



# NEWS



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## Dehydrated Teen Rescued From Deep Creek Area

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: February 4, 2017



(photo courtesy SBSB Headquarters)

APPLE VALLEY, Calif. (VVNG.com)- A 16-year-old girl from Fontana was rescued to safety after becoming exhausted and dehydrated while hiking.

The hoist rescue occurred on Saturday, February 4th, at 5:00 p.m., in the Bowen Ranch area of Apple Valley better known as Deep Creek.

The victim was in steep terrain when she became exhausted and dehydrated. Unable to continue hiking, her friends decided to call 911.

**San Bernardino County Fire Department** personnel responded and hiked down to her location.

They found the victim was unable to hike out on her own and determined she would need to be hoist rescued. The victim was located approximately one mile down steep terrain from the top of the trailhead. San Bernardino County Air Rescue 07 was requested to assist, according to a Sheriff's press release,

The crew of Air Rescue 07, with Corporal Michael Gilley, Deputy Wayne Hess, Flight Nurse Kenny Lard, Flight Nurse Stacey Price and Dr. Steve Patterson responded.

The crew located the victim and Fire Department personnel in the steep canyon and determined the victim would need to be hoisted. Crew Chief Deputy Hess lowered Flight Nurse Lard 65 feet down to the victim.

The victim was secured into a rescue harness and hoisted into the helicopter, followed by Flight Nurse Lard. Once in the helicopter, Flight Nurse Lard and Dr. Patterson determined the victim was not suffering from life-threatening injuries.

The crew flew the victim to a nearby waiting ambulance for treatment and transport.

<http://www.vvng.com/dehydrated-teen-rescued-deep-creek-area/>

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## **Teen Suffering from Exhaustion and Dehydration Hoist Rescued From Bowen Ranch Area**

24/7 Headline News

Posted: February 4, 2017

APPLE VALLEY – A 16-year-old Fontana girl went hiking with some of her friends in the Bowen Ranch area of Apple Valley on Saturday evening. After hiking for a while in steep terrain she became exhausted and was dehydrated. Unable to walk any further, her friends called 911.

**San Bernardino County Fire Department** personnel attempted to make their way down to the girl who was approximately one mile down steep terrain. Fire personnel confirmed that the victim was not able to hike out and would require a hoist rescue. Air Rescue 07 was requested to the scene to assist.

The crew arrived on scene and located the victim in the steep canyon. The flight nurse was lowered approximately 65 feet down to the victim. The victim was secured into a rescue harness and hoisted into the helicopter, with the flight nurse following. The crew determined that the victim was not suffering from any life-threatening injuries and flew her to an awaiting ambulance.

<https://247headline.com/teen-suffering-from-exhaustion-and-dehydration-hoist-rescued-from-bowen-ranch-area/>

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## **Sixteen-year-old hiker hoisted to safety in Bowen Ranch**

*The girl, from Fontana, was "unable to walk any further and friends hiking with her called 911," San Bernardino County Sheriff's officials said in a statement.*

**Daily Press**

Posted: February 5, 2017, 10:32 AM

APPLE VALLEY - A 16-year-old girl who became exhausted and dehydrated while hiking in steep terrain in the Bowen Ranch area Saturday was hoisted to safety by emergency crews, officials said.

The girl, from Fontana, was "unable to walk any further and friends hiking with her called 911," San Bernardino County Sheriff's officials said in a statement.

The rescue was performed at roughly 5 p.m.

County Fire responded to the scene and hiked down to the victim's location, approximately a mile from the top of the trailhead, officials said. A rescue airship was requested to assist.

The airship's crew consisted of two flight nurses and a doctor, as well as a sheriff's corporal and deputy.

"The crew located the victim and Fire Department personnel in the steep canyon and determined the victim would need to be hoisted," officials said.

A crew chief deputy lowered a flight nurse 65 feet down to the victim, who was then secured into a rescue harness and hoisted into the helicopter. The victim was determined not to be suffering from any life-threatening injuries.

