



NEWS



News Headlines 3/22/2017

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County Fire rescues man buried at Lucerne Valley quarry

Daily Press

Posted: March 21, 2017, 9:00 AM



Emergency personnel successfully rescued a man buried up to his waist in a quarry pit in Lucerne Valley on Tuesday morning. [Courtesy of the San Bernardino County Fire Department]

LUCERNE VALLEY — Emergency personnel successfully rescued a man buried up to his waist in a quarry pit Tuesday morning.

The rescue operation, which occurred at the Hi Grade Materials plant off Meridian Road in Lucerne Valley, took approximately two hours and the man was airlifted to a local trauma center for evaluation of his injuries, according to authorities.

San Bernardino County Fire Department spokesman Eric Sherwin said the call of a worker being trapped underground in a hopper originally came in a 6:15 a.m. and that when crews arrived they discovered a man stuck at the "entrance of a hopper where the conveyor loads material."

According to County Fire officials, the man had accessed the lower end of an inclined conveyor belt to clear clogged material. The conveyor is fed material that is pushed by heavy equipment from the floor of the quarry through a grate that filters the dirt and, while attempting to clear the jam, the worker was engulfed by additional material pushed over the grate by a dozer.

"He (was) buried up to his waist, but he (was) awake and talking to us," Sherwin said. "Our first priority (was) to remove any material from engulfing the patient, then remove him and then treat him for any injuries."

County Fire Urban Search & Rescue team members responded to assist in the operation, which was treated as a trench rescue, according to officials. They helped shore up the additional dirt that was at risk of collapsing into the box.

From there, rescuers began removing all material that was trapping the worker with hand tools. They were not able to use heavy equipment to help with the removal due to safety concerns with the proximity to the man and the possibility of the unstable walls collapsing.

The man was removed from the pit just before 9 a.m.

A total of 27 personnel, including four engines, one heavy rescue, one squad, two safety officers and a chief officer, were assigned to the incident, with the Apple Valley Fire Protection District assisting with an engine, rescue unit and three personnel.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170321/county-fire-rescues-man-buried-at-lucerne-valley-quarry>

Firefighters Rescue Man Trapped Waist Deep in Quarry Pit

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: March 21, 2017



Firefighters remove patient from conveyer using a ladder slide. (Photo courtesy of the San Bernardino County Fire)

LUCERNE VALLEY, Calif. (VVNG.com) Emergency Personnel rescued a man who was buried waist-deep in a quarry at the Hi-Grade Materials Plant in Lucerne Valley Tuesday morning.

At about 6:20 am **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to the plant located at 8701 Meridian Road a few miles past Highway 18.

Firefighters arrived on scene and made contact with plant personnel who escorted them down to the pit of the quarry. It was reported that a worker had accessed the lower end of an inclined conveyor belt to clear clogged material.

“The conveyor is fed material that is pushed by heavy equipment from the floor of the quarry through a grate that filters the dirt. While attempting to clear the jam, the worker was engulfed by additional material pushed over the grate by a dozer,” said San Bernardino County Fire in a press release.

First responding units were reinforced by County Fire Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) team members who treated the operation as a trench rescue. Additional dirt at risk of collapsing into the box was first shored, then rescuers began the task of removing all material that was trapping the victim who was buried up to his waist yet was awake and alert.

While the amount of debris that had to be removed was significant, heavy equipment is not appropriate for quick removal due to the close proximity of the victim and the chance of a collapse of unstable walls of material. Rescue personnel instead use hand tools, a process that takes considerable time but provides the highest level of safety for the victim and rescuers.

Additionally, paramedics prepared for the unique challenges of managing the potential for crush and compartment syndromes due to the extended period of entrapment.

According to a tweet by San Bernardino County Fire, the man was successfully rescued just before 9:00 a.m. It took just over two hours to safely remove the victim from the underground pit. He was packaged and taken to the landing zone to be airlifted.

Four engines, one heavy rescue, one squad, two safety officers and a chief officer totaling 27 personnel were assigned to the incident. Apple Valley Fire Protection District assisted with one engine, a rescue unit and three personnel.

