



# NEWS



## News Headlines 10/13-16/2017

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## House catches fire in Victorville on Fern Pine Road

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: October 15, 2017



VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) Firefighters are battling a house fire that became fully engulfed in flames within minutes Sunday night.

Just after 7:30 p.m., firefighters with **San Bernardino County Fire Department** responded to the 11400 block of Fern Pine Road near Vista Verde Elementary School.

The two-story house had heavy smoke and flames showing from all sides of the structure when firefighters arrived.

It took about 30 minutes for the flames to be extinguished and firefighters were able to make entry and confirm the structure was not occupied.

“This is so sad,” said a nearby resident who told Victor Valley News that people just moved into the house this weekend.

The cause of the fire is currently under investigation and no injuries have been reported.

Southern California Edison, South West Gas, and Victorville City Building & Safety have all been advised to respond.

<http://www.vvng.com/house-catches-fire-victorville-fern-pine-road/>

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## Driver airlifted after crashing into back of parked semi

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: October 15, 2017



A man was airlifted after crashing into the back of a parked semi on Mariposa Road at 2:00 a.m. Sunday morning. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) A man was flown to a trauma center early Sunday morning after crashing his vehicle into a parked semi.

It happened at about 2:00 a.m., on October 15, 2017, in front of the La Quinta Inn & Suites in the 12000 block of Mariposa Road in Hesperia.

When deputies arrived, they located a black Nissan sedan with significant front-end damage along the southbound lane and one person trapped inside.

For reasons still unknown, the vehicle struck the back of the semi leaving the driver unresponsive and bleeding heavily from his head.

**San Bernardino County Firefighters** responded and used the jaws of life to extricate the driver from the vehicle. A ground ambulance transported the male, who was the sole occupant of the vehicle to Desert Valley Hospital and later airlifted him to a trauma center.

Mariposa Road was temporarily closed in both directions while officials cleared the crash. No other injuries were reported.

The cause of the crash is currently under investigation by the Hesperia Sheriff's Station.

<http://www.vvng.com/driver-airlifted-crashing-back-parked-semi/>

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## Fontana man dies following motorcycle crash

Monica Rodriguez, Daily Bulletin

Posted: October 14, 2017, 7:08 PM

A Fontana man who was driving a motorcycle died Saturday after being involved in a crash in the area of Arrow Route and Almond Avenue in unincorporated Fontana, the California Highway Patrol reported.

The incident was reported around 11:45 a.m., said Sgt. Ronald Burch with the Rancho Cucamonga office of the CHP.

The motorcyclist, who was driving a 2009 Harley-Davidson, was traveling west on Arrow Route at 35 to 40 mph in a 45-mph zone and approaching Almond when the crash occurred, Burch said.

A 24-year-old Fontana woman driving a 2002 Toyota Camry was headed south on Almond and stopped and waited to turn left onto Arrow, Burch said.

She told investigators she did not see the motorcyclist and began to make the turn, Burch said. When the woman saw the victim, she braked, but the motorcyclist clipped the front end of the car and was ejected from the Harley-Davidson, he said.

After the victim was thrown from the motorcycle he hit a 2015 Jeep Compass driven by a 27-year-old Fontana woman, who was headed east on Arrow and had stopped to wait to turn left onto Almond, Burch said. The motorcycle slid into a car legally parked along the eastbound side of Arrow, he said.

CHP Officer Dave Denton arrived at the scene before other first responders and immediately began administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation and continued to do so until members of the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** arrived and took over, Burch said.

The victim was taken to Kaiser Hospital in Fontana, where he was pronounced dead at 12:20 p.m., Burch said. The victim was initially reported to be 68 years old, but on Sunday, the San Bernardino County Coroner's Office identified him as 41-year-old Milad Amin Khalil of Fontana.

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/2017/10/14/fontana-man-dies-following-motorcycle-crash/>

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## Fontana residents can participate in Great California ShakeOut earthquake drill on Oct. 19

Fontana Herald News

Posted: October 14, 2017, 1:07 PM



The San Bernardino County Fire Department will have its Seismic Simulator Earthquake Education Exhibit in the Fontana City Hall parking lot (8353 Sierra Avenue) on Oct. 19 from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The City of Fontana will be ready to shake along with 9.2 million California participants during the Great California ShakeOut drill on Thursday, Oct. 19 at 10:19 a.m.

