



NEWS



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S.B. County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig has accepted an offer to work in Santa Barbara County

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: Jan 18, 2019



San Bernardino County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig is pictured with his Christmas shopper at a "Heroes and Helpers" event in Fontana in 2015. Hartwig has announced he will accept a job in Santa Barbara County. (Contributed photo by San Bernardino County Fire Department)

San Bernardino County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig recently 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 4th 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 the county's fire chief on May 2, 2011 after serving as a deputy chief in Rancho Cucamonga. Hartwig had previously served with the county's 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-Gov. 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 5th 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 2nd District Supervisor Janice Rutherford.

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's Department 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.

"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."

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/s-b-county-fire-chief-mark-hartwig-has-accepted-an/article_b38b1e64-1b47-11e9-b3e0-2bad877e2228.html

Family displaced after fire destroys Adelanto home

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: January 18, 2019



(File Photo of Medic engine 313 of the San Bernardino County Fire Department- Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

ADELANTO, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A family of seven were displaced after a fire tore through their Adelanto home Friday morning.

The blaze was reported just after 8:00 am, on Friday, January 18, 2019, in the 18900 block of Muskrat Avenue in Adelanto.

San Bernardino County Firefighters arrived to the scene and located a single-family residence with flames showing through the roof and the attic fully engulfed.

Firefighters were advised by the family of the residence that all occupants had safely exited the structure. Crews conducted a primary search and confirmed everyone was out.

The American Red Cross was requested to the scene and help two adults and five children displaced by the fire.

The cause of the fire is currently under investigation.

<https://www.vvng.com/family-of-five-displaced-after-fire-destroys-adelanto-home/>

'Blockbuster' storm heads east, could drop 40 inches of snow. Then an Arctic blast will freeze 200 million.

John Bacon and Doyle Rice, USA TODAY

Published 10:09 a.m. ET Jan. 17, 2019 | Updated 5:14 p.m. ET Jan. 17, 2019



Fog on a mountain highway in Southern California triggered a 19-vehicle crash Wednesday. Officials say 35 people were evaluated for injuries after the crash on Interstate 15 in Cajon Pass, about 60 miles east of Los Angeles. (Jan 16) AP

After hammering California with rain and snow, a "blockbuster" winter storm is taking aim at the East, where as much as 40 inches of snow could fall over the weekend. Road travel may become impossible in the heavy snow, and flight delays and cancellations are likely.

After the storm heads offshore Sunday, the intense cold will be the main weather story as air straight from the Arctic will roar in, bringing below-freezing temperatures to 200 million Americans.

"Freezing rain, heavy snow and heavy rain are expected through the central and eastern U.S. over the next few days," the National Weather Service warned.

Friday, the heaviest snow will hit South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Kansas, Missouri and Iowa, AccuWeather said.

Then, the storm will roar into the Northeast and New England on Saturday and Sunday, where the heaviest snow will fall.

AccuWeather said 40 inches is possible in parts of northern New England, and close to 30 inches of snow may fall on parts of central and northern New York state and the northern tier of Pennsylvania. Snowfall rates could reach 2-3 inches per hour.

The storm "will be a blockbuster in terms of impact and dangerous conditions," AccuWeather meteorologist Alex Sosnowski said.

Snowfall of 12-24 inches is likely to be more common in the heaviest band from the storm, according to the AccuWeather forecast. Blowing and drifting at the height and conclusion of the storm could cause the snow depth to vary by several feet.

"Plows are not likely to be able to keep up," Sosnowski warned. "As the storm strengthens, winds will cause major blowing and drifting of snow."

"Those who are on the road through the heart of the snow and ice area will be at risk for becoming stranded for many hours," Sosnowski said, adding that they "may have to face temperatures plummeting to dangerously low levels."

The combination of winds and heavy snow could lead to numerous power outages, particularly in the interior Northeast, according to the Weather Channel.

Boston should see its first inch of snow of the winter season.

The Weather Channel warned that a thin band of sleet and freezing rain is possible in parts of the Ohio Valley eastward into the mid-Atlantic states.

The Weather Channel named the storm Harper. No other private weather company, nor the National Weather Service, uses that name.

After the storm, the coldest air of the season will roar across nearly the entire eastern half of the country by Monday: About 200 million people will wake up to below-freezing temperatures Monday morning, as far south as Florida, according to weather.us meteorologist Ryan Maue. Maue said about 85 percent of the Lower 48 states will see temperatures at or below freezing.

A "flash freeze" could develop late Sunday, causing any standing water to quickly freeze, creating dangerous and slippery conditions.

