



NEWS



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Mart fire above Highland downgraded to 670 acres; now 40 percent contained

Doug Saunders, The Sun

Posted: June 28, 2017, 6:58 PM



Sam Kuehmel, a firefighter with the San Bernardino National Forest, looks for hot spots on the second day of the Mart fire in Highland on Wednesday, June 28, 2017. Stan Lim, San Bernardino Sun/SCNG

HIGHLAND >> The Mart fire in the foothills above Highland burned less than previously thought and is holding at 40 percent containment, fire officials reported Wednesday evening.

It has burned 670 acres, according to the U.S. Forest Service. Previously, officials had said the blaze scorched just over 900 acres but the number changed due to more accurate mapping.

More than 500 firefighters and other personnel from Cal Fire, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, the U.S. Forest Service and other surrounding agencies battled the blaze keeping it from burning homes. Throughout the day Wednesday, fire crews continued line construction and structure protection throughout the day.

The fast-moving blaze broke out Tuesday afternoon and quickly required officials to order the evacuation about 200 homes in the area east of Orchard Road, north of Highland Avenue and west of Church Street. Residents were allowed to return to their homes in the early-evening hours.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170628/mart-fire-above-highland-downgraded-to-670-acres-now-40-percent-contained>

Firefighters continue to gain ground on Mart fire north of Highland 1

Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: June 29, 2017, 6:41 AM



Clark Coble, a firefighter/paramedic with San Bernardino County Fire Department, puts out hot spots on the second day of the Mart Fire in Highland on Wednesday, June 28, 2017. (Stan Lim, San Bernardino Sun/SCNG) 28,

HIGHLAND >> Firefighters continue to make progress in containing the Mart fire burning in the mountainous terrain north of Highland Thursday, fire officials said.

Air and ground crews worked through Wednesday building and reinforcing lines around the fire bringing the blaze to 40 percent containment, according to the latest information released by the U.S. Forest Service in San Bernardino. The total acreage scorched was downgraded from just a little more than 900 acres to 670.

More than 500 firefighters and other personnel from Cal Fire, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, the U.S. Forest Service and other surrounding agencies kept the fast-moving blaze from burning homes. Blackened and charred earth shows the flames came within a few yards of the hillside homes in the East Highlands Ranch community which sits in the foothills of East Highland.

The Mart Fire broke out Tuesday afternoon in a field behind a Walmart on Highland Avenue near Highway 330 and quickly required officials to order the evacuation about 200 homes in the area east of Orchard Road, north of Highland Avenue and west of Church Street. Residents were allowed to return to their homes in the early-evening hours.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170629/firefighters-continue-to-gain-ground-on-mart-fire-north-of-highland>

Two security guards accused of stealing 200 pounds of illegal, confiscated fireworks

Daily Press

Posted: June 28, 2017, 11:59 AM

VICTORVILLE — Two security guards were arrested in connection to the theft of approximately 200 pounds of illegal fireworks that had been previously confiscated on Tuesday, authorities said.

San Bernardino County Fire Department investigators requested San Bernardino County Sheriff's Victorville Station deputies to respond to an undisclosed location in Victorville for a burglary that occurred Monday evening, authorities said.

Through investigation, detectives discovered that Nicollo Floresca, 27, of Adelanto, and Preston Haynes, 25, of Apple Valley, who were working for a security company at the location, according to authorities, had broken into a building being used by County Fire to store confiscated, illegal fireworks.

Floresca and Haynes each took a portion of the stolen fireworks to residences located in the 18600 block of Sonoma Road in Adelanto and the 21000 block of Nisqualli Road in Apple Valley, authorities said. Detectives who searched the homes recovered all of the stolen fireworks and arrested Floresca and Haynes on suspicion of burglary.

The case has been forwarded to the District Attorney's office for review and filing.

Anyone with information about this investigation is asked to contact Detective James Tebbetts, at the Victorville Police Department at (760) 241-2911. Callers wishing to remain anonymous are urged to call the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-78CRIME (27463), or you may leave information on the We-Tip website at www.wetip.com.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170628/two-security-guards-accused-of-stealing-200-pounds-of-illegal-confiscated-fireworks>

Security guards suspected of stealing 200 pounds of illegal fireworks in Victorville

Alex Groves, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: June 28, 2017, 7:40 PM



Photo courtesy of San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

Two men working for a security company at a Victorville building are suspected of breaking inside and stealing about 200 pounds of illegal fireworks, sheriff's officials say.

