



NEWS



News Headlines 04/23/2019

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Driver walking along the roadway in Hesperia hit by another vehicle

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: April 23, 2019



HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A driver was struck by another vehicle after leaving his car and walking down the street, officials said.

It happened on Sunday, April 21, 2019, at about 8:23 pm, in the 9100 block of Fifth Avenue, just north of Sultana in Hesperia.

Sheriffs spokeswoman Jodi Miller told Victor Valley News, the driver/pedestrian was in a vehicle but got out and was walking along the roadway on Fifth when he was struck by the driver of the second vehicle.

The pedestrian/driver of the first vehicle was transported to a local area hospital with minor injuries.

The driver of the second vehicle remained on scene and was not injured, Miller said.

The man was transported by ground ambulance to a nearby field at Sultana High School and subsequently airlifted via County Helicopter H325 to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

<https://www.vvng.com/driver-walking-along-the-roadway-in-hesperia-hit-by-another-vehicle/>

Blaze destroys former fire station

Rene Ray De La Cruz, Daily Press

Posted: April 23, 2019

HESPERIA — Fire activity on Monday in Summit Valley included the total loss of privately-owned building once used as a fire station, and controlled training that will last through Wednesday.

At approximately 12:23 a.m. Monday, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**

received a report of a possible residential structure fire in the 15000 block of Highway 173 in Summit Valley in southern Hesperia, County Fire reported.

County fire teams from Hesperia, Crest Forest, Devore and Oak Hills responded to the incident, with Battalion 140 arriving to find heavy smoke and fire showing from the rear of a commercial building and about one-third of the roof involved.

A water tender requested from Wrightwood assisted in shuttling water to the scene. Firefighters initiated the fire attack to protect surrounding brush, several vehicles and a boat, which were threatened by the fire.

A defensive fire attack was established due to the amount of fire involvement, structural collapse and lack of available water. The fire was declared extinguished about two hours after the arrival of firefighters.

A total of 22 county firefighters responded to the incident along with Cal Fire, who assisted with two engines and a Battalion Chief.

The building was occupied by a private individual and was used for mechanical repair work. The occupants were found to have exited prior to the fire departments arrival. No firefighters or civilians were injured, the County reported.

The building was declared a total loss, and the cause of the blaze appeared to be related to a wood burning stove chimney that was in use on the property, the County said.

Built for the U.S. Forest Service, the building was later purchased by the County during the '80s. It was used as a paid-call firefighter station to house a type one fire engine, which responded to calls in Las Flores, Summit Valley, Lake Silverwood and the Cajon Pass.

The building had since transitioned to private ownership and was no longer used nor owned by the County.

County Fire also announced on Monday that Region 5 Inter-Agency dozer training burns are scheduled from approximately 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Wednesday in the Summit Valley area just south of Highway 173. Smoke will be visible each day as the county conducts dozer training for for training and fuel mitigation.

County Fire reminds homeowners to clear property of dead and downed vegetation, and to create a defensible space that allows firefighters to protect homes and structures in the event of a wildfire.

<http://victorvilledailynews.com/>

Former fire station in Hesperia destroyed in late night fire

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: April 22, 2019



(Photo courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire)

HESPERIA, Calif. — A building formerly used as a fire station in Hesperia was destroyed during a fire just after midnight last night, officials said.

San Bernardino County Firefighters were dispatched to a possible structure fire in the 15000 block of Highway 173, in the Summit Valley area.

An arriving Battalion Chief reported heavy smoke and fire showing from the rear of a commercial building including about 1/3 of the roof involved.

“It was confirmed this location was the building which once housed a county fire paid-call firefighter company several years ago. It had since transitioned to private ownership and was no longer used nor owned by the county. The building was occupied by a private individual and was used for mechanical repair work,” stated a San Bernardino County Fire news release.

As additional firefighters arrived they initiated fire attack to protect the surrounding brush, several vehicles, and a boat which were immediately threatened by fire.

Due to the amount of fire involvement, structural collapse, and lack of available water supply a defensive fire attack was established. The fire was declared out approximately two hours after the arrival of firefighters. Firefighters then transitioned to overhaul operations.

