



NEWS



News Headlines 09/27/2019

- 2 San Bernardino County fire departments will get \$2 million to protect their cities
- Bee attack in Hesperia sends four to hospital
- Rialto and Fontana fire districts will get nearly \$1.9 million in federal funding
- 'Buy a Burger for a Dog' fundraiser helps Upland Police Department's K-9 division
- At least 4 people stung during bee attack Thursday in Hesperia; 1 in critical condition

2 San Bernardino County fire departments will get \$2 million to protect their cities

Brian Whitehead, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: September 26, 2019



Firefighters battle a quick moving wind driven brush fire east of the 15 Freeway in Fontana, south of Sierra Avenue, Sunday December 17, 2017. Cause of the blaze is unknown. (Photo by Will Lester-Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

Inland Reps. Pete Aguilar, D-Redlands, and Norma Torres, D-Ontario, have championed funding increases for federal programs.

The Rialto and Fontana fire departments are to receive nearly \$2 million in federal grant funding to better protect their cities, Inland Reps. Pete Aguilar, D-Redlands, and Norma Torres, D-Ontario, announced Wednesday, Sept. 25.

Awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Administration, or FEMA, about \$1.6 million in Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response, or SAFER, funds will provide money for up to seven new firefighters in Rialto. A \$300,000 Assistance to Firefighters Grant, meanwhile, will go toward replacing and upgrading outdated radio equipment used by the Fontana Fire Protection District.

Aguilar and Torres, both of whom sit on the House Appropriations Committee, which determines funding levels for federal agencies and programs, have long championed funding increases to public safety programs.

The federal grants “ensure that our local fire departments in the Inland Empire are appropriately staffed and prepared to deploy capabilities effectively and efficiently,” Torres said in a news release.

Rialto firefighters recently received an 8% pay raise and a new five-year contract after working without an agreement for two years.

The city of close to 104,000 residents has about 70 sworn and non-sworn employees who are responsible for fire suppression and emergency and medical response services.

Rialto leaders in March said the pay hike should boost recruitment and retention.

“I commend and applaud the effort of our Fire Department,” Mayor Deborah Robertson said, “for continuing to pursue innovative approaches to fire services and public safety for the Rialto community, as well as regional assistance where needed.”

The Fontana Fire Protection District will receive new Bluetooth-enabled breathing apparatuses to improve firefighter communication and safety while on emergency incidents.

Emergency, prevention and administrative services are provided to the district by the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

“From providing medical assistance to battling wildfires, fire departments across San Bernardino County work tirelessly to keep our community safe,” Aguilar said. “I’ll continue fighting ... to give Inland Empire first responders access to the resources they need.”

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/09/26/these-two-san-bernardino-county-fire-departments-will-receive-2-million-to-protect-their-cities/>

Bee attack in Hesperia sends four to hospital

Martin Estacio, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: September 26, 2019



San Bernardino County firefighters spray a boat where a swarm of bees originated in Hesperia on Thursday. [Martin Estacio, Daily Press]

HESPERIA — A bee attack sent four people to the hospital Thursday morning, including a man stung multiple times who was “extremely allergic to bees,” authorities said.

The attack happened at Big B’s Boat Disposal on the northeast corner of C Avenue and Hercules Street at about 11:15 a.m.

Firefighters were forced to spray at the swarm of stinging insects with water and foam before they rescued the man who was attacked, according to **San Bernardino County Fire** spokesperson Kyle Hauducoeur.

The man, whose age and identity were unknown, was rushed by ambulance to Desert Valley Hospital in life-threatening condition, Hauducoeur said. The man’s condition was also unknown.

Hauducoeur said that despite his allergy, the man carried no emergency medication.

“Any individual that is engaged in outdoor activities is encouraged to carry an EpiPen,” he said. “It can make a difference in those first few minutes of keeping that airway open.”

Three other people were also transported to the same hospital.

The group was attempting to salvage a boat in the yard, when they disturbed a beehive which had been in the hull.

Hauducoeur said firefighters continued to pour water on the boat until the county’s Mosquito & Vector Control could arrive. He said beekeepers were able to collect the queen bee and move the hive.

Sheriff’s deputies cordoned off the intersection. City animal control was also at the scene.

The last major bee attack to happen in the city occurred in 2007 when three dogs were killed by Africanized bees, according to city spokesperson Rachel Molina.

It is unknown if the bees in Thursday’s attack were Africanized.

<https://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20190926/bee-attack-in-hesperia-sends-four-to-hospital>

Rialto and Fontana fire districts will get nearly \$1.9 million in federal funding

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: September 26, 2019



The Fontana Fire Protection District will get more than \$300,000 in federal funding.

