



NEWS



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Brush fire burns more than 200 acres in Big Bend state park near Laughlin

Kristen DeSilva, Elaine Emerson, FOX 5 Las Vegas

Posted: August 19, 2019



A fire burned more than 100 acres at Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area on August 18, 2019. (Cecil Anderson/FOX5)

LAS VEGAS (FOX5) -- Multiple agencies were responding to a more than 200-acre brush fire at Big Bend state park near Laughlin, Nevada on Sunday.

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department reported that Needles Highway was shut down in both directions about 3:30 p.m. due to the fire and asked the public to avoid the area.

The department also said hundreds of CenturyLink customers in the area were unable to dial out to 9-1-1, but it was unknown if that was related to the fire.

Officials reported burned acreage at 104 late Sunday. The Bureau of Land Management updated the acreage to 220 acres burned as of early Monday morning.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** District responded by boat on the Colorado River, "assisting with fire attack utilizing the boat's on-board suppression equipment."

Nearby resident Carrie Isaac Larson told FOX5 the area of the fire is tough terrain, filled with Tamarisk, which she said is an invasive species to the area and that the park has been trying to get rid of.

Officials echoed that statement, saying the plant burns a thick, black smoke.

"It's a hard vegetation to fight," said Clark County Fire Department Asst. Fire Chief Larry Haydu.

A campground within the park containing a couple of hundred people had to be evacuated due to the fire, he said.

Crews from CCFD remained on scene to take care of hot spots. As of 9:30 p.m., they were still on scene.

CCFD Dept. Fire Chief John Steinbeck said they dispatched 15 units including seven engine companies, three water tenders, three rescue units and two chief officers.

Fire crews from Boulder City, Bullhead City, Fort Mojave and the Bureau of Land Management assisted, Steinbeck said.

The cause of the fire was not yet known, and no injuries had been reported.

Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area is about two hours south of the Las Vegas Valley, across the Colorado River from Bullhead City, Arizona.

https://www.fox5vegas.com/news/brush-fire-burns-more-than-acres-in-big-bend-state/article_54deac16-c216-11e9-a485-1bc25d7216ec.html

BURNING BODY FOUND IN SUNFAIR; HOMICIDE DETECTIVES INVESTIGATE

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: August 19, 2019

Homicide detectives were called to investigate a suspicious death after a burning body was found in northeast Joshua Tree Friday morning. At 8:49 a.m., **county firefighters** were called to a fire at Sunway Road and Rosehedge Avenue in Joshua Tree near the Sunfair Dry Lake bed. When firefighters arrived, they found an obviously dead body that had been set on fire. Firefighters secured the scene and called for Sheriff's deputies. Because of unspecified evidence found at the scene, deputies notified the department's homicide investigators. Deputies are working to identify the male victim as well as any witnesses. Anyone with information should call the Sheriff's Department at (909)-387-3589.

<http://z1077fm.com/burning-body-found-in-sunfair-homicide-detectives-investigate/>

1-ACRE FIRE THREATENED BURNS CANYON SATURDAY

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: August 19, 2019



Photo courtesy **San Bernardino County Fire Department**

A vegetation fire burned about one-acre Saturday afternoon in the 49700 block of Burns Canyon Road in Rimrock, north of Yucca Valley. Calfire, along with the assistance of Yucca Valley and Yucca Mesa, were called about 5 p.m. to fight the blaze, which was about two miles past the end of the pavement on Burns Canyon Road. The fire was about one-half acre when firefighters arrived and with an aggressive attack, they were able to stop the forward spread and confine it to one acre. No structures were threatened.

<http://z1077fm.com/1-acre-fire-threatened-burns-canyon-saturday/>

Fire at Big Bend recreation area burns 100 acres, is 50% contained

Terri Harber, Mojave Valley Daily News

Posted: August 19, 2019



Flames raging 30 Feet high border Needles Highway on the south side just above Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area on Sunday afternoon. KANE Wickham, News West

LAUGHLIN — A wildfire in the Big Bend of the Colorado River State Recreation Area that began Sunday afternoon with dark and heavy smoke was 50% contained as of 8:30 p.m.

It had burned 102 acres by that point and crews were holding it at that number, said Jennifer Ramella of the Nevada Division of State Parks, on Sunday evening.

No one was reported injured and no structures had been lost. About 500 visitors were evacuated from Big Bend.

Needles Highway from West Casino Drive to Aha Macav Parkway is expected to be closed until at least this afternoon.

