



NEWS



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More than 33,000 pounds of illegal fireworks confiscated in San Bernardino County

Daily Press

Posted: July 3, 2017, 2:34 PM



A multi-agency task force has confiscated more than 33,000 pounds of illegal fireworks in recent weeks. [Photo courtesy of the San Bernardino County Fire Department]

A multi-agency task force led by the **San Bernardino County Fire Department's** Fire Investigations Unit has seized more than 33,000 pounds of dangerous and illegal fireworks in recent weeks.

According to officials, the task force has been conducting operations leading up to the Fourth of July and has issued 146 citations totaling \$182,500 in fines for possession of illegal fireworks.

“San Bernardino County has a zero tolerance policy for bringing any and all illegal fireworks into our communities,” Fire Marshal Mike Horton said.

“Anyone attempting to smuggle these dangerous explosives into the county will face a minimum \$1,250 fine and a misdemeanor or felony charge with the possibility of arrest.”

With the county facing a dangerous wildland fire season, officials said County Fire has increased its vigilance in enforcing state and county firework laws to protect public health and safety.

The task force includes representatives from County Fire's Office of the Fire Marshal, several fire departments within the county and the Sheriff's Arson/Bomb Squad in order to utilize K-9 officers trained to sniff out explosives. Once seized, the illegal fireworks are picked up by the State Fire Marshal's office and safely destroyed.

Fire officials will continue to issue citations for the illegal use, possession, or storage of fireworks. Property owners may be cited if they allow fireworks to be possessed, stored or used on their property, according to officials.

All fireworks that explode, shoot into the air or move along the ground are termed dangerous and are illegal everywhere in California. “Safe and Sane” fireworks have the State Fire Marshal seal on the packaging and are only allowed in Adelanto, Barstow, Chino, Colton and Rialto, as well as specific locations in Fontana, Grand Terrace and San Bernardino.

Residents are urged to report illegal fireworks to local authorities or by calling the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-472-7766 or visiting www.wetip.com.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170703/more-than-33000-pounds-of-illegal-fireworks-confiscated-in-san-bernardino-county>

16 tons of illegal fireworks seized coming into San Bernardino County

Doug Saunders, *The Sun*

Posted: July 3, 2017, 3:09 PM



Courtesy photo, San Bernardino County Fire Department, The Sun/SCNG

More than 16 tons of dangerous and illegal fireworks have been confiscated through weeks of interdiction operations conducted by a multi-agency task force. Most of the operations were held in June and targeted fireworks being transported in to California.

The operation, led by the **San Bernardino County Fire Department's** Fire Investigations Unit, enforced the county's, "Zero tolerance policy for bringing any and all illegal fireworks into our communities." Said Fire Marshal Mike Horton.

According to Louis Penna, a public information officer from San Bernardino County Fire, the task force included representatives from, "San Bernardino County Fire's Office of the Fire Marshal, Chino Hills Fire Department, Loma Linda Fire Department, Ontario Fire Department, Rancho Cucamonga Fire Department, and Rialto Fire Department.

Investigators also teamed up with San Bernardino County Sheriff's Arson/Bomb Squad to utilize K9s trained to sniff out explosives."

More than 16 tons of fireworks were seized coming into San Bernardino County from bordering states during a monthlong operation by a multi-agency task force led by the county Fire Department.

Fire investigators issued 146 citations totaling \$182,500 in fines for possession of the illegal fireworks.

"San Bernardino County has a zero tolerance policy for bringing any and all illegal fireworks into our communities. Anyone attempting to smuggle these dangerous explosives into the county will face a minimum \$1,250 fine and a misdemeanor or felony charge with the possibility of arrest," Fire Marshal Mike Horton said in a news release.

The multi-agency task force included members of the San Bernardino County Office of the Fire Marshal, Chino Valley Fire District, Loma Linda Fire Department, Ontario Fire Department, Rancho Cucamonga Fire Department and Rialto Fire Department.

