



NEWS



News Headlines 7/21/2017

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Hwy 395 crash leaves 1 dead, 2 injured Thursday

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: July 20, 2017, 7:51 PM



One person died while two others were injured in a rollover crash on Highway 395, just north of Palmdale Road, in Victorville Thursday. [Paola Baker, Daily Press]

VICTORVILLE — One person died and two others were injured in a fiery rollover crash on Highway 395 Thursday afternoon.

Details are still forthcoming, but several authorities responded to the crash, which occurred on Highway 395 just north of Palmdale Road at around 4:50 p.m. The vehicle, a blue BMW sedan, reportedly overturned several times before colliding with a tree and bursting into flames.

Specifics on how the crash occurred are still unknown, but several witnesses reported that the BMW was headed north on Highway 395 and “jumped the curb” in front of a Panda Express restaurant on Highway 395 and Crossroads Way before it began to overturn. Witnesses also said flames erupted right after the impact.

The flames were quickly extinguished, but **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman Ryan Vaccaro said two passengers were ejected from the vehicle due to the impact. These passengers suffered critical injuries and were airlifted to trauma centers for treatment.

A third passenger also reported injuries, Vaccaro said. Further details weren’t yet available.

At 5:33 p.m., California Highway Patrol logs reported that a fatality occurred as a result of this crash. No further information has been provided. Sheriff’s officials on scene were tight-lipped on details, and messages left with the Victorville Sheriff’s station were not immediately returned Thursday evening.

Highway 395 was closed in both directions between Seneca Road and Crossroads Way. Officials briefly opened up both southbound lanes and one northbound lane and traffic was moving at around 5:30 p.m., but CHP logs show a hard closure was requested for both lanes shortly after.

The duration of the closure is unknown.

This story is developing and more information will be updated as it is received.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170720/hwy-395-crash-leaves-1-dead-2-injured-thursday>

2 Airlifted after fiery rollover crash in Victorville; One Ejected

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: July 20, 2017



VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) Two men with life-threatening injuries were airlifted from a rollover crash on Highway 395 north of Palmdale Road Thursday.

San Bernardino County Fire was called to the scene of a single vehicle crash at about 5:00 pm. on July 20, 2017.

For reasons still unknown, a dark blue BMW occupied by three men was traveling northbound on 395 when the driver lost control, causing the vehicle to rollover several times.

According to a witness, one person was ejected, bystanders helped remove a second occupant who was partially ejected, and a third person self-extricated from the BMW.

When first responders arrived, the vehicle was engulfed in flames while two victims laid on the ground.

A Victor Valley resident who identified himself as JP said he rushed to the burning car and pulled the partially ejected man out.

“I saw the car on fire and just ran to it and pulled the passenger out. He was already half way out the window and leaning against the tree,” JP said.

Two airships were requested for both critically injured patients. A third patient declined medical transport at the scene.

SB County Fire spokesman Ryan Vacarro said RSI (Rapid Sequence Incubation) was required for one the patients. “The patient was transported to Victor Valley Global Medical Center to stabilize before airlifting to a trauma center,” said Vacarro.

The crash prompted officials to shut down Highway 395 in both directions between Crossroads Way and Seneca Road. At about 5:50 pm, deputies were allowing traffic through one lane at a time. It’s unknown how long the closure will remain in effect.

The Major Accident Investigation Team will respond to the scene and handle the investigation into the crash.

Information will be updated as it becomes available.

<http://www.vvng.com/2-airlifted-fiery-rollover-crash-victorville-one-ejected/>

Aviation Crews Rescue Hikers

Heidi Fron, Mountain News

Posted: July 20, 2017, 9:56 AM



San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

County Sheriff's Air Rescue 307 responds quickly when steep terrain in the Deep Creek area makes hoist rescues necessary.

Aviation crews were kept exceptionally busy within the past week as they rescued five hikers in Deep Creek areas and one man who was injured in an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) accident at Crab Flats.

AZTEC FALLS

Most recently rescued was a hiker who slipped, fell and rolled her ankle at Aztec Falls on Tuesday. **San Bernardino County Fire Department's** (SBCoFD) Medic Brush Patrol 91 attempted to help the victim hike out of the area, but the rough terrain thwarted those efforts.

Patrol 91 requested assistance from Air Rescue 307 (AR 307). Lieutenant A. Daniel piloted the helicopter that lowered E. Sherwin, firefighter/paramedic, 100 feet to the 24-year-old victim, Stacy Chavez, of Fontana.

