



NEWS



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Smoke means fire training in downtown 29

Kurt Schauppner, The Desert Trail

Posted: April 26, 2017, 9:19 AM



Capt. Dustin Krajeski, right, watches trainees fire a training fire.

TWENTYNINE PALMS — You may have noticed a large amount of fire related activity in downtown Twentynine Palms this week.

Firefighter trainees from The Tower in San Bernardino, along with their instructors and other fire department officers, have descended on the city to learn by doing.

From Monday through Friday of this week, they were set to build and then take down fires in six houses located south of Twentynine Palms Highway and north of Cactus Drive, on Cholla Avenue, Smoke Tree Avenue, Yucca Avenue and Tamarisk Avenue.

They will burn five of those building down completely by the end of the week but found that one of the structures is too close to other buildings and would pose a hazard if it were fully involved in flames.

Forty trainees are spending the week perfecting skills ranging from hose deployment to roof ventilation and from ladder placement to building entry.

“It afford a chance for them to evaluate how well they’ve learned the basic skills,” Capt. Dustin Krajeski, supervising the training here, said Tuesday afternoon.

The trainees are taking part in 16 weeks of fire academy training at the Richard Sewell Training Center in San Bernardino.

Students are judged based on how effective they are during operations, how well they deploy hoses, how properly they cut into roofs for ventilation.

After this week, they will go back to The Tower for eight more weeks of training, focusing on rescue, wild land fire fighting and driver’s training.

Their training will be completed when they graduate on June 23.

Once they have completed training they will be assigned to fire stations around the county. Six will be assigned to stations in Twentynine Palms and Yucca Valley.

“It is extremely vital to their success,” he said of the live fire training. “It is imperative to their safety and the safety of the community.”

He noted that the city is helping keep neighbors safe with traffic control and firefighters are keeping an eye on the wind, ready to stop operations if it gets too heavy.

“We are trying to create as little impact as possible,” he said.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/the_desert_trail/news/article_22ac4c4e-2a9c-11e7-85f9-f76e51603ef2.html

County Fire Training With Real House Fires In Twentynine Palms

Z107.7 News

Posted: April 27, 2017



City Manager Frank Luckino talks with County PIO officer Jay Hausman during live fire training Wednesday. Photos courtesy Gary Daigneault.



Ever wondered how to best train future firefighters? The answer is easy: set them loose putting out real fires under controlled conditions. In a rare confluence of circumstances, the City of Twentynine Palms and **San Bernardino County Fire Department** are doing just that. Reporter David Haldane explains...

“Engine one, engine two, engine three. Respond to 6566 Yucca Trail for report of a fire in a garage.”

“*Engine one copies. Responding.*”

As they pile out of the fire trucks, the smoke is hanging thick. Briefly they kneel in front of the blazing house pulling on their yellow helmets. Then advance toward it with fire hose in hand. The burning house is real. The only difference is that *this* inferno was started by the county fire department.

The neighborhood is typical of many in the Morongo Basin; nice two-bedroom homes with satellite dishes on their roofs. Except that it's in the way of Project Phoenix, a planned redevelopment in Twentynine Palms. So, the city made the department an offer; burn those babies down.

"This is probably some of the best training we'll ever receive in our career." That's Sean Call, 28, one of forty trainees putting out the fires scheduled to keep popping up through Friday. And what makes it so good?

"It's the real thing."

The controlled burns are expected to continue through tomorrow. If you see smoke and aren't sure whether it's coming from them, however, call 911.

<http://z1077fm.com/county-fire-training-with-real-house-fires-in-twentynine-palms/>

San Bernardino fire agencies train for mass casualty incident

Ryan Hagen, The Sun

Posted: April 26, 2017, 12:23 PM







San Manuel Fire Department, San Bernardino County Fire Department, CAL FIRE/City of Highland Fire Department and AMR took part in a Multi-Casualty Incident Drill at San Bernardino International Airport Wednesday. The simulated emergency was an explosion near the baggage claim at the Airport that injures 30 people. JOHN VALENZUELA — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SAN BERNARDINO >> The “explosion” that brought three fire agencies and other first responders to San Bernardino International Airport for a drill Wednesday wasn’t real, but the urgency of the response was.

