



NEWS



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Traffic affected on Main St and Mariposa Rd after crash in Hesperia

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: February 24, 2019



HESPERIA, CALIF. (VVNG.com) — A two-car crash on Main Street and Mariposa Road is causing a backup for drivers Sunday.

It happened at about 5 p.m. and involved a brown colored sedan and a white sedan.

Two eastbound lanes of Main Street were closed at the intersection while **San Bernardino County Fire** worked on treating and transporting a victim.

Both vehicles sustained major damage. The impact of the crash caused the white sedan to jump a curb near Jack In The Box.

Only one male passenger from the brown sedan was transported to an area hospital with unknown injuries. Expect delays in the area. No further information is currently available at this time.

<https://www.vvng.com/traffic-affected-on-main-st-and-mariposa-rd-after-crash-in-hesperia/>

Man Found Dead in Burning Home Twentynine Palms

Brian Day, KTLA 5 News

Posted: February 22, 2019, 3:28 pm



A man was found dead inside a burning home in Twentynine Palms on Feb. 21, 2019. (Credit: San Bernardino Fire Department)

Firefighters found the body of a man inside a burning house in Twentynine Palms on Thursday night, authorities said.

The fire was first reported about 10:20 p.m. in the 70000 block of Indian Trail, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** said in a written statement.

Initial callers were not able to provide an exact location, but firefighters saw the glow from the large fire from several blocks away.

The 1,000-square-foot home was engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived, with fire towering above the roof, prompting firefighters to take a defensive stance and dump water on the fire from outside, officials said.

A lack of water supply also complicated the operation.

The flames were extinguished after about 20 minutes.

“Firefighters had to then force entry to initiate salvage operations and conduct a primary search,” according to the statement. “Once inside, a single adult male was found deceased.”

The man’s identity was not available Friday.

No other injuries were reported.

Officials deemed the home a total loss, officials said.

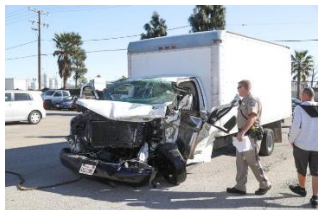
The San Bernardino County Fire Department’s Office of the Fire Marshal and the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department are conducting an investigation into the cause of the fire and the man’s death.

<https://ktla.com/2019/02/22/man-found-dead-in-burning-home-twentynine-palms/>

Delivery box truck collides with 18-wheeler in Fontana

Mike Meyers, Fontana Herald News

Posted: February 22, 2019



Authorities investigate a collision involving a delivery box truck and an 18-wheeler in Fontana on Feb. 19. (Contributed photo by Mike Myers)

The driver of a delivery box truck escaped being injured when his vehicle collided with the cab of an oversized 18-wheeler in the western area of Fontana on Feb. 19.

The California Highway Patrol and the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department responded to the incident in the 13500 block of Whittram Avenue at about 1:18 p.m.

According to a CHP officer, "we are still reviewing video from a local business, but it shows the driver of the tractor trailer was traveling westbound on Whittram and making a legal, wide right turn into a trucking a truck yard." A white box truck can be seen passing on the right side and colliding with the cab of the big rig, tearing a hole in the fuel tank, said the officer.

Workers from the truck yard placed a portable dam under the fuel tank to catch the leak; however a large amount of the fuel also made it into the street and gutter. Workers were able to build a dam to prevent it from entering the storm drain.

Authorities said the oversized 18-wheeler was properly signed and flagged as an oversized truck.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/delivery-box-truck-collides-with--wheeler-in-fontana/article_b8d51d54-36cf-11e9-b204-03e722b256c8.html

Breaking: 15 Freeway north jammed after motorcycle crash with semi

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: February 22, 2019

CAJON PASS, Calif. (VVNG.com) — CHP incident logs are reporting a crash on the northbound 15 Freeway Friday.

It was reported just before 5:30 p.m. on the I-15 Freeway between Cleghorn Road and Highway 138.