Nicollo Floresca, a 27-year-old Adelanto resident, and Preston Haynes, a 25-year-old Apple Valley resident, were arrested on suspicion of burglary after authorities served warrants at their homes and found the illegal fireworks, a San Bernardino County sheriff's news release states.

The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** was storing illegal, confiscated, fireworks at the undisclosed location in Victorville, the release states.

Sheriff's officials ask anyone with information about the case to contact Detective James Tebbets, 760-241-2911. Anonymous tips can be made on the We-Tip Hotline, 1-800-782-7463 or online at www.wetip.com.

<http://www.pe.com/2017/06/28/security-guards-suspected-of-stealing-200-pounds-of-illegal-fireworks-in-victorville/>

Security Guards Arrested for Stealing Previously Confiscated Fireworks

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: June 28, 2017



VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) – Detectives arrested two suspects working as security guards for burglary of illegal fireworks that had previously been confiscated, authorities said.

On June 27, 2017, deputies from the Victorville Police Department were requested by **San Bernardino County Fire** Investigators to respond to an undisclosed location in Victorville for a burglary that occurred overnight.

Through investigation, detectives discovered that two suspects, working for a security company at the location, had broken into a building being used by SBCoFire to store confiscated, illegal fireworks.

The suspects, identified as Nicollo Floresca, 27, an Adelanto resident and Preston Haynes, 25, from Apple Valley stole approximately two hundred pounds of illegal fireworks and each took a portion to their residences.

Search warrants were written for the residences, located in the 18600 block of Sonoma Road in Adelanto and the 21000 block of Nisqually Road in Apple Valley. Detectives serving the search warrants located both suspects and recovered all of the stolen fireworks. Floresca and Haynes were arrested for burglary, and the case has been forwarded to the District Attorney's office for review and filing.

Anyone with information about this investigation is asked to contact Detective James Tebbetts, at the Victorville Police Department at (760) 241-2911. Callers wishing to remain anonymous are urged to call the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-78CRIME (27463), or you may leave information on the We-Tip website at www.wetip.com.

<http://www.vvng.com/security-guards-arrested-stealing-previously-confiscated-fireworks/>

Save our fire stations: Bring back paid-call firefighters

Hi-Desert Star, Letters to the Editor, Ronda Aid Pioneertown

Posted: June 28, 2017, 6:24 PM

Supervisor Ramos and the powers that be, please don't end our paid-call firefighter program in San Bernardino County. Rural areas depend on our local first responders to arrive quickly. GPS here in Pioneertown is wrong. The county is aware. When we wait for units from other areas, unfamiliar with our rural access, precious time is lost.

At a meeting with five directors and department supervisors in San Bernardino on June 8, a note was delivered to the Fire Department representative from a resident whose pacemaker had failed and his experience while watching his help go the wrong way! As a compassionate, taxpaying human, this lack of correct information is unacceptable for our first responders and those asking for help.

This rural community has benefited from coverage from the paid-call, minimum-wage program, currently active, but ending July 1.

Station 38 in Pioneertown has had an active, on-call firefighter since November 2009 with coverage 365 days a year from 5 p.m. to 5 a.m. — every day, every holiday and every weekend for eight years. (The Monday-Friday day shift is covered by Yucca Valley or Yucca Mesa.) This one paid-call firefighter responded to over 160 medical aids 60 fires, including two cars on fire and 80 traffic collisions; averaged 40 to 50 hours a year covering other stations when short-staffed or out on major calls; had over 800 hours of training, updating and re-certifying, including haz-mat, terrorism and task books and is now certified for most all apparatus utilized by county fire; spent over 700 hours on repairs, maintenance and upkeep of a 1¼-acre abandoned station with fire damage, propane leak and water leaks; one haz-mat call; one cat rescue off an Edison pole; and unfortunately, four who passed away prior to arrival.

This, again, was one person, one firefighter on call. What a difference one person makes. Loss of the program has brought new awareness to the importance of these programs. Some have now expressed an interest and may be willing to help. The Fire Corps program is suggested for those who choose to help first responders with food, water and shelter (support) during crises.

But the paid-call firefighter program would be needed still for daily 911 response.

Many also feel funding for the program could be generated by putting a much-needed cell tower in Pioneertown and other rural areas.

