



NEWS



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Vista Fire threatens nearby Silverwood Lake, shuts down Highway 138

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: June 20, 2017, 5:11 PM

SUMMIT VALLEY — Access to Silverwood Lake was closed Tuesday as firefighters battled a brush fire in the area.

Named the Vista Fire, the blaze erupted in an area east of Highway 138 and south of Highway 173, near the main entrance to Silverwood Lake, at 2:37 p.m. Tuesday.

Calfire San Bernardino firefighters were reported to be “making good progress” with the blaze, holding the flames at 5 acres around 3:15 p.m., according to a tweet from the San Bernardino National Forest Service.

Calfire Public Information Officer Captain Liz Brown said the fire remained at 5 acres just after 4:30 p.m. Despite concerns about winds, Brown said firefighters were able to stop the flames from further spreading, keeping the blaze at 5 acres just after 6:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Assisted by San Bernardino National Forest Service and **San Bernardino County Fire Department** personnel, firefighters continued to combat the blaze. Brown said a “full wildland response” is currently in effect to fight the flames.

Highway 138 was closed in both directions from Old Mill Road to Highway 173 for several hours as firefighters fought the blaze, the San Bernardino National Forest Service said. All lanes were reported to be open at 8:50 p.m. Tuesday, according to a tweet from Caltrans.

Brown said most resources working to douse the blaze would be released late Tuesday evening, with an engine remaining on scene to monitor the fire throughout the night.

No threats to structures and no injuries from the blaze were reported, Brown said.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170620/vista-fire-threatens-nearby-silverwood-lake-shuts-down-highway-138>

Wildfire near Silverwood Lake stopped at five acres

Gail Wesson, Press-Enterprise

Posted: June 20, 2017, 7:21 PM

A brush fire charred five acres near Silverwood Lake and with fire resources from three agencies already in the region on the Holcomb fire, its spread was stopped Tuesday afternoon, June 20, according to a Cal Fire/San Bernardino Unit spokeswoman.

The Vista fire just east of the lake spillway and south of Highway 173 was reported at 2:36 p.m. and ground crews were assisted by air tanker and helicopter resources from the air, according to Cal Fire Capt. Liz Brown.

"They were able to hold the fire. It started to make a good run" but by 6 p.m. the forward spread had stopped, she said.

A fire engine or two would remain on scene over night. No one was injured nor structures damaged. The fire cause is under investigation.

Crews from **San Bernardino County Fire Department** and the U.S. Forest Service assisted in fighting the fire near the Lake Silverwood State Recreation Area.

<http://www.pe.com/2017/06/20/wildfire-near-silverwood-lake-stopped-at-five-acres/>

Ahead of July 4, public reminded about dangers of fireworks

Leticia Juarez, ABC7 News

Posted: June 20, 2017, 7:48PM

FONTANA (KABC) --

Southern California authorities are reminding the public about the dangers of illegal fireworks ahead of the July 4 holiday.

This winter's heavy rains led to heavier vegetation growth - and that means more fuel for fires started by fireworks, authorities said.

"Fireworks posse an additional fire danger to our communities, and extra vegetation growth this year means taller and drier grasses that have cured," said Jeff Birchfield, assistant chief with the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**. "It only takes one spark to start a potential disaster."

For one example, a fire last Friday in Riverside that threatened 15 homes may have been linked to fireworks. A nearby resident was cited \$1,000 for possessing them illegally.

Investigators are actively targeting violators and confiscating devices. Officials at an Inland Empire press conference showed a homemade firework, which is the equivalent of a destructive device that is a felony to possess.

While violators may pay hefty fines, everyone pays the price for illegal fireworks.

Because of California's environmental laws, last year San Bernardino County taxpayers alone paid \$1.5 million to have illegal fireworks disposed of out of state.

In a two-week period alone, Inland Empire officials stopped and seized 27,000 pounds of fireworks.

Medical professionals noted that fireworks can also maim, blind or inflict significant harm, especially to children.

