



NEWS



News Headlines 3/31/2017

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Grass fire near Victorville contained, arson suspect in custody

Inland Valley Daily Bulletin, John M. Blodgett

Posted: March 30, 2017, 7:03 pm



San Bernardino County firefighters fight a grass fire at Mojave Narrows Regional Park south of Victorville on Thursday. COURTESY PHOTO

VICTORVILLE >> Despite high winds, firefighters by 6 p.m. Thursday had 100 percent contained at 26 acres a vegetation fire near Victorville and a man suspected of starting it was in custody, officials said.

A San Bernardino County firefighter and a San Bernardino County sheriff's deputy were reported hospitalized for treatment of unspecified minor injuries.

The fire at Mojave Regional Narrows Regional Park was reported about 11:18 a.m. Thursday, according to a San Bernardino County fire news release. First arriving crews found two acres of annual grasses burning and spreading with the help of westerly winds blowing 10-15 mph.

"As firefighters began to attack and flank the fire, two additional fires were identified further upriver," the news release states. Fire officials said before the blaze could reach heavy fuels in the nearby river bottom and threaten the town of Apple Valley, ground and air crews were able to stop it from advancing farther.

By Thursday evening firefighters had completely contained the fire to a main body of 25 acres and two smaller fires totaling an acre. The news release states firefighters would remain overnight and into the morning "working to reinforce containment lines and mop-up the interior."

At the beginning of the fire, a sheriff's helicopter crew saw a man near the fire's perimeter "bent over engaged in what appeared to be fire starting activity," the news release states. "Deputies were directed into the location, and after a short foot pursuit, the suspect was taken into custody."

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170330/grass-fire-near-victorville-contained-arson-suspect-in-custody>

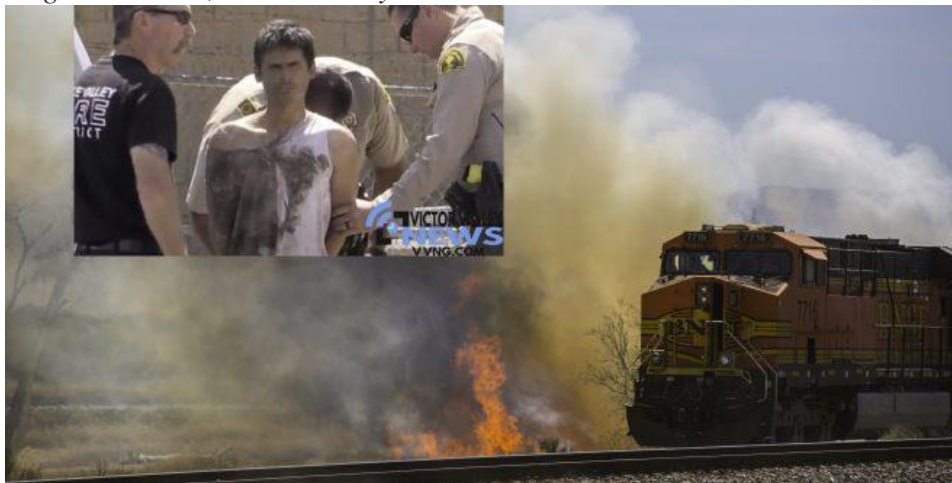
Victorville Mojave Riverbed Fire Deemed Arson, Suspect Arrested

VVNG, Gabirel D. Espinoza

Posted: March 30, 2017



Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News



Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News

APPLE VALLEY/ VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) A man was arrested for arson after allegedly starting the Mojave Narrows fire that broke Thursday morning.

San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel responded around 11 a.m. to reports of a large fire and a witness reporting a man fleeing the scene on foot.

The fire quickly grew to over 5 acres. BNSF Railway responded to the location and temporarily stopped all trains from traveling through the area.

The Sheriff's helicopter located the suspect and was able to track the man's every move. Deputies began a foot pursuit, and as the suspect was running he was attempting to start other fires.

The sheriff's helicopter was able to hover over the man and use the gust of the rotors to prevent the man from starting additional fires.

A deputy required medical assistance and was transported to a hospital for unknown reasons.

The suspect was apprehended by deputies and evaluated by EMT's before being arrested.

More information will be updated as it becomes available.

<http://www.vvng.com/victorville-mojave-riverbed-fire-deemed-arson-suspect-arrested/>

Narrows Fire contained at roughly 26 acres; arson suspect taken into custody

Paola Baker & Jose Quintero, VV Daily Press

Posted: March 30, 2017

VICTORVILLE — Fire crews battled a brush fire that burned roughly 26 acres in Mojave Narrows Park Thursday as authorities arrested an arson suspect in the area.

First reported at 11:18 a.m. near Ridgecrest and Yates roads, according to San Bernardino County Fire Department officials, the blaze, which was called the Narrows Fire, quickly spread due to light grass and heavy winds.

