



NEWS



News Headlines 08/28/2019

- Colorado Mother Who Threw Baby Over Fence to Die Found Guilty of Murder
- 1 detained in connection with series of fires at former golf club in Rialto
- Person is hospitalized after being hit by a bus in Fontana on Aug. 27
- Summit Valley Road in Hesperia briefly closed after Tuesday morning crash
- New fire charges against convicted California arsonist
- Convicted arsonist now accused of torching Orange County buildings, burglarizing fire stations
- Hesperia man, 21, set fires and caused over \$5 million in damages to burglarize fire stations
- Man Set Fires That Caused \$5M in Damages to Draw SoCal Firefighters Out of Stations So He Could Burglarize Them: Officials
- Hesperia Man Arrested for Starting Fires in Order to Burglarize Fire Departments

Colorado Mother Who Threw Baby Over Fence to Die Found Guilty of Murder

Tom Ozimek, The Epoch Times

Posted: August 28, 2019



Camille Wasinger-Konrad has been found guilty of first-degree murder in the Jan. 2, 2018 death of her newborn daughter. (Douglas County Sheriff's Office)

A Colorado woman accused of smothering her newborn daughter and throwing her over a fence into a neighbor's yard has been found guilty of first-degree murder.

A jury in Douglas County handed down the verdict against 25-year-old Camille Wasinger-Konrad on Tuesday, Aug. 27, KMGH reported. Besides being found guilty of murder, Wasinger-Konrad was also convicted of tampering with physical evidence.

Wasinger-Konrad gave birth in her bedroom in January 2018, KDVR reported, supposedly without realizing she had been pregnant. She was cited in the report as saying she felt intense cramps after waking up on the morning of Jan. 2 and "the baby just came out."

The investigation revealed that after giving birth, Wasinger-Konrad covered the baby's nose and mouth, carried her outside and threw her into a neighbor's yard, leaving the infant for dead.

'I Just Got Rid of It'

Citing an interview recorded on a deputy's body camera, KDVR reported that Wasinger-Konrad told detectives, "I just got rid of it."

Her neighbor found the dead girl later in the evening and called the Douglas County Sheriff's Office.

"This tiny baby was smothered by her mother, flung over a neighbor's fence and left to die by the only human she had ever known," Chief Deputy District Attorney Christopher Gallo said in court, according to KMGH.

"This defendant hurled her newborn 11 feet over an 8-foot fence, knowingly consigning her to her death. This little girl died in the cold without the dignity of even a name."

Wasinger-Konrad is scheduled to be sentenced in November. The mandatory sentence for the crimes she has been found guilty of is life without parole.

Safe Haven Laws

Instead of inhumanely disposing of her newborn daughter, Wasinger-Konrad could have taken her baby to a police or fire station, or a medical center, and handed her over to the authorities with impunity. Colorado, like many other states, has a Safe Haven Law, allowing parents of infants to submit them to the care of the state, with no questions asked.

The way the Safe Haven Law works was evidenced by the case of a young woman who surrendered her newborn twins to a San Bernardino Fire Station in California on Jan. 28.

She told firefighters at the station she had just given birth to twins and wanted to leave the babies at Fire Station 302, a safe-haven site, under the California Baby Safe Haven Law, according to a Facebook post by the **San Bernardino County Fire Department (SBCF)**.

Both babies—who were healthy, clean, and fed—were taken via ambulance to a nearby hospital for further evaluation. SBCF said the young mother refused medical attention and was told how she could reclaim her children if she wished to do so within 14 days, as per the safe surrender state law.

“This is exactly why the Safe Surrender program was created,” said Fire Chief Mark Hartwig. “This young mother did the right thing by bringing her babies to the fire station. Regardless of your circumstances, the Safe Surrender program is a viable and loving option—no questions asked.”

California’s Safe Haven Law protects the mother or surrendering person from criminal prosecution if they surrender the baby to a designated “safe-surrender site” within 72 hours of birth.

The baby and parent, or person with legal physical custody, both receive a confidentially coded ankle bracelet upon arrival. Under the law, the parent or surrendering person has 14 days to reclaim the baby if they change their mind by bringing their coded bracelet back to the site.