Residents are encouraged to register and participate in the ShakeOut Drill wherever they are, and also take part in a Seismic Simulator Earthquake Education Exhibit presented by the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

At 10:19 a.m., City of Fontana employees will follow the Earthquake County Alliance's instructions to perform Drop, Cover, and Hold On -- "a quake-safe action designed to protect lives from falling furniture and flying objects than can become projectiles during ground shaking."

Employees will follow this procedure:

- DROP to the ground
- Take COVER under a nearby table or next to an interior wall, while placing one hand over their head and the other, and
- HOLD ON until the shaking stops.

When the drill is over, employees will meet at a department-specified area.

The public is invited to experience a unique earthquake replication with the San Bernardino County Fire Department's Seismic Simulator Earthquake Education Exhibit. The exhibit will be in the Fontana City Hall parking lot (8353 Sierra Avenue) from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The simulator is a scientifically accurate exhibit highlighting the seismic history of San Bernardino County and demonstrates g-forces similar to actual earthquakes.

Experts said that earthquakes can strike anywhere at any time, and it is crucial to be prepared. Here are a few instructions per location via the Great California ShakeOut website:

- If you are inside, perform Drop, Cover and Hold On
- If you are outdoors, find a open area away from buildings, trees, streetlights, etc. and then Drop, Cover and Hold On
- If you are driving, pull over to a clear location. Remain in the vehicle with the seatbelt fastened. Avoid bridges or ramps that may be damaged

To register for the ShakeOut Drill and for more resources, visit the Great California ShakeOut website at <https://www.shakeout.org/california>.

Residents can also visit the San Bernardino County Fire Department's website at <http://www.sbcfire.org> for additional information.

[http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/fontana-residents-can-participate-in-great-california-shakeout-earthquake-drill/article\\_54389faa-b11b-11e7-a05b-a33f19cd8e32.html](http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/fontana-residents-can-participate-in-great-california-shakeout-earthquake-drill/article_54389faa-b11b-11e7-a05b-a33f19cd8e32.html)

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## Measure K — the smarter tax

Michael Stevens, Daily Press

Posted: October 13, 2017, 5:09 PM

On Aug. 20, the Daily Press published a Valley Voices piece that I wrote entitled: “Do we need another tax — can we afford another tax?” In the column I indicated ...“Elected officials should consider raising taxes or creating a new tax as a LAST resort, not a first resort and they should clearly demonstrate what steps have been taken to address the issue BEFORE they seek a new tax or increases...”

Since August I have educated myself further and discovered that the Victorville City Council HAS taken several, significant steps to reduce general fund costs in order to fund necessary police and fire coverage that residents and businesses deserve. But the reductions aren’t enough. Through no fault of the city’s, the escalating costs for public safety — experienced by every municipality countywide that contracts for police and fire services — are a result of contract increases with San Bernardino County Sheriff’s and Fire Departments.

Victorville’s contract with the Sheriff’s Department alone increased by \$2 million for the current fiscal year, including the cost of three additional deputies, and is expected to rise more than \$1.5 million next fiscal year. The only alternatives to absorb the increases are to refuse to pay the increased costs, reduce staffing or take on the monumental costs of creating our own police and fire departments. With rising crime rates and a growing population, Victorville’s need for public safety is greater than ever before. Yet, the costs for fire and police service are outpacing our ability to pay for them.

Because the passage or failure of Measure K — Special Public Safety Transactions and Use Tax — will result in a tax (sales tax or parcel tax), the question becomes should property owners only subsidize the increase costs for public safety, or should the burden be shared by everyone who benefits from police and fire services?

Measure K will ensure a revenue stream for years to come to ensure that funds are adequate to not only cover public safety costs, but also to:

- Hire 10 additional police officers;
- Hire 15 firefighters/paramedics;
- Open Fire Station 315 near Sunset Ridge Park, and
- Add a second paramedic squad to respond to increasing calls for medical aid.

I’m not a fan of new or tax increases, but now that voters are given the choice between a half-cent sales tax — which equals only 50 cents per every \$100 of purchases (necessities such as groceries and medications would not be taxed) — or a \$153 parcel tax, I am supporting the increase in sales tax as the fairest way to maintain an adequate level of public safety services, and in fact, bring an enhanced level of services with the proposed additional hires.

