



# NEWS



## News Headlines 11/24-28/2016

- Structure Fire heavily damages Victorville home
- Fire Erupts in Victorville Home Previously Struck By Car
- Vehicle plunges into lake at Big Bear Dam
- Two motor homes on fire in Joshua Tree (UPDATE)
- Suspicious fires are causing big concerns at local pallet yards
- Pongs restaurant damaged by fire
- Firehouse pancake breakfast to be held Dec. 4
- For San Bernardino terror attack first responders, healing is ongoing  
Officials investigating cause of fire at abandoned home in San Bernardino
- Collision on Highway 38 in Angelus Oaks, expect delays
- Space Heater Safety Tips

## **Structure Fire heavily damages Victorville home**

Daily Press

Posted: November 26, 2016, 4:33 PM

VICTORVILLE — Firefighters battled a blaze late Friday night at a residential home just one week after a vehicle plowed into the same structure, officials said.

Just after 11 p.m., **San Bernardino County Fire Department** responded to a report of a structure fire at the 16500 block of Yucca Street in Victorville. Firefighters arrived on scene to find heavy smoke and fire coming from the front of a single story, single family home.

Firefighters and crews from nearby Station 311 engaged in an aggressive fire attack and encountered heavy smoke and fire conditions inside the home as interior crews coordinated with crews on the roof to efficiently and safely contain the fire, officials said.

Crews also completed a "primary search" to confirm no one was inside the home at the time of the fire.

According to officials, the same home sustained damage from a vehicle that ran into the structure where firefighters responded and shored up the home to increase the structural integrity days before the fire.

Due to the damage that was left behind from the previous crash, the home was boarded up and unoccupied at the time of the fire, officials said.

The fire was knocked down in 30 minutes with the home sustaining heavy smoke and fire damage Crews remained on-scene throughout the evening to overhaul the fire and extinguish hot spots.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department from the Victorville Sheriff's Station were also on scene as they assisted and arrested one individual on-scene of the fire.

San Bernardino County Sheriff Arson and Bomb responded to the scene to assist local deputies as San Bernardino County Fire Investigators also responded to help determine cause and origin.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20161126/structure-fire-heavily-damages-victorville-home>

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## Fire Erupts in Victorville Home Previously Struck By Car

Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News

Posted: November 26, 2016



A home was completely destroyed by fire just one week after a vehicle plowed into a bedroom of the residence. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) A streak of unfortunate events has left a Victorville home completely destroyed.

Victorville Sheriff's and **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to a residential structure fire on the 16500 block of Yucca Avenue, at the cross street of Heartsease Lane, at approximately 11:30 p.m. on Friday night.

Firefighters arrived on a scene to find the residence engulfed in flames, which happens to be the same house that was struck by a vehicle just five days prior, pinning a man in his bedroom.

It took firefighters approximately 30 minutes to smother the fire and conduct interior searches to confirm no occupants were inside the structure.

According to authorities, a witness reported that a Hispanic male was seen running westbound on Yucca Avenue after the fire began. A deputy at the scene confirmed that a suspect matching the description was detained on the campus of Victor Valley High School shortly after.

Bomb and Arson Investigators were summoned to the scene to investigate the cause of the fire and to determine if arson was indeed a factor.

The home was previously red-tagged and boarded up by Victorville City Code enforcement after the last week's incident left a gas line completely sheared.

<http://www.vvng.com/fire-erupts-in-victorville-home-previousl...>

## **Vehicle plunges into lake at Big Bear Dam**

Beatriz Valenzuela, Press Enterprise

Posted: November 23, 2016, 9:05 AM

California Highway Patrol officers and sheriff's deputies are investigating a crash that sent a vehicle off Highway 18 and into the Big Bear Dam early Wednesday morning, according to the CHP incident log.

The crash was first reported around 6:30 a.m., according to CHP reports.

The vehicle reportedly went off the roadway and down about 50 feet into the water.

**San Bernardino County Fire** officials say at least one person was able to climb out of the vehicle and taken to an area hospital with minor injuries.

CHP and San Bernardino County Sheriff's officials are on scene and are investigating the crash.

