



# NEWS



## News Headlines 9/9-11/2017

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## Heeding the call

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted September 10, 2017, 5:42 PM



An Apple Valley Fire Protection District firefighter gears up to help combat the Railroad Fire in Northern California. Several local fire crews have been dispatched to assist in combating wildfires in the region. [Photo courtesy of the Apple Valley Fire Protection District]

A crew of four **San Bernardino County Fire Department** firefighters — two based out of Victorville — along with firefighters from the Apple Valley Fire Protection District have been dispatched to combat wildfires in Northern California.

According to County Fire Captain Jeff Allen, the crew — comprised of Baker's station 53 Captain Dan Tellez, Phelan's station 10 engineer/paramedic Matt Warren, firefighter/paramedic Brian Bradley and probationary firefighter Scott Serino, both from Victorville stations — were dispatched to help battle the Railroad Fire currently burning near Yosemite National Park.

The crews arrived a day after the massive wildfire erupted Aug. 29 near the Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad. It's burned through 12,344 acres and is 55 percent contained as of Friday evening, according to the InciWeb website.

Additionally, County Fire's Old Cajon Hand Crew 6, described by Allen as the department's "all-risk crew based out of Devore," was briefly dispatched to combat the Slinkard Fire, which broke out in Topaz on Aug. 29. It's been declared 93 percent contained as of Friday, and the hand crew was then dispatched to join their fellow firefighters at the Railroad Fire.

Crews from AVFPD have also heeded the call to head north. Battalion Chief Jim Hulbert said the district has sent an engine and a strike team to assist with the Railroad Fire. A second engine was sent to battle the "Mission Fire", burning just below the Railroad fire.

"They were initially assigned to structure protection," Hulbert said. "The strike team is assisting with cleaning up areas where trees have died so the fires won't spread more."

As part of the California Office of Emergency Services (OES) mutual aid system, the crews were dispatched to provide structure defense in the region. The California OES mutual aid system was created to ensure a

coordinated response from firefighters throughout the state requested to assist for large incidents, such as major fires, earthquakes and other natural disasters, according to the Cal OES website.

It's unknown how long the crews will stay in Northern California, but both Allen and Hulbert said they can be gone for up to 21 days, depending on fire behavior. Hulbert said all their crews are trained to respond to such instances and work with various teams from all around the state.

"According to my crew, they're all working very well together," Hulbert said. "It's a very good experience in terms of the places you get to see and the people you get to meet and help."

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170910/heeding-call>

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## **Authorities investigate death of a man who was found on a road in western Fontana**

Posted: September 10, 2017 8:32 AM

Authorities are investigating the death of a man who was found on a road in western Fontana on Sept. 9, according to the San Bernardino County Sheriff Coroner's Division.

At 9:56 p.m., emergency personnel were sent to the area of Arrow Route and Cherry Avenue, in the unincorporated area of Fontana, to investigate the report of an unresponsive male lying in the street. Upon arrival, they found David Christopher Rodriguez, a 37-year-old resident of Los Angeles, down in the roadway.

Investigators believe that Rodriguez was walking on Arrow, west of Cherry, when he was struck by an oncoming vehicle.

Rodriguez was declared dead at 10:05 p.m. by **San Bernardino County Fire Department** personnel. The California Highway Patrol was investigating the incident.

[http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/authorities-investigate-death-of-a-man-who-was-found-on/article\\_350b2aec-963d-11e7-8202-8f87bcb4ffef.html](http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/authorities-investigate-death-of-a-man-who-was-found-on/article_350b2aec-963d-11e7-8202-8f87bcb4ffef.html)

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## **Second vehicle sought in fatal motorcycle crash on 395 Freeway in Victorville**

Beau Yarbrough, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: September 9, 2017, 7:56 PM

Caltrans employee Cornelius Turner, 45, of Victorville was driving home on his motorcycle when he was killed in a crash Sept. 1 in Victorville.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department now believes a second vehicle was involved in a Sept. 1 collision that left a Victorville motorcyclist dead.

That Friday, deputies from the Victorville sheriff's station and **San Bernardino County Fire Department** rescue personnel reported a motorcycle crash near Highway 395 and Palmdale Road, near the border of Victorville and Adelanto.

Cornelius "CT" Turner, 45, had been riding a 2008 Kawasaki motorcycle north on 395 when he lost control of the motorcycle for unknown reasons. He suffered major injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene. Turner was a longtime Caltrans worker and two of his children were featured in a safety campaign, urging motorists to be alert for Caltrans workers while driving.

