



NEWS



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Fundraiser will be held for young Fontana firefighter who is fighting cancer

Fontana Herald News

Posted: March 16, 2017, 9:26 AM



Firefighter Jose Cruz is pictured with his wife and daughter.

Local residents are uniting in support of Firefighter Jose Cruz, an 11-year **San Bernardino County Fire Department** veteran currently stationed in Fontana, who was recently diagnosed with stage 3 testicular seminoma, a cancer that metastasized to three other areas of his body.

Cruz, a 32-year-old Fontana resident, is now in the process of receiving treatment that will include at least four rounds of chemotherapy, as well as possible surgical removal of the tumors.

To help his family defer costs from his upcoming treatment and recovery, County Fire is inviting the public to a pancake breakfast fundraiser on Saturday, March 18 from 8 to 10 a.m. at the Applebee's restaurant, 16867 Sierra Lakes Parkway in Fontana.

The requested donation is \$10; tickets can be purchased at the door. All donations will benefit the Jose Cruz Fund at the Fire Family Foundation.

Jose and his wife Celeste are proud new parents of a 5-month-old daughter. He has been placed off duty indefinitely, but is fighting to be cancer-free and return to work as a public servant.

"We wish to draw attention to Jose, as multiple members of our organization who are currently fighting this disease, as are many others from agencies far and wide," said Jeff Allen, a member of San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters Local 935. "In fact, the risk of cancer in the fire service continues to grow."

A recent NIOSH study found that more than two-thirds of firefighters -- 68 percent -- develop cancer, compared to about 22 percent for the general population. The study supposes that this may be due to increased exposure to "hazardous substances, including diesel engine exhaust, soot, benzene, chloroform, styrene, and formaldehyde. These substances may be inhaled or absorbed through the skin."

The study also found that, just as in the case of Cruz, "firefighters were twice as likely to develop testicular cancer."

San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters Local 935 recognizes this increased risk in workplace-induced cancers among other illnesses that firefighters face.

"Jose and his medical team are confident that he can beat this with aggressive treatment and surgical removal of the tumors. His work-family members at County Fire and IAFF Local 935 will assist in every way possible to allow the family to concentrate on his healing and recovery," Allen said.

http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/fundraiser-will-be-held-for-young-fontana-firefighter-who-is/article_4aade5ce-0a65-11e7-bbea-ef791182838c.html

Keep Your Butts Out of Our Forest

Heidi Fron, Mountain News

Posted: March 16, 2017, 11:00 AM



Facebook

In addition to being a potential fire threat, cigarettes are toxic and cause harm to the environment.

To prevent fires in homes, offices and other buildings, smokers are advised to smoke outside. When weather turns mild in the spring, smokers are more likely to step outside to enjoy the warm temperatures, beautiful scenery and clean, fresh air (while filling their lungs with smoke).

But what about The Great Outdoors? Cigarette butts are toxic and harmful to the environment. It is estimated that California public agencies spend \$41 million per year on litter cleanup, with cigarettes and other smoking materials contributing to one-third of the litter collected with your tax dollars. Smoking materials also have an adverse, toxic effect on storm drains.

In addition, it takes only one cigarette discarded into landscaping, potted plants or the forest to start a fire.

Careless disposal of cigarettes and other smoking materials is a leading cause of fires. According to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** (SBCFD), "Smoking materials cause close to 1,000 fires and 3,000 injuries a year in the United States."

To recognize #NoSmokingDay, the SBCFD reminds people that safe cigarette disposal saves lives. Help prevent fires by disposing of cigarettes safely and encouraging others to do the same.

In agreement with the local SBCFD, fires started by smoking material cause close to 1,000 deaths and 3,000 injuries each year in the United States, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

Two main types of cigarette fires are those igniting in bark mulch, and those started on decks or porches. Both are caused by improper disposal of cigarette butts.

Deck and porch fires usually are caused when cigarette butts are discarded into combustible containers or when disposal containers are not emptied regularly. Typically, people place these containers against an exterior wall of the home. The small fire in the container then spreads up the wall and into the attic. Once it reaches the attic, the fire spreads quickly. Keep in mind that the majority of cigarette fires on home properties were started outside.

In addition to causing extensive damage to the home and its contents, the fire can spread quickly to nearby trees and the forest.

