



NEWS



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One person is injured in rollover accident in Fontana on Feb. 1

Mike Myers, Fontana Herald News

Posted: February 2, 2019



Police and fire personnel responded to a rollover collision in Fontana on Feb. 1. (Contributed photo by Mike Myers)

One person was injured in a rollover crash in northern Fontana on Feb. 1.

At about 3:59 p.m., the Fontana Police Department and the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department responded to the incident, which involved two cars in the 7800 block of Juniper Avenue.

Witnesses said a male driver in a gray Toyota Corolla was traveling southbound on Juniper and was making a left turn onto Village Lane. A female driver in a white Chevy Malibu behind the Corolla attempted to pass him on the left side, colliding with him and rolling her car over. The driver of the Corolla came to a stop after he crashed into a brick wall.

According to authorities, the female driver in the Malibu was transported to a local hospital with minor injuries.

The Fontana P.D. is handling the investigation.

According to an information officer with the Office of Traffic Safety, Fontana received a grant for the 2018-2019 Federal Fiscal Year. The grant specifies how the money is to be used for changing the behavior of motorists and pedestrians through education, traffic enforcement and engineering.

A report released by the Office Of Traffic Safety provided information for accidents in Fontana for the year 2018. There were 585 collisions in the city, and 15 victims were killed and 734 victims were injured.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/one-person-is-injured-in-rollover-accident-in-fontana-on/article_f111c58e-2723-11e9-a64f-cb744ca74df4.html

18-year-old charged with dui crash that killed his passenger Thursday night

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: February 1, 2019

BARSTOW, Calif. (VVNG.com) — An 18-year-old was arrested on charges of vehicular manslaughter and DUI after a crash that killed his passenger.

It happened on Thursday, January 31, 2019, at about 11:55 pm, on the northbound I-15, north of Rasor Road.

According to the California Highway Patrol incident logs, Fernando Palafox, was the driver of a 2007 Volkswagen Jetta along with his passenger, a 21-year-old unidentified male from El Monte.

“While traveling northbound, Mr. Palafox allowed his vehicle to leave the roadway and entered the dirt center divider where it collided into two yellow paddle markers. Mr. Palafox turned his vehicle to the right and lost control. The Volkswagen travelled back onto the roadway, across all lanes of traffic, and down the descending dirt embankment where it overturned,” stated CHP officials.

The vehicle came to rest on its roof and the right front passenger was partially ejected.

San Bernardino County Fire medical personnel arrived on scene and pronounced the passenger deceased from the injuries he sustained as a result of the collision.

“While on scene, a DUI investigation was conducted on Mr. Palafox and it was determined he had been driving while under the influence of alcohol and was also unlicensed,” stated CHP officials.

Palafox was placed under arrest and later booked into the High Desert Detention Center on charges of felony DUI and manslaughter.

This collision is currently under investigation by the California Highway Patrol, Barstow Area. For further information in reference to this collision, or if you have additional information regarding this collision, please contact the California Highway Patrol Barstow Office at 760-255-5900.

<https://www.vvng.com/18-year-old-charged-with-dui-crash-that-killed-his-passenger-thursday-night/>

1 hurt in Rialto structure fire

Beatriz E. Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: February 1, 2019, 1:05 PM

Firefighters pulled a person from a burning building in Rialto Friday morning, according to initial reports.

The condition of the person was not available as of 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 1.

The fire was first reported around 10:30 a.m. at a commercial building at Foothill Boulevard and Lilac Avenue in Rialto, according to initial reports.

Rialto fire and **San Bernardino County firefighters** were called to the location to battle the blaze.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/02/01/1-hurt-in-rialto-structure-fire/>

ONE DEAD, ONE RESCUED IN FLASH FLOODING IN YUCCA VALLEY SATURDAY

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: February 4, 2019



One person is dead and one other was rescued in separate incidents during flash flooding in Yucca Valley Saturday evening.

About 5:30 p.m., a man attempted to drive through a flooded wash at Barron Drive and Yucca Mesa Road as employees with the Town of Yucca Valley were putting up Road Closed signs. The force of the water pushed the car and flipped it over about 50 feet downstream.

