



NEWS



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DUI hit-and-run driver arrested after hitting SUV carrying family of 7 in Hesperia

Staff Writer, VVNG

Posted: July 15, 2018



First responders treated two of the 5 children from the flipped SUV after it was struck by a DUI driver: (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A 22-year-old man was arrested for felony hit-and-run and driving under the influence of alcohol after he fled the scene of a crash that injured a family of seven in Hesperia.

At approximately 10:39 p.m., on Saturday, July 14, 2018, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Deputies and **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to a two-vehicle traffic collision on Mesa Street between Third and Fourth Avenues.

When officials arrived at the scene, they located a 2003 GMC Yukon on its side and a 2003 Mazda sedan with front-end damage.

According to SB County Fire radio traffic, seven occupants were reported to be inside the SUV at the time of the crash. At least two adults and two children were transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Witnesses say four occupants of the sedan fled on foot immediately after the crash.

Thanks to the quick response time from the Hesperia Deputies, all four occupants who fled from the Mazda were apprehended a short time later. Three of the detained occupants from the Mazda later identified the driver as Terrance Barnett.

Officials located the Mazda car keys in Barnett's pocket. He was transported to the Hesperia Sheriff's Station and booked for DUI and injury-hit-and-run, stated Cindy Bachman, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Spokeswoman.

According to public arrests records, Barnett is currently being held on a \$100,000 bail and is scheduled to appear for arraignment inside a Victorville courtroom on July 17, 2018. His charges include VC23153(A) DUI Causing Bodily Injury, VC23153(B) Driving with a BAC .08 or Higher, and VC20001(A) Felony Hit and Run With Injury.

The official cause of the crash remains under investigation by the Hesperia Sheriff's Station. Anyone with information on this case is asked to call (760)947-1500.

<https://www.vvng.com/dui-hit-and-run-driver-arrested-after-hitting-suv-carrying-family-of-7-in-hesperia/>

County to mull ground ambulance contract following Grand Jury report

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: July 14, 2018 7:44 a.m.



San Bernardino County's oldest ambulance contract may be up for grabs for the first time in over 30 years following the Civil Grand Jury's sweeping recommendations to change how the county administers emergency transport. [Daily Press file photo]

San Bernardino County's oldest ambulance contract may be up for grabs for the first time in over 30 years following the Civil Grand Jury's sweeping recommendations to change how the county administers emergency transport.

In its annual report, the Grand Jury recommended that the county create a request for proposal (RFP) for a new "service provider contract," along with creating one exclusive operating area, or EOA, for ground ambulance transport throughout the county.

Currently, the county contracts with American Medical Response, or AMR, to provide ambulance services to 11 of the county's 27 EOAs; they contain some of the county's most highly populated areas, such as San Bernardino, Rancho Cucamonga and Victorville.

According to the Grand Jury's report, the areas currently serviced by AMR represent approximately 9 percent of the county's total geographic area and over 80 percent of the total population. The contract has never gone out to bid since its establishment in 1981, the Grand Jury said.

While the contract can be extended on a five-year basis, the Grand Jury found that no one EOA can be put out to bid; the entire contract must be in the bidding process. This led the Grand Jury to recommend that the county create one EOA for the entire region.

"This would allow one provider to cover the county and require the provider to service populated and rural areas," the Grand Jury report said.

The county has been discussing the issue for the last five years, according to the report. The bidding process could take 18 to 24 months, as ambulance services are considered a "critical service" to the county, in the same vein as police and fire departments.

The current contract extends AMR's contract until March 31, giving AMR and a potential future provider time to smooth out the transition, a direct concern for county officials, according to the report.

“In the Grand Jury’s interviewing process, it became apparent that county leadership thought it would be difficult to provide the necessary level of critical service in a changeover process,” the Grand Jury said in its report.

The current contract has performance monitoring requirements and penalties to which AMR and all other ambulance providers must adhere, including maintaining a 90 percent response time of 9:59 minutes.

AMR, particularly the company’s Victorville branch, previously has been accused of not meeting these requirements. The San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters Union, or Local 935, claimed the ambulance company frequently ran out of units in the High Desert in early 2017, leading to resources being tied up at critical times.

