



NEWS



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1 found, 3 still missing after head-on boat collision in San Bernardino County

Staff Writer, Fox 5 News

Posted: September 3, 2018, 11:17 a.m.

LOS ANGELES — Three people are still missing after two boats collided on the Colorado River in San Bernardino County, sheriff's department officials said Sunday.

Police were initially searching for four victims, but on Monday morning, they located the body of Christi Lewis, 51, according to the Mohave County Sheriff's Department.

The bodies of three other boaters involved Saturday night's collision are still missing.

Nine people also were injured in the crash, two critically, the department said in a statement.

The crash happened Saturday on the Colorado River between Needles, California, and Topock, Arizona, north of Lake Havasu, officials said.

The sheriff's department said the boats — one northbound and carrying 10 people and the other southbound and occupied by six people — collided head on.

All those aboard both boats were thrown into the water and both boats sank, the sheriff's department said in its statement, adding that some people were rescued from the water by passing boaters. None of the people on board either of the boats was wearing a life jacket, Mohave County Sheriff Doug Schuster said.

Rescue crews arrived about 45 minutes after the first calls for help and found more than a dozen people injured, Eric Sherwin, a spokesman for the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department, said Saturday.

On Sunday, the sheriff's department said four people, all of whom were traveling on the northbound boat, were missing. The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Arizona Department of Public Service Air Rescue and Care Flight all deployed helicopters in the search.

Nine people were transported to area hospitals by ambulance. Two critically injured people were flown to a hospital in Las Vegas, Schuster said.

The Mohave and San Bernardino county sheriff's departments are conducting dive and search operations in the area of the crash, which stretches for about 2 miles, officials said.

<https://fox5sandiego.com/2018/09/03/1-found-3-still-missing-after-boat-collision-in-san-bernardino-county/>

Body of missing boater found in Colorado River; 3 still missing

Alden Woods, AZCentral.com

Posted: September 3, 2018, 9:38 a.m.



(Photos: Tom Tingle/The Republic)

TOPOCK, Ariz. — High above the Colorado River, where the search for three people still missing after two boats collided Saturday night continued, the Topock 66 restaurant on Monday afternoon was filled with the familiar sound of a dockside Labor Day.

Sunburned out-of-towners found relief in the pool as a Metallica cover band took the stage. Empty beer cups piled up. A man offered to pay the search crews' \$300 dinner bill.

Then, everybody turned away. The band kept playing, but the tables by the bar focused on a young woman in a green bikini top. She had a white brace around her neck and white wrapping around her right arm.

Her face twisted into tears. People reached for hugs, and she winced with each one. She checked her phone.

Nothing. Then two young women led her to the back of the patio, where she joined the band and the others. Waiting.

More than 60 crew members from across Arizona and California had set off at sunrise Monday, tracking their progress with a computer program that mapped the riverbed below.

They returned for lunch with no news and then headed out again, making their way down the Colorado River, which could have carried the boaters miles down shore. Two helicopters searched by air.

The search party worked until dusk, and planned to resume Tuesday morning, blocking off boating traffic along the Colorado River from Topock Gorge to the Sand Bar.

A woman identified as Christine Lewis, 51, a nurse at Kaweah Delta Medical Center in Visalia, California, was found downstream of Topock in the river about 7:30 a.m. Monday, according to the Mohave County Sheriff's Office.

"It was downstream of the river, but we're not giving an exact location," Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Anita Mortensen said.

Two women and one man remain missing, according to the sheriff's office.

A violent crash Saturday night

A recreational boat carrying 10 people and another vessel with six people on board crashed and sank on the Colorado River on Saturday night, ejecting more than a dozen people who were on board, authorities said Sunday.

Nine people were injured, with two in critical condition, authorities said.

The boats collided head-on Saturday night on a well-traveled stretch of the river that marks the border between California and Arizona, the sheriff's office said.

Mortensen had no comment on the possible cause of the crash.

Both boats sank, and passing boaters pulled crash victims from the water.

Mohave County Sheriff Doug Schuster said dive crews were looking for "potential drowning" victims, but he didn't rule out some of the boaters could have swam to safety.

Schuster, during a Sunday afternoon news conference, said all of the boaters were from outside the area, but he declined to disclose any identities.

The crash occurred between two popular marinas and near Moabi Regional Park, a well-traveled recreation area crowded with people enjoying the Labor Day weekend.

