



# NEWS



## News Headlines 01/25/2019

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## Fire destroys Needles residence

Saul A. Flores/News West, Mohave Daily News

Posted: January 25, 2019



A fire late Tuesday night destroyed a home in Needles but was kept from spreading to nearby buildings.

According to the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department, Needles Engine 32 was joined by personnel from the Mohave Valley Fire Department at the structure fire in the 200 block of F Street around 11 p.m.

“The firefighters were able to maintain the fire at the building of origin,” said SBCFD Public Information Officer Capt. Jeremy Kern. “They established a defensive position in order to contain the fire and prevent it from damaging the apartment buildings next to it.”

Kern said the fire remains under investigation.

[http://www.mohavedailynews.com/news/fire-destroys-needles-residence/image\\_0a06441a-206d-11e9-903e-539b379dbe58.html](http://www.mohavedailynews.com/news/fire-destroys-needles-residence/image_0a06441a-206d-11e9-903e-539b379dbe58.html)

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## Police respond to Victorville mall for a large crowd fighting in the food court

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: January 24, 2019



(Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Two Victorville juveniles were cited after deputies responded to reports of a large crowd fighting in the food court of the Mall of Victor Valley.

It happened on January 19, 2019, at about 4:35 pm, in the 14440 Bear Valley Road in Victorville.

A Victorville deputy was alerted to the fight and the first deputy on scene gave orders to the crowd to disburse. Sheriff’s officials said most of the crowd remained against his orders.

According to a sheriff’s news release, “the deputy witnessed a 15-year old black male punch an unknown victim several times and the deputy detained the male. As he was detaining the suspect, a large crowd formed around the deputy causing him to again give commands to disburse. At that time, a 16-year old black male refused to comply with the orders and began pushing on the deputy’s baton, then attempted to take the baton.

The deputy used the baton to deliver strikes to the male, in order to keep possession of the baton and ensure the safety of himself and others.

The second suspect was detained, and the rest of the crowd fled the location.”

The 15-year old suspect was cited for battery and inciting a riot and released to his parent. The 16-year old suspect was treated at the scene for minor injuries and cited for resisting a Peace Officer, before being released to his parent. The victim of the battery was transported to a local hospital to be treated for his injuries.

Anyone with information about this investigation is asked to contact the Victorville Police Department at (760) 241-2911 or Sheriff’s Dispatch at (760) 956-5001. Callers wishing to remain anonymous are urged to call the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-78CRIME (27463) or you may leave information on the We-Tip website at [www.wetip.com](http://www.wetip.com).

<https://www.vvng.com/police-respond-to-victorville-mall-for-a-large-crowd-fighting-in-the-food-court/>

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## Man on freeway overpass prompts CHP to briefly close I-15 freeway Thursday

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: January 24, 2019



(Hugo C. Valdez, Victor Valley News)

HESPERIA, California (VVNG.com) — A stretch of the I-15 freeway in Hesperia was closed Thursday morning after reports of a possible jumper on an overpass.

At about 11:35 am, on January 24, 2019, **San Bernardino County Firefighters** were requested to assist sheriff’s deputies at the Joshua Street bridge along the I-15, near the Pilot Truckstop.

Deputies located the man underneath the bridge and firefighters were called in to check on him.

California Highway Patrol Officers shut down the I-15 in both directions as deputies and firefighters evaluated the man. Minutes later he was walked out and put in a waiting ambulance.

Deputies could be seen searching through blankets and other personal belongings. It’s unknown if the male was living underneath the bridge.

The I-15 was closed in both directions for approximately 20 minutes causing traffic to back-up for several miles.

No injuries were reported.

<https://www.vvng.com/man-on-freeway-overpass-prompts-chp-to-briefly-close-i-15-freeway-thursday/>

## Community Unites to Find Missing Dog After Owners Were Rescued from Mountain

Staff Writer, 247 Headline News

Posted: January 24, 2019



SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. – A couple of hikers are reunited with their dog after being rescued from the 7800 level of the San Gorgonio Mountain on Monday.

While David Westberg and Jennifer Graham, both of San Diego were hiking Westberg slipped off of the icy trail. He slid approximately 150 feet down a steep slope only stopping when a tree stopped him from sliding further down. Westberg was injured as a result of his fall, so he called 911 for assistance. The Sheriff's helicopter arrived and hoisted the couple off of the mountain. Graham was transported to the hospital for treatment of his injuries.

The hikers, grateful for the rescue noticed that their dog "Stella" ran off during the ordeal and was lost. The community came together to help reunite the couple with their dog. "Off-duty San Bernardino Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue Teams, off-duty **San Bernardino County Fire** personnel, mountain community residents, and even one of the off-duty rescuer's dog, Kronos, all pulled together to find Stella," San Bernardino County Sheriff's officials said.

