



NEWS



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Evacuation orders lifted for Mart fire in Highland

Ryan Hagen, The Sun

Posted: June 27, 2017, 4:54 PM

Mandatory evacuation orders were lifted at 9 p.m. Tuesday for the Mart fire, which burned more than 900 acres in an area north of Highland.

“All evacuations for the #MartFire have been lifted, residents use caution, watch for fire traffic in the area,” advised the U.S. Forest Service on Twitter.

Evacuations had been ordered Tuesday afternoon for an area north of Highland Avenue and west of Church Street because of the Mart fire, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

Highway 330, which had been closed between Highland Avenue and Live Oak near Running Springs, was also reopened at 9:30 p.m.

Deputies will remain in the area overnight, according to the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170627/evacuation-orders-lifted-for-mart-fire-in-highland>

Evacuations Lifted as 900-Acre Mart Fire Continues Burning Above Highland; Highway 330 Reopened

Cindy Von Quednow, KTLA5
Posted June 27, 2017, 5:06 PM



KTLA5

Residents were returning to their homes above Highland where a brush fire grew to 900 acres Tuesday night, officials said.

The blaze started about 3:20 p.m. in the chaparral along Highway 330 at Highland Avenue in the San Bernardino National Forest, according to the incident information page for the fire. As of Tuesday night, the fire was at zero percent containment.

By 8:30 p.m. there were about 500 firefighters on scene battling the flames.

Two crew members were injured — one from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** was burned, another from U.S. Forest Service stung by bees — and both were taken to the hospital for treatment, firefighters said.

Although mandatory evacuations had been issued in the area initially, residents were allowed to return to this homes just before 9 p.m., forest service officials said.

Firefighters for the San Bernardino County Fire Department and CALFIRE were responding to the blaze, which was first reported at 10 acres.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District issued a smoke advisory in the area because the smoke from the fire is affecting air quality. Residents in Arrowbear, Big Bear, Running Springs and the high desert will see and smell smoke.

Local resident Wilfred Adu-Beng described it as a "big ol' giant monster fire" and said when he first saw the flames it looked like someone had dropped a nuclear bomb.

"It's a very peaceful community, so I'm glad it's safe and still in tact," he said.

Hannah Reed said she could see the blaze from her home's window.

"We've lived here for 15 years and never seen a fire got this close, so it's scary," she told KTLA.

Highway 330 was closed from Highland Avenue to Live Oak near Running Springs but reopened around 10 p.m.

<http://ktla.com/2017/06/27/mandatory-evacuations-issued-in-300-acre-fire-burning-near-highland-highway-330-closed/>

This map shows where the Mart fire is burning near Highland

The Sun

Posted: June 27, 2017, 5:23 PM



Smoke is seen Tuesday afternoon from the Mart fire burning near Highland, north of Highland Avenue and east of Highway 330. (Micah Escamilla/The Sun/SCNG)

A fast-moving brush fire burning near Highland on Tuesday afternoon, June 27, prompted mandatory evacuations and the closure of a portion of Highway 330 in the San Bernardino Mountains.

The mandatory evacuations are east of Orchard Road, north of Highland Avenue and west of Church Street, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

The U.S. Forest Service reported at 4:30 p.m. that the Mart fire had burned an estimated 300 acres north of Highland Avenue and east of the 330. That's a rapid spread from the 10 acres reported at 3:25 p.m.

See the location of the fire with this map: [Mart fire Map](#)

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170627/this-map-shows-where-the-mart-fire-is-burning-near-highland>

Mart fire above Highland reaches 15 percent containment

Beatriz E. Valenzuela, Press Enterprise

Posted: June 28, 2017, 6:43 AM



Photo by Stan Lim, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG

Firefighters douse hot spots while battling the Mart fire in the hills north of Highland on Wednesday, June 28, 2017.

HIGHLAND >> Firefighters made progress overnight Tuesday on the Mart fire burning above homes in Highland and cooler temperatures on Wednesday may aid firefighters.

As of 7 a.m. Wednesday, the fire was 15 percent contained.

On Wednesday, there were no evacuations and no highway closures.

The blaze was heading north, away from homes.

The weather may help the fight.

“We’re going to try to take advantage of the cooler temperatures and the calmer winds,” said Mark Munoz, captain with the U.S. Forest Service in San Bernardino.

Temperatures are expected to top out in the low 90s Wednesday, and winds are expected to reach 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon, according to the National Weather Service.

An exhausted but regimented line of dusty and soot-covered hand crews trudged out of the mountainside into the east Highland neighborhood for some rest as new, fresh teams gathered supplies to go in.

Retired Los Angeles County Fire Capt. Dave Saran watched the Mart fire explode Tuesday afternoon from his home in the hillsides of east Highland.

“They did a great job,” said Saran from the driver’s seat of his golf cart, which he uses to patrol his community.

