



NEWS



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LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS “FILL THE BOOT” FOR MDA

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: July 1, 2019



Fire crews from Stations 41 and 42 were at Walmart Friday and Saturday to collect donations for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. From left: Captain Zack Taylor, Explorer Rojas, Firefighter Andrew Banninger, Battalion Chief Mike McClintock, Engineer Aaron Comstock.

Morongo Basin fire personnel raised more than \$1900 Friday and Saturday at a “Fill the boot” event at Walmart in Yucca Valley. **County fire** crews from fire stations 41 & 42 participated in the event, raising money for Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). Fire crews from throughout the county raised \$26,000. Firefighters also gave tours of the fire engine, posed for photos, and offered fire prevention tips. Thanks to all those who stopped by.

<http://z1077fm.com/local-firefighters-fill-the-boot-for-md/>

Fire breaks out in Blue Cut area after I-15 crash early Sunday

Matthew Cabe, Daily Press

Posted: June 30, 2019, 1:37 PM

County Fire and U.S. Forest Service crews battle separate sections of a fire in the Cajon Pass as other County Fire units make quick work of a blaze in Hesperia.

CAJON PASS — **San Bernardino County Fire** and U.S. Forest Service crews are battling separate portions of a fire in the Blue Cut area along southbound Interstate 15 following a crash early Sunday that set alight a semi truck, another vehicle and nearby vegetation.

County Fire spokesperson Jimmy Schiller told the Daily Press crews on scene reported two separate sections for the vegetation portion of the fire. The first had burned ½ acre, while the second had consumed ¼ acre.

Crews with the San Bernardino office of the U.S. Forest Service had stopped forward spread of the vegetation aspect of the fire as of 12:33 a.m., according to Schiller and County fire tweets.

“The semi truck that caught fire is going to take some overhaul, so people should expect delays,” Schiller said.

Schiller said Cleghorn Road or Kenwood Avenue “would be the best spots for turnaround,” depending on location and which direction motorists are traveling on the section of the freeway near the fires.

County Fire crews were in “attack mode” on the vehicle fires as of 12:15 a.m., according to a County Fire tweet. That work was ongoing as of 12:53 a.m.

Schiller said all parties involved in the crash were accounted for, but he could not confirm any injuries.

Shortly after 2 a.m., Araceli Anaya told the Daily Press on Facebook that she was headed northbound on I-15 and witnessed traffic “completely stopped” on the southbound side of the freeway.

Motorists in the area are urged to drive with caution.

Meanwhile, in Hesperia, County Fire crews made quick work of a ½-acre vegetation blaze that broke out shortly before 12:30 a.m. Sunday.

County Fire tweets said the fire was near Summit Valley Road and “Aqueduct access road,” with an updated location that placed it in Cal Fire’s jurisdiction.

County Fire crews, however, stopped forward spread, remaining on scene for mop-up work as of 12:41 a.m. Sunday, according to the tweets.

<https://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20190630/fire-breaks-out-in-blue-cut-area-after-i-15-crash-early-sunday>

Two lanes closed for hours on 15 Freeway in Cajon Pass reopen after hazardous material cleanup ends

Richard K. De Atley, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: June 30, 2019, 12:47PM



Motorists make their way through traffic on the southbound I-15 near the Cajon Pass in 2015. (File photo by Frank Bellino, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

A fiery overnight crash on the 15 Freeway in the Cajon Pass bottlenecked two southbound lanes of the key north-south route for hours Sunday as crews worked on a hazardous materials cleanup, finishing their task just after 4 p.m. authorities said.

There appeared to be no major injuries in connection to the crash, in which a semi-tractor and its trailer burned in the Blue Cut area of the pass, in the area of Kenwood Avenue and Cleghorn Road, north of Devore and south of the Cajon Junction with Highway 138.

But from shortly after midnight Sunday until 4:04 p.m., the southbound lanes of the 15 Freeway in that area were reduced from four to two, on a day when many were returning from Las Vegas and other desert destinations.

The semi-tractor trailer was carrying about 2,000 gallons of a liquid called diesel exhaust fluid, said Caltrans District 8 spokeswoman Terri Kasinga. The substance, often called DEF, is injected into diesel engines to reduce gases that can form smog.

