet from CAL FIRE.

Multiple agencies helped battled the blaze, which was first reported at approximately 1:21 p.m. Tuesday.

Roughly 200 fire personnel were involved in suppression efforts as the blaze prompted evacuation orders for Silverwood Campground and closed Highway 138 between Old Mill Road and Highway 173.

Highway 138 was reopened just after 9 p.m. Tuesday, according to National Forest officials, and all evacuation orders were lifted.

The Silver Fire was started by a vehicle fire, **San Bernardino County Fire Department** officials said.

According to California Highway Patrol incident logs, a vehicle, reportedly a white Honda, was seen on the side of eastbound Highway 138 near Cleghorn Road at 1:10 p.m., with the reporting party saying they “saw a large amount of smoke and everyone outside.”

Shortly before 1:50 p.m., the fire moved to the north on both sides of the highway, according to scanner traffic.

Cal Fire was also assisting forest and county officials with fire suppression operations.

The fire followed a vegetation fire reported Monday night in the area of Highway 138 and Summit Valley Road, according to Cal Fire. That fire grew to about 4 acres at moderate rate of speed and threatened no structures, the agency said.

County Fire tweeted out that it had responded to 53 separate vegetation fires as of 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, many of which were related to fireworks.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170705/silver-fire-size-reduced-to-13-acres-containment-increased-to-60-percent-highway-138-reopened>

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## **Brush Fires Extinguished**

**Heidi Fron, Mountain News**

Posted: July 6, 2017, 9:44 AM



The Silverwood Lake vegetation fire broke out yesterday and caused temporary evacuations. Rowena Moreno Facebook

Two brush fires this week, the Silver fire along Highway 138 and the Cleghorn fire in Cajon Pass, were quickly contained after rapid multi-agency responses.

### **SILVER FIRE**

Near Silverwood Lake, the Silver fire was 60 percent contained as of 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Throughout most of Tuesday and Wednesday, the fire was holding at 20 acres, and now has been reduced to 13 acres.

The fire started July 4 as a car fire that spread to roadside brush along State Highway 138. The highway initially was closed from Old Mill Road to Cleghorn Road. The closure was extended Tuesday afternoon to the area of State Highway 138 and Cedarpines Park, until it reopened around 9 p.m. the same day.

The fire, however, continued to burn and was spreading rapidly in medium to heavy vegetation. The U.S. Forest Service and Cal Fire responded with air tankers, strike teams and hand crews. Retardant lines are credited with holding the perimeter of the fire.

### **CLEGHORN FIRE**

A second brush fire was reported in Cajon Pass at approximately 1:24 p.m. Wednesday. Dubbed the Cleghorn fire, the five-to-six-acre fire caused the No. 5 lane of the northbound Interstate 15 to be closed. Fire crews worked throughout Wednesday afternoon on the brush fire, which burned along the right shoulder of the freeway.



The response was a well-coordinated effort from the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF), Cal Fire and the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**. All three agencies responded with a first-alarm high vegetation response that kept the fire small, according to Eric Sherwin of the SBCoFD. The county sent five engines, a water tender, two hand crews, a chief officer and two aircraft.

The SBNF was the lead agency for the response. A spokesperson was unavailable for comment as of press time.

[http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article\\_5cb0ba64-626a-11e7-a720-0ba4888ad874.html](http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_5cb0ba64-626a-11e7-a720-0ba4888ad874.html)

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## **Man is hospitalized after traffic accident in Fontana**

**Mike Myers, Fontana Herald News**

Posted: July 5, 2017, 11:12 AM



This Dodge Ram was damaged in a traffic accident in Fontana on July 4, and the driver suffered an injury. (Contributed photo by Mike Myers)

One person was taken to a hospital after being injured in a traffic accident in northwestern Fontana on July 4.

A black Dodge Ram truck ended up on the sidewalk and facing the wrong way after allegedly being broadsided at Baseline Avenue and Hemlock Avenue by a man driving a gray Honda Fit at about 2:15 p.m.

The man who was driving the Dodge was treated by the San Bernardino County Fire Department for unknown injuries before being transported.

According to a Fontana Police Department officer, the stories of how the accident occurred were conflicting with each other.

The driver of the Honda was traveling southbound on Hemlock and said he had a green light and entered the intersection, and he said the other driver traveling eastbound on Baseline did not stop for the red light. Some witnesses of the accident agreed that the Dodge did run the red light.

The driver of the Honda was shaken up and said he had some aches and pains. He declined treatment at the scene.

The Fontana P.D. is investigating the accident.

[http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/man-is-hospitalized-after-traffic-accident-in-fontana/article\\_8ed4bf94-61ad-11e7-ad71-7bd63b10ddc3.html](http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/man-is-hospitalized-after-traffic-accident-in-fontana/article_8ed4bf94-61ad-11e7-ad71-7bd63b10ddc3.html)

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## Fire destroys home on Banning's north side

Gail Wesson, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: July 5, 2017, 4:10 PM

A fire destroyed a single-story unoccupied home in the 900 block of Via Panorama in Banning late Monday, July 3, according to a Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire Department news release.

