



NEWS



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Two crews, one helicopter, rescue injured man in San Bernardino Mountains

Richard K. De Atley, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: July 16, 2017, 8:24 PM

The crews of two San Bernardino County Sheriff 's patrol helicopters had to combine in one aircraft for a difficult hoist rescue of an all-terrain vehicle accident victim in the San Bernardino Mountains.

A call at 2:50 p.m. Saturday, July 15 for aid to the injured man in the Crab Flats area east of Lake Arrowhead went to both the sheriff and **San Bernardino County Fire**.

But the accident on a dirt trail at the 6,900-foot level was not accessible to regular-size vehicles, and the fire department could not get to the site, according to a news release from the Sheriff's office.

The crew of sheriff patrol helicopter 40K2 flew to the area and were guided to the accident site by people with the victim, identified as Mel Peabody of National City. Pilot Deputy Ryan Peppler and Flight Officer Deputy Brad Heard attempted several landings, but could not touch down because of the terrain. They decided on a hoist rescue.

Peppler and Heard met with the crew of patrol helicopter 40K3 in an area near the accident. Pilot Deputy Paul Kowalski and Cpl. Ed Leon of the second craft joined the crew of 40K2 and returned to the scene. Heard lowered Leon about 90 feet down to Peabody.

Leon put a rescue harness on Peabody, who had suffered a shoulder injury. Peabody was hoisted aboard 40K2 and flown to Mountain Community Hospital. The news release said Peabody was put aboard a waiting county fire ambulance, but did not say what the next destination was.

The helicopter crew returned to the scene and hoisted Leon back onboard.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170716/two-crews-one-helicopter-rescue-injured-man-in-san-bernardino-mountains>

Aviation crews respond to an injury off-road vehicle crash and rescue an injured man

SBSD via Highland News

Posted: July 17, 2017, 7:34 AM

On Saturday, July 15, 2017, at approximately 2:50 p.m., San Bernardino County Sheriff's patrol helicopter 40K2 assisted **San Bernardino County Fire** with an injury accident involving an all terrain vehicle (ATV) in the area known as Crab Flats. The crew consisted of Pilot Deputy Ryan Peppler and Flight Officer Deputy Brad Heard. The crew of 40K2 flew to the general area of Crab Flats and was guided into the area of the accident by subjects that were with victim, Mel Peabody of National City.

The accident location was at the 6,900 foot level off a dirt trail not suitable for regular size vehicles. The fire department was not able to make access to Peabody due to the terrain. The crew of 40K2 attempted to make an offsite landing several times so they could make contact with Peabody, but were not able to due to the terrain. The crew determined a hoist rescue would be necessary.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's patrol helicopter 40K3 met with 40K2 in an area near the accident. The crew of 40K3 consisted of Pilot Deputy Paul Kowalski and Corporal Ed Leon. The two crews combined in 40K2 and conducted the hoist rescue. Deputy Heard, now acting as crew chief, lowered Corporal Leon down to

Peabody, approximately 90 feet to the ground. Corporal Leon found that Peabody had a shoulder injury and Corporal Leon then placed a rescue harness on Peabody and hoisted him into the helicopter. Peabody was flown to Mountain Community Hospital to an awaiting County Fire Ambulance, Medic Ambulance 91. The crew of 40K2 then returned to the accident scene and hoisted Corporal Leon back into the helicopter.

http://www.highlandnews.net/news/public_safety/aviation-crews-respond-to-an-injury-off-road-vehicle-crash/article_0eefeb92-6afd-11e7-9592-d77da661efac.html

Deep Creek hiker suffering from heat-related injuries rescued

Gail Wesson , Press-Enterprise

Posted: July 16, 2017, 3:44 PM

A woman suffering from heat-related injuries at Deep Creek Hot Springs was hoisted by a San Bernardino Sheriff's helicopter and taken to a hospital for treatment Saturday, July 15, according to a San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department news release.

San Bernardino County Fire dispatch received a call at 2:30 p.m. Saturday about the victim at the popular hike-in destination on the desert side of San Bernardino National Forest near Apple Valley.

The woman, who was not identified, was taken to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton for treatment.

Last Wednesday, July 12, another hiker en route from the hot springs back to the parking area by Bowen Ranch experienced heat and respiratory health problems.

