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SB-15 freeway closed due to pile-up crash in Cajon Pass

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: January 16, 2019



(Jessica Olvera)

CAJON PASS, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A pile-up crash on the southbound I-15 has prompted authorities to shutdown the freeway Wednesday morning.

According to initial reports, at about 9:28 am, 19 vehicles were involved in a multi-vehicle traffic accident on the SB-15 just south of the switchbacks.

San Bernardino County Firefighters have declared this as an MCI response and are treating 35 patients. Five are reported to have minor injuries and 12 others reported no injuries.

At this time it's unknown how long the I-15 will remain closed at Oak Hill Road.

This is a developing story and additional information will be updated as it becomes available.

<https://www.vvng.com/sb-15-freeway-closed-due-to-pile-up-crash-in-cajon-pass/>

2-alarm fire destroys building in San Bernardino

Brian Rokos, Press Enterprise

Posted: January 15, 2019, 3:38 pm



A two-alarm fire destroyed a commercial building in San Bernardino on Tuesday, Jan. 15, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** said.

Firefighters were alerted to the fire in the 300 block of W. 6th Street at 2:45 p.m. and arrived to find smoke pouring from the roof and flames coming from the front and back of the one-story building, department spokesman Eric Sherwin said. They immediately called for a second alarm, bringing the total response to 45 firefighters and nine fire engines.

Everyone got out of the building safely, and no injuries were reported. The fire was under control within 50 minutes.

The cause of the fire was under investigation.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/01/15/2-alarm-fire-burns-business-in-san-bernardino/>

Rotary Club honors public safety personnel

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: January 15, 2019, 6:06 pm



San Bernardino County Battalion Chief Josh Sprague is recognized by Rotarians for his 25-year firefighting career. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

VICTORVILLE — The local Rotary Club honored public safety officials Tuesday for their work in this city.

The club hosted its annual Public Safety Awards lunch at the Green Tree Golf Course clubhouse, where a San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department deputy, a **County Fire** battalion chief, and a new city employee were honored for their work with the city.

Introduced by Victorville Sheriff's Station Cpt. Rick Bessinger, each person honored also received proclamations from Councilman Jim Cox, Representative Jay Obernolte and Congressman Paul Cook.

City employee and new Victorville Fire Department member emergency management coordinator Dana Wellborn, was recognized for his efforts in expanding life-saving training. Victorville Fire Chief Greg Benson said Wellborn has trained more than 400 community members in "Stop the Bleed" training.

"And believe it or not, it's not easy training to coordinate," Benson said. "I just want to recognize Dana for his contributions to the community."

County Fire Battalion Chief Joshua Sprague was honored for his 25-year career in the fire service, with most of those years spent in the city. Assistant Fire Chief Dan Mejia praised Sprague for his drive and innovative streak in helping to improve fire operations.

"Josh has been very instrumental in making some changes here," Mejia said.

Sheriff's Deputy Vicente Quiroz, who's been stationed in Victorville for the past six years, was honored for his "tenacity and investigative skills" during his time as a patrol officer and most recently with the Child Protective Services/Adult Protective Services follow-up unit.

"Also in his spare time, he coaches youth soccer," Bessinger said, with a chuckle. "Me and the rest of the station have nothing but good things to say about him. We truly believe he exemplifies service over self."

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20190115/rotary-club-honors-public-safety-personnel>

San Bernardino County fire chief leaving for Santa Barbara

Brian Rokos, San Bernardino County Sun

Posted: January 15, 2019, 10:35 pm



San Bernardino County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig announced on Jan. 15, 2019, that he is leaving to become fire chief of Santa Barbara County. (File photo, Stan Lim, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

Mark Hartwig remembers working his way through college as a zoology student studying the mating habits of the white-headed woodpecker. He paid for school by working as an emergency medical technician.

One day in Wrightwood, Hartwig saw the fire station there and volunteered. That marked the end of his journey toward becoming a doctor and the true beginning of a long firefighting career.

“If it wasn’t love at walking through the door, it was shortly thereafter that I realized it was my calling,” Hartwig said Tuesday.

Hartwig, the **San Bernardino County fire** chief, will take that passion to Santa Barbara County, where he was announced Tuesday as the new fire chief. His last day in San Bernardino County will be Feb. 15. He’ll start on the coast Feb. 18.