[http://www.pe.com/articles/highway-819271-early-big.html?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=twitter](http://www.pe.com/articles/highway-819271-early-big.html?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)

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## **Two motor homes on fire in Joshua Tree (UPDATE)**

Jeff Horsemann, Press Enterprise

Posted: November 24, 2016, 8:02 PM

UPDATE: The fire has been knocked down, fire officials tweeted. Southern California Edison is tending to a power line issue.

ORIGINAL POST: At least two motor homes are burning in Joshua Tree, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

Firefighters, including three engines and a water tender, are currently on the scene at La Brisa Drive and Mountain Shadow Road, said Capt. Mike McClintock, a county fire spokesman. Cal Fire is assisting, he added.

<http://www.pe.com/articles/firefighters-819408-burning-san.html>

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## Suspicious fires are causing big concerns at local pallet yards

Alejandro Cano, Fontana Herald News

Posted: November 25, 2016, 9:59 AM



Several pallet yard owners gather to discuss the suspicious fires which have plagued the local area in recent years. (Herald News photo by Alejandro Cano)

In recent years, several pallet yard companies in Fontana and other nearby cities have been victimized by suspicious fires.

In fact, another fire broke out at a pallet yard in Perris last week, and local fire departments have been conducting investigations to try to determine the causes of the incidents. However, the owners of the pallet yards are frustrated because they believe authorities could do even more.

The owners, who are becoming increasingly worried that someday a person may end up dying because of the ongoing fires, are now demanding that federal authorities take action to try to solve the cases.

Those demands were made on Nov. 12 by a group of pallet yard owners from Fontana, most of them members of the North American Pallet Association (NAPA), during a meeting to discuss the wave of attacks on the industry held at Meza Pallets, which had recently been attacked.

“We are asking law enforcement to elevate the attacks from simple arson to terrorist activity and request the Federal Bureau of Investigation to become actively involved in this matter,” said Lina Montes, a pallet yard owner and secretary of NAPA, in a press release.

Montes listed a series of reasons as of why the FBI should investigate the incidents, including because the “arson attacks” are targeting a specific industry; the attacks are targeting an industry that is primarily owned and operated by a specific ethnic group (Hispanic); because the attacks are adversely impacting the economic growth of the region; and because a large percentage of goods which come from all over the nation are being negatively impacted by these attacks.

“The pallet industry is an integral part of the developing economic future of the Inland Empire. It is also an industry that is comprised primarily of Latino/Hispanic ownership, which is unique, but this itself can possibly give reason why someone or unknown persons have done such attacks,” Montes added.

Montes referred to the wave of fires that have caused tremendous damage to the pallet industry -- fires like the one which occurred on Nov. 4 in San Bernardino, where, according to co-owner Martin Sandoval, it caused \$250,000 in damages. This fire, which partially destroyed the Inland Empire Pallets yard, is under investigation but it was deemed suspicious in nature by authorities.

Another fire currently under investigation occurred on Oct. 30 at Meza Pallets in Fontana. Those two fires added up to 15 in the last five years, said Montes, whose business, G.O. Pallets, was also partially destroyed by a fire in January.

"There is video that shows how a man throws a Molotov cocktail type bomb over the fence, and even though we are offering a \$32,000 reward, someone is yet to be apprehended," said Montes.

Roberto Salas, the president of NAPA, said that the pallet companies have followed all the rules to prevent incidents, and yet the fires continue to take place.

"It's always the same thing -- authorities are always asking us to do what we have already done. We need the FBI here; I bet you that if these fires were done to a different industry, the FBI would have been here already," said Salas. "We demand respect."

According to Brian Headley, fire prevention supervisor/arson investigator at the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, the incidents are a top priority for the department, and in fact the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Los Angeles County Fire Department have been contacted to help with the investigation.

"We have a large group of people working on the investigation. We know there is an attack on the industry, but there is no evidence that the attacks have been done targeting a specific ethnic group," said Headley. "We are working hard to capture the one responsible for at least one fire."