"Upon arrival, firefighters found a little over 2 acres of annual grasses that were burning and wind driven by 10 to 20 mph winds," County Fire spokesman Eric Sherwin told the Daily Press a little after 1 p.m. "We stopped forward progress of the fire and we do have a couple other additional fires that are burning about a mile further up the River Bottom. ... We were fortunate to not have any structures threatened at any point in this incident."

An arson suspect, identified as Victorville transient Kyle Andrew Trussell, 23, was reported to be in the area "attempting to light more fires" and was taken into custody at 11:58 a.m., authorities said.

"The subject fled from deputies and air support by traversing the river and hiding under trees," CHP Inland Division officials said in a statement. "After identifying the subject's location, H-80 relinquished air support to the (San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department's) helicopter 40 King, who continued aerial observation as the subject attempted to avoid apprehension.

"The subject was ultimately taken into custody by deputies. Great job by ground units tracking the subject and bringing the incident to a conclusion."

Trussell was arrested on suspicion of aggravated arson and was being held on \$250,000 bail, according to San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Cindy Bachman, who said sheriff's Bomb/Arson investigators responded to the scene.

A San Bernardino County Sheriff's deputy and a firefighter were reported to have suffered minor injuries from the blaze.

"We had one deputy that was injured with a heat-related illness as a result of this incident," Sherwin confirmed. "He was transported to a local facility in minor condition."

Eleven engines, two crews, one dozer, three water tenders and three helicopters were assigned to the fire, according to County Fire's Twitter account. Personnel from the Apple Valley Fire Protection District and Bureau of Land Management also responded to the incident.

Sherwin said the "close proximity of the water source" at Mojave Narrows Parks was instrumental with quick helicopter drops on the fire.

"We don't have a whole lot of hydrants in this area and bringing water tenders in takes quite a while," Sherwin said. "So being able to draft from this water source as well as having a quick water source for the helicopters allowed us to get on top of this fire quick.

"With the rains we saw over the past season we have the return of our annual grass crop that does create fires and burn fast and move quickly especially when we get wind on it. This is the first of what we expect to be many incidents we will be combating this year."

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170330/update-narrows-fire-contained-at-roughly-26-acres-arson-suspect-taken-into-custody>

Brush Fire Burns 25 Acres in Victorville, California

Storyful

Posted: March 30, 2017

A brush fire scorched roughly 25 acres at Mojave Narrows Regional Park in Victorville, California, on Thursday, March 30. This video shows the smoke from a distance.

The San Bernardino County Fire District responded to the fire, tweeting there were two minor injuries – one deputy and one firefighter – and one suspect was in custody. According to the Daily Press, the suspect was trying to light more fires before he was apprehended.

In total, 11 engines, two crews, one dozer, three water tenders and three helicopters were assigned to combat the blaze. Credit: Instagram/real_big_mike via Storyful

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/brush-fire-burns-25-acres-221636850.html>

Blaze at local composting plant contained before further spread

Paola Baker, VV Daily Press

Posted: March 31, 2017

ORO GRANDE — Despite extreme winds, firefighters were able to contain a blaze that erupted at a composting plant before the flames spread further on Thursday evening, authorities said.

Reports of a vegetation fire near the Mojave river bottom were first received just before 5 p.m. Thursday. The blaze, dubbed the Plant Fire, initially began at American Organics, a local mulch supplier. However, high winds began to spread the flames into the river bottom area just after 5 p.m.

Several San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel, including two hand crews, five fire engines, one dozer and several water tenders were on hand to combat the flames, according to San Bernardino County Battalion Chief Donny Viloría.

"We were able to hold the flames at less than an acre," Viloría told the Daily Press while on scene Thursday evening. "The forward rate of spread was stopped."

Fire crews were expected to remain on scene for several hours Thursday evening for cleanup and to ensure the blaze was contained. No injuries were reported. The cause of the blaze remains under investigation by the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

<http://www.vvdaily.com/news/20170331/blaze-at-local-composting-plant-contained-before-further-spread>

Repairs completed on storm-damaged stretch of the 15 Freeway in Cajon Pass

John M. Blodgett, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: March 31, 2017, 7:36 p.m.

SAN BERNARDINO >> Crews have finished repairs to a section of the southbound 15 Freeway just south of Highway 138, which collapsed on February 17 during a storm-related flash flood, the California Department of Transportation announced Thursday.

"All lanes are now restored to their original capacity and condition," a news release states.

Since Feb. 19, four lanes had been open at reduced width between Highway 138 and Cleghorn Road, requiring motorists to drive with caution through the Cajon Pass.

Officials say there will be no additional lane closures or reduced lanes for the roughly two more weeks worth of work left to repair lingering storm damage.

"Work to repair the lower slope north of this location near Highway 138 will continue," the news release states. "Once this section of work is finished the emergency project will be complete."

Caltrans authorized the \$3 million in emergency repairs early Feb. 18, hours after a road collapse that claimed both a semi truck and trailer and a San Bernardino County fire engine. San Bernardino County fire officials earlier said the fire truck was a complete loss valued at \$600,000.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170330/repairs-completed-on-storm-damaged-stretch-of-the-15-freeway-in-cajon-pass>
