



NEWS



News Headlines 7/06-09/2018

- LIGHTNING CAUSES SMALL FIRE IN YUCCA VALLEY
- TEENAGER RESCUED AFTER FALLING INTO CREVICE AT RATTLESNAKE CANYON SUNDAY
- Pedestrian stuck under Metrolink train in San Bernardino rescued, hospitalized
- Motorcyclist Miraculously Survives Fiery Crash on Highway 395 in Victorville
- Authorities investigating fatal collision
- Dump truck catches fire on Phelan Road Saturday morning
- Woman airlifted after crash at Main Street and Highway 395
- Fires destroy homes and spark mass evacuations amid Southern California heat wave
- Brush fire in San Bernardino Mountains continues to grow; Forest Falls under evacuation orders
- In 110-Degree Heat, Firefighters Battle 100-Acre Box Fire Burning in Cajon Pass
- UPDATE: Firefighters stop the spread of a fire which erupted in Cajon Pass on July 6

LIGHTNING CAUSES SMALL FIRE IN YUCCA VALLEY

Staff Writer, z1077news

Posted: July 9, 2018

Lightning is blamed for a small vegetation fire in Yucca Valley Saturday. As a storm cell moved through the Morongo Basin, dry lightning ignited a fire at Golden Bee and Acoma Trail just before 3 p.m. Firefighters were assisted in putting out the quarter-acre blaze by neighbors who witnessed the fire starting. And on Sunday afternoon, Yucca Valley firefighters were called to a vehicle fire at Warren Vista Avenue and Paxton Road at 4:05 p.m. **County Fire** Battalion Chief Donnie Vilorio said the cause of the fire was likely due to mechanical issues; the small convertible was burned to the frame and is a total loss.

<http://z1077fm.com/local-news/todays-full-newscast/>

TEENAGER RESCUED AFTER FALLING INTO CREVICE AT RATTLESNAKE CANYON SUNDAY

Staff Writer, z1077news

Posted: July 9, 2018



Photo Courtesy Jennifer Ruggiero

Working for two hours under skies that threatened rain, and with thunder rolling overhead, Twentynine Palms firefighters, along with National Park Service rangers and search and rescue volunteers, worked to free a teenager who slipped and fell in the Rattlesnake Canyon area of Joshua Tree National Park Sunday afternoon. **County Fire** Captain Chris Hayes said the boy was climbing on rocks when he slipped and fell 20 to 30 feet into a crevice where he became stuck between two large boulders about 2:30 p.m. Rescuers had to climb up to get to him and then pulled him out using a rope system. He was carried out on a stretcher and then flown to a nearby hospital.

<http://z1077fm.com/teenager-rescued-after-falling-into-crevice-at-rattlesnake-canyon-sunday/>

Pedestrian stuck under Metrolink train in San Bernardino rescued, hospitalized

Beatriz E. Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: July 9, 2018, 7:13 a.m.



San Bernardino County Fire rescue crews pulled a person from underneath a Metrolink train in San Bernardino around 3:45 a.m. Monday, July 9. (Courtesy San Bernardino County Fire Department)

Firefighters rescued a person who was struck then became lodged underneath a Metrolink train early Monday, July 9 in San Bernardino, according to a **San Bernardino County Fire** Department tweet. The incident occurred before 4 a.m. at Rialto Avenue and Muscott Street.

Rescuers worked for about 15 minutes to pull the person, who suffered major injuries, from underneath the train then transported the victim to a hospital.

The incident led to the cancellation and delay of train service along the Metrolink route, according to a Metrolink tweet.

Buses were used to help transport stranded commuters.

“Passengers can board MTA buses 9563 & 3958 from Los Angeles on bus bay 5,” a subsequent tweet said. “These buses will make all stops into San Bernardino Downtown. Omnitrans bus 1209 will be available from Montclair at 7:01 am, which will make all stops to San Bernardino.”

<https://www.sbsun.com/2018/07/09/pedestrian-struck-stuck-under-metrolink-train-in-san-bernardino-rescued-hospitalized/>

Motorcyclist Miraculously Survives Fiery Crash on Highway 395 in Victorville

Staff Writer, VVNG

Posted: July 8, 2018



A man survived a crash that caused his motorcycle to burst into a ball of fire. (Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A motorcyclist miraculously survived a fiery crash that occurred Saturday night along Highway 395 in Victorville, a highway infamously dubbed as “Blood Alley.”