The San Bernardino County sheriff's bomb squad assisted in the efforts to seize the illegal fireworks, using K-9s specially trained to detect explosives.

The state Fire Marshal's Office will safely destroy the seized fireworks.

Officials encourages residents to leave fireworks to the professionals and enjoy a local community show. A schedule of public firework shows in San Bernardino County can be found at sbcfire.org.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was edited to fix the name of the Chino Valley Fire District.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170703/16-tons-of-illegal-fireworks-seized-coming-into-san-bernardino-county>

San Bernardino County Fire Investigators confiscate over \$180K in illegal fireworks

Fox 11

Posted: July 3 2017, 8:47PM



(FOX 11) - Over 33,000 pounds of dangerous and illegal fireworks have been confiscated through weeks of interdiction operations conducted by a multi-agency task force led by **San Bernardino County Fire Department's** Fire Investigations Unit.

County Fire Investigators issued 146 citations totaling \$182,500 in fines for possession of illegal fireworks.

"San Bernardino County has a zero tolerance policy for bringing any and all illegal fireworks into our communities. Anyone attempting to smuggle these dangerous explosives into the county will face a minimum \$1,250 fine and a misdemeanor or felony charge with the possibility of arrest," Fire Marshal Mike Horton said.

With San Bernardino County facing a dangerous wildland fire season, the San Bernardino County Fire Department (SBCoFD) has increased its vigilance in enforcing state and county firework laws to protect public health and safety.

The multi-agency task force includes representatives from San Bernardino County Fire's Office of the Fire

Marshal, Chino Hills Fire Department, Loma Linda Fire Department, Ontario Fire Department, Rancho Cucamonga Fire Department, and Rialto Fire Department. Investigators also teamed up with San Bernardino County Sheriff's Arson/Bomb Squad to utilize K9s trained to sniff out explosives.

Once seized, the illegal fireworks are picked up by the State Fire Marshal's office and are safely destroyed.

Fire officials will continue to issue citations for the illegal use, possession, or storage of fireworks. Property owners may be cited if they allow fireworks to be possessed, stored, or used on their property.

All fireworks that explode, shoot into the air or move along the ground are termed dangerous and are illegal anywhere in California. "Safe and Sane" fireworks bare the State Fire Marshal seal on the packaging and are only allowed in the following cities: Adelanto, Barstow, Chino, Colton, and Rialto, as well as specific locations in Fontana, Grand Terrace, and San Bernardino. Please call the fire department in these cities for more information.

All fireworks are illegal elsewhere in the county.

SBCoFD encourages residents to leave fireworks to the professionals and enjoy a local show in your community. A schedule of public firework shows in San Bernardino County can be found at sbcfire.org.

Residents can report illegal fireworks to local authorities or to WeTip at 1-800-47-ARSON or WeTip.com.

<http://www.foxla.com/news/local-news/265595392-story>

As July Fourth Approaches, San Bernardino County Task Force Seizes 33,000 Pounds of Fireworks

Jessica Lynn, NBC4

Posted: July 3, 2017, 10:46 PM



San Bernardino County Fire Department

A multiagency task force in San Bernardino County has seized more than 33,000 pounds of illegal fireworks in the weeks leading up to Fourth of July.

The county has already seen three large wildfires this summer and is cracking down on fireworks to prevent more in the midst of the dry season. County fire investigators have issued 146 citations for possession of illegal fireworks that add up to \$182,500 in fines, according to **San Bernardino County Fire Department** Public Information Officer Louis Penna.

Those who attempt to smuggle fireworks into the county can expect a minimum fine of \$1,250 and a potential felony charge that could result in arrest. All fireworks that explode, shoot in the air or move along the ground are considered illegal in California.

