



NEWS



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Public safety agencies report New Year's Eve mostly calm

Rodd Cayton, Mohave Valley Daily News

Posted: January 2, 2019



Three dogs were killed when this camper-style recreational vehicle caught fire Tuesday morning. No nearby structures were damaged, said Fire Marshal Don Gibson of the Mohave Valley Fire Department. The blaze, in the 10000 block of Pamela Street, was put out in about 21 minutes by 11 firefighters.

MOHAVE VALLEY — A relatively uneventful New Year's Eve was followed by a tragedy Tuesday morning.

Three dogs died when a camper-style recreational vehicle caught fire in the 10000 block of Pamela Street, said Fire Marshal Don Gibson of the Mohave Valley Fire Department.

No people were hurt in the blaze, he said.

Crews from the Fort Mojave Mesa, Golden Shores and **San Bernardino County fire** departments responded to the initial alarm, Gibson said, because nearby buildings were in danger of catching fire.

He said the initial crews put the fire out within 21 minutes, and no structures were damaged. The camper, Gibson said, is uninhabitable.

In Bullhead City, a fire at about 3 p.m. Monday in the 3300 block of Ridge View Avenue caused substantial damage to a residence and free-standing garage.

At about 11:15 p.m. Monday, the Bullhead City Fire Department received a call concerning a small brush fire near Country Club Drive and Chaparral Drive, Battalion Chief Craig Stephenson said.

“It could have been fireworks related, but it wasn't definite,” Stephenson said.

Otherwise, he said, the BCFD had a fairly quiet night, responding only to routine EMS calls.

Bullhead City police also reported a slow New Year's Eve. Police Sgt. Shawn Brooks said the night's activity consisted mostly of a couple of domestic violence calls.

http://www.mohavedailynews.com/news/public-safety-agencies-report-new-year-s-eve-mostly-calm/article_24008962-0e56-11e9-b5ba-9ba3f9a96c36.html

3 men ejected from vehicle during crash in Adelanto, all critically injured

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: January 1, 2019



Three men were ejected in a rollover crash on new Year's Day in Adelanto.(Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

ADELANTO, Calif. (VVNG.com) —Three men were critically injured after a rollover crash in Adelanto Tuesday afternoon, officials confirmed.

At about 1:29 p.m., on New Year’s Day, San Bernardino County Sheriff’s and **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to the area of Rancho and Verbena Roads to a report of a single-vehicle rollover crash.

Upon arrival, deputies located a silver 2003 Honda Accord in the eastbound lanes of Rancho Road with major damage.

According to Sergeant Goddard with the Victor Valley Sheriff’s Station, all three men were thrown from the crash and lying in the roadway.

“The vehicle appeared to have been traveling eastbound [just west of Verbena Road],” Sgt. Goddard said. “All three of them sustained major life-threatening injuries.”

The immediate area will be closed while the Major Accident Investigation Team responds to investigate.

Anyone with information or those who witnessed the incident are urged to contact Deputy Merrill with the Victor Valley Sheriff’s Station at (760) 552-6801.

<https://www.vvng.com/3-men-ejected-from-vehicle-during-crash-in-adelanto-all-critically-injured/>

Rented travel trailer catches fire Tuesday in Victorville

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: January 1, 2019



(Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A travel trailer rented for the new year holiday erupted into flames at the Shady Oasis Kampground on Tuesday afternoon.

It happened at about 1:20 pm, on January 1, 2019, in the 16500 block of Stoddard Wells Road in Victorville.

San Bernardino County Fire responded to reports of a vehicle fire and located the trailer that was well engulfed in flames. A white pick-up truck was still attached to the burning trailer.

The flames spread to some nearby vegetation near the front entrance to the campground. The fire sent a large plume of black smoke billowing into the sky which was visible from Adelanto.

Fire crews were able to get a handle on the brush fire and contained it to the trailer and a small amount of dry brush, saving the truck.

Deputies shutdown Stoddard Wells Road in both directions while firefighters worked on the fire.

No injuries were reported and a fire investigator was requested to the scene to determine the cause of the fire.

<https://www.vvng.com/rented-travel-trailer-catches-fire-tuesday-in-victorville/>

Pedestrian hit by vehicle New Year's Eve in Victorville airlifted

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: December 31, 2018



(Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A pedestrian struck by a vehicle New Year's Eve in Victorville was flown to a trauma center.

It happened at about 7:35 pm, in the area of Molino Drive and Sarasota Way.