First responders know that one day, this training could save lives.

“These are low-frequency, high-impact events — but as we’ve seen, they do happen in San Bernardino,” said **San Bernardino County Fire** Capt. Shawn Millerick, who responded to the April 10 shooting at North Park Elementary School. “It does get your adrenaline going and your blood pumping to have a realistic training like this.”

Coordination and communication were problems in earlier drills — but not Wednesday, and not at recent real-life events requiring a quick response from all available agencies, Millerick said.

“(Training) absolutely helped,” Millerick said of the response to the school shooting.

More than 45 personnel from the San Manuel Fire Department, San Bernardino County Fire Department and Cal Fire participated in Wednesday’s drill, along with 30 students from Crafton Hills College who filled the role of victims.

“Help me, somebody!” screamed one man, with realistic makeup giving the appearance of a bloody gash on his face, as he crawled through the smoke-filled baggage claim area.

Another, stumbling toward a firefighter, yelled out in apparent panic: “Where is Dave? I can’t find Dave!”

Firefighters gave “victims” clear instructions and shepherded them to a triage area, then ambulances drove them to another part of the airport simulating local hospitals.

Firefighters participate in training of this sort about once a year, but this was only the second annual training among the East Valley fire departments, San Manuel Fire Chief Michael J. Smith said.

This training went more smoothly than last year’s, but debriefing still found areas for improvement, Smith said.

“It would almost be disappointing for me if it went perfectly, because that would mean we weren’t paying enough attention,” he said. “We’re always going to look for improvements.”

For instance, this drill found room to improve the process of communicating with “hospitals” while en route, to determine which could best handle victims at that moment, he said.

“I’m proud to say we grew the scope this year — there were more patients and agency participants — and despite that, we got down to the finer points,” Smith said. “It worked smoother, all the core mission critical aspects were attended to. Now we’re really down to details.”

The goal was to make the drill as realistic as possible, although the law enforcement involvement was minimal, Smith said.

“You want to make it realistic, but if you make it too broad in scope, you lose some of the laser focus on paramedics and ambulance care,” he said. “We had some representatives there from city of San Bernardino police and airport police, but we really focused on the mass casualty response.

“Law enforcement and fire service collaborative training is alive and well in the Inland Empire, too,” he added. “That’s actually something that has grown a lot.”

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians took the lead in organizing and planning the drill, as well as paying for food. Disaster Management Systems and Rapid Extraction LLC donated equipment.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170426/san-bernardino-fire-agencies-train-for-mass-casualty-incident>

Teenager riding off-road motorcycle airlifted after collision on Peach Avenue

Jose Quintero, Daily Press

Posted: April 27, 2017, 8:57 AM

HESPERIA — A teenage boy was airlifted to a local trauma center after he was struck by a vehicle on Peach Avenue while riding an off-road motorcycle Wednesday afternoon.

San Bernardino County Fire Department spokesman Eric Sherwin said firefighters responded to the crash at approximately 4 p.m. and found the teenager suffering injuries from the collision.

“The boy was not wearing a helmet, which was a contributing factor to his injuries, which do not appear to be life-threatening,” Sherwin said. “The boy was riding the off-road motorcycle across a field, came out onto Peach Avenue, where he collided with the vehicle.”

Air Rescue 8 landed at Desert Valley Hospital to transport the boy to Loma Linda University Medical Center.

San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department officials did not immediately respond to a message left Thursday morning for additional information.

This story is developing and will be updated as more information becomes available.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170427/teenager-riding-off-road-motorcycle-airlifted-after-collision-on-peach-avenue>

Two Killed after Being Struck by Big Rig on 15 Freeway

24/7 Headline News

Posted: April 26, 2017

BAKER – A male and female pedestrian on the 15 freeway were struck and killed in Baker on Monday night.

At around 9:10 p.m. the Laguna Hills man and woman were struck by a Freightliner truck near mile marker 141. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) and paramedics with the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** responded to the scene and located Carmen Hernandez, 36, and Carlos Antonio Diaz Flores, 24, both with traumatic injuries.

Both were pronounced dead at the scene. The cause of the collision remains under investigation by the CHP.

<https://247headline.com/two-killed-after-being-struck-by-big-rig-on-15-freeway/>