"We're not trying to ruin anybody's fun, but we're trying to keep people safe," said Lt. Vicki Cervantes of the San Bernardino Police Department, which led a bust of 1,200 pounds of fireworks from a private residence Sunday night. "These are not legal, and again, are very dangerous. What goes up must come down."

The county task force is made up of fire departments from five cities in the area, as well as the San Bernardino County Sheriff's bomb squad, whose trained K9s help sniff out the explosives.

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/As-July-4th-Approaches-San-Bernardino-County-Task-Force-Seizes-33000-Pounds-of-Fireworks--432387433.html>

Over 33,000 Pounds of Illegal Fireworks Confiscated By Fire Department

24/7 Headline News

Posted: July 3, 2017

SAN BERNARDINO – Thousands of pounds of dangerous and illegal fireworks were confiscated by the San Bernardino County Fire Department (SBCoFD) in recent weeks.

Fire officials said that over 33,000 pounds of these fireworks were confiscated through a multi-agency task force led by the **San Bernardino County Fire Department's** Fire Investigations Unit. "San Bernardino County has a zero tolerance policy for bringing any and all illegal fireworks into our communities. Anyone attempting to smuggle these dangerous explosives into the county will face a minimum \$1,250 fine and a misdemeanor or felony charge with the possibility of arrest," Fire Marshal Mike Horton said. Wildfire season has begun and as most residents know, these fires spread fast, destroying sometimes tens of thousands of acres. These firework laws are set in order to protect public health and safety.

Multiple agencies, which include the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Arson/Bomb Squad who use K9's trained to sniff out explosives. The confiscated fireworks are picked up by the State Fire Marshal's office, who safely destroys them. Citations will continue to be issued for the illegal use, possession, storage of illegal fireworks, and for those who have these stored on their property. "All fireworks that explode, shoot into the air or move along the ground are termed dangerous and are illegal anywhere in California," SBCoFD officials said. "Safe and Sane" fireworks bare the State Fire Marshal seal on the packaging and are only allowed in the following cities: Adelanto, Barstow, Chino, Colton, and Rialto, as well as specific locations in Fontana, Grand Terrace, and San Bernardino. All fireworks are illegal elsewhere in the county."

The fire department is available to answer any questions anyone has. Residents can report illegal fireworks to local authorities or to WeTip at 1-800-47-ARSON or WeTip.com.

<https://247headline.com/over-33000-pounds-of-illegal-fireworks-confiscated-by-fire-department/>

More than 33,000 pounds of illegal fireworks are confiscated by San Bernardino County Fire Department

Fontana Herald News

Posted: July 4, 2017, 10:38 AM

More than 33,000 pounds of dangerous and illegal fireworks have been confiscated through weeks of interdiction operations conducted by a multi-agency task force led by **San Bernardino County Fire Department's Fire** Investigations Unit.

County Fire investigators issued 146 citations totaling \$182,500 in fines for possession of illegal fireworks.

"San Bernardino County has a zero tolerance policy for bringing any and all illegal fireworks into our communities. Anyone attempting to smuggle these dangerous explosives into the county will face a minimum \$1,250 fine and a misdemeanor or felony charge with the possibility of arrest," Fire Marshal Mike Horton said.

With San Bernardino County facing a dangerous wildland fire season, the Fire Department has increased its vigilance in enforcing state and county firework laws to protect public health and safety.

The multi-agency task force includes representatives from San Bernardino County Fire's Office of the Fire Marshal, Chino Hills Fire Department, Loma Linda Fire Department, Ontario Fire Department, Rancho Cucamonga Fire Department, and Rialto Fire Department.

Investigators also teamed up with San Bernardino County Sheriff's Arson/Bomb Squad to utilize K9s trained to sniff out explosives. Once seized, the illegal fireworks are picked up by the State Fire Marshal's office and are safely destroyed.

Fire officials will continue to issue citations for the illegal use, possession, or storage of fireworks. Property owners may be cited if they allow fireworks to be possessed, stored, or used on their property.