The same helicopter Air Rescue 307 plucked that hiker out from a steep section of trail, according to a news release. He was taken by ambulance to a local hospital for treatment.

<http://www.pe.com/2017/07/16/deep-creek-hiker-suffering-from-heat-related-injuries-rescued/>

Canoga Park woman, 19, rescued in Deep Creek Hot Springs

SBSD via Highland News

Posted: July 17, 2017, 7:26 AM

On Saturday, July 15th, **San Bernardino County Fire** Dispatch received a 911 call reference a female having a heat related injury at Deep Creek Hot Springs. Deep Creek Hot Springs is located on the desert side of the San Bernardino National Forest. It is surrounded by steep canyon walls and is only accessible after walking several miles on steep narrow trails. Sheriff's Air Rescue 307 and desert patrol helicopter (40King2) crews heard the call broadcast over the radio and immediately responded to the area in an attempt to locate the victim.

The crew of 40King2 arrived on scene and quickly located the victim at the hot springs being assisted by several hikers. The crew determined a hoist rescue would be necessary and requested Air Rescue 307 to continue their response. After arriving on scene, Air Rescue 307 was able to land on a ridge a short distance from the scene and rescue personnel hiked to the victim. Unable to walk to the helicopter, the victim was

placed into a rescue litter, hoisted up to the helicopter and transported to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center for treatment.

She was identified as Sofia Blanco-Scamporino, 19, of Canoga Park.

40King2 Crew:

Pilot: Deputy Ryan Pepler

Flight Officer: Deputy Brad Heard

Air Rescue 307 Crew:

Pilot: Corporal Jon Anderson

Crew Chief: Reserve Deputy Wayne Hess

Medic: Air Medic Allen Francis R.N.

Medic: Deputy Chris Mejia

http://www.highlandnews.net/news/public_safety/canoga-park-woman-rescued-in-deep-creek-hot-springs/article_f601fb62-6afb-11e7-b5c7-cf02501f281b.html

Hidden fire burning above Highland now 95% contained

Alex Groves, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: July 14, 2017, 10:23 AM



Firefighters battle the Hidden fire on Wednesday, July 12, 2017 northwest of the 330 Freeway in Highland. Micah Escamilla, The Sun/SCNG

Firefighters have nearly suppressed the 46-acre Hidden fire burning in the hills above Highland as of Friday, a U.S. Forest Service official said.

The blaze is about 95 percent contained, up from about 70 percent on Thursday afternoon, said a U.S. Forest Service spokeswoman Gerrelaine Alcordo.

She said some firefighters were being released, while others were working on reinforcing already established fire lines.

The blaze began about 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, a mile north of Highland Avenue and on the west side of Highway 330. It was said to have scorched about 33 acres by nightfall.

Numerous agencies, including the San Bernardino National Forest, Cal Fire, San Bernardino County Fire, San Manuel Fire Department, San Bernardino Police Department, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and California Highway Patrol worked together during firefighting efforts.

Highway 330, which had been closed not long after the fire broke, reopened Thursday morning.

Drivers are encouraged to be cautious of crews and equipment moving through the area.

Alcordero noted that while the estimated number of acres scorched is 46, it's not because the fire burned more in the last couple days. Firefighters have just recently been able to get more accurate figures. The previous estimate for acres burned was 34.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170714/hidden-fire-burning-above-highland-now-95-contained>

What one year without a city fire department has meant for San Bernardino

Ryan Hagen, The Sun

Posted: July 14, 2017, 10:49 PM



Medic Engine 221 rolls out of the station on an emergency from San Bernardino County Fire Station 221 in San Bernardino, Friday, July 14, 2017. This station responds from 40 to 50 calls a day and is on track for 10,000 runs this year. Eric Reed/For The Sun/SCNG

SAN BERNARDINO >> Since **county firefighters** took over the city's fire and emergency service one year ago, the average time for firefighters to respond to a 911 call has fallen dramatically, dropping more than 3 minutes from 9:50 to 6:07.

That 38 percent improvement compared with 2014, the last year with data available, contradicts some critics' prediction that service levels would worsen under county management and fulfills one of the main promises of the controversial annexation, which took effect the first week of July 2016.

But other effects are more ambiguous, even now that a full year of data is available.

