



# NEWS



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## FEDEX DRIVER CAUSES FLOODING IN YUCCA VALLEY

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM

Posted: November 14, 2018



Photo courtesy of **San Bernardino County Fire** Engineer Aaron Constock

The biggest delivery of the day Monday for one Yucca Valley FedEx driver was water—a few thousand gallons of it.

About 11:23 a.m. the FedEx driver, for unknown reasons, ran over a fire hydrant at the intersection of Crestview Drive and Joshua Lane, about a block west of Old Woman Springs Road.

The resulting water spill flowed down Crestview Drive, Joshua Lane, Sunnyslope Drive, and through a vacant lot.

The water caused flooding on Old Woman Springs Road, and the California Highway Patrol had to slow down drivers on the state highway.

The water from the broken hydrant caused so much erosion that a sink hole formed under the van, and the front end of the FedEx van sunk into the hole up to its engine.

It's unknown if the driver is still employed by FedEx.

<http://z1077fm.com/fedex-driver-causes-flooding-in-yucca-valley/>

## Firefighters hold Sierra fire near Rialto to 147 acres

Beatriz E. Valenzuela, Daily Bulletin

Posted: November 14, 2018, 6:22 am



Firefighters make quick work of the Sierra Fire in the northern portion of Rialto late Tuesday into Wednesday morning, November 14, 2018. The wind driven blaze burned over 20 acres in a river bed along the northern portion of Riverside Avenue. (Photo by Will Lester, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

Firefighters remained in a Rialto neighborhood Wednesday morning to keep watch after the Sierra fire tore through 147 acres overnight.

Crews will monitor the brush fire and strengthening containment lines, the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department said, and extinguish any hot spots.

The fire was first reported around 9:30 p.m. near Sierra and Riverside avenues. Strong Santa Ana winds fanned the flames from its ignition point and pushed the fire toward Fontana and Rialto neighborhoods.

Although no homes or structures were lost, the fence of one home was engulfed in flames early Wednesday morning.

Several fire engines remained stationed near homes on Riverside, between Alder and Locust avenues, as a precaution.

Southbound Riverside Avenue at Sierra was closed while fire crews fought the fire.

<https://www.dailybulletin.com/2018/11/14/firefighters-hold-sierra-fire-near-rialto-to-147-acres/>

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## NEW CALIFORNIA FIRE SPREADING RAPIDLY IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Shane Croucher, Newsweek

Posted: November 14, 2018

Firefighters in California's San Bernardino County have been battling the newly erupted Sierra Fire, which has spread rapidly amid "relentless" high winds.

According to **San Bernardino County Fire** District's Twitter page, the vegetation fire started near Highway 15, where Sierra Avenue meets Riverside Avenue, around 10 p.m. on Tuesday evening "with rapid rate of spread."

Within an hour it had grown from 2 acres to 20 acres in size. "Fire continues to grow to the south under influence of #SantaAnaWinds. Structure protection in place along Riverside Ave. NO EVACUATIONS are in place at this time," the fire service wrote.

As of around 5.30 a.m. local time on Wednesday morning, the fire had spread to 147 acres.

At the scene there were 26 engines, seven hand crews, three dozers and one patrol helicopter from San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office conducting reconnaissance operations.

"Crews will remain on scene today reinforcing containment lines, mopping up hot spots through the interior, and monitoring the wind conditions," the fire service said.

The fire service posted footage of the windy, dusty conditions in which dozers operated to battle the spread of the blaze.

"Footage from earlier this evening. In #SantaAnaWinds, dozers can often engage where it's too dangerous for handcrews. A decisive force multiplier in tonight's firefight," the tweet said.

A subsequent tweet from the fire service said: "Firefighters making good progress despite relentless winds. Engines continue to patrol neighborhoods monitoring for embers. Resources will remain on scene tonight into tomorrow constructing and reinforcing containment lines. Updated acreage in progress."

Several deadly and destructive wildfires currently burn across the state of California. At least 48 people died in the Camp Fire, considered the "deadliest" wildfire in the state's history, and several more people are missing, reported *The New York Times*.

