



NEWS



News Headlines 05/15/2019

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Motorcycle crash blocks 3 lanes on 15 freeway southbound in Cajon Pass

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: May 15, 2019



(photo by Gloria Martinez)

15 FREEWAY, Cajon Pass (VVNG.com) — A motorcycle crashed and is blocking three lanes of traffic Wednesday.

It happened on the southbound 15 Freeway, south of Oak Hill Road, at 6:44 am Wednesday morning.

According to the California Highway Patrol logs, the crash happened when a motorcycle and a car collided near the runaway truck ramp.

San Bernardino County Fire responded onscene and transported the rider to an area hospital with unknown injuries.

Per scanner traffic, the number 1,2 and 3 lane is closed.

Motorist traveling down the hill should expect delays. This is a developing story, check back for updates.

<https://www.vvng.com/motorcycle-crash-blocks-3-lanes-on-15-freeway-southbound-in-cajon-pass/>

Coroner ID's Victorville man, 33, killed in a motorcycle crash

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: May 15, 2019



Jonathan Pinal, 33 of Victorville was killed in a crash on May 4, 2019.

VICTORVILLE, CALIF. (VVNG.com) — The San Bernardino County Coroner's office has identified the man killed in a motorcycle crash earlier this month as 33-year-old Jonathan Pinal, a resident of Victorville.

On Saturday, May 4, 2019, at about 7:30 pm, deputies from the Victorville Station, and rescue personnel from the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department and American Medical Response responded to a vehicle versus motorcycle traffic collision near the intersection of Nisqualli Road and Seventh Avenue in the City of Victorville.

“Upon arrival, Deputies determined that a blue Honda motorcycle was driving west on Nisqualli Road and a gold Chevrolet SUV was driving south on Seventh Avenue. The vehicles collided near the intersection,” the Victorville Police Department said.

Pinal was later pronounced deceased at Desert Valley Hospital. The other involved vehicle remained at the scene.

Friends said Pinal was on his way home when the crash happened.

“On May 04, 2019 after his shift from work, Jonathan never made it home to his family,” stated Kenny Tran on the GoFundMe page for Pinal.

“He leaves behind a beautiful hard working wife (cancer survivor) and a son whom he loves dearly whose also name is Jonathan. Jonathan was a truck driver and trainer for Schneider National. Jonathan was a great trainer and as a trainer his goal was to make sure drivers were safe and got home to their family everyday,” wrote Tran.

Deputies are investigating the cause of the collision. The intersection of Nisqualli Road and Seventh Avenue was closed for several hours for the investigation.

For those wishing to contribute to the fundraiser set up for Pinal, the link is here:

<https://www.gofundme.com/jonathan-pinal>

Anyone with information or anyone who may have witnessed the collision is asked to contact Deputy C. DeKeyrel, Deputy A. Hylin, or Deputy K. Campbell at the Victorville Police Station.

<https://www.vvng.com/coroner-ids-victorville-man-33-killed-in-a-motorcycle-crash/>

County still mum on Chamberlin’s leave

Matthew Cabe, Daily Press

Posted: May 14, 2019

SAN BERNARDINO — **County Fire** Deputy Chief John Chamberlin remains on paid administrative leave, but officials have yet to elaborate on why the high-ranking official with High Desert ties is no longer on the job.

San Bernardino County spokesperson David Wert confirmed Tuesday that Chamberlin’s status was unchanged two weeks after he was placed on leave with pay. San Bernardino County Fire officials made the move April 30, after the department “received information” about Chamberlin, a decision first reported by the Daily Press.

Wert declined to confirm whether the information spurred an investigation or inquiry into Chamberlin. He said the “confidential nature of personnel matters” did not allow him to do so.

He did say that claims cannot be filed against individual employees, when asked if one had been filed against Chamberlin.

“They are filed against government agencies, sometimes in connection with alleged actions by one or more specifically named employees,” Wert said. “No claims naming or alluding to Deputy Chief Chamberlin have been filed against the county or fire district.”

Chamberlin was promoted to deputy chief of administration by former County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig in February 2017. His annual salary is \$180,273. The promotion made him one of the highest ranking officials within County Fire.

“In the Fire District hierarchy, deputy chiefs are immediately below the chief,” Wert said. “There are currently two deputy chief positions.”

The other position belongs to Kathleen Opliger, who is interim deputy chief of operations, according to County Fire’s website.

Wert did not directly say who placed Chamberlin on leave. Speaking generally, he said those decisions are made by an employee’s “appointing authority.”

“Depending on the position (that) could be the department head, a deputy executive officer, the CEO, the Board of Supervisors or someone else,” Wert said. “The appointing authority for the deputy chiefs is the fire chief.”

Donald W. Trapp became County Fire’s interim chief in February after Hartwig left to become Santa Barbara County’s fire chief in February, according to a previous Daily Press report. Wert would not say whether Trapp placed Chamberlin on leave.

“The county would rather not be any more specific about this personnel matter than confirming Deputy Chief Chamberlin is on administrative leave,” he said.

Chamberlin has been with County Fire since September 1999 when he worked as a firefighter/paramedic in Adelanto, the department’s website shows. Before that, he was a fire dispatcher and paid-call firefighter for both the county and the City of Victorville.

Chamberlin worked his way through County Fire ranks over a 12-year period that began with his promotion to captain in 2004. From there, he became a battalion chief in 2013, division chief in 2015 and assistant chief in 2016.

As deputy chief of administration, Chamberlin’s responsibilities include oversight of human resources, day-to-day fiscal operations and special projects.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20190514/county-still-mum-on-chamberlins-leave>