



NEWS



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Drowning demonstration shows how quickly a child can die in a pool

Charles Roberts, Highland News

Posted: June 10, 2017, 8:16 AM



The mother is restrained as firefighters wheel the lifeless baby to a waiting ambulance.

“My baby!” screams a frantic mother as she sees her one-year-old face-down in the swimming pool.

Nearby teens, including the baby’s older brother, party, not noticing that the child has fallen into the pool.

The brother quickly jumps into the pool and pulls the lifeless body to shore.

The mother performs CPR as she cries uncontrollably before help arrives.

The teenagers have called 911 and firefighters respond within minutes.

They take over lifesaving efforts and ultimately wheel the lifeless body to a waiting ambulance.

This was a graphic demonstration on Friday, June 2, of how a tot can be lost and the grief it can cause because of an inattentive moment.

The Loma Linda Children’s Hospital, the SafeKids Coalition of the Inland Empire, the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** and AMR Ambulance Service participated in the demonstration at the Perris Hill Park pool. First Five San Bernardino provided child safety information in front of the pool building.

In addition to other warnings, Sheriff’s Department Spokesman Clark Morrow suggests that one person at the pool be designated as the child watcher and wear a tag with that classification. This makes sure that at least one person is keeping an eye on the child at all times.

http://www.highlandnews.net/news/public_safety/drowning-demonstration-shows-how-quickly-a-child-can-die-in/article_bcb92692-4def-11e7-9f1f-efc0eeb14c41.html

How to stay safe around pools, other bodies of water as summer approaches

Doug Saunders, The Sun

Posted: June 10, 2017, 5:42 PM



Lifeguard Joshua Vasquez watches over children as they play in the swimming pool at Ruben Hernandez Community Center in San Bernardino. File photo. JOHN VALENZUELA/THE SUN/SCNG

As summertime draws closer and temperatures begin to spike, more families are spending their days around pools, rivers, lakes and even the ocean.

However, authorities remind people to stay safe around water when cooling off and having fun. A child left unattended near one of those water sources — even for a brief moment — could drown within seconds.

The year is almost at its midpoint, and firefighters in San Bernardino County have already responded to 20 possible drowning calls, 10 children and 10 adults. Five of the 20 cases — including 2 children — ended in death.

In 2016, there were 63 drowning calls countywide, 11 of which had fatal outcomes.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 10 people die every day from drowning across the United States. Of these, two are children 14 and younger. For every child who dies from drowning, another five receive emergency room care for nonfatal submersion injuries.

“The majority of drownings and near-drownings occur in swimming pools and areas of open water,” **San Bernardino County Fire** spokeswoman Tracey Martinez said. “However, children can drown in as little as one inch of water, making them at risk of drowning in wading pools, bathtubs, buckets, toilets, spas and hot tubs. Parents should consider teaching children to swim at an early age, and should never leave a young child unattended near water.”

Devices such as bathtub seats or water wings cannot be relied upon to keep them afloat and alive, according to San Bernardino County Fire Department. Near drowning accidents may leave children or adults with severe brain damage forever altering their lives.

However, a report released in May by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission shows the number of reported child drownings in swimming pools involving children younger than 5 — the most vulnerable population — has decreased 17 percent nationwide since 2010.

CPSC Acting Chairperson Ann Marie Buerkle urges families to be vigilant when children are in and around the water this summer.

“Despite the positive decline in numbers, there are still far too many children who drown each year in pools and spas across the country,” Buerkle stated in the report. “Swimming should be fun and a great way for families to be active, so long as everyone knows how to pool safely.

“As a mother, grandmother and registered nurse, I raised my kids, and now my grandkids, with a respect for water. Constant supervision, along with four-sided fencing, knowing how to perform CPR and teaching children how to swim are all important steps to continuing the decline in child drownings,” Buerkle continued.

Leading the way for the education of drowning prevention is Rialto firefighter Matt Payne.

Payne introduced a program in 2006 to the Rialto Unified School District where Rialto firefighters/paramedics present the three important water safety rules by visiting classrooms and reading the book, “Stewie the Duck Learns to Swim.”

