



NEWS



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Family walking near aqueduct discover body floating Sunday in Victorville

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: September 9, 2018



A San Bernardino County firefighter pulled the body from the water. (Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A family walking their dogs along the California Aqueduct in Victorville Sunday evening discovered a body floating in the water.

The couple, Bonnie and Lynn Klockenteger and their son were finishing up their daily walk and heading back to their truck when they spotted something in the water.

“I thought it was a mannequin at first, and as the body got closer to us, I knew it was a person,” stated the couple’s adult son.

San Bernardino County Fire and Victorville Sheriff’s Deputies responded to the call at approximately 6:08 p.m. just east of Highway 395 and south of Eucalyptus Street.

Firefighters were able to recover the man’s body a short time later.

“We have been walking along this aqueduct of over 30 years, and we’ve seen some pretty crazy things floating past us, including a pig,” stated the couple. “We never imagined seeing a body floating.”

The sheriff’s helicopter was requested to search the area for any vehicles or additional victims.

Authorities are investigating to determine who the man is, and how he ended up in the aqueduct.

The location of where the body was pulled out was just feet away from a memorial site in remembrance of a man who died trying to pull his dog out of the aqueduct on Valentine’s Day 2017.

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

<https://www.vvng.com/family-walking-near-aqueduct-discover-body-floating-sunday-in-victorville/>

Motorcyclist airlifted after motorcycle crash on northbound 15 freeway

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: September 8, 2018

MOUNTAIN PASS, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A motorcyclist critically injured in a freeway accident was airlifted to a trauma center Saturday morning.

At about 9:26 am, dispatch received initial reports of a motorcycle down on the northbound I-15 freeway, north of Bailey Road near Mountain Pass.

According to the California Highway Patrol incident logs, the rider and bike were in the no. 2 and no. 3 lanes after the crash. Multiple vehicles stopped and assisted with directing traffic around the accident scene.

The first unit from **San Bernardino County fire** Medic Ambulance 53 arrived on scene in 32 minutes and reported 1 immediate patient.

“Due to the nature of injuries, an air ambulance was requested,” stated County Fire Captain Jeff Allen.

CHP officers temporarily shut down the northbound side for approximately 20 minutes to allow the arriving Mercy Air helicopter to land at the scene. The rider was airlifted to University Medical Center Las Vegas with unknown injuries.

“This is a remote area of the county and often times when incidents occur we can have extended response times”. Station 53 is located in Baker and actually covers close to 4,000 square miles including close to 100 miles of the I-15 from Harvard to the Nevada Stateline,” stated Allen.

No other injuries were reported and the cause of the accident is under investigation by the California Highway Patrol.

<https://www.vvng.com/motorcyclist-airlifted-after-motorcycle-crash-on-northbound-15-freeway/>

Firefighters knockdown garage fire before it spreads to Victorville home

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: September 8, 2018



VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — **San Bernardino County** Firefighters fought aggressively to save a Victorville home after the garage caught fire Friday evening.

At about 7:15 pm, on September 7, 2018, dispatch received numerous 911 calls reporting a house fire in the 13600 block of Mica Avenue.

County Fire Captain Jeff Allen told Victor Valley News, “the first unit on scene, Medic Engine 313 arrived on scene in six minutes and reported a fire in a two-story single family dwelling with the majority of fire located in the garage and extending into the living quarters of the residence.”

Arriving firefighters immediately went into the attack mode and secured a water supply from a nearby water hydrant.

Firefighters climbed to the roof of the house and assisted with cutting holes into the roof to help release some of the smoke, a term referred to as vertical ventilation.

A quick primary search of the house was done to ensure there were no occupants inside and it was determined all occupants had self-evacuated prior to firefighters arriving.

According to Allen, the home sustained some smoke damage, however, firefighters were successful in preventing the fire from spreading into the house.

San Bernardino County Fire responded with 3 paramedic fire engines, 1 aerial ladder truck, 1 battalion chief and 1 fire investigator for a total of 17 personnel.

“Under county fires regional service model the aerial ladder truck actually responded from station 304 in the city of Hesperia. Truck 304 is the closest ladder truck to many areas in the south side of the city Victorville,” stated Allen.

No injuries were reported by residents of the home or firefighters. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

<https://www.vvng.com/firefighters-knockdown-garage-fire-before-its-spreads-to-victorville-home/>

Victorville Fire Department finalizes dispatch services contract

Shea Johnson, Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: September 7, 2018, 3:42 p.m.



Earlier this week, Victorville City Council unanimously approved a five-year agreement with Consolidated Fire Agencies (CONFIRE) to provide emergency dispatch services for the underway City Fire Department. [Photo courtesy of city of Victorville]

VICTORVILLE — The underway City Fire Department’s emergency dispatch services will be handled by the same joint powers authority used by the outgoing **San Bernardino County Fire Protection District**.

Earlier this week, the City Council unanimously approved a five-year agreement with Consolidated Fire Agencies (CONFIRE), which has provided such services for the city during the last 10 years through the city's contract with County Fire.