Helicopters were deployed, and authorities scoured the shoreline to try to find them. Divers have been sent out into the river's waters, which can range from shallow to 30 feet deep.

The cause of the crash was being investigated. None of the boaters wore life jackets, which aren't required but are recommended by authorities, Schuster said.

On Saturday night, authorities had to suspend the search because it was too dangerous to put divers into the dark waters. Efforts resumed after daybreak Sunday and Monday, and authorities closed off a stretch of the river where the search was taking place.

Eric Sherwin, spokesman for the **San Bernardino County Fire** District, said sonar images indicate that the missing people aren't in a sunken vessel.

Names of those missing were being withheld as many family members have not been notified, officials said.

Dive teams search downstream

Topock Marina sits in a bend just east of the Arizona-California line, where the Colorado River breaks in two and feeds into Goose Lake. Bridge posts and beams from the crossing Interstate 40 cut into the water, creating swirling currents that can be hard to trace.

Saturday's accident occurred about a mile north of Topock Marina, in the space of river between Topock and Pirate Cove.

The bends and relatively strong current — 5 to 10 mph in most places — have complicated the search.

Half a mile downstream, patrol boats cruised along both shorelines, looking less for survivors than for rubbernecks and gawkers. With a blast of their siren, they shooed away a family whose young children dove feet-first.

As the family sped away, a red boat from San Bernardino County stopped in the heart of the river. Nine divers pulled on masks and fidgeted in their wetsuits.

"Once we pass that bridge, I'm going to kick right," one of them said, pointing at a spot a hundred yards down the river. "You guys just fan out and go along the banks."

The divers — all men, all masked — nodded back. They dropped into the cloudy water. Then they moved slowly downstream, holding their heads above the water, searching for something that wasn't there.

"We're burning through our divers rather quickly," said Mohave County Sgt. Kyler Cox, incident commander for the crash.

Among more than 60 search crew members are 18 divers from Los Angeles County and 10 from San Bernardino County. Helicopters and small airplanes are fueling up nearby, preparing to search a stretch of river as far south as the Parker Dam.

It's unlikely anybody involved in the crash has been carried that far.

Search will continue

By noon Monday — more than 36 hours after the crash — crews had searched the crash site and the surrounding area. After lunch, they will keep making their way south, searching downstream for what they'll still treating as living boaters.

"At this point," Cox said, "we're going to hold out hope and look for somebody sitting on a shoreline somewhere."

If necessary, a deputy from the Mohave County Sheriff's Office said, a swift-water team will try Tuesday. They'll climb into kayaks and look along the shore, poking into the grassy areas where bigger search boats can't reach.

Monday's search involved crews from Arizona and California, including teams from the Arizona Department of Public Safety, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties.

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona/2018/09/03/body-missing-boater-found-colorado-river-boats-collide-crash-california-arizona/1185042002/>

Passenger critical, Driver Injured in Suspected DUI Crash in Victorville

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: September 3, 2018



The vehicle, a Ford Mustang GT was unrecognizable after the crash. (Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Victorville Police are investigating a suspected DUI crash where the driver attempted to flee, leaving behind his critically injured passenger.

San Bernardino County Fire Captain Jeff Allen said the crash was reported at about 4:41 p.m. Monday afternoon on Village Drive near Tawney Ridge Lane.

“A County Fire Battalion Chief arrived 6 minutes after dispatch and reported two vehicles with major damage and one occupant trapped in one of the vehicles,” Captain Allen stated.

It took firefighters about 10 minutes to free the trapped male passenger, who was unconscious. He sustained life-threatening injuries and was transported by AMR to Victor Valley Global Medical Center, then further airlifted to a trauma center.

Victorville Sheriff’s Station Deputy Monique Carabajal told Victor Valley News that the driver had left the scene on foot and was brought back to the scene for medical attention.

“We suspect alcohol was involved in this crash,” Deputy Carbajal said. “It appears the driver of the Mustang was traveling northbound on Tawney Ridge in the #1 lane, he lost control, jumped a curb and crashed into a parked car that was in the yard of a home.”

At least two beer cans and a small bottle of liquor were located at the crash site.

“I just purchased my car in January and parked it in the front of my sister’s house. I’m glad my SUV was parked there because if not, the guy might have crashed into my sister’s house,” stated the owner of the white Chevy Equinox.