Sherwin secured Chavez in a harness for hoisting into AR 307, where additional crew members included Corporal J. Scalise, Deputy R. Ramirez and Captain J. Rose.

Once Sherwin was back on board, the crew transported Chavez to Mountains Community Hospital (MCH).

PACIFIC CREST TRAIL

Two hikers required rescuing at approximately 4 p.m. on Sunday as they attempted to navigate the Pacific Crest Trail. Samuel Cordero, 24, and Carla Lopez, 23, both residents of Hesperia, experienced heat-related illnesses.

The subjects were located on a steep slope below the main trail, two miles east of the Deep Creek Spillway. The sheriff's 40King1 (40K1) crew members needed assistance from AR 307, due to the remote location, the difficult terrain and the victims' conditions.

AR 307 responded with Corporal Jon Anderson, the pilot. Rescue and medical personnel lowered to the victims included air medics Steve Miller, Bernie Horak, Samuel Salcedo, M.D., and Gordon Yee. They placed both victims into rescue harnesses and hoisted them up to the helicopter.

The crew took Cordero to an ambulance at the spillway. Lopez traveled by helicopter to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center for treatment.

CRAB FLATS

At 2:50 p.m. on Saturday, pilot Deputy Ryan Pepler and flight officer Deputy Brad Heard, on board the 40King2 (40K2), responded to assist SBCoFD paramedics at Crab Flats. Mel Peabody, a 53-year-old resident of National City, was injured while riding his ATV.

The fire department reported that the accident location was unsuitable for regular-sized vehicles, and the crew was not able to reach the victim, due to rough terrain around the dirt trail.

The 40K2 crew flew to the general area at the 6,900-foot level. People who were with the victim guided the pilot and flight officer to the location of the incident.

The pilot attempted to land several times but was unable, due to the terrain. The crew determined that a hoist rescue would be necessary, and they requested assistance from patrol helicopter 40King3 (40K3).

The 40K3 pilot, Deputy Paul Kowalski, and Corporal Ed Leon combined with the crew of the 40K2. Deputy Heard lowered Cpl. Leon 90 feet down to Peabody, who had a shoulder injury.

Cpl. Leon placed a harness on Peabody, who was hoisted into the helicopter that transported him to MCH.

The 40K2 crew returned to Crab Flats and hoisted Cpl. Leon back into the helicopter.

DEEP CREEK HOT SPRINGS

Just 20 minutes earlier on the same day, SBCoFD Dispatch responded to a 9-11 call to assist Sofia Blanco-Scamporino, 19, of Canoga Park, who was experiencing a heat-related injury at Deep Creek Hot Springs.

Located on the desert side of the San Bernardino National Forest, the hot springs are surrounded by steep canyon walls. According to a press release from the sheriff's department, the area is accessible by hiking on steep narrow trails for several miles.

Crews from the sheriff's AR 307 and desert patrol helicopter 40K2 heard the radio call, and both crews responded immediately to search for the victim. The 40K2, with pilot Deputy R. Pepler and flight officer Deputy B. Heard, arrived first and quickly located the victim. Several hikers were assisting her.

Pepler and Heard determined that a hoist rescue would be necessary, and asked AR 307 to proceed to the scene. The pilot, Corporal Jon Anderson, landed AR 307 on a nearby ridge. Reserve Deputy Wayne Hess, the crew chief, hiked to the victim, along with air medics Allen Francis, R.N., and Deputy Chris Mejia.

Blanco-Scamporino was unable to walk to the helicopter, so the crew placed her into a rescue litter. She was hoisted up and into the helicopter, and was transported to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

PREVIOUSLY, NEAR THE RANCH

Last week's chain of rescue operations initially began July 12 at 8:30 a.m. Avery McLemore, 51, of Hesperia, had hiked to Deep Creek Hot Springs. On the return trip, about two miles from the parking lot at Bowen Ranch, he developed heat and respiratory problems.

A 9-11 call brought assistance from SBCoFD, the Victor Valley Sheriff's Station and Sheriff's Aviation. Sheriff's patrol helicopter 40King5 (40K5) located McLemore on a steep section of the trail, but the crew was unable to land. Ground crews would have had a long hike to reach him, and the steep terrain would have made a rescue on foot difficult.

