



NEWS



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Blaze at Victorville home Wednesday leaves two residents displaced

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: May 31, 2017, 4:25 PM



San Bernardino County firefighters seek out remaining flames of a house fire in Victorville on Wednesday afternoon. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

VICTORVILLE — Authorities said two people were displaced after a blaze erupted at their home Wednesday afternoon.

Reports of a fire at a home in the 15600 block of Condor Road were received by **San Bernardino County Fire Department** personnel at 1:33 p.m. Wednesday. While no one was injured in the blaze, County Fire spokesman Eric Sherwin said the home's residents were displaced by the incident.

Several neighbors told the Daily Press heavy black smoke filled the air when the blaze erupted.

Mariana Perez, who lives in the home next door, said she first noticed something was amiss when she began to smell smoke inside her kitchen.

As Perez tried to pinpoint the cause, her daughter Jessica ran inside to tell her flames could be seen from their neighbors' home.

“As soon as we saw the flames we got buckets of water and hoses and ran outside to try to help,” Perez said. “With the wind, we were afraid the fire might spread to our yard or further up the neighborhood.”

Firefighters made quick work of the blaze, extinguishing the flames just after 2 p.m., Sherwin said.

A young man, believed to be a visitor, was seen running out of the home when the flames first erupted. Firefighters were also seen rescuing a dog near the area. The home was occupied by two older men who weren't home when the blaze occurred, Perez said.

“I feel so bad for them, they've always been really nice,” Perez said.

Sherwin said Red Cross was requested to assist the home's residents.

The cause of the blaze remains under investigation by County Fire.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170531/blaze-at-victorville-home-wednesday-leaves-two-residents-displaced>

Firefighters Rescue four dogs in Victorville house fire

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: May 31, 2017



The two dogs (Stone and Booja)were brought out first, then two more followed. (Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) Firefighters rescued four dogs from a house fire on Wednesday afternoon.

At 1:30 p.m., the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** responded to a residential structure fire on the 15500 block of Condor Road.

Battalion Chief Kelly Anderson said heavy smoke and fire was visible from the residence when firefighters arrived.

One person was home at the time of the fire and was able to exit safely. However, that person told Victor Valley News that he searched for the dogs but they were hiding under a bed and he couldn't get to them.

“Our crews did a primary search and found four dogs that lived in the house, all dogs were alive and well and our crew was able to bring them out and reunite them with their owners,” Kelly Anderson said.

The homeowner is grateful for the fire department’s quick response, and from their neighbors that called 911 and attempted to douse the house with buckets of water.

“I wanted to run in and try to get (the dogs) out if they were in there, but by that time there was already black smoke and I couldn’t breathe so we were just trying to keep the fire down,” said next door neighbor Jessica Perez.

Firefighters were able to extinguish the fire within 10 minutes with the assistance of three fire engines, a truck equipped with a ladder, a squad truck, and a battalion chief.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation, but officials did say there were no working smoke detectors in the home.

“San Bernardino County Fire Department does encourage all homeowners to have working functional smoke detectors in their home so that you can be alerted at the time of the fire,” Anderson stated.

<http://www.vvng.com/firefighters-rescue-four-dogs-victorville-house-fire/>

UPDATE: One dead, one injured in officer-involved shooting outside Hesperia Walmart

Daily Press

Posted: May 31, 2017, 9:51 AM



Crime Scene Investigators photograph a car involved in an officer-involved shooting at the Walmart Supercenter in Hesperia on Wednesday. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

HESPERIA — One man was killed and another wounded in an officer-involved shooting in the parking lot of the Hesperia Walmart Supercenter on Wednesday morning, authorities said.

Officers assigned to the San Bernardino County Auto Theft Task Force (SANCATT) were involved in the incident, which occurred as the team attempted to stop three men from reportedly stealing a vehicle.

The shooting occurred after an officer was nearly struck by the suspects' vehicle, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Cindy Bachman said.

Both officers were conducting a separate stolen vehicle investigation in the parking lot of the Walmart, at 13401 Main Street, at approximately 8 a.m. Wednesday when they first noticed the suspects.

As the officers approached the men's vehicle, Bachman said they used their unmarked vehicles to block in the suspects and prevent them from driving away.

"The suspect driver accelerated, nearly striking one of the officers, and an officer-involved shooting occurred," Bachman said.

The vehicle continued accelerating until it crashed into one of the unmarked vehicles. The driver and passenger were wounded during the shooting, according to Bachman. The passenger in the back seat was uninjured.

"The driver was transported to Desert Valley Medical Center where he was pronounced dead," Bachman said. "The passenger who was wounded was transported to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center and is expected to survive."