After a baby is received, he or she is examined, receives medical treatment if needed, and then placed in a foster or pre-adoptive home.

This policy was developed to prevent newborn babies from being abandoned, which is dangerous, illegal, and often results in the death of the child.

From 1999 to 2018, 3,524 newborns were surrendered using Safe Haven laws, 1,397 newborns were illegally abandoned, 773 newborns were found dead, and 462 newborns were found alive, according to the National Safe Haven Alliance.

“You may have heard stories about babies being left in dumpsters, public toilets, or other unsafe locations. The parents abandoning their babies may have been under severe emotional or financial stress. The mothers may have hidden their pregnancies, fearful of what would happen if their families found out. Because they were afraid and felt they had nowhere to turn for help, they abandoned their baby,” according to the California Department of Social Services (pdf).

https://www.theepochtimes.com/colorado-mother-who-threw-baby-over-fence-to-die-found-guilty-of-murder_3059396.html

1 detained in connection with series of fires at former golf club in Rialto

Robert Gundran, San Bernardino County Sun

Posted: August 27, 2019, 10:53 PM

One person was detained after a series of fires sprouted up in Rialto on Tuesday evening.

Cory Cisneros, battalion chief with the Rialto Fire Department, said the department responded to reports of brush fires in an area that used to be the El Rancho Verde Golf Club just before 7:30 p.m.

Cisneros said 64 firefighters responded to the four fires throughout the former golf club and quickly contained them. The fires burned a combined three to five acres in the area of Country Club Drive and Sycamore Avenue.

Officials said one person was detained in connection with the fires. The person's identity wasn't immediately available. Cisneros said there were no outstanding suspects.

The Rialto Fire Department worked with the Rialto Police Department, **San Bernardino County Fire Department** and Cal Fire's San Bernardino Unit to combat and contain the fires.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/08/27/1-detained-in-connection-with-series-of-fires-at-former-golf-club-in-rialto/>

Person is hospitalized after being hit by a bus in Fontana on Aug. 27

Mike Myers, Fontana Herald News

Posted: August 27, 2019



A person was taken to a hospital after being hit by a bus in Fontana on Aug. 27. (Contributed photo by Mike Myers)

A person was hospitalized after being hit by a bus in northern Fontana on the morning of Aug. 27.

At about 9:15 a.m., the Fontana Police Department and the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** responded to the accident in the 6800 block of Citrus Avenue.

Authorities found the pedestrian lying in the street after being struck by the Omnitrans bus at the intersection of Walnut and Citrus.

According to witnesses on the bus, they were traveling southbound on Citrus when the incident occurred. "There were some screams, and then I felt the bus run over the person," according to a passenger on the bus.

More than a dozen passengers, including at least two small children, were on the bus at the time. Some of the passengers were visibly shaken as a result of the accident.

Emergency medical responders treated the injured person, who was transported to a local hospital with unknown injuries.

Passengers on bus No. 67, which is the Baseline and Chaffey College line, were going to Chaffey and to work when the collision took place. The passengers were taken off that bus and transferred to another bus while Omnitrans supervisors conducted their investigation.

According to authorities, no passengers on the bus were injured. The Fontana P.D. is investigating the incident.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/person-is-hospitalized-after-being-hit-by-a-bus-in/article_d454d870-c8fc-11e9-a4b3-e79c8a85e4c3.html

Summit Valley Road in Hesperia briefly closed after Tuesday morning crash

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: August 27, 2019



(Photo taken by Mireya Reyes)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A traffic accident investigation prompted officials to shut down a busy roadway for about an hour Tuesday morning.

On August 27, 2019, at about 6:57 am **San Bernardino County Firefighters** were requested to respond to a single-vehicle rollover crash with the car over the side on Summit Valley Road near Silverwood Street, north of Highway 138.

Upon arrival, firefighters found one vehicle on its wheels with one person still inside. No extrication was required and at this time injuries are unknown.

According to the California Highway Patrol incident logs, all lanes were re-opened by 8:08 am.

Please check back later for additional information as it becomes available.