Lows will be below zero in the upper Midwest and northern Plains, and wind chills will approach 40 degrees below zero. Although the cold blast is expected to last only a day or two in most spots, it will bring a frigid end to January east of the Rockies, the Weather Channel said.

Forecasters expect the brutal, punishing stretch of intense cold will last well into February. The cold is partly due to the fracturing of the polar vortex this month, which slowly pushed frigid air from the Arctic into the USA.

Thursday, California dealt with heavy rainfall, mountain snow and flooding that threatened to trigger mudslides in areas scarred by devastating wildfires.

In Northern California, trees and power lines toppled in areas deluged by up to 5 inches of rain in recent days. The scenic Pacific Coast Highway was closed overnight near Big Sur because of mudslides and flooding.

In Southern California, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** said 19 vehicles crashed and 35 people suffered "minor to modest injuries" in fog near mountainous Cajon Pass.

"This is a life-threatening situation," the weather service said of the storm's rampage.

Areas under evacuation orders included parts of fire-scarred Malibu, where all public schools were closed Thursday. Several vital canyon roads in the area were closed because of rock fall danger.

Blizzard warnings were in effect in the Sierra Nevada, which could get 3 feet of snow, the weather service said.

At least five deaths have been reported during the week of stormy weather.

Precipitation in California will begin to wind down by Thursday night and into Friday morning as the storm heads east.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/01/17/winter-storm-east-coast-midwest-new-york-pennsylvania/2601621002/>

Heavy rain causes flooding, mudslide concerns as storm wallops California Wildfire burn areas considered particularly vulnerable

Staff Writer, WAVE 3 News

January 17, 2019 at 6:13 AM EST - Updated January 17 at 6:13 AM

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - California remained under threat of mudslides and blizzards Thursday from the last in a weeklong series of storms that caused deadly accidents, churning seas and widespread flooding concerns.

Heavy rain was forecast Thursday in the San Francisco Bay Area and the National Weather Service said blizzards and even avalanches were a possibility in the higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada, where winds could gust to 125 mph (201 kph) on ridgetops.

"This is a life-threatening situation," the weather service warned.

Wednesday saw toppled trees, snarled roads and downed power lines all around Northern California, sometimes with deadly consequences.

A homeless man who may have been trying to shelter under some trees near an Oakland freeway was killed when the tree toppled and he was crushed by a 30-foot-long (9-meter) branch, authorities said.

The man may have been "just trying to stay dry," California Highway Patrol Officer Herman Baza said. "Unfortunately, that protection was deadly."

In Napa County, one person died when a car went out of control on a wet roadway and struck another vehicle, the California Highway Patrol said.

On Tuesday evening, heavy rain was a factor in a crash that killed a family of three, including a 1-year-old child in Camino, the San Francisco Chronicle reports.

Tens of thousands of people were without electricity in Pacific Gas & electric areas, including more than 15,000 in San Jose alone late Wednesday night.

The weather service issued a high surf warning for San Francisco County through Friday, with 30-foot breakers along the coast of the North Bay, Monterey Bay and Big Sur.

Weather concerns also kept a stretch of scenic Highway 1 in Big Sur closed.

San Francisco saw only an inch of rain but Venado in Sonoma County got 5 inches (13 centimeters) over 24 hours.

Rain and winds forced the cancellation of more than 140 flights at San Francisco International Airport.

In Southern California, fog on a mountain highway triggered a 19-vehicle crash. Thirty-five people were evaluated for injuries after the pileup on Interstate 15 in Cajon Pass, but most declined to be taken to hospitals, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** said.

In areas recently scarred by wildfires, authorities feared small rivers and creeks would flood their banks and cause massive mudslides, further damaging communities struggling to recover from a historically bad fire season.

The blazes stripped hillsides of trees and other vegetation that stabilize soil and prevent mudslides, putting at risk thousands of people living in foothill and canyon areas devastated by wildfires.

The hillsides were holding but people in burn areas were urged to remain alert.

In Malibu, a boulder crashed into a car, injuring the driver.

<http://www.wave3.com/2019/01/17/heavy-rain-causes-flooding-mudslide-concerns-storm-wallops-california/>

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY'S NEW FIRE CHIEF APPOINTED

Staff Writer, edhat Santa Barbara

Published JAN 17 2019 01:19 PM



Santa Barbara County's New Fire Chief Appointed

Source: County of Santa Barbara

Today, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors approved the appointment of Mark A. Hartwig as the next Fire Chief of the Santa Barbara County Fire Department. This announcement comes after a months-long competitive selection process and several rounds of interviews.