"A lot of what we've seen are kids - kids more than adults," said Dr. John Culhane, medical director with the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center burn center. "So even if it is safe and sane make sure the kids are adequately supervised."

Several cities will be hosting fireworks displays on Independence Day as a safe alternative.

<http://abc7.com/news/warnings-issued-about-fireworks-dangers/2125035/>

Authorities urge use of ‘safe and sane’ fireworks, where permitted, for Fourth of July

San Bernardino Sun

Posted: June 20, 2017, 8:04 PM



“Wolf,” a trained K-9 in detecting explosives with the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s department, looks on during a press conference in Fontana Tuesday about the use and danger of illegal fireworks. WILL LESTER — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Illegal fireworks are displayed as Fontana officials speak about their use and dangers Tuesday in Fontana. WILL LESTER — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SAFETY FIRST

- Always use safe and sane fireworks with an adult present.
- Only use safe and sane fireworks approved with state fire marshal seal.
- Always read and follow the directions on the label.
- Use safe and sane fireworks outdoors only, away from dry grass and flammable materials.
- Do not give fireworks to young children under any circumstances. Even a sparkler burns at 1,200 degrees — hot enough to cause 3rd degree burns.
- Light safe and sane fireworks one at a time.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Never alter, take apart, attempt to fix or relight malfunctioning fireworks.
- Always have a bucket of water or fire extinguisher on hand for emergencies and dousing misfired fireworks.

Source: San Bernardino County Fire Department

Authorities discussed the dangers and consequences of using illegal fireworks and explosives to celebrate the upcoming Fourth of July holiday at a news conference Tuesday at Fire Station No. 79 in Fontana.

“San Bernardino County is a super highway for trafficking illegal and dangerous fireworks around July 4th,” Fire Marshal Mike Horton said in a news release. “In just two weeks of operations, we have stopped and seized 27,000 pounds of dangerous fireworks for entering into the county.”

Fines for possessing, selling or displaying illegal fireworks range from \$2,500 to \$10,000 in Fontana.

“There is zero tolerance for illegal fireworks,” Fontana Police Chief Bob Ramsey said. “We will have our Special Operations Team fully staffed to patrol the streets and enforce fireworks violations.”

Fontana is among a handful of cities in the county that allow the sale of “safe and sane” fireworks. Safe and sane fireworks are labeled with the State Fire Marshal seal on the outside of the packaging. Other cities are: Adelanto, Barstow, Chino, Colton, Rialto, and some areas of Grand Terrace and San Bernardino, according to county fire officials.

Fireworks are illegal in all unincorporated areas.

To anonymously report illegal fireworks, call the authorities or WeTip hotline at 800-47-ARSON.

— From staff reports

<http://www.sbsun.com/lifestyle/20170620/authorities-urge-use-of-safe-and-sane-fireworks-where-permitted-for-fourth-of-july>

Suspected Grow House Catches Fire in Victorville

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: June 19, 2017



Firefighters battled a blazed that may have been caused by an illegal grow house. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) **San Bernardino County Fire** officials responded to a fire that appeared to be a marijuana grow house in the 14500 block of Chumash Place, just west of El Evado Road.

At around 5:20 pm firefighters arrived and located heavy smoke showing from the second story of the structure, stated Fire Captain and Public Information Officer Jeremy Kern.

While fire crews were attempting to control the fire, firefighters located what appeared to be a possible grow house using “illegal electricity.”

The fire was brought under control in within 30 minutes and no one was home at the time of the blaze.

One firefighter was treated at the scene after drywall fell from the ceiling and struck him in the head. No other injuries were reported.

San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Deputies and a fire investigator were contacted to assist in the investigation. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

<http://www.vvng.com/suspected-grow-house-catches-fire-victorville/>

Car Catches Fire after Head-On Crash, 3 Injured

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: June 19, 2017



A red Challenger caught fire after being involved in a two-vehicle traffic collision Monday afternoon in Victorville. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)



A driver and passenger from the Ford SUV sustained minor injuries during the crash. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) A red Challenger caught fire following a head-on traffic collision on Luna Road Monday afternoon.