Hartwig, 55, a firefighter for 27 years, has been fire chief since 2011. He was voted the 2017 California Fire Chief of the Year by the California State Fire Chiefs’ Association and was appointed by then-Gov. Jerry Brown to the California Commission on Emergency Medical Services. Hartwig worked with the Sheriff’s Department to create a firefighting helicopter program and inmate hand crew teams.

The Rancho Cucamonga resident will leave a department that has 1,065 employees and 70 fire stations for one with 245 employees and 16 fire stations. It was a family decision, Hartwig said. The two youngest children, twin girls, graduated from high school this year. And he said he feels like he has accomplished many of his objectives.

“When I became fire chief here, I had a long list of (boxes to check) and tasks and ideas and goals, but two of my primary goals ... one was to develop a strong group of leaders, men and women, who could take over for me if I stepped out. The other was to build a financially sustainable fire district,” Hartwig said.

“Santa Barbara reminds me a lot of the county fire department I joined 27 years ago, with 16 stations. The size and the responsibilities and with a lot of the same challenges and opportunities,” he said. “The opportunity to live there in such a gorgeous place and address the challenges I’m familiar with, it became more and more appealing.”

Hartwig said his top priority will be evaluating the department’s disaster plan “and making it a community effort.”

The Santa Barbara County community of Montecito was devastated first by the Thomas fire in December 2017, and then by a January 2018 flood and mudslide that killed 21 people. Disaster plans must respect the new reality that catastrophes can strike without warning, Hartwig said, making a popular preparedness slogan from emergency officials outdated.

“Instead of ‘Ready, Set, Go,’ it’s ‘Ready, Go Now,’ ” Hartwig said.

He leaves reflecting on the comfort he, wife Holly and the rest of the family received from the community after his 20-year-old son Dawson drowned in Lake Arrowhead in 2017.

“The outpouring of love and support and encouragement, that makes it a hard place to leave,” Hartwig said. “But, as Solomon said, there is a time for everything.”

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/01/15/san-bernardino-county-fire-chief-leaving-for-santa-barbara/>

County Fire Chief leaving for Santa Barbara

Staff Writer, Daily Press

Posted: January 15, 2019, 5:18 pm



San Bernardino County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig speaking in Lucerne Valley in August. On Tuesday, Hartwig announced he is leaving his position to become Santa Barbara County’s fire chief. [Martin Estacio, Daily Press]

San Bernardino County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig is leaving his position to become Santa Barbara County’s fire chief.

The county announced Hartwig’s departure Tuesday in a press release.

His last day with the district will be Feb. 15.

“Building a team of leaders and succession has been a high priority for me,” Hartwig said in a released statement. “We have a talented group of leaders at County Fire that will move forward as the Board decides how to select my replacement.”

County officials said an announcement “about the future leadership of the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District” will be made before Feb. 15.

Hartwig became chief of the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District in 2011. He has served as deputy chief in Rancho Cucamonga and with the San Bernardino County Fire Department from 1992 until 2005.

Regarding Hartwig’s accomplishments, the county cited his assistance in developing a protocol in which fire personnel enter active shooter situations with law enforcement to provide medical assistance to victims.

Hesperia is among the cities that entered into fire protection agreements with the county under Hartwig.

Last year, Hartwig was recognized as California Fire Chief of the Year by the California State Fire Chiefs' Association. He serves on the California Commission on Emergency Medical Services.

Supervisor Robert Lovingood, who represents the Victor Valley, said "the First District experienced some significant fires in recent years, and I want to thank Chief Hartwig again for his leadership during those moments of crisis."

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20190115/county-fire-chief-leaving-for-santa-barbara>

Mark Hartwig taking the reins in Santa Barbara County

Kathy Portie, Big Bear Grizzly

Posted: January 15, 2019



Mark Hartwig, chief of the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, pictured here discussing Baldwin Lake in 2014, has resigned to take a job with Santa Barbara Fire

San Bernardino County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig accepted an offer to serve as fire chief for Santa Barbara County.

After serving nearly eight years at the helm of the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, his final day with the district will be Feb. 15.

"Building a team of leaders and succession has been a high priority for me. We have a talented group of leaders at County Fire that will move forward as the board decides how to select my replacement," Hartwig said.

"Chief Hartwig has been a steadfast and effective leader for San Bernardino County," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Curt Hagman, who represents the Fourth District. "The county has benefited from his expertise in emergency medical services and his service on behalf of our community. We will miss working with him and look forward to seeing him succeed in his new role."

