



NEWS



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Fatal crash south of Nevada-California state line closes some northbound lanes of I-15

Lawren Linehan, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Posted: August 3, 2016, 7:08 AM



Northbound Interstate 15 is closed about 20 miles south of the Nevada-California state line after a fatal crash involving two semitrailers and a chemical spill, Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2016. (Twitter/@sbcountyfire, **San Bernardino County Fire Department**)



Northbound Interstate 15 is closed about 20 miles south of the Nevada-California state line after a fatal crash involving two semitrailers and a chemical spill, Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2016. (Twitter/@sbcountyfire, San Bernardino County Fire Department)

A boy died after a Wednesday morning crash about 20 miles south of the Nevada-California state line.

The crash happened just before 4 a.m. north of Cima Road and involved two semitrailers, according to the California Highway Patrol.

One of the semitrailers broke down on the right shoulder of the road and was waiting for a tow truck when another semitrailer slammed into the back of it, CHP spokesman Ryan Camara said.

The broken-down truck had a 29-year-old male occupant and a 24-year-old female occupant. They were taken to University Medical Center by ambulance with minor to moderate injuries, Camara said.

He said the truck that rear-ended the other was carrying 55-gallon drums of industrial cleaning supplies, and some of those drums were leaking, causing the initial closure of north and southbound lanes.

It was driven by a 28-year-old man and had a male juvenile passenger. The driver was airlifted to the medical center, and the boy died at the scene.

The San Bernardino, California, sheriff's office coroner identified the boy as 7-year-old Donte Spencer Jr. of Las Vegas. His cause and manner of death have not been released.

The driver may have fallen asleep at the wheel, Camara said.

Hazardous material personnel deemed the scene safe, according to the CHP. All southbound lanes opened just before 8 a.m., and one of the three northbound lanes opened just before 10 a.m. Two of the northbound lanes were still not open by press time.

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/traffic-transportation/fatal-crash-south-nevada-california-state-line-closes-some-northbound>

The Latest: Juvenile killed in I-15 crash in California

The Associated Press via Merced Sun-Star

Posted: August 3, 2016 11:20 AM



This photo provided by San Bernardino County Fire District shows the remains of a semi-truck that crashed on a remote stretch of Interstate 15 in the Southern California desert near the Nevada border on Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2016. The California Highway Patrol says the interstate was closed for hours in both directions following the crash. San Bernardino County Fire District via AP John Miller

BAKER, CALIF. - The Latest on a fatal interstate wreck in California (all times local):

11:15 a.m.

The California Highway Patrol says a juvenile passenger of a semi-truck was killed and its driver was seriously hurt when the vehicle veered out of lanes and slammed into another semi that was broken down on the shoulder.

CHP Officer Ryan Camara says two people were inside the parked semi when it was struck around 4 a.m. Wednesday on Interstate 15 near the Nevada border. A woman sustained moderate injuries and a man had minor injuries.

Hazmat crews responded and the highway was shut down after a substance on one truck spilled into lanes. Authorities determined the substance posed no health hazard.

Camara says preliminary reports indicate the 28-year-old driver may have fallen asleep, but stressed that the collision is still being investigated.

9:30 a.m.

Authorities say a material spilled from a semi-truck in a fatal crash on a remote California freeway does not pose a threat to the public.

Hazmat crews responded and Interstate 15 was completely closed for hours in the Mojave Desert following the crash of two trucks in northbound lanes around 4 a.m. Wednesday. Southbound lanes reopened around 7:45 a.m.

San Bernardino County fire officials say they identified the substance that spilled from drums. They didn't say what the substance was, but say it poses no threat. Officers responding to the crash near the Nevada border reported an overwhelming odor and difficulty breathing. Cleanup is expected to take several hours.

Traffic headed toward Las Vegas was diverted off at Cima Road for a detour back to the interstate at Nipton Road.

8:05 a.m.

