



NEWS



News Headlines 9/28/2018

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Keenbrook fire in Cajon Pass is 75 percent contained

By BEATRIZ E. VALENZUELA | bvalenzuela@scng.com and BRIAN ROKOS | brokos@scng.com | San Bernardino Sun
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Firefighters work the scene of the Keenbrook Fire in the Cajon Pass on Wednesday, September 26, 2018. (Photo by Stan Lim, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

The Keenbrook fire in the Cajon Pass, which prompted the closure of the 15 Freeway on Wednesday, was holding at 53 acres and was 75 percent contained Thursday, Sept. 27, the San Bernardino National Forest said.

Traffic on the 15 flowed again Thursday morning as the two right southbound lanes reopened.

The blaze began on the west side of the 15 near Kenwood Avenue just before 11 a.m. and snarled traffic for hours. Smoke and flames prompted the closure.

Late Wednesday night, most of the freeway had reopened with the exception of two southbound lanes.

Crews from Cal Fire, **San Bernardino County Fire Department** and the U.S. Forest Service managed to keep it from growing overnight. Smoke from occasional flare-ups might still be seen.

The cause of the fire was still under investigation.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2018/09/27/keenbrook-fire-in-cajon-pass-is-50-percent-contained-all-southbound-15-freeway-lanes-now-open/>

Firefighters reach 75 percent containment on Keenbrook Fire

Staff Writer, Victorville Daily Press

Posted Sep 27, 2018 at 9:34 AM, Updated at 8:27 AM



San Bernardino County firefighters from the Old Cajon hand crew battle the Keenbrook Fire near Devore on Wednesday. Eighty-five firefighters remained on scene Thursday mopping up the fire, while reaching 75 percent containment. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

Crews reached 75 percent containment of the Keenbrook Fire on Thursday, a day after the stubborn blaze first broke out near Interstate 15 in the Cajon Pass.

According to San Bernardino National Forest Service spokesman Zach Behrens, fire crews are still involved in heavy mop-up and monitoring hot spots and flare-ups.

About 85 fire personnel took part in continuing Thursday's containment efforts. Crews are expected to remain on scene overnight and into Friday as they work to douse the fire.

The blaze broke out near Kenwood Avenue and Old Cajon Boulevard just west of I-15 and quickly spread, reaching 20 acres in size in less than an hour and then expanding to 50 acres a short time later. "Updated mapping" on Thursday showed the size as 53 acres, Behrens said.

Fire personnel from various local agencies, including the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, Calfire and the National Forest Service all took part in the firefight.

The blaze snarled I-15 traffic for hours as crews fought to contain it. Officials were quick to shut down all lanes right at the start of the blaze, Caltrans spokeswoman Terri Kasinga said, and also shut down northbound Interstate 215 at Kendall in San Bernardino.

Southbound traffic was stopped at Oak Hill Road. Northbound traffic was diverted onto southbound Interstate 215 in Devore.

"One of the reasons they kept the freeway closed for so long was because there were power poles right by the freeway with fire smoldering at the top," Kasinga said. "As soon as the flames were extinguished, the lanes were reopened."

Two air tankers, one heli-tanker, two medium helicopters and an air attack plane prevented the blaze from spiraling out of control. Although humidity was low on Wednesday, winds were calm, which helped firefighters greatly.

The flames did not reach power lines, Kasinga said, but the poles will need repairs in the next few weeks.

The area of Kenwood Avenue and Cajon Boulevard in Devore is just a few miles south of where the Bluecut Fire originated in August of 2016. That blaze eventually burned more than 100 structures, more than 35,000 acres and more more than 85,000 High Desert residents were in the mandatory evacuation zone.

No injuries were reported due to the Keenbrook Fire. The cause remains under investigation.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20180927/firefighters-reach-75-percent-containment-on-keenbrook-fire>

Woman killed in head-on crash on State Route 138

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

Posted Sep 27, 2018



(Photo by Brittany Johnson)

CAJON PASS, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A woman was killed and several others were injured in a head-on crash that shut down Highway 138 for a couple of hours Thursday morning.

It happened at about 8:21 am, when officers with the California Highway Patrol responded to a traffic accident on SR-138, a mile and a half east of the I-15 freeway.

The crash involving a silver Toyota Camry and an unknown type SUV occurred on a tight curve in the roadway.

San Bernardino County Fire responded to the scene and assisted with extricating two occupants trapped inside their vehicles.

County Fire Spokesman Eric Sherwin told Victor Valley News, they had a total of four patients. Three occupants inside one vehicle and one in the other.

“Three patients were transported by ground ambulances to local hospitals and one immediate patient was flown to a trauma center,” stated Sherwin.

A Mercy Air helicopter landed at the scene and transported a critically injured patient classified as ‘immediate’ from the SUV to Loma Linda University Medical Center.

The female driver of the Camry was transported to San Bernardino Community Hospital where despite life-saving measures she was pronounced deceased. Her identity is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

A Sig-Alert was issued at about 9:42 am, after authorities shut down SR138 in both directions between the I-15 and Summit Valley Road. The roadway was reopened at about 11:00 am, per CHP logs.

The official cause of the crash is under investigation by the California Highway Patrol.

<https://www.vvng.com/woman-killed-in-head-on-crash-on-state-route-138/>

Woman killed in head-on crash on State Route 138

By Z107.7 News

Posted September 28th, 2018

Fire officials are investigating a fire in north Joshua Tree that burned a trailer yesterday. **County Fire Battalion Chief Donnie Vilorio** said firefighters from Yucca Mesa and Joshua Tree were called to a property on Foxy Flats Road just north of Aberdeen at 6 p.m. A military trailer that had been retrofitted and was being used for storage was sending up a large plume of smoke. The trailer was fully involved when firefighters arrived and the trailer and its contents are a total loss. Vilorio said the property's caretaker said the trailer was wired for electricity, but the cause of the blaze is unknown.

<http://z1077fm.com/fire-destroys-trailer-in-joshua-tree/>