The rules are:

- Learn to swim
- Wear a life jacket
- Only swim in the presence of adults

Payne began his crusade after firefighters were called to rescue a 3-year-old girl found floating in her family’s hot tub on Christmas Eve 2004.

That call catapulted the firefighters to find a way to educate children, making them safer around water.

“Rialto Unified is a strong, receptive district when it comes to opening doors for us to educate the students. The teachers, support sites and administration, at every level, have been cooperative to work with,” Payne said. “Since we began, a decade ago, no child going through this program has drowned and that’s the reality behind this program.”

But education shouldn’t stop with children. Experts say parents should also be knowledgeable in CPR and other forms of basic life-saving techniques in case a child or an adult needs immediate help.

“Drowning is a leading cause of death for children in California,” Rialto Fire Chief Sean Grayson said. “If we can educate and help eliminate any statistic of children drowning, we should do our part. This is an important investment for our community’s youth.”

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SUBMERSION CALLS FOR 2017

- Chino: 4
- Fontana: 1
- Hesperia: 4
- Lake Arrowhead: 2
- Parker Dam: 1

- Rancho Cucamonga: 3
- Redlands: 1
- San Bernardino: 2
- Victorville: 2

Total: 20

Source: Safe Kids Inland Empire/Loma Linda University Children's Hospital

SAFETY TIPS

San Bernardino County Fire officials offer these safety tips when around open water:

- Install four-sided, isolation fencing at least 5 feet high around pools, with self-closing and self-latching gates. Never prop open a gate.
- Pool alarms and covers can offer extra protection. But don't rely on them to keep kids safe.
- Children should never run, push or jump on others around water.
- Children should learn to swim. Enroll them in lessons with qualified instructors when ready, usually after age 4. If you can't swim, enroll with your kids.
- Do not consider young children to be drown-proof because they had swimming lessons.
- Know which of your child's friends and neighbors have pools. Be sure they will have adult supervision.
- Keep rescue equipment, a telephone and emergency numbers by the pool.
- Never leave a child unsupervised near a pool. Appoint a "designated watcher" to protect children.
- If a child is missing, check the pool first -- seconds count in preventing death or disability.
- Do not allow a young child in the pool without an adult.
- Do not use flotation devices as a substitute for supervision.
- Learn CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and be sure others do too.
- Remove toys when pool is not in use. Toys can attract young children to the pool.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170610/how-to-stay-safe-around-pools-other-bodies-of-water-as-summer-approaches>

Man with Burns Airlifted After Explosion in Victorville Home

Victor Valley News Group

June 10, 2017



The force of the explosion caused a portion of the homes wall to crack. (Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) A 27-year-old man was airlifted with third-degree burns following an explosion inside a home Friday night, authorities confirmed.

On June 9, 2017, at about 10:53 p.m. **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to the home in the 12400 block of Camino Canada Way in Victorville.

Neighbors told Victor Valley News they heard a loud explosion and then saw fire coming from the upper floor of the two-story home.

“It was very loud and scary. I ran out of my house to see what it was. That’s when I saw a man lying in the driveway yelling in pain,” said a neighbor who wanted to remain anonymous.

San Bernardino County Fire arrived and treated the male suffering with burns to 50% of his body.

“The male sustained burns to his face, arms, hands, legs, basically any part of his body that was exposed,” stated Batallion Chief Kelly Anderson.

Due to the victim’s injuries, firefighters requested an airship to airlift the man to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

A second person was treated at the scene for smoke inhalation, however, declined any medical transportation.

The home sustained major visible structural damage as a result of the explosion. The force of the blast caused the wall on the side of the house to crack outward. Building and Safety arrived and deemed the house uninhabitable forcing the occupants to be evacuated.

According to Fire Captain Jason Serrano, there were no injuries to firefighters and the damage was estimated at around \$75,000. Firefighters managed to contain the fire to the second floor.

Sheriff's official's at the scene told Victor Valley News they inspected the house and found nothing suspicious that would indicate it was a drug house.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Arson/Bomb Detail was requested to conduct the investigation.