Fontana City Councilmember Michael Tahan suggested to write a formal letter to the FBI, asking the agency to intervene. Meanwhile, Councilmember Jesse Sandoval asked the business owners to work together with authorities to solve the issue.

Congresswoman Norma Torres, who represents District 31, could not attend the meeting but said through a statement that she will do everything in her power for the businesses to get the respect and attention they need and deserve.

While authorities continue investigating, pallet yard owners live in fear and stress and are constantly worrying about who will be next. Security cameras haven't stopped the arsonists; therefore, most of them are thinking about hiring security personnel, an expense many of them can't afford.

[http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/suspicious-fires-are-causing-big-concerns-at-local-pallet-yards/article\\_dd66f2b8-b338-11e6-b7a4-0b2c22c65367.html](http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/suspicious-fires-are-causing-big-concerns-at-local-pallet-yards/article_dd66f2b8-b338-11e6-b7a4-0b2c22c65367.html)

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## Pongs restaurant damaged by fire

Judi Bowers, Big Bear Grizzly

Posted: November 26, 2016



Ryan Harold, left, and Nick Bruinsma of the Big Bear Fire Department are part of the investigation team following a pre-dawn fire that damaged the Pong's Oriental Delights restaurant in Big Bear Lake Nov 24. The fire appeared to have started near the rear of the building and caused the most damage in that area. .Kelsey Bowers/Big Bear Grizzly.

Deputies from the Big Bear Sheriff's Station saw an orange glow from the back of Pongs Restaurant while on patrol in the predawn hours Thanksgiving morning. The Big Bear Lake restaurant was on fire.

Big Bear Fire, assisted by CalFire and **San Bernardino County Fire**, knocked the blaze down quickly, according to Nick Bruinsma, Big Bear Lake Fire assistant fire marshal. Most of the damage is in the rear of the building.

No one was at the restaurant at the time of the fire, which was reported about 3 a.m.

The cause of the fire is under investigation. San Bernardino County's arson investigators were called to assist, as is common with commercial structure fires. The owner of the restaurant, Oscar Garcia, is not the owner of the building.

For more on the story, see the Nov. 30 issue of the Big Bear Grizzly.

[http://www.bigbeargrizzly.net/news/pongs-restaurant-damaged-by-fire/article\\_779d8506-b40e-11e6-abaa-93dbf0226961.html](http://www.bigbeargrizzly.net/news/pongs-restaurant-damaged-by-fire/article_779d8506-b40e-11e6-abaa-93dbf0226961.html)

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## Firehouse pancake breakfast to be held Dec. 4

Daily Press

Posted: November 26, 2016

Join **San Bernardino County Fire Department firefighters** on Dec. 4 at Fire Station 311, 16200 Desert Knoll Drive, Victorville, for a pancake breakfast. This event is sponsored by the San Bernardino County Firefighters Association and all of the proceeds will be donated to the Victor Valley Rescue Mission. There will be two special guests in attendance — San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department K-9 Deja and also Santa Claus. Admission is a \$5 donation or an unwrapped toy for Spark of Love. Breakfast will be served from 7 to 11 a.m.

[\(Print Edition Only\)](#)

## For San Bernardino terror attack first responders, healing is ongoing

Brian Rokos, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: November 27, 2016, 8:27 AM



San Bernardino County sheriff's Deputy Shaun Wallen, Detective Jorge Lozano, Detective Chad Johnson and Deputy Bruce Southworth were first responders during the Dec. 2 terrorist attack in San Bernardino. File photo



In this file photo, San Bernardino County Probation officers Nathan Scarano, left, and John Holmes stand across the street from the Inland Regional Center as they share about their experiences as first responders to the Dec. 2 terrorist attack in San Bernardino. File photo

After his officers were subjected to two traumatic events Dec. 2 – viewing the carnage at the Inland Regional Center and engaging the terrorists who caused it in a gunfight to the death – San Bernardino Police Chief Jarrod Burguan acted to support his officers' mental health.

By policy, the officers who fired their weapons, killing the terrorists who had slain 14 at the IRC, were sent to counseling. And he directed some who responded to the IRC to receive counseling as well.

