



NEWS



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Alleged arsonist admits to setting at least 8 fires in Inland Empire

Rob McMillan, ABC 7 News

Posted: August 25, 2017, 11:52 AM

HIGHLAND, Calif. (KABC) --

A San Bernardino man has confessed to starting at least eight fires in the Inland Empire. Now, prosecutors say they've got enough evidence to convict him and put him behind bars.

Peter Granados has admitted to intentionally setting eight fires in the San Bernardino and Highland areas. The largest one he is accused of setting was the so-called Mart Fire, which burned out of control in the city of Highland on June 27.

Authorities said Granados started the fire in a ditch, then the blaze took off into the foothills along Highway 330.

The blaze charred nearly 700 acres and forced evacuations, but fortunately, no homes were destroyed.

Granados, 38, is the second alleged arsonist arrested in the area in the past three weeks. Earlier in August, a man who was once part of a fire department explorer program was charged with multiple counts of arson in connection with eight different fires in San Bernardino County.

"This is a criminal who willfully started a fire with the intention of creating destruction or bodily harm. We take that personally," said **San Bernardino County Fire Department** Chief Mark Hartwig.

Authorities are calling Granados the bicycle arsonist, because of his mode of transportation. Investigators said they have surveillance video of him actually setting fires.

"Several sources for the video surveillance were obtained by businesses and by some secluded cameras we placed in strategic locations to observe the foothill areas," said Fire Marshal Mike Horton.

San Bernardino County District Attorney Mike Ramos described Granados as a dangerous person.

"When I call him a criminal, this person is a criminal. He has a prior of a kidnap and a prior of a robbery. He served 10 years in state prison, and then he's out here committing these crimes," Ramos said.

Ramos said if convicted, Granados could get another 15 years in state prison.

"As I've said before and I'm going to say it again. You want to commit arson in this county, San Bernardino County, we're going to hold you responsible," Ramos said.

Authorities said Granados did not use a complex ignition device - just a lighter.

<http://abc7.com/alleged-arsonist-admits-to-setting-at-least-8-fires-in-ie/2341337/>

Driver unconscious after rollover crash on highway 395 in Victorville

Highway 395 is closed between Bear Valley Road and Main Street

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: August 25, 2017



VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) A single vehicle rollover prompted officials to shut down a busy stretch of US Highway 395 Friday afternoon.

At about 12:54 p.m., 911 dispatch received reports of a rollover crash in the northbound lanes of US-395 south of Eucalyptus Road.

When deputies arrived they located a champagne colored Ford Focus on its roof with major damage and one party trapped inside.

Kristian Loeza witnessed the accident and told Victor Valley News the vehicle was driving erratically on the 15 freeway prior to exiting onto 395.

As Loeza was driving northbound on US-395 he looked in his rear view mirror and saw the vehicle spin out and roll over about 7 times he said.

Loeza said he attempted to perform CPR on the driver who was pinned inside the vehicle. "He was unresponsive, no heartbeat, no pulse and wasn't breathing. The ambulance and fire department came and took him away," he said.

The male driver was rushed to Desert Valley Hospital and later airlifted to an out of area trauma center. His condition remains unknown as of 3:00 pm Friday.

Highway 395 remains closed between Main Street and Bear Valley Road. Deputy J. Dean said they expect to have the roadway closed for approximately two hours.

No other injuries were reported as a result of the crash.

The cause of the collision remains under investigation. Information will be updated as it becomes available.

<http://www.vvng.com/driver-unconscious-rollover-crash-highway-395-victorville/>

Tractor trailer hauling eggs catches fire on Rancho Cucamonga freeway onramp

Beatriz E. Valenzuela, Daily Bulletin

Posted: August 26, 2017, 5:02 PM



A tractor-trailer hauling eggs caught fire Saturday afternoon on the 15 Freeway Base Line onramp in Rancho Cucamonga, California Highway Patrol officials said. Courtesy of Kevin Curtis

Crews are working to clean up a large amount of burnt eggs from a freeway onramp in Rancho Cucamonga on Saturday afternoon after the tractor trailer hauling the items caught fire, California Highway Patrol officials said.

Just before 2:30 p.m., the tractor trailer driver pulled over at the bottom of the Base Line onramp onto the northbound 15 Freeway when he noticed his brakes were on fire, according to a CHP dispatcher. It appears the driver was able to safely get out of the burning vehicle, she said.

The fire quickly spread to the trailer and engulfed more than half of the large vehicle, the dispatcher said.

San Bernardino County fire personnel extinguished the fire, but about 2,000 pounds of eggs had spilled and needed to be cleaned up, reports indicated.

As of 4:30 p.m., one of the left-turn onramp lanes had been closed for the clean up, she said.

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/2017/08/26/tractor-trailer-hauling-eggs-catches-fire-on-rancho-cucamonga-freeway-onramp/>

Tips To Avoid Getting Lost In The Desert

Z107.7 News

Posted: August 26, 2017

Every year, first responders are called in to rescue people who become lost while hiking in the desert. Managing editor Tami Roleff offers these tips on how to avoid getting lost in the desert—or anywhere else...

It's not uncommon for people to become lost or turned around in Joshua Tree National Park. Thankfully, most find their way out, or are rescued by searchers. First of all, if you're going in the desert, let someone know beforehand where you're going, when you'll be back, and give them your cell phone number. **County Fire** Battalion Chief Mike Snow offered these tips to avoid getting lost. He urged visitors and hikers to be familiar with the areas where they are going. Many maps can be preloaded onto your smart phone and used even in places where there is no cell service. Download the map before you leave home. Snow also said hikers could use a GPS to track your route and mark your way points. Some phones also have GPS apps. And another tip: look behind you occasionally so you can recognize the trail when you return.

<http://z1077fm.com/tips-to-avoid-getting-lost-in-the-desert-3/>

Authorities investigating fatal crash near intersection of La Paz Drive and Avalon Avenue

Daily Press

Posted: August 28, 2017, 8:01 AM

VICTORVILLE — Authorities continue to investigate a fatal crash that occurred near the intersection of La Paz Drive and Avalon Avenue Sunday morning.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Victorville Station deputies and **County Fire** personnel responded to reports of a two-vehicle collision at approximately 4:49 a.m. in the area.

When they arrived on scene deputies learned that the driver of a Honda Accord, identified as Guillermo Barragan, 25, of Victorville, has been traveling north on La Paz when he lost control of the vehicle just beyond Avalon Avenue, authorities said.

“The Honda struck an unoccupied Ford Fusion parked on La Paz Drive,” sheriff's officials said in a statement. “The collision caused the parked Ford to be pushed approximately 100 feet into the yard of a residence.”

Barragan was the lone occupant in the Honda and was pronounced dead at the scene, according to authorities.

The Sheriff's Major Accident Investigation Team (MAIT) was requested to help determine the cause of the crash and La Paz Drive was closed for nearly six hours while they investigated the scene.

Anyone with information regarding the crash is urged to contact Deputy Adam Hylin at the Victorville Sheriff's Station at 760-241-2911 or Deputy Michael Cashion at the Apple Valley Sheriff's Station at 760-240-7400. Callers wishing to remain anonymous may call the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-782-7463 or visit www.wetip.com.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170828/authorities-investigating-fatal-crash-near-intersection-of-la-paz-drive-and-avalon-avenue>