



NEWS



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FOUR HOMELESS AFTER A TWENTYNINE PALMS DUPLEX FIRE

Staff Writer, Z107.7 News

Posted: July 31st, 2018

Four people were displaced in a fire involving a duplex unit in Twentynine Palms Monday. **County Fire Battalion Chief Donnie Vloria** said firefighters from Twentynine Palms, Joshua Tree, and the Combat Center were called to the blaze in the 6600 block of Mariposa Avenue at 4:23 p.m. The fire had started in the west duplex and spread through a breezeway to the east duplex. The blaze was knocked down in about 20 minutes. Two residents in each duplex were displaced by the fire; the American Red Cross was called to assist the residents. One resident was taken to Hi-Desert Medical Center with difficulties in breathing. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

<http://z1077fm.com/four-homeless-after-a-twentynine-palms-duplex-fire/>

San Bernardino County Firefighters knock down attic fire in Victorville home

Staff Writer, VVNG

Posted: July 30, 2018



(Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Firefighters from **San Bernardino County Fire** knocked down an attic fire at a home in the City of Victorville on Monday afternoon.

At approximately 2:40 pm, 911 dispatch received multiple reports of a structure fire in the 11300 block of Topaz Street.

Medic Truck 304 arrived in eight minutes to find a moderate amount of pressurized smoke coming from the roof line and all attic vents of a single story residential home. No flames were visible upon initial arrival.

Upon full evaluation of the building, a working attic fire was found to be running the length of the home. Fire conditions and spread were complicated by strong wind conditions.

Firefighters initiated an offensive interior attack with support of truck crews on the roof above. Truck crews assisted with interior conditions by placing ventilation holes on the roof above the attack crews. These roof ventilation tactics are key and must be coordinated with crews inside the building. Once hose lines are in place truck crews can proceed to cut in order to limit fire spread and improve conditions inside.

Initial priorities on the incident were to search for any potential victims as well as suppress and limit the fire spread in the attic.

Upon entry, a primary and secondary search was conducted which was found to be all clear. Once firefighters entered the home ceiling was pulled to find the fire location and initiate fire attack.

Salvage operations were initiated to save as much of the homes content as possible. Firefighters had the fire under control in approximately 45 minutes. Prior to the arrival of County Firefighters, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Deputies were able to assist in removal of the family pets.

One truck company, four engines, one chief officer, and one investigator for a total of 17 personnel responded to the incident. No damage estimates were available at the time of release; the cause remains under investigation.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department encourages residents to have an escape plan in place in the event of a house fire. Review the plan regularly with all occupants of the home. Being prepared saves lives! More information can be found at www.sbcfire.org

<https://www.vvng.com/san-bernardino-county-firefighters-knock-down-attic-fire-in-victorville-home/>

Firefighters knock down attic fire in Victorville home

Caleb Aguilera, Daily Press

Posted: July 30, 2018, 4:15 p.m.

VICTORVILLE — Firefighters battled a blaze in the attic of a home here Monday afternoon.

San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel responded to reports of an attic fire in the 11300 block of Topaz Road in Victorville at approximately 2:40 p.m.

Upon arrival, firefighters found a “moderate amount of pressurized smoke coming from the roof line and all attic vents of a single-story residential home,” County Fire officials said in a release.

Although no flames were visible upon initial arrival, a full evaluation of the building found a a working attic fire running the full length of the home.

Battling strong winds, “firefighters initiated an offensive interior attack with support of truck crews on the roof above” who placed ventilation holes on the roof above.

Once firefighters arrived, it took them 20 minutes to get the fire under control and another 10 minutes for it to be declared “put out,” according to San Bernardino County Fire Department Public Information Officer Eric Sherwin.

A total of four engines, one truck company, a chief officer and one fire investigator for a total of 17 personnel responded to the scene.

Two firefighters suffered minor burns to their hands during suppression efforts. No injuries were reported to civilians and there was no damage estimate as of Monday afternoon. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20180730/firefighters-knock-down-attic-fire-in-victorville-home>

Local firefighters deployed across California as wildfires rage

Matthew Cabe, Daily Press

Posted: July 30, 2018, 7:41 p.m.