Burguan also had counselors attend police briefings and asked supervisors to watch officers for signs they were struggling with their experiences.

Mental health experts say such actions are important for officers' well-being in the short and long term.

"Law enforcement is probably the most toxic work environment day in and day out," said Ron Clark, a former police officer in Connecticut and chairman of the board of The Badge of Life, an organization that tries to

reduce the effects of stress on officers and retirees and provides information on police suicides. “You won’t find another profession that has as much trauma in it.”

Some first responders who saw the Dec. 2 tragedy firsthand, meanwhile, have coped by using lessons learned to educate others.

Burguan said recently that he doesn’t know how many of his officers received counseling or how often they went.

“Cops are cops, and some didn’t feel like they needed to take advantage of it,” Burguan said. “It’s always a bit of a tough thing that the people we draw into this profession, that they don’t always seek these types of services.”

Mental health professionals say police should have the opportunity to talk with peers or receive counseling – not just after a traumatic event but as part of an annual mental health checkup.

Single traumatic events or the cumulative effect of exposure to crime, physical confrontations and tragedy can cause officers to suffer feelings of hopelessness, shame or despair; depression or anxiety; drinking or drug problems; physical problems; and relationship troubles, according to PolicePTSD.com, an online resource on post-traumatic stress disorder for officers and service members.

“I could fill a whole stadium with retired officers with PTSD,” Clark said.

## TURNING TRAGEDY INTO TEACHING

While no police officers contacted ahead of the one-year anniversary would talk publicly about how the tragedy affected them, a few other first responders who were on the front lines Dec. 2 were willing to speak about their feelings or issues they deal with daily.

A lasting impression for all was that the experiences helped them prepare others for the next attack.

Ryan Starling is a **San Bernardino County Fire Department** engineer who was a San Bernardino city firefighter at the time of the attack. He also was the tactical medic for the San Bernardino police SWAT team.

Starling experienced the horrific scene inside the IRC in what he called “sensory overload.” Amid the smell of gunpowder, the sounds of crying and moaning and the sight of blood being washed out of the conference room by fire sprinklers, Starling went from victim to victim, checking to see who could be saved and who couldn’t.

Yet Starling said the event ultimately affected him in a positive way: He has been able to teach others around the county about first responders’ experiences.

“I feel it’s my duty to pass on lessons learned, what we did right, or what we did wrong, or what we could have done better,” Starling said. “That way those lives that were lost that day weren’t for nothing.”

The tragedy was difficult on Starling’s wife, who turned on the television when news of the shooting broke. She watched as Ryan rode the armored vehicle at the IRC.

"It was hard on my family big-time," Starling said. "Now she has to watch it live and real, and it changes everything. You have a visual sense."

David Molloy, a paramedic and the operations manager for American Medical Response's Redlands office, had a supervisory role at the IRC on Dec. 2. He watched as victims were loaded into ambulances, and the experience gave him mixed emotions to deal with over the past year.

His family knew two of the victims. And subsequent attacks at an Orlando nightclub and elsewhere reinforced to Molloy that paramedics are increasingly rushing to perilous situations.

"I've had my ups and downs during the year," he said.

But like Starling, Molloy said he took pride in traveling across the country in the past year to give presentations on lessons learned from his experience. Foremost among them, he said, was to give your best effort and rely on your training.

"You have to try to find what pieces or aspects you can hold on to in a tragedy. Giving lectures has definitely been therapeutic for me," Molloy said.

Those are Molloy's highs.

"The lows are that I still think about that day and all the victims that were lost, and the fact that these events are still happening. It makes you feel grateful to be alive and do the best for all the people who are out there," he said.

Dr. Ho-Wang Yuen was on duty in the emergency room at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton when patients began arriving.

"The initial chaos is still really fresh in my mind," Yuen said. "The feeling of not knowing what is going to come through the door – and also how well the whole emergency teams worked together."

But Yuen said what continues to trouble him most is not memories of treating patients but the understanding, triggered by the June attack in Orlando that killed 49 and wounded 53, that such a tragedy could happen again.