All fireworks that explode, shoot into the air or move along the ground are termed dangerous and are illegal anywhere in California. "Safe and Sane" fireworks bear the State Fire Marshal seal on the packaging and are only allowed in the following cities: Adelanto, Barstow, Chino, Colton, and Rialto, as well as specific locations in Fontana, Grand Terrace, and San Bernardino.

http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/more-than-pounds-of-illegal-fireworks-are-confiscated-by-san/article_92c5c824-60df-11e7-bebd-5b773065b85b.html

San Bernardino County Fire Confiscates Thousands of Pounds of Fireworks

Susan A. Neufeld, *Rim of the World News*

Posted: July 5, 2017, 5:03 AM

San Bernardino County, CA – Over 33,000 pounds of dangerous and illegal fireworks were confiscated, through weeks of interdiction operations conducted by a multi-agency task force led by **San Bernardino County Fire Department's** Fire Investigations Unit. County Fire Investigators issued 146 citations, totaling \$182,500 in fines, for possession of illegal fireworks.

“San Bernardino County has a zero tolerance policy for bringing any and all illegal fireworks into our communities. Anyone attempting to smuggle these dangerous explosives into the county will face a minimum \$1,250 fine, and a misdemeanor or felony charge, with the possibility of arrest,” Fire Marshal Mike Horton said. With San Bernardino County facing a dangerous wildland fire season, the San Bernardino County Fire department (SBCoFD) has increased its vigilance in enforcing state and county firework laws to protect public health and safety.

The multi-agency task force includes representatives from SBCoFD office of the Fire Marshal, Chino Hills Fire, Loma Linda Fire, Ontario Fire, Rancho Cucamonga Fire and Rialto Fire. Investigators also teamed up with San Bernardino County Sheriff's Arson/Bomb Squad to utilize K9's trained to sniff out explosives.

Illegal fireworks can be reported to local authorities or to We Tip at 1-800-47 ARSON or We Tip.com.

<http://rotwnews.com/2017/07/05/san-bernardino-county-fire-confiscates-thousands-of-pounds-of-fireworks/>

16 Tons of Fireworks Seized Entering County

Z107.7 News

Posted: July 5, 2017

More than 16 tons of fireworks were seized coming into San Bernardino County from bordering states during a monthlong operation by a multi-agency task force led by the **county Fire Department**. Fire investigators issued 146 citations totaling \$182,500 in fines for possession of the illegal fireworks. Fire Marshall Mike Horton said, “San Bernardino County has a zero-tolerance policy for bringing any and all illegal fireworks into our communities. Anyone attempting to smuggle these dangerous explosives into the county will face a minimum \$1,250 fine and a misdemeanor or felony charge with the possibility of arrest.”

<http://z1077fm.com/16-tons-of-fireworks-seized-entering-county/>

Fire in the mountains

San Bernardino National Forest officials said shortly before 5 p.m. the fire continued to hold at 20 acres and was 15 percent contained.

Shea Johnson

Posted: July 4, 2017, 1:56 PM



A CalFire tanker drops retardant around the Silver Fire near Lake Silverwood near Hesperia on Tuesday, July 4, 2017. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

Fire crews from multiple agencies battled a vegetation fire Tuesday near Highway 138 at the entrance to Silverwood Lake, holding the blaze, reportedly started after a vehicle fire, to 20 acres by the early evening.

San Bernardino National Forest, which is the lead agency for the blaze dubbed the “Silver Fire,” said shortly before 5 p.m. the fire continued to hold at 20 acres and was 15 percent contained.

Evacuations were ordered for Silverwood Campground.

San Bernardino County Fire, which was assisting efforts, first announced at 1:21 p.m. via Twitter that multiple reports of the blaze in the San Bernardino mountains were being received.

About 200 fire personnel were involved in suppression efforts.

