



NEWS



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Authorities: Tour bus crossed double-yellow line in collision that killed one, injured 28 near Kramer Junction

Jose Quintero and Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: February 27, 2017, 12:48 PM



One woman was killed and 28 people were injured in a multi-vehicle collision involving a small tour bus on Highway 58, roughly 2 miles east of Kramer Junction on Monday. [James Quigg, Daily Press]



A firefighter peers into a tour bus which overturned as part of a three car, multi-victim collision on Highway 58 near Kramer Junction CA on Monday. 28 were injured, one person was killed. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

KRAMER JUNCTION — A woman was killed and more than two dozen were injured in a multi-vehicle collision near Kramer Junction on Monday afternoon, authorities said.

The crash, which occurred on Highway 58 roughly 2 miles east of Kramer Junction, was reported at 12:03 p.m. Monday. It involved a 1996 white Subaru Outback, a 2014 white Chevy Spark and a 2007 Chevrolet Starcraft mini tour bus with A&F Tours Inc. out of Arcadia.

Barstow CHP Officer Corey Mariano told the Daily Press the tour bus was headed east on Highway 58 when, for reasons unknown, it crossed the double-yellow line and collided with the Subaru and Chevy, both headed west.

The bus overturned once before landing on its wheels on the dirt shoulder, Mariano said, while the Subaru ended up on its side.

The woman who was killed was the lone occupant in the Subaru. The tour bus was carrying 26 passengers, CHP officials said, and two passengers were reported to be in the Chevy Spark. They all sustained injuries that required transport to local hospitals.

"With the first priority of triaging the victims to get an accurate patient count, firefighters ultimately determined that nine patients were classified as immediate, or having life-threatening injuries," County Fire officials said. "Seventeen patients were delayed, suffering from non-life threatening injuries."

San Bernardino County Fire Department spokesman Eric Sherwin told the Daily Press at least six helicopters and nine ground ambulances were initially requested to respond to the scene, but weather conditions forced helicopters to decline the requests.

Extrication was required for a passenger in one of the vehicles and eight ground ambulances ended up responding, according to Sherwin.

According to scanner traffic, a Fort Irwin helicopter landed at the scene to transport a child to a trauma center, but Antelope Valley Hospital was on "diversion" and unable to tend to the child. Scanner traffic reported the boy would be transported to Loma Linda University Medical Center. Further details on the boy's condition or any of the injured parties weren't provided Monday.

The identity of the deceased woman is being withheld pending positive identification and notification of next of kin.

The crash completely shut down a portion of Highway 58 from the intersection at Highway 395 to just east of Kramer Road. Authorities opened one lane of Highway 58 around 3 p.m. Monday and were directing traffic in both directions. Mariano said the closure was expected to last for several hours as authorities investigated the scene.

The CHP Major Accident Investigation Team (MAIT) responded and took over the investigation.

The cause of the crash is still unknown. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Barstow CHP office at 760-255-8700.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170227/authorities-tour-bus-crossed-double-yellow-line-in-collision-that-killed-one-injured-28-near-kramer-junction>

Nearly 2 dozen hurt, 1 dead in Kramer Junction bus crash

San Bernardino Sun

Posted: February 27, 2017, 1:06 PM



Firefighters sort through the debris after a deadly crash involving a tour bus on Highway 58 near Kramer Junction Monday. An Arcadia-based tour bus crossed into oncoming traffic and hit two cars head-on, in a deadly crash that injured over a dozen, according to the California Highway Patrol. JAMES QUIGG — THE DAILY PRESS VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A firefighter walks by wreckage after a deadly crash involving a tour bus on Highway 58 near Kramer Junction Monday. An Arcadia-based tour bus crossed into oncoming traffic and hit two cars head-on, in a deadly crash that injured over a dozen, according to the California Highway Patrol. JAMES QUIGG — THE DAILY PRESS VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KRAMER JUNCTION >> One woman died and nearly two dozen people were injured in a crash near Kramer Junction involving a bus and two other cars along Highway 58 near Highway 395 Monday afternoon, according to California Highway Patrol officials.

The crash was reported just after noon involving a small touring bus and two other vehicles, CHP Officer Brian Benson said.

“A 55-year-old woman, who was in one of the cars, died in the crash,” Benson said. “The tour bus was coming from Fresno heading to Las Vegas when it drifted into the opposite lane striking one of the two vehicles head-on.”