Authorities say one person was killed when two semi-trucks crashed and possibly hazardous materials were spilled on a remote stretch of Interstate 15 in the Southern California desert near the Nevada border.

The California Highway Patrol says the interstate was closed for hours in both directions following the crash in northbound lanes around 4 a.m. Wednesday. Southbound lanes reopened around 7:45 a.m.

The CHP says hazmat crews responded about 30 miles northeast of Baker, California, after several 55 gallon drums leaked. It wasn't known what was in the drums but officers reported an overwhelming odor and difficulty breathing.

San Bernardino County fire officials say one person was killed.

Traffic headed toward Las Vegas was diverted off at Cima Road for a detour back to the interstate at Nipton Road.

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/news/state/article93499992.html>

Hesperia City Council calls for stronger stance against illegal fireworks

Rene Ray De La Cruz, Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: August 4, 2016, 10:06 AM



The City Council said Hesperia must take aggressive action to stop the import and use of illegal “explosives” or fireworks in the city during the Fourth of July holiday and throughout the year. James Quigg, Daily Press

HESPERIA — The City Council said Hesperia must take aggressive action to stop the import and use of illegal “explosives” or fireworks in the city during the Fourth of July holiday and throughout the year.

During Tuesday’s meeting, San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Hesperia Station Captain Gregg Wielenga told the Council that a wave of black market fireworks coming into California have made their way to Hesperia, which was evident during the Independence Day weekend.

Wielenga said a Fireworks Task Force comprised of one Hesperia Sheriff’s Station deputy and an investigator from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** handled approximately 255 fireworks related calls during the holiday weekend, which was 118 calls more than 2015 and 212 over the year before.

The captain said “most of those calls for service were a report of fireworks with no pinpoint location from where they were originating.” Wielenga added that citations were given to residences who were found to have illegal fireworks.

A staff report stated that increased enforcement over the recent holiday resulted in 100 pounds of illegal fireworks seized, six misdemeanor citations issued and direct contact with 47 residents.

“In my opinion, the increase of the illegal fireworks into the city is stemming from a lack of interdiction of illegal fireworks coming in from Nevada,” Wielenga told the Council. “It’s kind of a free flow of illegal fireworks prior to the Fourth of July holiday.”

Wielenga said the fireworks black market increased in California after interdiction efforts tapered off a few years ago. He added that a state and local poll found that the influx and use of illegal fireworks had increased across the state.

The captain said cutting off the firework supply into the state and the “publicity of the arrests” will make more people aware of what they are really risking by bringing fireworks into California.

“On a local level, our plan started July 5 on making plans for next July 4, with some aggressive, preemptive work,” Wielenga said. “Without getting into too many investigative tactics that we are going to use, we’ll be going after some black market sales that are available on social media.”

A Daily Press search on Craigslist found a virtual supermarket of fireworks for sale in the Southern California area, including one seller who offers six “artillery shells” for over \$100 that are “huge and very loud so beware of cops.”

Wielenga said the Hesperia Sheriff’s Station will also use additional manpower during the next Independence Day holiday and plans to up the enforcement during New Year’s Eve and other times when fireworks are used by residents in the city.

Mayor Bill Holland asked 1st District Supervisor Representative Susan Drake, who was sitting in the audience, to make the situation known to Supervisor Robert Lovingood in order to “start a conversation” about a future interdiction program to curb the influx of fireworks.

Holland said the Council and staff were inundated with calls and emails regarding the illegal use of fireworks over the holiday weekend.

Wielenga said it truly affects the station’s ability to respond to emergency calls when they are handling an additional 100 calls for service for fireworks.

Councilman Eric Schmidt and Holland suggested a fireworks checkpoint of some kind to stop the flow of “explosives” into the city and state. But the captain said a check point for fireworks is “quite an issue” and won’t be popular for “the average person going about their daily routine.”