The crash involving a white Prius and a Kawasaki Ninja motorcycle happened at about 11:00 pm, on July 7, 2018, at the intersection of Luna Road and US Highway 395 in Victorville.

“I was behind a car at a red light waiting to turn left onto eastbound Luna Road from southbound Highway 395. The light turned green and the car in front of me made their turn and I was making mine,” the driver of the Prius told Victor Valley News.

“All of sudden I saw something clip the front of my car and then instantly burst into flames like a bomb, I looked over to my passenger in shock and told him, ‘I think the rider of the motorcycle just died,’ thinking there was no way he could have survived.” The Prius driver said.

The driver immediately stopped and called 911 while searching for the ejected rider.

“We couldn’t find him anywhere and the bike was fully engulfed in flames. The first deputy arrived within minutes and found him lying in the middle of the street where the ambulance is now parked, about 50 feet from where the bike is,” the driver said.

The motorcyclist, a 26-year-old male was conscious and alert when First Responders arrived. He was transported to Mesa Linda Park and further airlifted by a **San Bernardino County Fire** helicopter to a trauma center.

“I’m a motorcycle rider myself, and I think it’s a miracle that his helmet didn’t even have a scratch on it, I’m still shocked by all of this,” said the driver.

The Prius driver said himself and friend were on their way to grab a bite to eat when this happened.

“I was about to bring my truck instead of the Prius, but at the last-minute I decided on this car, and I’m glad I did, otherwise the outcome could have much worse if he hit my truck,” The male driver of the Prius told Victor Valley News.

As of Sunday evening, the motorcyclist remains hospitalized and is suffering from a broken wrist, a broken ankle, and road rash, but is expected to have a full recovery, according to family and friends.

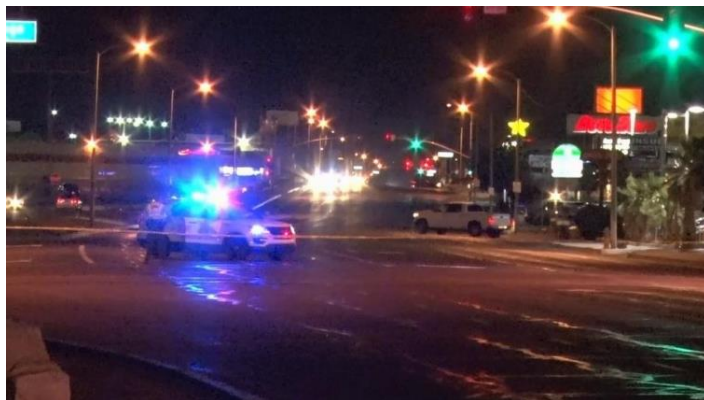
The cause of the crash remains under investigation by the Victorville Police Department.

<https://www.vvng.com/video-motorcyclist-miraculously-survives-fiery-crash-on-highway-395-in-victorville/>

Authorities investigating fatal collision

Staff Writer, Daily Press

Posted: July 8, 2018, 4:16 p.m.



Seventh Street was closed in both directions from Green Tree Boulevard to East Stage Street in Victorville for several hours Friday night while San Bernardino County Sheriff's officials processed the scene of a fatal hit and run collision. [Submitted photo]

VICTORVILLE — Authorities are continuing to investigate a fatal hit-and-run collision that occurred on Seventh Street here Friday evening.

Emergency personnel with the **San Bernardino County** Sheriff's and **Fire** departments, as well as American Medical Response, responded to reports of a vehicle vs. pedestrian collision near the intersection of Seventh and East Sage streets at approximately 9 p.m.

According to authorities, it was determined that an unknown vehicle was driving north on Seventh Street as a pedestrian was walking west across the street.

“The vehicle struck the pedestrian, causing the pedestrian to flip up and over the vehicle and land in the middle of the roadway,” sheriff's officials said. “The driver of the vehicle continued driving northbound and fled the scene of the collision.

“The pedestrian was transported to Victor Valley Global Medical Center and was to be flown by air ambulance to an out-of-the-area trauma center. The pedestrian was pronounced deceased at the hospital shortly after arrival.”