Ramella advised people to stay clear of the area while crews continue their work on the fire.

There were reports of some power poles catching on fire but whether those incidents directly caused utility outages is unknown, she said.

Resources from Clark County Fire Department, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada Division of Forestry, National Park Service and the Bullhead City, Fort Mojave and **San Bernardino County fire** departments were working to extinguish the blaze that was reported at about 1:30 p.m. Sunday.

Air drops of material to slow the fire began mid-afternoon. Fire-fighting boats were operating in the Colorado River during the afternoon as well.

Ramella made note of natural boundaries that should help contain the blaze: The river, park roads, a parking lot and areas burned in the past.

Though the fire jumped Needles Highway — another boundary — the fire apparently was held within park boundaries, she said.

Big Bend is about nine miles from Davis Dam and sits across from Bullhead City. A large number of canyons and washes can be found within its 2,100 acres.

http://www.mohavedailynews.com/news/fire-at-big-bend-recreation-area-burns-acres-is-contained/article_439d54b4-c240-11e9-83f1-1faa30afcb05.html

Sheriff's aviation rescues injured hiker from Mt. Baldy

Staff Writer, Redlands Community News

Posted: August 18, 2019



A 30-year-old Rancho California woman with an injured ankle was rescued by sheriff's aviation at the 9,000-foot level of Mount Baldy Saturday morning.

At 11 a.m. Aug. 17 the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department requested help. Sheriff's patrol helicopter, 40King6, used her GPS spot device that had sent a location to the Office of Emergency Services to find Maria Martinez in the Baldy Bowl.

"Air Rescue 306 arrived in the area and lowered a medic to contact the victim," the press release said. "Once the medic was on the ground, he advised Air Rescue 306 the injured hiker had an injury to her ankle. The

medic placed the victim into a rescue harness and Air Rescue 306 hovered above the victim and hoisted her to the helicopter followed by the medic.”

The victim had non-life threatening injuries and was transported to a waiting ambulance.

https://www.redlandscommunitynews.com/news/public_safety/sheriff-s-aviation-rescues-injured-hiker-from-mt-baldy/article_38ce304e-c1dc-11e9-983b-b3f5a7abd7db.html

Injured Hiker Hoist Rescued from Mount Baldy

Staff Writer, 24/7 Headline News

Posted: August 18, 2019



SAN BERNARDINO, Ca. – An injured 30-year-old Rancho Cucamonga woman was rescued by Sheriff’s Aviation on Saturday morning.

At around 11:00 a.m. **San Bernardino County Fire** requested the assistance of Sheriff’s Aviation, for an injured hiker in the Mount Baldy area. San Bernardino County helicopter 40King6 responded to the area to search for the stranded victim. The victim had a GPS Spot device, which was activated and sent a location to the Office of Emergency Services. The information was passed on to Sheriff’s Aviation and was helpful in locating the victim.

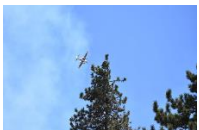
The crew was able to quickly locate the injured hiker at Baldy Bowl, which is approximately at the 9,000 foot level. Sheriff’s Air Rescue 306 was called in order to perform a hoist rescue. The medic was lowered and made contact with the victim who had an injury to her ankle. The woman was placed into a rescue harness and hoisted into the hovering helicopter. The medic was hoisted back into the helicopter after. The victim was transported to a waiting ambulance where she was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

<https://247headline.com/injured-hiker-hoist-rescued-from-mount-baldy/>

Quick response to control Bluff Fire

Kathy Portie, Big Bear Grizzly

Posted: August 18, 2019



Firefighters quickly respond to the Bluff Fire Aug. 18 near Big Bear Lake with air attack and ground crews. Kathy Portie/Big Bear Grizzly

You could smell the smoke in Boulder Bay before you could see it. The Bluff Fire was reported at approximately 12:15 p.m. Aug. 18 and firefighters from the U.S. Forest Service, **San Bernardino County Fire**, CalFire and Big Bear Fire Authority quickly responded to the call.

Forest Service helicopter 534 responded and reported a quarter-acre of spread. Air support arrived 10 minutes later with Air Attack 12 and Tanker 72. Air support made drops using water from Big Bear Lake.

Ground resources arrived soon after. Hoselay was tied in around the fire with a wet line. As of 1:14 p.m. the fire was holding at a quarter of an acre. Crews from the U.S. Forest Service remain on scene.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

http://www.bigbeargrizzly.net/news/quick-response-to-control-bluff-fire/article_463c6654-c1f7-11e9-85eb-1398181bac24.html

Firefighters douse garage fire in Hesperia Saturday

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: August 17, 2019



(Photo courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Firefighters helped save a house from being a total loss after a fire broke out in the garage in Hesperia Saturday.

