



NEWS



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POWERFUL THUNDERSTORMS BRING FLOODING AND POWER OUTAGES

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: July 26, 2019



Picture taken looking from Joshua Tree to Twentynine Palms Thursday Morning. Photo by Jason Harvey.

An afternoon round of monsoon driven thunderstorm brought severe flooding to the Twentynine Palms area yesterday. A county swift-water rescue team was called out to perform a rescue in Wonder Valley last night. **County Fire** Battalion Chief Donnie Vilorio said a couple was driving home in Wonder Valley when they turned north onto a dirt road. Vilorio said the road was dry when they turned onto the road but when they had traveled about two miles, an 8-inch wall of water came down the road and overtook their Mustang about 9:15 p.m. Vilorio said the water came about half way up the door and stalled out their car. The couple called for help and firefighters were dispatched. By the time help arrived, the rushing water had receded, but the car was in a low spot, surrounded by water, and was inoperable. Firefighters walked the couple out. There were no injuries.

Twentynine Palms was the hardest hit by the monsoon at about 3 p.m. when a heavy deluge quickly filled the main wash through the city with deep torrents of swirling run-off. The City closed the wash gates closing Split Rock, Tamarisk, and Ocotillo Avenues. Other roads closed were Bullion Mountain road, Baghdad Highway and El Rey Avenue. A video posted on the City of Twentynine Palms Facebook page shows a few people wading on the edge of the wash at Split Rock with raging water. Vilorio reminds residents that water is very unforgiving and that neither people nor vehicles can stand up to rushing water of that force, and that the opportunity for drowning is very high.

There were also sporadic power outages throughout the Morongo Basin, from Twentynine Palms to Morongo Valley. Most of the downtown areas of Twentynine Palms and Morongo Valley lost power, causing closures of many businesses. The power outage caused the postponement of an active shooter drill aboard the Twentynine Palms Marine Base, as well as other activities on base. The City's Movie in the Park event was cancelled as well.

Since Monday 2.21 inches of rain have been recorded in Twentynine Palms.

Caltrans crews were out cleaning up mud and debris from State route 62

This morning all roads are open and most of the power has been restored.

<http://z1077fm.com/powerful-thunderstorms-bring-flooding-and-power-outages/>

FREE ADMISSION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS AT PALM SPRINGS TRAM

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: July 26, 2019



Palm Springs Tramway photo

For the second year, the Palm Springs Tram is offering free admission to first responders during the month of August. Reporter Rebecca Havelly says the deal extends to civilian employees too...

Escape the summer desert heat by cooling off at 8,500 feet elevation on Mount San Jacinto. During the entire month of August, first responders—fire, law enforcement personnel, emergency medical technicians, and civilian and support staff with valid identification will receive complimentary admission to the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. Spouses and up to four of their guests receive 25 percent off of their regular Tramway fares.

Occupations eligible for the free and discounted tram tickets:

All active fire and police personnel with up to 4 additional tickets at 25 percent off.

To participate, First Responders must present valid photo ID at Tramway's ticket counter August 1 through August 31, 2019. The free and discounted tickets are only available on the day of the visit.

First responder personnel must be present.

Government-only IDs will NOT be accepted.

Under promotional rules, the Tramway will admit sworn officers, civilian employees and support staff from all city and county fire and law enforcement organizations, plus the following:

California Highway Patrol (CHP)

County Sheriff

District Attorney

U.S. Forest Service

California Department of Forestry and other wild land fire organizations

Correctional facilities (prisons)

U.S. Marshals

ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms)

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

International Border Patrol

Immigration Naturalization Service (INS)

Homeland Security which includes: International Border Patrol, Citizenship & Immigration, Immigration

Customs Enforcement, Secret Service, FEMA, TSA

Ambulance company EMTs

Reserve or volunteer fire and law enforcement members with valid ID.

Please note that only individuals with proper photo ID specifically referencing fire or law enforcement duty will be eligible for tickets.

The following organizations are not covered by the promotion:

Retired fire and law enforcement employees
U.S. Armed Forces, including all U.S. veterans;
Private law firms
Reserve or volunteer fire and law enforcement members without valid ID;
American Red Cross;
California Conservation Corps;
Private security firms;
All employees with government-only IDs or without specific fire or law enforcement IDs.

<http://z1077fm.com/free-admission-for-first-responders-at-palm-springs-tram/>

Pontoon Crashes into Arrowhead Queen

Angela Yap, Mountain News

Posted: July 25, 2019, 9:00 AM



A pontoon boat struck the iconic Arrowhead Queen on July 20 at about 6 p.m. while lake tour passengers were on board.