San Bernardino County Fire was requested to respond for an auto versus pedestrian and located a male down near the sidewalk.

Firefighters requested County Helicopter H325 and airlifted the patient to a trauma center. The extent of his injuries was not known.

At this time it's unknown if the vehicle involved in the incident remained at the scene.

This is a developing story and information will be updated as it becomes available.

<https://www.vvng.com/pedestrian-hit-by-vehicle-new-years-eve-in-victorville-airlifted/>

Authorities investigating death of pedestrian in Victorville

Rene Ray De La Cruz, Daily Press

Posted: December 31, 2018, 1:27 pm

VICTORVILLE — A male pedestrian was killed Sunday in a three-vehicle traffic collision at the intersection of El Evado and Seneca roads.

Officials with the **San Bernardino County Fire** and Sheriff's Department were called to the scene in the 14500 block of El Evado Road just north of Seneca Road in Victorville at about 7 p.m.

Authorities at the scene found a male pedestrian lying in the roadway, suffering from extensive injuries. He was transported to a local area hospital and was later pronounced dead, Sheriff's spokeswoman Jodi Miller told the Daily Press on Monday. Author

Witnesses at the scene told Sheriff's deputies a female driver in a silver Honda travelling northbound on El Evado Road attempted to make a U-turn.

While making the U-turn turn, the Honda struck a white Ford truck traveling southbound, with the truck colliding with a gray Honda, authorities said.

All three vehicles involved in the collision remained at the scene while the Victorville Major Accident Investigation Team and authorities responded, Miller said.

Authorities are still trying to determine whether the vehicles involved in the collision were responsible for the injuries to the pedestrian, Miller said.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20181231/authorities-investigating-death-of-pedestrian-in-victorville>

Mom, Whose Police Officer Son Died, Breaks Down in Tears Over Build-A-Bear Featuring His Voice

Caitlin Keating, People.com

Posted: December 31, 2018, 12:21 pm



(Holland Lyons)

Less than three months after 21-year-old California police officer Sean Tanner died, his heartbroken parents received a touching Christmas gift that left Tanner's mother in tears.

His older sister, Brittany Garcia, posted a video on Twitter — which has since been liked by more than 352,000 people — showing the mourning mother opening up the gift.

“My little brother died in the beginning of October,” she wrote. “For Christmas I got my parents a build a bear in a police uniform (he was a cop) with his voice.”

His mom, Sarah Tanner, is seen opening up the box, but as soon as she hears Sean's voice, she begins to cry uncontrollably.

RELATED: Mom Whose Child Died Creates Custom-Made Stuffed Bears for Other Grieving Parents: 'It's a Band-Aid on Our Hearts'

According to The Daily Independent, Sean died on Oct. 8, 2018, at Ridgecrest Regional Hospital. He had always wanted to be a first responder.

"It's one of the first things he said when he began talking. Sean didn't get into dinosaurs, cars, drawing or sports," read part of his obituary. "He didn't play with Tonka trucks or animals. Literally every single toy he played with was a Rescue Hero, or some variation. Every movie was *Rescue Heroes*. He didn't have a favorite Disney movie; he had no interest. He was outside exploring, running, riding or playing with his Rescue Heroes."

At the time of his death, Sean was working as a police officer with China Lake Police Department as well as an on-call firefighter for the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

<https://people.com/human-interest/mom-late-son-police-officer-build-a-bear-voice-christmas/>

Pedestrian killed after crash on El Evado Road in Victorville

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: December 30, 2018



A pedestrian was hit by a car in Victorville Sunday night. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News Group)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A stretch of El Evado Road is closed following a 3-car crash that left a pedestrian dead Sunday night.

The crash happened on December 30, 2018, at about 7:02 p.m. at the intersection of El Evado Road and Seneca Road.

San Bernardino County Fire personnel, AMR, and Victorville deputies arrived at the location and found a man lying in the roadway.

Witnesses at the scene told Victor Valley News that the pedestrian was unconscious, had no pulse and required CPR.

Tiffany Avery was one of the first on scene and said the victim appeared to be 17-years-old. "I blocked his body with my car to check his pulse but there was nothing," she said.

The pedestrian was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced deceased, officials confirmed.

The driver of one of the involved vehicles was treated on scene by emergency medical technicians for minor injuries.

A white pickup truck and a silver Honda sustained major front-end damage. A third vehicle, a gray Honda, sustained only minor damage.

El Evado Road is currently closed between Seneca Road and Apache Drive while authorities investigate the crash.