According to logs, the motorcycle rider crashed after he was possibly clipped by the semi.

The rider was down in the #2 lanes with unknown injuries.

San Bernardino County Fire is reporting heavy traffic on the freeway as they try to make their way to the scene.

Please expect delays. This is a breaking news story. Refresh periodically for update.

UPDATE @ 5:55 PM – The helicopter was canceled and the motorcyclist was transported by ground ambulance to LLUMC.

UPDATE @ 5:45 PM – Sig Alert for the no 1-3 lanes for an unknown duration.

UPDATE @ 5:38 pm – firefighters arrived on scene and requested a helicopter for the rider who has major injuries. The helicopter has been instructed to land on scene.

<https://www.vvng.com/breaking-15-freeway-north-jammed-after-motorcycle-crash-with-semi/>

A dog and a tortoise wedged underground? California firefighters to the rescue

Elizabeth Zwirz, Fox News

Posted: February 24, 2019

California firefighters on Wednesday came to the rescue of a 70-pound tortoise named Godzilla and a dog named Taylor, both of whom got trapped in a tunnel, officials said.

The scene unfolded in Fontana, California; members of the **San Bernardino County Fire** squad got word that an adult male and a dog had fallen into a hole, the department said on Facebook Friday. Officials soon learned that the man had gotten free, but the dog was still stuck.

But the dog – a German shepherd – wasn't alone when responders arrived. He was with the tortoise, several feet inside an underground tunnel.

“As crews arrived they found a tunnel that had been dug by the tortoise. This habitat traveled underneath a block wall, into a neighbor’s property, underneath a concrete patio and ultimately another walkway,” according to the fire department.

The critters got stuck after the dog appeared to have “brought a blanket into the tunnel,” leaving them “wedged and entangled,” officials said.

With the help of tools to clear away dirt -- and a bit of tortoise-directed coaxing with some lettuce -- the animals were rescued. A harrowing ordeal, to be sure. But in the end, both appeared unharmed, the department said.

“Pictured you can see the end result with both Taylor squeezing by as Godzilla crawls towards the lettuce held by our firefighter,” officials posted on Facebook. “Both animals belonged to the property owners where the tunnel started.”

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/a-dog-and-a-tortoise-wedged-underground-california-firefighters-to-the-rescue>

Critters cohabitate, freed from Fontana hole

Staff Writer, Inland News Today

Posted: February 23, 2019

FONTANA – (INT) - A picture is worth a thousand words, but sometimes, a photo just raises a bunch of questions.

That was the case with a photo shared by the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department on Friday of a German shepherd and an enormous tortoise stuck in a hole in Fontana, a firefighter crouching next to them, holding a piece of lettuce.

The Fire Department wrote on Twitter, "Both animals were safely removed from the hole with no harm".

“This is a tunnel the tortoise has been working on for a while,” San Bernardino County fire spokesman Eric Sherwin said. “The relationship between the tortoise and the dog is unknown but they decided they wanted to cohabitate.”

<http://www.inlandnewstoday.com/story.php?s=53876>

Firefighters rescue dog and tortoise from deep hole in Fontana

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: February 23, 2019

Local firefighters recently performed one of their most unusual rescues -- saving a dog and a tortoise from a deep hole that had been created by the tortoise at a Fontana residence.

The incident occurred on Feb. 20 in the 8000 block of Regal Court, when **San Bernardino County firefighters** responded to reports of a dog and a man who had fallen into the hole.

While en route, additional information was received that stated the man was out of the hole and unharmed, but the dog was still trapped.

As crews arrived, they found a tunnel that had been dug by the tortoise. This habitat traveled underneath a block wall, into a neighbor’s property, underneath a concrete patio and ultimately another walkway.

A 70-pound tortoise named Godzilla and German shepherd named Taylor were found underground about six feet in from the entrance.

It appeared that the dog had brought a blanket into the tunnel, resulting in the dog, blanket, and tortoise becoming wedged and entangled.

