



NEWS



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Firefighters extinguish fire in Fontana on July 14

Mike Myers, Fontana Herald News

Posted: July 15, 2019



Firefighters extinguish a small fire which burned some property outside a residence in Fontana on July 14. (Contributed photo by Mike Myers)

The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** made fast work of extinguishing a fire outside a residence in western Fontana on July 14.

At about 2:10 p.m., firefighters responded to a report of a vegetation fire in the 8800 block of Live Oak Avenue.

When they arrived on scene, they observed a small mixed debris fire. Some vehicles, including a motorhome, that were being stored on the property were damaged by the fire, but firefighters were able to prevent the blaze from spreading to the residence.

No injuries were reported.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/firefighters-extinguish-fire-in-fontana-on-july/article_33a9b692-a71a-11e9-90a1-331386c6f93b.html

Earthquakes leaves dozens of homes unfit for living in Trona

Paloma Esquivel, LA Times

Posted: July 13, 2019



Benny Eldridge, 76, and his wife, Anna Sue, 75, outside their red-tagged home in Trona. The Eldridges planned to move to Bakersfield to live with one of their daughters. (Genaro Molina / Los Angeles Times)

More than 30 homes have been red-tagged as uninhabitable and 51 were yellow-tagged due to serious damage in Trona and surrounding San Bernardino County communities following two large earthquakes last week, according to initial damage assessments by state and local officials.

The assessment includes Trona and nearby Argus, as well as the communities of Red Mountain and Windy Acres. It does not include the town of Ridgecrest, near the epicenter, which is in Kern County.

In addition to the more than 80 damaged homes, eight commercial buildings were red-tagged and four were yellow-tagged, meaning they are not suitable for overnight stays, according to a news release from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

The assessment was done by the department's Damage Assessment Team with help from other county offices and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, or Cal OES.

Four underground fuel storage tanks were also red-tagged.

Officials said the number of damaged homes and buildings will probably increase as they field additional calls for inspections and as aftershocks continue to rock the region. As of Friday, 165 properties had been inspected.

Since the July 4 quake, there have been 70 quakes of magnitude 4 or greater. Friday morning, the region was hit by a magnitude 4.9 aftershock.

Ridgecrest surprised structural engineers when it emerged largely unscathed from the quakes.

Experts have said there are a number of reasons for that, including the fact that the town of about 29,000 residents does not have a large number of unretrofitted brick buildings or "soft story" apartments with ground floors built to accommodate parking.

But Trona, an unincorporated town southwest of Death Valley with a population under 2,000, appears to have been hit harder by both big temblors — a 6.4-magnitude earthquake that struck on the Fourth of July and the 7.1-magnitude quake the next day.

The natural disasters compounded the troubles of a community that has struggled for decades.

In the days after the earthquakes, there was no running water, electricity was unstable, and many residents resorted to sleeping in their cars or yards.

Given the large number of aftershocks, officials have urged residents to "continue using caution and evaluate the stability of their homes."

Residents who want their homes to be inspected can call (877) 410-8829. Additional supportive services are available at the local assistance center at Trona High School.

<https://www.latimes.com/local/earthquakes/la-me-trona-earthquake-damage-20190713-story.html>

S.B. County announces assessment of Trona: Dozens of buildings damaged, economic losses surpass \$10 million

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: July 13, 2019



San Bernardino County Fire Marshal Mike Horton assesses the damage in Trona caused by the recent earthquakes. (Contributed photo by San Bernardino County Fire Department)

Dozens of buildings were damaged in the Trona area of northwestern San Bernardino County as a result of the two powerful earthquakes on July 4 and 5, according to a completed assessment by the county.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Damage Assessment Team, with the assistance of County Building and Safety, Code Enforcement, and CalOES, finished a damage assessment of the communities of Trona, Argus, Red Mountain, and Windy Acres.

A total of 165 properties were inspected, officials said. They labeled the buildings as either Red-Tagged (meaning not habitable in current conditions; structure has been severely damaged to the degree that that it is too dangerous to inhabit) or Yellow-Tagged (moderately damaged to the degree that its habitability is limited; not suitable for overnight stays; limited occupancy).

Among residential properties, 31 were Red-Tagged and 51 were Yellow-Tagged. Among commercial properties, eight were Red-Tagged and four were Yellow-Tagged. There were also four underground store fuel tanks that were Red-Tagged.

Figures are expected to increase as additional calls for inspections are received and due to the amount of aftershocks plaguing the region.

These figures do not include the estimated 180 buildings that are abandoned, collapsed and/or burnt.

A report is being compiled and will be sent to state and federal officials for review. FEMA will ultimately determine if the earthquake damage meets the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act criteria/threshold for assistance, such as low interest loans.