<https://www.vvng.com/summit-valley-road-in-hesperia-briefly-closed-after-tuesday-morning-crash/>

New fire charges against convicted California arsonist

Staff Writer, State in Brief/Antelope Valley Press

Posted: August 28, 2019

IRVINE, Calif. (AP) — A man already in prison for arson is facing new charges that he set fires as a diversion to burglarize fire stations in Southern California.

Prosecutors contend that 21-year-old Christian Saddler of Hesperia caused more than \$5 million in damage.

The Orange County Fire Authority Tuesday announced new charges against Saddler, a one-time member of **San Bernardino County's Fire Explorer** program.

Authorities say Saddler set fires to divert crews in order to steal cash and personal items from Orange County stations.

KTLA-TV reports that one fire spread to a Santa Ana apartment building where families slept. They escaped without injury.

Authorities say they suspect Saddler also set fires in San Bernardino, Riverside and Los Angeles counties.

Saddler currently is serving five years for arson and burglary involving other cases.

https://www.avpress.com/news/around_the_state/state-in-brief/article_6fd0076c-c956-11e9-8db6-97443598bdc1.html

Convicted arsonist now accused of torching Orange County buildings, burglarizing fire stations

Brian Rokos, The Press Enterprise

Posted: August 27, 2019, 7:44 PM



Christian David Saddler, 21, of Hesperia, faces nine felony counts of arson and burglary after authorities say he set fires in four Southern California counties as a ruse to burglarize fire stations. (Courtesy of Orange County Fire Authority)

A former **San Bernardino County** fire explorer already in custody for an arson conviction is facing new charges after the Orange County Fire Authority said he burglarized fire stations in four counties and set a series of blazes.

Christian David Saddler, 21, of Hesperia, was arrested at Corcoran State Prison, where he is serving a five-year sentence after being convicted of arson and burglary in Riverside County.

Saddler, a former San Bernardino County fire explorer, set fires causing more than \$5 million in damage as diversions to draw firefighters out of their stations in Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties so he could burglarize them, an OCFA news release said Tuesday.

He is facing nine felony counts of arson and burglary for the crimes he's suspected of in Orange County in 2016. His next court appearance is scheduled for Sept. 11.

OCFA investigators learned about Saddler when he was arrested on suspicion of committing a similar crime spree in Norco on Jan. 30, 2017. That day, 2,500 bay hales worth an estimated \$250,000 burned in an early morning fire on 6th Street.

Fire and police investigators in Orange County and the federal bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives worked on the case for more than two years.

No one was reported injured in the fires, OCFA Chief Brian Fennessy said.

Saddler is at least the second Inland resident in prison for burglarizing fire stations. In 2018, 28-year-old Hector Daniel Velazquez, who was convicted of breaking into stations throughout Moreno Valley, stealing tens of thousands of dollars worth of gear and electronic devices, was sentenced to four years in state prison.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/08/27/convicted-arsonist-now-accused-of-torching-orange-county-businesses-burglarizing-fire-stations/>

Hesperia man, 21, set fires and caused over \$5 million in damages to burglarize fire stations

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: August 27, 2019



(Photos provided by Orange County Fire Authority)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Christian David Saddler, 21, of Hesperia is a former **San Bernardino County Fire** Explorer accused of causing more than \$5 million in damages as a diversion to burglarize the fire stations of firefighters responding to fires he started.

Saddler was taken into custody on July 22 at Corcoran State Prison where he was already serving a five-year prison sentence on an arson and burglary conviction, is now facing new charges, officials said.

Investigators from multiple agencies spent over two years piecing the case together.

“Authorities believe Saddler, a former San Bernardino County Fire Explorer who was familiar with the fire department culture, set fires as a diversion to draw firefighters out of their stations so he could then burglarize them,” stated officials from the Orange County Fire Authority in a news release.

Saddler is also suspected of setting fires in Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, and had been previously arrested in Jan. 2017 on similar charges, authorities said.

“The diligent and collaborative work by these investigators has protected residents from a callous criminal who was out for his own gain,” said Brian Fennessy, fire chief of OCFA. “It’s fortunate no one was injured in these blazes.”