Hartwig became San Bernardino County fire chief on May 2, 2011, after serving as a deputy chief in Rancho Cucamonga. Hartwig had previously served with the San Bernardino County Fire Department from 1992 until 2005.

The Fire District underwent tremendous growth during Hartwig's tenure, including a partnership with the Crest Forest Fire Protection District and the cities of Needles, Hesperia, San Bernardino, Upland and Twentynine Palms to annex into the district.

Hartwig was recognized as the 2017 California Fire Chief of the Year by the California State Fire Chiefs' Association and was appointed by then-Governor Brown to the California Commission on Emergency Medical Services on which he continues to serve.

"Fire Chief Mark Hartwig has served San Bernardino County for nearly eight years, successfully leading the department through many challenging times," said Board of Supervisors vice chair Josie Gonzales, who represents the Fifth District. "I wish him well as he moves into this next phase of his professional career."

"Chief Hartwig raised the bar for public safety, emergency response and departmental professionalism. His pursuit of excellence for San Bernardino County Fire will be missed," said Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford.

"I appreciate Chief Hartwig's service to the County of San Bernardino," said First District Supervisor Robert Lovingood. "During his tenure, the chief has been a strong advocate for the county, always willing to assist when his agency is called upon to help ensure our constituents receive the best possible service. The First District experienced some significant fires in recent years, and I want to thank Chief Hartwig again for his leadership during those moments of crisis. I wish the chief all the best as he transitions into this new leadership opportunity."

"Chief Hartwig has proven himself to be an invaluable asset, especially during some of the most trying times in our county's history," said Third District Supervisor Dawn Rowe. "I appreciate his service to Third District residents and our county as a whole."

One of the many areas in which Hartwig has distinguished himself is his collaboration with law enforcement in the pursuit of public safety. Under his leadership, County Fire partnered with the Sheriff in creating an Airship Program for firefighting and emergency medical response and the Inmate Hand Crew Program. Hartwig also helped develop a protocol in which fire personnel enter active shooter situations with law enforcement to ensure immediate medical aid to victims.

"I'd like to congratulate Chief Hartwig and wish him well on his new endeavor," said Sheriff John McMahon. "I'm sure Mark will do a phenomenal job for the citizens of Santa Barbara County as he did here in San Bernardino. Mark has been a great partner in our efforts to deliver public safety. He has been at the forefront of progress, innovating services and collaboration between our departments."

The county will make an announcement about the future leadership of the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District at some point prior to Feb. 15.

"It has been my honor to lead such a talented and distinguished team of men and women. They have accomplished more than I ever imagined was possible," Hartwig said. "County Fire is well-positioned to address future opportunities and challenges."

http://www.bigbeargrizzly.net/news/mark-hartwig-taking-the-reins-in-santa-barbara-county/article_44c24ab8-1929-11e9-946f-97fac2798510.html

SB County fire chief leaving for Santa Barbara

Staff Writer, Inland News Today

Posted: January 15, 2019

SAN BERNARDINO – (INT) – **County Fire** Chief Mark Hartwig is turning in his badge to accept a similar post in Santa Barbara County.

Hartwig's career in San Bernardino County began in 1992 and worked his way up to the chief's post 19-years later after a stint as deputy chief in Rancho Cucamonga. He was recognized as the 2017 California Fire Chief of the Year by the California State Fire Chiefs' Association.

"Chief Hartwig raised the bar for public safety, emergency response and departmental professionalism. His pursuit of excellence for San Bernardino County Fire will be missed," said Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford.

Chief Hartwig will step down February 15th.

A statement from the County Board of Supervisors says an announcement about the future leadership of the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District will be made at some point.

<http://www.inlandnewstoday.com/story.php?s=53465>

COUNTY FIRE CHIEF LEAVING FOR SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Staff Writer, Z107.7 News

Posted: January 16, 2019

After heading up a controversial effort called "sleazy and rigged" that used a questionable protest vote to foist the massively unpopular FP-5 Fire fee on residents of **San Bernardino County**, Fire Chief Mark Hartwig is jumping ship to serve as the Fire Chief for Santa Barbara County.

Hartwig served nearly eight years at the helm of the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District; his final day will be February 15.

The county will announce the future leadership of the Fire Protection District at some point prior to February 15.

Former 3 rd District Supervisor James Ramos, the swing vote on the FP-5 expansion, also jumped ship, resigning after successfully running for a State Assembly seat in November.