No description of the pedestrian was provided.

Members of the Victorville Sheriff's Station's Major Accident Investigation Team responded to the scene and are investigating the collision. Seventh Street was closed in both directions from Green Tree Boulevard to East Stage Street for several hours while they processed the scene.

Anyone with information on the collision or who may have witnessed it is urged to contact Deputy A. Ramos or Deputy A. Hylin at the Victorville Sheriff's Station at 760-241-2911. Persons wishing to remain anonymous may call the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-782-7463 or visit www.wetip.com.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20180708/authorities-investigating-fatal-collision>

Dump truck catches fire on Phelan Road Saturday morning

Staff Writer, VVNG

Posted: July 7, 2018



Dump truck catches fire on Phelan Road Saturday morning. (Gabriel D. Espinoza)

OAK HILLS, Calif. (VVNG.com) — An Athens Disposal truck caught fire on Phelan Road near Baldy Mesa Road in the unincorporated area of Oak Hills.

It happened at about 10:21 a.m. on Saturday, July 7th, 2018, the driver said he was driving household trash to a Victorville landfill when a passerby pointed out the fire.

The truck driver immediately pulled over, called 911 and detached the trailer. Within minutes firefighters from the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department and CalFire responded.

Firefighters determined the best way to battle the fire was to hook the trailer back up and empty the contents of the fully loaded trailer onto the ground. The fire was knocked out moments later.

The driver told Victor Valley News the trash was picked up from a disposal transfer facility in Phelan and he was unclear what started the fire. "Sometimes people will throw away charcoal from a barbecue pit not realizing that it's still hot hours later, we've seen that happen before, but I don't know what caused this one."

The burnt trash will be loaded onto a new disposal truck to be hauled away to the Victorville landfill.

No injuries were reported and the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

<https://www.vvng.com/dump-truck-catches-fire-on-phenan-road-saturday-morning/>

Woman airlifted after crash at Main Street and Highway 395

Staff Writer, VVNG

Posted: July 7, 2018



(Photo by Riley K. Stranton)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A woman was airlifted to a trauma center following a crash near the intersection of US Highway 395 and Main Street Saturday.

The crash involving a black pick-up truck and a red sedan was reported at 2:33 am, on July 7, 2018, just east of the intersection.

According to Victor Valley News member Robert Alan Turner, the red sedan was traveling northbound on US 395 and the truck was traveling eastbound on Main Street. Both vehicles collided at the intersection after the red car allegedly ran the red light, causing the truck to flip, stated Turner.

Emergency personnel arrived on scene and located a female trapped inside the red sedan. **San Bernardino County Fire** Spokesman Eric Sherwin said it took approximately 25 minutes to extricate the patient from the vehicle.

The woman sustained critical injuries and firefighters requested an airship to transport her to Loma Linda University Medical Center. The male driver of the truck sustained minor cuts and declined medical treatment.

The official cause of the crash remains under investigation by the Hesperia Police Department.

<https://www.vvng.com/woman-airlifted-after-crash-at-main-street-and-highway-395/>

Fires destroy homes and spark mass evacuations amid Southern California heat wave

Sarah Parvini, Ruben Vives, Pauline Repard, L.A. Times

Posted: July 7, 2018, 12:30 a.m.

Record heat sparked several destructive brush fires across Southern California that burned numerous homes in San Diego and Santa Barbara counties.

Powerful sundowner winds on the Santa Barbara County coast helped fuel the Holiday fire, which burned several homes Friday night in the hills above Goleta and threatened many others.

The fight continued into Saturday morning, with an evacuation order extending to more than 2,000 residents. Firefighters raced into the hillside neighborhood trying to defend homes and help with evacuations. Officials said some homes had been lost but a total number was not immediately available.

Officials described a chaotic scene as the fire burst out of control around 8:40 p.m., catching some residents off guard. County 911 lines were jammed with calls, and emergency officials said they contacted 1,200 lines to urge evacuations.

The Santa Barbara County Fire Department said that more than 100 homes were threatened and that residents above Cathedral Oaks Road should flee.

Temperatures remained around 100 degrees as the fire fight moved into the night. Powerful evening winds were pushing the fire in different directions, making it impossible to control.

Authorities said the incident began as a structure fire before the flames spread to vegetation.