City approval followed the CONFIRE administrative board's 4-2 green light on Aug. 28, with only the county and the city of Redlands, two member agencies, voting against. Messages left Friday seeking comment from spokespersons for both were not returned.

Victorville immediately becomes CONFIRE's largest contract agency with the second-highest call volume, only behind County Fire.

Now as city officials continue to embark on re-establishing a city-run fire department that existed prior to 2008, it has a deal in place with a familiar agency.

"The importance of going with CONFIRE was namely from a standpoint of expediency," Deputy City Manager George Harris II said during Tuesday's Council meeting, describing the transition as a relatively "turn-key" operation where only who receives the bill will have changed.

In a statement Thursday, city officials said that emergency dispatch services were long viewed as a "critical step" in re-launching its fire department.

The cost to the city will be fluid and based on its share of all billable calls to CONFIRE. The agency also services locally the cities of Hesperia and Adelanto — by way of their County Fire contract — and the town of Apple Valley.

Victorville officials said the city's call history represents roughly 15.47 percent of the billable calls to CONFIRE, but that a recently approved contract with Chino Valley Fire District could trim that share to 9.5 percent.

Using both new contracts as a launch point, city staff estimated Victorville's cost for the fiscal year will be a little more than \$1 million, including an agreed-upon 10 percent premium. Because the CONFIRE contract isn't effective until March 30, when the Victorville City Fire Department is expected to go live, the prorated amount for the fiscal year is \$233,320, according to a city staff report.

The city may also apply before March 30, 2020, to join the CONFIRE joint powers authority, providing it with voting rights, equity ownership of JPA assets, no need to seek future contract extensions, and access to information technology pooled contracts and services, the staff report showed.

Application costs are estimated between \$575,000 and \$825,000 and can be paid over several years. In the statement Thursday, city officials cited another benefit to retaining CONFIRE beyond the familiarity factor: Priority dispatching.

"We believe we will provide better service to our community and better dedicate our resources through a priority dispatch model," Victorville Fire Chief Greg Benson said in the statement. "We will dispatch the appropriate medical resources based on the severity of the medical emergency."

Meanwhile, the path toward the deal was uncertain at times. In April, city officials remarkably suggested that the county was seeking to interfere with their ability to contract with the joint powers authority. Both County Fire and County Supervisor James Ramos, who sits on the CONFIRE administrative board, denied doing so.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20180907/victorville-fire-department-finalizes-dispatch-services-contract>

Compression session: County Fire rolls out ‘Hands-Only CPR’ program

Paola Baker, Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: September 7, 2018, 9:54 a.m.



San Bernardino County firefighters teach Daily Press staff the new “Hands-Only CPR” techniques in Victorville on Wednesday. This type of CPR consists of only two steps: call 911 as soon as possible and push hard and fast in the center of the person’s chest. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

VICTORVILLE — Local first responders are rolling out an ambitious campaign to teach the basics of CPR to the public.

Cardiac arrests remain one of the country’s leading causes of death, according to the American Heart Association (AHA), which estimates that approximately 475,000 Americans die from cardiac arrest each year.

Of these deaths, over 350,000 occur outside of a hospital. This has prompted the AHA to encourage a public awareness campaign to instruct more people on how to effectively perform the most basic form of CPR — chest compressions.

Known as “Hands-Only CPR,” this type of CPR consists of only two steps: call 911 as soon as possible and push hard and fast in the center of the person’s chest.

“It’s been shown to be as effective, or even more so, than conventional CPR,” **San Bernardino County Fire Engineer Lee Martin** said.

Martin, along with other County Fire members, hosted a demonstration at the Daily Press offices Wednesday morning where they showed staff the best ways to perform CPR, including hand placement, the best tempo-to-time compressions and other information on cardiac arrest.

“Hands-Only CPR” encourages continuous chest compressions at a beat of 100 to 120 beats per minute for at least two minutes.

“You can use certain songs to keep the tempo. ‘Stayin’ Alive’ is a good one to remember,” Cpt. Dave Burkart said.

“Hands-Only CPR” is being used in conjunction with PulsePoint Respond, a new app that’s integrated with the 911 dispatch system and alerts users on cardiac arrests in their area, along with the location of the closest available defibrillator.

“The app will alert users on a 911 call regarding a cardiac arrest nearby,” Burkart said. “That way, anyone trained in CPR can respond and provide CPR until we arrive to the scene.”

“Hands-Only CPR” has already proven to be a success in other regions. County Fire paramedic/engineer Sergio Mora said survival rates increased in Phoenix after the city’s fire department rolled out the program.

“It can actually be a lot more effective than regular CPR,” Mora said. “Studies have shown that keeping chest compressions going, instead of stopping to give a breath, actually encourages new blood flow from cardiac arrest, which ultimately helps save lives.”

CPR, especially if performed immediately after a cardiac arrest, can double or triple a victim’s chance of survival, according to the AHA — one clear aim in rolling out the campaign to more of the public.

“This basically ensures that more people will feel more confident to step up and provide CPR in those crucial minutes until we arrive,” Burkart said. “The more people know CPR, the more lives are saved. That’s the goal.”

