



# NEWS



## News Headlines 9/13/2018

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## Jaws of life utilized after man crashes into tree in Victorville

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: September 12, 2018



The jaws of life were used to free the trap driver. (Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Firefighters had to utilize the jaws of life to free a man from a vehicle after he crashed into a tree.

It happened Wednesday afternoon in the 12700 block of 9th Avenue just south of Little Beaver Street in the city of Victorville.

According to San Bernardino County Battalion Chief Josh Sprague, the crash was initially reported as a vehicle vs. pedestrian followed by the car crashing into a house.

Upon arrival, firefighters determined the only injuries sustained was to a male driver of a black sedan who was trapped in the vehicle. No pedestrian was struck and the sedan had narrowly missed the home, but instead crashed into a tree.

For reasons still under investigation, the driver was traveling north on 9th Avenue when he lost control, crashed through a chain-linked fence of a house, continued through an empty lot and then crashed through another fence and into a tree in the yard of a second home.

American Medical Response (AMR), Victorville Sheriff's Deputies, and the San Bernardino County Fire assisted with the incident.

“We utilized three engines and a ladder (truck company) here at the scene to perform extrication, which was more extensive than first thought,” the Battalion Chief stated.

The family of the driver arrived on the scene and were emotionally distraught, but showed a slight sigh of relief when the man gave a “thumbs up” as he was being wheeled away on a gurney.

The man's injuries were described as moderate to severe, and once extricated, he was rushed by ambulance to a local hospital then further airlifted by the County Fire's helicopter H325 to Loma Linda University Medical Center.

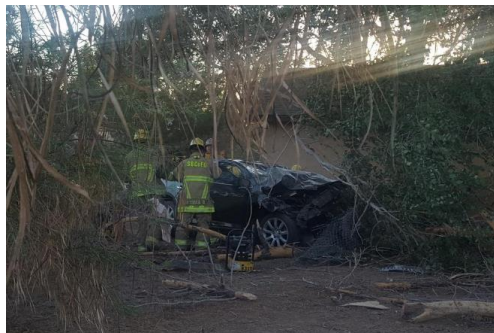
No other injuries were reported and the cause of the crash remains under investigation by the Victorville Police Station.

<https://www.vvng.com/jaws-of-life-utilized-after-man-crashes-into-tree-in-victorville/>

## Man airlifted after car slams into tree

Paola Baker, Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: September 12, 2018



Authorities work to extricate a driver after a car slammed into a tree in Victorville Wednesday evening. [Paola Baker, Daily Press]

VICTORVILLE — Authorities rushed a man to a trauma center after a violent crash sent his car flying into a tree, narrowly missing a home, on Wednesday evening.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department officials are still investigating the cause of the crash, which occurred at around 6:15 p.m. in the 12700 block of Ninth Avenue.

Speed is believed to be a factor, Sheriff's Sgt. Chris DeKeyrel said.

Officials were initially dispatched to what was reported to be a vehicle into a house at the location. They arrived and found a black sedan slammed against a tree directly in front of a home's front yard.

DeKeyrel said the driver was heading south on Ninth Avenue and "failed to negotiate" a curve in the road.

The car crashed through another home's fence before going through an empty lot and slamming into the tree, narrowly missing the home.

"If that tree wouldn't have been there the car would have probably gone straight into the house," DeKeyrel said.

Several neighbors said they heard the crash, and some said they witnessed the vehicle speeding down Ninth Avenue just before the impact occurred.

Tom Miller was one of the neighbors who heard the crash. He said he and other neighbors rushed over and saw the car flipped over sideways, leaning against the tree.

"We had to flip it back over and put it back on its wheels," Miller said. "I could see the driver inside, but couldn't see if there was anyone else in there. I smashed in the sunroof to check and saw the driver trying to pull himself out."

San Bernardino County Fire Battalion Chief Joshua Sprague said the vehicle was only occupied by its driver, who was "pretty severely trapped" from the impact.

"It required all three engines responding to extricate and provide medical treatment," Sprague said. Extrication took about 20 minutes to complete, Sprague said. The man was injured but was reported to be alert and responsive. He was airlifted to Loma Linda University Medical Center for treatment.

No other injuries were reported due to the crash, which remains under investigation.

Anyone with information is urged to contact the Victorville Sheriff's Station at 760-241-2911.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20180912/man-airlifted-after-car-slams-into-tree>

## EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

### Lower the bar to challenge fee hikes

Staff Writer, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: September 13, 2018, 3:43 p.m.

There is a process that property owners can use to challenge fire district annexations such as the one which would expand Fire Protection District 5 across the county and lead to higher annual fire protection assessments for some, most notably in Wonder Valley.

The trouble is the bars are set so high that it is nearly impossible for a genuinely grassroots effort to succeed. A quarter of property owners who own at least a quarter of the assessed value of the affected land must protest to force a public vote; 50 percent of property owners who own at least half of the assessed value of the land must protest to shut the proposal down.

This is the same protest process used when Twentynine Palms was annexed into the **San Bernardino County fire** department a couple of years ago.

We would like to see the county lower the bar and make it easier for property owners to challenge proposals that increase what may be called fees or assessments but look and feel and act an awful lot like taxes. Of course, the corollary is that if protests are easier to make and property owners are able to defeat measures like the zone expansion, they may be looking at a cut in their fire services. But that would be their choice to make.

County officials have often said they want residents to be more engaged in their own governance. This is why residents can go to the government center in Joshua Tree to address board of supervisors meetings through a computer link.

It is, however, not enough to be able to speak to power. We need to know that those voices are actually being heard.

[http://www.hidesertstar.com/opinion/editorials/article\\_433f9a1e-b6dd-11e8-ae01-e730eb0f6500.html](http://www.hidesertstar.com/opinion/editorials/article_433f9a1e-b6dd-11e8-ae01-e730eb0f6500.html)