On Wednesday, January 23, 2019, in the afternoon during a search, rescuers heard yelping and barking. They looked in the direction of the barks and yelps but did not see anything. One of the residents hiked up the mountain about 250ft above the trail to where Stella was at and was able to control slide with her in his arms back down to the trail. On the morning of Thursday, January 24, 2019, Stella was reunited with her owners.

"This is a great example of the dedication of our volunteer personnel, San Bernardino County Fire personnel, and our residents have for their community," Sheriff's officials added. "Locating Stella was done completely on their own time aside from their hard work as volunteers and first responders."

<https://247headline.com/community-unites-to-find-missing-dog-after-owners-were-rescued-from-mountain/>

## Fire Chief Hartwig Takes Reins in Santa Barbara County

Staff Writer, Mountain News

Posted: January 24, 2019, 9:00 am



Fire Chief Mark Hartwig (San Bernardino County Fire)

**San Bernardino County Fire** Chief Mark Hartwig on Jan. 16 accepted an offer to serve as fire chief for Santa Barbara County.

After serving nearly eight years at the helm of the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, his final day with the district will be Feb. 15.

“Building a team of leaders and succession has been a high priority for me. We have a talented group of leaders at County Fire that will move forward as the board decides how to select my replacement,” Hartwig said.

“Chief Hartwig has been a steadfast and effective leader for San Bernardino County,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Curt Hagman, who represents the Fourth District. “The county has benefited from his expertise in emergency medical services and his service on behalf of our community. We will miss working with him and look forward to seeing him succeed in his new role.”

Hartwig became San Bernardino County fire chief on May 2, 2011, after serving as a deputy chief in Rancho Cucamonga. Hartwig previously had served with the San Bernardino County Fire Department from 1992 until 2005.

The Fire District underwent tremendous growth during Hartwig’s tenure, including a partnership with the Crest Forest Fire Protection District and the cities of Needles, Hesperia, San Bernardino, Upland and Twentynine Palms to annex into the district.

One of the many areas in which Hartwig has distinguished himself is his collaboration with law enforcement in the pursuit of public safety. Under his leadership, County Fire partnered with the San Bernardino County Sheriff in creating an Airship Program for firefighting and emergency medical response and the Inmate Hand Crew Program. Hartwig also helped develop a protocol in which fire personnel enter active shooter situations with law enforcement to ensure immediate medical aid to victims.

The California State Fire Chiefs’ Association recognized Hartwig as the 2017 California Fire Chief of the Year. Former Governor Jerry Brown appointed Hartwig to the California Commission on Emergency Medical Services, on which he continues to serve.

“Fire Chief Mark Hartwig has served San Bernardino County for nearly eight years, successfully leading the department through many challenging times,” said Board of Supervisors Vice Chair Josie Gonzales, who represents the Fifth District. “I wish him well as he moves into this next phase of his professional career.”

Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford said, “Chief Hartwig raised the bar for public safety, emergency response and departmental professionalism. His pursuit of excellence for San Bernardino County Fire will be missed.”

“I appreciate Chief Hartwig’s service to the County of San Bernardino,” said First District Supervisor Robert Lovingood. “During his tenure, the chief has been a strong advocate for the county, always willing to assist when his agency is called upon to help ensure our constituents receive the best possible service. The First District experienced some significant fires in recent years, and I want to thank Chief Hartwig again for his leadership during those moments of crisis. I wish the chief all the best as he transitions into this new leadership opportunity.”

“Chief Hartwig has proven himself to be an invaluable asset, especially during some of the most trying times in our county’s history,” said Third District Supervisor Dawn Rowe. “I appreciate his service to Third District residents and our county as a whole.”

“I’d like to congratulate Chief Hartwig and wish him well on his new endeavor,” said Sheriff John McMahon. “I’m sure Mark will do a phenomenal job for the citizens of Santa Barbara County as he did here in San Bernardino. Mark has been a great partner in our efforts to deliver public safety. He has been at the forefront of progress, innovating services and collaboration between our departments.”

The county will make an announcement about the future leadership of the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District at some point prior to Feb. 15.

“It has been my honor to lead such a talented and distinguished team of men and women. They have accomplished more than I ever imagined was possible,” Hartwig said. “County Fire is well-positioned to address future opportunities and challenges.”

[http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article\\_58026b88-1ff7-11e9-bf6a-e7e1512bf1cc.html](http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_58026b88-1ff7-11e9-bf6a-e7e1512bf1cc.html)