The search team requested a hoist rescue. AR 307 lowered a rescue medic 45 feet down to McLemore's location. The medic placed him into a harness for hoisting into the helicopter.

McLemore was flown to the parking lot at Bowen Ranch and was released to a waiting ambulance for treatment before being transported to a local hospital.

BE PREPARED

Typically, people don't realize that the hike down to Deep Creek is easier than the return trip. After a day out in the hot sun, climbing up the steep trail is particularly difficult. According to officials, another problem arises because most people don't bring enough drinking water to stay hydrated and cool throughout the entire day. Those who are unprepared tend to suffer heat-related distress and require rescue.

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_51eee864-6d6c-11e7-a0ec-33a98bed38a5.html

Choice Medical Building may be a ‘complete loss’ after blaze at County Fairgrounds

Rene Ray De La Cruz, Daily Press

Posted: July 20, 2017, 4:27 PM



The Choice Medical Group community building at the San Bernardino County Fairgrounds in Victorville was gutted by a fire late Wednesday evening. The building may be a 'complete loss' according to County Fair officials. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

VICTORVILLE — Early morning daylight revealed more of the damage caused to the Choice Medical Building after a two-alarm fire ripped through the structure at the San Bernardino County Fairgrounds Wednesday night.

Geoff Hinds, the CEO/General Manager of the fairgrounds in Victorville, told the Daily Press the building — the largest one on the property — may be a “complete loss” as a result of the blaze.

County firefighters responded to the blaze that was first reported at 9:40 p.m. Wednesday. Fire crews took about 50 minutes to knock down the fire that was contained to the large metal building, Eric Sherwin, spokesman for the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, told the Daily Press.

The blaze caused the dropped ceiling inside the structure, known also as the “Community Building,” to collapse, according to Sherwin, who reported no injuries as a result of the fire.

Hinds said CalFire, the California Highway Patrol and deputies with the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department responded quickly to the fire inside the 16,000-square-foot building located near the east entrance to the fairgrounds.

“I was in my office, right after our board meeting, when I was told about the fire,” Hinds said. “Our staff was setting up for this weekend’s California Fight League MMA event (inside the building) when they informed me about the fire.”

Hinds said he believes the charred remains of a vehicle inside the damaged building may be a FIAT, which was part of the Fight League’s promotion with a local car dealership.

“We really don’t have an estimated cost of the total damage or the cause of the fire,” Hinds said. “I believe all the agencies will return later in the day to conduct their investigation.”

Sherwin said the cause of the fire was still under investigation as of Thursday.

Hinds said his staff will spend much of their time working with clients who have booked events inside the damaged building. Some of those events include the MMA fights, a concert, a private event and the High Desert Hot Box.

“We do have more buildings and space, and we’re going to work hard to accommodate them,” Hinds said. “We want to create the most agreeable situation for them. It’s still undetermined what we’re going to do in the long run for future events.”

Hinds credited first responders for their assistance and thanked the community, including the City of Victorville, for their support.

Known also as “Building No. 4,” the column-free structure has hosted numerous events over the years, including High Desert Opportunity, the High Desert Bridal Expo, the Home and Garden Show, MMA fights and concerts.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170720/choice-medical-building-may-be-complete-loss-after-blaze-at-county-fairgrounds>

Car fire at Victorville home leaves 8 displaced

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: July 20, 2017, 5:57 PM

VICTORVILLE — Firefighters made quick work of a blaze that erupted in a home here late Wednesday night, but the home’s residents were displaced, authorities said.

Reports of a garage on fire with vehicles inside at a home in the 12400 block of Freeport Drive were received at 11:35 p.m. Wednesday. **San Bernardino County Fire Department** officials arrived and found a vehicle on fire in the home’s driveway.

County Fire spokesman Ryan Vaccaro said the flames were beginning to extend into the home, but firefighters were quickly able to contain the blaze before further spread.

Despite firefighters’ quick moves, four adults and four children in the home became displaced due to the blaze. Vaccaro said it’s believed the home sustained smoke damage. Red Cross was requested to assist the residents, Vaccaro said.

County Fire personnel were kept busy with a series of blazes Wednesday evening, starting with a fire that tore through a Helendale residential home just after 8 p.m. Firefighters had just gotten a handle on the blaze when reports of a fire on the roof of a building at the High Desert Event Center were received at 9:40 p.m.