Two lawsuits questioning the method used and the constitutionality of the FP-5 fire fees are currently making their way through the courts.

<http://z1077fm.com/county-fire-chief-leaving-for-santa-barbara-county/>

Supervisors Pick San Bernardino County Chief to Lead Santa Barbara Fire Department

Brooke Holland, Noozhawk

Posted: January 15, 2019, 3:02 pm



Mark Hartwig

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted in closed session Tuesday to appoint **San Bernardino County Fire** District Chief Mark Hartwig as the county's new fire chief.

The decision comes after a months-long competitive selection process and several rounds of interviews, county officials said.

Hartwig starts the job Feb. 18, and will oversee the department of 16 fire stations, two battalions, three divisions and about 245 full-time employees.

"I am excited to join the Santa Barbara County team and the well-respected county fire department, and look forward to further engaging our communities and our partners in the ongoing review and development of disaster readiness and response," Hartwig said in a statement. "Engagement and partnerships are the keys to success."

Former county chief Michael Dyer has been interim fire chief since Chief Eric Peterson retired in October.

Hartwig has been fire chief of the San Bernardino County Fire District since 2011, and runs a department of 1,065 employees, 70 fire stations and an agency that covers 10 incorporated cities and 60 unincorporated communities.

"Santa Barbara County has a long history of catastrophic fires, but an equally long history of outstanding fire chiefs who have guided our department and county through these tough times," Fifth District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino said in a statement. "Our board is confident that Chief Hartwig brings with him the experience, expertise and drive to take on this challenge. We are committed to provide him with the tools that he needs to do his job effectively."

Hartwig served six years with the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District, where he was promoted to the rank of deputy chief, before being named San Bernardino County fire chief.

Prior to that, he served with San Bernardino County Fire, starting as an extra-help firefighter in 1992 and working his way to the rank of captain, serving as the department's emergency medical services supervisor and training officer.

Hartwig has developed an expertise in emergency medical services and has been working with the California Fire Chiefs Association to help solidify county and local government's role in the delivery of emergency medical services, county officials said.

County Executive Officer Mona Miyasato said in a statement that Hartwig “stood out given his experience, statewide leadership, expertise in emergency medical services, and understanding of disaster readiness.

“We were fortunate to be presented with several highly qualified and exemplary candidates for this critical position,” she continued. “I have every confidence that he will bring strong, steady leadership and a continued commitment to our fire department’s time-honored tradition of excellence, professionalism and preparedness.”

Hartwig was recognized as the 2017 California Fire Chief of the Year by the California State Fire Chiefs’ Association, and was appointed by then-Gov. Jerry Brown to the California Commission on Emergency Medical Services in 2012, according to the county.

He also is an advisory board member for the Loma Linda University Emergency Medical Care Program and the Victor Valley Community College paramedic academy.

He holds a master’s degree in emergency services administration, bachelor’s degrees in zoology and emergency medical care, and associate degrees in paramedic studies and fire administration, along with numerous certifications in fire studies.

https://www.noozhawk.com/article/san_bernardino_county_fire_district_chief_santa_barbara_supervisors

Santa Barbara County announces new fire chief

Stacy Sakai, KEYT 3 News

Posted: January 15, 2019, 2:53 pm

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. - A new fire chief has been appointed to oversee Santa Barbara County fire operations.

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors announced Tuesday Mark A. Hartwig will serve as the next fire chief.

Hartwig has served as Fire Chief of the **San Bernardino County Fire** District since 2011. Hartwig was also named 2017 California Fire Chief of the Year by the California State Fire Chiefs' Association.

“Santa Barbara County has a long history of catastrophic fires, but an equally long history of outstanding Fire Chiefs who have guided our department and County through these tough times,” said 5th District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino, who is chair of the board.

“Our board is confident that Chief Hartwig brings with him the experience, expertise and drive to take on this challenge. We are committed to provide him with the tools that he needs to do his job effectively.”

Hartwig officially takes over as chief on Feb. 18, 2019. He will oversee 16 fire stations within the county.

“I am excited to join the Santa Barbara County team and the well-respected County Fire Department, and look forward to further engaging our communities and our partners in the ongoing review and development of disaster readiness and response,” stated Mark Hartwig.

Former Santa Barbara County Fire Chief Mike Dyer has been filling in as the interim fire chief since the retirement of Eric Peterson in 2018.