Authorities responded to the 12200 block of Luna Road and Curtis Way at around 3:25 pm and located a gray Ford Explorer and a red Challenger with major damage.

According to a witness, the red Challenger was driving westbound on Luna Road at a very “unsafe speed.”

“The driver crossed over the double yellow line and collided head-on with the SUV,” a witness told Victor Valley News.

The vehicle erupted into flames and bystanders helped pull the sole occupant from the Challenger out.

San Bernardino County Firefighters were able to quickly extinguish the vehicle fire.

The male driver of the Challenger was transported by ground ambulance to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center with non-life-threatening injuries.

The two male occupants of the Ford were evaluated at the scene but declined medical transport.

The official cause of the crash is currently under investigation by the Victorville Sheriff's Department.

<http://www.vvng.com/camaro-catches-fire-head-crash-3-injured/>

Firefighter is injured during incident in which truck crashes into house in Fontana

Fontana Herald News

Posted: June 20, 2017, 10:21 AM



A truck crashed into the side of a residence in southern Fontana on June 18. (Contributed photo by Mike Myers)

A San Bernardino County firefighter was injured during an incident in which a truck crashed into a house in southern Fontana in the early morning hours of June 18.

The incident occurred at about 1:50 a.m. in the 14700 block of Longview Drive in the Southridge area.

Police were investigating a report of a domestic dispute, and when the Fire Department arrived to assist, a driver of a truck ran over the firefighter and then smashed into the side of the residence, according to reports.

The firefighter and the driver were both transported to a hospital, but their condition was unknown.

No other information was available.

http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/firefighter-is-injured-during-incident-in-which-truck-crashes-into/article_e5d20036-55dc-11e7-9ecf-d721d00f6a0b.html

Local residents enjoy Love Fontana events

Fontana Herald News

Posted: June 20, 2017 12:19 PM



Pictured here at the Love Fontana event are Daisy Welsh, Rich Guerrero, Angela Stover, John Roberts, Daniel Vasquez, Autumn Hubbard, Jason Delair and John Marini. (Contributed photo by Fontana Police Officers Association)

Thanks to the efforts of many volunteers, the local community was brightened by the Love Fontana events that occurred on June 17.

A cleanup project took place in the morning and a community celebration with free food and games was held in the evening, under the direction of Calvary Chapel Summit Church.

“The purpose of Love Fontana is to serve as many local residents as possible, to show our love, get to know them, and bring a sense of hope and pride to the community,” said Pastor Danny Vasquez of Calvary Chapel Summit Church.

The morning activity was called “Hands to the Plow – Making a Difference Community Project.”

Working together, the Fontana Public Works Department and volunteers from the Fontana Police Explorers, FLIP and local high school football teams cleared weeds, cleaned trash and laid mulch along one and a half miles of the Pacific Electric Walking Trail near Seville Park.

The volunteers were inspired by a message from Greg Townsend Sr., a former pro football player with the Los Angeles Raiders. He talked about his NFL career and provided words of encouragement to the players from Summit, Kaiser, and Fontana A.B. Miller high schools.

Vasquez explained that the purpose of Love Fontana is to build pride and respect for the community by bringing together the youth from across the local area.

“It’s about bringing hope, pride, and a sense of ownership to our community,” he said. “We show the youth that there is something greater than self and that by working together we can actually make a difference.”

THE SECOND PART of Love Fontana was the outreach event that night at Jack Bulik Park, which had the feel of a town picnic. Attendees were given hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks, snow cones and popcorn at no cost.

There were bounce houses, organized games, entertainment, complimentary haircuts, and booths with helpful resource information for the whole family.