Councilman Russ Blewett suggested the city launch a “massive education campaign” informing residents via mail and social media that fireworks are illegal in the city and the consequences for those who use them.

The Council agreed that besides disrupting the lives of its citizenry and frightening residents and animals, one spark from a firework could cause a brush or structure fire.

Illegal fireworks that have come into California from Nevada have caused nearly 2,500 structure and wildfires in the past five years alone, with an increase of illegal fireworks use over the last several years, according to Cal Fire.

"All it takes is one spark to start a major fire," Blewett said. "Fireworks are illegal in Hesperia and people need to be made aware of that."

Mayor Pro Tem Paul Russ and Councilman Mike Leonard were not present at the meeting that met a 3 p.m. in order for Council and staff to attend the National Night Out event later that evening.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/article/20160804/NEWS/160809879/0/SEARCH>

Firefighters keep San Bernardino vegetation fire to 2 acres

John M. Blodgett, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: August 4, 2016, 7:20 PM



Firefighters quickly doused a two-acre fire in north San Bernardino Thursday afternoon.
Photo Courtesy Of San Bernardino County Fire.



A helicopter drops water on a fire near the 4800 block of North Mariposa Drive in San Bernardino Thursday afternoon.
Photo Courtesy Of San Bernardino County Fire

SAN BERNARDINO >> Firefighters battled a vegetation fire in the 4800 block of North Mariposa Drive Thursday afternoon, protecting nearby structures in the process.

San Bernardino County Fire Department tweeted at 5:53 p.m. that the fire was contained at 2 acres and the structure threat “mitigated.”

The fire was 1 acre and spreading moderately when firefighters arrived, according to a 4:46 p.m. tweet.

Firefighters from the Forest Service and other agencies also responded.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160804/firefighters-keep-san-bernardino-vegetation-fire-to-2-acres>

Twentynine Palms County Fire Station Renovation Nearing Completion

Z107.7 News

Posted: August 5, 2016

A major clean up and renovation of the downtown County Twentynine Palms Fire Station 44 is nearing completion. Assistant City Manager Larry Bowden said new roofs, shower rooms, dorm rooms, flooring, counter tops, paint, insulation and air conditioners are all in and **County Fire** will start moving office equipment in this weekend. Upon completion, the building will be formally turned over to County Fire and reopened as Station 44. Bowden said, "The project went as expected other than a beam that had to be replaced in the middle vehicle bay which caused a lot of concern for people that drove by and saw a 24-foot by 16-foot hole in the roof. He told Z107.7 News, "Everything came out according to plan and within budget." Bowden noted that firefighters have been stopping by to check out the progress and they are looking forward to moving back into the building. He concluded, "It is a good sturdy building and with the work that has been completed it is ready to be utilized by future firefighters for many more years."

<http://z1077fm.com/twentynine-palms-county-fire-station-renovation-nearing-completion/>

County Fire Battalion Chief Rick Dennison To Retire

Z107.7 News

Posted: August 5, 2016

Yucca Valley County Fire Battalion chief and town councilman Rick Dennison is retiring. Managing Editor Tami Roleff takes a look at a successful career...

Saying that it was time to close one chapter of his life, Battalion Chief Rick Denison will retire today from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** after 32 years. Denison started his career with the county fire department in the Cadet fire program in 1981. He went to San Diego to study fire science, and he turned down a firefighting job with the city of Coronado to return to Yucca Valley in 1984 to work in the Yucca Valley Fire Department. Denison was promoted to engineer in 1987, and promoted to captain in 2002. For the last year and a half, he has been working as a battalion chief. Denison said his retirement means he will be able to devote more time to the Yucca Valley Town Council, where he serves as a council member, and to boating, off-roading, and travel. Denison and his wife, Kathy, have two daughters. Congratulations County Battalion Chief Rick Denison on your retirement.

<http://z1077fm.com/county-fire-battalion-chief-rick-dennison-to-retire/>