The driver of the Ford Mustang was also transported with by ground ambulance to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center with serious non-life threatening injuries.

A northbound lane of Village Drive was temporarily closed while deputies investigated.

<https://www.vvng.com/passenger-critical-driver-injured-in-suspected-dui-crash-in-victorville/>

One person airlifted after being ejected in rollover crash along I-40

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: September 2, 2018



(Debbie Payne)



LUDLOW, Calif. (VVNG.com) — One person was airlifted to a trauma center after they were ejected from a vehicle during a rollover crash Sunday morning.

It happened on September 2, 2018, at 10:27 am, on the westbound I-40 at mile marker 47, about 3-miles west of Ludlow.

Firefighters with **San Bernardino County Fire** were dispatched to the incident reported a “With reports of ejections and possible major injuries from 911 callers county fire launched Helicopter 325. This area of the county is remote and a response on the ground can be extended,” stated San Bernardino County Fire Captain Jeff Allen.

Medic Engine 401 from the Barstow Marine Corps Logistics Base was the first to arrive on scene just after 11:00 am.

Debbie Payne was traveling directly behind the vehicle involved in the crash and told Victor Valley News, it appeared the driver of the sedan was dozing off. “Right when I thought he was dozing off he veered to the right and went off the roadway. There were three people in the car with one guy sleeping in the back seat and he was ejected,” stated Debbie.

According to Allen, one immediate patient was transported to Loma Linda University Medical Center via helicopter H325. “It was a 36 min flight time for this patient to arrive at the trauma center. If this patient were to be driven by ground ambulance it would have taken upwards of 2 hours,” stated Allen.

A second noncritical patient was transported by Desert Ambulance to Barstow Community Hospital.

The official cause of the crash is under investigation by the California Highway Patrol.

<https://www.vvng.com/one-person-airlifted-after-being-ejected-in-rollover-crash-along-i-40/>

4 missing after boats collide, sink on Colorado River

Staff Writer, WRAL.com

Posted: September 2, 2018, 7:10 p.m.



Source: Maps4News/Here. Map locates where boats collide on Colorado River.

MOABI REGIONAL PARK, CALIF. — Four people are missing after two boats crashed and sunk on the Colorado River, ejecting more than a dozen people who were on board, authorities said Sunday.

A recreational boat carrying 10 people and another vessel with six people on board collided head-on Saturday night on a well-traveled stretch of the river that marks the border between California and Arizona, the Mohave County Sheriff's Office said.

Both boats sank, and passing boaters pulled crash victims from the water. Nine people were injured, with two in critical condition, authorities said.

The crash occurred between two popular marinas and near Moabi Regional Park, a well-traveled recreation area crowded with people enjoying the Labor Day weekend.

Three women and one man remained missing on Sunday, Mohave County Sheriff Doug Schuster said.

Helicopters have been deployed, and authorities have scoured the shoreline to try to find them. Divers have been sent out into the river's waters, which can range from shallow to 30 feet (9 meters) deep.

"These efforts will continue until all of those who are missing and unaccounted for have been located," Shuster told reporters on Sunday.

The cause of the crash is being investigated. None of the boaters were wearing life jackets, which aren't required but are recommended by authorities, Shuster said.

On Saturday night, authorities had to temporarily halt the search because it was too dangerous to put divers into the dark waters. Efforts resumed after daybreak Sunday, and authorities closed off a stretch of the river where the search was taking place.

"We have four parties unaccounted for and presumed submerged," said Eric Sherwin, spokesman for the **San Bernardino County Fire District** in California, which is assisting in the search.

<https://www.wral.com/boats-collide-on-colorado-river-13-injured-and-2-missing/17814058/>

WATCH NOW: Dramatic video of County Firefighters battling 2nd alarm fire in old town Victorville

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: September 2, 2018



(Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif (VVNG.com) — Newly released video by **San Bernardino County Fire** shows firefighters working aggressively to knockdown a 2-alarm structure fire in Old Town Victorville.

It happened on August 23, 2018, at about 7:00 am, in a strip mall with several historic buildings along 7th Street between C and D Streets. The fire sent a thick plume of black smoke billowing into the sky that could be seen throughout the Victor Valley.

CHP helicopter H-80 responded to the fire and provided responding ground crews with aerial support of the fire conditions from above.