An evacuation center was set up at Goleta Valley Community Center, at 5679 Hollister Ave.

Meanwhile, a fast-moving fire in the San Bernardino National Forest on Friday afternoon prompted authorities to tell Forest Falls residents to flee their homes. The fire covered more than 200 acres and was burning quickly into the San Gorgonio Wilderness, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department. An evacuation center was set up at Inland Leaders Charter School, at 12375 California St. in Yucaipa. Highway 38 was closed.

The most serious of the fires burned along Interstate 8 near Alpine. The fire jumped through the community of West Willows, engulfing buildings and burning along a traffic median on the side of the freeway.

Authorities said that more than 400 acres had been burned and that hundreds of people had been evacuated. Officials were still trying to tally the exact number of homes lost, though it appeared at least a dozen structures were burned. Live television coverage from Alpine showed numerous homes and other structures burning as winds pushed the fire through foothill communities.

Resident Enrique Camargo said he ran toward the fire area to check its progress after the evacuation order was issued. As he checked on the fire, he said, his wife was home packing the car.

He said he was still not sure if they would follow through with evacuating.

“Let’s see what happens,” Camargo said.

Another resident, who asked that his last name not be used, said in a cellphone call Friday about 1:30 p.m. that he was perhaps 600 yards from the fire. He had no idea if his home was OK.

“I can’t get to my house,” Randy said. Authorities “won’t let me get to my house.”

The San Diego County Sheriff’s Department said immediate evacuations were needed in the Highland Mobile Home Park and the surrounding community. Officials said evacuees could go to Viejas Casino at 5000 Willows Road.

By 5 p.m., authorities said that they were getting the upper hand and that forward progress of the fire had been stopped.

“We have made great progress, but there is still a lot of work to be done,” said Cal Fire Capt. Kendal Bortisser.

Another fire forced evacuations near Camp Pendleton.

The blaze broke out about 11:30 a.m. and an hour later was continuing to burn in the Mainside area between Santa Margarita Trail and De Luz Road, the Marine Corps tweeted.

Officials said evacuations were in place for Lake O’Neill, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the De Luz Child Development Center. Those displaced were being sent to a McDonald’s on base.

A truck fire along the Cajon Pass spread to nearby brush, threatening structures in the Devore Heights area, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said. The fire quickly grew to 100 acres and was burning off Highway 15 and Kenwood Avenue, north of San Bernardino. Two outside lanes of the 215 Freeway, north of the 15 Freeway, were closed as a result.

Firefighters also handled smaller blazes in the Angeles National Forest, Montecito Heights, Sylmar and Pacoima near the Hansen Dam.

Many parts of Southern California hit new high temperature marks Friday, with a few spots reaching the hottest readings ever recorded. Among the places that set all-time records were Van Nuys Airport (117 degrees), Burbank Airport (114), Santa Ana (114) and Ramona (115), according to the National Weather Service.

“We expect today to be the hottest day,” Keily Delerme, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Oxnard, said Friday. Even coastal areas saw temperatures in the high 80s and low 90s.

For Luz Lyle, the heat wave already has proved to be unbearable. Standing by a bus stop in downtown early Friday, when the temperature hovered around 77 degrees, she said she was happy to be going to work because her office has air conditioning.

The hot days this week have forced her to hand over water guns to her children. Sometimes, she joined in on the water fights while blasting the air conditioner inside her home.

“All day long,” Lyle, 53, said. “All night long.”

Inside downtown’s Grand Central Market around noon, hordes of people made their way through the various stalls. The clamoring sound of plates and pots echoed while giant fans stationed along the aisles blew cool air. Tourists stopped by one of the fans for a moment, hoping for a respite from the heat.

Outside, Allyson Schaefer was applying sunscreen while the rest of the crowd ordered hot food — and hot coffee. It was 90 degrees.

“I just have to get through today,” Schaefer, 25, said as she sat under the shade of a large red umbrella.

Schaefer, who is from Texas, lamented the timing of her Southern California visit. She said she came to visit a friend — not to experience a Southland heat wave. On Saturday, she hopes to find refuge in San Diego. Until then, she said, she'll stick to her plan.

“Drink lots of water and put on sunscreen,” she said.