The third suspect was detained and taken to the Hesperia Sheriff's Station for an interview, according to Bachman. The identities of the suspects weren't available late Wednesday.

The vehicle the suspects were driving was reported stolen early Wednesday morning from a home in Victorville, Bachman said.

According to a tweet from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, emergency personnel were on scene for reported gunshot wounds at approximately 8:20 a.m.

Two medical helicopters were requested, according to the tweet, although weather may have forced one to turn back, per scanner traffic.

Hesperia resident Chiana Hunter, 34, told the Daily Press she was heading into the store to return something with her kids when she heard gunshots.

Hunter said she turned around and saw a man in a Honda and what appeared to be an undercover officer exchange gunfire near the west side of the parking lot.

Neither of the SANCATT officers — members of the California Highway Patrol and Fontana Police Department — were injured during the incident, Bachman said. It's unclear if an exchange of gunfire between the suspects and the officers actually occurred as officials remained tight-lipped on further details. No other injuries were reported.

Authorities taped off a section of the Walmart parking lot for the investigation, which is ongoing.

Walmart remained open for business throughout the day, with sheriff's officials periodically redirecting customers away from the closed-off section.

An official on scene told the Daily Press the investigation could continue until Thursday afternoon.

This is the second officer-involved shooting in as many days and the second shooting in a parking lot of a major retailer in the High Desert this week.

Dearld Edward Wicker, 41, of Apple Valley, allegedly shot a man in the head during an argument Monday evening in the parking lot of the Super Target in Apple Valley.

Wicker fled the scene in a black Ford Bronco, but was located by sheriff's deputies in the 25000 block of Flathead Road Tuesday evening and was shot and wounded by a deputy.

Wicker was transported to a trauma center with gunshot wounds. His status is unknown at this time.

Further details on Wednesday's shooting weren't available late Wednesday.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170531/update-one-dead-one-injured-in-officer-involved-shooting-outside-hesperia-walmart>

1 dead, 1 injured in police shooting at Hesperia Wal-Mart

Hailey Branson-Potts, LA Times

Posted: May 31, 2017, 12:15 PM

One person is dead, and another is injured after an officer-involved shooting outside a Wal-Mart in Hesperia, authorities said Wednesday.

The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** tweeted that two medical helicopters had been requested for two victims at a Wal-Mart in the 13400 block of Main Street.

Paramedics were called to the scene at 7:57 a.m., said Tracey Martinez, a spokeswoman for the fire department.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department tweeted that the shooting involved a law enforcement officer.

Sheriff's spokeswoman Cindy Bachman told the Victorville Daily Press that officers with the San Bernardino County Auto Theft Task Force — which is comprised of officers from multiple state and local law enforcement agencies — were investigating a crime in the parking lot when they saw three men trying to steal a vehicle.

“They approached the vehicle, boxed it in and upon making contact with the subjects in that vehicle, an officer-involved shooting occurred,” she said. The driver and passenger were hit by gunfire, and the person in the backseat was uninjured.

The officers were in unmarked vehicles, Bachman told the Daily Press.

The Sheriff's Department said one person was in custody following the incident.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-hesperia-walmart-shooting-20170531-story.html>

High fees, unfairness in Upland fire annexation: Bob Cable

Bob Cable, Daily Bulletin

Posted: June 1, 2017, 8:44 AM



A fire engine pulls out of Upland Fire Station 163 on Benson Avenue in this November 2013 file photo. (Will Lester/Inland Valley Daily Bulletin file photo)

A game of numbers and misinformation is what Upland's proposed annexation to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** is all about.

As one of the oldest businesses and a third-generation family member since 1945, the Cable family has been involved in this city for a few years. I've seen letters to the editor and speakers at City Council meetings of those in the "inner circle" of the city manager, mayor and need I say Fire Department unions. What I haven't seen are the true numbers of what this is really going to cost the residents and businesses in the city of Upland.

For example, if you're favorite nonprofit is planning a fundraising event or other event that will have 1,000 people or more, How about fees going from \$123 to \$1,108. If your event is between 500 and 1,000 people, its only \$714. Oh, and by the way, that's per day.

If you own a restaurant or eating facility with a fire suppression hood, your new annual fee will be \$515. If you own an automobile repair shop cough up another \$500 a year. Just take a look at the additional 18 pages of county fees about to hit you and your business.

There are a lot of unanswered questions and "estimates." Why aren't the Reach Air Ambulance proceeds, which directly benefit the Upland Fire Department, going to the new fire district FP-5, but rather to the "Special Operations Division of County Fire"?