<https://www.newsweek.com/new-california-fire-spreading-rapidly-san-bernardino-county-1214597>

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## **UPDATE: Fire which burned 147 acres in northern Fontana/Rialto area is now 75 percent contained**

**ALEJANDRO CANO and MIKE MEYERS, Fontana Herald News**

Posted: November 13, 2018



A vegetation fire which burned 147 acres in the northern Fontana/Rialto area was 75 percent contained as of 8:15 a.m. on Nov. 14, according to the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

A vegetation fire which burned 147 acres in the northern Fontana/Rialto area was 75 percent contained as of 8:15 a.m. on Nov. 14, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

A neighborhood was threatened by the blaze, but no homes were destroyed, and there were no reports of injuries.

The Sierra Fire started at about 9:30 p.m. on Nov. 13 at Sierra Avenue and Riverside Avenue, near the Interstate 15 Freeway.

In the early morning hours, the Fire Department reported on Twitter that firefighters were making "good progress despite relentless winds."

Some residents voluntarily evacuated, but there were no mandatory evacuations, the Fire Department said.

A house in the 3700 block of Amberwood Avenue had some minor roof damage due to a small fire on the roof. There was a wood fence at the same location that had fire damage.

Units from the San Bernardino County Fire Department, Cal Fire, and the Rialto Fire Department, including 26 engines, three dozers, seven hand crews, and a helicopter, were battling the fire.

The Fire Department was investigating the cause of the blaze.

The Fontana Unified School District reported that there was no immediate fire danger to any school sites. Fire officials told the FUSD that the air quality should not impact school operations on Nov. 14, the FUSD said in a statement.

"All schools sites will remain open and adhere to their regular schedule. Due to the fire, air quality may be a concern to some families, so school sites near the burned area may keep students inside during school hours. In affected areas, school site staff will provide accommodations for students with respiratory conditions," the FUSD said.

The winds will be calmer in the upcoming days, and a red flag warning was set to expire on Nov. 14, but the fire danger remains, according to the National Weather Service.

[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/update-fire-which-burned-acres-in-northern-fontana-rialto-area/article\\_1d6a117c-e7dc-11e8-85af-aba13192f33c.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/update-fire-which-burned-acres-in-northern-fontana-rialto-area/article_1d6a117c-e7dc-11e8-85af-aba13192f33c.html)

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## **California fires' death toll rises to 50 -- with 48 from Camp Fire alone**

Nicole Chavez, CNN

Posted: November 14, 2018

(CNN)The number of people killed in wildfires burning in California has risen to 50 -- including 48 from northern California's Camp Fire, already the most destructive and deadly blaze in state history.

As firefighters battle that fire Wednesday in Butte County north of Sacramento, authorities fear more human remains will be found as searchers comb through rubble and ashes in Paradise, the ravaged town of about 27,000 residents.

"I want to tell you, though, this is a very, very difficult process," Butte County Sheriff and Coroner Kory L. Honea told reporters. "There's certainly the unfortunate possibility that even after we search an area, once we get people back in there, it's possible that human remains can be found."

Authorities have requested that 100 National Guard troops join cadaver dogs, mobile morgues and anthropology teams in the grim search and recovery of human remains.

In Southern California, firefighters still are battling the Woolsey Fire, which so far has left two people dead in Malibu.

They've also been fighting a new blaze, the Sierra Fire, in San Bernardino County. It started late Tuesday about 50 miles east of Los Angeles near Rialto and Fontana, and by Wednesday morning had burned 147 acres, though no evacuations have been ordered, the **San Bernardino County Fire** District said.

Fire officials said the Sierra Fire was fanned by the Santa Ana winds -- strong, dry winds that high-pressure systems push from east to west, from the mountains and desert areas down into the Los Angeles area.

Winds will be "particularly strong" Wednesday morning but are expected to weaken by evening, the National Weather Service said.

Meanwhile in Northern California, forecasters have said the winds fueling the Camp Fire would slowly begin to decrease Wednesday and give firefighters a reprieve.

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/11/14/us/california-fires-camp-woolsey/index.html>

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## **Fast-moving brush fire erupts near freeway in San Bernardino County**

Staff Writer, ABC 7 News

Posted: November 14, 2018, 12:17 am

DEVORE, SAN BERNARDINO -- A fast-moving brush fire erupted near the 15 Freeway in the Rialto and Devore area of San Bernardino County late Tuesday.

The fire was reported shortly after 9 p.m. near Sierra and Riverside avenues, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

About 2 to 3 acres were burning medium-to-heavy fuel with a rapid rate of speed, fire officials said.

The fire was reportedly moving east along Riverside Avenue, where some backyards appeared to be on fire after one flame jumped the street.