She was flown to a nearby waiting ambulance for transport to a hospital and treatment.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170205/sixteen-year-old-hiker-hoisted-to-safety-in-bowen-ranch>

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## **SB County Air Rescue 07 crew performed a hoist rescue of a victim who had fallen down steep terrain in Bowen Ranch**

**Highland News**

Posted: February 5, 2017 11:19 AM

On Saturday, February 4th, 2017, the victim was hiking in the Bowen Ranch area of Apple Valley in steep terrain when she became exhausted and dehydrated. The victim was unable to walk any further and friends hiking with the her called 911.

**San Bernardino County Fire Department** personnel responded and hiked down to her location. They found the victim was unable to hike out on her own and determined she would need to be hoist rescued. The victim was located approximately one mile down steep terrain from the top of the trailhead. San Bernardino County Air Rescue 07 was requested to assist.

The crew of Air Rescue 07, with Corporal Michael Gilley, Deputy Wayne Hess, Flight Nurse Kenny Lard, Flight Nurse Stacey Price and Dr. Steve Patterson responded. The crew located the victim and Fire Department personnel in the steep canyon and determined the victim would need to be hoisted. Crew Chief Deputy Hess lowered Flight Nurse Lard 65 feet down to the victim.

The victim was secured into a rescue harness and hoisted into the helicopter, followed by Flight Nurse Lard. Once in the helicopter, Flight Nurse Lard and Dr. Patterson determined the victim was not suffering from life threatening injuries. The crew flew the victim to a nearby waiting ambulance for treatment and transport.

[http://www.highlandnews.net/news/public\\_safety/sb-county-air-rescue-crew-performed-a-hoist-rescue-of/article\\_fff3c8ec-ebd7-11e6-95e7-ef0f19d9b38c.html](http://www.highlandnews.net/news/public_safety/sb-county-air-rescue-crew-performed-a-hoist-rescue-of/article_fff3c8ec-ebd7-11e6-95e7-ef0f19d9b38c.html)

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## **Small Child Suffers Major Injuries After Being Struck By Vehicle**

Christie Martin, 24/7 Headline News

Posted: February 3, 2017

VICTORVILLE – An 11-year-old boy sustained major life-threatening injuries after being struck by a vehicle on Friday afternoon. At around 1:05 p.m. a report was made by the driver of the 2014 silver Honda Accord indicating that he hit a pedestrian while driving northbound on Village Drive in the City of Victorville. The boy was reported to be lying in the roadway in the #2 lane of Village Drive between Eto Camino Road and Puesta Del Sol Drive. The reporting party said that the boy, who was attempting to cross the street on Village Drive did not appear to be breathing.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's deputies, AMR, and **San Bernardino County Fire** personnel arrived at the scene to find the boy suffering from major injuries. The mother of the child was reported to be at the scene shortly following the collision. Emergency personnel requested an air ambulance. Due to weather conditions, air transport was declined and the patient was transported by ground.

Deputies at the scene conducted a sobriety test on the driver, 44-year-old Raul Martinez and a blood draw was subsequently requested. Alcohol and/or drugs are not believed to be a factor in this collision.

Village Drive is closed in both directions from Eto Camino Road to Puesta Del Sol for several hours for the MAIT (Major Accident Investigation Team) investigation.

This collision is currently under investigation by the Victorville Police Station Major Accident Investigation Team. Any witnesses to this collision are asked to contact Deputy Amir Awad at the Victorville Station (760)241-2911.

<https://247headline.com/small-child-suffers-major-injuries-after-being-struck-by-vehicle/>

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## Road Closed After Boy Struck by Car

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: February 3, 2017



(photo courtesy of LLN)

VICTORVILLE, CALIF. (VVNG.com)- A young boy was struck by a vehicle as he walked home from school Friday afternoon.

The crash was reported shortly after 1:00 p.m., in the 15900 block of Village Drive near Puesta Del Sol Drive in Victorville.