Nine people suffered life-threatening injuries in Monday afternoon's crash, and 17 others were taken to hospitals with injuries that weren't considered to be life-threatening, **San Bernardino County Fire** spokesman Eric Sherwin said.

Benson said the bus, owned by Arcadia-based A&F Tours Inc., seats about 30 passengers. The company didn't respond to a message seeking comment.

The company's vehicles have been inspected 22 times in the last two years, and a vehicle was taken out of service during one of the inspections, according to U.S. Department of Transportation records. The company did not report any crashes in the last two years, the records showed.

Duane DeBruyne, a spokesman for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, said the agency would assist in a post-crash assessment, including an examination of both the vehicle and the bus company's safety record.

According to San Bernardino County Fire Department Twitter posts, authorities asked for at least nine ambulances and eight helicopters to transport the nearly two dozen hurt in the crash.

However, due to weather conditions, some of the helicopters were having a hard time making it to the crash scene, according to initial fire reports.

Helicopters from nearby Fort Irwin were called in to transport several of the injured.

The crash took place on Highway 58 about two miles east of Highway 395, fire officials posted.

"The tour bus flipped twice and landed upright," Benson said. "The identity of the deceased is being withheld pending next-of-kin notification."

Video footage at the scene posted online shows debris strewn all over the side of the highway as firefighters worked to remove victims from the cars. The footage also shows firefighters placing a woman in a neck brace and carrying another on a stretcher, a woman comforting a puppy, and a man holding a child. The front end of the bus was badly damaged.

The highway was closed in both directions.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170227/nearly-2-dozen-hurt-1-dead-in-kramer-junction-bus-crash>

1 Killed, More Than 2 Dozen Injured After Tour Bus En Route to Las Vegas Crashes Into Oncoming Traffic in Mojave Desert

Melissa Palmer, KTLA 5

Posted: February 27, 2017, 1:12 PM



A bus crashed into two cars on Highway 58 on Feb. 27, 2017. (Credit: LoudLabs)

More than two dozen people were injured and one person killed after a charter bus crossed over into oncoming traffic, hitting two passenger cars, on Highway 58 in the Mojave Desert on Monday, according to CHP.

The crash was reported at noon about 2 miles east of the junction with U.S. 395, near the unincorporated Kramer Junction area, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

The bus, which was labeled “U-best holiday,” was traveling eastbound on State Route 58 when, “for reasons yet to be determined,” it crossed over the double-yellow line and struck two oncoming cars, California Highway Patrol Lt. Tony Pena said on scene.

So far, investigators do not suspect speed, alcohol or drugs, or weather, Pena said. They don’t know why the bus moved into oncoming lanes, Pena said.

One person in a white Subaru was declared dead on scene, and two other people, in a small white Chevrolet, were hospitalized in critical condition, San Bernardino County Fire Department spokesman Eric Sherwin said.

Everyone on the bus was hurt, with injuries ranging from minor to major, Sherwin said.

All three vehicles appeared to have overturned at least once, according to a statement from San Bernardino County Fire.

The bus, which had 26 people on board, was from Arcadia but was en route from Fresno, which it had left Monday morning, to Las Vegas, Pena said.

U.S. Department of Transportation records for the bus show it is registered to A & F Tours Inc. in West Covina, which has had no crashes in the last two years.

The injured were taken via eight ambulances to hospitals in Victorville, Loma Linda and San Bernardino. Because of bad weather, medical helicopters were not able to respond, Sherwin said.

Nine patients had “immediate, life-threatening” injuries and 17 had “delayed” injuries, the lieutenant said.

One patient had to be cut out of one of the passenger cars, he added.

Ultimately, 26 people were transported to four different hospitals, firefighters said.

Video from the scene showed all the vehicles were essentially totaled. The front of the bus was destroyed.

The crash occurred near mile marker 7 in a fairly remote location between Barstow and Mojave.

Sherwin indicated serious crashes are not unusual in the area.

“I wouldn’t say any incident involving a fatality is lucky. However, this is not an uncommon incident in these areas. To see only one fatality coming out of this, yes, we were fortunate,” Sherwin said.

Firefighters from Kern County, a nearby Marine Corps logistics base and Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake arrived on scene to help.