"It is unknown at this time what caused the fire and explosion. The investigation is ongoing," stated Sheriff's officials.

<http://www.vvng.com/man-burns-airlifted-explosion-victorville-home/>

Parents awake to find son engulfed in flames at Victorville home

Jim Steinberg, The Sun

Posted: June 11, 2017, 12:32 AM

A 27-year-old man suffered severe burns over half of his body after he had become engulfed in flames at his parents' Victorville home Friday night, sheriff's officials said.

About 11 p.m. Friday, Justin Dunford's parents heard a "loud noise" in their home in the 12400 block of Camino Canada Way;" seconds later, their son, Justin Dunford, entered their second-floor bedroom engulfed in flames, according to a news release from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

When first responders arrived, the residence was engulfed in flames.

Dunford and his parents escaped.

Although the homeowners weren't hurt, Dunford was severely burned. He was treated at the scene and then flown to a trauma center for further treatment, sheriff's officials said in a statement released late Saturday night. Dunford's condition wasn't known.

The sheriff's arson team and the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** are investigating.

Authorities ask anyone with information to contact the Victorville Police Department at 760-241-2911. Callers wishing to remain anonymous are urged to call the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-78CRIME (27463) or you may leave information on the We-Tip website at www.wetip.com

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170611/parents-awake-to-find-son-engulfed-in-flames-at-victorville-home>

Victorville man arrested after entering parents' bedroom 'engulfed in flames'

Daily Press

Posted: June 11, 2017, 2:04 PM

VICTORVILLE — A fire engulfing the second floor of a Victorville home on Friday night led to the arrest of the homeowners' son, who authorities say unlawfully caused the fire.

According to San Bernardino County Sheriff's officials, the homeowners reported hearing a loud noise in their house before their son, 27-year-old Justin Dunford, entered their bedroom "engulfed in flames."

Deputies from the Victorville Police Department received a request for assistance from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** just after 11 p.m. Friday, responding to the house fire in the 12400 block of Camino Canada Way.

According to authorities, Dunford and his parents managed to escape the house and Dunford's parents did not suffer any injuries from the fire.

Dunford suffered severe burns to more than half of his body, authorities said. He received initial treatment at the scene by AMR personnel before being flown to a trauma center for further treatment of his injuries. His condition is unknown as of Saturday night, authorities said.

Investigators with San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department's, Bomb/Arson Division, responded to the scene to assist County Fire with determining the exact cause of the fire and the investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information about this investigation is asked to contact the Victorville Police Department at (760) 241-2911. Callers wishing to remain anonymous are urged to call the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-78CRIME (27463) or you may leave information on the We-Tip website at www.wetip.com.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170610/victorville-man-arrested-after-entering-parents-bedroom-engulfed-in-flames>

Victorville Man Allegedly Responsible for Fire that Destroyed his Home & Severely Burned Him

24/7 Headline News
Posted: June 11, 2017

VICTORVILLE – Authorities said that a 27-year-old Victorville man unlawfully caused a fire in his home. On June 9, 2017, deputies from the Victorville station responded to a request for assistance from the San Bernardino County Fire Department. When they arrived at the home in the 12400 block of Camino Canada Way they witnessed smoke coming from the second floor in the home.

The homeowners heard a loud noise, then their son, Justin Dunford came into their bedroom engulfed in flames. The three exited the home. Dunford was the only one injured, suffering from severe burns over half of his body. He was airlifted to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center for treatment. Dunford's condition is unknown at this time

Investigators with San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department's, Bomb/Arson Division, responded to the scene to assist County Fire with determining the exact cause of the fire. The investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information about this investigation is asked to contact the Victorville Police Department at (760) 241-2911. Callers wishing to remain anonymous are urged to call the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-78CRIME (27463) or you may leave information on the We-Tip website at www.wetip.com.