Bark mulch fires also are caused by improper disposal of cigarette butts. Cigarettes are discarded into the dry and combustible pieces of wood. The wood ignites and the fire spreads from there. Although bark mulch fires can be caught while small, they nonetheless have the potential of causing significant damage to surrounding homes, sheds, trees and forest.

ELDERS

Protect elderly and disabled smokers who are on the deck or porch to enjoy the sunshine and mild temperatures. When a person's physical ability is impaired, cigarettes have a greater chance of igniting clothing and blankets. Keep a watchful eye on elderly and disabled persons who smoke, and be sure they use deep ashtrays.

Further, one out of every five cigarette fire deaths involves smoking while using medical oxygen. Keep medical oxygen and smoking separate.

Incidentally, families often find that when an elderly or disabled person is no longer able to drive a car, it is easier to persuade that person to stop smoking simply by not purchasing any more cigarettes. It is better for the individual, for family members who want to avoid second-hand smoke and for the environment. About 600 million trees are cut down every year to produce tobacco products, contributing significantly to deforestation.

CHILDREN

Keep matches and cigarette lighters away from children, up high where they can't reach them. Teach children to give any matches or lighters they find to an adult.

CONTAINERS

Fire disasters can be prevented by being alert to the fire hazards of smoking and by taking safety precautions. First and foremost, put cigarettes out all the way, all the time.

Dispose of cigarette butts into sturdy ashtrays or put them out in water or sand. However, do not leave the cigarette butts in lakes, rivers, streams, ponds or oceans. Don't leave them sitting in the sand. Cigarette litter threatens aquatic ecosystems.

Dispose of smoking material into a non-combustible (metal or clay) container. Fill the container with sand or water to help extinguish the smoking materials. Remember to ensure that there is always water in the container or that the sand can be seen and is not obstructed by too many butts.

Before disposing of the materials from the container, ensure that they are cool to the touch. For added safety, soak cigarette butts before disposing of them.

When cleaning ashtrays, fill them with water before emptying them into the trash can. Even if a cigarette appears to be extinguished, it might be smoldering. Emptying a dry ashtray into a wastebasket could result in a fire.

Empty cool smoking materials regularly to reduce the buildup of materials. The next cigarette butt can ignite the combustible smoking materials themselves if containers are not emptied regularly.

DEPARTING

Before leaving a deck, porch, picnic spot or other area where people have been smoking, check carefully for cigarette butts, embers or matches. Be sure they are not smoldering, and remove them from the area at once. Leave nothing behind.

Check under the cushions of patio chairs and chaise lounges for smoldering embers. A burning butt can smolder between the cushions and go unnoticed for as long as five hours before a fire erupts.

When leaving any area by vehicle, never throw cigarette butts out of the car window.

AT THE LAKE

Remember that smoking is prohibited on Arrowhead Lake Association properties. Only three small areas have been set aside for smokers. Elsewhere, the prohibition of smoking will dramatically reduce risks of fires and also will prevent nicotine from getting into the waters of Lake Arrowhead.

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_84474a96-09d4-11e7-9ee4-275542982ffd.html

Crestline Man Pleads Not Guilty to Torture

Mountain News

Posted: March 16, 2017, 11:00 AM

A Crestline man, arrested for torture after allegedly beating and holding a woman captive for two days at his home, pleaded not guilty at his in-custody arraignment on March 1. According to a press release from the Twin Peaks Sheriff's Station, the victim is suffering from traumatic injuries to her head and face.

The Twin Peaks station received a call at 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 27 from a caller requesting a welfare check of the victim. The caller asked to meet with deputies before they went to the residence in the 23900 block of Straight Way in Crestline because he was afraid there would be problems if the deputies went to the location directly. He quoted the suspect as allegedly saying that he "would rather bury her than go to jail."

Deputies went to the residence of Monte Wayne Shultz, 56, in the 23900 block of Straight Way in Crestline. There, the deputies made contact with Shultz and with the victim, who told deputies that Shultz had beaten and tortured her over the previous two days.

San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel responded to the scene and transported the victim to a nearby hospital. The victim was in critical condition.

Deputies and detectives from Twin Peaks assumed the investigation and learned that Shultz is a convicted sex offender. However, in 2013 the Department of Justice suspended his requirement to register with law enforcement, the sheriff's press release stated.

