



# NEWS



## News Headlines 10/03/2019

- 2 airlifted after crash in Hesperia Thursday, 15 freeway reopens
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- Hesperia police identify man killed in rollover crash; family raising money
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## 2 airlifted after crash in Hesperia Thursday, 15 freeway reopens

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: October 3, 2019



First responders preparing both accident victims to be airlifted from the crash. (Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News Group)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — The northbound 15 freeway was shut down Thursday as two helicopters landed for crash victims.

At 5:58 a.m., the California Highway Patrol and the San Bernardino County Fire Department responded to a solo-vehicle crash on the northbound 15 freeway between Main Street and Bear Valley Road.

When emergency personal arrived on scene, they located a black Cadillac sedan that had major rollover damage.

CHP logs indicated one person was on the ground when emergency personal arrived.

Mercy Air 22 and Air Reach 43 helicopters landed on the freeway and transported the two victims to Loma Linda University Medical Center and Arrowhead Regional Medical.

A tow truck arrived at about 7 a.m. to remove the vehicle and to clean debris from the wreck. Cal Trans was also requested to repair a perimeter fence that had about 30 feet of damage due to the crash.

The Victorville CHP is office is handling the investigation.

<https://www.vvng.com/2-airlifted-after-crash-in-hesperia-thursday-15-freeway-reopens/>

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## Firefighters respond to multiple spot fires started by a moving train in Phelan

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: October 2, 2019



(Photo by Odriduez Liz)

PHELAN, Calif. (VVNG.com) — **San Bernardino County Firefighters** responded to a moving train fire that ignited multiple spot fires on Wednesday morning.

At about 10:30 am on October 2, 2019, dispatch received reports of a vegetation fire in the area of Duncan Road and Johnson Road in the community of Phelan.

Fire crews used unpaved and rugged dirt roads to reach the already stopped train.

According to scanner traffic, a total of three spot fires were located with very low potential, and one locomotive was reported to be on fire.

This is a developing story and additional information will be updated as it becomes available.

<https://www.vvng.com/firefighters-respond-to-multiple-spot-fires-started-by-a-train-in-phelan/>

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## **Hesperia police identify man killed in rollover crash; family raising money**

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: October 2, 2019



HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Sheriff's officials identified the driver killed in a rollover crash over the weekend as 54-year-old Alvaro Ovalle, a resident of Hesperia.

On September 29, 2019, at approximately 9:18 pm deputies from the Hesperia Police Department, along with rescue personnel from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, responded to the area of I Avenue and Buckthorn Avenue in reference to a traffic collision.

Deputies arrived on scene and found a single overturned black Toyota 4-Runner blocking the southbound lane of I Avenue north of Buckthorn Avenue, officials said.

According to a sheriff's news release, "the driver of the Toyota, Alvaro Ovalle, was ejected from the vehicle and found unresponsive in the roadway."

Ovalle was transported from the scene to Desert Valley Medical Center. Despite life-saving measures, Ovalle succumbed to his injuries.

"Preliminary findings during the investigation revealed Ovalle was driving southbound on I Avenue when his vehicle left the roadway, collided with a dirt berm and caused it to overturn," stated the release.

Alvaro is survived by his wife Rosa Ovalle for almost 21 years and made a living as an auto mechanic. The couple had no children together.

"My mom, dad, my son, and I were at the house before he left. He said he was going to run an errand and be right back," stated Alvaro's niece Joan Morgan. "It is still so surreal that mere hours later he was gone."

Joan said Alvaro was the "cool" uncle and everyone always wanted to hang out with him because he was the life of the party. "He always had our backs when our parents would get mad at us. I can still hear his laughter."

Family member, Joan Morgan, launched a Gofundme campaign to help with her uncle's funeral expenses. Donations can be made via the following link: Alvaro Ovalle

“He was the joy of our family and his boisterous laughter could fill a room. He was very well known by many in this community and he will be very missed. If anyone could please donate in this unexpected time we would appreciate it. Thank you all so much and don’t forget to hug your loved ones, stated Joan.

The collision remains under investigation and any witnesses are asked to contact Deputy S. LaFond or Deputy T. Lamson from the Hesperia Station. “At this time, alcohol or drugs do not appear to be a factor in the collision,” officials said.

<https://www.vvng.com/hesperia-police-identify-man-killed-in-rollover-crash-family-raising-money/>

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## **Firefighters To Receive More Mental Health Options Under New Law**

**Evan Symon, California Globe**

Posted: October 2, 2019, 1:01pm



Governor Gavin Newsom. (Kevin Sanders for California Globe)

Governor Gavin Newsom has signed into law Assembly Bill 1116, which gives firefighters across California greater access to mental health programs.

AB 1116, also called the California Firefighter Peer Support and Crisis Referral Services Act, specifically gives firefighters access to peer groups for support and adds post-traumatic stress to the list of injuries for workers compensation. Peer support for firefighters will include emergency service personnel, hospital staff, clergy, and educators who have completed a peer support training course.

Similar support networks for firefighters exist in several other states and have shown to reduce emotional stress and fatigue in firefighters. Higher general health for all professions has also been found in similar programs.

Assemblyman Tim Grayson (D-Concord) authored the bill, largely because of his service as a Critical Response chaplain and having seen the problems firefighters face firsthand. In previous statements he stated frustration in not seeing programs for firefighters to help deal with building mental stress caused by wildfires and the subsequent self-harm and suicides it could have prevented.

“In 2017 when our state experienced some of the deadliest wildfires in its history, more California firefighters died by suicide than in the line of duty. Today we offer a life-line to these brave women and men who might otherwise suffer in silence,” said Assemblyman Grayson. “I want to thank Governor Newsom for signing AB 1116 into law and joining me in prioritizing the mental health of our first responders.”

Governor Newsom, on signing the bill, shared the same sentiment.

“The job of firefighters and first responders can be very rewarding, but at the same time, extremely unpredictable,” stated Governor Newsom. “They can experience high-stress situations and traumatic incidents that can push them to the limit both physically and mentally, and we need to recognize and take those

challenges head on. These bills are meant to ensure they have access to resources and help in their time of need, in the same way they assist their communities when they need them most.”  
Firefighters have responded positively to the bills’ passage.

“We all know someone who is going through something or had PTSD over a bad fire,” said Don Duke, a firefighter in San Bernardino County. “Every one of us remembers seeing our first dead body in a fire.

This new law is important. Many of us aren’t too proud to talk it over with someone, but many of us have a hard time finding the right person about it. If this law came sooner it could have helped a lot of good men.”

AB 1116 had universal support throughout the entire session and was one of the few bills to not receive a ‘no’ vote.

“This can only save more lives,” said Duke. “We need to remember that firemen out there need to be rescued sometimes too.”

<https://californiaglobe.com/section-2/firefighters-to-receive-more-mental-health-options-under-new-law/>