<http://ktla.com/2017/02/27/1-killed-21-injured-in-crash-involving-bus-on-highway-58-in-the-mojave-desert/>

1 killed, 26 injured in tour bus crash in Mojave Desert

Veronica Rocha and Frank Shyong, LA Times

Posted: February 27, 2017, 5:30 PM



A charter bus traveling from Fresno to Las Vegas crashed into two vehicles in the Mojave Desert. One person was killed and 26 were injured in the accident, authorities said. (Gina Ferazzi / Los Angeles Times)

One person was killed and 26 others were injured Monday when a charter bus collided with two vehicles on State Route 58 in the Mojave Desert, authorities said.

The 2007 Chevrolet Starcraft bus from A&F Tours in Arcadia was traveling east on the highway just after 12 p.m. when “for reasons unknown” it moved into the westbound lanes and crashed head-on into a Subaru Outback and a Chevy Spark, said Officer Brian Benson, a spokesman for the California Highway Patrol in Barstow.

The bus, which was carrying 26 people, overturned and landed upright, he said.

The driver of the white Subaru suffered major injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene, he said. Twenty-six people were injured in the collision, including nine critically, fire and CHP officials said.

The bus was traveling from Fresno to Las Vegas when it crashed two miles east of Highway 395 near the unincorporated community of Kramer Junction, Benson said.

Photographs from the scene showed the front of the bus was badly damaged. “U-best Holiday” was displayed on its sides.

Accident investigators aren’t sure how fast the bus was going when it swerved into oncoming traffic, but the vehicles collided with enough force to leave the two smaller vehicles shredded. Luggage, car door pieces and a bumper were scattered across the road.

The bus flipped during the collision, tearing most of its front away and shattering several windows. One of the smaller vehicles came to a rest on its side, with clothing, sleeping bags and shoes spilling out of its broken back window. The other car stayed upright, but the force of the accident sheared away most of the right side of the vehicle.

Authorities closed State Route 58 east of Highway 395 for several hours. Traffic was backed up for miles in both directions as emergency responders cleared the accident site.

Eric Sherwin, spokesman for the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, said more than a dozen ambulances were used to transport patients to four hospitals.

Earlier in the day, the department had requested at least six helicopters. However, weather conditions in Kramer Junction and the Cajon Pass forced officials to cancel the flights, he said. Skies were overcast in the remote area, and winds were blowing up to 20 mph with some 30-mph gusts, said meteorologist Brett Albright of the National Weather Service in San Diego.

Units from Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow and the Kern and San Bernardino county fire departments treated patients at the scene, Sherwin said.

“We are doing the best we can,” Sherwin said Monday afternoon.

The CHP’s Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team is investigating the crash, Benson said.

Calls to A&F Tours were not immediately returned.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-bus-crash-mojave-20170227-story.html>

1 killed, 26 injured in Kramer Junction crash

Ridgecrest Daily Independent

Posted: February 27, 2017, 6:34 PM



Vehicles lay strewn on the side of the highway east of Kramer Junction Monday following a traffic collision that killed one person and injured 26 others. San Bernardino County Fire photo

Shortly after noon on Monday, **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to a traffic collision with injuries on Highway 58 east of Highway 395 near Kramer Junction, according to a department news release. Callers advised that the accident involved a bus and two other vehicles.

Firefighters arrived on scene to discover a charter bus and two passenger vehicles off the roadway on the north side of Highway 58. All three vehicles appeared to have rolled over at least once. With the first priority of triaging the victims to get an accurate patient count, firefighters ultimately determined that nine patients were classified as Immediate, or having life-threatening injuries; seventeen patients were delayed, suffering from non-life threatening injuries, and one patient was deceased.

The Associated Press reported that CHP Officer Brian Benson said the woman who was killed was 55 years old and was in one of the two cars the bus hit.

Also in the AP report, Benson said the bus, owned by Arcadia, California-based A&F Tours Inc., seats about 30 passengers. The company didn't respond to a message seeking comment. The company's vehicles have been inspected 22 times in the last two years, and a vehicle was taken out of service during one of the inspections, according to U.S. Department of Transportation records. The company did not report any crashes in the last two years, the records showed. Duane DeBruyne, a spokesman for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, said the agency would assist in a post-crash assessment, including an examination of both the vehicle and the bus company's safety record

SBC Fire reported that as additional units arrived on scene, firefighters were able to extricate one trapped victim from a vehicle and begin treating and stabilizing the patients.

Due to the remote area, critical patients are typically transported via helicopter to regional trauma centers, however weather between the scene and the hospitals prevented helicopter transport. As a result, additional ground ambulances were dispatched.

Ultimately, 26 patients were transported to four different hospitals. Highway 58 east of Highway 395 was closed during the patient care and transport phase. The highway is now open to one lane with alternating traffic.