Sheriff's Sergeant Erik Smoot said two people managed to escape from the vehicle, but the driver, identified only as an elderly white man, was trapped inside.

Due to the depth and force of the flood waters, and the length of time the car had been submerged in the water, an in-water search of the vehicle was deemed too dangerous and divers from the swift water rescue team were called.

Fire crews searched downstream in case the victim had freed himself.

The swift water rescue team arrived at the scene about 8 p.m., and the vehicle was towed out about 10 p.m.

The driver's body was found inside the car. The coroner has not yet identified the man.

Then about 6:15 p.m., another car tried to drive through a flooded wash at Barron Drive near Paradise Park.

County Fire Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle said the car stalled in the middle of the wash with water up to the car's windows. Although the car's windows were fogged over, firefighters could tell that someone was inside the car.

Before firefighters could attempt a rescue, a Sheriff's helicopter arrived and made a hoist rescue of Thomas Mallon, 84, of Yucca Valley, the driver and sole occupant of the car, by breaking the rear windshield. By this time, Mallon had been in the water for over an hour and had difficulty moving on his own.

Detective Mark Rios pulled Mallon out through the car's rear window and together they were hoisted to the bank of the wash; Mallon was then taken by ambulance to Hi-Desert Medical Center for treatment.

Tuttle added firefighters were called to another rescue at 5 p.m. at Kickapoo Trail and Benecia where a car got stuck in the water, but the driver had gotten out of the car on his own.

Smoot added that deputies also responded to several cars that had been stuck in water or mud, but that the occupants had already gotten out.

The Fire and Sheriff's Departments remind residents to turn around, don't drown.

<http://z1077fm.com/one-dead-one-rescued-in-flash-flooding-in-yucca-valley-saturday/>

Firefighters Rescue Several from Swift Waters, One Found Deceased

Staff Writer, 24/7 Headline News

Posted: February 3, 2019

YUCCA VALLEY, Calif. – Flash floods in the Yucca Valley area on Saturday evening kept **San Bernardino County Firefighters** busy conducting several rescues and one recovery.

Firefighters responded to the wash near Barron Drive and Yucca Mesa Road at around 5:30 p.m. When they arrived they located the vehicle upside down covered by running water.

Two of the three occupants were able to self extricate, while the third occupant, an elderly man, remained in the vehicle. “Due to the force of the flood waters and the fact that the vehicle had been submerged for an extended period, an in-water search of the vehicle was deemed too hazardous,” said San Bernardino County Fire Spokesman Eric Sherwin. “A search was conducted downstream by fire personnel in case the victim had freed himself.”

Shortly after at 6:15 p.m., units from the Yucca Mesa Road incident were called to another rescue around a ½ mile up the wash.

Fire officials learned that the vehicle had attempted to cross the roadway and was pushed into the flash flood. The vehicle was located at Paradise Valley Park with water up to the windows. All of the windows were fogged up but the firefighters were able to see movement inside the vehicle. “With swift water rescue resources already committed to other responses in the area, Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle assumed incident command and ordered a helicopter from San Bernardino County Sheriff to assist in the effort,” said Sherwin.

“The patrol helicopter, which was staffed with a swift water rescue technician, was able to access the sole occupant of the vehicle and affect the rescue.” The victim was treated by County Fire paramedics and transported to a local hospital for evaluation.

Firefighters returned to the Yucca Mesa Road incident when the movement of the water decreased. The vehicle was removed from the wash and the third occupant was located inside deceased.

<https://247headline.com/several-rescued-and-one-deceased-man/>

Following Saturday's downpours, rain and snow to continue through Wednesday in SoCal

Richard K. De Atley, Press Enterprise

Posted: February 3, 2019, 9:39 PM



Rose Orozco, 11, came prepared for wet weather with a bubble umbrella and boots to downtown Claremont, Calif. on Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019. (Photo by Cindy Yamanaka, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

All evacuation orders for possible debris flows were lifted Sunday morning for the Riverside County areas of the Holy fire burn area as scattered showers continued in Southern California, with more rain and snow expected for the region through early Wednesday.

The storm that brought wind, rain, snow and flash floods throughout the area on Saturday left at least two people dead: A man trapped in a vehicle turned upside down in a wash by rushing waters in Yucca Valley in San Bernardino County; and a Ventura County Sheriff's Department search and rescue team member killed in a crash on the wet 5 Freeway.