Per scanner traffic, an 11-year-old boy was struck by a vehicle and was not breathing.

Paramedics transported the child to Victor Valley Global Medical Center to be airlifted to an out of area trauma hospital. The airship was later canceled due to weather.

The boy was transported via an AMR ambulance to Loma Linda University medical Center in critical condition. As of Friday evening, his condition was not known.

According to authorities, the boy was walking home from school and was attempting to cross Village Drive when he was struck by a silver Honda Accord traveling north on Village drive.

The driver of the Honda remained at the scene and cooperated with authorities.

The Major Accident Investigation Team (MAIT) is currently handling the investigation. A stretch of Village Drive between Eto Camino Road and Puesta Del Sol Drive is expected to remain closed for several hours.

Village Drive was shut down in both directions between Puesta Del Sol Drive and Eto Camino Road due to the crash. Officials on scene said the closure was expected to last for several hours.

<http://www.vvng.com/road-closed-boy-struck-car/>

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## **Man injured in alleged drive-by shooting in Hesperia late Friday**

**Paola Baker, Daily Press**

Posted: February 3, 2017, 12:01 AM

HESPERIA - Authorities are continuing to investigate an alleged drive-by shooting that left a man injured Friday.

Reports of a drive-by shooting at the Circle K store at the intersection of I Avenue and Danbury Avenue were received just before 7:30 p.m. Friday. Sheriff's officials on scene were tight-lipped on details, but confirmed a man was shot during the incident.

Scanner traffic reported that the shooting suspect fled the scene in a dark-colored Toyota SUV, and was last seen headed north on Danbury Avenue.

**San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman Ryan Vaccaro said the man appeared to have suffered from two gunshot wounds. His wounds were non-life-threatening, Vaccaro said, and he was transported by ground ambulance to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

Authorities shut down the intersection and a section of I Avenue between Bangor Street and Danbury Avenue for about an hour to investigate the scene.

Further details on the incident are not yet known. This story is developing and more information will be updated as it is received.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170203/man-injured-in-alleged-drive-by-shooting-in-hesperia-late-friday>

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## Emergency situation: Unions' power play at heart of ambulance response time issues?

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: February 4, 2017, 9:07 AM



American Medical Response employees prepare a patient to be airlifted by Mercy Air in Victorville. The company recently countered claims that AMR ambulances are frequently unavailable to cover incidents in the High Desert. David Pardo, Daily Press.

**VICTORVILLE** - As severe problems with the ambulance transport system in the High Desert continue, local emergency medical providers say they're committed to solving the problem - but insist the lack of resources needs to be addressed.

The problems have been going on for years, those close to the issue say, but they were recently brought to the forefront when the San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters Union, or Local 935, decided to go public in detailing concerns with American Medical Response's ambulance response times.

AMR officials say their ambulances meet the required response times set by a performance-based contract with the county - and also questioned the union's motive in going public, suggesting it was influenced by recent discussions of annexation of fire services by the Victorville City Council.

AMR also has questioned the **San Bernardino County Fire Department's** own ambulance response times. In a post on AMR's Community News Facebook page last week, the company provided a link to response time compliance reports for 2014, which show AMR ambulances meet response times at least 90 percent of the time as required by the county.

A similar link for County Fire's response time report is also provided - but simply leads to a page which states County Fire "does not report and post their ambulance response time performance."

According to Inland County Emergency Medical Agency EMS Administrator Tom Lynch, County Fire is not required to provide these response times like AMR is.

"We have a performance-based contract with AMR; we do not have a similar contract with County Fire that requires them to provide that data," Lynch said.

County Fire and union officials, though, say the data is automatically uploaded to ICEMA's tracking system and should be available upon request. And union President Jim Grigoli says AMR's statistics on response times don't adequately reflect what lies at the heart of the issue.



"(AMR) wants to twist the stats to take the focus off of them," Grigoli said. "They want to blame everyone from the Fire Department to the hospitals for bed delay. But essentially, they need more ambulance units on the road, and that's the real crux of the issue."

