



NEWS



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Massive Fire Causes Significant Damage to Shuttered Skating Rink in San Bernardino

Kristina Bravo, KTLA

Posted: December 5, 2019



Firefighters battled a blaze aggressively burning at a vacant commercial structure in San Bernardino on Dec. 5, 2019.

A blaze exploded at a shuttered skating rink in San Bernardino, sending massive flames and heavy smoke up into the air early Thursday.

Crews were making their way back to the station after a separate incident when they noticed smoke coming from a building in the 2100 block of Lugo Avenue at around 6:40 a.m., according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

The firefighters immediately requested additional crews and resources as flames engulfed the 20,000-square foot structure. They searched the building for any possible victims but soon had to leave due to the smoke and the intensity of the blaze, according to the Fire Department.

The building formerly housed the Stardust Roller Rink, fire Chief Dan Munsey said.

Crews deployed more than 3,000 gallons of water per minute at the height of the fire, using nine engines and three fire trucks, officials said. Southern California Edison also responded to the scene to mitigate electrical danger, the Fire Department said.

It took firefighters about an hour to extinguish the flames, according to authorities.

One firefighter was taken to the hospital for a minor injury. Nobody else was hurt in the incident, the Fire Department said.

The vacant building sustained significant damage, the cost of which was yet to be determined.

Earlier, the San Bernardino City Unified School District asked schools affected by smoke to shelter in place and keep windows and doors closed until the smoke dissipates.

<https://ktla.com/2019/12/05/flames-engulf-vacant-commercial-building-in-san-bernardino/>

San Bernardino fire: Massive flames engulfs iconic building, former roller skating rink

Rob McMillan, ABC 7

Posted: December 5, 2019



A dramatic fire erupted at an vacant roller skating rink in San Bernardino, prompting a massive response from firefighters.

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (KABC) -- A dramatic fire erupted Thursday morning at a former roller skating rink in San Bernardino, prompting a massive response from firefighters.

The inferno began shortly before 7 a.m. at the large commercial structure in the 2100 block of Lugo Avenue, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

The fire department described it as an iconic building, once housing a roller skating rink, currently being used as an events center. The 20,000 square foot building was built in 1950.

Heavy equipment was brought in to start knocking down what remained of the building after the flames were extinguished.

One firefighter received a minor knee injury.

Officials do not believe anyone was in the building at the time of the fire. Crews were working on deeming the building safe before it could be confirmed.

Giant flames were seen shooting through the roof of the former Stardust Roller Rink, sending a column of thick black smoke into the air.

Eyewitness News spoke with the owner of the property who said he didn't believe it was homeless people that started the blaze. There had been recent reports of vandalism to the property.

About 8:45 a.m., officials announced that the fire had been extinguished.

The cause of the incident is under investigation.

<https://abc7.com/fire-engulfs-former-roller-skating-rink-in-san-bernardino/5735334/>

Fire Burns at Roller Rink in San Bernardino

Jonathan Lloyd, NBC 4

Posted: December 5, 2019



A fire burned at the vacant site of the Stardust Roller Rink Thursday Dec. 5, 2019 in San Bernardino.

Thick smoke billowed from a roller rink that burned early Thursday in San Bernardino.

The fire erupted Thursday morning and spread throughout the building, sending a huge column of smoke over the city. **San Bernardino County firefighters** are pouring water into the structure.

The fire burned at the site of the Stardust Roller Rink in the 2100 block of North Lugo Avenue. Nearby buildings were not damaged.

There were no reports of injuries.

Nearby schools were told to keep windows and doors closed due to the smoke.

Details about a cause were not immediately available.

Refresh this page for updates.

<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/San-Bernardino-Fire-Roller-Rink-Firefighters-565835011.html>

Fire collapses roof of former Stardust Roller Rink in San Bernardino

Richard K. De Atley, The Press Enterprise

Posted: December 5, 2019



Firefighters work the scene of a commercial structure fire at an abandoned roller rink on the corner of East Highland Avenue and North Lugo Avenue in San Bernardino on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2019. The two-alarm fire destroyed the old Stardust Roller Rink early Thursday morning. (Photo by Jennifer Cappuccio Maher, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

The building that once housed the Stardust Roller Rink in San Bernardino was engulfed by an early morning fire Thursday that collapsed its roof in a blaze so intense firefighters could not go inside to battle the flames.