The lifting of voluntary and mandatory evacuations for the eastern edge of the Holy fire burn area, centered in the Temescal Canyon and Lake Elsinore areas, joined a cancellation of evacuation orders Saturday night for the Trabuco Canyon in Orange County.

Evacuation orders for the Woolsey fire areas in Los Angeles County were also lifted on Saturday.

Winter storm warnings remained in effect for the mountains of Ventura, Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties, with a winter weather advisory for the mountains of Riverside County, all lasting through Wednesday, the National Weather Service said.

However, with less rain Sunday there were no active flood watches, warnings or advisories. There was a high surf advisory for the Southern California coastal counties.

There was a load of new snow for San Bernardino Mountain ski areas. The NWS reported 24-hour snowfall amounts Sunday of 8-10 inches for Mountain High; 6 to 8 inches for Snow Valley and 3-5 inches in Snow Summit.

Snow levels were above 7,000 feet for most of Saturday, but a cold front in the afternoon and evening brought the level down to 5,500 feet, the NWS said.

Roads

Chain controls were ordered throughout Southern California mountain highways on Sunday, including sections of highways 18, 38, 138, 189, and 330.

Several roads remained closed throughout the region even as others reopened, Caltrans said Sunday afternoon. The California Highway Patrol reported rockfalls Sunday on Highway 38 north of Angelus Oaks in the San Bernardino Mountains, as well as Lytle Creek Road, south of Lytle Creek. No injuries were reported.

Another road that re-opened Sunday following closures during the height of Saturday's storm was Temescal Canyon Road between Indian Truck Trail and Horsethief Canyon Road in Riverside County.

Residual road closures include Highway 62 at Hermosa Avenue east of Yucca Valley in San Bernardino County.

Pico Avenue between Nuevo Road and Central Avenue, in the Riverside County community of Nuevo, was closed Sunday due to storm damage, the Riverside County Transportation Department said.

Road conditions are available on the Caltrans Quickmap at quickmap.dot.ca.gov

San Bernardino County Firefighters and Sheriff's Deputies made swift water rescues in the desert community of Yucca Valley and the city of San Bernardino on Sunday.

In Yucca Valley, one man was found dead Saturday night in a vehicle that had been turned upside down in a wash by flash-flood waters.

Two others escaped the vehicle earlier in the evening and reported that the third man, described by them as elderly, was still inside the vehicle. But firefighters could not safely reach the vehicle, which had been submerged for a while.

The body was recovered later, when the waters had subsided.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff is investigating, and the man's name will be released once his identity is confirmed, the Coroner's Office said.

Rainfall

Rainfall was heaviest in the mountains. Some selective 72-hour totals Sunday include a top of 7.37 inches for the middle fork of Lytle Creek in the San Bernardino Mountains; 4.58 inches at Running Springs and 3.62 inches at Wrightwood.

The Chilao campground in the San Gabriel Mountains got 5.92 inches in a two-day total.

Selected urban area totals Sunday morning include Garden Grove, 3.07 inches, Anaheim 2.59 inches, Santa Ana, 2.33 inches, Chino Hills, 2.40 inches, Riverside, 1.29 inches, San Bernardino 1.61 inches, and Ontario, 2.05 inches; all of those are three-day totals from the National Weather Service Sunday morning.

Pasadena was at 4.04 inches for a two-day total, Long Beach, 1.39 inches, Pomona, 1.56 inches, Van Nuys, 2.20 inches, Woodland Hills, 3.09 inches, and Whittier 1.62 inches, the NWS said.

Destabilized weather conditions "likely" produced a weak tornado near Gaviota in Santa Barbara County just past midnight, the NWS reported, followed by decreased shower activity as things stabilized.

<https://www.dailybreeze.com/2019/02/03/evacuation-orders-lifted-for-holy-fire-burn-area-storms-expected-through-wednesday/>

Rainstorm floodwaters claim 1 victim in Yucca Valley

Richard K. De Atley, Press Enterprise

Posted: February 3, 2019, 12:35 PM



A rescue helicopter had to dodge power lines and fight the rain and 40 mph winds to save a person from a car washed into floodwaters in Yucca Valley on Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019. (Courtesy San Bernardino County Sheriff's Aviation Unit)

A man described by survivors as elderly was found dead inside a vehicle that was covered by rushing storm waters and flipped upside down in a wash Saturday evening in Yucca Valley, authorities said.