<https://247headline.com/victorville-man-allegedly-responsible-for-fire-that-destroyed-his-home-severely-burned-him/>

Hesperia officials looking to get tough on illegal fireworks

Rene Ray De La Cruz, Daily Press

Posted: June 9, 2017, 10:32 AM



Mayor Paul Russ told the Daily Press the city doesn't want a repeat performance of last year when fireworks lit up the sky over Hesperia and "thunderous booms" rocked entire neighborhoods. [Daily Press file photo]

HESPERIA — As Independence Day draws near, officials have sounded the alarm that fireworks, including the "safe and sane" type, are illegal in Hesperia.

Mayor Paul Russ told the Daily Press the city doesn't want a repeat performance of last year when fireworks lit up the sky over Hesperia and "thunderous booms" rocked entire neighborhoods.

"The (San Bernardino County) Sheriff's and Fire departments are already preparing for the Independence Day holiday," Russ said. "The area is so dry right now that we don't want houses or entire neighborhoods burning down."

Last year, the Hesperia Sheriff's Station reported receiving 99 calls for service regarding fireworks in the 24-hour period starting July 4.

The City Council also heard from many angry and concerned residents who complained about fireworks scaring animals, keeping people awake and the fear of the pyrotechnics starting brush fires.

Residents told the Council they spent most of two evenings either trying to calm their animals, find missing animals or man water hoses in case of a fire.

Some residents told the Council they want the city ordinance banning fireworks to be enforced, with stiff fines for violators.

City Manager Nils Bentsen told the Daily Press it's a \$500 fine for firework use in Hesperia and a felony depending on the "explosive weight" of the fireworks.

Fire officials from across California said firework use has increased all over the state, with many individuals transporting fireworks in from Nevada and Mexico.

As a result of the Hesperia Station Gang Team's operation to reduce the sales and use of illegal fireworks in the city, the team met with a Victorville resident last month after they placed an online ad for illegal fireworks.

The resident was cited for possession of illegal fireworks, which included five, 42-round "cakes" mortar-style fireworks and six more cases of fireworks.

"We're actually looking at stiffening the fine for illegal firework use from \$500 to \$1,000," Russ said. "We have an obligation to keep our citizens and their property safe. We need to put a stop to this."

In addition to the current fine in Hesperia, fire and law enforcement officials who confiscate fireworks may cite offenders with fines ranging up to \$5,000.

"Safe and sane" fireworks are only allowed in Adelanto, Barstow, Chino, Colton, and Rialto, as well as specific locations in Fontana, Grand Terrace, and San Bernardino. Possession of any type of fireworks, including "safe and sane" fireworks, is against the law in any unincorporated area of San Bernardino County.

All fireworks are illegal elsewhere in the county. All fireworks that explode, shoot into the air or move along the ground are termed dangerous and are illegal anywhere in California.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170609/hesperia-officials-looking-to-get-tough-on-illegal-fireworks>

Agencies work to curb illegal fireworks

Public safety agencies monitor illegal fireworks throughout the entire year, but it stands to reason their activity picks up the closer to Fourth of July.

Shea Johnson, Daily Press

Posted: June 11, 2017, 1:40 PM



The San Bernardino County Fire Department conducted a two-week fireworks interdiction program at the California, Nevada state line in July of 2014. [Photo courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire Department.]

Public safety agencies monitor illegal fireworks throughout the entire year, but it stands to reason their activity picks up the closer to Fourth of July.

“Firework-related responses, fires, injuries and contacts in the High Desert area this year have been minimal, approximately two calls to date,” **San Bernardino County Fire** spokeswoman Tracey Martinez said this month. “However we expect that to increase for June and July.”

County Fire routinely partners with cities to do public outreach, education, interdiction and enforcement. Last year, an interdiction operation netted 25,000 pounds of illegal fireworks entering the county.

Earlier this month, the departments’ Fire Investigations Unit seized 7,500 pounds of dangerous and illegal fireworks during two-day operations. Investigators issued 40 citations totaling \$50,000 in fines for possession of illegal fireworks.

While fireworks are illegal in most jurisdictions in the county, there are a select few municipalities where “safe and sane” fireworks are allowed, described as fireworks that don’t have effects or explode.