"That response time is critical — it can save lives," said Assistant Chief Dan Munsey, who has overseen fire services for the city since February. "At the same time, I think there's been some significant challenges. We've developed short- and long-range plans for that."

FINANCIAL IMPACT COMPLICATED

When the city's consultant, Andy Belknap of Management Partners, presented the plan in August 2015, he projected "an \$11 million contribution to solvency."

That was downgraded to about \$7 million by the time of the vote, and now city officials say it's difficult to put a single number on how the outsourcing has affected the city's bottom line, given the combination of lost revenues and savings. Reconciliation with the county is ongoing, according to city officials.

The annexation added a new tax on each parcel of land in the city, which was \$148 per year for fiscal year 2016-17 and can increase up to 3 percent per year.

And all of that money goes directly to the county every year, no matter how much the city's property values grow in the future.

The city's payments to the county — all of its regular property tax and about one-third of its so-called Vehicle License Fee property tax — were negotiated as approximately what fire services cost annually, according to City Manager Mark Scott.

In the fiscal year that ended in June 2016 — the same time the county took over fire services — the city spent \$29.8 million on fire services, compared with \$400,000 in the 2016-17 year that just ended. That \$400,000 is payments for five firefighters on medical leave who remained the city's responsibility, and is down to one firefighter now, according to Dixon Mutadzakupa, the city's budget officer.

Since the annexation went into effect, the city exited bankruptcy after nearly five years. Its budget for the current year includes a small surplus, but officials say they still don't have the money to invest in many important areas.

OPINIONS SPLIT

Mayor Carey Davis said the fire chief is making important improvements, and residents he speaks to are pleased with the fire service.

"At my Evenings with the Mayor, it's not something anyone complains about," Davis said. "I understand response times have decreased, and (Munsey's) moving an engine to Station 221 (200 E. Third St.), which will be more of a benefit."

Firefighters, who had a contentious relationship with the city before the outsourcing, also now seem to be happy, Davis added.

Some residents, though, continue to see the move as shortsighted and chafe in particular at the new tax, which was added without a vote.

"The whole LAFCO process is a slap in the face of the democratic process," said resident Kathy Mallon. "Now they're going to do it in Upland again. It's pretty much a money grab as far as I see it. It's a money grab on the back of taxpayers, where we have no chance in hell to meet the requirements of their process."

While California law normally requires an election to institute a tax, that isn't the case when residents annex themselves into an existing area that has a tax, such as the county's fire protection district. Instead, the Local Agency Formation Commission — LAFCO — mails landowners seeking protests. An election is held if a protest is received from at least 25 percent but less than 50 percent of the registered voters, or if 25 percent to 100 percent of the number of landowners — who own at least 25 percent of the total land value — submit written protest. (A protest from a majority stops the annexation.)

The plan also requires approval from the City Council, which passed it 4-3 last year. Several of the council members who opposed it then remain strong opponents.

"We sort of gave away the farm in many ways," Councilman Henry Nickel said, referring to the agreement to give property tax revenue to the county. "I don't think the county wants to see the city go into bankruptcy, but if they deprive us of a significant portion of our property value, there's no real incentive to increase our property tax base."

Councilman John Valdivia, who also strongly opposed the move, declined to assess it in detail this week.

“Response times will be longer, taxes will be higher, and fire stations in minority communities are still (going to be) shuttered and closed,” Valdivia said in 2016.

Asked this week if he would have done anything differently if he had known that response times have been shown to be shorter, Valdivia said he appreciated the hard work of firefighters.

“That’s really all I have to say. I think we need to look forward, not backwards,” he said. “I’m very appreciative of our fire professionals, and I have nothing but praise for them. By all accounts, they’re happy, and I’m certainly happy.”

Councilman Fred Shorett, one of the most vocal advocates for outsourcing, said he was pleased with the improved service, although he stressed that he didn’t want to disparage any of the firefighters who had formerly worked for the city.

“I think the employees and we are better served with a larger organization,” Shorett said, adding that fire officials continued to work closely with the city’s elected officials.

“I actually called (Assistant Chief Dan) Munsey today, and he called me back within two or three minutes and was very understanding and very responsive,” he said.

And Shorett blasted those he said had made empty threats about outsourcing.

“That’s kind of John’s MO, to talk about things without really having facts,” he said. “And the facts come out later.”

FIREFIGHTERS HAPPY

Former San Bernardino firefighters say the change has been good for them.