Cause of the fire was still under investigation, **San Bernardino County Fire Department** Battalion Chief Mike McClintock said at the scene of the two-alarm fire. “The building has sustained heavy damage. The roof has caved in,” he said.

One firefighter had a minor injury and was hospitalized for treatment, McClintock said. No other injuries were reported. Crews went into the building for a short time to look for anyone inside but were driven out by the intense smoke and fire.

McClintock said the fire was first noticed by a fire engine crew at 6:40 a.m., as smoke poured from the attic and doors of the 20,000-square-foot building at 2167 N Lugo Ave. It was built in 1950.

The fire was knocked down in about one hour. At one point, firefighters were pumping 3,000 gallons of water a minute on the blaze, McClintock said.

The rink is where Eisenhower High School’s Derek Parra began racing with in-line skates at age 14, then switched to ice skates and won two men’s speed-skating Olympic medals, gold for the 1,500 meter and silver for the 5,000 meter races at the 2002 Games in Salt Lake City.

“It’s just so sad to see it’s gone,” said Paty Quiel Butler by phone on Thursday morning.

She said her father and uncle, Gordon Quiel and Raymond Quiel, respectively, invested with early partners in creating the rink at the urging of her mother Mandy, who took Paty and her three sisters to a rink in Rialto to earn their Girl Scout roller skating merit badges. Mandy told her husband and brother-in-law that San Bernardino needed such a venue.

The two men owned and operated Quiel Brothers Sign Co., and had money to invest, Butler said. The rink was a former grocery store, she said, and recalled that she “spent hours lacing up brand-new skates for rentals,” around the fall of 1971.

“We lived there. We really lived there. That was all of our first jobs, it was literally our life after school and on weekends — that’s where we lived,” she recalled. The sisters worked at the snack bar, she said.

Her younger sister Chrissy turned professional and taught classes at the rink, she said.

“It was where we all met our first loves,” Butler said, although one sister did meet someone not exactly at the rink, but at the Long John Silver restaurant next to it. “Everyone was growing up around the rink — friends from school would go there, and that was just the hangout,” she said.

Memories include live bands and dances — “everyone would just take off their skates and dance on the floor,” and all-night skates from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. “It was the place to be. And it was safe,” she said.

Butler said she was uncertain of when the rink changed hands. She recalled her father sold it to someone before he died, and that was 15 years ago. Its name changed a couple of times, including back to Stardust, and she also was uncertain when it finally closed as a rink.

McClintock said there was not an immediate damage estimate, but said it was evident that it was “pretty significant.”

Butler, who lives in Moreno Valley, said she does not plan to visit the ruins. The name “Stardust” was from her mother, who put that name choice in a hat with others, and it was the one pulled.

“I fell very said. It was like a monument to my parents. I will not go out to see it, no. I lost my mom three years ago, and that was on Dec. 3

“It’s kind of a tough day.”

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/12/05/fire-collapses-roof-of-former-stardust-roller-rink-in-san-bernardino/>

Fire damages building which was formerly a roller rink in San Bernardino

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: December 5, 2019



A fire burned at the vacant site of the Stardust Roller Rink Thursday Dec. 5, 2019 in San Bernardino.

A vacant building in San Bernardino which formerly was used as a roller rink was heavily damaged by a fire on Dec. 5, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

One firefighter received a minor injury and was treated at a hospital. No injuries to civilians were reported.

At 6:40 a.m., ME224 was returning from a response and found smoke coming from a 20,000 square-foot building in the 2100 block of North Lugo, the Fire Department said. ME224 immediately requested a commercial fire response and initiated a fire attack. Due to the level of fire involvement and building size, a second alarm was quickly struck to bring additional equipment and crews to the scene.

At the height of the fire, more than 3,000 gallons per minute were flowing into the building to suppress the blaze.

Energized power lines also were found down and SoCal Edison was requested to mitigate the electrical hazard.

The fire was ultimately knocked down in about one hour.