In the High Desert, only Adelanto and Barstow belong to this group. Officials in Adelanto recently kickstarted a fund, however, to entice whistleblowers to aid curbing the use of non-safe fireworks or the use of fireworks outside the permitted timeframe, June 28 and July 4.

In Barstow, the city’s firework season runs each year June 17 through July 16. The Barstow Police Department has already started to receive calls about illegal fireworks, Police Capt. Andrew Espinoza said, “we experience a very high volume of calls.”

In 2016, police responded to 148 such calls, arrested one person, issued 11 citations and confiscated 102 illegal fireworks. The department has responded to only 16 calls so far this year.

“Every year we develop a Fireworks Operation plan to ensure a safe and coordinated effort in enforcing illegal fireworks possession and use,” Espinoza said. “This includes educating the public on the use of illegal fireworks, teaming our officers with firefighters and deploying them together, and staffing additional patrol officers, to include undercover officers, to identify and address the use of illegal fireworks.”

Jason Nailon, fire marshal for Apple Valley Fire Protection District, said the health of the economy can be reflective of illegal firework use: “When the economy is good or on an uptick as it is now, people buy illegal fireworks.”

He added that Adelanto’s allowance of safe-and-sane fireworks increased the presence of them in the other tri-cities in the High Desert, where they’re illegal: Apple Valley, Hesperia and Victorville.

There were were 62 calls for illegal fireworks in 2016, he said, and “only a few” in Apple Valley so far this year.

Being in possession of illegal fireworks could result in a fine of \$1,250 for a first offense with the possibility of arrest. Additionally, property owners may be cited if they allow fireworks to be possessed, stored or used on the property.

From Dec. 1, 2015 to July 31, 2016, the Hesperia Sheriff’s Station handled 368 calls for service regarding fireworks. Since Dec. 1, there have only been 41 calls.

“Hesperia Station is proactively enforcing fireworks laws in conjunction with County Fire Prevention Units,” Sgt. James Hoffman said. “In May, proactive enforcement resulted in two seizures of large amounts of illegal, aerial-type fireworks.”

Proactive patrol with additional deputies enforcing fireworks laws, he added, will continue all year long.

In Victorville, where Martinez said a majority of High Desert calls stemmed from in 2016, violating its fireworks provision is a misdemeanor.

“We rely on our public safety officials for enforcement; and we rely on our Fire Department to educate our community about the dangers of fireworks,” city spokeswoman Sue Jones said. “In addition, the city typically issues public announcements regarding the prohibition of fireworks through a combination of press releases, social media, website postings and utility bill inserts.”

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170611/agencies-work-to-curb-illegal-fireworks>

Fireworks Are Illegal in San Bernardino County

Sara Snyder, Z107.7 News

Posted: June 11, 2017

Illegal fireworks are a concern especially around the Independence Day holiday. Reporter Mike Lipsitz has more on the potential risk and costs associated with using illegal fireworks...

Possession of fireworks is illegal throughout Morongo Basin. This includes so called “safe and sane” fireworks, and any fireworks that explode, shoot in the air or move along the ground. With the threat of wildfire nearing peak season, **San Bernardino County Fire** has stepped up enforcement of state and county fireworks laws. Fire officials will be issuing citations for the illegal use of fireworks, with possibility of arrest and fines of more than \$1,250 for the first offense. Property owners may be cited if they allow fireworks to be possessed, stored or used on their property. According to the National Fire Protection Association, on a typical July 4th, fireworks cause more fires in the U.S. than all other causes combined. Basin residents are encouraged to watch fireworks at community celebrations rather than risking the death, blindness, and maiming injuries that children and adults suffer every year. Reporting for Z107.7 News, this is Mike Lipsitz.

<http://z1077fm.com/fireworks-are-illegal-in-san-bernardino-county/>

Three structures lost in Lakeside fire

Three structures are a “total loss” after Wednesday’s fire in Lakeside 2, according to Buckskin Fire Chief Chris Chambers.

John Wright, Parker Live

Posted: June 8, 2017



Photo by Araceli L.