Company 311 and Battalion 119 arrived within four minutes and reported a single story, multi-occupancy commercial strip mall with heavy smoke showing from the front, rear, and roof. Crews initiated an offensive interior attack with support of truck crews from the roof above. A second alarm was quickly requested due to fire conditions, building configuration, and potential for significant spread into adjacent units. The second alarm brought additional county resources from surrounding high desert communities.

Initial priorities on the incident were to search for any potential victims, suppress and contain the interior fire. Upon entry firefighters encountered diminished visibility with significant heat and smoke. As interior fire attack was initiated, truck crews gained access to the roof with the objective of vertical ventilation to improve conditions for firefighters inside. While multiple offensive heat holes were placed, roof conditions deteriorated on the rear portion of the building to the point where offensive ventilation operations could not continue. Due to poor conditions and heat, interior firefighters could not reach the bulk of the fire which was located to the rear and in the attic. A zone retreat was conducted on the involved unit.

Firefighters transitioned to a defensive operation which included an elevated master stream, deck guns, and multiple handlines attacking the fire from the ground and adjacent roof. At this point priorities were to contain the fire to the original unit and limit lateral spread. Fire attack was further hindered by board up conditions in the involved unit which was vacant and confirmed by firefighters via primary search to be unoccupied. Firefighters had the fire under control in approximately two hours.

Multiple County Fire resources were requested from surrounding divisions in the east and west valley to assist with station coverage. During the incident's progression seamless coverage was established by cover engines from other county service areas including San Bernardino City, Bloomington, Fontana, and Adelanto. Apple Valley Fire District also provided an engine for coverage.

Two truck companies, eight engines, four chief officers, one squad, one heavy rescue, and one investigator for a total of approximately 40 personnel responded to the incident. No damage estimates were available at the time of release; the cause remains under investigation. No injuries to civilians were reported. Aerial footage from the video was provided by CHP helicopter H-80.

<https://www.vvng.com/watch-now-dramatic-video-of-county-firefighters-battling-2nd-alarm-fire-in-old-town-victorville/>

4 missing, 13 injured in head-on boat crash in San Bernardino County

Kelli Johnson, Fox 5 News

Posted: September 2, 2018, 11:00 a.m.



SAN DIEGO — Four people are still missing after a head-on boat crash that injured 13 others in the Colorado River in San Bernardino County Saturday.

The **San Bernardino Fire** Department confirmed Sunday that one victim was airlifted for life-threatening injuries, six people were transported to local hospitals, and six others were triaged for minor injuries. Five of those with minor injuries were treated and released at the scene.

Search efforts resumed Sunday near the California-Arizona border after operations were suspended Saturday night.

Authorities told FOX 5 sister station KTLA that the two vessels collided on the river near Topock Gorge and Park Moabi Channel around 9 p.m. Saturday. “During the collision, all subjects from both boats were ejected into the water, and both boats sank,” officials said.

The cause of the crash is under investigation.

https://fox5sandiego.com/2018/09/02/2-missing-13-injured-in-head-on-boat-crash-in-colorado-river/?utm_source=related_1

Boat crash at California state line: 2 missing, victims found miles away

Staff Writer, Mercury News

Posted: September 2, 2018, 8:12 a.m.

MOABI REGIONAL PARK — Two recreational boats collided head-on Saturday in a stretch of the Colorado River marking the California-Arizona state line, leaving 13 people injured and two others missing and “presumed submerged,” authorities said.

The crash happened in Moabi Regional Park, a popular water recreation area off Interstate 40 near Needles. It was crowded with people for the three-day Labor Day weekend.

One of the boats sank; the other was badly damaged but remained afloat.

Eric Sherwin, spokesman for the **San Bernardino County Fire** District, said one person sustained life-threatening injuries and was transported to University Medical Center in Las Vegas. Seven others were transported to local hospitals with less serious injuries, and five had minor injuries treated at the scene.

Sherwin said the depth of the water on the river can range from shallow to 30 feet deep. Rescuers had to call off the search for the missing until Sunday morning because it was too dangerous to put divers in the flowing water after dark.

Some of those onboard the boats apparently were thrown into the water by the force of the collision or jumped, and were swept down the river.

“We had victims of this collision that were located 3 to 5 miles downstream from the original point of impact,” Sherwin said.