Six engines, one patrol, fourteen ambulances, and three chief officers were assigned to the incident. County Fire received assistance from Kern County Fire Department, Marine Corps Logistics Base Fire, Naval Weapons Center - China Lake Fire Department, as well as the National Training Center - Fort Irwin.

San Bernardino County Fire dispatches a first-alarm mass casualty incident (MCI) to all incidents involving buses. This begins moving resources into the area should the bus be occupied or injuries present. In this case, the call was balanced to a 2nd-alarm MCI to bring additional manpower to the scene.

<http://www.ridgecrestca.com/article/20170227/NEWS/170229663>

1 Dead, Several Injured in Mass Casualty Bus Accident on Highway 58

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: February 27, 2017



Boron, California (VVNG.com) One person is dead and over a dozen people are injured after a tour bus crashed with 2 other vehicles on Monday afternoon on Highway 58.

San Bernardino County Fire Department was dispatched to Highway 58, 2 miles east of Highway 395 at approximately 12:01 p.m.

One person was pronounced dead at the scene, 21 people said to be injured with latest 6 of those being listed in critical condition, and extrication was in progress for others victims.

Nine ground ambulances and four helicopters were requested to transport the patients to unknown hospitals.

However, due to weather all helicopters have declined to transport patients, prompting a disaster for those needing critical medical treatment.

Issues are also arising after several ambulance companies were at level

The California Highway Patrol shut down Highway 58 in both directions as they work the scene.

Story is developing. Check back for updates.

<http://www.vvng.com/1-dead-several-injured-mass-casualty-bus-accident-highway-58/>

Kramer Junction Collision Kills One and Injures Twenty-Six Others

24/7 Headline News

Posted: February 27, 2017

KRAMER JUNCTION – A collision involving a charter bus and two passenger vehicles injured dozens and killed one on Monday afternoon **San Bernardino County Fire** officials said. The collision on Highway 58, east of Highway 395 near Kramer Junction was reported at around 12:00 p.m. A charter bus being involved in the collision resulted in a MCI mass casualty incident response which included six engines, one patrol, fourteen ambulances, and three chief officers.

When firefighters arrived they located the charter bus and the two vehicles all off of the roadway on the north side of Highway 58. County Fire officials said that all three vehicles appeared to have rolled over at least once. “With the first priority of triaging the victims to get an accurate patient count, firefighters ultimately determined that nine patients were classified as Immediate, or having life-threatening injuries; seventeen patients were Delayed, suffering from non-life threatening injuries, and one patient was deceased,” said San Bernardino County Fire Department spokesman Eric Sherwin in the news release.

Firefighters extricated a trapped victim from a vehicle, while others began treating and stabilizing patients. Due to the weather conditions between the collision and the hospital, twenty-six patients were transported to four different hospitals by ground ambulance. Highway 58 was temporarily closed in the area for patient care and transport.

California Highway Patrol responded to conduct a MAIT investigation. Kern County Fire Department, Marine Corps Logistics Base Fire, Naval Weapons Center – China Lake Fire Department, as well as the National Training Center – Fort Irwin also responded to the scene to assist.

<https://247headline.com/kramer-junction-collision-kills-one-and-injures-twenty-six-others/>

Flames destroy Joshua Tree home

Leah Sanson, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: February 27, 2017, 12:10 PM



A home in the Joshua Tree Mobile Home Estates stands destroyed after a fire Saturday night. Fire Department

JOSHUA TREE — A double-wide mobile home was destroyed in a suspected electrical fire Saturday night.

Crews from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** responded to the fire in the Joshua Tree Mobile Estates at 62475 Twentynine Palms Highway at 5:42 p.m. Saturday.

They arrived to find heavy smoke and flames erupting from the mobile home and threatening neighboring homes, Battalion Chief Mike Snow said. Everyone inside the home had evacuated.

Firefighters mounted an aggressive attack and were able to keep the fire from extending into the surrounding homes, according to Snow.

It took crews around 20 minutes to fully extinguish the fire, according to Snow.

No one was hurt.

Fourteen Fire Department personnel in four engines responded to the blaze with an additional ambulance and battalion chief.

The Fire Department determined that the fire originated near a bathroom and connecting bedroom.

The cause, while still under investigation, is believed to be electrical in nature, Snow stated.

The structure and contents have been valued at \$75,000 and deemed a total loss.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_b5aad304-fd28-11e6-a14b-531da4344aae.html