County Fire is hosting “Hands-Only CPR” demos at various local organizations. Anyone interested in a demo or learning more about the program should contact Engineer Lee Martin at 760-981-8164 or LMartin@sbcfire.org.

Visit PulsePoint.org for more information on the PulsePoint Respond App, and visit heart.org/handsonlycpr to master the “Hands-Only CPR” method.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20180907/compression-session-county-fire-rolls-out-hands-only-cpr-program>

EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

Two points on taxes

Bill Tuck, Jr. Phelan, Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: September 10, 2018, 12:01 a.m.

San Bernardino County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig is asking us unincorporated property owners to shell out \$157.26 per year per parcel with a 3 percent increase yearly. One year's revenue from this parcel fee would generate \$26.9 million. Right now the chief says they have a shortfall of \$23.9. I personally will send in my ballot saying no to this parcel tax. We need 25 percent of property owners to do that or it will automatically happen.

Expect many more like this.

Phelan Pinon Hills set the standard by raising water rates for high and medium users to around 100 percent, with basically no protest from the community. We went from \$15 million in the green to around \$22 million in the red (by being silent the community said OK! No problem). The same thing happened in Hesperia recently.

The word is out. Tax all you want, people don't care.

Recently I drove down Green Tree Boulevard in Victorville over to Hesperia Road to Main Street in Hesperia and on to Phelan Road (the worst of them all). All those roads were in horrible condition. Why? There is money to keep these major highways in good condition. These community leaders don't want you rejecting the new gas tax. There is a fair chance it could stay in place. These mostly so-called Republican party back stabbers want the money. This all started out with two ballot initiatives. One was quickly removed. It would have restored the original gas tax money stolen by the legislature and put in the General Fund. Both parties are garbage, as phony as an eight-day clock. What a sick mess!

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20180910/your-letters-9-10-2018>

Better fire service not guaranteed

Donna Davies Yucca Valley, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: September 7, 2018, 3:32 p.m.

This letter is in response to Steve Ball's letter and the "Our View" column. Yucca Valley citizens also need to be very concerned and informed about the **San Bernardino County fire** tax proposal that was approved by the county board of supervisors! Yucca Valley property owners pay one of the highest percentages for fire protection tax in the county — 22 percent of your property taxes. This additional \$157 yearly increase, according to Chief Hartwig, will increase 3 percent annually into infinity. It will go into effect automatically unless 25 percent of those affected formally protest! If that happens, it will go on the ballot. If 50 percent or more protest, the fire tax increase dies. Property owners will be receiving information (as well as the protest procedure) in the mail by mid-September.

San Bernardino County is in a financial mess. There is no question that SBC Fire needs more money. Our station in Yucca Valley needs rebuilding. More EMS/paramedic support is needed as our town increases the number of visitors and residents each year. According to Chief Hartwig, even with the tax increase, SBC Fire will continue to ask the board of supervisors for significant additional dollars from the general fund. Simply

put, this \$157 increase is not enough. Plus, Chief Hartwig made it clear in the Yucca Valley meeting there is no guarantee any of the additional revenue generated will go to improve services in Yucca Valley!

Whenever more revenue is needed, the burden falls on the taxpayer. I'm willing to bet the county supervisors will offset money received from this tax by deducting it from SBC Fire's allocation in the general fund. Sadly, the result will be no improvement in service — just my opinion!

Yucca Valley property owners, please read the information you will be sent, ask questions and decide whether to accept this increase or protest it.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/article_e4759940-b2ed-11e8-8122-0b4c23136127.html

Bad timing for the fire department

Chuck Miller Yucca Valley, Hi-Desert Start

Posted: September 7, 2018, 3:29 p.m.

Firstly, I totally respect all firefighters. However, at the Aug. 8 meeting in the Cholla Room in Yucca Valley, which I attended, comment cards were passed out. I made the comment as follows, and it was never read at all. Soon all Yucca Valley property owners will be charged \$700 a year on their property tax bill. As well, there will be a \$100 charge or thereabouts per month on their water bills. That's a total of \$1,900 very soon now per property owner. Then, there is the \$2,000 fee or thereabouts for the actual hook-up to the sewer system, so that's around a total of \$3,900 very soon now per property owner. Now **the San Bernardino County fire** chief wants to assess us a yearly fee of \$157.26 and give not much of anything more than we already have here in Yucca Valley. We do not need a new fire station, and the fire station up on the mesa does not need to be closed and moved downtown here as the fire chief described during his presentation.

Adding the proposed \$157.26 yearly to what we already pay for fire service in Yucca Valley could well put low-income, retired older people and widows right out of their homes.

It is hoped that many property owners in Yucca Valley will come to the protest meeting to be held on Oct. 16 and that this matter can and will be put to a vote of the people of Yucca Valley.

This sort of thing was tried several years ago here in Yucca Valley and was soundly defeated. The sewer matter is mandated, and the property owners have to abide by that. Hopefully, this extra fire tax thing will be voted down, and many people will be able to remain in their homes here in Yucca Valley.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/article_6bbebcfc-b2ed-11e8-be52-1f2204c264c3.html