“When you take a Fire Department that’s 138 years old, with a lot of tradition, it’s bittersweet,” said Capt. Steve Tracey, a longtime city firefighter who now does training for the county. “With the one year anniversary, it’s kind of ironic, because now Upland is going to be transitioning in, so now a lot of the former city folks are helping with that transition to make sure they’re as welcome as we are.”

Upland cleared its final hurdle to annex into the county Fire Department this month, and will be transferred July 22.

“It’s been fairly seamless for us, regardless of the logo on the rig, and there’s a lot of opportunity in county fire,” Tracey said. “I think there will be for them, too.”

EXPENSIVE IMPROVEMENTS

The 10 fire stations in San Bernardino responded to more than 41,200 calls for service between July 2016 and June 30, 2017, according to Fire Department data — significantly more than the 30,000 that city firefighters responded to the year before.

“That’s among the busiest in the state of California,” Munsey said, attributing most of the increase to the county responding to the less-serious medical calls that the city had handed off to the private ambulance

company American Medical Response since 2014. “It might be a lower priority emergency, an alpha or bravo, but if the patient is untreated it turns into a more critical incident.”

That heavy call load cuts down on time for training and for community events, he said.

But the biggest challenge is the condition of the equipment inherited from the city, according to Munsey.

Seven of the city’s 10 fire stations need immediate replacement, he said, while the funding model expects those replacements to take 21 years.

“The station replacement alone is the biggest nugget that I’ll have to crack,” Munsey said.

“They’re modulars built in the ’70s, and nobody expected them to still be in use now. They’re built for smaller apparatus, built without earthquake standards, built using asbestos, and as we’ve been digging ... (we’re finding) large amounts of asbestos and black mold.”

One station, on Kendall Drive near University Avenue, closed in February when repair efforts discovered mold, and it remains closed.

A new fire station costs about \$3.5 million, according to Munsey.

Already, though, the department has spent \$1 million in apparatus repair and maintenance that was mostly deferred because of the city’s financial difficulties, according to the department.

An additional \$272,000 was spent on medical equipment upgrades including modern life-support monitors, and \$150,000 on structural improvements to the fire stations.

Staffing, which is already two higher than before by three firefighter/paramedics and three firefighters, is expected to add an additional squad soon.

That came after a call from county Supervisor Josie Gonzales, who represents part of the city.

“The city of San Bernardino is producing a (emergency) call volume on or about 40,000 calls a year. The city of Fontana is producing on or about 20,000 calls per year,” Gonzales said at the county budget meeting in June. “San Bernardino has the same staffing that Fontana has, minus one. ... There could be liability on down the line.”

Even before those additional resources come, the city is seeing improvements because of the ability to draw from nearby stations and the county’s other resources, according to Munsey.

That’s part of the reason for the much-faster response times, he said.

“And it’s good planning, it’s using computer modeling to see where our fire engines should be and deploying them,” he said. “Now we can start to make other changes. So the future is exciting for us. With the (parcel tax) funding, it provides a very stable platform for us to improve our responses and continue to serve the residents better.”

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170714/what-one-year-without-a-city-fire-department-has-meant-for-san-bernardino>

Crews Stop Forward Progress Of Bridge Fire Burning Near Highland

CBS2 News

Posted: July 15, 2017, 8:55 AM

HIGHLAND (CBSLA.com) – Hundreds of firefighters Saturday morning continued to battle a 450-acre brush fire that was burning near the San Bernardino County community of Highland.

The Bridge Fire broke out before 2:24 p.m. Friday on the edge of the San Bernardino National Forest, near Greenspot and Santa Ana Canyon roads.

As of 12:45 p.m. Saturday, the blaze was 35 percent contained, according to CAL Fire. About 470 personnel with several agencies were battling the fire, which was burning through grass and chaparral. The Bridge Fire's forward progress was stopped Friday night, CAL Fire said.

Greenspot Road was closed a half-mile south of Iron Bridge and north to Iron Bridge.

No immediate structures were threatened and no evacuations had been issued. Firefighters were standing by some homes in the area just in case.

"It's pretty worrisome, especially like right now the winds are fairly light," homeowner Bob Lines told CBS2 Friday evening. "But right now, it's doing a good job for us, because when the east winds come, this will be gone."