The fire north of West Wilson Street was reported at 10:30 p.m. and was knocked down within an hour. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

The loss is estimated at \$300,000. The house was fully involved in fire with power lines down when firefighters arrived.

County fire was assisted by the Morongo and **San Bernardino County** fire departments.

<http://www.pe.com/2017/07/05/fire-destroys-home-on-bannings-north-side/>

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## Crackdown on fireworks will be ongoing

Inland News Today

Posted: July 5, 2017



SAN BERNARDINO – (INT) – The Fourth of July won't be the end of an on-going campaign against illegal fireworks.

A multi-agency task force reports the seizure of 33,000 pounds of illegal fireworks over the past few weeks. County Fire Investigators issued 146 citations with fines totaling \$182,500.

“San Bernardino County has a zero tolerance policy for bringing any illegal fireworks into our communities. Anyone attempting to smuggle these dangerous explosives into the county will face a minimum \$1,250 fine and a misdemeanor or felony charge with the possibility of arrest,” Fire Marshal Mike Horton said.

Fire officials will continue to issue citations for the use, possession, or storage of fireworks. Property owners may be cited if they allow fireworks to be possessed, stored, or used on their property.

<http://www.inlandnewstoday.com/story.php?s=46855>

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## Illegal fireworks' Inland toll: injuries, structure damage and thousands in fines

Brian Rokos, Press Enterprise

Posted: July 6, 2017, 7:38 AM



San Bernardino police display illegal fireworks that Chief Jarrod Burguan said were seized on the 4th of July 2017. Burguan said that the total of seized fireworks this year has probably exceeded 6,000 pounds. (Courtesy of San Bernardino Police Department)

Illegal use of fireworks and explosives kept some Inland fire and police departments and emergency rooms busy on the 4th of July despite officials' safety campaigns that included threats of heavy fines and enforcement operations that confiscated literally tons of fireworks.

Authorities responded to hundreds of reports of illegal fireworks and wrote scores of citations — 62 in Riverside alone.

Firefighters also rushed to blazes on hillsides, in homes and at commercial buildings; the largest, in the Lake Mathews area, charred about 200 acres, while another in Jurupa Valley burned a barn and killed dozens of chickens and lambs as well as two dogs. Some of those fires were immediately attributed to fireworks, including one that damaged a 115-year-old house in Corona, while the causes of most remain under investigation. One in the San Bernardino Mountains was started by a car fire.

In the most serious injury reported, an 8-year-old boy had one hand blown off and surgeons were trying to save his other hand after four boys in San Bernardino lit what one of them described as a “bomb.” Two of the three other boys also were hospitalized.

The stepfather of one of the boys could face child-endangerment charges, police said.

“In regard to the number of fires and injuries directly related to fireworks, this was one of the more destructive years in recent memory,” said Eric Sherwin, a spokesman for the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

Fire officials say their safety message is being heard but not acted upon enough.

The 62 citations at \$1,000 a pop in Riverside came despite a public relations push from the city urging residents not to set off fireworks, all of which are illegal in Riverside without a permit. Police confiscated 150 pounds of fireworks Tuesday.

“Most of the people who were cited knew about the PR push, so we knew that the message is getting out there,” Railsback said. “I think we still have people who are not going to adhere to the message, but I believe that a lot did.”

San Bernardino County firefighters responded to 53 vegetation fires between 4 and 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sherwin said, some of which were sparked by fireworks. He said medics treated people — mostly children — for burns and hand and eye injuries. In some instances, Sherwin said, there was not proper supervision.

“We are fortunate that we had hundreds of thousands of people that enjoyed the Fourth of July responsibly without accidents taking place. Our message is being heard. I wish it was understood and respected by a much larger audience,” Sherwin said.

Sherwin reminded residents that the safest way to enjoy fireworks is to go see a public show.

In Rialto — where firefighters responded to 21 vegetation fires, three structure fires and two injury calls that were reported as being related to fireworks — Fire Chief Sean Grayson was asked if he thought the safety warnings were being ignored.

“I think that we’ve had a slow decline in illegal fireworks use and a marked increase in citations and confiscations, which we count as a good thing. We strive every year to make it incrementally better,” he said.

Brush, barn, other buildings burn

Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire Department firefighters, whose jurisdiction includes the county’s unincorporated land and 22 cities without their own fire departments, responded to 69 fires Tuesday, according to a news release.

Three of the fires were commercial structure fires, eight were residential structure fires, 22 were wildland fires and 36 were other fires, including debris fires, the news release said.

Spokeswoman Tawny Cabral said that, although officials don’t yet know how many of the incidents were fireworks-related, responding to fireworks-related calls took up a large chunk of firefighters’ time.

Officials did blame fireworks for a 9-acre fire in Winchester.

The cause was undetermined for a brush fire that started about 3:20 p.m. near Van Buren Boulevard and Jurupa Road in Jurupa Valley. A barn-type structure quickly caught fire, and Cal Fire said 30 chickens, 23 lambs and two dogs were killed.

