



NEWS



News Headlines 05/10/2019

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Thousands of pounds of illegal fireworks are seized

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: May 10, 2019



Thousands of pounds of illegal fireworks were seized by authorities in San Bernardino County on May 8. (Contributed photo by San Bernardino County Fire Department)

Thousands of pounds of illegal fireworks were seized by authorities in San Bernardino County on May 8, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

While conducting a roadside enforcement at Goffs Road and U.S. Highway 95, about 15 miles west of Needles, the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the California Department of Justice stopped a Penske rental truck.

When they opened the box trailer, they found about 4,000 pounds of illegal and dangerous fireworks.

Officials detained the male adult driver and sole occupant and called San Bernardino County Fire investigators to respond.

Fire Investigators Tim Tate and Hector Trevino conducted the investigation and determined the Penske truck was rented out of Los Angeles and that the driver was returning from Pahrump, home of the largest provider of fireworks in Nevada.

Investigators seized the truck and fireworks, and the driver was issued a citation and released.

All confiscated fireworks were turned over to the State Fire Marshal's Office for destruction. Street value of the fireworks was estimated at \$10,000.

"It is not uncommon for illegal fireworks to be purchased in Pahrump and smuggled back into California," said Fire Marshal Mike Horton. "Each year SBCoFD investigators conduct random checkpoints in an attempt to keep these dangerous fireworks from entering our county and surrounding counties. On average, approximately 40,000 to 60,000 pounds of illegal fireworks are confiscated during these checkpoints."

Under California law, most fireworks that explode, shoot into the air, or move along the ground are considered dangerous and are illegal to possess without a permit at any time. That includes firecrackers, skyrockets and "chasers" that dart along the ground in different directions.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/thousands-of-pounds-of-illegal-fireworks-are-seized/article_3ab06278-7340-11e9-80e5-b386b34ef04f.html

Fire Department seeks public's help in preventing fires set by arsonists

Tracey Martinez, Fontana Herald News

Posted: May 9, 2019



San Bernardino County firefighters put out a fire in Fontana in 2018.

Southern California is no stranger to the destruction caused by wildfires. Sometimes these fires are caused by weather conditions, other times they are arson.

Every year arson fires claim lives, property, and natural resources placing your families, our communities, firefighters and law enforcement officers at risk with every response.

Thousands of wildfires are set by arsonists each year in the U.S., resulting in billions of dollars in damages as well as thousands more residential and commercial structure fires that are equally as costly.

In San Bernardino County alone, a high percentage of our investigated fires have been set by arsonists.

“With fire season being year-round, we must take a harder stance on those that mindfully start fires,” said Fire Marshal Mike Horton. “**San Bernardino County Fire** has set a 'zero tolerance' approach to arson. We will continue citing and prosecuting arsonists to the fullest extent.”

Did you know approximately 95 percent of all wildfires are caused by human activity? This means most wildfires are preventable. When an arsonist sets a fire, we all pay the price and we need each other to effectively confront this problem.

Help us spread the word and be a part of the solution. San Bernardino County Fire encourages you to report directly or use We-Tip to aid fire investigators and law enforcement stop fires before they start, while solving cases and placing criminal arsonists where they belong, behind bars.

What can you do to help? We need you to be the eyes and ears for County Fire. Keep an eye out for suspicious activity in your neighborhood. Suspicious activity can be described as something that is not normal behavior or draws your attention.

Not every act that appears suspicious is criminal. However, something that draws your attention and causes concern should be checked out by law enforcement as a precaution. Write down vehicle information, including license plate number, and a description of the occupants. See someone discarding a cigarette out the window, call 9-1-1.

Your information may make the difference in arresting and convicting an arsonist.

Our slogan is "If you See Something, Say Something." Report the information to SBCoFD at (909) 386-8400 or anonymously by calling the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-47-ARSON.

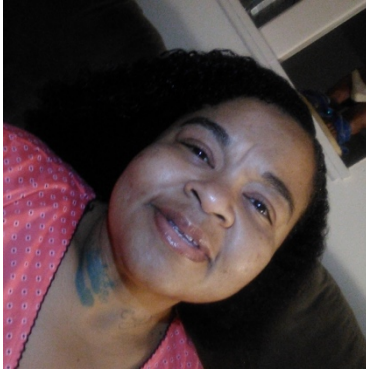
(Tracey Martinez is the public information officer for the San Bernardino County Fire Department.)

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/opinion/fire-department-seeks-public-s-help-in-preventing-fires-set/article_13c4627e-7276-11e9-8b71-4b8fc22b2213.html

Pomona Woman Dies After Crashing into Victorville Fire Department Training Tower

Staff Writer, 24/7 Headline News

Posted: May 9, 2019



VICTORVILLE, Calif. – A Pomona woman lost her life after crashing into a (Victorville) Fire Department* training tower on Tuesday night.

At around 8:10 p.m. Victorville Station deputies and emergency medical personnel responded to the training tower next to City of Victorville Fire Station 311. The fire department shares a parking lot with the San Bernardino County Fairgrounds on 7th Street and Desert Knoll Drive in the City of Victorville.

When they arrived they found a mangled black Honda Accord and 47-year-old Pomona resident, Valentina P. Smith suffering from major injuries. Smith was rushed to the hospital, where despite emergency treatment, she died as a result of her injuries. Authorities said that Smith was driving through the parking lot when she collided with the training tower. The cause of the crash remains under investigation at this time.

Anyone with information or anyone who may have witnessed the collision is asked to contact Deputy A. Ramos at the Victorville Police Department at (760) 241-2911 or Sheriff's Dispatch at (760) 956-5001. Callers wishing to remain anonymous are urged to call the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-78CRIME (27463) or you may leave information on the We-Tip website at www.wetip.com.

* Original article states "San Bernardino County Fire Department training tower"

<https://247headline.com/pomona-woman-crashes/>