Firefighters used tools in order to remove dirt from around the animals, along with coaxing the tortoise with lettuce in order to encourage the animal to move. In about 10 minutes, firefighters were able to un-wedge the animals and extract them out of the tunnel.

The animals, who appeared to be unharmed, belonged to the owners of the property where the tunnel started.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/firefighters-rescue-dog-and-tortoise-from-deep-hole-in-fontana/article_7c21ea12-3789-11e9-95df-b38121ec23d7.html

California Firefighters Rescue Dog From Hole Dug By Pet Tortoise

Kylen Mills, Lex 18 News Lexington, KY

Posted: February 23, 2019, 7:38 pm

SAN BERNARDINO, Ca. (LEX 18) – Some California firefighters came to the rescue after an unlikely pair found themselves in quite the pickle.

The **San Bernardino Fire** Department posted on their Facebook page that they were called to a home earlier this week for a pet dog and tortoise trapped in a hole.

When firefighters arrived they learned that the tortoise had dug a tunnel that traveled underneath a block wall, into a neighbor's property, underneath a concrete patio and ultimately another walkway.

A 70-pound tortoise named Godzilla and German Shepherd named Taylor were stuck in the tunnel underground about 6 feet from the opening.

According to their Facebook post, firefighters discovered that the dog brought a blanket into the tunnel, causing the dog, blanket and tortoise to become wedged and entangled.

Firefighters reportedly removed dirt from around the animals and then used a piece of lettuce to encourage Godzilla to start trying to move.

After about 10 minutes the pair was safely removed from the tunnel.

Both animals belonged to the homeowners where the tunnel started. They appeared to be doing just fine.

<https://lex18.com/news/2019/02/23/california-firefighters-rescue-dog-from-hole-dug-by-pet-tortoise/>

Dog and giant 70-pound tortoise named Godzilla rescued from hole

Filipa Ioannou, KCCI News Des Moines

Posted: February 23, 2019, 5:53 am

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, but sometimes, a photo just raises a bunch of questions.

That was the case with a photo shared by California's **San Bernardino County Fire** Department on Friday of a German shepherd and an enormous tortoise stuck in a hole, a firefighter crouching next to them, holding a piece of lettuce.

"Recently SBCoFD Firefighters responded to a rescue of a German Shepherd and a turtle that were stuck in a hole in the city of Fontana," the Fire Department wrote on Twitter. "Both animals were safely removed from the hole with no harm. #Duty #Honor #Community #AllRisk."

Many people had questions.

"I need to know why, lol," wrote Nate Charette on Twitter.

Luckily, a press release soon shed some light on the unusual situation.

The rescue occurred last Wednesday in the city of Fontana. Firefighters first received reports that a man and his dog had fallen into a hole. As they traveled to the scene, the man was able to extricate himself from the hole, but the dog remained trapped.

The five people that made up the engine and paramedic squad that responded arrived to a strange scene. A large, 70-pound tortoise had dug a long tunnel from one property onto a neighboring property, burrowing under a concrete patio and a walkway in a Shawshank Redemption-like attempt at escape.

The tortoise's name was Godzilla.

Godzilla and a German shepherd by the name of Taylor were stuck in the tunnel about six feet from the tunnel's entrance. Both animals belonged to the owners of the property where the tunnel started.

Firefighters believe that Taylor dragged a blanket into the tunnel and then entangled Godzilla, trapping both animals. Perhaps after Godzilla set out for freedom, Taylor just missed his friend and intended to join him.

Firefighters carefully removed dirt from the area around the animals and were able to free them in about 10 minutes, using lettuce to coax Godzilla to safety.

"Pictured you can see the end result with both Taylor squeezing by as Godzilla crawls toward the lettuce held by our firefighter," the department explained.