There were several calls for swift-water rescues to the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department during the storm, most of which turned out to be unoccupied vehicles, spokesman Jeremy Kern said. But there also were trapped people and rescues, including ones in Yucca Valley and the city of San Bernardino.

In the fatal incident, two others escaped the overturned vehicle on their own, before the arrival of San Bernardino County Department's Medic Engine 41 at 5:30 p.m. Firefighters reported the vehicle was in a wash near Barron Drive and Yucca Mesa Road in the desert community. The survivors reported a third man, described to firefighters as an elderly male, was still inside the vehicle.

Because of the force of the flood waters and the extended time the car had been submerged, firefighters said an in-water search of the vehicle was too dangerous.

Fire personnel searched downstream in case the man had somehow freed himself.

At 9:30 p.m., the San Bernardino County Sheriff contacted firefighters to say decreased waters had allowed them to remove the car, and the man was found inside. He was pronounced dead at the scene at 10:01 p.m., the San Bernardino County Coroner's office said.

The man's name will be released once his identity is confirmed, the coroner said. The Sheriff's Department is investigating how the vehicle was swept into the wash, Kern said Sunday.

Helicopter rescue

The helicopter rescue took place along the same wash and half a mile away from the Yucca Mesa Road and Barron Drive incident, firefighters said.

A vehicle had attempted to cross a roadway and been pushed into the flash flood at about 6:15 p.m. The car was near Paradise Park, which fronts Barron Drive. While the windows were fogged, firefighters could see movement inside the vehicle.

A patrol helicopter with a swift-water rescue specialist was sent to the scene. The one person inside the vehicle was rescued, treated at the scene by paramedics, then taken to a hospital for evaluation.

The rescue helicopter had to dodge power lines and fight the rain and 40 mph winds, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Aviation Unit tweeted.

In San Bernardino, several vehicles were reported stuck in a wash near the intersection of North Palm and Institution Road just after 4 p.m.

Firefighters arrived at the scene to find several vehicles stuck in waist-high water and two people who were on an island in the middle of the water flow.

Swift-water rescuers from both the San Bernadino County Sheriff and the county fire department came to scene and a four-member rescue party reached the island. They were removed to dry land by a heavy equipment loader.

The two rescued people declined to go to a hospital after treatment at the scene. There were no injuries to deputies or firefighters, authorities said.

At approximately 2:05 p.m., a large truck made its way into a flooded area near Hallmark Parkway and Lexington Way in San Bernardino, Kern said.

“When fire personnel arrived at the scene, the two people in the truck were uncooperative,” Kern said. “The San Bernardino Police Department came to the scene, but a second truck came to the area, grabbed the two people in the truck and left.”

Staff writer Robert Gundran contributed to this story.

<https://www.dailybulletin.com/2019/02/03/rainstorm-floodwaters-claim-1-victim-in-yucca-valley/>

Rain prompts several rescues in San Bernardino and Yucca Valley; one flood victim unaccounted for

Robert Gundran, Daily Bulletin
Posted: February 2, 2019, 10:49 PM

Rescue crews with the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department were busy on Saturday amid heavy rain throughout the county, including a rescue operation at an overturned car that left one person unaccounted for.

Jeremy Kern, spokesman for the Fire Department, said the department received several calls for rescues throughout the day, though a lot of the calls ended up being empty cars that were in flooded areas.

The department posted information on four incidents on social media, two in Yucca Valley and two in San Bernardino.

Kern said fire personnel responded to a call of an overturned vehicle in rising waters at around 5:30 p.m. The vehicle was overturned at around Barron Drive and Yucca Mesa Road in Yucca Valley.

“Two people were able to escape from the vehicle and one person was unaccounted for, and is presumed to be inside the vehicle still,” Kern said. “The person in the vehicle is thought to be an older man, and crews will determine how to proceed on how to confirm the person is inside or how to find them.”