About half the fluid spilled, but Caltrans crews and firefighters at the scene managed to control the liquid and set up dams to prevent it from entering storm drains along the roadway, Kasinga said. DEF can be an inhalation and skin irritant. A large percentage of DEF is urea — animal urine.

Kasinga said the cleanup, done by a contractor for Caltrans, was precarious: The DEF containers were inside boxes that burned and the containers that survived the fire were damaged, making their removal slow and difficult, she said.

And the trailer itself was hanging off the shoulder in an area where the terrain slopes away from the freeway, Kasinga said. The wreckage also was cleared by Sunday afternoon.

The crews worked as temperatures reached low 90s in the area.

The crash happened just before midnight Saturday when the semi-rig struck a car that was parked on the freeway's right side, the California Highway Patrol log said. The tractor and trailer both burned and caused fires at both the right side of the freeway and the center divider.

San Bernardino County Fire Department and U.S. Forest Service firefighters went to the scene and the fires were knocked down in a few minutes, said Fire Department spokesman Eric Sherwin. He said the department's logs did not show anyone transported from the scene to a hospital.

"It look like (the fire) had potential, then didn't do much," Sherwin said.

The crash was under investigation, and CHP officials were not immediately available Sunday to discuss details.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/06/30/2-southbound-lanes-of-15-freeway-in-cajon-pass-expected-to-be-closed-for-hours-sunday/>

2 escape injury when small plane catches fire shortly before landing in San Bernardino; firefighters extinguish flames

Eric Licas, Orange County Register/The Sun

Posted: June 30, 2019



Two people aboard a small plane escaped injury after a fire was reported on board shortly before it landed at San Bernardino International Airport on Sunday. San Bernardino County Fire Department crews extinguished the flames. (Photo courtesy San Bernardino County Fire Department)

Fire broke out on a small plane shortly before its landing on a runway at San Bernardino International Airport on Sunday, June 30; and no one was reported injured after firefighters on the ground extinguished the flames.

Tower personnel notified authorities that the motor of a single-engine plane had caught fire as it came in for a landing on Runway 24 at about 5:27 p.m., **San Bernardino County Fire** Department spokesman Kyle Hauducoeur said. A crew stationed at the airport and specifically trained to extinguish burning aircraft doused it in fire retardant foam and water immediately after it landed.

A second team of firefighters was requested as backup, and the fire was out by 5:31 p.m., Hauducoeur said. The pilot and one passenger of the two-seater aircraft were unharmed, he said.

Information on what might have caused the fire was not immediately released.

The incident at San Bernardino International Airport was the second downed plane that San Bernardino

County firefighters dealt with on Sunday. Earlier, another single-engine plane made an emergency landing within the boundaries of the Mojave National Preserve in Ludlow, Hauducoeur said.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/06/30/2-escape-injury-when-small-plane-catches-fire-shortly-before-landing-in-san-bernardino-firefighters-extinguish-flames/>

1 Airplane Makes Crash Landing in Mojave Desert, Another Catches Fire Upon Landing at San Bernardino Airport

Brian Day, KTLA 5 News

Posted: June 30, 2019



A pilot and passenger escaped harm following an emergency airplane landing in the Mojave National Preserve near Ludlow on June 30, 2019. (Credit: San Bernardino Fire Department)

Two pilots and two passengers walked away unharmed after one airplane made a crash landing in the Mojave Desert and another caught fire upon landing at San Bernardino International Airport in two separate incidents on Sunday, **San Bernardino County fire** officials said.

The first aircraft emergency took place just before noon near the community of Ludlow, the San Bernardino Fire Department said in a written statement.

The small, single-engine plane was heading from Needles to Chino when it suddenly lost oil pressure and stalled, “forcing the pilot to make an emergency landing in an inaccessible region of the Mojave National Preserve,” the fire department said in a written statement.

The site of the crash landing was several miles from the nearest road, so a fire department H325 rescue helicopter was sent to retrieve the pilot and passenger from the triple-digit heat, officials said.