The cause of the fire is under investigation. The U.S. Forest Service and the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** were among the agencies involved in the firefight.

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/07/15/bridge-fire-burning-near-highland/>

Redlands Disaster Council to hold quarterly meeting

Redlands Daily Facts

Posted: July 15, 2017, 11:16 AM

The Redlands Disaster Council will learn about Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster during its meeting from 4 to 5 p.m. July 24 at City Hall, 35 Cajon St. Suite 2.

Robin Bishop and Debra J. Williams will give a presentation on the organization. The council will also hear reports from Carrie Cruz from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**/Operational Area/Office of Emergency Services and by Redlands Emergency Services Manager Fay Glass on the Community Emergency Response Team and Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The council develops and recommends emergency and mutual aid plans and agreements for consideration and possible adoption by the Redlands City Council.

Meetings are held quarterly.

<http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/general-news/20170715/redlands-disaster-council-to-hold-quarterly-meeting>

Brush fire burns about six acres in the Crestmore area

Gail Wesson, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: July 16, 2017, 9:16 PM

Cal Fire San Bernardino County firefighters have stopped the forward spread of a vegetation fire near Seventh and Oak streets in the Crestmore area Sunday, July 16, according to a Cal Fire tweet.

The fire was estimated at six acres, in an area between the 10 and 60 freeways. The fire was reported at around 6 p.m. and the spread stopped by 7:30 p.m.

Cal Fire is being assisted by **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

<http://www.pe.com/2017/07/16/brush-fire-burns-about-six-acres-in-the-crestmore-area/>

What Upland can and can't learn from San Bernardino's fire annexation

The Editorial Board, San Bernardino County Sun

Posted: July 17, 2017, 4:33 PM



Upland Fire Station No. 1 is seen in a June 2013 file photo. (Jennifer Cappuccio Maher/Southern California News Group)

Just days before Upland's scheduled dissolution of its fire department and the city's annexation to **San Bernardino County fire** services, the city of San Bernardino marked the first anniversary of its own move to county fire protection.

What does San Bernardino's first year as part of the county fire district tell Uplanders about what is ahead for them? Perhaps not quite as much as they'd like to know, from a fiscal perspective.

But in terms of fire services, the difference is clear. In San Bernardino the average time for firefighters to respond to a 911 call has dropped by 38 percent — they showed up more than three minutes faster in the past year than they did in 2014, the last year for which San Bernardino Fire Department stats are available.

That's a stunning improvement, especially in a day and age when most fire calls have to do with heart attacks and other medical emergencies rather than fires.

That doesn't mean Upland residents can expect such a large drop in response times, but it should allay most fears that county performance won't be as good as the Upland Fire Department's has been.

But the main reason for annexation was financial in both cities' cases, and the results in that arena are not yet clear. San Bernardino's consultant in August 2015 predicted an annual savings of \$11 million for the then-bankrupt city. That estimate was trimmed to \$7 million by the time the City Council voted to go ahead, and now city officials say they can't really put a number on how annexation has affected the city's bottom line.

That's disconcerting.

Martin Thouvenell, Upland's interim city manager, has estimated that annexation would save City Hall \$50 million over 10 years.

The known dollar figure is that it will cost every property owner in Upland and San Antonio Heights an additional \$150 a year or so in property taxes, as it does in San Bernardino. That was the bone of contention at last week's LAFCO protest hearing at Upland City Hall, where the number of protests filed against annexation fell far short of the level required to put the matter to the voters. Upland's fire service will be switched to the county this Saturday.

Six days later, there will be a court hearing to discuss the merits of the San Antonio Heights Association's motion for a restraining order to halt the process.

Heights residents, many of them irate to be included in the tax assessment when they already had county fire protection, dispute the legality of imposing the tax without a vote of the people. But no election is necessary when a city is annexed into a district, such as the county fire district, that already has the tax.

The association contends that approval of the property tax assessment years ago by the residents of Helendale, a small San Bernardino County desert community, should not be sufficient to deprive the residents of Upland and the Heights of a popular vote just because they're being annexed into the same fire district.

It's an interesting point of law. We'll see how their contention fares in court. And, over the long term, we'll see how much money annexation saves for San Bernardino and, if the Heights challenge fails, for Upland.