One of the earlier calls was at approximately 2:05 p.m., according to Kern. He said a large truck made its way into a flooded area near Hallmark Parkway and Lexington Way in San Bernardino.

“When fire personnel arrived at the scene, they two people in the truck were uncooperative,” Kern said. “The San Bernardino Police Department came to the scene, but a second truck came to the area, grabbed the two people in the truck and left.”

Police can move the truck from the area after flood waters subside.

Another call for rescue came just after 4 p.m., the Fire Department said on a social media post.

“San Bernardino County Fire responded to reports of multiple vehicles stuck in a wash with unknown occupants near the intersection of North Palm Avenue and Institution Road (in San Bernardino),” the department said. “As firefighters arrived, a large area of the road was found to have waist deep water.”

Officials said the water rose and created an island in the wash that trapped two people.

Four fire officials made their way to the island to rescue the people, both of whom were uninjured, the department said. Once on the island, water levels continued to rise and the department sent a heavy equipment loader to the island to rescue the two people as well as the department’s rescue team.

Kern said another rescue happened at 6:15 p.m. at Paradise Valley Park in Yucca Valley.

“There was one victim,” Kern said. “A sheriff’s helicopter and a diver did that rescue.”

<https://www.dailybulletin.com/2019/02/02/rain-prompts-several-rescues-in-san-bernardino-and-yucca-valley-one-flood-victim-unaccounted-for/>

Mandatory evacuations lifted after rain and wind pound Southern California

Brian Rokos, Press Enterprise

Posted: February 2, 2019 7:35 PM



A car with two people inside is stranded on the I-5 at Sheldon Street in Sun Valley as heavy rain caused the drains to plug up. Both the westbound and eastbound lanes were closed but some drivers tried to maneuver around the flooding. Some made it, others did not. (Photo by Mike Meadows/Contributing Photographer)

Several communities were temporarily evacuated, stretches of roads were closed and thousands were without electricity for hours on Saturday as strong rain and fierce winds hit Southern California on Saturday. At least one fatal accident was blamed on the weather; while a possible flood victim was unaccounted for.

The National Weather Service said that in the 24 hours ending late Saturday afternoon, the storm yielded rain totals including 3.34 inches in Pasadena, 1.41 inches at LAX, 1.25 inches in Long Beach, 2.02 inches in Yorba Linda and 2.01 inches at Cal State San Bernardino.

Heavy rain in the morning was followed by calmer conditions in the afternoon and early evening as mandatory evacuations were lifted for areas in the Riverside County Holy fire burn area. They were downgraded to voluntary evacuation warnings for those areas. Those neighborhoods are Amorose, Alberhill

(Pacific Clay), Glen Eden, Glen Ivy-A and B, Grace, Horsethief-A, Laguna-A, Lakeside A, Mirtri (Quarry), McVicker-A, Rice and Withrow-A.

Similarly, evacuation orders were lifted for parts of the Woolsey fire burn area in Los Angeles County. Those areas included in Agoura Hills for the Seminole Springs Mobile Home Estates and in Malibu for Paseo Canyon Malibu West.

A mandatory evacuation order for residents within the Trabuco Creek area of Orange County, issued Saturday afternoon, also was lifted Saturday night.

A member of the Ventura County Sheriff's Office's search and rescue team was killed and three others were injured in a collision on the 5 Freeway south of Pyramid Lake near the Kern-LA counties border. The California Highway Patrol told KTLA/5 that weather conditions played a role in the crash.

The man was identified by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office as Jeff Dye.

In Yucca Valley, the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department said crews were called to an overturned vehicle in rising waters at around 5:30 p.m. Two people were able to escape the vehicle but a third was unaccounted for and a likely fatality, the Fire Department said.

Also, crews in some areas dealt with dangerous debris flows in areas where wildfires killed the vegetation that holds hillsides together. Some of those flows resulted in temporary road closures.

Among Saturday afternoon's weather-related road closures at times were stretches of the 5 Freeway in the Sun Valley area and Pacific Coast Highway from Las Posas Road in Ventura County and Broad Beach/Trancas Canyon Road in Malibu, Caltrans said.

In Huntington Beach, PCH was closed between Seapoint Street to Warner Avenue. In San Bernardino County, Highway 138 was closed from Wagon Train to Summit Valley.