Since 2011, Hartwig has served as Fire Chief of the **San Bernardino County Fire District**, leading a department of 1,065 employees, 70 fire stations and covering 10 incorporated cities and 60 unincorporated communities. He 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. His first official day as Santa Barbara County Fire Chief will be February 18, 2019, where he will oversee a department of 16 fire stations, two battalions, three divisions and about 245 full-time employees.

Prior to being named San Bernardino County 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," said Fifth District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino, 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."

According to County Executive Officer Mona Miyasato, "We were fortunate to be presented with several highly qualified and exemplary candidates for this critical position. 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."

During his career, Chief Hartwig developed an expertise in emergency medical services and most recently has been working closely with the California Fire Chiefs Association to help solidify county and local government's role in the delivery of emergency medical services. He 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, Chief Hartwig was appointed to the California Commission on Emergency Medical Services.

"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. “Engagement and partnerships are the keys to success.”

Miyasato added, “I would like to recognize former Santa Barbara County Fire Chief Mike Dyer, who has served as Interim Fire Chief since the retirement of Chief Eric Peterson last fall. We appreciate his willingness to fill an important role.”

Chief Hartwig has 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; and numerous certifications in fire studies.

For information about the County of Santa Barbara, go to www.countyofsb.org.

<https://www.edhat.com/news/santa-barbara-countys-new-fire-chief-appointed>

Three hurt in Hesperia Road crash

Paola Baker, Victorville Daily Press

Posted Jan 17, 2019 at 12:37 PM, Updated Jan 17, 2019 at 4:07 PM



San Bernardino County Fire Department officials respond to a crash on Hesperia Road that injured three people in Victorville Thursday morning. [Martin Estacio, Daily Press]

VICTORVILLE — Three people were injured in a crash on Hesperia Road early Thursday, authorities said.

The crash involved two vehicles, a gray Kia Sorrento SUV and tan Toyota Avalon sedan, and occurred on Hesperia Road near the intersection of Green Tree Boulevard just after 9:30 a.m.

Victorville Sheriff's station spokeswoman Mara Rodriguez said the crash occurred when the driver of the Toyota changed lanes to pass another vehicle while heading north on Hesperia Road.

The Toyota "hydroplaned" when the driver tried to change lanes again, colliding head-on with the Kia, Rodriguez said.

Initial reports indicated one person was trapped inside their vehicle. San Bernardino County Fire Cpt. Jeremy Kern said the first units arrived and found "major damage" with an extrication requested.

Three people were hurt in the crash. The drivers of both cars had minor to moderate injuries, officials said, but a woman in the Toyota sustained "significant injuries."

The woman was taken to a trauma center down the hill by a ground ambulance. Kern said the two others were taken to local hospitals.

"No air ambulances were able to fly due to the weather," Kern said.

Hesperia Road was briefly closed between Green Tree Boulevard and Ottawa Road as officials got the injured motorists to a hospital and cleared the roadway. Traffic was moving smoothly by 10:30 a.m.

"Factors other than road conditions" may have lead to the crash, which remains under investigation, Rodriguez said.

Anyone with information or who witnessed the crash is urged to contact the Victorville Sheriff's Station at 760-241-2911.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20190117/three-hurt-in-hesperia-road-crash>

Hesperia Road in Victorville briefly closes after crash; 3 injured

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: January 17, 2019



(Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Three people were injured and transported to local hospitals following a traffic accident on Hesperia Road Thursday morning.

At about 9:30 am, Victorville Deputies and San Bernardino County Firefighters responded to a two-vehicle crash on Hesperia Road, south of Green Tree Blvd.

Upon arrival, they located a brown Toyota Avalon and a gray Kia Sorento with major damage and occupants trapped.

Firefighters helped remove a female driver of the Kia who was suffering from an injury to her arm. The male driver of the Toyota and a female passenger had to be extricated from the car.

All three occupants from the vehicles were transported from the scene via American Medical Response ambulances to local hospitals.

Hesperia Road was shut down in both directions as deputies investigated and worked to clear the scene of the accident.

The official cause of the accident was under investigation at the time of this article.

<https://www.vvng.com/hesperia-road-in-victorville-briefly-closes-after-crash-3-injured/>

Flash Flood Warning In Camp Fire Area As Rain Pounds California From Pacific Storm

Paul Elias and John Antczak, Capital Public Radio
Thursday, January 17, 2019 | Sacramento, CA



The town of Paradise and areas nearby were devastated by the Camp Fire that started on Nov. 8, 2018 in Butte County.

(AP) — The latest in a series of Pacific Ocean storms pounded California with rain and snow Thursday, prompting officials to put communities on alert for mudslides and flooding and making travel treacherous.

Runoff flowed from the San Francisco Bay Area to the Sierra Nevada foothills and from Central Coast counties to Los Angeles and the inland region to the east.