The family of Caltrans employee Cornelius Turner, 45, of Victorville, was featured in a road-safety campaign. Turner was killed in a motorcycle crash the night of Sept. 1, 2017, as he was driving home on Highway 395 in Victorville.

On Saturday, the Sheriff's Department announced that investigators now believe a second vehicle was involved. The second vehicle is described as a gray sports utility vehicle, possibly a Jeep, and may have damage to the left front bumper area.

Anyone with information is asked to contact deputies Amir Awad or Alejandro Ramos at the Victorville sheriff's station, at 760-241-2911, or anonymously provide information to We Tip by calling 1-800-78 CRIME (1-800-782-7463) or by visiting WeTip.com online.

<http://www.sbsun.com/2017/09/09/second-vehicle-sought-in-fatal-motorcycle-crash-on-395-freeway-in-victorville/>

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## Firefighters squelch brush fire near Spring Valley Lake

Charity Lindsey, Daily Press

Posted: September 9, 2017, 4:36 PM



A fire that started in the riverbed behind homes in the Spring Valley Lake neighborhood on Friday was put out by firefighters around 1:30 a.m. Saturday. [Photo courtesy of Marcy Newbern]

VICTORVILLE — A fire that started in the riverbed behind homes in the Spring Valley Lake neighborhood on Friday was put out by firefighters around 1:30 a.m. Saturday, authorities said.

The fire, which burned in the 1600 block of Arrowhead Trail, was reported to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** at 8:19 p.m. Friday. Officials said it started just behind the fence that separates homes from the riverbed.

“It was just beyond my property,” SVL resident Marcy Newbern said. “You could see it from Bear Valley clear as day ... I got home at 8:30 and my street was packed with looky-loos.”

SBCFD officials responded with six engines, one hand crew and a chief officer. No structures were damaged or lost and no injuries were reported as a result of the fire, according to authorities.

Newbern said one of her neighbors suspicioned the fire may have started from a bonfire, but SBCFD officials said the cause remains under investigation.

“It looked like someone was living in the riverbed because we saw some items, but no one was out there,” Newbern said. “It smells really bad ... like burned rubber.”

After some spots that were burned began smoldering again Saturday, county firefighters returned at 8:13 a.m., “reinforcing” control and deeming the area “clear” by late morning, authorities said.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170909/firefighters-squelch-brush-fire-near-spring-valley-lake>

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## Community, law enforcement work together to combat arson: James Ramos

James Ramos, The Sun

Posted: September 8, 2017, 3:37 pm



Firefighters battle the Bryant Fire near Bryant and Hi-way 38 near Yucaipa on Aug. 3, 2017. (Staff photo by Jennifer Cappuccio Maher/The Facts/SCNG)

This summer, San Bernardino County residents experienced the devastations of multiple arson fires. Arson is a serious threat to our communities. It threatens lives, structures and disrupts our economy. These deliberate fires unnecessarily drain resources and place our public safety personnel at risk.

The County of San Bernardino does not take crimes of arson lightly and those found guilty of such heinous acts will be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law.

Through the collaboration of local and state agencies, last month alone we successfully arrested two arsonists who were responsible for separately setting eight fires each throughout our county. Some of these recent fires include the Bryant Fire and Mart Fire that burned a sum of approximately 1,250 acres. These fires caused injuries to our firefighters, spurred evacuations and cost millions of dollars in response efforts.

Our public safety agencies worked diligently to identify and apprehend these individuals but the community played a vital role as well. Through the tips received from residents in the areas of these fires, law enforcement was able to identify the arsonists more quickly and prevent any future fires by the hands of these two criminals.

Please know how valuable your input is and continue to report any suspicious activity you see. Let these individuals serve as example to anyone looking to cause devastation in our communities. The residents of the County of San Bernardino stand together with our public safety agencies to fight crime and bring criminals to justice.

On behalf of the residents in my district, I would like to thank Cal Fire, U.S. Forest Service, the **San Bernardino County Fire** and Sheriff's departments, the District Attorney's Office, detectives from San Bernardino Police Department along with our proactive residents for working together.

Call "We Tip" at 1-800-47-ARSON to report any suspicious activity

San Bernardino County Supervisor James Ramos represents the Third District.

<http://www.sbsun.com/2017/09/08/community-law-enforcement-work-together-to-combat-arson-james-ramos/>