It happened at about 11:44 am on August 17, 2019, in the 10100 block of Shangrai-La Ave in Hesperia.

Three **San Bernardino County Fire** engine companies, one truck company, one medic squad, one medic ambulance and a battalion chief were dispatched to the call.

According to a news release, a deputy arrived on scene to find the resident running in and out of the house then passing out on the front lawn.

The first unit on scene reported flames and smoke coming from the fully involved garage with possible extension to the house from the attached garage.

The next arriving unit began interior attack of the fire through the house into the garage and the truck company laddered the roof to start vertical ventilation.

“There was no fire damage inside the residence, but there was extensive smoke damage and one vehicle destroyed in the garage. Seven units from the San Bernardino County Fire Dept had knockdown on the fire in approximately 25 minutes,” stated the release.

Officials said one resident was transported from the scene to a local hospital for possible smoke inhalation.

The American Red Cross was requested for housing and recovery support. A family of seven, including five adults and two children, were displaced as a result of the fire. The official cause of the fire is under investigation.

<https://www.vvng.com/firefighters-douse-garage-fire-in-hesperia-saturday/>

BODY FOUND IN SUNFAIR DRY LAKE BED IN JOSHUA TREE

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: August 17, 2019

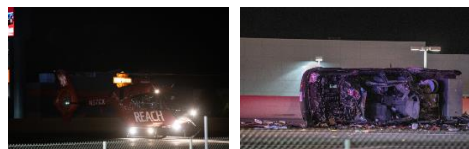
Homicide detectives were called to investigate a suspicious death in Joshua Tree Friday morning. At 8:49 a.m., **County firefighters** were called to a fire at Sunway Road and Rosehedge Avenue in Joshua Tree near the Sunfair Dry Lake bed. When firefighters arrived, they found an obviously dead body that had been set on fire. Firefighters secured the scene and called for Sheriff's deputies. Deputies are working to identify the male victim as well as any witnesses. Anyone with information should call the Sheriff's Department at (909)-387-3589.

<http://z1077fm.com/body-found-in-sunfair-dry-lake-bed-in-joshua-tree/>

SB I-15 freeway in Victorville closed due to rollover crash

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: August 17, 2019



Reach helicopter H325 landing on the I-15 freeway in Victorville. (Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News) The pickup truck was shredded and mangled. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — The I-15 freeway in Victorville was shut down Saturday night following a rollover crash.

It happened at about 9:36 pm on the southbound I-15 near the Roy Rogers Drive exit.

A father and his 4-year-old son were traveling in a 2006 Toyota Tundra pickup truck that overturned. Firefighters requested two helicopters to land on the freeway.

According to the California Highway Patrol incident logs, a white sedan was reckless driving and crashed into the center divider and the other rolled.

The male driver of the pickup truck sustained life-threatening injuries. Upon the request of Victorville City Firefighters, the 4-year-old was airlifted to the same hospital as his father. The child's injuries were not life-threatening.

This is a developing story, check back for updates as they become available.

<https://www.vvng.com/sb-i-15-freeway-in-victorville-closed-due-to-rollover-crash/>

Fontana residents are among 31 "Safety Heroes" honored by San Bernardino County

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: August 17, 2019



Honorees gather for a ceremony honoring 31 "Safety Heroes" in San Bernardino County. (Contributed photo by San Bernardino County)

Fontana residents were among the 31 "Safety Heroes" honored by San Bernardino County during a special presentation on Aug. 14.

The event was coordinated by the Board of Supervisors, the District Attorney's Office, the Sheriff's Department and **County Fire Department**.

"Safety Heroes are people who come along side law enforcement and emergency services to serve members of our community and help us keep our county safe," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Curt Hagman. "These selfless and courageous individuals volunteer to serve others on their own time. In doing this, they keep our county strong and ready to face whatever emergency may come our way. It is an honor to recognize them for their efforts."

Vision4Safety is a campaign of the Countywide Vision to bring people together to create safer neighborhoods, schools and workplaces in San Bernardino County. Last year, the Vision4Safety campaign asked the public to nominate Safety Heroes throughout the county who have made their communities safer by volunteering in emergency preparedness programs, leading neighborhood watch groups or stepping in to save a person's life.