Officials responded to the second airplane mishap about 6 p.m.

An engine on a small airplane caught fire just after it landed on runway 24 at San Bernardino International Airport, fire officials said via social media.

An aircraft rescue and firefighting engine responded and quickly doused the burning aircraft with fire-retardant foam. The pilot and a passenger were unharmed.

<https://ktla.com/2019/06/30/1-airplane-makes-crash-landing-in-mojave-desert-another-catches-fire-upon-landing-at-san-bernardino-airport/>

Man, woman uninjured after plane crash in Mojave National Preserve

Matthew Cabe, Daily Press

Posted: June 30, 2019, 4:07 PM



An unidentified man, center, gives a thumbs up while posing with the crew of an H-325 MedFlight helicopter on Sunday in the Mojave National Preserve near Ludlow. The man and a female passenger were uninjured after he crash-landed a single-engine plane that experienced engine trouble. [Photo courtesy of the San Bernardino county Fire Department]

LUDLOW — An unidentified couple were forced to crash-land a single-engine aircraft in the Mojave National Preserve shortly before noon Sunday after the plane experienced engine trouble, according to **San Bernardino County Fire** Department officials.

County Fire spokesperson Kyle Hauducoeur told the Leader on Sunday afternoon that the male pilot and female passenger were en route to Chino from Needles in the fixed-wing plane when the plane's engine lost oil pressure and stalled, which brought an emergency landing.

"The plane crashed ... in a very remote section of the preserve," Hauducoeur said, adding that the location had no viable road access.

The Mojave National Preserve is a sprawling, 1.5 million-acre swath of mostly protected federal land within the National Park System. It's sandwiched by Interstate 15 to the north, Interstate 40 to the south and the California-Nevada state line to the east.

The plane crashed near the unincorporated High Desert community of Ludlow, situated roughly 58 miles east of Barstow on I-40, according to a County Fire statement released shortly before 6:30 p.m. Sunday. Neither occupant was injured.

The man and woman faced a four- to five-mile hike to the nearest road, or a long wait for ground resources to reach them, County Fire's statement showed.

Despite the location, the pilot used a cellphone to make a call that established communication with a San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department patrol helicopter.

Once Sheriff's officials confirmed the man and woman were not injured, they "allowed (County Fire's) response to continue," Hauducoeur said.

The first-alarm incident response included an H-325 MedFlight helicopter contracted to County Fire. The crew flew the H-325 from the Southern California Logistics Airport in Victorville to the crash site.

There, the long wait and 100-degree heat prompted the crew to take the couple to the Barstow-Daggett Airport located about 40 miles west of Ludlow in order to get them out of the elements and to arrange for their transport home, the statement showed.

A photo posted to County Fire's Twitter account shortly after 2 p.m. Sunday showed the couple in good spirits, smiling in front of the H-325 at the crash site. A second photo showed the man giving a thumbs up while posing with the helicopter crew.

County Fire’s statement called the H-325 a “critical resource” that “made a difference” with its capacity for off-site landings and auto launching to calls along remote stretches of I-15 and I-40, as well as highways 58 and 395, when necessary.

“I would consider them very lucky,” Hauducoeur said of the couple.

<https://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20190630/man-woman-uninjured-after-plane-crash-in-mojave-national-preserve>

Equipment, vehicles county turned over to Victorville fire department could cost \$400,000 to fix

Martin Estacio, Daily Press

Posted: June 30, 2019, 6:43 AM



A photo in a Victorville Fire Department public report purports to show lawn damage spelling “SBCoFD” at one of the stations the city leased to County Fire personnel during a 10-year contract. [Courtesy of the City of Victorville]

VICTORVILLE — Broken chainsaws. A missing thermal imaging camera. Cracked rear brake drums on an engine. A slow water leak that caused mold to grow in a station.

Personnel with the newly relaunched Victorville Fire Department said they found these issues and several more after the city ended its contract for emergency services with the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

The findings were contained in a report detailing the transition at the end of March and presented to the city council on June 18.

In a summary, the report said that although the city paid the county more than \$6 million during a 10-year contract to maintain the city-owned property provided in 2008, “conditions found of apparatus, equipment and facilities (were) not commensurate with amounts paid.”