“It started in a garage,” Chambers told *Parker Live*, “and then quickly spread to each trailer on both sides.”

The fire was driven by wind gusts on the hilly area, and worsened by the close proximity of the structures to each other, Chambers said.

The fire was fought by firefighters from four departments, with two water tenders and two utility vehicles from Buckskin, two engines from CRIT Fire, one engine and two water tenders from Parker Fire, and one fire engine from **San Bernardino Fire**.

Chambers said a separate fire started in a 5th-wheel in Big River, CA during the response on Lakeside, with firefighters leaving the scene to attend to the second incident.

“I’d like to thank the neighbors because they brought pizza for the firefighters, and Alyssa Young went and brought coolers of Gatorade and water for them too,” Chambers said.

Two Buckskin firefighters remained at the scene overnight to watch for re-ignition, and the process of checking its status will continue Thursday using thermal imaging.

There were no known injuries.

<http://www.parkerliveonline.com/2017/06/08/three-structures-lost-lakeside-fire/>

Blaze stalls I-15 traffic near Bailey Road Friday

Paola Baker Staff Writer

Posted: June 9, 2017, 2:48 PM

Interstate 15 traffic was heavily backed up due to a vegetation fire, sparked after a motor home caught fire Friday afternoon, authorities said.

Reports of a car fire on northbound I-15 just south of Bailey Road were received at 12:05 p.m. Friday. According to CHP logs, a motor home on the right shoulder had caught fire.

By 12:30 p.m. the flames had spread to two acres of brush on the right shoulder and one acre on the center divider of the freeway, the logs show.

Responding authorities requested a full closure of all northbound lanes of I-15 to combat the flames and stop the spread. The No. 1 southbound lane was also temporarily closed. The No. 2 and 3 northbound lanes of the freeway have since been reopened.

San Bernardino County Fire Department Captain Jeff Allen said several County Fire personnel, including a medic engine, two water tenders and a battalion chief, were on scene to assist Bureau of Land Management firefighters with the blaze.

County Fire Battalion Chief Dave Meddles, who was on scene, said the motor home was fully engulfed when the blaze began to spread to surrounding brush. As of 3:30 p.m. Friday, the blaze had burned through an estimated 50 acres, Meddles said, with firefighters able to stop any further rate of spread.

Two occupants in the motor home, along with their cat, were able to escape the blaze without injury. Other than treating a motorist who suffered a medical emergency while stuck in traffic, no other injuries were reported, Meddles said.

The incident caused heavy traffic delays in both directions, with Meddles mentioning northbound traffic was backed up to Halloran Springs. The No. 1 northbound lane of the freeway remained closed as of 3:00 p.m. Motorists are urged to use caution and expect delays.

The cause of the fire is currently unknown. Daily Press messages to the Barstow CHP office and Bureau of Land Management were not immediately returned.

This story is developing and more information will be updated as it is received.

<http://www.desertdispatch.com/news/20170609/blaze-stalls-i-15-traffic-near-bailey-road-friday>

Rollover crash on I-15 causes minor injuries, traffic

Charity Lindsey, Hesperia Star

Posted: June 10, 2017, 4:38 PM

VICTORVILLE — Two children and two adults were transported by ground ambulance with minor injuries following a rollover crash on northbound Interstate 15 Saturday, authorities said.

Authorities responded to a call just after 12 p.m. to find a pickup truck that had rolled over on the I-15 just north of Bear Valley Road, with all the passengers out of the vehicle upon their arrival, according to **San Bernardino County Fire Department** Captain Dan Nelson.

A 3-year-old boy and a 7-year-old girl were passengers of the truck, their father being the driver, and all were transported by ambulance with “very minor injuries,” Nelson said.

The man driving the other vehicle did not sustain any injuries, but his wife, the passenger, was transported with minor injuries to a local hospital.

No information on the cause of the accident was immediately available Saturday.

Motorists reported slow traffic around the time of the incident, though at 3 p.m., Nelson said all lanes were open.

<http://www.hesperiastar.com/news/20170610/rollover-crash-on-i-15-causes-minor-injuries-traffic>