Please, don’t believe the rhetoric and scare tactics by the Inland Empire Taxpayers Association. And speaking of that group — supposedly heavily funded by San Bernardino County Firefighters Union — why would firefighters oppose a sales tax measure that is REQUIRED to increase staffing for fire services? Because failure of Measure K will likely result in the city having to annex to **County Fire Protection District** and ultimately give complete control of fire services to County Fire, not the City Council — including decisions on how to allocate staffing and resources.

Let's keep local control for decisions about police and fire services. Let's vote to enhance public safety in Victorville.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20171013/measure-k---smarter-tax>

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## **Two lost hikers rescued in Wonder Valley Thursday**

Z107.7 News

Posted: October 13, 2017

Two lost hikers were rescued out in Wonder Valley Thursday night. **County Fire** Battalion Chief Mike Snow said firefighters were called about 10 p.m. to help rescue a man and a woman who got lost while hiking in Joshua Tree National Park. Firefighters went to Mile Marker 53, which is near Ironage Road, and then, with the assistance of the Sheriff's helicopter, 40King, were flown in to the area where the hikers were found. Snow said the woman was no longer able to hike out. Both hikers were taken out by 40King; the woman was taken to Hi-Desert Medical Center for evaluation. The man was taken back to his private vehicle inside the park.

<http://z1077fm.com/two-lost-hikers-rescued-in-wonder-valley-thursday/>

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## **U-Haul Moving Van Catches Fire in Yucca Valley**

Z107.7 News

Posted: October 13, 2017

Aggressive work by Yucca Valley firefighters managed to save most of the belongings in a U-Haul moving van Thursday morning. According to **County Fire** Battalion Chief Mike Snow, firefighters were called to the 58000 block of Taos Trail, near Amador, at 9:48 a.m. where they found the engine of a large U-Haul van on fire. Snow said the driver told firefighters that the van was being backed into the driveway to start unloading it when smoke and flames started coming out of the engine department. The driver tried unsuccessfully to put out the fire with a fire extinguisher. Snow said firefighters managed to contain the blaze to the front of the van, minimizing damage to the contents. The U-Haul van is a total loss.

<http://z1077fm.com/u-haul-moving-van-catches-fire-in-yucca-valley/>

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## Hartwig to Serve as President of Cal Chiefs

Tracey Martinez, Community Writer

Posted: October 12, 2017



“I’m honored and humbled to serve in this top leadership role and represent fire agencies throughout California”, stated Fire Chief Hartwig.

Upon being voted in by its membership, **San Bernardino County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig** will serve the upcoming year as President of the California Fire Chiefs Association (CalChiefs). Chief Hartwig took the oath of office at today’s general membership meeting in Riverside. CalChiefs is a large and diverse professional association whose vision is to be the voice of the California Fire Service.

Its primary mission is to strengthen and advocate for the California Fire Service through leadership, unity, and collaboration.

Fire chiefs comprise the parent body of the Association, with its membership from the more than 800 fire agencies operating in the state of California.

“I’m honored and humbled to serve in this top leadership role and represent fire agencies throughout California”, stated Fire Chief Hartwig. “Cal- Chiefs is a strong, organized and well managed association that strives to serve and represent its constituents on very important issues to the communities they serve. I will strive to carry on this legacy.”

Chief Hartwig recently served as CalChiefs vice-president and as a legislative director and currently serves on the state EMS committee. Hartwig has served as president of the California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association and sits on the Board of Directors of FIRESCOPE.

CalChiefs is comprised of 8 sections; administrative fire services, communications, emergency medical services, emergency management, fire mechanics, fire prevention officers, operations, and training officers.

It is the expertise and depth of knowledge and resources that affords the organization’s ability to actively engage in legislation that affects service delivery throughout our great state, as well as be actively involved in national issues.

All legislation that has an EMS, fire or life safety component, employment, labor, retirement, or fiscal impact CalChiefs reviews and/or engages. CalChiefs has a legislative advocacy firm and an active Legislative Committee that monitors, and works on, legislation key to fire service interests at the State Capitol.

CalChiefs has representation on numerous statewide commissions, boards and committees such as the Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA), 9-1-1 Advisory Board, State Training Education & Accreditation Committee (STEAC), FIREScope (CCS), State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) and others.

CalChiefs also maintain relationships with the League of Cities, Fire Districts Association of California (FDAC), California Professional Firefighters (CPF), California State Firefighters Association (CSFA), California Police Chiefs Association (CPCA), Western Fire Chiefs Association (WFCA), the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and others.

<http://colton.citynewsgroup.com/paper.php>