An estimate of the damage was not immediately available.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/fire-damages-building-which-was-formerly-a-roller-rink-in/article_3aec1b58-17b2-11ea-bc47-ef1a322e73e3.html

Body found after house fire near San Bernardino is extinguished

Richard K. De Atley, The Press Enterprise

Posted: December 4, 2019

A body was discovered Wednesday by firefighters called to a blaze at a San Bernardino-area home, authorities said.

The person was found after **San Bernardino County Fire Department** firefighters were making a second search after knocking down the fire in the 600 W. block of W. 41st St., just outside the city and north of the Arrowhead neighborhood.

Information on the identity of the person was not immediately available.

The fire was reported around 4 a.m., and all of the single-story home was ablaze when firefighters arrived, the department said in a tweet. It took about 20 minutes to put the fire out.

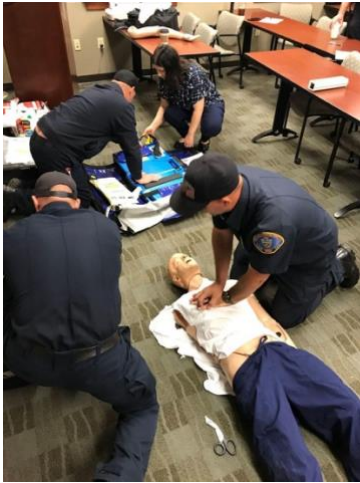
Firefighters handed over the investigation to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. There was no additional word on the investigation from the department as of Wednesday afternoon.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/12/04/body-found-after-house-fire-near-san-bernardino-is-extinguished/>

Fontana gets new lifesaving technology from Fire Protection District

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald

Posted: December 5, 2019



The San Bernardino County Fire Protection District is bringing the AutoPulse Resuscitation System to Fontana.

The **San Bernardino County Fire Protection District (SBCoFD)** is rolling out the revolutionary AutoPulse Resuscitation System from ZOLL Medical Corporation in the cities of Fontana and Upland.

Using this new technology, County Fire Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel will improve their ability to provide high quality, lifesaving measures to patients throughout the West Valley.

AutoPulse is an automated CPR device that delivers customized, high-quality CPR whenever and wherever it's needed. The system uses a load-distributing LifeBand that squeezes the entire chest, so patients receive consistent, high-quality compressions that drive good blood flow. As the system provides uninterrupted CPR, EMS personnel are free to transport the patient to an ambulance and get them to a hospital, as quickly as possible.

SBCoFD has a total of 23 AutoPulse Systems deployed throughout the county in the communities of Crestline, Lake Arrowhead, Wrightwood, Lucerne Valley, Yucca Valley, Baker, Phelan, Hesperia, and now in the cities of Upland and Fontana.

At a cost of about \$15,000 each, SBCoFD, the City of Fontana, and the City of Upland prioritized budgets to include the purchase and training of this lifesaving technology.

Training is conducted in conjunction with ZOLL Medical Clinical Deployment Specialists. County Fire EMS personnel have the best training available that provides a comprehensive understanding of the best practice use of the system, the Fire Protection District said in a news release.

“We are excited to extend the enhanced lifesaving capabilities of the AutoPulse System to the residents of Upland, Fontana and the surrounding areas,” said Fire Chief Dan Munsey. “This technology has increased our fire departments' Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) rates by nearly 10 percent since December 2018 in the cities where they are currently deployed. This means that as of today, the residents of Upland and Fontana have almost a 10 percent greater chance for their heart to begin working again during a serious cardiac emergency through the use of this cutting-edge system.”

Munsey recalled a recent incident in which the AutoPulse System helped resuscitate a patient. SBCoFD Station 304 in Hesperia responded to a 911 call for a patient who was not breathing. Upon arriving on scene, County Fire EMS personnel utilized the AutoPulse System to stabilize the patient. After regaining a pulse, the patient was transported to a hospital. During the trip, the patient began to breathe on his own and regained consciousness. Through their commitment to professionalism, County Fire EMS personnel were able to use this cutting-edge technology to save the man's life, Munsey said.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/fontana-gets-new-lifesaving-technology-from-fire-protection-district/article_eba6a176-177f-11ea-9e5b-a393e2844622.html

30,000 Without Electricity on Freezing Nights in Lake Arrowhead & Surrounding Communities

Staff Writer, Mountain News

Posted: December 5, 2019



No power means no heat when the temperature was below freezing. No power also meant no wifi and no TV to catch up with news.