<https://www.vvng.com/pedestrian-killed-after-crash-on-el-evado-road-in-victorville/>

Crews Respond to House Fire in San Bernardino; Man, Dog Survive

Kristina Bravo, KTLA 5 News

Posted: December 30, 2018, 1:30 pm

A man and a dog made it out safely as flames consumed a home in San Bernardino, officials said Sunday.

The blaze erupted around 9:30 p.m. Saturday at a residence in the 900 block of North Western Avenue, **San Bernardino County Fire** Battalion Chief Dan Filter said.

Firefighters arrived to flames and heavy smoke coming out of the home, Filter said. The resident had managed to exit the burning house along with his dog.

Footage from the scene shows one firefighter nearly making contact with downed electric wires.

No injuries were reported, and the cause of the fire remained under investigation.

Officials provided no further information.

<https://ktla.com/2018/12/30/crews-respond-to-house-fire-in-san-bernardino-man-dog-survive/>

Fire destroys former Siquio's Mexican restaurant building in Colton

Brian Rokos, Press Enterprise

Posted: December 28, 2018, 9:29 pm



The building formerly occupied by Siquio's Restaurant in Colton burns on Friday, Dec. 28, 2018. (Courtesy of LoudLabs)

A fire — possibly started by squatters trying to stay warm on a chilly, windy day — destroyed the unoccupied building in Colton on Friday, Dec. 28, that was home for almost 40 years to the iconic Siquio's Mexican restaurant.

Colton firefighters arrived about 4:15 p.m. to find flames and smoke pouring out of the building at 1395 E. Washington St., Capt. Tom DeBellis said. Loma Linda and **San Bernardino County firefighters** assisted. While the exterior of the building remained standing once the flames were extinguished, DeBellis said, the inside was a total loss.

The cause of the fire was under investigation.

But Colton firefighters had put out a warning fire there only last week in which wires were burned, DeBellis said, and firefighters Friday discovered mattresses inside. The building is boarded up, but homeless people have burrowed through the stucco to enter, DeBellis said.

“It’s hard to keep them out when it is cold,” he said.

An online offer to lease the 5,558-square-foot building said it was constructed in 1968 on 1.3 acres.

The restaurant featured mission-themed construction with four large bells above the Siquio’s Restaurant sign. Inside, Rita and Siquio Gutierrez served high-quality food based on recipes handed down from Siquio Gutierrez’s mother-in-law. He said in a January 2015 story about the restaurant’s closure that they purchased the building in 1976.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2018/12/28/fire-destroys-former-siquios-mexican-restaurant-building-in-colton/>

Skateboarder airlifted after being hit by van in Hesperia

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: December 28, 2018



A man riding a skateboard was hit by a van in Hesperia Friday night. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A skateboarder was flown to a trauma center after he was struck by a van in Hesperia Friday night.

The crash was reported just after 8:30 p.m. at the intersection of 7th Avenue and Main Street.

Emergency personnel arrived on scene and located an adult male, described to be in his 30’s, lying in the roadway.

The skateboarder was conscious and alert but sustained critical injuries.

A **San Bernardino County Fire** ambulance transported the man to the Hesperia Airport where he was then flown by helicopter to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton.

A passenger inside the van told Victor Valley News they were heading to their home in Oak Hills after leaving church when the crash happened.

“We were driving [westbound] on Main Street when this man on a skateboard just came out of nowhere,” the witness said.

“We had a green light and cars were coming from both directions when he crossed.”

The driver remained on scene and cooperated with officials.

Deputies with the Hesperia Sheriff’s Station are investigating the crash.

Anyone with information is asked to call (760)947-1500.

<https://www.vvng.com/skateboarder-airlifted-after-being-hit-by-van-in-hesperia/>

Children’s Fund concludes 30th Annual Celebration of Giving toy drive

Staff Writer, Inland Empire Community News

Posted: December 28, 2018



Children’s Fund, a nonprofit serving vulnerable children in San Bernardino County since 1986, has concluded the 30th Annual Celebration of Giving toy drive campaign, and the results demonstrate the generosity of our region.

Nearly 33,605 gifts and gift cards were collected, inventoried, and distributed this holiday season to foster youth and other vulnerable children throughout San Bernardino County. Year after year, more people get involved and donate more gifts than the previous year. Last years’ campaign allowed us to serve 33,000 children.

“Many children in our community go without a gift during the holiday season,” said Dr. Ciriaco “Cid” Pinedo, President & CEO of Children’s Fund. “That is just unacceptable to us. With the support of our many donors, we ensure those children are not forgotten.”