<https://www.kcci.com/article/dog-and-giant-70-pound-tortoise-named-godzilla-rescued-from-hole/26482416>

Firefighters Remove Large Tortoise and Dog From a Tunnel

Staff Writer, 24/7 Headline News

Posted: February 22, 2019

FONTANA, Calif. – **San Bernardino County firefighters** in Fontana responded to the 8000 block of Regal Court on Wednesday for the report of a dog and a man falling into a hole in a residential yard. While en route they learned that the man got out of the hole and was not injured as a result of the fall. The dog remained trapped inside the hole.

When firefighters responded they located the tunnel that was dug by a tortoise, who they learned that remained in the hole with the dog. This tunnel went under the block wall to the neighbor's yard, under the concrete patio, and another walkway. The 70-pound tortoise and the German Shepherd dog were located around 6 feet from the entrance. With the dog, there was a blanket that was believed to be taken into the hole by the dog. The dog, blanket, and tortoise became entangled causing them to get stuck in place.

The responding firefighters used tools to remove the dirt from around the animals. They also used lettuce to encourage the tortoise to move. After around 10 minutes, they were able to release the animals and remove them from the tunnel. Neither of the animals that belonged to the property owners where the hold started, were injured. Five San Bernardino County personnel responded to the scene of the incident.

<https://247headline.com/firefighters-remove-large-tortoise-and-dog-from-a-tunnel/>

Firefighters Rescue German Shepherd, Tortoise From Hole in Fontana

Brian Day, KTLA 5 News

Posted: February 22, 2019, 4:14 pm

Firefighters had an unusual rescue on their hands this week when a 70-pound tortoise and a German shepherd dog got themselves wedged in a tunnel the tortoise had dug under a backyard wall.

The incident unfolded about noon Wednesday in the 8000 block of Regal Court, Capt. Jeremy Kern of the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department said in a written statement.

The tortoise, named Godzilla, had dug a 6-foot tunnel beneath a cinderblock wall in its backyard, he said. The tortoise's yard mate, a German shepherd named Taylor, decided to join his reptilian pal in the burrow.

"It appears that the dog had brought a blanket into the tunnel, resulting in the dog, blanket and tortoise becoming wedged and entangled," Kern said. The animals' owner was initially trapped in the hole as well, but managed to get himself out before firefighters arrived.

"Firefighters used tools in order to remove dirt from around the animals, along with coaxing the tortoise with lettuce in order to encourage the animal to move," Kern said.

"In about 10 minutes, firefighters were able to un-wedge the animals and extract them out of the tunnel," he said.

The dog and tortoise both appeared unharmed and were returned to their yard at the base of the tunnel, officials said.

<https://ktla.com/2019/02/22/firefighters-rescue-german-shepherd-tortoise-from-hole-in-fontana/>

Tortoise, German shepherd buddies coaxed from backyard tunnel in Fontana

Beatriz E. Valenzuela, San Bernardino County Sun

Posted: February 22, 2019, 2:06 pm



San Bernardino County Fire personnel coax a tortoise and dog out of a tunnel they dug in the backyard of a Fontana home. (Courtesy San Bernardino County Fire Department)

A tortoise and a German shepherd were helped out of a tunnel by Fontana firefighters, after the critter couple had dug the hole in the backyard of a Fontana home.

“This is a tunnel the tortoise has been working on for a while,” **San Bernardino County fire** spokesman Eric Sherwin said. “The relationship between the tortoise and the dog is unknown but they decided they wanted to cohabitate.”

On Monday afternoon, Feb. 18, the owner of the animals was in the backyard when he stumbled upon the tunnel and fell in. The location of the home was not immediately available.

“It was about 3 feet deep,” Sherwin said.

The man was able to pull himself from the tunnel but was unable to coax the animal friends out of their nest.

The man’s wife called the fire department and firefighters were eventually able to coax the large tortoise and German shepherd to come out.

Neither of the animals were hurt nor was the owner when he fell in the hole.

<https://www.pe.com/2019/02/22/tortoise-german-shepherd-buddies-coaxed-from-backyard-tunnel-in-fontana/>