A Thanksgiving storm brought three feet of snow to Lake Arrowhead and over four feet of snow to Snow Valley in Running Springs. Crestline received nearly two feet of snow.

Major highways, including Highways 18 and 330, to the Lake Arrowhead communities were closed to all traffic due to heavy snow, strong winds and low visibility on Thanksgiving Day. Roughly 30,000 people were without electricity in Lake Arrowhead and the surrounding communities.

Snow and strong winds caused numerous trees to fall over, resulting in a large number of downed wires and outages in Blue Jay, Crestline, Green Valley Lake, Lake Arrowhead, Rimforest, Running Springs, Skyforest and Twin Peaks, according to Southern California Edison spokesman Paul Griffo.

No power means no heat and the temperature during and after the storm was below freezing. No power also meant no wifi and no TV to catch up with the news.

On Thanksgiving night, Lake Arrowhead resident John Richardson, who lives on Golden Rule, was suffering from severe chest pain and transported to Mountains Community Hospital in a Snow Cat due to treacherous road conditions and then transferred to St. Bernardine's the following day.

California Highway Patrol (CHP) was busy towing vehicles abandoned in the road, including two tour buses, on Thanksgiving night. Abandoned cars blocked many major roads, making it inaccessible for emergency vehicles.

Some mountain residents lost power for more than four days. Elizabeth Krumwiede from Sycamore Ranch, located on Dart Canyon, lost power on Thanksgiving and it was not restored until Monday, Dec. 2.

"One reason our household has survived is due to our wood-burning stove," Krumwiede said.

Another resident, Teri Ostlie, also had no power for four days.

“A driveway with a snow berm taller than me turns into an iceberg after three days,” Ostlie said. “My power was restored on Sunday night, but the internet, phone and cell service was not fixed until Tuesday.”

“We had a household of six guests staying with us through the power outage. Unfortunately, the generator we had sent out nearly three weeks ago for repair did not make it back to us in time. We literally had no cellular service, I am thankful for still keeping our landline for emergency phone calls – although that went out several times – and enough wood to keep our wood-burning stove running nearly 24/7 for warmth. This was especially important for Richard’s 84-year-old mom, who usually feels cold in good weather.”

On Friday, Nov. 29, the two highways to Snow Valley, Highway 18 and 330, remained closed, leaving skiers disappointed. Snow Valley’s opening day was delayed to the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

However, Highway 330 was open for residents only, with ID, on Friday. Despite that, major roads were still under R-3 road restrictions, so all vehicles, including 4-wheel drive, must put chains on.

Over the Thanksgiving weekend, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** partnered with Southern California Edison to provide firewood for mountain residents who had been impacted by the storm outage. Firewood was distributed at the Crestline Chamber of Commerce and Fire Stations 91, 26 and 95.

Snow play on the roadside remained a challenge.

Rim School District called a Snow Day on Monday, Dec. 2, stating the need for personnel and various agencies such as Edison and Caltrans to have additional time to work on hazardous conditions for bus travel, downed trees and site snow removal.

At the time of press, some mountain homes and families are still without power.

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_df8372ec-177b-11ea-a984-d7a1ce4ed061.html

A 'thank you' to the fire department

Pat Hunter (Yucca Valley), Hi-Desert Star Opinions

Posted: December 4, 2019

I was looking forward to Thanksgiving Day with a friend who like myself, no longer cooks much.

I went to the kitchen to get a cup of coffee when I realized my built-in microwave oven had started running and I couldn't get it to stop.

I pushed every button to stop it, but no luck.

I called a friend who was always able to help me, but this time she couldn't. But she told me to try the **(San Bernardino County) fire department**.

In no time at all, two handsome firemen were here and somehow stopped the microwave.

They were very understanding of me, as I was almost in tears. This was their Thanksgiving Day. Also, I didn't know what to do for them.

I still don't know how they stopped it and so far, it hasn't done it again.

I sure will know who to call next time.

I want to thank them again and I hope I didn't spoil their day.

Yucca Valley is fortunate to have such fine men.

Thank you.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/article_4c2e5f3c-16fb-11ea-8c0e-ff4a812a3bae.html