Highway 138 was closed between Old Mill Road and Highway 173 as crews conducted firefighting operations, according to Forest officials.

The vegetation fire was reportedly spurred by a vehicle fire, County Fire said.

According to California Highway Patrol incident logs, the vehicle, reportedly a white Honda, was seen on the side of the road at 1:10 p.m. The reporting party “saw a large amount of smoke and everyone outside.”

The incident was reported on eastbound Highway 138 at about Cleghorn Road, according to CHP incident logs.

Shortly before 1:50 p.m., the fire reportedly moved to the north on both sides of the highway, according to scanner traffic.

Cal Fire was also assisting forest and county officials with fire suppression operations.

The fire follows a vegetation fire reported Monday night in the area of Highway 138 and Summit Valley Road, according to Cal Fire. That fire grew to about four acres at moderate rate of speed and threatened no structures, the agency said.

Reported at roughly 9:35 p.m. Monday, the agency said via Twitter about a half-hour later that the blaze’s forward movement had been stopped by firefighters. Smoke from the fire could be seen clearly in Hesperia.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170704/fire-in-mountains>

Firefighters halt progress of brush fire near Highway 138 and Silverwood Lake

Liset Marquez, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: July 4, 2017, 2:13 PM



The Silver fire burning near Silverwood Lake Tuesday, July 4, 2017. Photo courtesy of Jesus Navidad

LAKE SILVERWOOD >> Firefighters on Tuesday stopped the spread of a wildfire near Highway 138 and the entrance of Silverwood Lake.

As of 5 p.m. the size of the blaze, dubbed the Silver fire, was holding at 20 acres and crews had completed retardant lines, fire officials said.

Cal Fire Capt. Debbie Chapman said the fire was 15 percent contained at 5 p.m. Approximately 200 firefighters were battling the blaze.

The incident was originally reported as a car fire at 1:13 p.m., said **San Bernardino County Fire** spokesman Eric Sherwin.

The fire is at “1 acre with a very rapid rate of spread,” he said around 2 p.m.

Spot fires on the north side of Highway 138 prompted evacuations of the Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area campground, he added.

The Silver fire forced the evacuation of hundreds of July 4 visitors. Many had parked as far as a mile from the beach area on State Route 138 because state park parking lots were full.

As helicopters continued to drop water on a smoldering hillside along the west side of the lake Tuesday afternoon, Mauriceo Gonzalez of Santa Clarita carried his family’s towels, inner tubes, and a cooler up a steep ramp from the state park to the highway, where he had parked his car.

“It’s really hard,” he said, sweat dripping from his brow. “I have to carry all of this.”

Highway 138 from Highway 173 to Old Mill Road remained closed because of the fire.

County Fire is assisting San Bernardino National Forest, which is the lead agency, Sherwin said.

This story is developing. Check back later for updates.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170704/firefighters-halt-progress-of-brush-fire-near-highway-138-and-silverwood-lake>

Silver Fire, held at less than 15 acres, is 40 percent contained

Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: July 5, 2017, 8:36 AM

SILVERWOOD LAKE >> Firefighters managed to keep the Silver fire, burning above the Silverwood Lake State Recreation area near Highway 138, at 13 acres by Wednesday morning, fire officials said.

The blaze is 40 percent contained.

Spot fires on the north side of Highway 138 prompted evacuations of the Silverwood Lake campground. **San Bernardino County Fire**, U.S. Forest Service and Cal Fire crews used water- and fire retardant-dropping aircraft to get the upper hand on the blaze early on, officials said.

The fire was sparked by a car fire just after 1 p.m. Tuesday, officials said.

The fire forced the evacuation of hundreds of Fourth of July visitors. Many had parked as far as a mile from the beach area on State Route 138 because state-park parking lots were full.

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/general-news/20170705/silver-fire-held-at-less-than-15-acres-is-40-percent-contained>

As bed delays persist, Grand Jury urges trauma center in High Desert

The momentum for such a hospital in the region, history has shown, has been slow-moving because of funding considerations.