AMR countered the claims by saying its ambulances continued to meet required compliance times. The company questioned the union’s motives, suggesting it was driven by the city of Victorville’s move to transition to a city-based Fire Department, which was still in discussion at the time.

As one of the additional ambulance providers in the county, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** was mentioned in the Grand Jury report. While County Fire stated “it could provide better service, make a profit and cover the entire county,” the report apparently seemed to conclude the opposite.

“Currently, the department is not monitored for its response time like the primary provider,” the Grand Jury report said. “Based upon our interviews, it was stated that [County Fire] could not provide a more cost-efficient level of ambulance services.”

County Fire spokeswoman Tracey Martinez countered this conclusion, stating the department believed they could “provide a more robust ambulance service to the county” while re-investing revenues from ambulance services, in contrast to a private provider.

“Revenues from private ambulance companies go to stakeholders,” Martinez said. “We would re-invest the revenues into the county instead. This would go back to the county and to County Fire’s ambulance services.”

Martinez said the department plans to be “an active participant” in the bidding process when and if the contract goes up to bid.

The Grand Jury gives the county 90 days, or until Sept. 27, to issue a formal response to its recommendations. Both the county and ICEMA, the agency responsible for regulating medical care in the area, have said they plan on taking the time to thoroughly review the report’s findings.

“Because it is such a complex issue, we’re going to be having an internal discussion about this to come back and address the Grand Jury’s recommendations within the time allowed,” county spokesman David Wert said.

The county may take a proposed response to the Board of Supervisors as early as Sept. 11, Wert said.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20180714/county-to-mull-ground-ambulance-contract-following-grand-jury-report>

Apartment fire in Upland displaces 15 people

Brian Rokos, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: July 14, 2018, 4:21 p.m.



Firefighters look through the garage after flames swept through an apartment complex on 13th Street in Upland on July 13, 2018, displacing 15 people. (Courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire Department)

A fire in an apartment complex in Upland displaced 15 people Friday, July 13, the San Bernardino County Fire Department said.

Nine adults, six children and a dog who lived at the four-unit, single-story complex received assistance from the American Red Cross.

Two county firefighters were injured. One was treated on the scene, and the other was hospitalized with heat-related injuries.

The fire was reported about 3:15 p.m. on 13th Street near East A Street. The first firefighters to arrive encountered heavy smoke and flames. Flames spread through a common attic and into the attached multi-car garage.

The Montclair, Rialto and Ontario fire departments, as well as the Rancho Cucamonga Fire District, assisted in fighting the two-alarm fire.

The cause of the fire was under investigation.

<https://www.dailybulletin.com/2018/07/14/apartment-fire-in-upland-displaces-15-people/>

Silverwood fire at 7.5 acres and 30% contained; Lake and campground are open

Staff Writer, VVNG

Posted: July 14, 2018



(Photo by Bernice Preciado)

UPDATE @ 5:30 PM – The silver fire is at 7.5 acres with 30% containment. The campground and lake are open and no highway closures.

LAKE SILVERWOOD, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Fire crews are battling a vegetation fire at Silverwood Lake State Recreation Park.

The fire dubbed the Silver Fire was reported at 1:10 pm, on July 14, 2018, near parking lot 3 and is estimated to be three acres in size.

According to a tweet from **San Bernardino County Fire**, the forward rate of spread has been stopped and no structures are threatened. The fire was last reported to be burning in a northeast direction towards the lake.

Water dropping helicopters are on scene assisting along with hand crews who are continuing to reinforce containment lines around the fire.

According to unconfirmed reports, people at the lake are being asked to evacuate.

Victor Valley News member Berenice Preciado, said the fire was right by them and they were told to leave everything behind and evacuate. “I think we grabbed everything. The scariest thing was the kids and not having them panic,” stated Preciado.

The California Highway Patrol has closed westbound traffic on SR-138 at Pilot Rock, according to CHP logs.

As of now the cause of the fire remains under investigation. Information will be updated as it becomes available.