Shultz was arrested and taken into custody without incident. He was transported to the Central Detention Center in San Bernardino and booked for one count of California Penal Code §206, torture. He is being held in lieu of \$500,000 bail.

Shultz also is charged with one count of inflicting corporal injury on a spouse/cohabitant under PC §273.5(A)-F. He is being held at the Central Detention Center in San Bernardino in lieu of \$500,000 bail.

Commissioner Ronald J. Gilbert presided over the arraignment, and the case has been assigned to Superior Court Judge Harold T. Wilson, Jr.

The pre-preliminary hearing on March 9 was a formality. At the preliminary hearing on March 13, Public Defender Kelton Tobler represented Shultz. The court ordered that Shultz be given his glasses. A second preliminary hearing was scheduled for March 14, and a minute order from that hearing was not available at press time.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with further information regarding this case should contact Detective Mike Salazar at the Twin Peaks Sheriff's Station by calling (909) 336-0600 or call the We Tip hotline: 1 (800) 78-CRIME.

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/crime_log/article_2083bd36-09d0-11e7-b0b3-2fd4891603fb.html

Death investigation, emergency pavement repairs prompt Highway 138 road closures

Monica Solano, Hesperia Star

Posted: March 16, 2017, 11:26 AM



SAN BERNARDINO — A death investigation and road repairs have caused authorities to call for temporary closures on Highway 138, both east and west of Interstate 15, Thursday morning.

According to California High Patrol logs, a road closure was requested by Caltrans just west of Highway 138 and I-15 at approximately 10:33 a.m.

CHP Traffic Management Control Officer Devon Boatman said crews are working on emergency pavement repairs due to washout from previous storms. Boatman said the repairs are expected to last between two to three hours.

CHP logs also list a road closure on Highway 138 roughly two miles east of I-15. A death investigation was initiated after **San Bernardino County Fire Department** personnel responded to a dead body in the area.

Further information regarding the dead body was not immediately available Thursday morning.

<http://www.hesperia.com/news/20170316/death-investigation-emergency-pavement-repairs-prompt-highway-138-road-closures>

Firefighters quickly douse vegetation fire

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: March 16, 2017, 6:21 PM



Firefighters battled a blaze that burned through more than 10 acres of vegetation in the Mojave river bottom in Barstow on Thursday. The blaze took firefighters 3 hours to control, authorities said, but no injuries were reported. Photo courtesy of the Barstow Fire Protection District.

BARSTOW — Firefighters were able to get a quick handle on a blaze in the Mojave River bottom that burned more than 10 acres on Thursday, authorities said.

Reports of a vegetation fire along the edge of the river bottom on Marks and Nelson roads were received around noon on Thursday. Barstow Fire Protection District Interim Chief Jamie Williams said the blaze, dubbed "the Nelson incident," initially burned through 3 acres before it spread, eventually burning through 12 acres.

Barstow's Jennifer Jessey told the Desert Dispatch she could see the fire from her home, and lauded firefighters' swift response to the fast-spreading flames.

"It spread really fast, but the fire department seemed to get a handle on it pretty quick," Jessey said. "But around 12:50 p.m. or so, the wind started picking up and the flames spread really high.

"They handled it pretty quickly though. It just looks like white smoke now," Jessey told the Desert Dispatch as she observed the blaze around 1:30 p.m. Thursday.

Williams said 50 fire personnel were on scene to bring the blaze under control, including firefighters from the **San Bernardino County Fire**, Fort Irwin Fire, Marine Corps Logistics Base, Yermo Fire and Daggett Fire Departments. Burning through heavy fuels, the flames threatened several structures on Nelson Road and took firefighters 3 hours to contain.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170316/firefighters-quickly-douse-vegetation-fire>

Fire toasts tractor-trailer on I-15 Thursday

Paola Baker, Desert Dispatch

Posted: March 16, 2017, 7:43 PM

BAKER — A tractor-trailer headed south on Interstate 15 erupted in flames Thursday afternoon, causing major traffic delays as heavy smoke blocked visibility, authorities said.

The tractor-trailer was carrying a load of bread and headed south on I-15, close to mile marker 117, when its engine caught fire just after 5 p.m. Thursday, according to California Highway Patrol logs.