The Jurupa fire burned 40 acres and was 75 percent contained by Wednesday evening.

A fire reported about 5 p.m. Tuesday on Tin Mine Road near La Sierra Avenue in the Lake Mathews area grew to 205 acres — though earlier Wednesday, it was estimated at 390 acres — and is 100 percent contained. No structures were threatened. The cause of that blaze, dubbed the Eagle fire, also remains under investigation.

A house fire in Jurupa Valley caused \$1.4 million in damage and sent two firefighters to the hospital with undisclosed but non-life-threatening injuries, fire officials said. The fire was contained to the second story, but because of extensive smoke and water damage, the home was deemed a total loss.

More citations

Riverside wrote more than three times as many citations Tuesday as it did in on Independence Day in 2016.

Railsback attributed the increase to a change in policy. In the past, only the Fire Department was able to issue citations for illegal fireworks. This year, fireworks citations were considered “administrative citations,” or a violation of a city ordinance. That allowed police to issue citations and also raised the fine from \$500 to \$1,000.

Firefighters and police worked together during the enforcement period, Railsback said. Police helicopters scanned the city for fireworks.

In Corona, police and firefighters issued more than \$13,000 in fines Saturday through Wednesday, and blamed illegal fireworks for one structure fire and multiple vegetation fires in recent days.

In one fire, a bottle rocket lit up a palm tree, and embers dropped onto the roof of a historic 115-year-old house.

“It’s unfortunate that some of our residents don’t consider the negative impact on our community when they commit these types of crimes,” Fire Marshal Cindi Schmitz said in a news release.

In San Bernardino, where all fireworks are illegal in most parts of the city, police seized nearly 7,000 pounds of illegal fireworks — 3,000 on the evening of the Fourth alone — and issued 130 citations in an enforcement effort.

‘Better than some years’

In Rialto, none of the Rialto house fires was serious enough to displace residents, Grayson said. The fireworks injuries were simply burns.

“For Rialto, it was much better than some years, but it was still a high fire volume, unfortunately,” Grayson said.

Grayson said the fire and police departments wrote some citations for possession of fireworks, but he didn’t know how many.

The Redlands Fire Department wrote 11 citations with \$6,000 in fines, city spokesman Carl Baker said. There were more reports of illegal fireworks than that, but officials had to witness the violation in order to write a citation, Baker said.

“As you can imagine, people stop or run away when we are in the area,” Baker said.

There was one fire in Redlands; details were not immediately available.

Upland interim Fire Chief Dave Corbin said firefighters did not respond to any fireworks-related fires or injuries. Police Lt. Marcello Blanco said officers “responded to numerous reports of fireworks seen or being shot off.”

Blanco said he did not believe that any citations were written.

Hemet Fire Department Battalion Chief Jamie Majchrzak said no brush fires, structure fires or fireworks-related injuries were reported in the city Tuesday. Firefighters had a presence throughout the city, in case they were needed.

Non-fireworks fires

A car fire sparked the Silver fire near Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area in the mountains off Highway 138 on Tuesday afternoon, officials said. Hundreds of Fourth of July visitors were forced to evacuate.

That fire burned 13 acres and was 60 percent contained by Wednesday evening.

In Pomona, the Golden Ox restaurant burned Tuesday, with flames seen shooting out from the hood above the cooking area, the Los Angeles County Fire Department said.

<http://www.pe.com/2017/07/05/illegal-fireworks-inland-toll-injuries-structure-damage-and-thousands-in-fines/>

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## **Fire and Injuries Caused By Illegal Fireworks Ravage The Region**

Z107.7 News

Posted: July 6, 2017

Illegal use of fireworks and explosives kept regional fire and police departments and emergency rooms busy on the Fourth of July, despite officials’ safety campaigns that included threats of heavy fines and enforcement operations that confiscated literally tons of fireworks. Authorities responded to hundreds of reports of illegal fireworks and wrote scores of citations. Firefighters also rushed to blazes on hillsides, in homes and at commercial buildings; the largest, in the Lake Mathews area, charred about 200 acres, while another in Jurupa Valley burned a barn and killed dozens of chickens and lambs as well as two dogs. A fire attributed to fireworks damaged a 115-year-old house in Corona. In Yucca Valley, illegal fireworks caused a small brush fire. In San Bernardino, an 8-year-old boy had one hand blown off and surgeons were trying to save his other hand when four boys lit off a homemade firework; two of the three other boys also were hospitalized. The stepfather of one of the boys could face child-endangerment charges, police said. “In regard to the number of fires and injuries directly related to fireworks, this was one of the more destructive years in recent memory,” said Eric Sherwin, a spokesman for the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

San Bernardino County firefighters responded to 53 vegetation fires between 4 and 11:30 p.m. Tuesday. Sherwin said medics treated people—mostly children—for burns and hand and eye injuries

<http://z1077fm.com/fire-and-injuries-caused-by-illegal-fireworks-ravage-the-region/>