The terms of the contract stated that the county would be financially responsible for maintenance, while the city would be responsible for major repairs and replacements over a certain dollar amount.

Victorville Fire Department personnel reported the fiscal impact of the issues cited in the report is more than \$400,000, which includes replacement of fire suppression items, apparatus repair, alleged overcharging for a position and fire prevention services not rendered.

City Manager Keith Metzler said during the June 18 meeting that the report was intended to be shared with the council with “full disclosure” as to the conditions of city property.

“That way, if there were things that needed to be fixed or replaced, it was clear as to where the responsibility may have existed when we got the equipment and the facilities back,” he said.

County Fire spokesperson Tracey Martinez told the Daily Press in an email last week that the department had just become aware of the report.

She said the department would be examining it and following up with the city on any issues that “should be addressed.”

“County Fire is a professional organization, and we expect professionalism at all times from each of our employees,” she said. “Public safety is always our top priority.”

Victorville’s transition from county fire protection to a city-run department was contentious at times.

The negotiations to iron out a contract extension were rocky, and the city received pushback against leaving from County Fire officials.

Metzler appeared reticent at the meeting to discuss who might be responsible, but the report suggests that some damage may have been done purposely.

While inspecting one engine, Victorville Fire personnel said they observed that it was “dog tracking.” According to the report, this happens when the rear tires are offset from the front tires due to alignment issues.

Underneath the apparatus, they found that welds holding components to maintain alignment were broken. They also found a “right-sided tow hook” to be bent.

“This may indicate that the apparatus was winched from the left side,” the report read, adding the county had not indicated the engine was required to be winched out “after being stuck off road or any other situation.”

At Station 312 on El Evado Road, according to the report, personnel found a general lack of maintenance and cleaning, a condition that existed at all stations.

A pattern of dead grass on the lawn, appearing to spell out “SBCoFD,” was discovered at the station, along with pumps to dispense liquid weed and grass killer.

Station crews also found a leak originating from a water line attached to a refrigerator ice maker. The leak seeped into a wall cavity, causing damage and mold to be present on the wall, mattress and carpeting.

The report noted that a compression fitting nut was “only hand tightened and backed off threads on the fitting.

“This connection situation involving the water fitting being loose is highly unlikely without human intervention,” the report read.

Councilman Jim Cox asked city staff during the meeting to turn the report over to the city attorney and ask for a recommendation as to whether to accept certain questionable damages as “children at play.”

Cox also recommended sending the report to First District Supervisor Robert Lovingood, which Metzler said he had done.

Metzler explained he wanted to be sure Lovingood was aware of the report, as the county fire department is “looking for a new leader.”

The department is led by Interim Fire Chief Don Trapp, since Mark Hartwig left in February to head the Santa Barbara County Fire Department.

Metzler emphasized that the report was not meant to cast a “reflection (on) the actual men and women that actually labor in the vineyards and provide the essential fire service.”

“I think really what you have here is a management and leadership issue,” he said.

Councilwoman Debra Jones asked Metzler whether the city was going to seek recovery for any costs incurred.

Metzler said the matter would be better discussed as a legal issue and with the city attorney.

Other notable findings in the report:

- Items were missing on several of the engines and trucks and some equipment was found to be dirty, or in unusable condition. On one apparatus, Medic Truck 311, tools were found labeled with different apparatus identifiers, inferring they were “switched for tools in better condition tha(n) were on MT311,” according to the report.

- On one of the busier engines, Medic Engine 311, an inspector from an emergency medical services regulatory agency found all of the medications were expired. According to the report, the medications were present on the engine before the transition on March 30 and the unit “should have been considered out of service for response.”

To read the report in its entirety, visit www.VictorvilleCA.gov, click on “Minute & Agenda,” and click on the agenda for the June 18 city council meeting.

<https://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20190630/equipment-vehicles-county-turned-over-to-victorville-fire-department-could-cost-400000-to-fix>

Homicide victims, mother and daughter, found after High Desert house fire

Sam Benson Smith, KESQ Channel 3 News

Posted: June 28, 2019, 1:13 PM



TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif;- - A homicide investigation is underway after two women's bodies were found following a house fire in the High Desert earlier this month.