Another suggestion for funding is combined effort from other agencies. Perhaps Cal Fire could share the fire fee they take to actually provide fire protection.

We also believe we have a paid-call firefighter who would like to help run the program. He has over 30 years of experience with multiple local, state and federal fire agencies. His last day with the county is June 23. So, with the utmost respect, voting, taxpaying owners, residents, guests and visitors of rural San Bernardino County southwest desert and river corridors urge the county to reconsider keeping the paid-call firefighter program. Please — give us all, each outlying area a chance to resurrect the past program into a better program for all our safety!

We would all be so grateful to know we rural dwellers matter to you and the county. We would know you also believe our safety matters and you truly do care about every person in our county, no matter where we call home.

Please keep our paid-call firefighter program.

Thank you to all our first responders. We couldn't do it without you!

http://www.hidesertstar.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/article_a207a246-5c69-11e7-b526-5b17fd1c6eab.html

UPDATE: Fire Department's scheduled training exercise in Fontana on June 28 is called off

Fontana Herald News

Posted: June 27, 2017, 10:22 AM

A fire drill that had been scheduled in Fontana on June 28 was cancelled because firefighters were needed in order to battle a blaze which had erupted in nearby Highland.

The planned wildland training exercise with a live burn took place in northern Fontana on the morning of June 27, but the next day's event was called off, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

The exercise was the culmination of training that had been conducted by the department over the past two months.

Crews from San Bernardino County Fire along with surrounding agencies practiced various training scenarios to include initial attack, construction of fire-line both with hand-tools and hose lines, dozer operations, helicopter/air operations, firing techniques, communications, and fire-line safety.

http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/update-fire-department-s-scheduled-training-exercise-in-fontana-on/article_43ecae5c-5b5d-11e7-bd31-bf3591e49d61.html

Possession of any fireworks, including 'Safe and Sane,' is against the law in unincorporated areas of S.B. County

Fontana Herald News

Posted: June 28, 2017, 8:26 PM

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 responsible persons are likely to face criminal charges and be held liable for damages.

"Safe and Sane" fireworks are only allowed in the following cities: Adelanto, Barstow, Chino, Colton, and Rialto, as well as specific locations in Fontana, Grand Terrace, and San Bernardino.

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.

With San Bernardino County facing a dangerous wildland fire season, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** (SBCoFD) has increased its vigilance in enforcing 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 tens of thousands of pounds of illegal 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.

"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 the City of Fontana, the County Board of Supervisors and SBCoFD encourage residents to watch fireworks at community celebrations rather than use their own. Visit 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.

Have a SAFE celebration!

(Louis Penna is a media specialist with the San Bernardino County Fire Department.)

http://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/opinion/possession-of-any-fireworks-including-safe-and-sane-is-against/article_c88cdb32-5c7a-11e7-8dee-8ff06bf9e8a3.html

Man Murdered in Victorville Thursday Morning

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: June 29, 2017



A Hispanic male adult was shot dead outside an apartment complex in Victorville Thursday morning.

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) – A man is dead after being shot early Thursday morning outside an apartment complex.

Victorville Police responded to the area of Hesperia Road and C Street at 1:20 am, reference a shooting victim.

Arriving officers found a man down next to a bike against a brick wall towards the rear of a multi-unit apartment complex at 15564 Hesperia Road.

Firefighters from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** pronounced the victim dead at the scene at 1:29 am.

Per scanner reports, the suspect(s) fled the location in a dark-colored two-door Acura sedan. Homicide detectives will conduct the murder investigation.

The immediate area was taped off to preserve the crime scene.

Information will be updated as it becomes available.

<http://www.vvng.com/man-murdered-victorville-thursday-morning/>

One Killed When U-Haul Crashes Into Semi-Truck Near Copper Mountain College

Z107.7 News

Posted: June 29, 2017



Photo courtesy **San Bernardino County Fire Dept.**

One person was killed Wednesday morning when a U-Haul truck crashed into the rear of a semi-truck near Copper Mountain College. About 8:20 a.m., the U-Haul rear-ended the semi on Highway 62 at Rotary Way, with the front end of the U-Haul wedged under the semi. An occupant inside the U-Haul was trapped inside, and rescue personnel used the Jaws of Life to extricate him, but the man succumbed to his injuries during the extrication. The California Highway Patrol is investigating.

<http://z1077fm.com/u-haul-crashes-into-semi-truck-near-copper-mountain-college/>