The dry heat raises the danger of new fires sprouting throughout the region. A red flag warning was in effect from Friday night through Saturday, with the most at-risk areas in the foothills and mountains.

“You have very dry conditions and a north wind,” Delorme, the meteorologist, said. “As the wind goes downhill, it dries it more and makes it warmer. That’s why it’s such an extreme event.”

Single-digit humidity paired with dry fuels also creates the possibility of “extreme fire behavior,” she added.

“If there’s a fire, it won’t take long for it to spread out,” she said. “It’s just going to be dry.”

Los Angeles has a network of cooling centers for people who lack access to air conditioning and need a place to escape dangerous, higher-than-normal temperatures. Recreation and Parks facilities — such as recreation centers, museums and senior centers — as well as libraries were available as cooling centers during regular hours.

“Extreme heat can be dangerous — especially for young people and seniors,” Mayor Eric Garcetti said in a statement. “When temperatures rise this high, our libraries, recreation centers and senior centers give Angelenos who need to escape the heat a friendly, welcoming, safe place to stay cool and healthy.”

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power also said it would install temporary water fountains in the Tujunga Wash area, San Julian Park, Gladys Park, La Plaza de Cultura y Artes and the Exposition Park area.

In San Diego, the county’s Fire-Rescue Department planned to have extra firefighters, brush engines and water tankers on duty to deal with any heat-related blazes. Critical fire weather conditions also were possible in Ventura County, the valleys and the Central Coast.

Although temperatures in Yolo and Napa counties were expected to reach the low 90s on Friday, fire officials said Friday’s higher humidity levels would help firefighters battle the County fire, which has burned 88,375 acres and destroyed nine structures. The blaze is 37% contained.

“We expect temperatures to max out at about 92 degrees, with humidity at 19% to 25% later this afternoon,” said Anthony Brown, a spokesman with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. “That helps us out because with the humidity level up, the vegetation doesn’t dry out.”

Wearing heavy gear, firefighters can quickly become exhausted working 12- to 24-hour shifts. Brown said the slightly lower temperatures Friday would “help with the fatigue of firefighters” before the heat picks up Saturday.

Thousands of firefighters are assigned to the County fire. Meanwhile, the Pawnee fire, which has burned 15,000 acres in Lake County, is 92% contained.

A dip in temperatures allowed crews to make significant gains on containing both blazes, fire officials said.

The heat in the Sacramento Valley could reach triple digits over the weekend before dropping early next week, the National Weather Service said. A similar drop is forecast in Southern California, where temperatures are expected to fall by about 10 degrees in Los Angeles by Sunday.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-heat-wave-20180706-story.html>

Brush fire in San Bernardino Mountains continues to grow; Forest Falls under evacuation orders

Brian Rokos, SB Sun

Posted: July 6, 2018, 2:08 p.m.



A fast-moving blaze moved through the San Bernardino Mountains Friday, July 6, charring 1,000 acres and sending residents of Forest Falls fleeing.

The community of Forest Falls in the San Bernardino Mountains was ordered to evacuate Friday afternoon as the blaze shut down Highway 38 and moved toward the community.

“We know the drill,” said longtime Forest Falls resident Tim Barsugli on Friday. “It’s one you don’t like, though,” said his wife, Dee Barsugli, 54, outside the community center in Yucaipa. The pair own a house at the base of the mountain. Tim, 61, was a longtime volunteer with the **San Bernardino County Fire Department Forest Falls station**. Their family members continue to volunteer there.

The Valley fire started about 1:30 p.m in the area of Highway 38 and Valley of the Falls Drive, according to initial reports. The Valley fire was moving uphill at a rapid rate of spread. By 8 p.m., the fire had grown to 1,000 acres with no containment.

About 500 homes in the area were threatened by the fire, according to Zach Behrens, public affairs officer for the San Bernardino National Forest. By 7:30 p.m. the fire was burning away from the homes, he said. None had been damaged.

According to San Bernardino County Fire Department, 500 firefighters were battling the blaze.

The Barsuglis said they’ve been evacuated a few times over the years. The Barsuglis and other residents of the small mountain community of about 1,200, remained calm.

Janice Sivardi, a resident of Forest Falls for 18 years, was down the hill Friday for a doctor's appointment when she heard her neighborhood was being evacuated. Though mindful of her dog and cat at home, "I'm fine," the registered nurse said. "Not much flusters me."