Road conditions are available on the Caltrans Quickmap at quickmap.dot.ca.gov

Weather-related power outages were reported in some communities.

Southern California Edison's power outage map as of Saturday night noted there were power outages affecting hundreds of customers including in each of Corona, Hawthorne, Huntington Beach, Long Beach, Newport Beach, Redondo Beach and Torrance. Earlier, thousands of people were without power in each of Cypress, Huntington Beach and Torrance.

Disneyland announced on its app that the park would close two hours early Saturday, at 10 p.m. Disney California Adventure planned to close at 10 as scheduled. Such closings are rare; The Disneyland Resort will close some outdoor attractions when it rains, but typically the parks remain open for their scheduled hours.

The California Highway Patrol reported about 7:30 a.m. that motorists were out of their cars, trying to remove boulders that had fallen on Highway 18 between Snow Valley and Big Bear.

Norco officials announced that trails and access points to the Santa Ana River in that city would be closed until further notice. Also, trail access to Pumpkin Rock has been closed. Assistance with animals of all sizes is available by calling 951-737-8972 during business hours and 951-371-1143 after hours.

The evacuations brought an unwelcome reminder that criminals are always looking for an opportunity. Milinda Smith reported on the Facebook group We are Temescal Valley that on Jan. 31, she evacuated to the parking lot of a CVS on DePalma Road, parking her truck and trailer there.

About 6:15 a.m. that day, someone drove off with both when she stepped away. The truck is a maroon Chevrolet Silverado with peeling paint. The trailer is a white Rockwood model. Smith had packed belongings including passports, birth certificates and the jewelry of her husband's grandmother, she told KCBS/2.

Winds brought down trees in various areas, including in Long Beach and in Palos Verdes Estates, where one tree toppled over and damaged a police department SUV. No injuries were reported.

Another tree toppled in Santa Ana just before noon, trapping two people inside a pickup truck, the Orange County Fire Authority reported. They were extricated from the vehicle and were uninjured.

A flash flood warning continued Saturday night in south central San Bernardino County including Yucca Valley, Joshua Tree Lake Campground, Joshua Tree and the Morongo Valley. In other areas of Riverside and San Bernardino counties — including San Bernardino, Riverside, Beaumont, Hemet and Temecula — there was a flood warning.

Much of the western Los Angeles County area was under a flash flood watch Saturday night.

A high surf advisory was in place for much of the coast in Orange and San Diego counties.

Showers and, at times, gusty winds were expected to continue in the region through Tuesday — along with snow in the higher elevations.

Riverside on Sunday, for instance, can expect cloudy conditions with a high near 58 degrees. Rain in the quarter-inch to half-inch range is possible. Lingering showers are expected in Los Angeles.

“Heavy frontal rain has ended across our area,” the NWS San Diego office said in a Saturday night update, adding snow levels have fallen to around 5,000 feet and that a winter storm warning was extended through Tuesday night for the San Bernardino Mountains.

“Blowing snow, freezing temperatures and areas of dense fog will create hazardous driving conditions,” the NWS said of the mountainous areas.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/02/02/rain-prompts-mandatory-evacuations-in-holy-fire-burn-area-disneyland-closing-early/>

High Desert recovering from storm after man swept away in flood water in Yucca Valley

Colin Atagi and Marie McCain, Palm Springs Desert Sun

Posted: February 2, 2019, 10:58 PM

The High Desert is recovering from a storm that led to an elderly man being swept away in flood water and presumed dead Saturday night in Yucca Valley.

Layers of dirt and sand cover segments of Highway 62, but the only significant closure is to one lane in each direction on the east side of Yucca Valley at Yucca Mesa Road. Cleanup efforts were visible on dirt roads intersecting with Highway 62, while Joshua Tree National Park officials announced they were closing dirt roads across the park.

Portions of Pioneertown Road are bumpy because of debris in areas intersecting with washes, but the tourist attraction remains open after only sustaining ground damage to its central path.

The Highway 62 closures are directly south of where San Bernardino County authorities say an elderly man got caught in flood water that flowed through a wash that intersects with Yucca Mesa, several yards north of Barron Drive. Carlos Mendoza, 25, lives at the intersection and he said authorities spent several hours on Yucca Mesa, where flood water can be "pretty bad" during storms.