The driver quickly exited the vehicle, but the flames continued to spread. **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman Jeff Allen said the entire truck was fully involved in flames before the blaze was extinguished.

The fire caused heavy black smoke to billow across all southbound lanes, which were shut down as authorities combated the blaze. The No. 1 lane was opened just before 6 p.m., according to CHP logs, but the no. 2 and no. 3 lanes remain closed as of 6:45 p.m. Thursday.

Allen said the blaze was extinguished around 6:15 p.m, but firefighters are expected to remain on scene for an "extensive overhaul." A HazMat team was also requested for a diesel fuel spill due to the incident.

"Use extreme caution while driving in the area as our firefighters are working near traffic," Allen said.

No injuries were reported due to the blaze, and the cause of the fire remains under investigation by the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

<http://www.desertdispatch.com/news/20170316/fire-toasts-tractor-trailer-on-i-15-thursday>

Community Paramedics Improve Patient Quality of Life and Reduce Health Care Costs

Tracey Martinez, San Bernardino County Fire Department via Mountaineer Progress

Posted: March 16, 2017



Ambulance Operator/Paramedic Alex Khochatourian & Ambulance Operator/EMT Carlos Torres both from Picoan Station 10



EMT and Paramedic Ivan Zarr, Paramedic of the Whitewater Fire Station 24 Courtesy photo

In January 2015, **San Bernardino County Fire (SBCoFD)** was chosen to conduct one of 13 pilot projects in California aimed at studying the value of community paramedicine.

Community paramedicine (CP) is an innovative model of care services that uses paramedics and emergency medical services (EMS) to treat local patients and meet their health care needs directly in their homes. For this study, SBCoFD has partnered with Rialto Fire Department, San Bernardino County Department of Public Health, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC), and the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA) to provide post-discharge follow-up visits to patients with congestive heart failure (CHF) in Fontana, Hesperia, and Victorville.

“Community paramedicine is the next innovation in healthcare,” stated Fire Chief Mark Hartwig. “The goal of this program is to augment the patient’s current plan of care with resources currently established within the community which will provide the patient with the education and tools to maintain and improve wellness outside the hospital.”

The pilot project’s objective is to reach out to CHF patients within the first 48-72 hours of being released from ARMC and improve the quality of life for the patient by decreasing the rate of readmission to the hospital and reducing the need to access 911 for non-emergencies.

A statewide evaluation of the pilot project found that community paramedics identified 129 post-discharge patients (14 percent) who misunderstood how to take their medications or had duplicate medications and were at risk for adverse effects (Coffman, Wides, Niedwiecki, & Geyn, 2017). The evaluation also found that four of five post-discharge pilot projects achieve cost savings for payers, primarily Medicare and Medi-Cal due to reductions in inpatient readmissions within 30 days of discharge. Hospitals realized savings as well by lowering their risk of being penalized by Medicare for having excess readmissions.

The community paramedicine pilot projects also accumulated savings for parts of the health care system due to fewer ambulance transports, emergency department visits, and hospital readmissions. Thus far the pilot project has shown that EMS and paramedics can facilitate more appropriate use of emergency care resources and/or enhance access to primary care for medically underserved populations when they function outside their customary role as an emergency transportation service.

In preparation for this project, SBCoFD specially trained 17 firefighter paramedics in CHF patient assessment, medication reconciliation, laboratory evaluations, and home safety inspections. State officials have extended the project through November 2017. SBCoFD has enrolled 179 post-discharge patients since 2015 and expect to enroll up to 300 before the end of the project.

During a visit, SBCoFD Community Paramedics perform a detailed physical assessment on the patient and ensure they are maintaining or improving their post-discharge status. They also will consult with the patient and/or caregiver to ensure the patient understands their condition, is eating properly, and knows how to take prescription medications. Visits also include a home safety check to reduce risk of accidental injury and to avoid potential emergencies.

San Bernardino County is home to one of the largest per capita populations of CHF patients in the U.S. Sufferers of this condition who are unable to properly have their disease managed depend on the emergency medical system (both 911 and emergency departments) to keep their condition in check; community paramedics help address the healthcare needs of this population.

<http://mtprogress.net/home/newsmarch162017.html>