The Fontana honorees included Navaeh Telles, a 9-year-old girl who was alone with her mother, Jennifer, when her mom suffered a medical emergency and fell to the ground unconscious and not breathing. Naveah called 911 and provided a dispatcher with her address and information about her mother's condition. Paramedics arrived and helped her mother, who made a full recovery.

Other Fontana persons honored were:

- Ray Cancel is a City of Fontana Community Emergency Response Team instructor who has trained and mentored more than 280 CERT students and participants and has been on several city call outs. In addition, he volunteers for the Police Department's Explorer Program, and is a part of the Emergency Communication Services team for the P.D.
- Irma Herrera is a volunteer with the San Bernardino County Area Office of Emergency Services as well as the city of Fontana's CERT Team. She oversees the Listos program, a public education program on preparedness designed to reach the Spanish-speaking community.
- Oscar Limon has been one of the primary instructors for the Fontana CERT Program since 2013. He has been instrumental in certifying more than 200 participants into the organization.

----- OTHER HONOREES from San Bernardino County at the event:

- Frank Becerra volunteers in his community through his neighborhood watch and as a volunteer in search and rescue.

- Emma Bonin has spent 19 years volunteering her time at the Hesperia Police Station as a member of the Equestrians on Patrol program. She teaches children how to recognize dangerous situations and helps them raise their awareness about strangers.
- Yomar Cleary has been the secretary of the Mountain Mutual Aid group in Big Bear Lake for nearly 20 years.
- Jeff Carter is the lead for the Muscupiabe Neighborhood Association Disaster Preparedness Team and coordinates a local emergency response with other CERT trained neighbors.
- Gil Diaz initially received CERT training back in 2013 and took a leadership role in 2014. He has completed the FEMA CERT Train-the-Trainer and program Manager Courses, Listos Train-the-Trainer and multiple Emergency Management Courses.
- Darren Espiritu founded a community group called Above the 210 to provide a one-stop informational resource for North San Bernardino residents.
- Alyssa Farrell, a member of Girl Scout Troop 10154 of Chino, saved the life of her friend by performing the Heimlich maneuver at a church retreat in October of 2018.
- Ruben Favela helped save the life of Deputy Rachel Varela when a suspect pulled a gun on her at a gas station. He physically fought the suspect with Varela until the suspect could be apprehended.
- Harry Hatch is a retired sheriffs' detective who stays busy as an active member of the North End Neighborhood Association (NENA) in San Bernardino and has prepared fireworks presentations about the dangers of fireworks to several organizations.
- David Hobbs has been dedicated to serving the communities of Green Valley Lake, Running Springs, Crest Line and his home town of Lake Arrowhead as the coordinator and director of what is now known as Mountain Cert.
- Brayden Juarez cleans up the streets of Yucaipa by picking up trash, teaching others how to cross crosswalks, and several other good deeds.
- Sergeant Maxim Krymov, Sergeant Kenneth Mullins, Lance Corporal Joseph Rasdal and Corporal Manuel Ruiz instruct at-risk teenagers in physical training, military formation and marching in the SHOCK program in Apple Valley.
- Colleen Kuhn has devoted her life to public safety in the High Desert.
- Colton Nordella, a 10-year-old boy, was surfing when he helped a man in his 50s who was having trouble staying above water. Colton told the man to calm down, and with the leash of his surfboard still attached to his ankle, he helped get the man onto his surfboard. Colton continued talking to the man and they began swimming to shore, where a lifeguard stepped in and told Colton he had done a good save.
- Kelly Palmer is a county employee in the Fuels and Security Department, a black belt In Tang Soo Do, and former USAF airplane mechanic.

- Thomas Pambianco volunteers as the training coordinator of the Sun City Apple Valley Emergency Planning Council.
- Thom Reeder volunteers with the CERT team and helps with training classes.
- Jassmyn Sanchez developed the Lady Be Aware Safety Course designed for women who want to develop the necessary attitude, skills, and knowledge to help prevent them from becoming a victim.
- Jenny Smith is in charge of Yucaipa police social media.
- The Way World Outreach Church and staff strive to help those in need through various programs and outreach.
- Michael Thielen is the administrator of the Facebook page Pain In the Pass.
- Lynne Wear is president of the Muscupiabe Homeowners Association.
- Douglas Williams started an online watch group called Wildwood Watchers and keeps all the neighbors up-to-date on suspicious activities.
- Breanna York, principal of Davidson Elementary School in San Bernardino, is part of a collaborative group of concerned community members who have recently launched a grassroots neighborhood initiative to assess pedestrian safety, Safe Routes to School, overall neighborhood traffic safety, and improved walkability.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/fontana-residents-are-among-safety-heroes-honored-by-san-bernardino/article_1a89c5c2-c136-11e9-a381-13e35d6cc25e.html