<https://www.keyt.com/news/santa-barbara-county-announces-new-fire-chief/977000731>

Hartwig appointed new Santa Barbara County fire chief Tuesday by Board of Supervisors

Mike Hodgson, Santa Maria Times

Posted: January 15, 2019



Mark A. Hartwig was named the new chief of the Santa Barbara County Fire Department by the Board of Supervisors during their meeting Tuesday in Santa Maria. Contributed Photo

The chief of the **San Bernardino County Fire** District was appointed Tuesday to lead the Santa Barbara County Fire Department.

Mark A. Hartwig was named the new fire chief by the County Board of Supervisors to replace Eric Peterson, who retired last year after 31 years with the department.

He has served as chief of the San Bernardino County Fire District since 2011, leading a department of 1,065 employees covering 10 incorporated cities and 60 unincorporated communities with 70 fire stations.

As Santa Barbara County's fire chief, he will oversee a department with about 245 full-time employees in two battalions and three divisions with 16 fire stations.

His first official day as the county's fire chief will be Feb. 18, a county spokesman said.

"I am excited to join the Santa Barbara County team and the well-respected County Fire Department and look forward to further engaging our communities and our partners in the ongoing review and development of disaster readiness and response," Hartwig said.

"Engagement and partnerships are the keys to success," he added.

Hartwig was chosen after what county officials called a monthslong competitive selection process and several rounds of interviews.

He was recognized as the 2017 California fire chief of the year by the California Fire Chiefs Association and was appointed by then-Gov. Jerry Brown to the California Commission on Emergency Medical Services, on which he continues to serve.

Before he was named San Bernardino County's fire chief, Hartwig served six years with the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District, where he was promoted to the rank of deputy chief.

Prior to that, he served with San Bernardino County Fire, starting as an extra-help firefighter in 1992 and working his way to the rank of captain, serving as the department's emergency medical services supervisor and training officer.

"Santa Barbara County has a long history of catastrophic fires, but an equally long history of outstanding fire chiefs who have guided our department and county through these tough times," Board of Supervisors Chairman and 5th District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino said.

"Our board is confident that Chief Hartwig brings with him the experience, expertise and drive to take on this challenge," Lavagnino said. "We are committed to provide him with the tools that he needs to do his job effectively."

During his career, Hartwig developed an expertise in emergency medical services, the county spokesman said.

Most recently, he has been working with the California Fire Chiefs Association to help solidify county and local government's role in delivering emergency medical services.

"We were fortunate to be presented with several highly qualified and exemplary candidates for this critical position," County Executive Officer Mona Miyasato said. "Chief Hartwig stood out given his experience, statewide leadership, expertise in emergency medical services and understanding of disaster readiness.

"I have every confidence that he will bring strong, steady leadership and a continued commitment to our Fire Department's time-honored tradition of excellence, professionalism and preparedness."

Hartwig served as president of the California Fire Chiefs Association for 2017-18 and is an advisory board member for the Loma Linda University Emergency Medical Care Program and the Victor Valley Community College Paramedic Academy.

In December 2012, he was appointed to the California Commission on Emergency Medical Services.

Hartwig holds a master's degree in emergency services administration, bachelor's degrees in zoology as well as emergency medical care and associate degrees in both paramedic studies and fire administration.

He also has earned numerous certifications in fire studies, the spokesman said.

Miyasato also thanked former County Fire Chief Mike Dyer for serving as interim fire chief since Peterson's retirement last fall.

https://santamariatimes.com/news/local/hartwig-appointed-new-santa-barbara-county-fire-chief-tuesday-by/article_2a6225a5-582f-5c23-8705-b4be927d3d28.html

Santa Barbara County names new fire chief

Staff Writer, KSBY 6 San Luis Obispo News

Posted: January 15, 2019, 1:12 pm

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday appointed Mark A. Hartwig to the position of Santa Barbara County Fire Chief.

He'll take over for Mike Dyer, who has been filling in as chief on an interim basis since Eric Peterson retired in the fall of 2018.

Hartwig has been the fire chief of the San Bernardino County Fire District since 2011. In 2017, he was named the California Fire Chief of the Year by the California State Fire Chiefs' Association.

Hartwig's first day on the job in Santa Barbara County will be Feb. 18, 2019.

<https://ksby.com/news/local-news/2019/01/15/santa-barbara-county-names-new-fire-chief>