Sonar of the submerged boat did not appear to show either of the missing persons on board, he said. Other recreational boats converged on the scene and downstream to help rescue victims, Sherwin said.

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2018/09/02/boat-crash-at-california-state-line-2-missing-victims-found-miles-away/>

Likely death toll rises to 4 in Colorado River boat crash; 9 injured

John Bacon and Jessica Guynn, USA Today

Posted: September 2, 2018, 10:27 a.m.



Google Maps image of Moabi Regional Park in San Bernardino County, California, along the Colorado River near the Arizona border.
(Photo: Google Maps)

Divers returned to the roaring Colorado River on Sunday in search of four people missing and presumed dead after a head-on boat crash along the California-Arizona border that injured nine people, two critically.

The recreational boats — one carrying 10 people and another with six people on board— collided Saturday in Moabi Regional Park as darkness was falling on a rushing river crowded with holiday weekend boaters, making the rescue operation difficult.

The search for two people "presumed submerged" was halted overnight, the **San Bernardino County Fire** District said in a statement. The search resumed Sunday, but authorities said the toll of missing had risen.

Four people are still missing, three women and one man, according to Mohave County Sheriff Doug Schuster. Each boat had a mix of family and friends who were from out of the area.

The search operation has shut down a two-mile area of the river, Schuster said.

"Top water and shoreline searches have been conducted and continue to be conducted this point, in addition to dive operations that have been underway for several hours," he told reporters during a Sunday afternoon press conference. "These efforts will continue until all of those missing and unaccounted for have been located."

No one on the boats was wearing a life vest, Schuster said

One person suffered life-threatening injuries and was flown by helicopter to a hospital in Las Vegas, about 120 miles north of the crash scene, fire district spokesman Eric Sherwin told USA TODAY.

The crash was so violent that one of the boats sank and the other sustained major damage, fire officials said. Some of the people on board were thrown into the river while others jumped, Sherwin said.

"We had victims of this collision that were located 3 to 5 miles downstream from the original point of impact," Sherwin said.

Sonar images of the sunken boat indicated that none of the missing people were on board, he said. The water ranged in depth from very shallow to 30 feet, he said.

Contributing: Jennifer Walter, Marshfield News-Herald; The Associated Press

ParkMoabi(Update): Search has resumed. @sbcountysheriff dive team conducting subsurface operations. #MohaveCountySheriff has investigative authority over the incident. #SBCoFD Boat 32 on scene for medical standby and perimeter control. Boaters - exercise caution in the area. ^eas
— SB County Fire (@SBCOUNTYFIRE) September 2, 2018

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2018/09/02/colorado-river-two-presumed-dead-boat-crash/1180355002/>

San Bernardino County Helmet Cam-Fire companies at work on a strip mall fire in Victorville

Staff Writer, Firefighter Nation

Posted: September 2, 2018



San Bernardino Co FFs – SBCoFD FIREFIGHTERS RESPOND TO EARLY MORNING 2-ALARM FIRE IN OLD TOWN VICTORVILLE

At approximately 7:00 am, **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to multiple reports of a strip mall fire in Old Town Victorville near 7th and D streets. Smoke could be seen throughout the high desert. Company 311 and Battalion 119 arrived within four minutes and reported a single story, multi-occupancy commercial strip mall with heavy smoke showing from the front, rear, and roof. Crews initiated an offensive interior attack with support of truck crews from the roof above. A second alarm was quickly requested due to fire conditions, building configuration, and potential for significant spread into adjacent units. The second alarm brought additional county resources from surrounding high desert communities.

Initial priorities on the incident were to search for any potential victims, suppress and contain the interior fire.

Upon entry firefighters encountered diminished visibility with significant heat and smoke. As interior fire attack was initiated, truck crews gained access to the roof with the objective of vertical ventilation to improve conditions for firefighters inside. While multiple offensive heat holes were placed, roof conditions deteriorated on the rear portion of the building to the point where offensive ventilation operations could not continue.

Due to poor conditions and heat, interior firefighters could not reach the bulk of the fire which was located to the rear and in the attic. A zone retreat was conducted on the involved unit. Firefighters transitioned to a defensive operation which included an elevated master stream, deck guns, and multiple handlines attacking the fire from the ground and adjacent roof. At this point priorities were to contain the fire to the original unit and limit lateral spread. Fire attack was further hindered by board up conditions in the involved unit which was vacant and confirmed by firefighters via primary search to be unoccupied. Firefighters had the fire under control in approximately two hours.