The pontoon boat was pulling a water-skier eastbound near Lone Pine Island while passing the Arrowhead Queen. The water-skier fell, and the pontoon boat operator turned to his port side to retrieve the water-skier. In doing so, the pontoon boat struck the Arrowhead Queen on her starboard side.

A male passenger in the pontoon boat sustained a minor to moderate head injury. **San Bernardino County Fire** Paramedic Engine #91, Fire Boat #92 and ALA Patrol Boat staff responded. The injured male refused medical transport and went to Mountains Community Hospital via private vehicle.

Both the Arrowhead Queen and the pontoon boat sustained damages at the point of contact.

Anyone operating a boat on Lake Arrowhead must follow all the boating rules and maintain a valid ALA boater's license at all times. "I was pleased with the immediate response from Lake Safety, the Sheriff's Department and the Fire Department," said Wayne Austin, general manager of Arrowhead Lake Association. "So far it has been determined no major damage to Arrowhead Queen, and the Queen is back in business."

Wayne Austin further shared that no major injuries were reported. At press time, the sheriff's investigation is in progress.

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_ba4cd774-aeaa-11e9-88f3-fb668fa4d014.html

SB I-15 freeway flowing after non-injury crash caused delays Thursday morning

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: July 25, 2019



CAJON PASS, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Traffic on the southbound I-15 freeway is flowing once again after an early morning accident caused major delays Thursday.

At about 5:53 am dispatch received reports of an accident involving a motorhome towing an SUV on a utility trailer and a tractor-trailer.

According to the California Highway Patrol incident logs, the Winnabego's trailer was struck by a truck that pulled over to the shoulder.

The collision caused the SUV to fall from the trailer and separate from the motorhome. Debris scattered across multiple lanes of traffic.

San Bernardino County Fire responded to check on possible injuries and reported all patients declined medical transport.

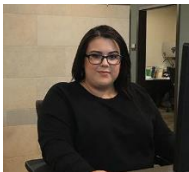
The accident has been cleared up and the roadway is clear, however, residual traffic remains backed-up through the area.

<https://www.vvng.com/sb-i-15-freeway-flowing-after-non-injury-crash-caused-delays-thursday-morning/>

Stacy Gonzalez helps residents navigate City of Fontana's Building and Safety Division

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: July 25, 2019



City of Fontana Development Services Permit Aide Stacy Gonzalez

It is your lucky day if you are assisted by City of Fontana Development Services Permit Aide Stacy Gonzalez at the front counter.

Her warm nature and can-do attitude is a breath of fresh air for anyone in her presence.

Gonzalez believes every problem has a solution, and she is eager to help Fontana residents and business owners navigate the Building and Safety Division.

"I really enjoy the interaction I get to have with my fellow residents," Gonzalez said. "As a resident of Fontana, I find myself empathizing often with my customers and I feel that truly helps strengthen my

connection with them and helps me understand their needs and wants. When I'm able to fulfill their request or answer their questions and concerns, it makes me feel like I've truly found my purpose in life, and that's to help people any way I can."

Her duties include assisting the public with information regarding residential, commercial and industrial buildings on the phone and in person at the front counter. She creates and issues permits, answer phones, schedules inspections, and provides general information about building codes and construction. Her duties include a variety of related functions such as bringing awareness to the importance of building and safety through community outreach efforts such as career days, and also providing bilingual translation in Spanish when needed. She handles all of the job responsibilities with grace.

Most of her coworkers would be surprised to know that Spanish was her first language, which she lost after learning English. Gonzalez worked very hard to relearn her native language over the years, considering she grew up in a predominantly Spanish-speaking household.

This past May, the City of Fontana celebrated Building and Safety Month, and Gonzalez took the initiative to lead and organize the activities for the celebration all the while continuing her responsibilities and assisting persons at the busy counter. Events included career days at local schools, overseeing a Fire Simulator with the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, and an open house to answer residents' home improvement questions.

"My most favorite and proudest accomplishment has been volunteering for career day at schools such as Southridge Middle School and South Tamarind Elementary School, to talk to the youth about the importance of Building and Safety," Gonzalez said.

Her coworkers said she deserved to be featured in the city's monthly employee spotlight: "Stacy is a valuable team player who leads by example and always has a smile on her face, which makes coming to work enjoyable."

Gonzalez will celebrate seven years with the City of Fontana this October. She began working part-time in the Community Services Department in 2012 and became a full-time employee with the Community Development Department in 2015.

"I had always wanted to work for the City of Fontana because of all the great things I had heard; things such as opportunities to grow, benefits, and an overall great reputation for how they treated their staff and residents. Now, I hope to someday become a coordinator or supervisor so that I can mentor my employees the way I was fortunate enough to experience and still experience today," she said.

Outside of work, Gonzalez enjoys traveling, spending time with her family (which includes her two cats Luna and Oliver), watching the latest movies, and exploring new eateries with her boyfriend.