<http://www.sbsun.com/opinion/20170717/what-upland-can-and-cant-learn-from-san-bernardinis-fire-annexation>

Crash snarls Hwy 395 traffic early Monday

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: July 17, 2017, 5:35 PM

Traffic on Highway 395 was temporarily snarled due to a head-on crash early Monday, but those involved escaped with minor injuries, authorities said.

California Highway Patrol and **San Bernardino County Fire Department** officials responded to the crash, which occurred on Highway 395 between Wheeler and Macon roads at 9 a.m. Monday.

The northbound lane of Highway 395 was temporarily blocked due to the crash, officials said, but all those involved reported minor injuries from the incident.

CHP Sgt. Todd Weichers said the crash involved a white Nissan pickup truck, a tractor-trailer and a dark gray Toyota Rav 4 SUV. While details are still forthcoming, witnesses stated the crash occurred as the pickup truck, headed north, passed in a “no passing zone” and struck the tractor-trailer headed south.

The impact caused the truck to also strike the gray SUV head-on, according to CHP logs.

According to a tweet from San Bernardino County Fire Department, their medics treated five patients for minor injuries due to the crash. Weichers confirmed only minor injuries were reported, including the driver of the white pickup truck, who was transported to a local hospital.

Further details weren't available Monday.

Weichers said units arrived and found the northbound lane blocked by the pickup truck and SUV. Officials shut down the lane as they worked to clear the scene. All lanes were open by 9:51 a.m., Weichers said.

Weichers said alcohol, drugs or other suspicious factors weren't believed to be the cause of the crash, which remains under investigation.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170717/crash-snarls-hwy-395-traffic-early-monday>

Upland fire decals replaced on equipment as department becomes county-operated

Liset Márquez, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: July 17, 2017, 6:01 PM



Upland Fire Captain Jeff Schneider (left) assists San Bernardino County Fire Battalion Chief Chris Gorman (right) as they put new decals on the Upland equipment Monday. San Bernardino County Fire will officially take over the Upland fire department on Saturday. On Monday, July 17, 2017, the old Upland fire stickers were removed and replaced with the San Bernardino County Fire logos. WILL LESTER — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

UPLAND >> Upland Fire Capt. Jeff Schneider stared at the bare tiller truck parked inside fire headquarters. Only a faint outline of the city seal remained.

Schneider was briefly at a loss for words.

“It’s not really emotional, it’s just a little bit different,” said Schneider, a 13-year veteran of the department. “I think it’s just a sign of change of things to come. A good change for all the Upland fire employees and all the residents of the city.”

Minutes later, in an unofficial ceremonial move, Schneider and **San Bernardino County Fire** Battalion Chief Chris Gorman placed and sealed the new dual city and county decals together, signifying the beginning of the end for the Upland Fire Department.

Last week, the Local Agency Formation Commission approved Upland’s request to dissolve its fire department into San Bernardino County Fire as a money-saving move.

With the approval, the city’s fire station properties, employees, assets, obligations, as well as liabilities, will be transferred Saturday to San Bernardino County Fire.

Schneider had walked down the street from Upland Unified School District offices, where Upland fire employees are spending the week in orientation, to the city’s fire headquarters at 475 N. Second Avenue to sneak a peek at the progress.

Between Monday and Tuesday, 21 pieces of Upland Fire Department apparatus — ranging from engines, investigator and staff vehicles, as well as the tiller truck — will receive the new county fire emblem, said San Bernardino County spokeswoman Tracey Martinez.

By noon Monday, two men from a graphics company were working on removing the white and yellow striping from the tiller truck. The duo had worked for nearly three hours to remove the Upland city seal on the door and the wording “Upland Fire” from the top of the truck.

The Upland Fire trucks and engines were previously wrapped in a mixture of gold and white stripes. The crews on Monday were using a heat gun to help lift the stripes, followed by a spray treatment to loosen the adhesive. The men then also used a scraper to remove the sediment but the imprint of the sticker, city logo and name still could be seen on the truck.

The soon-to-be county trucks were then wrapped in a 10-inch white stripe and outfitted with dual logos so it will look uniform to the county fire equipment.

Things are in state of flux. Inside fire headquarters, boxes occupy some of the offices, while three frames, once filled with portraits of Upland firefighters, hang empty. By the end of the week, Upland firefighters will trade their gear for county equipment.