<https://www.vvng.com/breaking-firefighters-battling-brush-fire-at-silverwood-lake/>

\$500,000 Grant secured for New Brush Engine

Staff Writer, Alpen Horn News

Posted: July 13, 2018



According to a July 12, 2018, News Release, the **San Bernardino County Fire** Protection District has obtained a \$500,000 grant for a new Type III Brush Engine. Upon the request of County Fire, Assemblymember Eloise Gómez Reyes of the 47th Assembly District petitioned Governor Jerry Brown's office to include the funding for the engine in the 2018-19 budget. The money is part of a \$10 million grant for local assistance from the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The Brush Engine includes a full complement of both wildland and structural firefighting gear, including SCBAs (self-contained breathing apparatus) and an assortment of hose lines. The engine sits high and features a short wheel base with 4-wheel drive that allows crews to go off-road into remote areas that a Type I structure engine cannot reach.

“Due to the intense fire seasons that we've seen in California over the past few years, it is extremely important that San Bernardino County Fire continue to advance its wildland firefighting capabilities,” stated Assistant Chief Dan Munsey. “This new brush engine comes with state-of-the-art firefighting equipment and will replace a deteriorating engine. This grant will allow us to continue to assist in helping the citizens from all over the great state of California.”

Currently San Bernardino County Fire has a strike team battling the County Fire in Napa and Yolo counties. Last year, San Bernardino County Fire strike teams responded to several wildland fires as part of the state's master mutual aid system; including the devastating Thomas Fire in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, as well as the October 2017 Northern California wildfires.

“Our state's fire danger has changed from a seasonal to an almost year-round threat making it so important that our first responders have the tools to face this growing danger,” said Assemblymember Reyes. “This Type III Fire Engine is a vital part of the fire response infrastructure that will help protect communities in San Bernardino County and around the state.”

The San Bernardino County Fire Protection District is an all-risk/full-service fire department committed to providing the highest level of service in the most efficient and cost-effective manner. In the News Release, SBCFPD stated, “We are the local fire department for over 60 communities. We provide Premier Fire, Rescue and EMS Services from rural towns to major cities, and all the unincorporated areas of the largest county in the continental United States.”

<http://alpenhornnews.com/grant-secured-for-new-brush-engine-p8863-155.htm>

Gray fire burns 12 acres of vegetation near Muscoy

Mike Cruz, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: July 13, 2018, 6:34 p.m.

A wildfire burned about 12 acres of vegetation in a flood diversion area Friday afternoon near Muscoy, an unincorporated community west of the 215 Freeway, according to CalFire officials.

Fire crews responded to the fire, dubbed the Gray fire, shortly after 2:30 p.m. northeast of the intersection of Fifth Avenue and Gray Street.

As of 6 p.m., firefighters had the blaze under control and about 40 percent contained, meaning crews had a fire break or line around the fire, CalFire officials said.

While the fire is on state property, **San Bernardino County fire** crews assisted with the call. No structures were threatened. However, flames did burn some vegetation on a corner of private property, CalFire officials said.

No injuries were reported. Fire crews are expected to remain in the area through the evening

The cause of the fire is not known and under investigation.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2018/07/13/gray-fire-burns-12-acres-of-vegetation-near-muscoy-40-percent-contained/>

Fontana City Council welcomes new firefighters and officers

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: July 16, 2018



Six new members of the San Bernardino County Fire Department have been assigned to stations in Fontana. Brandon Chavez, Nicholas Papageorges, Sam San Martin, George Funes, Jesse Gonzales and James Mcgee were introduced at the City Council Meeting. (Herald News photo by Alejandron Cano)

The Fontana City Council officially welcomed new firefighters and police officers during the July 10 meeting.

Six San Bernardino County firefighters who are assigned to stations in Fontana were introduced. They are:

- Firefighter Paramedics Brandon Chavez and Nicholas Papageorges at Station 71;

- Firefighter Paramedic Sam San Martin at Station 72;
- Firefighters George Funes and Jesse Gonzales and Firefighter Paramedic James McGee at Station 73.

Also, Officers John Piehnik and Jacob Rainey joined the Fontana Police Department.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/fontana-city-council-welcomes-new-firefighters-and-officers/article_d243bb76-86e7-11e8-b491-e3b1ac965cc4.html