"Every time it gets crazy up here. The wash is what you avoid," Mendoza said, adding that authorities were gone when he woke up around 6 a.m. Sunday.

Yucca Valley received 1.71 inches of rain Saturday, but flood water likely flowed from mountain areas that got even more precipitation, said Caleb Steele, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

The man was inside a vehicle that overturned about 5:30 p.m. Saturday, according to Capt. Jeremy Kern of the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

Two other people had already gotten themselves out of the vehicle and away from the rushing waters by the time emergency personnel with the county's Swift Water Rescue unit arrived.

The man had not been found as of 9:30 p.m. and Kern said authorities suspect he may have still been inside the overturned vehicle, which was still being overrun by flood waters late Saturday.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department tweeted footage of crews rescuing an 84-year-old Yucca Valley man from a vehicle stuck in flood water, but department spokeswoman Cynthia Bachman said that was a separate incident from the one on Yucca Mesa.

It occurred about 6:20 p.m. near Barron and Indio Drive after the victim got swept away in his vehicle. He could barely move after spending an hour in the water before being rescued and transported to Hi-Desert Medical Center for treatment.

In a third incident that happened just after 4 p.m. Saturday, the San Bernardino County Fire Department responded to reports of multiple vehicles stuck in a wash near the intersection of North Palm and Institution Road in the city of San Bernardino.

Ultimately the incident was elevated to a full swift water rescue response. This brought with it additional firefighters specifically trained and outfitted to handle this type of rescue.

Upon arrival, firefighters found that several vehicles were caught in waist-high, fast-moving water. Two people were trapped on an island in the middle of the water flow.

In a news release issued about this specific incident, Kern said that as flood waters continued to rise and increase in speed, emergency personnel initially decided to have two deputies attempt to get the people to safety.

The people were not injured, but one appeared to be suffering from the cold, damp conditions, Kern said. "Due to the change in conditions and continued sustained rainfall, a secondary plan was executed which included the use of a heavy equipment loader to extract the victims as well as (a) 4-person rescue team. All parties and rescuers were safely removed from the wash onto dry ground where they were then evaluated by firefighter / paramedics," Kern said in the statement.

Fifteen personnel in total — including two engine companies, one dozer, one swift water rescue team, one safety officer, and one battalion chief — responded to this incident. There were no injuries to firefighters and both victims declined medical treatment.

The county called in assistance from emergency personnel in Hesperia and the city of San Bernardino to help provide coverage for other areas while these rescues took place, Kern said.

Authorities weren't present Sunday as road crews removed mud from streets and motorists navigated their way around debris.

"Just another day after a storm out here. That's why I'm glad I have a big truck. There's less damage when I go on these messed up roads," Yucca Valley resident Travis Butler said after traversing a road covered in mud.

<https://www.desertsun.com/story/weather/2019/02/02/yucca-valley-roads-inundated-rising-waters-1-man-missing-may-dead/2760465002/>

Woman Killed Newborn Baby Before Hiding Him, Gets Only 1 Year in Switzerland: Reports

Jack Phillips, NTD News
Posted: February 3, 2019

A woman who gave birth at home to twins and later killed one of them was jailed for just one year in Switzerland, according to reports.

The Mirror reported that a Serbian woman, named only as Jelica S., was living in Lucerne, Switzerland, when she gave birth in 2015. Photos of the woman published online already blurred her face.

After the two were born, she is accused of killing one of the boys and neglected the other one before hiding both from her family.

The report said she hid one in a laundry basket in the kitchen and the other inside a giant teddy bear.

The woman said, "I did not know how a child is born. I filled the bathtub when it started," according to the report.

She said, “I do not remember today how I did it. I just remember lying in the bathtub and looking on the internet for what to do.”

She said she delivered one of the babies herself but “was scared because he (the baby) did not scream properly.”

The woman then admitted to killing one before hiding the baby in a teddy bear.

In court, she said, “I just put him there. I do not know what went on in my head.”

Jelica then delivered the second one about 31 hours later in the bath. The child was reportedly stillborn.