On June 9 at 10:23 p.m., **San Bernardino County Fire** Department firefighters and San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department deputies responded to the scene of a residential fire at a home on the 75600 block of Valle Vista Road in Twentynine Palms.

Fire crews were able to extinguish the blaze and later discovered the bodies of two women in the residence.

After an autopsy, the coroner determined that the victims, 67-year-old Twentynine Palms resident Linda Sayer and 48-year-old Twentynine Palms resident Sheila Sayer, died by homicide. They were mother and daughter.

Investigators are not releasing details on how they were killed.

The incident is considered murder and arson investigation.

The investigation is active and are urging anyone with information about this incident Detective Tramayne Phillips with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Homicide detail at 909-387-3589 or the Sheriff's dispatch at 909-387-8313. To issue an anonymous tip, call 800-78-CRIME or go to WeTip.com.

<https://www.kesq.com/news/two-bodies-found-after-high-desert-house-fire-homicide-investigation-underway/1090245304>

Twentynine Palms Fire That Killed Mother and Daughter Investigated as Homicide

Staff Writer, 24/7 Headline News

Posted: June 28, 2019

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. – A Twentynine Palms fire that killed a mother and daughter is now, following autopsies results, a murder investigation.

On Sunday, June 9, 2019, deputies from the Morongo Basin Sheriff's Station and **San Bernardino County Fire** Department firefighters responded to the 75600 block of Valle Vista Road in Twentynine Palms for the report of a residential fire. When they arrived they found a fully engulfed home and two deceased women inside. The women were identified as Linda Sayer, 67, and Sheila Sayer, 48, both of Twentynine Palms.

“Sheriff's Homicide Detectives and Detectives from Bomb and Arson responded to the location to conduct the investigation,” Morongo Basin Sheriff's officials said. “The autopsy confirmed the manner of death was homicide; however, investigators are not releasing details on how they were killed.”

Updates will be provided as information becomes available.

The investigation is ongoing, and detectives are asking anyone with information related to this incident contact the Homicide Detail, Detective Tramayne Phillips at (909)387-3589 or Sheriff's dispatch at (909) 387-8313. Callers can remain anonymous and contact We-Tip at (800)78-CRIME or www.wetip.com

<https://247headline.com/twentynine-palms-fire-that-killed-mother-and-daughter-investigated-as-homicide/>

Fiery deaths called homicide

Staff Writer, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: June 28, 2019

TWENTYNINE PALMS — - The deaths of two Twentynine Palms women whose bodies were found in the ashes of a house fire in the 75600 block of Valle Vista Road June 9 are being called homicides.

Linda Sayer, 67, and Sheila Sayer, 46, were found deceased inside the home by emergency fire personnel.

Deputies from the Morongo Basin sheriff's station and firefighters from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** responded to the residential structure fire at about 10:23 p.m.

Sheriff's homicide detectives and detectives from bomb and arson responded to the location to conduct the investigation. The autopsy confirmed the manner of death was homicide; however, investigators are not releasing details on how they were killed.

Battalion Chief Mike McClintock said county firefighters responded to a call at a single-family, single-story house in the unincorporated area of Twentynine Palms. The investigation is ongoing, and detectives are asking anyone with information related to this incident to contact the Homicide Detail, detective Tramayne Phillips at (909) 387-3589 or Sheriff's dispatch at (909) 387-8313.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_ad880dec-99f3-11e9-b8cc-63f7823de6f9.html

Fireworks illegal in most of San Bernardino County

Staff Writer, Parker Pioneer.net

Posted: June 28, 2019

Residents of Big River and other communities on the California side of the Colorado River, please take note. The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** is reminding everyone that possession of any type of fireworks, including "safe and sane" fireworks, is against the law in any unincorporated area of San Bernardino County. In the event a fire occurs due to the unsafe use of fireworks, the people responsible are likely to face criminal charges and be held liable for damages.