"The difficult part was, 'Why does it keep happening?' The hardest part was realizing this was the new world we are living in. The homegrown terrorist is not legend. It is not myth. It's part of daily life," Yuen said.

Officials at Arrowhead and Loma Linda University Medical Center jointly published a lessons-learned paper. The key points, Yuen said, were communications and expediting the processing of patients.

#### 'A CAREER EVENT'

Every police department should have a plan to provide mental health resources to its officers before disaster happens, Clark said. But he said some small departments don't even have employee-assistance programs.

San Bernardino police policy on responding to critical events such as the Dec. 2 massacre allows management the discretion to order counseling for officers even when it's not required by rule, Burguan said.

“We knew we had something very, very significant, and for a lot of folks, this was a career event. You don’t have a mass casualty event with a terrorist component every day,” he said. “Everybody who was there ... this will be with them forever.”

So Burguan called in an outside counseling team and came up with a plan to take care of the officers. A few, he said, offered feedback that it was not enough. Another few, he said, complained that it was too much.

“Cops are a pretty difficult group to corral,” Burguan said. “Even though people think of us as clones of each other, we are a very diverse group.”

Clark advocates for peer support, where officers can talk one-on-one as a bridge to counseling. San Bernardino has such a program.

Clark said he believes all officers should have an annual mental health checkup with a counselor they trust. Younger officers, he said, have been especially receptive to this, and it makes them better equipped to deal with traumatic incidents.

“To send an officer in the field with little to no training in emotional wellness is almost criminal,” Clark said.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20161127/for-san-bernardino-terror-attack-first-responders-healing-is-ongoing>

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## Officials investigating cause of fire at abandoned home in San Bernardino

Doug Saunders, The Sun

Posted: November 27, 2016, 10:58 AM



Firefighters battled a blaze at a vacant San Bernardino home Sunday. Evidence suggests squatters have been living in the home. Courtesy Photo

**SAN BERNARDINO >>** Fire investigators are trying to determine what sparked a structure fire in an vacant home Sunday morning.

Shortly after 10 a.m. firefighters were dispatched to a house fire in the 200 block of E Dumas Street.

Smoke was showing from all sides of the single story home, according to a tweet from **San Bernardino County Fire**.

Within minutes, firefighters knocked the blaze down.

"There was no power was to the home, and there was evidence of people squatting in the home," Captain Mike McClintock said in a written statement. "Crews completed a detailed search throughout the home to confirm no one was inside at the time of the fire."

Investigators were dispatched to determine the cause of the fire.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20161127/officials-investigating-cause-of-fire-at-abandoned-home-in-san-bernardino>

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## **Collision on Highway 38 in Angelus Oaks, expect delays**

**Big Bear Grizzly**

Posted: November 27, 2016

There has been a traffic collision in the Angelus Oaks area of Highway 38 at approximately 1:13 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27. Units from **San Bernardino County Fire** have responded. There are three patients awaiting ambulances.

Expect delays on Highway 38 as units continue to respond to the incident.

[http://www.bigbeargrizzly.net/news/collision-on-highway-in-angelus-oaks-expect-delays/article\\_ebd086aa-b4e8-11e6-a4e9-d3690407beec.html](http://www.bigbeargrizzly.net/news/collision-on-highway-in-angelus-oaks-expect-delays/article_ebd086aa-b4e8-11e6-a4e9-d3690407beec.html)

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## **Space Heater Safety Tips**

**Z107.7 News**

Posted: November 28, 2016

As the cooler weather months approach, most homes need a little extra help from additional heat sources such as a space heater; however, taking precaution to use these heat sources safely can greatly decrease the chance of having a preventable home fire. Kirby Davis offers these safety tips from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**...

Follow these cool weather safety precautions to help you and your loved ones stay warm in the safest way possible.

Place all space heaters at least three feet away from furniture, walls, curtains, and make sure to turn them off when you leave home or go to bed. Never install unvented gas heaters in bedrooms or bathrooms, where the small room size poses an added danger of rapid carbon monoxide build-up.

<http://z1077fm.com/space-heater-safety-tips/>