



NEWS



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Firefighters at San Bernardino school shooting donned body armor

Doug Saunders, Press Enterprise

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San Bernardino County firefighters don body armor outside North Park Elementary school in San Bernardino, Monday April 10, 2017 where a teacher and a child were killed, and another child was wounded. (Staff photo by Rick Sforza, The Sun/SCNG)

SAN BERNARDINO >> When describing a firefighter's uniform, most people would generally picture a fireman's helmet and big heavy fire resistant coats.

But the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** recently added a new piece to that uniform – body armor – which was used when they were dispatched to the shooting earlier this week at North Park Elementary School in San Bernardino.

“County fire began pursuing an Escalated Threat policy and load-out well in advance of the Inland Regional Center terror attack in San Bernardino,” fire spokesman Eric Sherwin said. “A grant was secured, and the first round of equipment arrived in mid-Fall of 2015. Training and gear issuance had been scheduled but had not taken place prior to the events of Dec. 2nd.”

On Monday, when first responders swarmed the area at Northpark Boulevard and H Street, in response to the initial call of an active shooter inside North Park Elementary, firefighters donned body armor before heading onto the campus.

“While county fire does have operational directives that determine when ballistic protection will be used, nothing precludes any county fire personnel from utilizing any part of the equipment at any incident where they feel it necessary,” Sherwin said.

The gear consists of a military grade ceramic chest and back plate carrier equipped to provide protection against high caliber rounds.

On Monday morning, Cedric Anderson, 53, of Riverside, went to the school where his estranged wife and teacher, Karen Elaine Smith, 53, a 10-year veteran of the school district, was working.

Anderson took just a few steps into Smith’s classroom and, without saying a word, pulled out a Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum revolver and fired 10 shots, reloading midway through, authorities said. Smith was killed immediately.

A student, Jonathan Martinez, 8, also was killed. Another student, 9-year-old Nolan Brandy, was wounded but survived the shooting.

Anderson turned the gun on himself.

The vests for firefighters, designed by Safariland in Ontario, were based on recommendations from county fire officials.

The body armor, costing just under \$400,000, was purchased through a grant provided by the Department of Homeland Security.

“Goals in developing the vest were to provide the highest degree of protection balanced with the ability to move quickly in a variety of positions with a minimal amount of shifting,” Sherwin said. “An additional grant was secured along with funds from the county to complete the outfitting of all county fire suppression personnel.”

<http://www.pe.com/2017/04/13/sbs-1-northpark-armor-webonly/>

SBCo Fire Chief Felgar retires

Mountaineer Progress

Posted: April 13, 2017

After 32 years of service with **San Bernardino County Fire**, Assistant Chief Darrayl Felgar is retiring.

Chief Felgar joined SBCoFD in 1985 and has led SBCoFD's Division 11 for the last two years, overseeing training and certification for all department safety personnel. Within that role he also managed the department's emergency medical services, all aspects of wildland firefighting, hand crew programs, and heavy equipment program.

Felgar started his career in 1984 as a Paid-Call Firefighter at the Wrightwood Fire Department, now part of Division 2 at SBCoFD. The following year he was hired as a full-time Firefighter with the Central Valley Fire Protection District, now Division 1 in Fontana. He was hired as a Captain in July 1985 and promoted to Battalion Chief in 2013, Division Chief in 2015, and Assistant Chief in 2016.

He has been a member of multiple specialty teams, including Urban Search and Rescue, the Swift Water Rescue team and the Hazardous Materials team. Since 1998 he's shared his knowledge with future firefighters at the Richard Sewell Training Center. He's also been involved in the majority of new programs or committees developed to move SBCoFD forward.

Chief Felgar spent 17 years as a faculty instructor at Crafton Hills College Fire Academy and 15 years as a Multi-Agency Truck Academy instructor. He is still involved with the Crafton Hills College Fire Academy, helping to develop Educational Bridge Programs.

In his retirement announcement to the department, Chief Felgar said, "I have made many friends, had a few great mentors along the way and will miss working with a really great group of public safety professionals...I am proud to have been chosen as a San Bernardino County Firefighter and appreciate the opportunities provided to me."

He looks forward to spending a lot more time with his family and re-engaging with many personal interests during retirement such as skiing, off-roading in the desert, and traveling between Mammoth Lakes and Lake Havasu.

Darrayl will be missed by the many friends and colleagues he has made at SBCoFD. We wish him and his family the best as he enjoys retirement. Thank you for your service to our communities!

<http://mtprogress.net/home/april132016.html>

Easter Egg Hunts And Activities Planned Throughout Our Morongo Basin

Z1077 News

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There will be all kinds of special events and church services in celebration of Easter this weekend, from Yucca Valley to Twentynine Palms. In addition to activities and church services, Easter egg hunts will be held all over our beautiful springtime Morongo Basin. The Twentynine Palms Fire Department Explorers will host the annual Easter egg hunt Sunday, April 16, at 1:00 p.m. at the Little League fields in Luckie Park. The egg hunt is open to children through age eight.

Joshua Tree Recreation and Parks will hold their 50th annual egg hunt tomorrow morning. Arrive by 8:30 a.m. to allow time to get to your egg hunt area. Right at 9 a.m. the fun begins with the start of the egg hunt, open to toddlers to sixth graders. The children will participate in six separate age groups. After the egg hunt there will be pictures with the Easter Bunny, a pancake breakfast, live music, a beer garden, games and activities, vendors, food, and a display by the **County Fire Department**. For more information contact the Joshua Tree Community Center Office at 760-366-8415.

Edica Gonzalez tells us about the Yucca Valley Easter egg hunt...

The Town of Yucca Valley will present its annual Easter egg hunt event on Saturday, April 15, at the Yucca Valley Community Center athletic field. All children 8 years old and under can participate, with a separate hunt area for each age group. Parents may help toddlers in the Li'l Hoppers Zone. The event will begin at 9 a.m., but early arrival is encouraged. In addition, there will be two contests with special prizes. There is no admission charge, but participants must bring their own basket to collect eggs and goodies. The Easter Bunny will also be available for photos, so bring your camera.

The Joshua Tree Library invites families for some fun games, crafts, and prizes tomorrow, Saturday, April 15. The library will host its annual "Egg-stravaganza" from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Activities will include crafts, egg-dyeing, and a Cake Walk for prizes. Children are encouraged to bring hard-boiled eggs to dye, but eggs will be provided for those who are unable to bring their own. For more information, call the Joshua Tree Library at 760-366-8615.

<http://z1077fm.com/easter-egg-hunts-and-activities-planned-throughout-our-morongo-basin/>