The charred and blackened vegetation across the street from his home indicated how close the flames came, but the retired firefighter said he wasn’t worried.

“I was actually having a cocktail when this was happening,” he laughed.

Drawing on his decades of firefighting experience, Saran said it was a combination of firefighter efforts, aerial attacks and shifting winds that helped keep the flames from reaching his neighborhood.

The Mart fire charred 902 acres and injured one firefighter Tuesday. The firefighter's condition is not known.

Fire crews will "continue line construction and structure protection," according to a U.S. Forest Service statement.

The fast-moving blaze had prompted officials to issue a mandatory evacuation order Tuesday for about 200 homes in the area east of Orchard Road, north of Highland Avenue and west of Church Street. Residents were allowed to return to their homes around 8:15 p.m. No homes or outbuildings had been damaged, officials said.

On Wednesday morning, a steady stream of residents walked up to fire crews stationed at Cloverhill Drive and Emmerton Lane to thank them for keeping their homes safe.

"Thanks for what you did," said one man who walked to the intersection from a few blocks away just to shake hands with firefighters.

The fire was reported around 3 p.m. Tuesday in a field off Highway 330 near Highland. It quickly grew and threatened hillside homes. At one point, the flames jumped the highway and worked their way into the San Bernardino Mountains, fire officials said. Black smoke from the blaze could be seen for miles.

The 330 was closed Tuesday between the 210 Freeway and Live Oak Road, Caltrans said in a Twitter message. It was reopened at 9:55 p.m., according to the Forest Service, and motorists were asked to drive cautiously and warned to expect firefighters and equipment near the highway.

More than 500 firefighters from different agencies, including the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** and the Redlands Fire Department, are helping fight the blaze.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

<http://www.pe.com/2017/06/28/no-containment-for-mart-fire-above-highland-2/>

RESIDENT ALERT: Fire Department is planning to conduct fire drill in northern Fontana on June 27 and 28

Fontana Herald News

Posted: June 27, 2017, 10:22 AM

If residents see smoke in northern Fontana the next two days, they are advised not to panic: It is only a fire drill being conducted by the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

The wildland training exercise with a live burn was scheduled for Tuesday, June 27 and Wednesday, June 28, weather conditions permitting.

The exercise is the culmination of training that has been conducted by the department over the past two months.

Crews from San Bernardino County Fire along with surrounding agencies will practice various training scenarios to include initial attack, construction of fire-line both with hand-tools and hose lines, dozer operations, helicopter/air operations, firing techniques, communications, and fire-line safety.

"Each day will provide a chance for different crews to hone their skills necessary for safe and successful operations in the wildland environment," said Public Information Officer Steve Tracy.

Due to heavy winter rains, a significant grass crop has developed across much of Southern California in the recent months, Tracy said. The chance of large wildfires in the region this year is greater than normal, especially during hot and windy periods.

http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/resident-alert-fire-department-is-planning-to-conduct-fire-drill/article_43ecae5c-5b5d-11e7-bd31-bf3591e49d61.html

Fire training will make smoke visible today above Fontana

Richard K. De Atley, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: June 27, 2017, 11:15 AM



Firefighters attend a morning briefing at a training session Tuesday in Fontana. Crews prepare for live fire training. (Courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire Department)

Live fire training for the **San Bernardino County Fire District** will put smoke in the sky and firefighters on the ground in the Fontana area today and Wednesday, the agency said today.

The fires, including one Tuesday morning, are in an open area bounded by Citrus, Casa Grande and Sierra avenues, district public information officer Steve Tracy said.

The district sent letters to about 2,400 area residents ahead of the training sessions to make sure they understood the exercises with live fire would be taking place this week, Tracy said.

Another session is planned for Wednesday morning. The training is the culmination of the district's two-month annual wildland firefighting proficiency training, in conjunction with other agencies.

Training activities will include fire-line construction with both hand tools and heavy equipment and helicopter and air operations, a release from the district said.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170627/fire-training-will-make-smoke-visible-today-above-fontana>

Upland passes balanced budget, prepares to unload Fire Department

Liset Marquez, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: June 27, 2017, 2:48 PM

UPLAND >> City leaders have passed a \$38.6 million budget, which anticipates the dissolution of the city's fire department.

The budget, approved Monday night, has a \$460,208 surplus and maintains 15 percent in reserves, considered a rainy day fund.

Upland's proposed budget will fund 272.5 full-time employees, which includes 47 Fire Department employees who will work for Upland for one month before firefighting responsibilities transfer to **San Bernardino County Fire**, expected in August.

The council had requested the move to save money. It isn't without controversy, however. Property owners in both Upland and San Antonio Heights would have to pay a \$148 annual parcel tax.

Deputy City Manager Jeannette Vagnozzi said the savings from dissolving the Fire Department have been set aside in case the annexation fails. If that happens, staff would return to the council and re-fund the Fire Department, Vagnozzi said.