Local ‘safety heroes’ honored by county

Rene Ray De La Cruz, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: August 16, 2019, 5:19 PM



San Bernardino County Officials stand with a portion of 31 “Safety Heroes” that were recently honored for their service to the community.
[PHOTO COURTESY OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY]

APPLE VALLEY — As part of the Vision4Safety campaign, several High Desert residents were among 31 “Safety Heroes” that were honored Wednesday by representatives of San Bernardino County.

The County Board of Supervisors, the District Attorney, the Sheriff’s Department and **County Fire** recognized Apple Valley Fire Board member Colleen Kuhn, Hesperia Sheriff’s Station volunteer Emma Bonin and Sun City Apple Valley Emergency Planning Council Training Coordinator Thomas Pambianco.

The county also recognized Sgt. Maxim Krymov, Sgt. Kenneth Mullins, Lance Corporal Joseph Rasdal and Corporal Manuel Ruiz, all from the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Barstow.

“Safety Heroes are people who come alongside law enforcement and emergency services to serve members of our community and help us keep our county safe,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Curt Hagman.

He added that these “selfless and courageous” individuals volunteer to serve others on their own time, and in doing so, keep the county strong and ready to face whatever emergency may come its way.

“It is an honor to recognize them for their efforts,” Hagman said.

Pambianco revised the community’s Emergency Response Plan, relying on CERT and HAM radio operators to respond during an emergency. He regularly provides community-wide training for residents as well as specific training for CERT members and HAM radio operators.

Bonin has spent 19 years volunteering her time at the Hesperia Station as a member of the Equestrians on Patrol program. She’s taught children how to recognize dangerous situations and helps them raise their awareness of strangers. She also educates children on how and when to use 911, the importance of looking both ways when crossing the street and stranger danger.

Kuhn started working as a paramedic for Valley Ambulance out of Victorville then later worked in the fire service in the 1980s for the Barstow Fire District. She is retired from the Sheriff’s Department and serves on the Apple Valley Fire Board.

After a day serving in Barstow, Krymov, Mullins, Rasdal and Ruiz have travel to Apple Valley to instruct at-risk teenagers in physical training, military formation and marching in the SHOCK program. These men volunteer numerous hours to the program, serving as role models and positive influences in the lives of many students.

Michael Thielen, the administrator of the Facebook page “Pain In the Pass,” was also honored. His page has some 60,000 members and Thielen encourages safe commuting and advises people ahead of time and in real-time of transportation-related safety hazards.

Alyssa Farrell, a member of Girl Scout Troop 10154 in Chino, was honored for saving the life of her friend by performing the Heimlich maneuver at a church retreat In October of 2018.

Ruben Favela was also honored for helping to save the life of Deputy Rachel Varela when a suspect pulled a gun on her at a gas station. He physically fought the suspect with Deputy Varela until the suspect could be apprehended.

Other heroes honored include: Frank Becerra, Ray Cancel, Yomar Cleary, Jeff Carter, Gil Diaz, Darren Espiritu, Harry Hatch, Irma Herrera, David Hobbs, Brayden Juarez, Oscar Limon, Colton Nordella, Kelly Palmer, Thom Reeder, Jassmyn Sanchez, Jenny Smith, Navaeh Telles, Lynne Wear, Douglas Williams, Breanna York and The Way World Outreach Church and staff.

District Attorney Jason Anderson, Assistant Sheriff Lana Tomlin and Interim Fire Chief Don Trapp joined the Board of Supervisors in honoring the nominees who reside throughout the county from Barstow to Chino Hills.

Vision4Safety is a campaign of the Countywide Vision to bring people together to create safer neighborhoods, schools and workplaces in the county.

For safety tips, information about after-school programs and links to safety programs offered by local sheriff, police and fire agencies, visit Vision4Safety.com.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20190816/local-safety-heroes-honored-by-county>

Wildfire burns in Joshua Tree

Staff Writer, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: August 16, 2019



The Yucca Mesa fire crew arrives to help put out a wildfire in Joshua Tree Thursday evening. County fire photo

JOSHUA TREE — A brush fire burned two acres near the 62200 block of Verbena Road here Thursday night.