Shea Johnson, Daily Press

Posted: July 3, 2017, 5:23 PM



The hallway of St. Joseph Health, St. Mary Medical Center is lined with empty beds on a slow day in Apple Valley in February. More often than not, every bed is filled. File photo: Daily Press.

Editor's note: This is the latest in a series of stories that will detail Grand Jury findings. Later, the Daily Press will report on the jury's broach of oversight at charter schools, site security at county facilities and more.

The San Bernardino County Civil Grand Jury recommends building a new county hospital with a trauma center in the High Desert — a facility to rival Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton — in response to chronic problems with hospital bed delays and ambulance availability.

The recommendation was just one of six on the issue made by jurors in their annual report released Friday, but it stands out for the enormity of such an undertaking, which would certainly cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

On Monday, county Supervisor Chairman Robert Lovingood underscored that a hospital as described by the jury was “a priority,” but costs would be a major hurdle.

“I think it’s absolutely on. The critical issue is going to be funding,” he said by phone. “If you look into the future, the desert’s going to continue to grow and (a hospital is) going to be just one of the things to put on the board.”

The momentum for such a hospital in the region, history has shown, has been slow-moving because of funding considerations — a blend of federal, state, county and private dollars — and Lovingood said the impacts to funding caused by changes in national health care were unknown.

The need, however, persists as pointed out by the jury: “A shortage of (emergency department) beds and the lack of a trauma center exist in the High Desert. This shortage leads to hospital and emergency department overcrowding resulting in bed delays.”

The Grand Jury investigation comes after the Daily Press dug into problems with bed delays and ambulance response times in a series of stories in 2015 and earlier this year. The stories this year highlighted the

discord between the **San Bernardino County Fire Department's** union and ambulance company American Medical Response in whittling the issue to its core.

In its review, the jury summarized that hospital bed delay — the time between arrival of an ambulance at an emergency room and the ER receiving the patient — was a consequence of several other factors including the public's misuse of emergency rooms and overuse of 9-1-1 calls for non-emergencies as well as a lack of interest from private hospitals in expanding or building new services.

As ambulances wait outside hospitals, they can't respond to other emergencies. In 2016, AMR lost 72,000 personnel hours due to bed delay. This county's 36,000 hours of delay tripled Riverside County's figure.

The jury also found a lack of coordination between the three hospitals in the High Desert, AMR and County Fire regarding overcrowding and unnecessary communication problems between AMR and County Fire because they don't operate on the same radio frequency.

The five other recommendations made by the jury include:

- 17-21: Implement the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency's "Centralized Medical Control Proposal."
- 17-22: Educate the general public for the correct use of the 9-1-1 system.
- 17-23: Implement and utilize enhanced 9-1-1 call screening of pre-hospital triage strategies. Include utilization of existing nurse advice lines designed to identify patients who do not require the traditional Emergency Medical Services response or an Emergency Department to provide care for the patient's medical complaint.
- 17-24: Track dispatches between American Medical Response and the San Bernardino County Fire Department to determine the number of patients each hospital can serve based on the availability of beds to ease the number of bed delays.
- 17-25: Create a process to facilitate access to a common radio frequency between American Medical Response and the San Bernardino Fire Department that will aid in the real-time monitoring of their ambulances.

The recommendations are the responsibility of Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency, the joint powers authority which oversees ambulance response time monitoring as part of its extensive list of obligations.

Tom Lynch, administrator for ICEMA, said he expected recommendations from the Grand Jury, but it was premature to respond until a formal response can maneuver through proper channels.

"I think certainly it is a serious and ongoing issue," he said, "... and any emphasis added by the Grand Jury will be taken into consideration by the county."

Jim Grigoli, president of the county's Professional Firefighters Union, or Local 935, which has been critical of AMR for, they say, frequently being unavailable to cover their response area, repeated the line of attack Monday.

