



NEWS



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- Firefighters prep for March rollout Re-launched department focuses on working as a team

Dollars and sense: how the money raised for Carr Fire survivors is being spent - Capt. Scott Fisher, with the San Bernardino County Fire Department, surveys a wildfire-damaged neighborhood

Julia Avery, KRCR News/abc7 News

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Capt. Scott Fisher, with the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department, surveys a wildfire-damaged neighborhood, Sunday, July 29, 2018, in Keswick, Calif. (AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

REDDING, Calif. — The Shasta Regional Community Foundation has raised more than \$4.4 million for survivors of the Carr Fire. Some survivors are now wondering when and where they will see the money.

CEO Kerry Caranci said they have donated \$400,000 so far. You just might not be seeing it, as it does not come directly from the foundation.

It works through an application process online. Non-profits can request money from the \$4.4 million for their cause.

So far, this has included non-profits like Cal HOPE who is providing gift cards and other services, the Salvation Army who has provided meals, shelter and also gift cards for families in need.

There's also a group installing new power poles for trailer hook-ups using the money from the foundation. These applications from non-profits are vetted before getting money from the fund. A grant review panel meets to decide which applications will be granted the funds.

"So, we have individuals who are survivors themselves. Representatives from the city, from the county, from the education department, from the college, from healthcare, and other community members at large who are really encompassing this entire community to make the decisions for the rebuilding of our community," said Caranci.

The application process is ongoing, there is no deadline. Individual people cannot apply. It is just for non-profits.

There is full accounting of where all the money has gone so far here on their website.

<https://krcrtv.com/news/shasta-county/where-the-carr-fire-donation-money-is-going>

Firefighters prep for March rollout Re-launched department focuses on working as a team

Paola Baker, Daily Press
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APPLE VALLEY — A new crop of firefighters is in training as the Victorville Fire Department prepares to take over firefighting duties from San Bernardino County this spring.

City officials are working to be sure personnel is ready by the time the department becomes operational on March 30.

“On that day, as soon as the **County Fire** guys finish out their shift, our guys will come in,” Fire Chief Greg Benson said. “And as soon as that first call comes through, it will be our guys on it.”

Last year, Victorville officials chose to end a 10-year contract with the county, citing potential cost-savings with a city-run department. Victorville last operated its own fire department in 2008.

The department is conducting training sessions for new firefighters at the Victor Valley College Public Safety Regional Center. Fire Training Capt. Dyjuan Washington said 24 sessions are scheduled, including six days focused on medical care.

A training session last week had firefighters practicing hose line operations, ladder setup, and what Washington called “hydraulic ventilation,” a technique used in fires on multiple-story buildings that allows firefighters to let smoke out of the building.

“Right now, we’re rehashing the basics,” Washington said. “It’s not that they don’t know how to do them, but they have to learn to work together.”

The new fire department is still “in the process of filling some holes” in its staff, but most fire personnel have been hired, he said. Washington said new personnel bring a wealth of experience.

Because the fledgling fire department is comprised of personnel from various areas, even out of state, “I’ve got guys that are very well-versed in urban rescues, for example, working alongside guys who specialize in auto extrication,” Washington said. “The biggest challenge is getting everyone to work on the same sheet of music,” Washington said.

“We all essentially know the same things but have been taught them differently, so it’s working with that and getting everyone on the same page,” Washington said.

Active fire training is scheduled to begin sometime next month, Washington said. In the meantime, the new crews will continue to learn to work cohesively while shoring up community outreach efforts.

Benson said the new department has hosted one event at the previously shuttered Fire Station 315 off El Evado Road last month, when Victorville Fire partnered with American Medical Response for the annual “Fill the Ambulance” fundraising event.

“They needed a place to wrap gifts and hold their holiday party so we hosted them right there at 315,” Benson said.

He said the station will be “a home base” for the new firefighters.

Victorville Fire has finalized mutual aid agreements with the Apple Valley Fire Protection District, County Fire, and CalFire in the past few months. In December, the Victorville City Council approved amendments to its payroll to allow for the addition of new firefighters this year. Deputy city manager George Harris III said the city’s also awaiting the arrival of two Type-1 fire engines sometime this year.

New firefighters have participated in career day events at Excelsior High School, Benson said, and plan partnerships with other local schools.

As Washington said the new department aims to surpass the level of services residents expect.

“It’s probably the second busiest city in the county, so we absolutely have to be prepared to respond,” Washington said. “But we’re definitely excited and ready to begin.”

<http://victorvilledailypress.ca.newsmemory.com/>