Grigoli said AMR and ICEMA need to lead the way in overhauling the system.

"AMR needs more units on the road in order to continue to meet those response times," Grigoli said. "But no one is accountable for keeping track of how many units are on the road."

Adam Verduzco, sergeant at arms for the local branch of the International Association of EMTs and Paramedics Union, or IAEP Local R12-152, agreed with many of Grigoli's statements, especially regarding AMR's response compliance times.

In a Thursday interview with the Daily Press, Verduzco and AMR Emergency Medical Technician and IAEP Union Vice President Michael Romero detailed how severe staffing issues at AMR's Victorville division are playing a direct role in ambulance response times.

"We don't care about how AMR is meeting the 90 percent (compliance rate); we care about that 10 percent that isn't met," Verduzco said. "We work in an industry that depends on our services 100 percent of the time."

According to Romero and Verduzco, there are only 23 full-time paramedics working at AMR's Victorville division. The lack of available paramedics leads to a domino effect in which paramedics are constantly overworked, causing fewer ambulances to be available to respond to incidents, which in turn leads to a "Level Zero" scenario.

"AMR is desperately trying to fill the holes with supervisors and overtime shifts but it's not enough," Verduzco said. "We've been dealing with these issues for a decade now. AMR needs to improve their recruitment model and benefits package to increase staffing."

AMR Director of Communications and Government Relations Jason Sorrick said 20 paramedics left AMR's Victorville division to work for County Fire in 2016, which accounts for 45 percent of AMR's paramedic workforce in the area.

While it's not uncommon for paramedics to move on to other careers, Sorrick said the high number of hires by the Fire Department has significantly impacted AMR's turnover rate.

"When you combine the thousands of hours we experience in bed delays every month, our ability to meet staffing needs in this market has been extremely difficult," Sorrick said in an email. "We continue to struggle to meet our staffing needs and experience a turnover rate close to 25 percent."

Sorrick said the company is actively hiring and currently offers a \$10,000 signing bonus to new paramedics, as well as tuition reimbursement for EMTs looking to become paramedics. He also said the company's compensation for paramedics is comparable to County Fire's.

"AMR's top step paramedic range is \$89,000 a year," Sorrick said. "We invest heavily in training our paramedic and EMTs, and have one of the most robust new hire and continuing education training programs in the industry."

But to IAEP Local R12-152 members, these efforts are not enough to keep longtime employees from jumping ship, and the union is seeking solutions by meeting with officials from AMR's corporate division to discuss how these staffing issues can be resolved.

While unable to come to an agreement during a first meeting on Tuesday, Romero said a second meeting is set for Tuesday. If an agreement can't be reached by then, the union will look at "other options," Verduzco said, including reaching out to hospital unions and County Fire.

"We have employees that have been with us for 10 to 15 years that are ready to leave," Romero said. "(AMR) is running our paramedics to the ground. Enough is enough already."

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170204/emergency-situation-unions-power-play-at-heart-of-ambulance-response-time-issues>

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## **Upland extends contract for interim city manager**

Liset Márquez, *Inland Valley Daily Bulletin*

Posted: February 4, 2017, 2:09 PM



Upland Interim City Manger Martin Thouvenell Courtesy

UPLAND >> Interim City Manager Martin Thouvenell's contract was set to expire this month after being on the job for six months.

But with the search for his permanent replacement incomplete, the Upland City Council instead recently voted to extend it by another six months, from Feb. 7 to August 7. One major change in the contract was to compensate Thouvenell from \$75 an hour to \$80 hour.

"The Council felt that it was fair to do the increase as it was in line with what we were paying the previous Interim City Manager," Mayor Debbie Stone said in an email. "With the work and headway that Marty has been able to provide to the Council and the City, it was the right thing to do."

Under his previous contract, Thouvenell was paid \$75 an hour, or up to \$72,000 for 960 hours.