Multiple County Fire resources were requested from surrounding divisions in the east and west valley to assist with station coverage. During the incident's progression seamless coverage was established by cover engines from other county service areas including San Bernardino City, Bloomington, Fontana, and Adelanto. Apple Valley Fire District also provided an engine for coverage. Two truck companies, eight engines, four chief officers, one squad, one heavy rescue, and one investigator for a total of approximately 40 personnel responded to the incident.

No damage estimates were available at the time of release; the cause remains under investigation. No injuries to civilians were reported

<https://www.firefighternation.com/articles/2018/08/san-bernardino-county-helmet-cam.html>

Progress of Sterling fire in San Bernardino Mountain foothills halted

Richard K. De Atley, The Press Enterprise

Posted: September 2, 2018, 12:48 p.m.

The size of a brush fire that broke out Friday in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains remained at 125 acres and 80 percent contained Sunday, unchanged from the night before, the San Bernardino National Forest reported.

The Sterling fire was reported Friday afternoon between highways 330 and 18. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Authorities said there was minimal structure threat, and no evacuations had been ordered. Three firefighters received non-life-threatening injuries while fighting the blaze, U.S. Forest Service spokesman Zach Behrens said.

Containment is the percentage of the perimeter beyond which the firefighters have determined the fire will no longer spread.

On Sunday, there were five engines, three hand crews and one water tender on the scene. The fire is being fought with the **San Bernardino County Fire** District.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2018/09/02/progress-of-sterling-fire-in-san-bernardino-mountain-foothills-halted/>

Brush fire burns 125 acres in foothills of San Bernardino Mountains

Sean Emery, Orange County Register

Posted: September 1, 2018, 11:15 a.m.

A brush fire in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains grew to 125 acres by Saturday morning, as smoke from the blaze drifted into other parts of the area.

At least 150 fire personnel, aided by two air tankers and a helicopter, were battling the blaze, dubbed the Sterling fire, early Sept. 1, according to San Bernardino National Forest officials, who were being assisted by the **San Bernardino County fire** and sheriff's departments.

The fire broke out on Friday afternoon in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains between highways 18 and 330. The cause of the blaze was under investigation.

The fire was 80 percent contained as of Saturday evening. Containment refers to the percentage of a fire's perimeter that firefighters believe the blaze will no longer spread beyond.

No evacuations have been announced, with fire officials saying the blaze poses a minimal threat to structures.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2018/09/01/brush-fire-burns-125-acres-in-foothills-of-san-bernardino-mountains/>

Sheriff's helicopters help douse Sterling Fire

Staff Writer, Highland Community News

Posted: September 1, 2018

Sheriff's Helicopter Air Rescue 06 helped put out a fire Friday afternoon at Sterling Avenue at Foothill Drive in north San Bernardino.

At 5:40 p.m. Friday, Aug. 31, the crew responded to the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department request for help with a brush fire in the foothills near the intersection. The fire was near residential areas and forest lands, according to a press release.

Deputies Ryan Conner and Chris Mejia, assigned to Air Rescue 06, coordinated with air attack ground units from the San Bernardino County Fire Department and the U.S. National Forest Service to fight the blaze.

Once on scene, Conner and Mejia began conducted the first of 12 water drops.

They helped extinguish flames and most important, slow the rate of spread toward the residential areas and forest lands, the release says.

Air Rescue 06 is a UH-1H Super Huey, type II medium helicopter equipped with a Simplex Fire Attack belly tank and is capable of holding up to 375 gallons of water for aerial firefighting.

"Air Rescue 06, along with Air Rescue 07 and Air Rescue 08, is used as the primary platform for rescue operations throughout the county," the release says.

They are always on standby to assist with firefighting efforts.

In addition to the department's rescue helicopter fleet, its 40-King patrol helicopters can deliver water drops by using a bucket system designed for aerial firefighting.