A number of power lines also appeared to catch fire as the wind-driven blaze continued to quickly move through the neighborhood.

Meantime, nearby residents were spotted packing their vehicles, though no official evacuation orders were immediately in place.

Several fire trucks were spotted responding to the blaze as strong wind gusts appeared to move most of the blaze away from homes.

<https://abc7news.com/fast-moving-brush-fire-erupts-near-freeway-in-san-bernardino-county/4684706/>

## Fast-moving brush fire breaks out in San Bernardino County

Staff Writer, Fox 5 News

Posted: November 13, 2018

FONTANA, Calif. — A brush fire was spreading rapidly in the foothills at the north end of Fontana Tuesday night, KTLA reported.

**San Bernardino County fire** officials said they were on scene near the intersection of Sierra and Riverside avenues, above the Sierra Heights neighborhood, just after 10 p.m. It's unclear when exactly the flames broke out.

Within minutes, the blaze had grown to cover 20 acres, the agency said.

It was being dubbed the Sierra Fire.

Rialto firefighters and Cal Fire San Bernardino crew members were also responding.

Video from the scene showed embers being carried by the wind to spread flames across dry brush.

Officials have not indicated whether they expect to announce any evacuations in connection with the blaze.

No further details were immediately available.

<https://fox5sandiego.com/2018/11/13/fast-moving-brush-fire-breaks-out-in-san-bernardino-county/>

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## New blaze rips through 20 acres in Rialto, burning at least two yards

ALENE TCHEKMEDYIAN, Los Angeles Times

Posted: November 13, 2018, 11:55 pm



A fast-moving wildfire broke out late Tuesday. (ABC7 Eyewitness News)

A new wind-driven wildfire erupted late Tuesday in Rialto near the Fontana border, burning perilously close to homes as residents appeared to scramble to leave.

Live television footage showed at least two yards appeared to be on fire as the blaze grew from roughly 3 acres to 20 acres in about 15 minutes. The fire was reported at Sierra and Riverside avenues and was moving rapidly through heavy brush as strong winds blew through the area.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** District said no evacuations had been ordered.



It appeared flames had jumped Riverside Avenue into yards. But the head of the fire appeared to be moving generally away from homes. Television footage showed traffic backed up in the area as people rushed to flee.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-fontana-fire-20181113-story.html>

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## **New wind-driven brush fire spreads quickly in Rialto, no homes currently threatened**

**Robert Gundran and Brian Rokos, Redlands Daily Facts**

Posted: November 13, 2018, 10:35 pm



Firefighters make quick work of the Sierra fire in the northern portion of Rialto late Tuesday into Wednesday morning, November 14, 2018. The wind driven blaze burned over 20 acres in a river bed along the northern portion of Riverside Avenue. (Photo by Will Lester, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

A brush fire that spread rapidly from its ignition point north of the 210 Freeway and east of the 15 Freeway amid strong Santa Ana winds in Rialto late Tuesday night had burned 20 acres as of midnight, but fire officials said no homes were currently threatened.

Nevertheless, some residents had self-evacuated earlier. Rialto Police officers had gone door-to-door in the neighborhood, advising residents they may need to evacuate because of the Sierra fire. Those advisories were near Fergusson Park, just southeast of Sierra and Riverside Avenues.

The fire started about 9:30 p.m. near the intersection of Sierra and Riverside avenues and was pushed in a southeasterly direction by wind gusts of 40 to 60 mph, Cal Fire Capt. Henry Herrera said. The area is east of the Sierra exit from I-15 in Fontana.

By midnight, firefighters were confident that the flames had been hemmed in near the Lytle Creek wash. No evacuations were ordered and no injuries were reported, Herrera said.

As a precaution, some of the fire engines from multiple agencies were protecting homes on Riverside between Alder and Locust avenues.

“We are confident that with the engines we have in place that structures are not threatened,” Herrera said. Flames did burn into at least one backyard. Firefighters at 1 a.m. were dousing a fence and a field that caught fire at the corner of Amberwood and Riverside avenues.

One of the residents who evacuated was Jennifer Broxmeyer, who has lived on Amberwood for eight years and said winds routinely “blister” through the area.

She said son Benjamin came into her room and said he smelled smoke. She initially believed the smoke was coming from someone’s fireplace on a somewhat chilly night, but then “We went outside and saw orange.”



Broxmeyer woke up her husband, and as they packed their two children, two dogs and two cats into their car, they heard a police officer making announcements.