According to the website of the Shouse California Law Group (www.shouselaw.com), California defines some fireworks as "dangerous" and others as "safe and sane."

"'Dangerous' fireworks include large items such as rockets and sparklers bigger than ten inches in length or one-quarter inch in diameter," the website said. "'Safe and sane' fireworks include small items such as fountains, spinners, and snap caps. The Office of the California State Fire Marshal puts a list on its website of fireworks that meet this definition."

"Safe and Sane" fireworks are only allowed in the following cities: Adelanto, Chino, Colton, and Rialto, as well as specific locations in Fontana, Grand Terrace, and San Bernardino. Please call the fire department in these cities for more information. All fireworks are illegal elsewhere in the county. All fireworks that explode, shoot into the air or move along the ground are termed dangerous and are illegal anywhere in California.

County officials say San Bernardino County is facing a dangerous wildland fire season. The San Bernardino County Fire Department (SBCoFD) has increased its enforcement state and county firework laws to protect

public health and safety. Fire and law enforcement agencies will be conducting operations this year to stop attempts to smuggle illegal fireworks with fines up to \$1,250 for the first offense and with the possibility of arrest. Property owners may be cited if they allow fireworks to be possessed, stored or used on their property.

“Residents play an important role in our fireworks investigations. If you see something, say something. Call the authorities or WeTip hotline at 1-800-47-ARSON to anonymously report illegal fireworks,” Fire Marshal Mike Horton said.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, on a typical 4th of July, fireworks cause more fires in the U.S. than all other causes combined. In addition to fires, fireworks cause deaths, blindness, maiming injuries to children and adults, re-traumatize war veterans suffering from PTSD, and frighten household pets.

While “Safe and Sane” fireworks are allowed in some San Bernardino County communities, the County Board of Supervisors and SBCoFD encourage residents to watch fireworks at community celebrations rather than use their own. Visit the website sbcfire.org for a schedule of local firework displays.

When using Safe and Sane fireworks where allowed, SBCoFD offers some safety tips:

- Always use fireworks (“Safe and Sane” only) with an adult present. Even a “Safe and Sane” sparkler burns at a temperature that ignites clothing easily
- Always read and follow label directions
- Always have water (garden hose/bucket) and a fire extinguisher within reach
- Always place fireworks on a firm, non-combustible surface, like a sidewalk or pavement
- Never alter fireworks
- Never re-light “dud” fireworks
- Homemade fireworks are often deadly; leave the making of fireworks to the experts
- Never point, throw or mishandle fireworks

For more information on fireworks safety, contact your local fire station.

https://www.parkerpioneer.net/news/article_aa4a5e8a-99de-11e9-9407-133b962df3ac.html

ALL FIREWORKS ARE ILLEGAL IN OUR MORONGO BASIN

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: July 28, 2019

The **San Bernardino County fire** department is issuing a reminder that all fireworks, including “Safe and Sane” fireworks, are illegal in the Morongo Basin and that possession and use of these fireworks carry steep penalties. Reporter Andrew Dieleman has information on how you can stay safe this Fourth of July...

With our county facing another dangerous wildland fire season, County Fire is partnering with law enforcement to increase its vigilance in enforcing state and county firework laws to protect public health and safety. Fire officials will be issuing citations for the illegal use, possession, or storage of fireworks with fines up to \$1,250 for the first offense with the possibility of arrest. Property owners may be cited if they allow fireworks to be possessed, stored, or used on their property. In the event a fire occurs due to the unsafe use of fireworks, the responsible persons are likely to face criminal charges and be held liable for damages. All fireworks that explode, shoot into the air, or move along the ground are termed “dangerous” and are illegal

anywhere in California. Here in the Morongo Basin, all fireworks, even so-called “Safe and Sane” fireworks, are illegal. County Fire encourages residents to leave fireworks to the professionals.

Local fireworks shows are currently planned for both Twentynine Palms and Yucca Valley. Residents are encouraged to report illegal fireworks to the Sheriff’s Department at 760-366-4175 or at the WeTip hotline at 1-800-47-ARSON.

<http://z1077fm.com/all-fireworks-are-illegal-in-our-moronggo-basin/>