No injuries to firefighters or civilians were reported.

The initial cause of the fire appears to be related to the chimney of a wood burning stove that was in use on the property, officials said.

County Fire would like to remind homeowners that now is the time to clear your property of dead and downed vegetation. Create a defensible space that will allow your firefighters to protect your home in the event of a wildfire.

The fire station was originally built for the US Forest Service. It was later purchased by the County during the 1980s and used as a paid-call firefighter station to house a type one fire engine which responded to calls in Las Flores, Summit Valley, Lake Silverwood, and the Cajon Pass.

The paid-call program utilized local citizens to respond from home to the station when emergency calls were received. Area growth, increased call demand, population, and ultimately service consistency required a shift to the current regional service model we use today.

This model insures a more timely response 24 hours per day from a fully staffed paramedic fire engine.

<https://www.vvng.com/former-fire-station-in-hesperia-destroyed-in-late-night-fire/>

Fireworks: Can they be safe? Can they be sane? Does Needles want them?

ROBIN RICHARDS News West, Needles Desert Star

Posted: April 22, 2019

NEEDLES — The city of Needles will explore an ordinance to allow ‘Safe and Sane’ fireworks with the idea of providing another vehicle for fundraising by churches, schools and other nonprofit groups.

An agenda item on the subject was reviewed during the second March meeting of Needles City Council at the behest of Councilor Tim Terral.

Currently, possession of fireworks of any sort is illegal in the city, punishable by fine or jail time. If their use starts a fire it could mean criminal charges and liability for damages. Fireworks are also banned by the county fire code, City Manager Rick Daniels reported, except for those certified ‘Safe and Sane’ by the state fire marshal and allowed by a city ordinance. Permitting those in the city would require an ordinance amending city code and a permitting process for those who would sell them.

Terral, answering a question from Mayor Jeff Williams about the scope of his request, said he remembered using ‘Safe and Sane’ fireworks when growing up in Fontana, where they were sold as fundraisers for schools and other organizations. “I don’t mind buying cookie dough and candy,” he said, but continued that he’d like to see an ordinance to allow the fireworks in Needles. He remembered that users had to be 16 to purchase the

fireworks and that they were only available around Independence Day. He also pointed out that, though illegal, anyone could drive a short distance to places fireworks are available and bring them back to Needles. He concluded that he had no personal interest in selling fireworks but was in favor of their being sold to help schools, churches and so-on.

San Bernardino County Assistant Fire Chief Tom Marshall allowed that the fire district couldn't stop the city from passing an enabling ordinance but said he had concerns. "The same couple of concerns I always have," said Marshall. "Citizen safety No. 1.

"Calling something safe and sane in my opinion is a misnomer." While allowing the relatively innocuous style of fireworks might be safer if used properly and in the fashion for which they were designed he cautioned that people inevitably don't and that thousands of children nationwide are injured as a result.

He also cautioned that even safe and sane fireworks, used improperly or in improper areas, will start fires.

A couple of folks from the audience spoke as well; one cautioning about the extreme heat experienced locally and that the abundance of winter rain this year will result in an bumper crop of weeds that will be dry and highly flammable by Independence Day; another warning that folks who may celebrate the birth of the country perhaps a little too heartily tend not to make good stewards of fireworks or chaperones of youngsters who might use them. Some council discussion ensued over fashioning an ordinance that would control areas and time frames in which fireworks could be used or sold before the councilors present voted to have the attorney draw up a sample ordinance. Councilors Terral, Edward Paget and Zachery Longacre voted for the proposal; Tona Belt and Shawn Gudmundson voted against.

The office of the state fire marshal website contains a 55-page list of 'Safe and Sane' fireworks approved for 2018. It can be viewed at

<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/strucfireengineer/pdf/fireworks/REVISED%202018%20SAFE&SANE.pdf>

http://www.mohavedailynews.com/needles_desert_star/fireworks-can-they-be-safe-can-they-be-sane-does/article_44e60f46-6552-11e9-8cd1-27c340e0bdf5.html