Pinedo explains 26% of the children living in San Bernardino County live in poverty. Those families use their limited resources for food, shelter, and basic needs. Often, there isn’t enough left over for holiday gifts.

Pinedo states that “a gift for a child sends them the message that they are valued and gives them the confidence to continue on with hope for the future.”

In order to collect and distribute so many gifts each year, Children’s Fund works with many volunteers and community partners. Organizations that volunteered this year in the toy warehouse include West End

Auxiliary of Children's Fund, Lamar, Union Bank, Lippert, Diversified Pacific, Public Defenders Office, Goodwill, Gateway Youth, Project Life Impact, Aspiranet, Victory Rescue Group, and many individuals.

Children's Fund also received funding from First 5 San Bernardino, Larry H. Miller Charities, Rite Aid-KidsCents, and other generous donors, plus gifts from families, businesses, clubs, and departments within the county. Spark of Love and the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department provide truckloads of gifts, and 86 agencies throughout the entire county help distribute them to the children.

"Children's Fund has made our job more joyful," stated Mindy Chavez from the Family & Collaborative Services agency at the Ontario-Montclair School District. "They created an opportunity for us to spread cheer and happiness at a time when these families are highly stressed."

Aiden, an 8 year-old boy from Ontario, agrees. His note to Children's Fund states, "Thank you for all these nice gifts. You made me feel happy. Merry Christmas."

It is not too late to get involved. Children's Fund is still collecting monetary donations to offset the \$40,000 needed for the gift cards they provided to the 1,600 foster teens in San Bernardino County. Donations can be sent to Children's Fund – 348 W. Hospitality Lane #110, San Bernardino County, CA 92408 or can be made on our secure website at www.childrensfund.org.

If you would like to receive information about how you or your organization can get involved in next year's Celebration of Giving campaign, please contact us at 909.379.0000.

<http://iecn.com/childrens-fund-concludes-30th-annual-celebration-of-giving-toy-drive/>

Firefighters now equipped to help after flames are out

Matt Anderson, Special to the Hi-Desert Star

Posted: December 28, 2018

MORONGO BASIN — A young family stands helplessly at the curb as firefighters battle a blaze that has engulfed their home. They're alive, but heartsick as they watch their life and memories go up in flames before their eyes.

As the first responders, it is firefighters who are called upon to provide comfort to such a family on the worst day of their lives. A partnership that began this July called Supplying Aid to Victims of Emergency (SAVE) allows **San Bernardino County firefighters** to help victims take the first step toward healing.

Funded by the California Fire Foundation through private donations, SAVE lets incident commanders on the scene of a disaster offer immediate financial assistance to victims who suffer a substantial property loss.

"When someone loses their home in a fire or disaster, they're sometimes only left with the clothes on their back — they don't know where to turn," said Jim Grigoli, president of San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters Local 935. "As San Bernardino County firefighters, we're in a unique position to offer a little extra assistance to victims of fire or disaster in the communities we serve."

Under the program, all county fire battalion chiefs carry \$100 Mastercard SAVE gift cards on calls that threaten significant property damage. If the property loss is judged to be greater than 25 percent of the total value, the chief is authorized to immediately issue a SAVE card to the individual or family affected by the

disaster. At a time when victims may have lost credit cards, IDs and other essentials, the SAVE card allows them to purchase medicine, a hot meal, clothing or maybe a place to stay the night.

“Our job as firefighters requires that we have a personal investment in the outcome of every call — we want to be there to provide whatever support we can for disaster victims,” said Fire Chief Mark Hartwig. “We can’t restore all that they have lost, but a SAVE card can help victims feel less alone during that first 24 hours of the difficult process of recovery.”

The SAVE program was developed in partnership with the California Fire Foundation, a nonprofit foundation dedicated to providing comfort and support to fallen firefighter families and the communities they protect.

The California Fire Foundation continues to raise money and seek additional sponsorships to bring SAVE cards to more communities and, eventually, increase the face value of the cards.

“Firefighters do what we do because of a desire to serve,” said Brian K. Rice, chair of the California Fire Foundation and a retired Sacramento Metro firefighter with more than three decades of service. “By offering SAVE cards to those who have lost so much, San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters Local 935 and San Bernardino County Fire are able to continue providing comfort and support after the fire is out.”

http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_8d5c5f3a-0ae6-11e9-a156-87975f4a5851.html