Blizzard conditions blanketed the higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada with snow while high surf rolled ashore along the coast.

Concern was high in communities near burn scars of recent wildfires.

A flash flood warning went into effect this morning for the area of Butte County burned by the Camp Fire, which destroyed the town of Paradise in November. The warning is in effect until 11:15 a.m.

Cal Fire and the Butte County Fire Department's Swift Water Team responded to a call this morning about an unoccupied car stuck on a flooded roadway in Chico. They tweeted about the incident, warning drivers not to try to cross flooded roads in the area.

The National Weather Service warned of the "dangerous situation" and the risk of mud and debris flows as rain comes down in Butte County. They recommend that residents in or near the burned areas be prepared to evacuate if necessary.

The severely burned areas of Paradise, Pulga, Concow, the Feather River tributaries and Highway 70 and the Skyway are particularly at risk, according to the warning.

Residents of these areas can pick up sand and sandbags to protect themselves against flooding at Fire Stations 26, 25 and 67 in Chico and Oroville.

The Santa Barbara County community of Montecito that was devastated by a deadly debris flow a year ago received 1.5 inches of rain in 24 hours, but had so far avoided a repeat of the disaster.

Areas under evacuation orders included parts of fire-scarred Malibu, where all public schools were closed. Several vital canyon roads in the area were closed due rock fall danger.

At least five deaths have been reported during the week of stormy weather.

Three people, including a 1-year-old girl, were killed Tuesday when a car went out of control Tuesday during heavy rain in El Dorado County, the San Francisco Chronicle newspaper reported.

Wednesday saw toppled trees, snarled roads and downed power lines all around Northern California, sometimes with deadly consequences.

A homeless man who may have been trying to shelter under some trees near an Oakland freeway was killed when the tree toppled and he was crushed by a 30-foot-long branch, authorities said.

The man may have been "just trying to stay dry," California Highway Patrol Officer Herman Baza said. "Unfortunately, that protection was deadly."

In Napa County, one person died when a car went out of control on a wet roadway and hit another vehicle, the California Highway Patrol said.

Tens of thousands of people were without electricity in Pacific Gas & Electric utility areas, including more than 15,000 in San Jose late Wednesday night.

The weather service issued a high surf warning for San Francisco County through Friday, with 30-foot (9-meter) breakers along the coast of the North Bay, Monterey Bay and Big Sur.

Weather concerns also kept a stretch of scenic Highway 1 in Big Sur closed.

San Francisco saw only an inch of rain but Venado in Sonoma County got 5 inches over 24 hours.

Rain and winds forced the cancellation of more than 140 flights at San Francisco International Airport.

In Southern California, fog on a mountain highway triggered a 19-vehicle crash. Thirty-five people were evaluated for injuries after the pileup on Interstate 15 in Cajon Pass, but most declined to be taken to hospitals, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** said.

In areas recently scarred by wildfires, authorities feared small rivers and creeks would flood their banks and cause massive mudslides, further damaging communities struggling to recover from a historically bad fire season.

The blazes stripped hillsides of trees and other vegetation that stabilize soil and prevent mudslides, putting at risk thousands of people living in foothill and canyon areas devastated by wildfires.

The hillsides were holding but people in burn areas were urged to remain alert.

In Malibu, a boulder crashed into a car, injuring the driver.

Antczak reported from Los Angeles.

<http://www.capradio.org/articles/2019/01/17/flash-flood-warning-in-camp-fire-area-as-rain-pounds-california-from-pacific-storm/>

2 rescued from rising waters in San Bernardino after becoming stranded by Santa Ana River

Robert Gundran, The Press Enterprise

PUBLISHED: January 17, 2019 at 6:03 pm | UPDATED: January 17, 2019 at 6:03 pm

Two people were rescued from the Santa Ana River in San Bernardino Thursday afternoon after heavy rainfall led to flooding in areas of the Inland Empire.

Capt. Jeremy Kern with the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** said the department received a call at around 4:30 p.m. about people stranded on an island surrounded by rushing water, in the Santa Ana River near Orange Show Road and Tippecanoe.

“One person was extracted from the island by our units,” Kern said. “The second should be rescued shortly. We also have the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department on the scene with a helicopter.”

The second person swam to shore, officials said. The 17 firefighters called to the scene left the area at around 5:15 p.m.

<https://www.pe.com/2019/01/17/2-rescued-from-rising-waters-in-san-bernardino-after-becoming-stranded-by-santa-ana-river/>

Last round of stormy weather to hit California

Staff Writer, Associated Press

Posted: January 17, 2019

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<https://whdh.com/news/last-round-of-stormy-weather-to-hit-california/>