"Patrol crews carry the bucket in the helicopter at all times ensuring they are always prepared," the release says.

https://www.highlandnews.net/news/public_safety/sheriff-s-helicopters-help-douse-sterling-fire/article_f6033c24-ae21-11e8-bdbf-13c93a941af0.html

EARLY MORNING FIRE IN YUCCA VALLEY FRIDAY

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: September 1, 2018



ME 42 crew ventilating the structure's roof. County Fire Engineer Aaron Comstock photo

A Yucca Valley family still has their home after smoke from a fire destroyed the home's contents early Friday morning. **County Fire** Battalion Chief Donnie Vilorio said firefighters from Yucca Valley, Joshua Tree, and Yucca Mesa were called to the home in the 56700 block of Anaconda Drive at 7:30 a.m. Vilorio said heavy smoke was pouring from the home, and one resident was wheeling out a family member in a wheelchair when firefighters arrived. All occupants got out of the home safely. Firefighters had to make three holes in the roof to vent the smoke. While the house is still standing, all the home's contents suffered heavy smoke damage and will need to be replaced. The fire started in a room used for arts and crafts, but the cause is still under investigation.

<http://z1077fm.com/early-morning-fire-in-yucca-valley-friday/>

One dead and 3 missing after boat collision at California-Arizona border

Nicole Chavez and Amanda Watts, CNN

Posted: September 1, 2018, 11:56 p.m.



Members of the Mohave County Sheriff's Department search for missing boaters on the Colorado River along the California-Arizona border.

(CNN) - Divers on Tuesday will resume their search for three people missing after two boats collided on the Colorado River along the California-Arizona border, leaving one person dead.

Police were initially searching for four victims, but on Monday morning they located the body of Christine Lewis, 51, of Visalia, California, according to the Mohave County Sheriff's Office in Arizona.

Three other boaters involved in Saturday night's collision have not been found.

Nine people were injured in the crash, two critically, the department said in a statement.

The crash happened Saturday on the Colorado River between Needles, California, and Topock, Arizona, north of Lake Havasu, officials said.

The sheriff's department said the boats -- one northbound and carrying 10 people and the other southbound and occupied by six people -- collided head on.

All those aboard both boats were thrown into the water and both boats sank, the sheriff's department said in its statement, adding that some people were rescued from the water by passing boaters. None of the people on board either of the boats was wearing a life jacket, Mohave County Sheriff Doug Schuster said.

Rescue crews arrived about 45 minutes after the first calls for help and found more than a dozen people injured, Eric Sherwin, a spokesman for the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, said Saturday.

On Sunday, the sheriff's department said four people, all of whom were traveling on the northbound boat, were missing. The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Arizona Department of Public Service Air Rescue and Care Flight all deployed helicopters in the search.

Nine people were transported to area hospitals by ambulance. Two critically injured people were flown to a hospital in Las Vegas, Schuster said.

The Mohave and San Bernardino county sheriff's departments are conducting dive and search operations in the area of the crash, which stretches for about 2 miles, officials said.

<https://www.keyt.com/news/national-world/two-people-missing-and-several-injured-after-boat-collision-in-california/789599841>

Brush Fire Burns Through 50 Acres in Foothills of San Bernardino Mountains

Marissa Wenzke, KTLA 5 News

Posted: August 31, 2018, 7:41 p.m.



A brush fire burned through 50 acres in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains Friday evening, authorities said.

As firefighters continued battling the blaze just before 7 p.m., officials said no structures were threatened and no evacuations were being issued. An hour and half later, there was said to be a “minimal structure threat” but no notable rise in acreage.

Dubbed the Sterling Fire, the wildfire was burning in an area of the foothills located between the 18 and 330 freeways and was moving “moderately” in a northeast direction, forest officials tweeted at 6:47 p.m.

Personnel from U.S. Forest Service and the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department were working to put out the blaze.

Just before 7:30 p.m., a chopper was seen making water drops over an area of flames roaring in the foothills, in video tweeted by the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department.

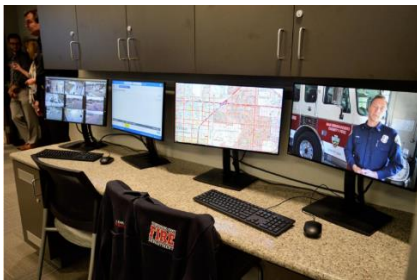
Firefighters with Cal Fire later joined the efforts working to put out the fire, as officials said. At 8:30 p.m., authorities said the rate of the fire’s spread had “slowed significantly” as about 300 resources were on the ground. At that time, there was no rise in acreage noted by fire officials.