With aftershocks occurring daily, residents were reminded to continue using caution and evaluate the stability of their homes.

The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that economic losses from the July 4 and 5 earthquakes will exceed \$10 million, with a 30 percent chance that losses exceed \$100 million, according to First District Supervisor Robert Lovingood.

The July 5 magnitude 7.1 earthquake near eastern California's Searles Valley resulted from shallow strike-slip faulting in the North America plate crust. Following the earthquakes, scientists with the USGS and California Geological Survey -- with help from the U.S. Navy -- began to survey and map the surface ruptures and offset features that resulted from the earthquake. Results from these investigations will be made public in the coming weeks.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/s-b-county-announces-assessment-of-trona-dozens-of-buildings/article_743e637e-a5b7-11e9-ba82-5b99013f4c07.html

Semi truck crosses divider, crashes into eight vehicles on I-15 near Baker

Cody Miller, NBC 3 Las Vegas

Posted: July 13, 2019



A semi truck caused a nine-vehicle crash after crossing the center divider on I-15 near Baker Saturday afternoon. (SB County Fire)

LAS VEGAS (KSNV) — The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** says that a semi truck crossed the center divider on I-15, roughly 20 miles west of Baker, California Saturday afternoon and collided with eight vehicles.

The crash, reported sometime around 3:30 p.m., injured at least 15 people, though SB County Fire says that there were no fatalities.

An emergency medical helicopter responded to the scene where at least one person was ejected from their vehicle.

The scene has since been cleared and there do not appear to be any traffic delays from the crash.

Further information was not available.

<https://news3lv.com/news/local/semi-truck-crosses-divider-crashes-into-eight-vehicles-on-i-15-near-baker>

Community pulls for Cory Norton

Kathy Portie, Big Bear Grizzly

Posted: July 13, 2019



Cory Norton is all smiles as he steers the fire truck used in the Pull for Cory fire truck pull at the Convention Center July 13.

The heat was on at the Convention Center of Big Bear Lake July 13. Thirteen teams, including representatives of Big Bear, Anaheim, San Bernardino County and Los Angeles County fire departments and the Big Bear Hot Shots competed in a fire truck pull. The event was Pull for Cory Norton, a retired **San Bernardino County Fire** engineer who is battling epithelioid sarcoma, a rare form of cancer.

Norton grew up in Big Bear and is a 2004 graduate of Big Bear High School.

There were also teams from Big Bear Keller-Williams and Compass real estate offices, Stellar CrossFit and 7K CrossFit.

Each team paid a minimum of \$200 to participate in the pull. Ten people at a time pulled a fire truck across the parking lot in a timed race. Norton steered the fire engine and put on the brakes at the finish line of each race.

Epithelioid sarcoma is a rare, slow-growing type of soft tissue cancer. The classic form of the disease mainly occurs in teenagers and young adults. A rarer form, tends to be more aggressive and mainly affects adults, according to the Mayo Clinic.

The Norton family has partnered with a scientific research organization committed to researching a cure for epithelioid sarcoma. Money raised goes to the fund a scientist to conduct research at a lab in Oregon to potentially develop new drugs to treat the disease.

The Big Bear Fire Department was the big winner, turning in the fastest time of 14.60 seconds in the fire truck pull. The Big Bear Hot Shots were second at 14.69 followed by the Los Angeles County Fire Department and Anaheim Fire Department, which clocked identical times of 14.74.

Members of the Big Bear Fire Department, who donated \$1,000, also won the best costume award. Firefighters wore cartoon super hero masks for their pull.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department donated the most money — \$2,500 — and was recognized for their generosity by Norton's mother, Beth.

The goal, Norton says, is to raise about \$100,000 to \$120,000 a year. More than \$5,000 was raised at the Pull for Cory event in Big Bear July 13.

For those who wish to make a donation, go to www.epsresearch.org.

http://www.bigbeargrizzly.net/news/community-pulls-for-cory-norton/article_b78942f8-a5c0-11e9-8c70-d73ebb0918e8.html

After earthquakes, 31 Trona-area homes called too unsafe to live in

Brian Rokos, Press Enterprise

Posted: July 12, 2019



The Old Guest House Museum has been red tagged in Trona July 10, 2019. (Photo by Will Lester, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

The San Bernardino County Fire Department red-tagged 31 homes and eight commercial buildings in its damage assessment of properties in the Trona area after the July 4 and July 5 earthquakes, the department announced Friday, July 12.

Fifty-one homes and four commercial buildings were yellow-tagged in the survey of the area that includes Trona, Argus, Red Mountain and Windy Acres. Four underground fuel tanks were also red-tagged.