Saddler is facing nine felony counts of arson and burglary for the Orange County Crimes that took place in December of 2016. He is being held on a \$500,000 bail and his next court appearance is September 11, 2019, in Orange County Superior Court.

<https://www.vvng.com/hesperia-man-21-set-fires-and-caused-over-5-million-in-damages-to-burglarize-fire-stations/>

Man Set Fires That Caused \$5M in Damages to Draw SoCal Firefighters Out of Stations So He Could Burglarize Them: Officials

Nouran Salahieh, KTLA 5 News

Posted: August 27, 2019, 5:40 PM

A 21-year-old former **San Bernardino County Fire** Explorer is suspected of starting numerous fires that resulted in more than \$5 million in damages as a diversion to burglarize fire stations across Southern California, the Orange County Fire Authority said Tuesday.

Christian David Saddler, of Hesperia, has been serving a five-year prison sentence on an arson and burglary conviction since July, authorities said.

After a 2-year multi-agency investigation, detectives tied Saddler to other arson and burglary cases in Orange County, where new charges were filed against him, fire officials said.

Saddler is also suspected of setting fires in Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, and had been previously arrested in Jan. 2017 on similar charges, authorities said.

Fire officials said Saddler “was familiar with fire department culture” because of his time as a fire explorer.

While firefighters were off battling fires Saddler is suspected of setting, he would enter their fire stations and take cash and personal items, Orange County Fire Investigator Captain William Lackey said.

Saddler is suspected of setting an occupied Santa Ana apartment building on fire, as well as a lumber yard in Anaheim and several vehicles across the county, Lackey said.

In one incident, Saddler set a car on fire and it spread to a Santa Ana apartment building where families were asleep, Lackey said. They were alerted to the fire and got out in time.

No injuries were reported in any of the fires, but Lackey said people could have been hurt.

“It’s fortunate no one was injured in these blazes,” Orange County Fire Authority Chief Brian Fennessy said.

Fennessy described Saddler as a “callous criminal who was out for his own gain.”

Investigators were first pointed towards Saddler when Cal Fire announced his arrest in a series of arsons and burglaries in Norco more than two years ago.

Saddler faces nine felony counts of arson and burglary for the Orange County crimes from Dec. 2016. He is being held on \$500,000 bail, authorities said.

No charges have been filed yet in the Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino county fires.

<https://ktla.com/2019/08/27/man-set-fires-that-caused-5m-in-damages-to-draw-socal-firefighters-out-of-stations-so-he-could-burglarize-them-officials/>

Hesperia Man Arrested for Starting Fires in Order to Burglarize Fire Departments

Staff Writer, 24/7 Headlines

Posted: August 27, 2019



A Hesperia man who was identified as a serial arsonist who caused over \$5 million in damage in order to burglarize fire departments Is already behind bars, fire officials said.

Christian David Saddler, 21, of Hesperia is familiar with the inner workings of the fire departments due to being a former **San Bernardino County Fire** Explorer. Saddler is accused of starting fires in order to divert the fire fighters out of the station to fight the fire while he burglarized the station. It is believed that he is

responsible for fires and burglaries in San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles, and Orange Counties. Saddler was taken in custody on July 22, 2019, and is serving a 5-year prison sentence for arson and burglary charges.

The Orange County Fire Authority first learned of Saddler when he was arrested for a similar crime spree in January 2017, in the City of Norco. Cal Fire sent out a bulletin announcing the arrest. Diligent investigative efforts for over two years by the Orange County Fire Authority, Irvine Police, Santa Ana Police, Anaheim Fire, Anaheim Police, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and Cal Fire led to the identification of Saddler as the suspect.

Fire officials said that no one was injured as a result of the intentionally set fires. Saddler faces nine felony counts of arson and burglary crimes that occurred in Orange County in December 2016. He is being held in lieu of \$500,000 bail and is scheduled to appear at the Orange County Superior Court on September 11, 2019.

<https://247headline.com/hesperia-man-arrested-for-starting-fires-in-order-to-burglarize-fire-departments/>