“From a firefighter-working-the-street’s point of view, you expect an ambulance to be there. It’s not there,” he said, claiming that AMR provides no details of how many units are out on a given day and ICEMA won’t enforce it. “Right now, nobody’s interested in it.”

But Jason Sorrick, spokesman for AMR, essentially dismissed that narrative as politically charged, saying AMR was “working with all the stakeholders,” including ICEMA, County Fire and partner hospitals on a sustainable solution, even as he acknowledged it wouldn’t be an overnight fix.

“The report essentially confirms what we all knew was already an issue, that the county has a significant issue with bed delays,” he said, adding that AMR was open to address Grand Jury findings.

And the Grand Jury’s interest?

“I think it highlights the fact that everybody now is fully engaged,” he said, “which is what we’ve been seeking from everybody all along.”

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170703/as-bed-delays-persist-grand-jury-urges-trauma-center-in-high-desert>

Fire reported in Big Bear generates full response

Doug Saunders, The Sun

Posted: July 3, 2017, 7:16 PM

Firefighters from federal, state and local agencies responded to a fire reported on Sugarloaf Mountain Monday evening.

Shortly after 6:30 p.m. several reports flooded into the 911 call center reporting seeing a large column of smoke rising behind Big Bear High School.

Agencies are trying to determine the best possible route to access the blaze.

San Bernardino County Firefighter Eric Sherwin said it appears to be burning in a region not close to residential areas.

It's not known how much of the San Bernardino National Forest is burning until an aerial observation is done.

More to come

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170703/fire-reported-in-big-bear-generates-full-response>

Hydrants tested, repaired

Saul A. Flores, Needles Desert Star

Posted: July 3, 2017

NEEDLES — There are approximately 210 public fire hydrants in the community, State law and good management practices require that each hydrant be tested annually to assure that it is operating properly. Testing involves opening each valve and allowing a minimal amount of water to flow. Occasionally, the city finds they have become clogged with silt or the metal pieces have fused because of rust or other means. If the testing isn't done, silt or minerals in the water will break loose and cause "black water" in customer's homes.

According to the city of Needles staff, over the past few years the water department has fallen behind in hydrant testing due to the increasing numbers of leaks in the system, which have risen from 150 per year in 2013-14 to more than 200 in 2016-17. In order to accomplish the hydrant testing the NPUA initiated a program with the **San Bernardino County Fire District** whereby their staff would be trained on how to test the hydrants to minimize incidents of black water.

To date they have tested 40 percent of the hydrants. Collectively, they have discovered seven non-operating hydrants. Of those seven, two have been replaced and three have been repaired. The remaining two will be repaired shortly as an urgent work item.

The cost to replace a hydrant is approximately \$2,000 plus labor and the cost to repair one is approximately \$200, plus labor.

City staff asked to approve a drawdown of the Water Asset Replacement fund for the repair and replacement of fire hydrants at a cost not to exceed \$16,000 through the end of the current budget year.

“We [the city] and the district are doing inspections every day and so far we’ve only got 40 of them completed. We will have all of them done within the next couple of months,” said Rick Daniels, Needles City Manager. “We are going and inspecting every one of them and out of those — 40 percent out of 210 — is about 85 fire hydrants and out of those 85 seven of them needed some work done to them. So we are on a constant time frame to catch up on the fire hydrant inspections.”

The city council unanimously approved the action item to draw down \$16,000 from the Water Asset Replacement Fund during their meeting on May 9.

http://www.mohavedailynews.com/needles_desert_star/hydrants-tested-repaired/article_347a6440-6040-11e7-98fe-bff5f60555dc.html

3 San Bernardino boys seriously injured in possible fireworks incident

Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: July 5, 2017, 6:12 AM

SAN BERNARDINO >> Fireworks may have seriously injured three young boys between the ages of 8 and 10 in San Bernardino on the Fourth of July, San Bernardino Police said.