<https://ktla.com/2018/08/31/brush-fire-burns-through-50-acres-in-foothills-of-san-bernardino-mountains/>

New Emergency Operations Center opens at Fontana Police Department

Alejandro Cano, Fontana Herald News

Posted: August 31, 2018



The new Emergency Operations Center opened on Aug. 29 at the Fontana Police Department. (Herald News photo by Alejandro Cano)

In an attempt to better serve and protect the community in case of a city-wide disaster, the City of Fontana celebrated on Aug. 29 the grand opening of the brand new Emergency Operations Center.

City leaders, including Mayor Acquanetta Warren and Councilmembers Michael Tahan, Jesse Armendarez and Jesse Sandoval, participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony along with San Bernardino County 2nd District Supervisor Janice Rutherford.

The project also includes a remodeled lobby at the Fontana Police Department headquarters, located at 17005 Upland Avenue, along with one private room for probation services and another one for behavioral health patients.

According to authorities, the EOC will serve as the focal point for coordinating planning, response, recovery and mitigating efforts if a city-wide disaster takes place. The center is equipped with numerous large monitors as well as work areas where responders can focus. It is also equipped with audio-visual connections to allow for easy dissemination of information to the public, authorities added.

“The new state-of-art EOC will bring peace of mind that on our darkest day as a community, this facility will provide a beacon of hope,” said Warren.

Fontana Police Chief William Green hopes to never have to use the center but understands that tragedies can occur throughout the city, state and nation.

“We want the members of the community to know that should something important happen, your Fontana Police Department, the **Fire Department** and city staff are trained to respond to an emergency,” added Green.

After the ceremony, which also included speakers such as Fontana Fire District Chief Jeff Birchfield and San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services Director Mike Antonucci, attendees toured the facility and received explanations on how it functions.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/new-emergency-operations-center-opens-at-fontana-police-department/article_e0a49e10-ad39-11e8-b2b7-079e256c5cda.html

Multi-Car Crash on Preston

Spencer Reinart, Grand Terrace City News

Posted: August 31, 2018



Firemen working diligently to take care of the scene

August 31, 2018, around 2:15 pm, there was a three-car crash at the corner of Barton Road and Preston Street in Grand Terrace. The crash involved a BMW, Jeep, and an Acura, with the BMW impacted with a crushing hit to the front.

Two of the drivers could be seen being put into an ambulance by first responders around 2:30 pm. While the third driver, at the time, was taken to sit in the shade at a nearby bus stop to check his vitals, until another ambulance arrived. There were no additional passengers in any of the 3 vehicles.

It was not clear at the time what caused this 3 car crash. The **fire** crews are working to clear the scene as all those involved in the crash have been treated and transported.

<http://grandterrace.citynewsgroup.com/articles/multi-car-crash-on-preston>

Fire spares family house but destroys contents

Stacy Moore, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: August 31, 2018

YUCCA VALLEY — Fire destroyed everything inside a family's home in the 56000 block of Anaconda Drive Friday morning, but left the structure itself intact.

Battalion Chief Donny Vilorio with the **San Bernardino County fire** department said the fire was reported at 7:32 a.m. and units were en route by 7:33. Engines from the downtown, Yucca Mesa and Joshua Tree fire stations responded, with the downtown Yucca Valley station first on the scene at 7:39 a.m.

"Because there was a report of a disabled individual trapped inside the house, we also had an ambulance," Vilorio said. "As we pulled up, the husband and wife were removing their adult daughter from the home in a wheelchair."

Within seconds, fire crews were pulling hose lines to the front door, the chief said, but heavy smoke filling the house made working inside difficult.

"The smoke was all the way down to the floor as we were trying to access, so we had to back out of the front door and then go into a separate access to confront the fire," Vilorio said.

"At that point, we had the fire knocked down within minutes."

Firefighters also punched holes in the roof and ceiling to release heat and gases.

Because smoke filled the house, the contents of the structure were declared a complete loss.

"Everything was contaminated with smoke," Vilorio said. "Every last stitch of it is contaminated."

The structure itself, however, is still standing and did not sustain too much structural damage, he added.

"The occupants have every intention of cleaning everything out and making it a home again. They've lived in Yucca Valley a long time and they want to continue to do so."

Contacted at the house Friday afternoon, a man who said he was the homeowner declined to comment. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_652c744c-ad5c-11e8-badb-8799da4762a3.html