Martinez said San Bernardino County firefighters have been brought in to cover every station while Upland personnel are in training.

“The city still remains fully covered,” she said.

It can be overwhelming for the firefighters to move from a city operation to county fire, which has more than 600 firefighters, Martinez said.

“I think by the end of the week it’ll be overwhelming,” Schneider acknowledged. “Especially for the captains because we’re responsible for the crews and we want to do a good job and we want to represent the county well.”

San Bernardino County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig and the deputy fire chiefs all spoke and welcomed the new firefighters to the department, Schneider said.

As part of the transition, San Bernardino County Fire gave the 36 Upland fire suppression personnel the option to choose their station assignments. Of those, Martinez said 12 have decided to stay in Upland.

The department is staffing one Upland firefighter per shift for the next year to ensure the transition goes smoothly, she said.

Schneider added that all of the firefighters who live or grew up in Upland were the ones who elected to stay in city stations.

“That was by choice,” he said. “They wanted to stay close to home, they grew up here and wanted to stay here and county fire was very gracious in allowing those people to stay here as an asset to the residents.”

Everyone from the department was offered positions, as long as they passed their background check and physical test, Martinez said.

“The Upland firefighters seem to be really excited about it,” she said. “It’s an opportunity — you can work in the mountains, you can work in the desert, you can work in the river or in the city. You can do whatever life goals you have in your career.”

Schneider was among the Upland firefighters looking for a change. He’s trading the comfort of Station 4, by the Colonies development and the newest in the city, to go to the fire station in downtown San Bernardino. He’ll have to adjust not only to the personnel difference, from three men in one station to 10, but the types of calls. In San Bernardino, he expects to handle calls he’s never done before in Upland, such as high-rises and brush fires.

When friends and family ask him about the transition, Schneider describes it as a mixed bag of emotions from being excited, scared, nervous and optimistic.

“For me personally, as a career you get to see new things and learn new aspects of the fire service. That’s what brings the excitement, to run calls that I’ve never seen before,” he said. “Obviously, we get a mix of calls working in Upland but over there, there’s different dynamics.”

What Schneider said has struck him the most in the transition is the respect county fire has shown to Upland’s history.

“They are going to allow the history of the Upland Fire Department to supersede the county here at these stations,” he said.

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/government-and-politics/20170717/upland-fire-decals-replaced-on-equipment-as-department-becomes-county-operated>

Can deadly flash floods like in Arizona happen in Southern California?

Steve Scauzillo, San Gabriel Valley Tribune

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Three cars are flooded on Vineland Avenue between Vanowen Street and Sherman Way in North Hollywood in February. (Photo by Mike Meadows, Special to the Los Angeles Daily News)

Flash floods filling forest canyons with high water — like the one that killed nine members of an extended family last weekend in Arizona — are more likely in desert habitats of New Mexico and Arizona. But the possibility of a similar incident occurring in Southern California is still very real, authorities said Monday.

Though locally most rain falls during the winter, the occasional summer thunderstorm can drift over the San Gabriel and San Bernardino mountains and release an inch or more of rain, especially in the Inland Empire where weather patterns are not tempered by the Pacific Ocean, meteorologists said. The National Weather Service forecasts a slight chance of afternoon and evening thunderstorms Tuesday and Wednesday across the mountains and Antelope Valley.

In San Bernardino County, the one natural hazard common to cities, steep mountains and vast deserts are flash floods, said Eric Sherwin, a spokesman for the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

“Just like we saw in Arizona in a desert region, the water doesn’t have anywhere to go, so it is going to find a path, usually dry creeks and washes,” Sherwin said.

Forest Falls and Lytle Creek in the San Bernardino National Forest are prone to flash floods from summer thunderstorms, he said. In the Angeles National Forest, the Mount Baldy area comes a close second, Sherwin said, followed by the Apple and Lucerne valleys, Needles and Big River. Sometimes a flash flood will force Caltrans to close U.S. Route 95 or the 40 Freeway, he said.

Flash floods that turn a slot canyon into a raging river are less likely to occur in the Santa Monica Mountains, which do not contain slot canyons, said Kate Kuykendall, spokeswoman for the National Park Service.

“We do have a number of steep and narrow canyons that would be dangerous in the case of heavy rainfall,” she said.