Red-tagged buildings are considered unsafe to inhabit. Yellow-tagged buildings are moderately damaged and are safe for temporary, but not overnight stays, the Fire Department said.

“Figures are expected to increase as additional calls for inspections are received and due to the amount of aftershocks plaguing the region,” a news release said.

Those numbers do not include an estimated 180 buildings that were previously abandoned, collapsed or burnt in the desert mining town of 1,900 people, down from a population of about 6,000 decades ago.

The damage assessment will be sent to emergency management officials and will be used to determine whether the region is eligible for federal assistance that could include grants and low-interest loans to owners of homes and businesses.

A local assistance center, where residents can get information from public agencies, is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at Trona High. Information is also available on the county website at sbcounty.gov.

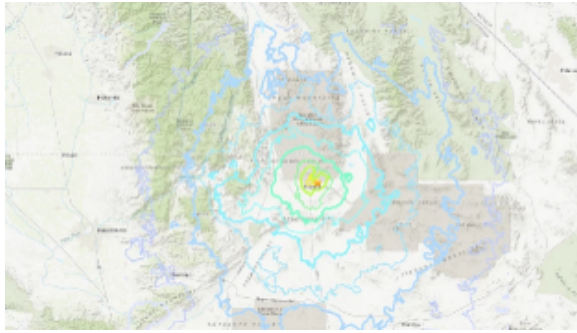
Anyone who believes their property is unsafe can call 877-410-8829 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. for an inspection.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/07/12/after-earthquakes-31-trona-area-homes-called-too-unsafe-to-live-in/>

4.9-magnitude earthquake rattles Ridgecrest area

Alma Fausto, Orange County Register

Posted: July 12, 2019, 7:08 AM



The magnitude-4.9 aftershock in Ridgecrest at 6:11 a.m. Friday, July 12, 2019, looked like this on a US Geological Survey topographic “shake map.” (Courtesy of USGS)

A 4.9-magnitude earthquake shook about five miles northeast of Ridgecrest Friday morning, July 12, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The 6:11 a.m. tremor hit a week after two major quakes shook the area in Kern County, one a 6.4-magnitude earthquake and the other a 7.1.

The quake originated 6.2 miles below the surface. Shortly after it struck, 599 people reported to the USGS that they felt it, from Fresno south to Santa Ana.

Within minutes, a 3.1 and a 2.8 tremor occurred in the Ridgecrest area as well.

There were no reports of damage in Trona, said a representative of the the **San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services**. Trona is 24 miles from Ridgecrest and suffered some damage last week.

There were no reports of injuries or major damage in Ridgecrest, either, according to the Kern County Fire Department.

Last week, city streets and building foundations were cracked, although no major injuries were reported though authorities have wondered if the July 4 quake contributed to the death of a Nevada man found crushed underneath a vehicle.

In Los Angeles on Friday, the Los Angeles Fire Department went into earthquake emergency mode: Fire vehicles and helicopters were patrolling the agency’s 470 square-mile jurisdiction in search of any damage or emergencies that needed to be tended to.

Friday’s incident is believed to be the strongest aftershock of those two strong earthquakes in the region.

Seismologists, such as Dr. Lucy Jones, have continually warned that aftershocks could continue for days or weeks.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/07/12/4-9-magnitude-earthquake-rattles-ridgecrest-area/>

Strong earthquake felt in Southern California

Staff Writer, Valley News

Posted: July 12, 2019

A magnitude 6.4 earthquake centered in northwestern San Bernardino County was felt throughout the Inland Empire, including Temecula, Murrieta and Anza, shaking up local residents celebrating the Fourth of July.

The quake, which began at 10:33 a.m., was centered about 7 miles southwest of Searles Valley, part of the Mojave Desert in northwestern San Bernardino County, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries in Riverside County.

Officials with the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** tweeted that they were conducting an assessment of the region and “no injuries reported, however buildings and roads have sustained varying degrees of damage.”

Southland public safety agencies were reminding the public not to use 911 for earthquake questions unless they have injuries or dangerous conditions to report.

It was the strongest quake to be felt in Southern California since 1999, according to seismologist Lucy Jones, founder of the Dr. Lucy Jones Center for Science & Society.

Jones said the quake was not on the San Andreas fault.

“It is an area with a lot of little faults but no long fault,” she said on Twitter.

Hundreds of aftershocks, including one shortly after 4 a.m. Friday, July 5, measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale, have been reported since the quake.

<https://www.myvalleynews.com/story/2019/07/12/anza/strong-earthquake-felt-in-southern-california/66716.html>