



NEWS



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One person is injured in two-vehicle collision in Fontana on Nov. 7

Mike Myers, Fontana Herald News

Posted: November 8, 2018



A two-vehicle collision occurred at Foothill Boulevard and Citrus Avenue in Fontana on Nov. 7. (Contributed photo by Mike Myers)

One person was injured in a two-vehicle collision in Fontana on Nov. 7.

The Fontana Police Department and the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department responded to a collision at Foothill Boulevard and Citrus Avenue.

At about 4 p.m., the driver of a gray Lexus and a white Chevy Malibu collided in the eastbound lanes of the 16000 block of Foothill. Both cars came to a stop in the southbound lanes of Citrus.

According to a Fontana Police Department officer, there were conflicting statements about how the accident occurred.

One person was treated for a minor injury and was transported to a local hospital.

The Fontana P.D. is investigating the accident.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/one-person-is-injured-in-two-vehicle-collision-in-fontana/article_6df347f6-e388-11e8-aadf-fb20e07057ba.html

Firefighters make quick work of bedroom fire in Victorville

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: November 8, 2018



(Photo by Randy Martinez)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — More than two dozen firefighters made quick work of a bedroom fire inside a Victorville home Wednesday morning.

At about 8:42 am, firefighters from **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to a two-story residential structure fire in the 16000 block of Salinas Street in Victorville.

Upon arrival, firefighters found moderate smoke from the 2nd story windows of a two-story home.

Fire Cpt. Jeff Allen told Victor Valley News, “occupants outside stated everyone was out of the house, however, family pets were possibly trapped inside”.

Firefighters made entry into the structure and deployed hose lines up the stairs where they encountered heavy fire conditions in a bedroom.

“Primary and secondary searches for human life were clear. Unfortunately, one dog was located deceased in the fire room. Two other dogs were located later and were unharmed,” stated Allen.

The fire was knocked down in approximately 20-minutes and the majority of the damage was contained to the upstairs bedroom. However, there was smoke damage throughout the house.

“Although human life is always our priority we will make every effort to safely rescue or locate family pets,” said Allen.

A total of 17 county fire personnel responded to the house fire along with 3 paramedic fire engines, 1 truck company, 1 battalion chief, and 1 fire investigator.

No injuries were reported by civilians or firefighters and the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

<https://www.vvng.com/firefighters-make-quick-work-of-bedroom-fire-in-victorville/>

Good Samaritan helps rescue fisherman who slipped and fell into aqueduct

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: November 7, 2018



(Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A Good Samaritan walking across the aqueduct helped save the life of a 55-year-old Hesperia man fishing after he slipped and fell into the waters, officials said.

Police said it happened just before noon when a citizen was walking on Main Street, over the California Aqueduct and heard cries for help and splashing sounds.

According to a sheriff’s news release, “the citizen looked down into the Aqueduct and saw the victim, John Taliaferro, who had fallen into the water and was unable to get out.”

The Good Samaritan ran to help Taliaferro and grabbed an item of clothing to reach him. He was able to get Taliaferro to the side of the aqueduct and hold him there, while he called 9-1-1, officials said.

A Sergeant and deputies arrived within minutes and using a throw rope they worked together to safely remove Taliaferro from the water.

“Once Taliaferro was safe on land, deputies provided first aid for shock and exposure to the cold water,” stated the news release.

San Bernardino County Fire Paramedics responded to the scene and treated Taliaferro.

It was later determined Taliaferro was fishing on the bank of the Aqueduct and had slid into the water.

Although this incident ended well, citizens are cautioned about their interaction at or near the Aqueduct as the water is often moving faster than it appears and can be dangerous if someone should enter the water. With winter approaching and water temperatures dropping, exposure to cold water can happen quick and could be life-threatening.

<https://www.vvng.com/good-samaritan-helps-rescue-fisherman-who-slipped-and-fell-into-aqueduct/>

Sincere thanks for service in disaster

Steve Ball Morongo Basin CERT president, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: November 7, 2018

CERT Disaster Preparedness Day Oct. 13 was one for our record books. After a night of very heavy rain, hail and high winds, flooding began in the Morongo Basin, especially Joshua Tree on Oct. 12. As the president of MB CERT and the coordinator of this event, I thought of canceling because of the weather and the very serious flooding; this was a disaster that was happening. This is what CERT and other first responders train for. We decided to go on with the Disaster Preparedness Day, although I realized that many of the local government organizations and businesses that committed to this event would not be there because of this disaster; they were working in it.

With all that was happening in our area, as the sky began to clear, I was amazed as the San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services pulled into the parking lot of Tractor Supply with the seismic simulator to demonstrate a magnitude 7 earthquake and hand out information on what to do during an earthquake. They drove from Rialto.