But Stone was referring to Martin Lomeli, who came in on an interim basis in 2014, and was paid \$80 an hour. At that time officials said he could make as much as \$57,600 in a five-month contract. Lomeli's hourly pay was 10 percent less of the hourly wage of then-former City Manager Stephen Dunn.

Lomeli ultimately helped the council recruit Rod Butler, who was fired by the council last August. When the city fired Butler they agreed to pay him nearly \$23,000 a month — or \$206,997 over a nine-month period — not to show up to work.

Since Butler's departure, Thouvenell has been spearheading moves to increase revenues and stop the threat of operating in a deficit.

One of his biggest moves was to bring forward a plan that would disband the city's Fire Department after more than a century of service, seeking to turn **fire protection over to San Bernardino County**. The move could save Upland \$3.5 million a year.

In December, Thouvenell presented the council with a financial stability plan which included implementing parking fees at the Metrolink lots and seeking energy efficient building upgrades.

The interim city manager has also been highly vocal about the need to consider a sales tax to address Upland's financial issues.

This could help the city with street and sidewalk repairs which have been put off for years. Cuts to the operating budget over the years has meant the city doesn't have the money to replace city vehicles or building repairs — like new heating and air conditioning for the Senior Center and Police Department.

Thouvenell is no stranger to Upland. He spent three decades working for the city in various capacities.

He was also part of a 10-member fiscal task force convened in late 2013 to identify the top 10 ideas — out of 47 — that would help generate up to \$7 million in savings to the city's general fund. Thouvenell has been a harsh critic of the city for taking little action on the recommendations made in 2015.

Stone said she backed the extension because of Thouvenell's leadership the past six months.

"Marty has provided this council more direction in his short period of time with us, and we have been able to get things done that we hadn't been able to before," she said.

The contract extension gives Thouvenell more time to be involved with the recruitment process for his permanent replacement, he said.

Thouvenell said Upland has been actively recruiting, posting the application on the city's website, as well as on a government job listings site.

Most of the applications received have been from the region, but some are out of state, he said. The process, however, has not been completed, Thouvenell said.

"This next city manger needs to be well-qualified and a good choice. We can't go backward to what we've seen in the past," he said.

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/government-and-politics/20170204/upland-extends-contract-for-interim-city-manager>

## Girl, 5, Dies After Being Run Over by Father

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: February 6, 2017



(Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

PHELAN, Calif. (VVNG.com)- A 5-year-old girl has died after she was run over by her father in an apparent accident in Phelan, according to CHP officials.

At 2:31 p.m., on Sunday, February 5, 2017, deputies and emergency medical personnel were dispatched to the report of a 5-year-old female versus a vehicle with CPR in progress, on private property in the 11000 block of Middleton Road in Phelan.

The father of the children identified by authorities as 33-year-old Andres Gilbert was driving a 2004 Chevy Tahoe in his yard, pulling a trailer loaded with two bales of hay attempting to feed his horses.

According to CHP officials, three of his children were sitting on a bale of hay on the trailer. “Gilbert was driving in reverse, and for an unknown reason the 5-year-old female decided she wanted to get off the trailer, got off the bale and went to the front of the trailer.”

The victim’s 12-year-old brother was sitting on the bale and attempted to stop her but was unable to reach and she fell between the trailer and SUV.

“Gilbert was unaware of the 5-year-olds predicament and continued in reverse, running over the child,” stated officials. “Gilbert stopped his vehicle as soon he noticed the child and began CPR.”

Prior to the arrival of California Highway Patrol officers C. Carter and M. Deveny, the 5-year-old child was transported to Desert Valley Regional Medical Center where she was pronounced deceased.

CHP Sergeant T. Weichers responded to the scene and transported Gilbert and his three remaining children, to the hospital, stopping on the way to pick up the child’s mother at Target in Hesperia.

Officers determined alcohol or drug were not a factor in the incident.

<http://www.vvng.com/girl-5-dies-run-father/>