July is a special month for Gonzalez because on July 11, 2016, she lost her grandfather whom she was extremely close to. She wants to share her spotlight with him, because he was someone truly extraordinary who exemplified hard work and dedication.

"Lastly, I want to thank my parents for taking a risk and entering this country to give their children a better life, and to my dad, who showed me hard work always pays off," she said.

For more information about the city's Building and Safety Division, or to apply for a permit or schedule an inspection, visit the Building and Safety web page.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/stacy-gonzalez-helps-residents-navigate-city-of-fontana-s-building/article_ad7b1cb4-af16-11e9-97ca-fffa4297e3b.html

Ring of protection around Wrightwood

Terri McCawley Hill, Mountaineer Progress Newspaper

Posted: July 26, 2019



A Forest Service map shows priority areas (crosshatch on perimeter & Oak Springs Valley) identified for fire fuels abatement.

Wrightwood Fire Safe Council (WFSC) has been working with California Conservation Corps (CCC), Angeles National Forest (ANF), San Bernardino National Forest (and county Forest Health (SBNF), **San Bernardino County Fire**, Cal Fire, and SB County Fire Hazard Abatement (SBCFHA) on a plan to mitigate hazardous fire fuels around the community and within the community of Oak Springs Valley (OSV) often referred to as Desert Front Rd. area).

Last week, representatives from the above agencies met with WFSC Board members to map the most critical areas for brush clearance, triage those areas, and assign the appropriate crews for the work. The endgame, if all goes according to plan, is to create a ring of defensible space nearly surrounding Wrightwood.

Through grant funds and continued working relationships with key agencies, fire hazard abatement work has already been done in the Guffy Camp area. Hikers might notice the distinctive checkerboard pattern, interrupting a fire's fuel path, on either side of Blue Ridge Road. One priority project will begin in the next month or so, clearing brush 50 feet from Wright Mountain Road, on both sides.

Residents whose property boards the forest might be asked for permission to cross, in order to access areas of fuel mitigation on the east side of town, and along the flood control properties.

Representatives from the above agencies will be in uniform and will carry identification.

Roads in OSV require clearance of 10' along the sides. Residents are working on their areas of responsibility, and the CCC will back them up with hand crews and additional on State and Federal land. Last winter, the overgrowth along the roads and on the private parcels in OSV was brought to the attention of the WFSC by a concerned resident. He said his property meets County regulations for defensible space. Still, in the event of a wildfire, he would have to shelter in place, as the neighboring properties and roads would be tinder boxes, and impassable. This was a major concern, as even the firefighters said it would be nearly impossible to go in and fight a fire, noting that Desert Front Rd., the only road into and out of the small community, would likely be overtaken by flames.

WFSC members took the concerns to SB County Fire and Cal Fire, and to SB County Code Enforcement (Fire Hazard Abatement). In the past, OSV was not subject to yearly property inspections. It was overlooked

largely because it is situated where the desert meets the mountain, and didn't fall into one category or the other until SBCFHA officially scheduled the area for the 2019 inspections.

Because the inspections and resulting warnings and citations were new and unexpected, residents of OSV have been given a grace period by the County. Andres Diaz, of SBCFHA reported, "Residents of the OSV area are being given until September (no date assigned, as yet) to clear their parcels and the area within 10 feet of the road in front of their properties." He added, "Many of these properties have never met defensible space standards, and will require a great deal of time and work." Andres said the FHA office wants to be a partner to residents, not just dispense warnings and citations.

Making these connections with agencies, on behalf of the community, is the purpose of the Fire Safe Council. Often mislabeled, "Fire Safety Council," the organization works not with fire safety, so much as toward a community safe from, and defensible against wildfire.

<http://mtprogress.net/opinionsandcolumnist/communityfeaturestories.html>

Bicyclist airlifted after crashing with a vehicle in Victorville

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: July 25, 2019



VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) – A female riding a bicycle was seriously injured when she crashed with a vehicle Thursday.

It happened at about 5:18 pm on July 25th at the intersection of Victor Street and Corta Drive in Victorville.

For unknown reasons, A female driving a Ford sedan and a female on a bicycle collided, causing the bicyclist to be thrown off the bike.

A witness told VVNG the bicyclist was bleeding from her mouth and had a possible broken ankle.

Victorville City requested a medical helicopter to airlift the patient to a trauma center. **Helicopter H325** landed at Victor Valley Global Medical Center and transported the patient to a trauma center.

The female driver of the sedan remained at the scene and cooperated with authorities.

Additional information will be updated as it becomes available.

<https://www.vvng.com/bicyclist-airlifted-after-crashing-with-a-vehicle-in-victorville/>