However, the court found that the child died through her negligence, the report said.

An expert said that if she had gone to the hospital after the first birth, the second child may have survived.

Prosecutors said the mother should have been jailed for eight years.

“The accused has two faces. She seems naive. In truth, she is tough and calculating,” a prosecutor said. The court “estimates the factual culpability to the crime to be very high,” but it said that it “subjectively was an emergency situation,” the judge said in the verdict, according to the report.

However, she got only 12 months in prison and another 22 months of a suspended sentence, reports said.

After the story went viral on Facebook, a number of people thought the 12-month prison term was ludicrous.

“The people who sentence her to one year should go to prison,” said one person.

“Only one year? She has murdered two lives!” added another.

Another wrote: “Double homicide one year does not add up to justice.”

Options?

A number of countries have programs and laws to help mothers who might abandon their babies, or worse.

In the United States, safe haven laws allow mothers who are in crisis to leave their newborns in a safe environment, including at a fire station or hospital.

This week, in **San Bernardino County**, California, a mother surrendered her newborn twins to a fire station under the state’s safe haven law.

“This is exactly why the Safe Surrender program was created,” Fire Chief Mark Hartwig was quoted by Fox17 as saying.

“This young mother did the right thing by bringing her babies to the fire station. Regardless of your circumstances, the Safe Surrender program is a viable and loving option—no questions asked,” he said.

Other countries also have baby drop boxes that allow women to give up their babies. The boxes are designed to keep the child warm and comfortable and are equipped with an alert to tell officials the child is inside.

https://www.ntd.com/woman-killed-newborn-baby-before-hiding-him-gets-only-1-year-in-switzerland-reports_284492.html

Here's the reason a young mom surrendered her twins at a California fire station

Abigail Shalawylo, ABC News

Posted: February 1, 2019, 8:05 PM

A young mother surrendered her newborn twins at a California fire station this week, marking the latest two of nearly 1,000 infants that have been surrendered to authorities since the program was launched in 2001, according to state officials.

“This is exactly why the Safe Surrender program was created,” **San Bernadino County Fire** Chief Mark Hartwig said in a statement.

“This young mother did the right thing by bringing her babies to the fire station. Regardless of your circumstances, the Safe Surrender program is a viable and loving option -- no questions asked.”

The Safely Surrendered Baby program -- signed permanently into state law in 2006 -- codified a program that began five years earlier. The state law allows a parent or lawful custodian to safely surrender a baby, confidentially and with no questions asked and no fear of prosecution, within 72 hours of birth.

The program's goal to save lives of newborn infants at risk of abandonment by providing an option to safely surrender the infant with no questions asked. The person with lawful physical custody is given 14 days to change their mind and reclaim the baby.

The woman arrived at the “Safe Haven Site” and told firefighters that she had just given birth to twins and wanted to safely surrender them, according to a statement from the San Bernardino County Fire Station.

Fire Captain Andrea Binley and her fire crew immediately took the babies in and evaluated their needs. The infants had been cared for and were in good medical condition upon arrival, according to the statement.

The newborns were then transported to a local hospital for further assessment. The mother declined medical care for herself. The fire department provided the mother with information on how she could reclaim her children if she wished to do so, in compliance with the law, according to the statement.

The mother's decision to take advantage of the law is being applauded on social media.

From January, 2001 through December, 2017, 931 infants have been safely surrendered, according to state officials, including 88 surrendered in 2017 alone. During the same period, 175 newborns were abandoned in California.

Abandonment of infants in California has dropped from 25 cases a year in 2002 to five or less cases per year since 2010, according to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

Safe surrender sites are typically hospitals or fire stations that have been approved by a county board of supervisors or fire agency. Approved locations display the safe surrender logo.

The baby and parent or surrendering person both receive a confidentially-coded ankle bracelet upon arrival. Under law, the parent or surrendering person has at least two weeks to reclaim their baby by bringing their copy of the coded bracelet back to the site.

After a baby is received, he or she is examined, receives medical treatment, and is then placed in a foster or pre-adoptive home.

“In California, no one ever has to abandon a baby again,” the CDSS states on its website.

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/mom-surrenders-twin-newborns-safely-california-fire-station/story?id=60783130>