All three blazes remain under investigation.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170720/car-fire-at-victorville-home-leaves-8-displaced>

26-year-old airlifted after rollover crash on I-15 freeway

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: July 20, 2017

HESPERIA, Calif.(VVNG.com) – A Victorville man extricated from a rollover crash on the I-15 freeway was airlifted to a trauma center.

The accident was reported on Thursday, July 20, 2017, at 2:53 am, on the northbound I-15 Rancho Road off-ramp.

According to the California Highway Patrol in incident logs, the vehicle, a silver 2004 Mitsubishi Lancer rolled over multiple times.

San Bernardino County Fire requested an air ambulance for a 26-year-old male with head trauma, a broken left arm, and many other abrasions.

The Rancho Road on-ramp was temporarily closed in order to allow emergency vehicles and personnel to treat the male.

Officers from the California Highway Patrol-Victorville Division are investigating the cause of the crash.

No other injuries were reported as a result of the crash.

<http://www.vvng.com/26-year-old-airlifted-rollover-crash-15-freeway/>

Upland firefighters sworn into San Bernardino County Fire

Liset Márquez, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: July 21, 2017, 12:49 AM



Upland's Fire Captain Joe Barna, along with other fire personal are sworn in during the transfer of authority ceremony in Upland, Ca., July 20, 2017. Upland's fire department will officially change to San Bernardino County fire. (Photo by John Valenzuela/Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)



San Bernardino County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig,(L) and Upland Fire Chief Dave Corbin,(R), retire the city of Upland flag during the transfer of authority ceremony in Upland, Ca., July 20, 2017. Upland's fire department will officially change to San Bernardino County fire. (Photo by John Valenzuela/Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

UPLAND >> San Bernardino County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig promised to be honorable stewards of the rich history and tradition of the 106-year-old Upland Fire Department.

“Most importantly, we will remain accountable to you, the people of Upland,” Hartwig said, during a ceremonial transfer of authority Thursday afternoon.

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.

At Thursday's event, officials gathered at the Carnegie Building, where the flag of the Upland Fire Department was retired. The ceremony concluded with Hartwig administering the swearing of the oath to the Upland fire personnel.

He welcomed the new fire personnel to his department, adding "we look forward to standing shoulder-to-shoulder with you."

More than 40 Upland fire personnel will move from a city operation to county fire, which has more than 600 firefighters, Hartwig said.

"I know this transition has not been easy and sacrifices have been made," Mayor Debbie Stone told the fire personnel at Thursday's ceremony. "I thank you for all of your years of dedicated service to the Upland community and your support for this very difficult decision to move forward with the annexation."

Currently, Station 12 in San Antonio Heights is staffed by a two-man crew from San Bernardino County Fire, going forward there will be three firefighters at the station, she said.

The city has four fire stations with 12 firefighters per shift, but because Upland Station 162 is only 1 1/2 miles away from Station 12, 162 would close. The property at Station 162, 2046 N. San Antonio Ave., would remain with the city and could be repurposed.

After 28 years with the department, interim Fire Chief Dave Corbin will be moving into a captain's role when the transfer occurs. He will be stationed in Fontana.

Corbin, who doesn't start his shift until Sunday morning, said he's a bit anxious to start with a larger department, yet it's also bittersweet.

"The guys are excited because of what the county has to offer," he said. "But we were a small, close-knit fire department, we were one big family. Everyone respected the history of this fire department so to move on from that it is a little bit difficult."

Stone touched on the significance of Thursday's ceremony while paying tribute to the history of the 106-year-old department.

"As Upland welcomes this new era of fire protection, we also look back on our past with appreciation and reverence for those who have dedicated themselves to serving our community," Stone said.

Founded in 1911, the department began with a group of volunteer firefighters. The first fire chief was F.H. Manker, she said.

In 1913, the department faced its first serious fire which destroyed all the businesses on the east side of Second Avenue, south of Ninth Street. This fire generated interest in further protecting the community, and in 1915, the fire station on D Street was built, Stone told those gathered.

It wasn't until 1963 that the first full-time firefighters were hired, she said.

The Upland Fire Department grew over the years to four stations, an air base, three engine companies, one truck company, one helicopter, and 47 Fire Department employees.

“This department is rich in history and tradition,” she said. “This tradition and dedication will follow the Upland firefighters as they move forward into new areas of service. We know that the dedication to the Upland community will continue with the services provided by the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District.”

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/government-and-politics/20170721/upland-firefighters-sworn-into-san-bernardino-county-fire>