Reps. Pete Aguilar and Norma Torres recently announced \$1,590,996 in federal grant funding for the City of Rialto and \$301,363.63 in federal funding for the Fontana Fire Protection District.

The funding was awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) through the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) and Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) programs.

The SAFER grant, awarded to the City of Rialto, will fund the hires of up to seven new firefighters and enable the Rialto Fire Department to expand their ability to provide life-saving assistance throughout the city.

The AFG award will allow the Fontana Fire Protection District to replace and upgrade outdated radio equipment with Bluetooth-enabled breathing apparatuses in order to improve firefighter communication and safety.

“Fontana Fire District is thankful for the funding received from this grant, which will allow us to replace our current obsolete portable 800mhz radios with the latest technology that will enhance our communications while on emergency incidents,” said **San Bernardino County Fire Department** Assistant Chief Jeff Birchfield. “One particular enhancement includes Bluetooth technology, which will allow for the radios to connect to our face masks on our self-contained breathing apparatus, providing better communication to other units and incident commanders on the fireground.”

Both Aguilar (D-31st District) and Torres (D-35th District) serve on the House Appropriations Committee, which determines funding levels for federal agencies and programs, and have successfully fought for funding increases to programs such as SAFER and AFG that provide resources to first responders.

“From providing medical assistance to battling wildfires, fire departments across San Bernardino County work tirelessly to keep our community safe. I’ll continue fighting for increased funding for programs like SAFER and AFG to give Inland Empire first responders access to the critical resources they need,” Aguilar said.

“As a former 911 dispatcher and someone who lost her house to a fire, I know what it feels like to see a fire truck coming to your rescue,” Torres said. “The firefighters of the Rialto Fire Department and the Fontana Fire Protection District selflessly put themselves in harm’s way to respond to emergencies and protect

residents. That's why I worked with Congressman Aguilar on the Appropriations Committee to secure this critical funding."

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/rialto-and-fontana-fire-districts-will-get-nearly-million-in/article_05580136-e09f-11e9-9239-7f2eb65760fd.html

‘Buy a Burger for a Dog’ fundraiser helps Upland Police Department’s K-9 division

Staff Writer, Daily Bulletin

Posted: September 26, 2019



Officer Quinn Hanley of the Upland Police Department with his K-9 partner Rudy. (Photo courtesy of Upland CERT)

Members of the Upland Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) recently presented \$650 to the Upland Police Department, to help fund the department’s efforts to add to its K-9 division.

The donation was from the group’s “Buy a Burger for a Dog” fundraiser held at the BurgerIM restaurant in Upland. A percentage of all sales at the restaurant on May 29 went to Upland CERT, which donated 100% of the proceeds to the Upland Police Department, according to a press release from Upland CERT.

Among those at the presentation were Police Chief Darren Goodman and Officer Quinn Hanley and his K-9 partner Rudy.

The CERT program educates people about disaster preparedness, training them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. Upland CERT members, in conjunction with the Upland Police Department and **San Bernardino County Fire**, are committed to educating, training and volunteering their service to make the community safer and better prepared, according to the press release.

<https://www.dailybulletin.com/2019/09/26/buy-a-burger-for-a-dog-fundraiser-helps-upland-police-departments-k-9-division/>

At least 4 people stung during bee attack Thursday in Hesperia; 1 in critical condition

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: September 26, 2019



HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A swarm of bees attacked at least four people Thursday, including an elderly man that was reportedly stung nearly 70 times.

San Bernardino County Fire responded to the area of Hercules Street and C Avenue in the city of Hesperia at about 11:16 a.m., September 26, 2019.

“Initially, the call was dispatched as an active bee attack in a boat storage yard, and four people had been stung,” San Bernardino County Fire public information officer Kyle Hauducoeur told VVNG.

“We responded with three ambulances and two engines,” Hauducoeur said. “In total, four people were taken to the hospital, and one of those victims sustained injuries we classify as life-threatening.”

The critically injured victim was rushed to Desert Valley Hospital.

A bee hive was located near a salvaged boat, prompting officials to contact Vector control.

“Vector will show up and collect the queen bee, then move the hive along to somewhere safer,” stated Hauducoeur.

One victim reportedly had a known allergy to bees, but did not have any emergency medication.

“People who have allergies to bees should have an EpiPen, or nearby family member with one, especially if they’re planning any outside activities,” Hauducoeur said.

Additionally, animal control was summoned to assist firefighters with a dog that was in the business yard.

Deputies from the Hesperia Station blocked access to the area to prevent further attacks until Vector Control arrived.

<https://www.vvng.com/at-least-4-people-stung-during-bee-attack-thursday-in-hesperia-1-in-critical-condition/>