Then the Children’s Safehouse from San Bernardino County fire department got there with the fire department Explorers to explain to the public what to do in a disaster and hand out information to children and parents. They even brought Sparky the fire dog.

Then our local **San Bernardino County fire** department arrived with a fire engine and ambulance. These men and women got their first call out around 11 p.m. on Friday, worked all night and still came to this event. While at our event, they had to leave two more times and still came back again to do some awesome demonstrations with the Jaws of Life on a wrecked vehicle donated by All N One towing, which delivered and picked it up after the fire department tore it up. Then the firefighters talked to the people about fires and disaster preparedness.

Not to be outdone, Cal Fire from the Yucca Valley station got there with two of their fire engines and a utility truck to explain what to do during a wildfire and had Smokey Bear with them. Don't worry, Smokey and Sparky got along just great.

The San Bernardino County Probation Department had information on how they partner with other law enforcement to keep our area safe. The California Militia did demonstrations on how to read a compass and types of victim carries. SoCal Edison demonstrated what to do and not do in a disaster, warned people to stay away from downed power lines and showed how to save money on your electric bill. Morongo Basin Healthcare had information on shots you would need and other information on what they can offer the public during a disaster.

Last but not least, we had Boy Scout Troop 309 from Yucca Valley demonstrate how easy and fast it is to build a stretcher out of tree limbs and rope. The scoutmaster is a CERT member and some of the scouts are Teen CERTs.

I especially want to thank all the Morongo Basin CERT members who showed up that disastrous, rainy, dark morning because that is what CERTS do.

Considering the early morning weather, thank you to the many Morongo Basin residents who came out to learn how to be better prepared in a disaster, many of them not knowing that a disaster was happening in their area at that time.

Are you prepared? If not, take a CERT class. To find out how go to www.morongobasincert.org.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/article_b2c1b504-e2f5-11e8-be26-d7d5b64fb583.html

EDITORIALS/OPINIONS/LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A wake-up call to the people of the Morongo Basin

John Stang Yucca Valley, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: November 7, 2018

I just read the Oct. 27 Hi-Desert Weekender. Talk about depressing. I have been following the fire and school problems that the management personnel have gotten themselves into. A problem, as I see it, is the schools, fire department and sheriff's department, etc., budget year to year and what they don't use goes back to that wonderful manipulative general fund that all your boards and management positions get to play with, especially our local San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors. When they see a chance to increase revenues, what do you think? Of course they're going to pass it. The required informational meetings mean nothing. It's just a procedural function they have to do. Your letters mean nothing. Money, money, money, that's all that matters. You go to their speeches, read their handouts and posters — are they obligated to follow through on their campaign rhetoric? There are very few that have any ethics. It's a job with benefits. Money, money.

Where does the money go? Check with the Public Employees Retirement System. Look at what retiring school teachers and administrators get and the benefits that are budgeted for in every district, city, county and state budget. The school employees are represented by the unions because they can't get a fair shake from management. Should we blame the unions? Noooo! They have to negotiate with management. Ahhh! Management puts up a hard front, that's what the BOS pays them for. Look at management's salaries. All the way down to fire chief, the battalion chief's that was posted in the Hi-Desert Star newspaper, the Joshua Basin Water District manager, who gets hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in salary and is working towards a PERS retirement pension. That's right, all the employees at your water district and town belong to PERS. A month or so ago, the newspaper published a budget for Copper Mountain College. The majority of its budget was salaries and benefits.

Of course, you know this. If you have a family and are not retired, you don't have the time to go to board meetings and be "involved." Most of you here in the town of Yucca Valley and Joshua Tree are considered low-income — living in poverty. The bad thing is, you can't afford this newspaper that I am spending my time writing to. It's a benefit to the town to have this poverty classification. New businesses get help from the government to open their doors here. When you can't afford to pay those bond attachments to your property taxes, the county will auction your property off.

Why are we in this poverty situation? To start, the California State Water Board required Yucca Valley's water district to do something about the nitrates in the water. After several attempts, the bond passed. Next the Sheriff's Department rapped the town with a \$4.2 million budget request and was approved by your Town Council unanimously. Have you noticed we don't have two radar officers? A number of years ago, the San Bernardino County BOS approved the appropriation of two motorcycles with the officers to patrol and enforce their new off-road law. Where are they? I know, they're still there. When I call the Sheriff's Department about an ATV, one will drive by within a couple of days, making their presence known. This makes four people unaccounted for. Aren't these the positions the town wanted to keep? Why the \$4.2 million when they just reshuffled the staff on hand?

http://www.hidesertstar.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/article_dca8fa30-e2f5-11e8-a87e-9799c94089c9.html