Cooking the food on their mobile barbecues were the Fontana Police Officers Association (POA), Fontana Police Benefits Association (PBA), which represents police dispatchers and animal control, Fontana Police Management Association (PMA) and Local 935 of the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

Fontana POA President Rich Guerrero said: "All the public safety associations in Fontana work together to ensure that Fontana is a safe place to live, work and play. This event was particularly fun because at Love Fontana we got to work together to directly connect to the community."

"This is another great Fontana event," said John Marini from Firefighters Local 935. "Fontana is a city where the sense of community really does exist. We're honored to partner with the Fontana POA, PBA, PMA and Calvary Church for this event."

Autumn Hubbard the President of the Police Benefits Association said, "We were also honored to serve alongside the POA, PMA, Firefighters and Calvary Chapel to connect to our community at the Love Fontana."

Over the course of the evening, there were about 750 people who enjoyed the evening of just plain relaxing and fun.

"It was such an amazing opportunity to have the time to spend with the people of our community," said Captain Angela Stover, who was there representing the PMA. "It's about people sharing a meal and engaging with our community in trust-building communication."

Guerrero summed it up by saying: "Love Fontana gives public safety professionals the chance to talk to people and let them see that we have families too and that we care deeply about the people we are sworn to serve. It is about making a difference, about making Fontana a better place to live, work and play."

http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/local-residents-enjoy-love-fontana-events/article_7423f3e8-55ed-11e7-a6f1-3baf69493c63.html

Highland man suspected in Mentone stabbing is arrested

Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: June 20, 2017, 9:26 AM

MENTONE >> Investigators tracked down and arrested a Highland man suspected of stabbing another man in Mentone on Monday, San Bernardino County sheriff's officials said.

Juan Hernandez, 42, was booked into the Central Detention Center in San Bernardino on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon and being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition, according to a sheriff's news release.

Yucaipa sheriff's station deputies and **San Bernardino County Fire Department** personnel were called to the area of Capri and Turquoise avenues just after 11 a.m. Monday for a stabbing. The attacker got away.

Paramedics took the injured 28-year-old victim to Loma Linda University Medical Center. His condition was not released.

Investigators detained several people, which led them to serve a search warrant at a home on Turquoise Avenue, according to sheriff's and booking information.

"Deputies found a loaded firearm, additional ammunition and drug paraphernalia inside the residence," the news release said.

Investigators determined the firearm and ammunition belonged to Hernandez, officials said. As a convicted felon, he is prohibited from possessing either.

Sheriff's officials asked anyone with information about this incident to contact detectives at 909-918-2305. Anonymous tips can be left through the WeTip hotline at 800-78-CRIME (782-7463) or www.wetip.com.

<http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/general-news/20170620/highland-man-suspected-in-mentone-stabbing-is-arrested>

Fire destroys three homes upriver

John Gutekunst Parker Pioneer

Posted: June 20, 2017



Three homes in Lakeside 2 were destroyed in a fire June 7. No one was injured. The fire was believed to have started in a garage. Firefighter responded to the same location the following evening when the fire flared up again.

A structure fire June 7 in Lakeside 2 upriver from Parker destroyed three homes but caused no injuries. Buckskin Fire Chief Chris Chambers said two of the homes were occupied, but the occupants were all able to get out safely.

Firefighters responded to the same location the following evening when the fire flared up again.

The Buckskin Fire Department received the call at 4:53 p.m. about a fire in the 31000 block of Horizon Blvd. They found three structures, a house and two mobile homes, were on fire.

"The problem was the structures were so close together," Chambers said.

Chambers said the fire appears to have started in a garage. He said the cause of the fire is still under investigation. He added he had no estimates of the total cost of the damages.

By 9 p.m., the BFD began sending their engines back to the station. Firefighters stayed on scene with a water tender until midnight.

In addition to BFD, other departments that responded included the Parker, Colorado River Indian Tribes and **San Bernardino County Fire Departments**, the La Paz County Sheriff's Office, and an ambulance from American Medical Response.

The following evening, the fire flared up again under the remains of an awning where a boat had burned up. Chambers said they did not know what caused the fire to flare up again. Fire crews spent three hours fighting that blaze.