Hikers should avoid Solstice Canyon, Zuma Canyon and Carlisle Canyon “in the case of predicted heavy rains,” which typically happens in winter, she said.

Southwestern states of Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado are prone to flash floods because of weather patterns and topography, experts said. Summers often bring monsoon season, when moisture is

pushed up from the Gulf of California creating scattered thunderstorms, explained Bill Patzert, a climatologist with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory near Pasadena.

“Over the dry terrain there is nothing to absorb all that rapid rainfall, so it will focus into canyons and arroyos that are usually sleepy stream beds,” he said. “You can get rapid flash floods that often takes people by surprise.”

Patzert said that while Los Angeles County is on the fringe of the monsoonal effect, it is not likely to see thunderstorms but rather more humidity this week.

Five children were among the nine people killed during a flash flood Saturday at a swimming hole at Tonto National Forest, about 100 miles northeast of Phoenix. The thunderstorm hit about 8 miles upstream from where the family had gathered.

Often, victims don't even know it's raining. In the case of the family in Arizona, they probably did not hear about the flash flood warning issued 11/2 hours prior because they didn't have a radio and were in an area with no cell service, authorities said.

Many people in the Phoenix area leave for forest swimming holes to escape triple-digit heat. Often, the same is true in San Bernardino and Riverside counties, as well as eastern L.A. County, Sherwin said.

Anyone hiking should listen to weather reports before they go. The Onyx Summit area near Big Bear often attracts thunderstorms in summer, he said. All that water flows into streams that lead to Forest Falls, a popular hiking spot.

In September 2015, Brett Alan Usher, 25, of Rancho Cucamonga was swept to his death by a flash flood in Forest Falls when he and a companion entered a swollen creek. The female companion survived.

With a flash flood, the force of water uproots trees and carries branches and rocks, Sherwin said, overpowering people, vehicles and everything else in its path. “Often, people make a big mistake of attempting to cross a flooded stream,” he said. “They should seek higher ground and wait it out.”

The most common rescues are people in vehicles, he said.

“They are usually locals who say, ‘I know my road,’ ” he said. “But it only takes 12 inches of flowing water to move a vehicle.”

In the Santa Monica Mountains, landslides and debris flows can be a problem in fire-ravaged areas, Kuykendall said. In Arizona, a previous fire intensified the flash flood because the burn scar repelled water, fire officials said.

<http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20170717/can-deadly-flash-floods-like-in-arizona-happen-in-southern-california>

Man dies after car falls on him in Adelanto

Victor Valley News Group

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A man died after the car he was working on fell on top of him in Adelanto. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

ADELANTO, Calif. (VVNG.com) A man is dead after the vehicle he was working on fell on top of him Monday Afternoon.

The man was working on a 1999 Mercury Cougar outside the Ridgeview apartment complex on the 12000 block of Auburn Avenue and Larkspur Road, when according to the preliminary reports, the car jack became dislodged and caused the vehicle to fall on him.

Deputies from the Victor Valley Sheriff's Station and the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** responded and were able to move the car using another jack, but the man was pronounced dead at the scene.

The man's identity was not immediately available.

The Coroner's Office and Sheriff's Department are still investigating the incident.

<http://www.vvng.com/man-dies-car-falls-adelanto/>

Fatal crash late Monday shuts down Highway 395 near Adelanto Stadium

Daily Press

Posted: July 18, 2017, 8:17 AM

ADELANTO — Highway 395 remains closed Tuesday morning following a fatal crash late Monday, authorities said.

According to **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman Eric Sherwin, a multi-vehicle collision was reported just before 11 p.m. on Highway 395, near Rancho Road and Adelanto Stadium.

“Ultimately we had four patients transported, with one fatality at the scene,” Sherwin said. “Those four patients were transported using three helicopters and one ambulance, all down the hill to regional trauma centers.”

All four of the transported victims were classified as immediate patients, but information on their injuries was not available Tuesday morning. Sherwin said that children were among the victims, but the exact number was unknown.

The crash involved two full-size pickups, according to Sherwin.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Departments Major Injury Traffic Collision (MAIT) team was investigating the crash and a hard closure of Highway 395 between Rancho and Adleanto roads was ongoing as of 8 a.m. Tuesday, authorities said.

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

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170718/fatal-crash-late-monday-shuts-down-highway-395-near-adelanto-stadium>