“I was like, ‘Police car. Loudspeakers. I’m out of here,’” she said while standing beneath a palm tree at Amberwood and Riverside that had burned. “I don’t need to be told twice.”

They drove to her sister’s home, also in Rialto, about 3 miles away. They returned just after 1 a.m.

Herrera noted that while the fire was burning away from homes early Wednesday, the situation could still take a turn for the worse if the wind shifted.

He urged residents in all areas to make evacuation plans, including assembling important documents and other property, in advance of any fire so they can leave at a moment’s notice. That helps keep the roads clear for emergency vehicles, Herrera said.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** department said 26 fire engines, seven hand crews and three bulldozers were working the fire, as well as a San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department helicopter providing reconnaissance.

The high winds kept water-dropping helicopters grounded, Herrera said. Most don’t fly at night anyway because of the danger from poor visibility.

Southbound Riverside Avenue at Sierra was closed while fire crews fought the fire.

Eric Sherwin, spokesman for the San Bernardino County Fire Department, said he expected the acreage count to grow beyond the 20 reported early Wednesday.

The cause of the fire was under investigation.

Despite the number of fires burning in Southern California, fire commanders received all the equipment they ordered. San Bernardino County, Rialto, Rancho Cucamonga and the U.S. Forest Service, and possibly other agencies, sent engines.

<https://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/2018/11/13/new-brush-fire-spreads-quickly-in-fontana/>

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## **Residents flee as brush fire rages in Rialto**

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: November 13, 2018

UPDATE 11/14 @9am – The Sierra fire is at holding at 147 acres with 75% containment. Structure threat mitigated. Riverside Ave remains closed between Sierra Ave and Locust Ave in Rialto. Firefighters will continue to monitor neighborhoods and ensure fireline integrity. CAL FIRE San Bernardino, **San Bernardino County Fire** Department and Rialto Fire Department are in unified command.

—original article—

RIALTO, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Fire crews are aggressively fighting a wind-driven vegetation fire in the city of Rialto, just south of the 15/215 interchange.

The fire, dubbed the #SierraFire was reported to be 2-3 acres just before 10:00 pm, in the area of Sierra and Riverside Avenues with heavy fuels and a rapid rate of spread.

The winds quickly pushed the fire south and dangerously close to the Ferguson Park neighborhood and caught several backyards on fire.

By 10:20 pm, the fire had quickly grown to 20 acres and was threatening multiple structures.

A channel 7 news helicopter broadcasting live over the fire showed dramatic images of residents fleeing from their homes as they evacuated.

Rialto police were seen going door to door evacuating residents living in the Ferguson Park neighborhood.

According to Channel 7, there are currently no air assets available and ground crews are at the scene.

San Bernardino County Fire Department, Cal Fire, and Rialto Fire Department are in a unified command as they continue to fight the fast-moving fire.

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

<https://www.vvng.com/residents-flee-as-brush-fire-rages-in-rialto/>

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## **Man in wheelchair hit and killed by car in Hesperia**

**Robert Gundran, The Sun**

Posted: November 13, 2018, 6:18 pm

A man died after investigators said he was hit by a car while travelling on the road in his wheelchair in Hesperia.

Officials said the **San Bernardino County Sheriff's** and **Fire** departments responded to a call on Sunday, Nov. 11 at around 9:25 p.m. about a traffic collision involving a pedestrian on Bear Valley Road, just west of I Avenue.

Once there, deputies found a man on the roadway with major injuries from the crash.

“The driver of the vehicle, an adult male, and his passenger, an adult female, were still on-scene after the collision,” the Sheriff’s Department said in a statement. “The female passenger suffered minor injuries, and the pedestrian that was struck succumbed to his injuries at the scene.”

Officials said the Major Accident Investigation Team conducted an investigation and determined the pedestrian was traveling east in a lane on Bear Valley Road in his wheelchair when he was hit by the vehicle, a Toyota Prius, which was also traveling east on the same road.

“At this time, alcohol and speed do not appear to be a factor in the collision, and the driver and passenger were cooperative with investigators,” the sheriff’s department said.

The San Bernardino County Coroner’s Office has not yet announced the name of the person who died.

Anyone with additional information about the crash can contact Deputies Taylor Lamson and Jeremy Deburg at 760-947-1500.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2018/11/13/man-in-wheelchair-hit-and-killed-by-car-in-hesperia/>