Police and **San Bernardino County Fire** paramedics were called to the 2300 block of Cedar Street around 8:30 p.m. for what police say was a “fireworks incident,” officials said.

Paramedics took the boys, who appear to be neighbors, to a hospital. Their conditions were not released Wednesday morning.

Police are investigating the incident.

The injuries took place despite a highly publicized campaign letting residents know all fireworks are illegal in San Bernardino.

As part of the effort, officers worked for several days leading up to Independence Day confiscating and ticketing people found with fireworks.

As a result of the fireworks patrols, officers seized nearly 7,000 pounds of the pyrotechnics, issued 130 citations, made nine felony arrests and took six guns off the streets, according to Lt. Vicki Cervantes.

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/general-news/20170705/3-san-bernardino-boys-seriously-injured-in-possible-fireworks-incident>

Amid Fireworks And Heat, Crews Battle Blazes Across Southland

CBS 2

Posted: July 5, 2017 6:18 AM

LOS ANGELES (CBSLA.com) – Hot, dry conditions and fireworks proved to a potent combination for brush fires, as hundreds of firefighters found themselves battling dozens of fires across the Southland overnight Tuesday.

The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** reported that as of 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, it had responded to 53 separate vegetation fires, several of which were related to fireworks. In Santa Ana, several arrests were made for illegal fireworks.

“To me, it seems like what it would be like in a combat zone,” Santa Ana police Cpl. Gonzalo Garcia said. “You’re driving by and there’s bottle rockets and mortars going off around you. As you drive by they’re hitting your car. You can see that there are people aiming at each other.”

A fireworks-caused blaze broke out in a steep terrain in a small canyon in the 18000 block of West Braemore Road in Porter Ranch just after midnight. Los Angeles Fire Department crews made quick work of the fire, holding it to one-acre with help from water-dropping helicopters.

Firefighters were concerned due to the fact that there are homes on either side of the canyon.

“This is an example of why it’s illegal in the city of Los Angeles,” LAFD Battalion Chief Daniel Curry said. “Southern California, the vegetation here is made to burn. That’s how it reproduces itself. We have houses around here. A lot of people live in this area. And it would have been tragic if a house had burned down as a result of illegal fireworks.”

Crews were expected to remain at the scene well into Wednesday morning in order to monitor the area for hot spots.

LAFD crews also battled a vegetation fire caused by fireworks in the 13200 block of Bromich Street in Pacoima just after 8:30 p.m. Tuesday. That fire threatened several homes, but was knocked down without causing any damage.

A palm tree went up in flames at San Fernando Road and the 2 Freeway in Glassell Park. A brush fire broke out in a hilly area near Browns Creek Park in Chatsworth at around 11:35 p.m. Tuesday. Air and ground crews with LAFD and LACFD were able to quickly knock down the blaze before it caused any damage to nearby homes.

The cause of the fire was not immediately known.

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/07/05/fires-across-southland/>

Fires in Morongo Basin Monday, Tuesday

Z107.7 News

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Twentynine Palms firefighters saved a house from a fire Monday evening, although the garage is a total loss. According to **County Fire** Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle, the firefighters were returning from a medical aid call about 5:50 p.m. when they saw smoke coming from a single-family home in the 5600 block of Cahuilla Avenue. Upon arrival, the garage was fully involved in flames. Firefighters were able to prevent the fire from spreading into the house, although there was smoke and heat damage. The residents were not at home at the time of the fire. The cause of the blaze is under investigation.

Yucca Valley firefighters responded to a small vegetation fire Tuesday night, caused by fireworks. About 9:40 p.m., they were called to the 56000 block of Taos Trail where they found a 4-foot by 4-foot section of vegetation on fire behind a home. There was no one around so no one was cited.

<http://z1077fm.com/fires-in-morongo-basin-monday-tuesday/>