<http://www.vvng.com/man-buried-waist-deep-hi-grade-material-plant-rescued/>

Man Rescued From Underground Pit While Working in Lucerne Valley

24/7 Headline News

Posted: March 21, 2017

LUCERNE VALLEY – A worker at Hi Grade Materials became trapped underground pit, also known as a hopper in Lucerne Valley on Tuesday morning. At around 6:15 a.m. **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to rescue the man at 8701 Meridian Road.

When firefighters arrived shortly after the report, they made contact with plant personnel who fire officials said escorted them down to the pit of the quarry. “It was reported that a worker had accessed the lower end of an inclined conveyor belt to clear clogged material,” said San Bernardino County Fire Public Information Officer Eric Sherwin. “The conveyor is fed material that is pushed by heavy equipment from the floor of the quarry through a grate that filters the dirt. While attempting to clear the jam, the worker was engulfed by additional material pushed over the grate by a dozer.”

San Bernardino County Fire Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) responded to the rescue and treated it as a trench rescue. The victim was awake and alert, with materials trapping him by burying him to his waist. Rescue personnel secured the dirt near the opening to prevent more material from falling in and further trapping the victim. “While the amount of debris that had to be removed was significant, heavy equipment is not appropriate for quick removal due to the close proximity of the victim and the chance of a collapse of unstable walls of material,” added Sherwin.

Hand tools were used to remove the materials entrapping the victim to ensure his safety.

Although the process took additional time, the method was chosen in order to keep all involved safe. Paramedics awaited the removal of the victim and prepared for any changes in his medical condition, including the potential for Compartment Syndrome, which is caused by internal bleeding and tissue swelling.

The rescue took approximately two hours to remove the victim from the pit. The patient was taken to a landing zone to be airlifted to a trauma center for evaluation and treatment of injuries. A total of four engines, one heavy rescue, one squad, two safety officers and a chief officer totaling 27 personnel were assigned to the incident. Apple Valley Fire Protection District assisted with one engine, a rescue unit and three personnel.

<https://247headline.com/man-rescued-from-underground-pit-while-working-in-lucerne-valley/>

Victorville man dies after vehicle strikes utility pole off Baldy Mesa Road Saturday

Daily Press

Posted: March 21, 2017, 10:02 AM

VICTORVILLE — A Victorville man was killed after the vehicle he was driving struck a utility pole off Baldy Mesa Road on Saturday evening, authorities said.

The man, identified as 59-year-old Robert T. Hanson, was traveling south on Baldy Mesa Road in a silver 2015 Dodge Ram when, for reasons unknown, the vehicle drifted to the east dirt shoulder and collided with a utility pole, according to California Highway Patrol officials.

The Dodge Ram then collided with a chain-link fence surrounding a property south of Smoke Tree Road.

A local resident began performing CPR on Hanson until **San Bernardino County Fire Department** personnel arrived, authorities said. Hanson was transported to Desert Valley Hospital where he was pronounced deceased at 10:34 p.m.

The traffic collision is under investigation by the Victorville area CHP. Anyone with information regarding the collision is asked to contact the Victorville CHP office at 760-241-1186.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170321/victorville-man-dies-after-vehicle-strikes-utility-pole-off-baldy-mesa-road-saturday>

Victorville Man Dies After Crashing Into Utility Pole in Phelan

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: March 21, 2017



(Photo by Steven Brittain, for Victor Valley News)

PHELAN, Calif. (VVNG.com) A 59-year-old Victorville man who crashed into a utility pole died, authorities said.

On March 18th at about 9:35 a.m. Robert T. Hanson was the driver and sole occupant of a silver Dodge Ram traveling southbound on Baldy Mesa Road, south of Smoke Tree Road.

For unknown reasons, the truck drifted to the east dirt shoulder colliding with a utility pole and subsequently collided with a chain link fence surrounding a property at this location.

A local resident began performing CPR until medical personnel arrived.

The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** arrived and resumed CPR on the driver and transported him to Desert Valley Hospital where he was pronounced deceased at 10:34 a.m.

The collision is still under investigation by Victorville CHP. for any questions or information regarding the collision, contact the CHP office at 760-241-1186.

<http://www.vvng.com/victorville-man-dies-crashing-utility-pole-phelan/>