Mandatory evacuations are also in place for area trails, including Momyer Trail, Vivilan Creek Trail and San Bernardino Peak Trail. Day-use areas are also being evacuated.

A few miles from the community center, American Red Cross representatives and members of Yucaipa's Certified Emergency Response Team assisted a couple dozen evacuees inside the Inland Leaders Charter School cafeteria.

An evacuation center for residents was set up at the school, at 12375 California St.

The evacuation center will provide food to those displaced from the fire, said Tony Briggs, communications director for the Red Cross region overseeing San Bernardino County.

The center could become an overnight shelter if necessary, Briggs said.

Children from Forest Home camp were to be taken to a second evacuation center at Wildwood Calvary Chapel, 35145 Oak Glen Road.

The summer camp had a message on their website late Friday, stating that the campers and staff had to be evacuated "due to the proximity of the Valley Fire. Currently, our structures are safe and not in any danger."

Highway 38 remained shut down between Bryant Street and Angelus Oaks, the CHP and Yucaipa police said.

Residents remained vigilant as they waited for updates from the fire lines.

"We have faith the firefighters will do what they need to do," Dee Barsugli said. "They'll take care of it."

<https://www.sbsun.com/2018/07/06/brush-fire-in-san-bernardino-mountains-shuts-down-highway-38-near-forest-falls/>

In 110-Degree Heat, Firefighters Battle 100-Acre Box Fire Burning in Cajon Pass

Cindy Von Quednow, Lauren Lyster, Steve Kuzj, KTLA 5

Posted: July 6, 2018, 8:08 p.m.

Crews were battling a 100-acre fire off the 15 Freeway near the Cajon Pass Friday amid 110-degree heat, officials said.

The Box Fire began about 9:30 a.m. when a semi truck fire spread to brush along the freeway near Kenwood Avenue, according to the California Highway Patrol.

The blaze was about 15 percent contained, Cal Fire tweeted shortly before 2 p.m.

At least two firefighters were transported for heat exhaustion, officials said. Meanwhile, two lanes of the freeway were closed during the firefight, authorities said.

Cal Fire, San Bernardino National Forest and the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department responded to the blaze.

At one point, the fire was moving at a "moderate rate of spread," according to forest officials.

The fire comes during the peak of a dangerous heat wave that is expected to bake much of Southern California. National Weather Service officials warned residents of possible fire conditions and said to use extreme caution with potential ignition sources. It was expected to reach a high of 108 degrees in the area of the fire Friday afternoon.

"Right now it's hot," said Cathey Mattingly, an information officer for Cal Fire. "Firefighters are working really hard, so the main focus is gonna be safety, hydration, personal care, making sure that they're paying attention to their own conditions while they're fighting this fire."

A San Bernardino County fire official told KTLA structures were threatened in Devore Heights and units were on scene for structure protection. Later, fire officials said the structure threat had been "mitigated." No evacuations have been ordered.

The National Forest has activated a call center for the blaze. Residents can call 909-383-5688 for information.

<https://ktla.com/2018/07/06/crews-battle-20-acre-fire-burning-off-highway-15-near-cajon-pass-structures-threatened-in-devore-heights/>

UPDATE: Firefighters stop the spread of a fire which erupted in Cajon Pass on July 6

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: July 6, 2018



A fire erupted in the Cajon Pass on Friday, July 6. (contributed photo by San Bernardino National Forest)

Firefighters were able to stop the spread of a fire which erupted in the Cajon Pass area north of Fontana on the morning of July 6, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

The Box Fire, which started in a truck and then spread into vegetation, burned about 100 acres near Interstate 15 south of Kenwood Drive and was about 15 percent contained, the San Bernardino County Fire Department said.

There was briefly a structure threat to Devore Heights, but no evacuations were necessary, the Fire Department said on Twitter.

Firefighters had to battle extreme weather conditions (over 110-degree heat) while battling the blaze throughout the day.

One firefighter was taken to a hospital after suffering from heat exhaustion, and two other firefighters were also treated.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/update-firefighters-stop-the-spread-of-a-fire-which-erupted/article_b438a28a-814d-11e8-ac7f-870bfec5b7c.html