After July 11 — the hearing date for disbanding the Fire Department — if the annexation were approved, then staff would have to return to the council with an amended budget for a spending plan.

“We have needs that are great now that we can use that funding for,” Vagnozzi said.

The City Council voted 4-1 to adopt the budget with Councilwoman Janice Elliott opposed. She had proposed approving the \$38 million budget but suggested reducing the development services budget by \$2 million and the Police Department's budget by \$500,000.

Jeff Zwack, Upland's Development Services director, said the \$2 million is earmarked to buy affordable housing units in Magnolia Colony Apartments, 230 N. Vallejo Way, and “would be very beneficial to the Upland community.”

“In my opinion, maybe setting aside \$2 million might not be real prudent. Maybe we could look at it again at midyear,” Elliott said.

Elliott's motion failed to get a second.

Interim Finance Manager Misty Cheng acknowledged Upland is not out of the financial woods yet.

“If we look down the line there are some issues and concerns financially,” she said.

For several years, the city has had to defer its maintenance needs to the tune of around \$8 million, she said.

In addition, Upland has what Cheng described as “huge amount” in unfunded liability that needs addressing.

“This is not the only city facing the same challenges we have. I'm like a broken record, I'm saying the same thing to every city that I do a budget presentation,” Cheng said.

There were several outspoken critics of the budget, including former councilman Glenn Bozar, who said he was disappointed the city did not include a five-year plan it received from a consultant several budget cycles ago. According to Bozar, the plan estimates when the city will dip into the red.

He urged the council not to approve the budget. “(Interim City Manger Martin Thouvenell) is going to put you in the hole faster than you can say bankruptcy,” he said. “If you guys approve this, you’re complicit to the smoke and mirrors.”

But Cheng noted that in the 2017-18 budget, Upland went from maintaining a 12.5 percent reserve balance to reaching its 15 percent benchmark. “Our revenues are higher than expenditures, so this year we’re not just balanced, we have a little bit of a surplus,” she said.

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/government-and-politics/20170627/upland-passes-balanced-budget-prepares-to-unload-fire-department>

Rollover crash sends one man to the hospital, jams northbound I-15 traffic in Hesperia

Kevin Trudgeon, Daily Press

Posted: June 28, 2017, 9:14 AM

HESPERIA — A rollover crash on northbound Interstate 15 sent one man to the hospital and jammed traffic early Wednesday morning.

California Highway Patrol Officer Macias told the Daily Press that a green Toyota SUV was reportedly driving recklessly according to witnesses when, for reasons unknown, the driver lost control and hit the center divider guardrail between Highway 395 and Joshua Street at approximately 6:25 a.m.

The collision caused the Toyota to overturn a number of times — Macias said witnesses varied between five and 15 on the number of times it overturned — before eventually landing on top of a white Kia.

“The Toyota ended up on its roof blocking the No. 2 and No. 3 lanes,” Macias said.

The driver of the Toyota, identified as a 21-year-old Victorville man, had to be extricated by **San Bernardino County Fire Department** personnel before being transported to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, according to Macias. The driver of the Kia, a 24-year-old Victorville man, complained of injuries but his status is not known at this time.

Northbound I-15 traffic was backed up as authorities processed the scene. All lanes were reopened at 8:13 a.m., according to CHP logs.

Anyone with information on the crash may contact the CHP Victorville Office at 760-241-1186.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170628/rollover-crash-sends-one-man-to-hospital-jams-northbound-i-15-traffic-in-hesperia>

Two Killed In Fiery 3-Vehicle Crash In Landers Wednesday Morning

Z107.7 News

Posted: June 28, 2017

We have limited information about a fatal multi-vehicle collision early this morning. According to **County Fire Battalion Chief Donnie Vioria**, two people were burned beyond recognition in a 3-vehicle crash about 4:30 a.m. on Old Woman Springs Road, just north of Linn Road. The occupants in another small passenger car and a Dodge 5500 pick-up truck hauling a 30-foot trailer received very minor injuries and refused to be transported to the hospital. The California Highway Patrol is investigating

<http://z1077fm.com/two-killed-in-fiery-3-vehicle-crash-in-landers-wednesday-morning/>

One Killed When U-Haul Crashes Into Semi-Truck Near Copper Mountain College

Z107.7 News

Posted: June 28, 2017



Photo courtesy **San Bernardino County Fire Dept.**

One person was killed this morning when a U-Haul truck crashed into the rear of a semi-truck near Copper Mountain College. About 8:20 a.m., the U-Haul rear-ended the semi on Highway 62 at Rotary Way, with the front end of the U-Haul wedged under the semi. An occupant inside the U-Haul was trapped inside, and rescue personnel used the Jaws of Life to extricate him, but the man succumbed to his injuries during the extrication. The California Highway Patrol is investigating.

<http://z1077fm.com/u-haul-crashes-into-semi-truck-near-copper-mountain-college/>