A fire crew from **San Bernardino County**'s Joshua Tree station was first on the scene at 7:37 p.m. Firefighters reported the flames had already destroyed about a half-acre.

They were able to stop the spread at 2 acres in about 10 minutes.

The fire's cause was undetermined after an investigation, Battalion Chief Mike McClintock said.

The county fire department sent two engines, one brush engine and one battalion chief to the blaze.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_e4b9096c-c06d-11e9-aa44-636de88271fb.html

VEGETATION FIRE IN JOSHUA TREE LAST NIGHT

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: August 16, 2019



Firefighters made an aggressive attack on a brush fire on Verbena in Joshua Tree Thursday evening and confined the blaze to two acres. Photo courtesy San Bernardino County Fire Department

Firefighters made short work of a potentially dangerous brush fire in Joshua Tree last night. **San Bernardino County Fire** responded with two engines, one brush engine and one battalion chief. Crews were called to the 62200 block of Verbena at about 7:30 p.m. to find about one-half acre of light to medium fuels involved. Crews got the fire knocked down in just 10 minutes and stopped the forward rate of spread at two acres. The cause if the fire was undetermined after investigation.

<http://z1077fm.com/vegetation-fire-in-joshua-tree-last-night/>

IT'S WILDFIRE SEASON, SOME SAFETY TIPS

Staff Writer, Z1077.7 FM News

Posted: August 16, 2019



Photo courtesy **San Bernardino County Fire**

With the recent vegetation fires in Yucca Valley and the Morongo Basin, here's a reminder that we must be aware that even the littlest spark can start a wildfire, even here in our desert. Reporter Eric Knabe offers some helpful tips to prevent wildfires...

The winter rain brought us an abundance of vegetation which has dried and become a potential danger we haven't seen in a while. Here are some things we can do to prevent wildfires. Don't drive your vehicle onto dry grass or brush. Hot exhaust pipes and mufflers can start fires that you won't even see—until it's too late. Practice safe towing. Secure your chain; dragging chains can throw sparks. Use appropriate safety pins and hitch ball to secure chains. When camping get a campfire permit. Campfire permits can be obtained from any CAL FIRE, US Forest Service, or BLM station or office. Clear an area at least 10 feet in diameter and always keep a shovel and bucket of water nearby at all times. You can also go online to <http://www.preventwildfireca.org> for more information.

<http://z1077fm.com/its-wildfire-season-some-safety-tips/>

Tree-killing pest detected in Big Bear area

Staff Writer, Highland Community News

Posted: August 16, 2019

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — The invasive gold-spotted oak borer (GSOB, *Agrilus auroguttatus*) was detected last week in recently-killed and dying California black oaks on private property in the unincorporated San Bernardino County community of Sugarloaf.

Larval, pupal and adult life stages of the beetle were extracted by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and U.S. Forest Service personnel from under the tree bark. A **San Bernardino County Fire** Hazard Officer, who had received GSOB identification training, made the initial discovery while conducting hazard inspections.

This is the second GSOB infestation identified in San Bernardino County, the first discovery being in the Oak Glen area in fall of 2018. This is also the second GSOB infestation on the San Bernardino National Forest, the first being in Idyllwild in 2012.

The long-range spread of GSOB from its native range in Arizona to San Diego, Riverside, Orange, Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties, has been attributed to the movement of GSOB-infested firewood.

Cal Fire advises to take precautions to avoid transporting potentially-infested oak firewood within, to or from the San Bernardino Mountains.

GSOB may already be in other portions of San Bernardino County but haven't been discovered yet.

Cal Fire says these non-native beetles aggressively attack California black oaks, coast live oaks and even canyon live oaks, whether in mountain communities, forests, valleys or cities. They point out that GSOB prefer larger oaks.

Learn about GSOB at gsob.org, including how to identify and report a suspected GSOB infestation. If you have oak trees that have recently died and have been cut down, Cal Fire urges you to make sure the wood is not infested before transporting it.

The GSOB website has information on how to manage infested wood.

CAL FIRE, the San Bernardino National Forest and other collaborating agencies will develop a GSOB response plan for the mountaintop communities in San Bernardino County. This will include determining the current extent of the infestation in the area. In the interim, at-risk communities should educate themselves about the GSOB threat and share the information with their neighbors and friends in any San Bernardino County communities with oak trees.

https://www.highlandnews.net/community/tree-killing-pest-detected-in-big-bear-area/article_6b0470b0-c03c-11e9-80ba-dbaf4a17f12f.html