Why can't anyone in the county Fire Department tell me how much Station 12 (the station at the top of Euclid) costs to operate? They reply, "approximately \$1,300,000" is that over or under by \$300,000? It seems there should be a hard cost if you're going to charge the residents exactly \$143.92. Who's doing the accounting?

Taxation through annexation. Interesting phrase, but oh so true. The citizens of Upland and San Antonio Heights do not get a voice in this special tax. Why our city leaders are not putting this on the ballot for all of us to decide, is simple. It's not fair in its current form and they know it. To them it is justifiable to charge the same special tax to everyone, regardless of property value or use. We, the citizens should decide if the family

of four living in a one-bedroom house should pay the same amount as the apartment complex with 400 residents, the retirement home, the hospital, Walmart, or even my place of business, Cable Airport. Taxation without representation seems to ring a bell here. Maybe someone needs to read a history book.

Let's look at the "savings." How about throwing away 111 years of city-run fire history and service? Or \$50 million savings over 10 years, yet the city is giving away \$6,717,645 a year in property tax. Keep in mind that 43 percent of Upland's general fund revenue is from property tax. Upland will be giving the county over a third of its property tax, but the total salaries budget for 2016-2017 in the Upland city budget shows only 24 percent of the city's salary expenses come from the Fire Department. Yet the Police Department is 43 percent. You do the math.

I'm not saying that everything is great, but it's not the doom and gloom that is being told. Stand up for your rights, fill out the protest form. Get ALL the information. Put LAFCO 3216 on the ballot and let the people vote. You just might be surprised at the support that you will receive. We love our city. Let us keep all of it intact.

Bob Cable is president of Cable Airport, Inc., in Upland.

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/opinion/20170601/high-fees-unfairness-in-upland-fire-annexation-bob-cable>

Woman Airlifted After Crashing With Pickup Truck in Victorville

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: June 1, 2017



San Bernardino County Firefighters extricated a woman from her vehicle following an early morning crash. (Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News.)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) A woman involved in a crash was airlifted to a trauma center early Thursday morning.

On June 1, 2017, at about 7:18 a.m. dispatch received reports of a traffic collision at the intersection of Hesperia Road and Green Tree Blvd in Victorville.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's deputies arrived and located a white BNSF truck and a gray 2000 Ford Taurus had collided.

The impact left the female driver of the Ford trapped inside her vehicle. **San Bernardino County Fire** responded and extricated her from the vehicle.

Due to her injuries, an airship was requested to airlift the woman to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center. Her injuries did not appear to be life threatening.

Based on preliminary reports, the Taurus was traveling eastbound on Green Tree Blvd. and the BNSF truck was traveling southbound on Hesperia Road.

Celia Najaera and her husband were on Hesperia Road behind the BNSF truck, prior to the collision.

“We had a green light and the woman just pulled out in front of the truck,” stated Najaera. “I don’t know what she was thinking but she didn’t even stop.”

The driver of the BNSF truck was walking around after the crash. A white Toyota Corolla was also sideswiped during the crash. Both drivers declined medical transport.

“Everyone is just lucky to be alive. It could have been much worse,” stated Najaera. The roadway was reopened in both directions by 8:30 a.m.

<http://www.vvng.com/woman-airlifted-crashing-pickup-truck-victorville/>

Firefighters Union Say Twentynine Palms Coverage Affected If Wonder Valley Closes

Z107.7 News

Posted: June 1st, 2017

The union that represents county firefighters is concerned about preliminary plans to close the Wonder Valley Fire Station while the Ludlow station remains unmanned. Firefighters Local 935 President Jim Grigoli said the current proposed county budget would see Wonder Valley close, leaving Twentynine Palms covered by a single fire engine with three firefighters. Grigoli said that the union would like to see the brush engine and staff of two currently at the Wonder Valley station be assigned to Twentynine Palms, in addition to the engine. He says because the Ludlow station remains unmanned, response to major crashes along I-40, some 100 miles away, formerly responded to by Wonder Valley, would result in Twentynine Palms being uncovered if their only engine responded. **County fire** officials say normally if Twentynine Palms equipment is on an incident, fire crews from other stations, such as Joshua Tree or Yucca Mesa, are brought in to cover. Ideally, the union said, the Ludlow station should be reactivated so I-40 response was faster and coverage in Twentynine Palms would not be affected. Budget negotiations between San Bernardino County Fire and county representatives continue this month with a July 1 deadline.

<http://z1077fm.com/firefighters-union-say-twentynine-palms-coverage-affected-if-wonder-valley-closes/>