



NEWS



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Gearing up on safety: County Fire conducts annual swift water rescue training

Paola Baker, VVDaily Press

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A crew of San Bernardino County Firefighters paddle through the California Aqueduct in Hesperia on Thursday. The department is conducting a series of trainings preparing for their busier season of water rescues in the late winter, early spring. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

HESPERIA — As winter approaches, public safety personnel are ensuring they're ready for the worst by conducting a swift water rescue training demonstration this week.

Outfitted in watertight dry suits and hauling rescue equipment, over 100 **San Bernardino County Fire** Department personnel prepared to work in the chilly waters of the California Aqueduct, where the demo was held this year.

"We're gearing up for seasonal flooding that typically occurs as the winter begins," County Fire Battalion Chief Donnie Viloría said.

Personnel could be seen entering a section of the aqueduct off of Cottonwood Avenue on Thursday afternoon, practicing their rowing through the deceptively calm waters and pulling out simulated victims.

Despite appearances, aqueduct currents can sweep up a victim in a matter of seconds — just one of the factors that make swift water rescues the most challenging scenario for personnel, according to Viloría.

"It's an absolute tragedy when somebody falls in. All the cards are stacked against you," Viloría said.

He mentioned other factors, such as typically frigid water temperatures, limited visibility, and objects dumped into the aqueduct, that can quickly change the outcome of an ongoing rescue.

"There's just too many dynamics to list, and that's why this makes it the most dynamic type of rescue there is," Viloría said.

The California Aqueduct has been the scene of several high-profile tragedies in the High Desert this year. The most recent was the death of 24-year-old Hesperia resident Xanthe Linares, who died when her vehicle crashed into the aqueduct off Main Street in mid-September.

Viloría and paramedic/engineer Robert Stine both acknowledged the unique hazards of the aqueduct while stressing that the demo wasn't just specific to that area.

"We're focusing on moving water in general," Viloría said. "We're increasing our readiness for a boat deployment at the aqueduct or other narrow water channels."

One new technique implemented in this year's demo included the use of inflatable water boats to navigate swift waters. Personnel demonstrated the use of these vessels Thursday as crew members practiced rowing techniques that let them push through the massive pressure of the moving waters.

"Water weighs. A gallon weighs 8.3 pounds," Viloría explained. "That water will push on us with that weight and move us."

This can also make it incredibly difficult for victims to alert passersby.

"It's not like in the movies, where victims are yelling and screaming for help," Viloría said. "Your primary focus will be to keep breathing, and that water can move you so quickly you may not have time to scream." This also makes searches and rescues dangerous for rescue personnel, who face hypothermia, fatigue, and even injury when deployed to a swiftwater rescue — but training sessions like these ensure they're ready, Viloría said.

"We're in the business of saving lives, and that's what we'll continue doing," Viloría said.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20171130/gearing-up-on-safety-county-fire-conducts-annual-swift-water-rescue-training>

Sheriff's investigators raid an unlicensed Adelanto commercial marijuana extraction lab

Gail Wesson, The Press-Enterprise

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Investigators raided an unlicensed commercial marijuana business in Adelanto on Thursday. (Photo courtesy of San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department)

San Bernardino County Sheriff's deputies served a search warrant Thursday and found what they called a volatile concentrated cannabis extraction lab in operation in Adelanto despite the fact that the state has not licensed any marijuana business for manufacturing, according to a sheriff's news release.

Large amounts of finished concentrated cannabis, and propane, ethanol and butane used in the manufacturing process were seized by deputies at Lifestyle Delivery Systems Inc. at 9501 Commerce Way.

The property is described as under construction in preparation for commercial marijuana cultivation and manufacturing, but investigators learned recently the employees already were operating the extraction lab.

The extraction process creates a higher concentration of THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, that produces its high.

Narcotics investigators were assisted by investigators from the sheriff's bomb/arson unit, **San Bernardino County Fire**, county Hazmat and Adelanto city code enforcement officials in the 10 a.m. raid.

The city inspectors found numerous code violations for building safety, construction and operations inconsistent with the city ordinance, the release said.

No arrests were made. Once the investigation is completed, reports will be forwarded to the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office for review and potential filing of criminal charges for manufacturing a controlled substance.

A state bureau is the lead agency in developing regulations for medical and adult-use cannabis in California and is responsible for licensing such businesses.

<http://www.sbsun.com/2017/11/30/sheriffs-investigators-raid-an-unlicensed-adelanto-commercial-marijuana-extraction-lab/>

Holiday Season in Full Swing

Mountain-news Staff, Mountain-news

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With Thanksgiving past, the holiday season has begun! Read below just some of the events taking place. Lake Arrowhead Village Celebrates Locals

Locals Shopping Day will take place at Lake Arrowhead Village on Dec. 4, when many merchants will be offering special locals' shopping discounts. For more information, see the ad on page A3.

On Dec. 4, Lake Arrowhead Village will be hosting its Annual Firemen's Bonfire. It will run from 6 to 10 p.m. and will be hosted in the lower parking lot of the Village. Fire Captain Joe Barna, for the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department, emphasized the Spark of Love Toy Drive, which will take place during the bonfire. People are encouraged to bring a new unwrapped gift that will be given to children on the mountain through the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and Operation Provider. There will be free hot dogs, hot chocolate and a special visit from Santa himself.

Supervisor Celebrates at SkyPark

SkyPark at Santa's Village will present a Christmas reception, hosted by Second District San Bernardino County Supervisor Janice Rutherford. On Dec. 7 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., there will be complimentary light refreshments and entertainment by Mountain Fifes and Drums. For more information, call (909) 387-4833. Final First Friday

The Lake House will be hosting its eighth season final 'First Friday' on Dec. 1 from 4 to 7 p.m. Join in at the Lake House, located at 29866 Hook Creek Road in Cedar Glen, for wine, hors d'oeuvres, friendship and fine art. The featured artist will be Neil Kennedy, ceramicist. Ten percent of sales will be donated to the local charity 'Rebuilding Together' (formerly known as Christmas in April). For more information, call (909) 337-7676.

'Follow the Star' at Wildhaven

On Dec. 2, 'Follow the Star' will be offered at Wildhaven Ranch, located at 29453 Pineridge Drive in Cedar Glen. There will be wild animals, Christmas carols, the Christmas Story and hot chocolate at the Bear Viewing Area. At 3:30 p.m., arrive for admission and, at 4 p.m., enjoy the tour that will include wild ones: a bobcat, golden and bald eagles, a turkey vulture and Misha the Black Bear. Tickets are \$10 per person. To make a reservation, call (909) 337-7389 or e-mail info@wildhavenranch.org.

Getting Ready for the Holidays

On Dec. 2, more than two dozen vendors will display their wares in the Great Hall of the Tudor House. From jewelry to handmade soaps, photographs to candles, fair-trade goods to wooden toys, shoppers will find something for all the special people on their lists. The Holiday Fair will open at 9 a.m. and run to 4 p.m.

Then on Saturday night, local favorites, the 60 Grit Band, will take the stage. The 60 Grit has been transcending genres and expectations throughout Southern California since 2011. Breaking the boundaries of traditional blues, the band draws a heavy influence from classic and modern rock, rhythm and blues, old-time soul and reggae.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for dinner with 60 Grit starting their show - for which there will be no cover charge - at 7 p.m. Call (909) 336-5000 or visit www.TudorHouseEntertainment.com for more information.

http://www.mountain-news.com/mountain_living/entertainment/article_ef5a66de-d561-11e7-b58f-e3cfc91d9507.html