A view of the Cranston Fire near Idyllwild. More than 100 local firefighters from multiple agencies have been deployed to four wildfires throughout California. [Courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire Department]

More than 100 firefighters from across the county have been deployed to four wildfires currently burning in the state, including the deadly Carr Fire in Shasta County, according to **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesperson Eric Sherwin.

A total of 84 personnel are on engines, 22 are part of hand crews and about two dozen more are helping run management teams and line positions, Sherwin said Monday.

“We’re pushing toward 120 people countywide,” Sherwin told the Daily Press. “Fortunately we have no reported injuries among the deployed resources from the county.”

Included in the group are personnel from the Big Bear and Fort Irwin fire departments, as well as the Apple Valley and Barstow fire protection districts, Sherwin confirmed.

In addition to the nearly 100,000-acre Carr Fire near Redding, which has claimed six lives, local crews were deployed to the more than 13,000-acre Cranston Fire near Idyllwild, the nearly 56,700-acre Ferguson Fire near Yosemite National Park and the 365-acre Pasqual Fire in San Diego County.

According to a Los Angeles Times report, 17 wildfires were burning throughout the state on Monday. The resulting need for additional resources also necessitates a delicate balancing of personnel among out-of-area agencies that must also maintain staffing levels locally.

“At a certain point, we reach what we call drawdown, where we can’t send any more assets because it will interfere with our ability to protect our local lands,” Sherwin said. “We don’t always just say, ‘Yes’ and

sacrifice our local responsibilities. That's always carefully measured when these decisions to support out-of-region incidents are made."

To mitigate drawdown, County Fire assembles strike teams and task forces depending on available equipment and personnel, according to Sherwin. A strike team, for example, is comprised of five engines led by a team leader.

"The engines are staffed with three or four firefighters, depending on asset," Sherwin said. "One strike team will bring anywhere from 16 to 22 people to the incident. Each agency contributes a single engine so there's no drawdown to any one agency."

Strike teams are primarily divided into "Alpha" and "Charlie" teams. "Alphas" consist of structure-protection engines, while "Charlies" are composed of brush engines for access to areas that are traditionally more difficult to reach.

One "Alpha" team that includes firefighters from Big Bear, Apple Valley, Fort Irwin, Chino and Ontario was deployed to the Cranston Fire on July 25, but was retasked to the Carr Fire once containment on the former neared 60 percent.

"Typically when we deploy a strike team, you can be gone for up to 14 days," Sherwin said. "So as we're seeing with some teams, they're being declared excess at one fire so they will be reassigned to another fire.

"(Once) they're reaching the end of their 14 days, they'll typically do a crew swap. Instead of putting wear and tear on the engines, they'll shuttle a crew up to the incident that will stay for that incident. At the end of that, you've had two crews for 14 days each and engines for 28 days. At the end of that, crews typically come home."

Locally, the Apple Valley Fire Protection District (AVFPD) currently has eight firefighters battling the Carr Fire, including four who were on the Cranston Fire before reassignment, according to Battalion Chief Buddy Peratt.

"We have another unit that's covering a Cal Fire station because the Cal Fire unit is battling a fire up north," Peratt said. "So we're covering that station for them. It's actually located in the southern part of Apple Valley off Tussing Ranch Road."

AVFPD is at drawdown, according to Peratt, who said the three firefighters at the Cal Fire station in Apple Valley are available should a local incident require their services.

Meanwhile, Kenneth Drylie with the Fort Irwin Fire Department said four firefighters are battling the Carr Fire. Ditto for the Big Bear Fire Department, which also has one firefighter on the Ferguson Fire, according to spokesperson Dawn Marschinke.

Barstow Fire Protection District Chief Jamie Williams did not return a request for comment Monday.

A total of 10 states have sent resources to battle the Carr, Ferguson, Mendocino Complex, Whaleback and Cranston blazes, which have combined to burn nearly 240,000 acres, according to data collected from the Inciweb site and a Sacramento Bee report. Two deaths have been attributed to the Ferguson Fire, as well.

A post on Cal Fire's official Twitter account that listed the 10 states also noted resources are on the way from Florida, Georgia, Maine Maryland, New Jersey and Wisconsin.

"These resources will be helpful in increasing containment on these large wildfires," the post read.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20180730/local-firefighters-deployed-across-california-as-wildfires-rage>