Chambers thanked the residents who brought water, sports drinks and pizza for the firefighters.

http://www.parkerpioneer.net/news/article_6b528d3a-5604-11e7-95f8-ab65769a48d8.html

UPDATE: Holcomb Fire held at 1,200 acres overnight; containment still at 10 percent

Daily Press

Posted: June 21, 2017, 7:45 AM



U.S. Forest Service firefighters watch the Holcomb fire near Big Bear as they refill a water tank on Tuesday June 20, 2017. The fire was last reported at 950 acres and burning to the northeast. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

BIG BEAR — Fire crews managed to hold the Holcomb Fire at 1,200 acres overnight, but containment remains at 10 percent.

San Bernardino National Forest Service officials announced that the stubborn wildfire in the San Bernardino Mountains southeast of Lucerne Valley had little growth overnight after extending roughly 250 acres over the course of the day Tuesday.

More than 1,000 firefighters have been assigned to help battle the blaze, which was first reported at 3:05 p.m. in the Holcomb Valley area, northeast of Big Bear, with 66 engines, 24 crews, nine helicopters, four air tankers and six bulldozers assisting.

Emergency personnel from the Big Bear Fire Department, the Big Bear Fire Authority, Cal Fire San Bernardino, San Bernardino National Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** have all responded to the area.

Mandatory evacuations were ordered Tuesday afternoon for homes northeast of Holcomb Valley Road and Highway 18, but the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Big Bear Station announced they had been lifted at 5:50 p.m. Residents, however, were advised to remain on alert "in the event of another wind shift."

In addition, rolling blackouts will be taking place in the Big Bear Valley area due to the fire, according to the Barstow Sheriff's Station, with power expected to be fully restored in the next 24 to 48 hours.

Firefighters have managed to slow the fire's rate of spread, but the excessive heat has hampered their efforts, according to U.S. Forest Service fire information officer Lee Beyer.

"This extended heat wave is not helping," Beyer told the Daily Press Tuesday. "With this high pressure system, we've had day over day of high temperatures with low humidity. It just makes those fuels — the trees, the brush — drier and they burn quicker, faster and hotter."

According to the InciWeb's "Holcomb Fire" website, the Southern California Interagency Incident Management Team 2 — comprised of fire and support personnel from various fire agencies throughout the state — took over command of the blaze Tuesday. Beyer said this commonly occurs during large wildfires.

“The Incident Management Team basically has everyone on that we need to handle the incident — from providing meals and water to coordinating commands, down to the operational level,” Beyer said.

Holcomb Fire spread rapidly Monday afternoon, with the blaze burning through 200 acres by 4 p.m., according to a tweet from the San Bernardino National Forest Service.

By Monday night, the fire had grown to approximately 850 acres with zero containment, according to San Bernardino National Forest Service spokeswoman Lyn Sieliet.

The Doble Trail and Tanglewood Group campgrounds remain closed, according to officials, along with the Pacific Crest Trail west of Highway 18, to Van Dusen Road, in the fire area.

The Sheriff’s Department announced that Holcomb Valley Road was closed from Highway 18 northwest to the end of the road. Highway 18 from Delta Avenue to the Mitsubishi Cement Plant, south of Lucerne Valley, was also closed, according to Sieliet. Highway 18 has been reopened between Paradise Road and Baldwin Lake Road.

The duration of the closures remains unknown, with Beyer mentioning the road could remain closed for “a few more days.”

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) issued a smoke advisory for the High Desert region on Monday evening due to smoke from the blaze moving toward the region.

Air quality may reach unhealthy levels due to the smoke, and residents were urged to avoid any vigorous outdoor or indoor exertion and take other precautions. The advisory will remain in effect until further notice, MDAQMD said.

Information will be updated on the Holcomb Fire on the Inciweb website at inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5256/.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170621/update-holcomb-fire-held-at-1200-acres-overnight-containment-still-at-10-percent>